



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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75¢

SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 121, No. 27, ISSN No. 0894-4954



County considers animal control concerns

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Animal control concerns took center stage for Coryell County leaders during the March 22 meeting of the Coryell County Commissioners Court.

Local resident Steve Sands addressed the court and talked about a vicious dog case that took days to resolve, as well as calls to multiple people and agencies.

"A pit bull had been dropped off on property at Straws Mill Road, and the dog bit a 6-year-old and sent her to the emergency

room," Sands said. "I called the sheriff's office and asked if the dog would be picked up and was told no, that the county attorney said we can't pick it up.

"It needed to be picked up and quarantined. I was told if you want something done, you need to talk to your (county) commissioner. I'm a bit confused - I thought the county had a contract to put (stray) dogs at the city (facility).

"I called the sheriff and asked for help and said he wanted something done for the safety of the community. What's going to happen if the dog bites someone else?"

Sands said a justice of the peace had a hearing about the dog and city animal control were sent to pick up the dog, although it was outside the Gatesville city limits.

"I want to thank the sheriff for getting it done a day or two after (the bite) but it shouldn't have gone that far," Sands said. "It surprised me that the dog bit someone and wasn't (immediately) quarantined. If it bites somebody, you don't just turn him loose."

Sheriff Scott Williams said animal control is a pressing concern for the county.

"Y'all heard Mr. Sands, and that's one particular call," he said. "I have a stack of paper-

work (regarding animal control issues). Just going off the last two years, we've had 473 calls, anything from a nuisance animal to vicious animals that bite. We've had several instances where we've needed to do something - 473 cases documented in two years - that's unbelievable."

Williams said the recent incident in which the girl was bitten "is pretty bad in itself, but we had another incident where two years ago someone was disfigured (by a severe dog attack)."

He added that he considers this to be a sig-

PLEASE SEE COUNTY | A2

A heart for service

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

The goal of making a positive impact on someone's life inspired Tabitha Tippit to join the frontlines of both medical care and firefighting - as assistant director of nursing at Hillside Medical Lodge and a firefighter for the Flat Volunteer Fire Department.

Tabitha and her husband, Aaron are both firefighters in Flat, doing what they can to protect their community and respond to whatever needs arrive. On Sunday, March 27, a crisis nearly engulfed their small community as a trio of fires on Fort Hood merged into one large fire and threatened Flat.

Tabitha and Aaron were returning home from Topsey near Copperas Cove with their four children, Charlie, 11, Stetson, 8, Baylon, 19 months, and Tripp, 4 months when they received word of the fire. The couple left their children with her mother in Gatesville and rushed to Flat to offer whatever help they could.

"It's hard to describe," Tabitha said of the fire. "It was scary. We could see the smoke in the distance as we were getting closer. We didn't know they were evacuating until we had to take a break to refill one of the trucks with water."

All of Flat's 15 to 20 volunteer firefighters responded and were joined by other firefighters from throughout the area. Tabitha said she saw fire trucks from as far away as Weir and Hutto - communities located in Williamson County - as well as trucks from throughout Coryell and Hamilton counties.

It was a long, exhausting day for the firefighters.

"I was there until 1 a.m. and Aaron was there until 4 a.m.," Tabitha said. "Then we got up early in the morning and went back out on Monday. We stayed there all day working to put out hotspots."

While intense heat - especially on an unseasonably warm day that was already pushing 90 degrees - can sometimes be overwhelming for firefighters to deal with, Tabitha said the excitement of being in the middle of efforts to help save her community kept her from thinking of that aspect of the blaze.

"I don't know if it was adrenaline or what, but I really didn't notice the heat until I slowed down," she said. "The smoke was so heavy that it was dark outside (although the initial response was in the middle of the day)."

Tabitha previously worked for a bank as



COURTESY PHOTO

DEVOTION TO SAFETY: Tabitha Tippit and her husband Aaron are both members of the Flat Volunteer Fire Department. Tabitha is also assistant director of nursing for Hillside Medical Lodge.

a teller and handling mortgage loans before deciding to become a nurse. She said it was when she was delivering one of her children that a nurse helped her, and that inspired a career change.

"I just wanted to be able to help people," she said.

That same desire to make a positive difference also led her to become a volunteer firefighter, she said. Her husband Aaron was

already a volunteer firefighter.

"He supported me 100% in becoming a nurse and also a firefighter," Tabitha said. Aaron's father, Dee, had previously served as chief of the Fort Gates Volunteer Fire Department before it merged with the Gatesville department.

After getting her nursing degree from

PLEASE SEE TIPPIT | A2

Property values see steep rise

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Coryell County residents will have both good news and bad news when they open their 2022 property appraisals - significantly rising property values.

For property owners, that means when they want to sell, they can count on making more money. But it also means they will likely be paying more in taxes for that same property.

Mitch Fast, chief appraiser for the Coryell County Appraisal District, said in a 10-month period from January 2021 to January 2022, median property values rose 36%, according to the Texas A&M University Texas Real Estate Research Center.

"Property owners will soon receive an appraisal notice from the Coryell Central Appraisal District," Fast said. "Coryell CAD sent over 28,000 appraisal notices to a print vendor on March 25, 2022 for mailing. Your city, county, school district and other local taxing units will use Coryell CAD's value to set your 2022 property taxes."

"Market values as determined by Coryell CAD increased dramatically for the 2022 appraisal year. Coryell CAD researched over 1,952 market transactions in the 2022 appraisal process. The real estate market does not appear to be slowing down and according to the Texas A&M University Texas Real Estate Research Center, only 58 residential properties in Coryell County were listed for sale in January 2022, which equates to only 18 days of inventory compared to 155 residential properties equaling 1.9 months of inventory in January 2020."

Those rising values will have an inevitable impact on property appraisal rates.

"With these facts in mind, Coryell CAD has endeavored to develop accurate and conservative appraisal

PLEASE SEE APPRAISALS | A2

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Texas receive \$5.2 million

BY DAVID SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Texas announced that they received a gift in the amount of \$5.2 million from MacKenzie Scott, an American novelist and philanthropist.

She is known for her generous philanthropic giving of her wealth, largely acquired from her involvement in Amazon. This is part of a larger collective gift of \$281 million to 62 local Boys & Girls Clubs and

Boys & Girls Clubs of America, one of the largest individual donations in the organization's 160-year history. BGCTX feels incredibly fortunate to have received this generous donation. Fundraising is a priority to the club to ensure that we don't have to pass expenses on to our families. In many communities, membership fees are as little as \$20 per year scholarships are given to families who need them.

Plans are underway in each of their nine communities on how these funds will be used. The Board

of Directors is committed to ensuring that this donation will support their strategic plan and what is being branded as their ROI - Rejuvenate programs and activities offered before the pandemic, and projects that provide; Opportunity for growth; and Impact to our kids and the communities they live in.

"We are super excited about this donation and what it means for our club," Gatesville Branch Director Julie Hudson said.

Board President, Keith Steward said, "The Gatesville Boys & Girls

Club is grateful to be one of the recipients of MacKenzie Scott's generosity. As I understand, she wanted to support organizations that are moving forward and having an impact on those that they serve. This donation is validation of the work of our club's staff and board, and the strong support of the Gatesville community for the benefit of our children who are the future."

Considering the size of their organization and project goals for community clubs, fundraising will

remain a priority to ensure that projects are completed and sustainable, and for on-going operational expenses.

Central Texas locations include clubs in the following communities: Killeen/Harker Heights/Nolanville, Copperas Cove, Lampasas, Gatesville, Georgetown, Taylor and Marlin.

For up-to-date information on community projects, please visit bgctx.org and look for a coming soon section to be added to their website.

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APPRAISALS

FROM PAGE A1

op accurate and conservative appraisal values based on the local market," Fast said "Under state law, appraisal districts are required to value property at market value and then notify property owners about changes in their property's value. The appraisal notice contains important information about the property's location, its ownership and property tax exemptions that have been applied to the property."

Those who want to protest their property appraisals have a way to do so.

"Property owners who disagree with the appraised value of their property, the exemptions or any other action by the appraisal dis-

trict have the right to appeal to the Coryell CAD Appraisal Review Board," Fast said. "The ARB is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling property owner protests. The notice of appraised value includes instructions on how and when to file a protest, a protest form and the Comptroller's Property Taxpayer Remedies. The deadline for filing a protest with the ARB is May 16, 2022, or 30 days after Coryell CAD mailed your notice of appraised value, whichever is later."

The quickest way to file a protest, Fast said, is to do so online.

"For information related to the Coryell CAD online protest appeal process, please visit our website at www.coryellcad.org," he said.

"Then click on the 'online protest' link to file your protest on-line. You

"Property owners who disagree with the appraised value of their property, the exemptions or any other action by the appraisal district have the right to appeal to the Coryell CAD Appraisal Review Board."

Mitch Fast, Coryell CAD chief appraiser

will need the PIN number located on your appraisal notice to set up an online protest account. Once you have registered, you may begin filing your online protest."

Another option is to e-mail the protest.

"If a property owner does not wish to use the Coryell CAD online protest appeal process, please email the protest form to arb@coryellcad.org," Fast said. "Every effort will be made to contact you prior to a formal hearing to listen, evaluate and provide information concerning your protest."

Either way, people can contact the appraisal district staff by sending an e-mail to the previously mentioned address or by calling (254) 865-6593.

"We strongly encourage you to

contact us if you don't understand or disagree with your appraisal notice," Fast said. "We understand that this is a difficult time and want to open the lines of communication with you, the property owner. There are many ways to discuss value including submitting an online protest, submitting a protest in the mail, submitting an email and calling our office to talk to an appraiser."

"This office is committed to processing your questions and concerns in a timely manner and will make every effort to provide honest, accurate and straightforward answers. Thank you for your time and patience in this matter, we consider it an honor to serve the property owners and taxing jurisdictions of Coryell County."

COUNTY

FROM PAGE A1

said. "I'm getting beat to death by citizens wondering why we don't have animal control. It takes the county."

Commissioner Kyle Matthews said the county has an agreement with the city of Gatesville in emergency situations.

"It goes to the police chief and then back to the sheriff," he said.

"The difference between a vicious situation and an emergency is just seconds," Williams said.

Matthews said he spoke to Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry and one concern is the city is running out of space in its animal shelter.

"It would be advantageous to work with them instead of creating an entirely new entity," Matthews said.

Williams suggested providing additional county funding to help meet the concern.

"If we could kick some money into them or if we need to have our own animal control officer ... the facility is where the heartache is," he said. "I'd like to have a facility to go to to get this resolved."

County Judge Roger Miller said he has gotten calls from concerned people asking how animal control calls are handled.

"As we go through this - this is an expenditure and it needs to be a budgeted item," he said. "Something needs to start developing now. What kind of control do we have in unincorporated areas, or if something happens in Oglesby or Evant?"

"In practice it will take more cooperation. I agree it is becoming more and more of a challenge. As our county continues to grow, it will continue to be a problem."

Williams said a prompt response is needed to resolve animal control issues.

"The thing I look at - it took 10 days for Mr. Sands' situation instead of just being able to pick the dog up," he said.

Matthews said the county has a word of mouth agreement with the city of Gatesville rather than a formal arrangement.

"Something we don't need is to keep kicking this down the road," Williams said. He added that a bite involving a child in the Hines Ranch area "was horrible, and if it hadn't been for another dog (getting in-

involved), it would have killed him. "There's no light at the end of the tunnel. I want to reach out to the citizens."

Miller said Copperas Cove and Gatesville had the only animal control facilities in the county of which he is aware. He said the Gatesville facility is near maximum capacity, and that Copperas Cove is building a larger facility.

"There's a lot of legalese we're going to have to muddle through to take some action," Miller said.

Williams said he wants the county to formalize its animal control agreements with local cities.

TIPPIT

FROM PAGE A1

After getting her nursing degree from Central Texas College, Tabitha joined Hillside Medical Lodge as assistant director of nursing.

She and Aaron, who also works as a mechanic for the Texas Department of Transportation, both have strong ties to the area. Tabitha graduated from Gatesville High School in 2011 and Aaron is a 2008 GHS graduate.

Their commitment to service is already making an impact on their

children. Daughter Carlie is already certified in CPR at age 11 and has expressed an interest in a medical career herself.

Asked if her career has been as rewarding as she hoped it would be, Tabitha did not hesitate to answer, "yes."

"The residents here become

your family and your best friends," Tabitha said.

She has also been able to use her medical skills as a volunteer firefighter.

"I was surprised by how many medical calls firefighters respond to, and I can help people until EMS (emergency medical services) ar-

rives," Tabitha said.

As for what she enjoys most about her dual role as firefighter and nurse?

"Making a positive impact on people," she said. "I enjoy knowing that I helped somebody and that I can make a difference in someone's life."

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THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

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DEADLINES:

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by 10 a.m. Friday for the Wednesday issue and 10 a.m. Wednesday for the Saturday issue.

Articles about events that have occurred 30 days prior to submission will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertisements.

All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and

newspaper format as determined by management.

The Gatesville Messenger is not responsible for copy omission, typographical error or any unintentional error other than to publish a correction.

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OUR MISSION: The Gatesville Messenger shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

Day of the Child event scheduled

Members of the Exchange Club of Gatesville will join thousands of fellow Exchanges across the country throughout the month of April to promote child abuse prevention awareness in their local communities. The Exchange Club of Gatesville will be hosting its "Day of the Child" child abuse prevention project Saturday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Gatesville Walmart on Highway 36.

Day of the Child, first held in Gatesville in 1998, is an effort to reach families in our community with helpful, positive parenting tips. Exchange believes parents have the power to make positive parenting choices in the lives of their children and The Exchange Club of Gatesville is offering some easy-to-use tips to help all parents.

We will also partner with other organizations who offer services to children and families such as our local Head Start, AWARE Central

Texas, Early Childhood Intervention, Righteous Roots, Hidden Gems Family Center, Gatesville Fire Department, and Gatesville Police Department.

Other local individuals and organizations will provide games and fun things for kids to do such as face painting, horse rides, barrel train rides, football toss and other fun things. Ambassadors from 4-H will have an area set up for Easter pictures with real bunnies and chicks, so bring your phone or camera.

A certified child passenger safety instructor will also be available to provide safety checks for child safety seats and provide education on the correct installation of seats. A free hotdog sack lunch will be provided for children ages 12 and under. Lunches will be available for those older than 12 for a nominal fee.

If your organization offers services to children and you would like to have a space, contact any Exchange Club

member or email Faye Nichols at fnichols@gatesvillex.com.

The National Exchange Club, America's Service Club, is inspiring communities to become better places to live with our national project, the prevention of child abuse, and three programs of service - Americanism, Youth Project, and Community Service. To date, the National Exchange Club's efforts have helped more than 700,000 families and 1.8 million children break the cycle of child abuse through its Exchange Parent Aide Program and public education projects. The Exchange Parent Aide Program, Exchange's proprietary child abuse prevention model, has been cited in the "Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect."

For additional information about the National Exchange Club or "Believe in the Blue," please visit www.NationalExchangeClub.org.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHERI SHEPHERD

GATHERING HAZARDOUS WASTE: Volunteers gather hazardous household waste at a recent event sponsored by the City of Gatesville and Central Texas Council of Governments.

Hazardous waste collection well-attended

The annual household hazardous waste collection was recently held at the Gatesville Civic Center. This year, there were 359 participants who dropped off hazardous waste items including paint, pesticides, medications, motor oil and tires.

Of those participating, 43% brought in old tires which

culminated in the collection of 1,089 tires, which was an average of seven tires per person.

Those who had a Gatesville zip code but lived outside the city limits made up 39% of the participants - 46% of which disposed of tires.

Within the county, there were 10 participants from

Copperas Cove, 11 from Oglesby, five from Evant, three from Purnela and seven from Jonesboro.

The event was not held in 2020 because of the COVID-19 quarantine. When the event resumed in 2021, 389 people participated.

Fundraisers

Fish fry to benefit SWARM team

A fish fry fundraiser will be held on Sunday, April 10 to benefit SWARM Baseball 13U. The fundraiser will be held at the Gatesville Fire Department from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. - or until sold out. The cost will be \$10 per plate.

The menu will include

fish, beans, coleslaw, potato salad and hush puppies. Tea and water will be available on location.

All proceeds will support the local SWARM Baseball 13U team. The Gatesville Fire Department is located at 109 S. 23rd Street.

Local author to hold book signing today

Local author Clay Reeves will be having a book signing to introduce his new book, "Dog Days with Aggie & Pepper," today, Saturday, April 2. The signing will take place from 1-3 p.m. at the 1854 Mercantile located at 409 Highway 36 Bypass. The public is invited to attend.

Clay Reeves, a former Gatesville High School math teacher, retired in May of 2021 after 55 years of service. As well as being a math teacher, Reeves was a certified English teacher and has always had an affection for the theater and performing arts. He wrote and directed numerous school plays and worked with students in acting competitions as well as one-act play contests. All of those things contributed to Clay's love of writing and encouraged him to get into self-publishing after retirement.

His first book about his dogs, entitled "Aggie and Pepper," was published in 2020. His second book, entitled "Dog Days with Aggie & Pepper" was published in 2021.

Bake sale to benefit Nancy Warren

A bake sale to benefit Nancy Warren will be held on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. or until sold out. The bake sale will take place at Vintage Royalty which is located at 2401 S. Highway 36, Suite 100.

All proceeds from the sale will go to benefit Warren in her fight with leukemia. She is currently at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston where she is undergoing medical treatments. Warren will probably be treated at the hospital for the next six months or longer.

Any donations or baked



Warren

goods will be appreciated. For more information about the bake sale, please contact Kay Branham at 254-223-3888.

Jonesboro V.F.D. to offer BBQ lunch

The Jonesboro Volunteer Fire Department will be serving a barbecue lunch on Sunday, April 10, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Jonesboro Community Center.

The cost will be adults \$12 per plate and children \$8 per plate. Dine in or

carry out will be available. There will also be homemade desserts available.

The Jonesboro Community Center is located at 11625 Highway 36.

Donations can be mailed to: Jonesboro Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 6, Jonesboro, TX 76538.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Round Up scheduled for Gatesville

The Gatesville Primary School recently announced the registration dates for Kindergarten and pre-K registration for the 2022-2023 school year.

Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on Sept. 1, 2022. Registration will be on Tuesday, April 12, 4:30 until 6 p.m.

The registration location for Kindergarten will be at the main entrance of the Gatesville Primary - the north entrance facing the football stadium.

Registration for pre-K will be on Wednesday, April

13, 4:30 until 6 p.m. Registration will be at the north entrance of the Primary School. Pre-K students must be 4 years old on Sept. 1, 2022.

Items that the Primary School will need for registration include:

1. Official birth certificate with raised seal (not the

hospital certificate)
2. Social Security card
3. Complete, validated immunization record including four-year boosters
4. Picture I.D. of parent enrolling child (driver's license)
5. Proof of residency (utility bill, lease contract)

6. Proof of income for household - 3 months of pay stubs (pre-K only)

For additional information or if you have any questions, please contact the Gatesville Primary Office at 254-865-7264.



Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

Words often do not express the appropriate gratitude when it is wonderfully deserved. Allow me though to share a few words to thank the great folks at HEB-Gatesville for their generous giving in support of the firefighters battling the fires that threaten so many in the area.

Our church ordered fried chicken from the deli and we planned to get all the rest of the things to go along with a large meal to take to First Baptist Church of Flat, to help benefit the tireless work of the many brave firefighters.

We gathered all the things to go with the meal in two different grocery carts and then went to the deli to pick up the fried chicken. But, once they knew what we were planning, it set in motion amazing, cheerful giving by not only HEB management, but by all the ladies in the deli/bakery as well.

Jimmy Generals, the store director, was very quick to offer to pay for everything we had loaded in the carts. And Jodi, the deli/bakery manager and her crew there this day - Kara, Aniessa, Heather, Sandy, Grace, Misti and Pam - pitched in out of their own pockets to provide for extra items over and above what we had in the carts. We delivered the food, drinks, and all the things to go with it to the church where other generous donations were coming in and more that were planned for the next day.

We didn't ask the great folks at HEB to do what they did. Our church was prepared to make the purchase. But as my sister often reminds me, we didn't "steal their blessing" either. Giving and serving others blesses in ways you might never know. HEB has a LONG history of helping those in their communities in times of need ... as well as the individual giving that the ladies in the deli gave as well.

What a blessing it is to live in our great state, towns and communities, where neighbors help without being asked. May God bless the sacrifice of those risking their lives for what will likely prove to be a long, hot, fire-heavy summer in Texas.

Thank you HEB Gatesville and the all the ladies in the deli.

Keith D. Gatewood
Calvary Baptist Church, Hamilton

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Gatesville Primary Pre-K award recipients



Gatesville Primary Kindergarten award recipients



Gatesville Primary Kindergarten award recipients

Gatesville Primary presents Kindness Awards

Kindness Awards were recently presented at the Gatesville Primary School to Pre-K and Kindergarten students. The awards were based on acts of kindness the students had demonstrated. Teachers chose students in their class who had demonstrated an act of kindness over the last few weeks. Certificates and t-shirts were given to the students who had been nominated by their teacher.

Students who received the awards are:

PRE-K
 Mindy Marshall's class - Kire Richardson, Nayvee Hunter, Ransom Sims, Draco Sivils, Everitt Isaacks, Jordan Moya, Isabella Adair, Malachi Tevino, Rylan Denbow, Presley Gibson
 Jana Richardson's class - Rustin' Autrey, Sydnee Hitt, Riley Bovee, Izzack Knox, Robert Uribe, Jaxon Wilson, Delilah Withrow
 Janet Featherston's class - Addley Hauck, Dante Beltran-Sanders, Rosilee Matoska, Remington Bushong, Silas Schuman
 Bradi Necessary's class - Harlan Sherburne, Gray-

son Hadley, Sammy Ridley, Weston Linderman, Karter Robinson, Sofia Perez, Vincent Porter, Peiton Zamarripa Ramos

KINDERGARTEN
 Amber Colson's class - Colt Tombaugh, Brack Ford, Isabella Turgeon, Jace Watts, Timothy Warren, Liam Sinyard, Briley Sims, Olivia Keemun, Jayden Truong
 Lisa Ayres' class - Julian Vazquez, Mason Walter, Raphael Vidal-Chacon, Aubrey Kellerman, Emerlynn Jennings, Beretta Dubay, Jaciee Carlson, Jeremiah Campos, Judson Kelly
 Tami Hoover's class - Monty Chiaverini, Blayze Ladley, Logan Bates, Colton Massey, Bryden Schaaf, Gabrielle Michaelis, Elizabeth Quiroga, Owen Perez
 Gelis Tobias' class - Opal Dry, Fabian Ferrigno, Emma Forrester, Angel Mendez, Catalina Uribe, Victor Vega, Remi Davis, Jaison Dove, Isabella Reyes-Richardson
 Kendra Pruitt's class - Emma Jo Tieben, Jayce Baldwin, Matthew Raz, Dylan Mitchell, Brynn Dahl, Ryder

Davenport Monk, Julieta Mendez, Hurley Gregory, Elias Hernandez

Lacey Jenkins' class - Zade Davis, Roklin Walls, Carter Johnson, Stone Stafford, Kamdyn Redford, Landon Deax, Maxus Ashby, Alex Romero, Mia Loera
 Tiffany Lewis' class - Dawson Linderman, Aaron Sanchez, Karigan Huntley, Ember Nashif, Eli Kennedy, Dahlia Smith, Charlotte Hankins-Bowyer
 Dakota Young's class - Serenity Penny, Noah Suggs, Kaylee Simpson, Scarlett Schiele, Miguel Morales, Taylor Mayes, Jage Johnson
 Jackie Saunders' class - Hannah Berridge, Christian Coulter, Garrison Herring, Harrison Redding, Jackson Rivers, Joy Schiferl, Isabelle Schmidt, Jami Symanck, Klementine Veres, Joelle Walker
 Kristin Floyd's class - Hunter Barker, Jax Harper, Josiah Fordyce, Emalynn Talley, Madison Clemente, Mason Lewis, Kynlee Kowlok, Emeryson Lamb, Valerie Hoffman

MOUND NEWS

Local attends Fiddlers convention in Arkansas

BARBARA HOPSON

Mound has lost one of its residents, Mrs. Lavinia Willis, who died on Wednesday, March 16. Funeral services were held on Saturday at Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville. Burial was in the Gatesville Masonic Cemetery. Mrs. Willis will truly be missed by our community.

Wayne Head of Hugo, Oklahoma, and Ray Stephens attended the Arkansas State Fiddlers Convention this past week in Harrison, Arkansas.

Mrs. (Eric) Liz McCorkle went with her brother, Doug Quicksall, to Austin where they attended the Celebration of Life for Mr. Troy Johnson at Westlake Presbyterian Church. Mr. Johnson was the brother-in-law of Liz McCorkle of Mound.

Emma Blakley and Katelyn Griffith came Saturday and

stayed for the weekend.

Mrs. Bettie Blakley of Pearl and Minnie Wright of



Hopson

Gatesville visited Sunday with Robert and Carolyn Blakley. Penny Byrd and Carolyn Blakley had lunch Friday in Gatesville.

Caymbri Fisher had a cheer competition in Galveston. Her team received an excellent rating, and she enjoyed some beach time.

Chuck and Staci Combs, Brenna and Eylan Sharp, Scotty, Kelby, Sterlin Shults, and Don and Sue Jones had lunch in Gatesville Sunday.

T-ville Community Center to hold meeting

The Turnersville Community Center Association will hold its quarterly meeting on Monday, April 4, at 6 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the community center and will be open to the public to attend.

The community center is

a family-friendly gathering place for recreation, community, education and the arts. It is located at 8115 FM 182 in Turnersville.

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

Revival slated

Mountain Baptist Church invites the public to join them for a time of good preaching, singing and fellowship at their revival services April 24-27.

The Cherry family will present the love of Christ through music and through the preaching of God's word.

Services will begin Sunday morning, April 24, at 11 a.m.

followed by a barbecue meal at noon and services again on Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. Services will continue Monday through Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. with a light fellowship meal before each service at 5:30 p.m.

Mountain Baptist Church is located at 6319 E. US Highway 84. For more information, call 254-383-2634.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of March 26 - 29.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mar. 26
 12:08 a.m., a fight was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
 1:59 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 3000 block of CR 322.
Mar. 27
 12:20 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 3100 block of S. State Highway 36.
 6:26 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 1700 block of Bridge Street.
Mar. 28
 12:54 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
 5:50 a.m., an accident was

reported in the 500 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Mar. 26
 12:08 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
 8:15 a.m., a hit and run accident was reported on CR 162 near the county line.
Mar. 27
 8:35 a.m., illegal burning was reported in the 100 block of Barton Lane.
 10:43 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 5500 block of FM 215.
March 28
 12:21 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1800

block of FM 580.
 11:30 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on N. Highway 36 and CR 110.
 12:50 p.m., suspicious activity was reported on FM 1783 and FM 116.

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- Medical Records (CNA preferred) 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Dietary Aides 5:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Cooks 5:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Housekeeping 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Laundry - Weekend Doubles or M-F 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

GHS tennis team wins district championship



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville varsity tennis team dominated other district teams and walked away from the District 6-4A meet held in Brownwood with a victory. The team will now continue on to regional competition which will be held in a few weeks in Lubbock. Stormy Tatum placed first in girls' singles while her cousin, Slone Early, placed first in the boys' singles. Alex Scott and Carlo Martinez placed first in boys' doubles. Anna Mitchell placed second in girls' singles while Ty Warren and Julee Sun placed second in mixed doubles. More on the team's win will appear in an upcoming issue of The Messenger.

AREA FISHING REPORT

Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 58 degrees; 3.46 feet low. Lake Belton has really turned on since last weekend's warming trend began. Surface temperatures are at or just above the 58 degree mark, at which white bass really begin to feed aggressively. Horizontal retrieves in water under 20 feet deep with MAL Heavy Lures have been very productive. If fish are found in deeper water, under birds, or suspended, working MAL Heavy Lures or MAL Dense lure through them vertically has also produced well. Retrieves should be as slow as possible to keep the blades spinning. Slabs are beginning to be refused, especially by suspended, migrating fish. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the

Line Guide Service.

Stillhouse Hollow

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 58 degrees; 3.41 feet low. Stillhouse is underperforming thanks to a total lack of flow in the Lampasas River. Fish are scattered and prepared to spawn, but conditions are not yet suitable. Trolling crankbaits and working MAL Original spinners with silver blade and chartreuse tail in under 20 feet of water is accounting for most of the fish landed. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Waco

GOOD. Water stained; 62-65 degrees; 4.86 feet low. Largemouth bass are staging on points leading into creeks and some are spawning. Success flipping a 254 Fish-

ing finesse worm in blue fleck and 254 Fishing baby craw in root beer green. Moving baits were not landing the bite. Crappie are good shallow biting on 3.75 inch swimbaits. They were all males, indicating the spawn is about to be on. White bass are in the rivers and creeks. Report by Justin Prisock, Prisock's Fishing Guide Service. Blue and channel catfish are good with the occasional flathead catfish using an assortment of cut bait in shallow windblown banks and flats near main tributaries. The flathead bite is picking up at night. Report by Jason "SPUD" Barton, Cattin' Around Adventure's Professional Guide Service.

Whitney

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 64

degrees; 2.51 feet low. Striped bass are good in 20-60 feet of water. Look for fish suspended off the bottom as those are the ones that are feeding more actively. Artificial lures like deep diving crankbaits are working, but live bait is preferred. Fish are scattered throughout the reservoir from the dam all the way to the river. Report provided by Kraig Sexton, Sexton's Guide Service LLC.

Brownwood

SLOW. Water stained; 55-61 degrees; 2.37 feet low. Bass are good with catches up to 3 pounds on chatterbaits, crankbaits and shaky heads. Bass are shallow in water less than four feet. White bass are good on slabs and small jigs. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs in

5-15 feet of water.

Buchanan

FAIR. Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 4.93 feet low. Crappie are good in 2-10 feet of water biting on orange or chartreuse/black jigs. Report by Jess Rotherham, Texas Crappie Fishing Service.

LBJ

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 0.66 feet low. Crappie and white bass are good drifting jigging spoons in the creek. Largemouth bass are good sight fishing on beds using creature baits. Report by Randal Frisbie, Central Texas Fishing Guide, LLC. Bass are good in the backs of canals in shallow water on beds biting on small plastics and stick worms. Report by Carson Conklin, ATX Fishing.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Lady Hornets defeat Lady Lions, 10-6

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Lady Hornets defeated Brownwood 10-6 on Tuesday on the road while leveling their District 6-4A softball record at 1-1.

GHS, which played aggressively, snapped its four-game losing streak with the win, and improved their overall record to 7-14-2.

"Last night was one of the best team-effort wins we have had all season," GHS softball coach Andrea Holdbrook said. "We started off putting pressure on Brownwood's defense and took advantage of their mistakes. We hit the ball hard, and it paid off."

Kalli Robinette, who came in as a Gatesville courtesy run-

ner after Kaitlin Stuard reached on a single in the second inning, took third base on an error and eventually scored on another error. In the third inning, Raylee Glover reached first base on a single. Kinlee Gardner advanced Glover to second on a groundout.

A Kinsey Gardner double brought in Glover, and Kinsey also scored on the throw. In the bottom of the fourth inning, Brownwood retaliated with four runs.

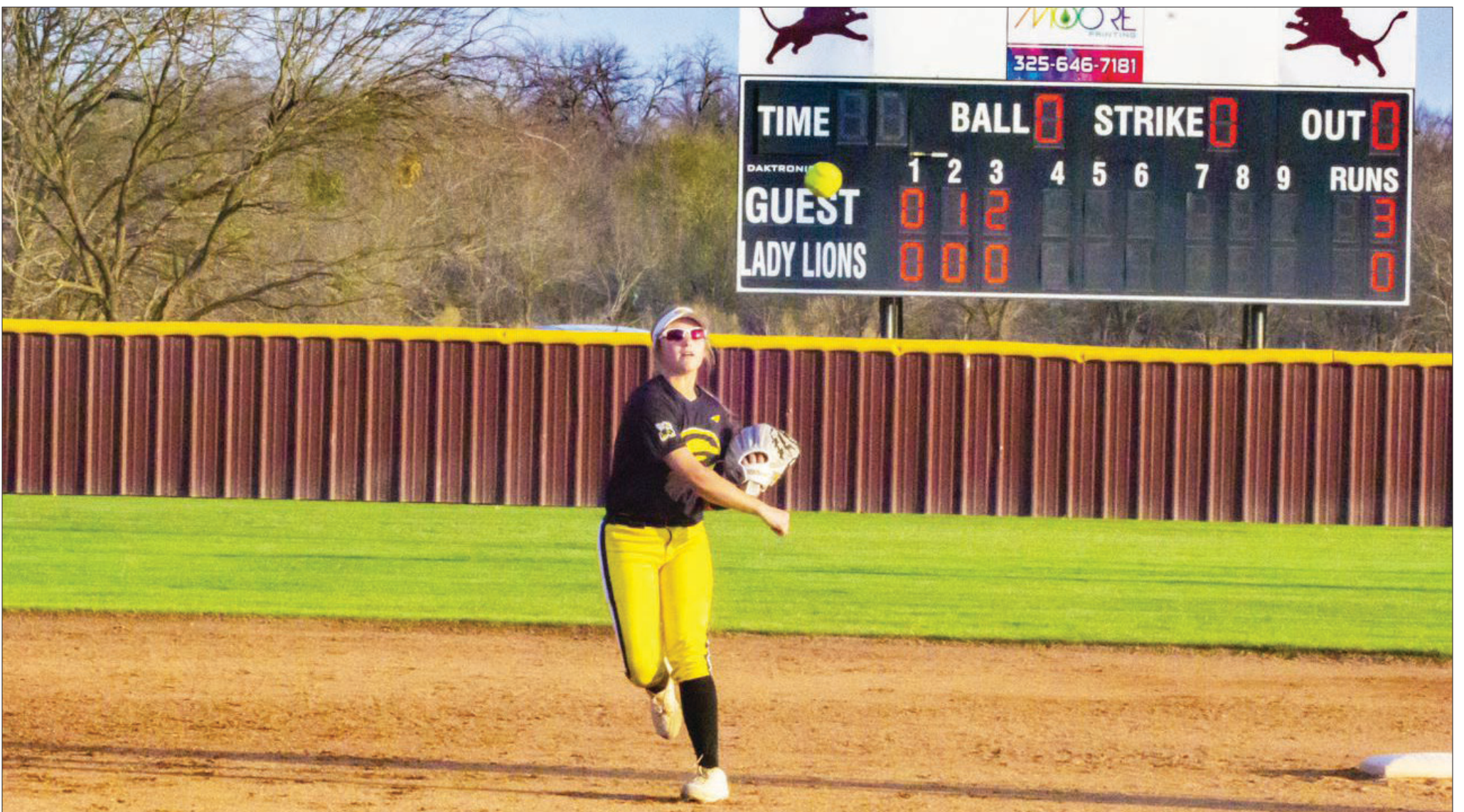
In the fifth inning, Glover reached on a single. Kinlee moved Glover to second on a single. Touchet hit a single into center field, advancing Glover and Kinlee. Glover scored on the throw, tying the score at 4-4. Kinlee took third and Touchet made it to second. Pitcher Kallie Featherston reached on a walk. Featherston was replaced by Kagen Hunt on first base as a courtesy runner.

With the bases loaded, Stuard hit a ground ball and advanced to third on an error, allowing Kinlee, Touchet, and Hunt to score. That made it a 7-4 Gatesville advantage.

In the seventh inning, Kinsey hit a double to right field. Touchet hit a ground ball that stayed in the infield, but an error by Brownwood allowed her to reach first while Kinsey scored. Featherston bunted, but another error by Brownwood would put her on third base and have Touchet score. Stuard brought in the courtesy runner, Hunt, home with a sacrifice fly.

Glover finished the game 3-for-4 with two runs scored, while Kinsey was 2-for-4 with two runs batted in, and two runs scored. Stuard went 2-for-4 with one RBI.

The Lady Hornets played the Stephenville Honeybees on Friday, April 1 in Gatesville.



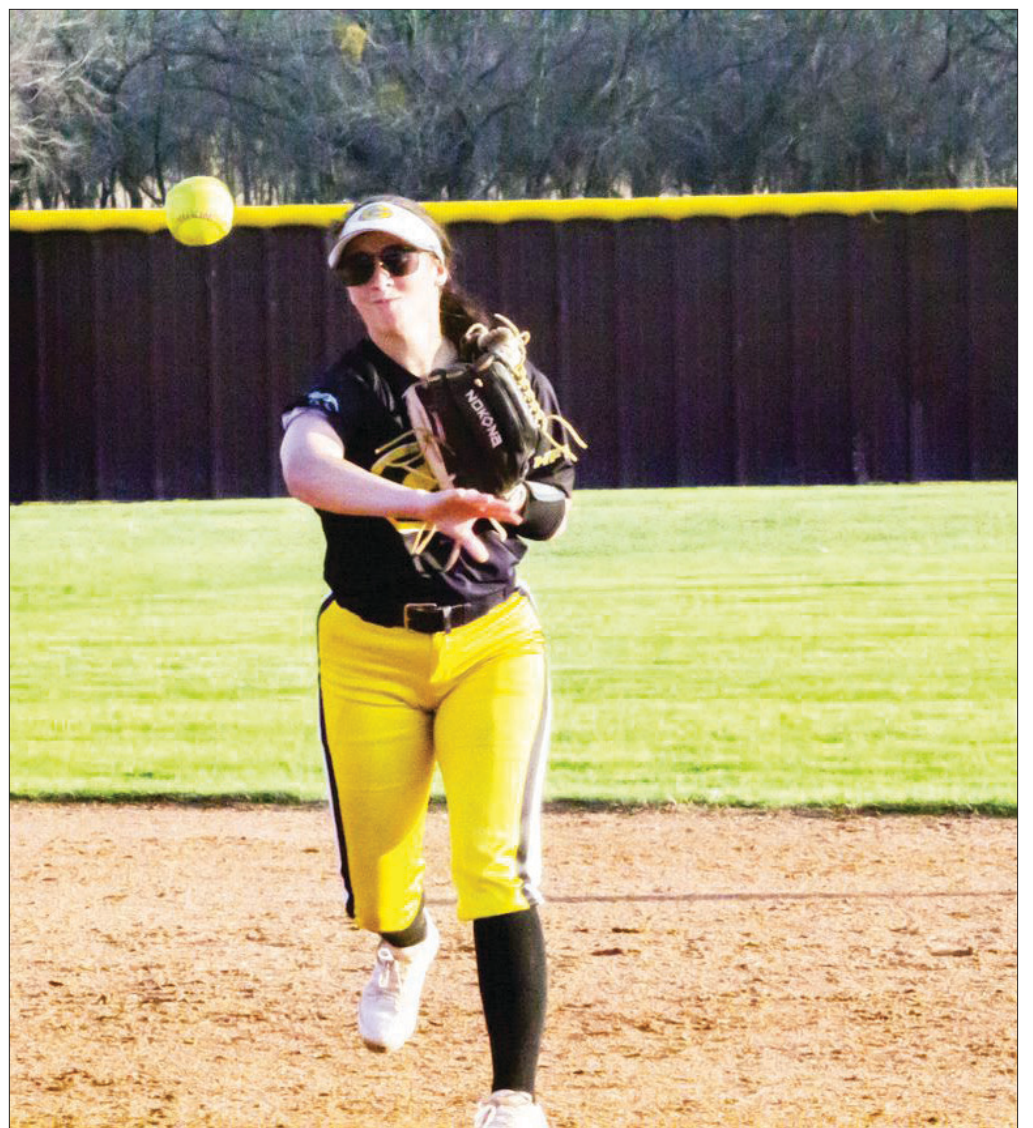
TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

VICTORIOUS EFFORT: Kinlee Gardner makes the throw for Gatesville in the Lady Hornets' 10-6 district triumph over the Brownwood Lady Lions on Tuesday.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

Kallie Featherston fires a pitch for the Lady Hornets.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

Riann Tippit makes a play in the infield for GHS.

Hornets hammer Badgers, 15-4

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

Gatesville High School's baseball team defeated District 6-4A opponent Lampasas on the 10-run mercy rule for the second time this season, as the Hornets cruised to a 15-4 victory on the road.

Th win was huge for the Hornets because it moved them back into the No. 2 spot in the district standings. The Hornets' first win over the Badgers this season, in Gatesville, was 10-0 and also ended after five innings.

"We played with a lot of energy tonight," GHS baseball coach Chase Smith said. "The dugout was rocking as it always is when we play Lampasas; the

guys were into the game and having a lot of fun."

The Hornets faced a 3-2 deficit coming out of the first inning but overcame it by scoring five runs in the second inning and four runs in both the third and fourth innings. After the first inning, the Badgers only managed one run, in the third inning.

Cayden Mata finished 3-for-4 at the plate, with three runs batted in while crossing the home plate three times. Camden Galindo was 1-for-2 with one RBI and three runs scored. Parker Allman was 1-for-3 with an RBI, and two runs scored.

The Hornets improved to an 8-9 overall record and 3-2 in district.

GHS golfers advance to regionals

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville High School boys golf team placed fourth in the District 6-4A tournament held on March 28 at Hancock Park Golf Course in Lampasas and March 29 at Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose. Individually, Camden Morra from the GHS boys team and Avery Streetman from the girls squad, qualified to advance to the regional tournament.

In the district tournament, members of the top two teams advance to the regional tournament. But also, other individual golfers can advance if their scores are among the top two but are not on the top two teams.

Morra advanced to the regional tournament after placing seventh, based on his score.

Streetman, a freshman who was the lone competitor for the Lady Hornets, was seventh overall but her score was good enough to move her into the regional level.

Also for the GHS boys, Kasen Bankhead placed eighth, just outside of a qualifying spot. Zane Foster placed 10th.

Max Healer placed fifth in the junior varsity boys division.

Morra and Streetman will compete at the regional meet, scheduled to be held at Lubbock's Shadow Hills Golf Course April 20-21.

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