



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

WEDNESDAY | Aug. 3, 2022

75¢

SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 120, No. 64, ISSN No. 0894-4954



Rodeo takes center stage



COURTESY PHOTO BY EPIC IMAGES BY TERESA

Rodeo excitement thrilled Coryell County for three nights July 28-30 during the Gatesville Riding Club's 85th Annual Rodeo at the GRC Arena.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A pair of young cowboys get an up-close view of the rodeo action.



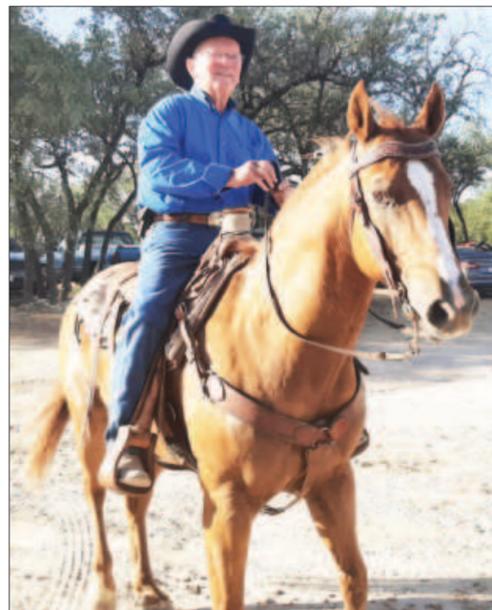
COURTESY PHOTO BY EPIC IMAGES BY TERESA

Skill and determination were on display during Gatesville's three-day rodeo.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mutton bustin' (children riding sheep) is always a fan favorite at the Gatesville rodeo.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jerry Segraves with the riding club enjoys time on horseback.

GISD slashes budget

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Responding to a budget shortfall, Gatesville Independent School District leaders have enacted significant budget cuts that will reduce the district's expenses by \$1.7 million.

"It's a sad picture, and we've made some pretty major cuts," said Darrell Frazier, chief financial officer for the district. He noted that \$674,000 of the cuts were made in the district's human resources department.

On a positive note, he said, "there have been no layoffs" and GISD employees will still be receiving salary increases for the 2022-23 fiscal year. However, "we have cut just about any open positions. There have been no (current) personnel cuts, but there have been some cuts by attrition" (people retiring or leaving the district and not being replaced).

Frazier had warned the school board in June that the district faced a shortfall of up to \$2 million, but that amount was reduced. Even so, comprehensive budget cuts were required.

Frazier said he met with each campus principal to formulate the expense reductions, and that funding has effectively returned to the 2018-19 pre-pandemic budget.

"To give you an idea of what was cut principally - pretty much all travel," he said. "There will be no

PLEASE SEE GISD | A2

Feral cat concern brought to council

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

A meeting room full of local residents and regional volunteers concerned about Gatesville's prolific feral cat population visited the Gatesville City Council during a recent meeting to let city leaders know what is being done - and what else can be done - to address this problem.

Helping Gatesville address the rampant feral cat issue is volunteer Cody Courtain of Killeen, who said his goal is to help end animal overpopulation in areas where the Trap Neuter Release program is underutilized.

Assisting him with those efforts is Natalie Lord of Granite Shoals, who works as a veterinarian with Hope Animal Clinic in Marble Falls. Both Courtain and Lord spoke to the Gatesville City Council and talked about the feral cat concern in Gatesville.

"Cat overpopulation is a crisis," Courtain said. He added that the nonprofit group he works with sterilized 250 cats last year. Already this year, 88 cats and three dogs have been sterilized through the nonprofit's efforts.

"I have worked closely with local vets and vets from outside the area through the Trap Neuter and Release program," Courtain said. "This is a humane solution for cat overpopulation. Gatesville has a serious

PLEASE SEE CATS | A2

GISD
FROM PAGE A1

staff going to conferences." Instead, staff will be expected to have meetings/training via teleconferences and internet programs such as Zoom.

The library fund for new books has also been cut, Frazier said, although librarians may have some leftover activity funds to purchase books.

He said as of July 25, he was waiting for a response from the fine arts and athletic departments regarding the proposed budget cuts.

"Pretty much anything superfluous (non-essential) is getting cut," Frazier said. "There may be some cuts in food expenses for teams which travel. They do have some pretty handsome activity accounts that will come into play.

"It's going to be an austere budget, but everybody I've talked to has responded really well - maturely. Everybody recognizes the position we're in. There's been a pretty substantial drop in enrollment and attendance is not that good."

In Texas, funding for school districts is primarily based on enrollment and attendance figures.

Dr. Barrett Pollard said he has spoken with the state education commissioner about enrollment and financial concerns.

"The number of kids in Texas is shrinking," Pollard said. "Birth rates are down and there are fewer young people. At one point, Texas was an outlier. We had more kids than adults, but that's no longer the case. I shudder to think what our enrollment will be like when we reach pandemic birth rates" (which began in 2020 and have not yet been manifested in the student population).

Board Vice President Charles Alderson asked how the student population statewide is down with all the people who have crossed the bor-

"it's going to be an austere budget, but everybody I've talked to has responded really well - maturely. Everybody recognizes the position we're in. there's been a pretty substantial drop in enrollment and attendance is not that good."

Darrell Frazier, chief financial officer for Gatesville ISD

der in recent years.

"Some of that has been siphoned off to homeschool and private schools," Pollard said. "The (state education) commissioner is attributing the drop to low birth rates."

Asked if there might be any financial relief for districts with lower enrollments and decreased attendance, Pollard said the commissioner told him that there is no support in the state legislature for funding schools for students who are not there.

"He said the only thing the legislature might consider is more per pupil funding" (increasing the amount of money received for each student).

Sometimes the use of funds is highly restricted, and Pollard said it would be beneficial for the district to have "some latitude on how we spend - more flexibility on how you spend for security."

As a result of budget cuts, some of the regular technology updates that the district routinely makes will have to be delayed, Frazier said, and the use of buses for travel (outside of bringing students to school and taking them home) will also be more restricted.

"We will have to limit expenses to things that are absolutely essential and not be able to do everything we've done in the past," he said.

Asked about the impact to special education, Frazier said travel will be reduced and only essential supplies may be purchased. "Wish lists

will be cut," he said.

When hosting an event, the athletic department "will only be able to bring in what they (earn) from hosting an event."

Despite the budget cuts, Frazier said employees have responded well.

"There weren't too many tears," he said. "I'm proud of the way they handled it."

Some of the budget cuts enacted include reductions of:

- * 29.9% from the primary campus
- * 31.8% from the elementary campus
- * 25% from the intermediate campus
- * 23.4% from the junior high campus
- * 23.2% from the high school campus
- * 70.9% from Career and Technical Education
- * 14.3% from fine arts
- * 39.5% from junior high athletics
- * 9.4% from high school athletics
- * 6.3% for playoff expenses
- * 18.7% from food services
- * 18.9% from technology
- * 2.7% from transportation
- * 20.5% from maintenance
- * 8.2% from capital outlays expenses
- * 2.8% from the interest and sinking fund (debt services)
- * 23.3% from administration
- * 19.6% from special education
- * 51.9% from hosted athletic events

One area which will see an increase is curriculum and instruction, with an increase of 7.2%.

Tax holiday set Aug. 5-7

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 5-7.

State law exempts sales tax on qualified items - such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks - priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The dates of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

The Comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save \$112 million in state and local sales tax during this sales tax holiday.

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website at [TexasTaxHoliday.org](https://www.texas.gov/department/tax-holiday).

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free online or by telephone, mail, custom order, or any other means (including in-store purchases) when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or,
- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend

CATS
FROM PAGE A1

cat overpopulation concern. You can't drive down any road and not have a cat run out in front of you. We are seeking a change of (city) ordinance to support what we're doing."

He said the nonprofit relies on donations and grants to help make a difference in communities.

Dr. Lord said decreasing the feral cat population would be beneficial to the community, and that the TNR program is an alternative to animal euthanasia.

"As a veterinarian I sign an oath not just to protect animal lives but also human lives," she said. Cats that are reached through the

TNR program are also given rabies vaccinations, which makes the community safer, she said.

While communities might have a ban in place which prohibits feeding stray cats, these bans are often ineffective, but the TNR program can make a real difference, Lord said.

Gatesville attorney Mary Jane Zeigler also spoke to the Council about the importance of addressing the feral cat issue.

"Everybody is aware Gatesville has a cat problem," she said. "People are spending a lot of money and time to help change this. We know what to do and how to do it.

"What we want is a formal acknowledgment of the problem, and we think it's worth spending money on a low-cost solution."

Mayor Gary Chumley said just as with

other concerns, "We didn't get in this shape overnight," and he added that he has seen people make significant financial contributions to help address the local feral cat problem.

"It's a health issue, and we want a humane solution," Zeigler said.

Because the issue was discussed during the citizens forum part of the meeting and was not an official agenda item, the Council

was unable to take action during the July 26 meeting.

The feral cat concern is scheduled to be placed on the Council agenda for Sept. 13.

The Council is currently preparing a budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year, and Councilwoman Barbara Burrow has asked for funding to be considered to help address the feral cat concern in Gatesville.



COURTESY PHOTO

These cats were among those recently trapped in Gatesville and neutered.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Citizens of Gatesville and the surrounding area:

I would like to take a moment of your time to raise up before you five incredible Christian citizens of our community, along with the three businesses they run.

The people would be Ricky and Tana Snoddy, and Chad and Katy Hill, owners and operators of The Feed Mill and Bare Bones, along with Jennifer Smith who owns and operates Park Street Burgers.

As many of you know, we had a water emergency not only in Gatesville, but also in the outlying areas as a 30-inch water line burst at the water treatment plant in Mofat. When I was told the news, I was also asked to share with our church members just how serious the situation could become and the urgent need to begin conserving wa-

ter immediately as it looked like it would be a couple of days before the situation could be fixed.

From what I understand, The Feed Mill, Bare Bones, and Park Street Burgers were three restaurants that took that request seriously and closed their businesses so that precious water and water pressure could be reserved for the needs of others, especially our hospital, nursing homes and emergency needs like fighting fires. (If there were other restaurants, please let me know.) I just wanted to single them out for another example of their community involvement and their concern for others as they put the needs of others ahead of their own needs and business income.

John Heckmann
Gatesville



COURTESY PHOTO

Due to area drought, Keep Gatesville Beautiful is changing guidelines for Yard of the Month.

Golf Scramble to be held September 10

Gatesville's Exchange and Lions Clubs will be hosting their 22nd Annual Golf Scramble on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Gatesville Country Club. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and there will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The Golf Scramble will be sponsored by First National Bank.

Team prizes (based on 14-team field) will be \$500 for first place, \$400 for fourth place, and \$200 for eighth

place. Those interested can form their own four-person team or sign-up for a team list which will be \$200 per team or \$50 per member. The price includes green fees, golf cart, and food.

There will be a \$5,000 Hole-in-One contest plus three other Hole-in-One prizes.

For more information, contact Alan Mathis at 254-289-1651 or Tom Creek at 254-774-5933.

Keep Gatesville Beautiful's Yard of the Month guidelines changed due to drought

Keep Gatesville Beautiful knows that readers have enjoyed seeing the beautiful, lush Yard of the Month selections. Given the current water situation and the drought that our area is enduring, they don't feel that it is ap-

propriate to encourage the level of water use that those lawns require.

Instead, they want to recognize those who have found ways to make their properties attractive while conserving water. They will

be looking for homes with creative landscaping using hardscape, pretty front porches and inviting entryways.

Until further notice, they won't consider green grass and lush flowerbeds for

Yard of the Month. They look forward to sharing how our neighbors keep Gatesville beautiful, while conserving the precious natural resource of water.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Growing older comes with consequences

SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is also an author, actor, playwright and entertainment producer/promoter.

Age is revered and respected by many cultures around the world. This is not so much the case in the United States. Instead of embracing aging, we seem to do everything we can to keep up the appearance of being young. Americans fight the advance of "age" like a gladiator competing in a Roman coliseum. They embrace special diets, exercise programs and supplements, all promising the maintenance of "youth." BOTOX has become as common as a cup of coffee and seemingly, every consumer marketing effort directs people to think young, look young and act young. We are obsessed with youth.

Could it be because as we all get older, there are some aspects of the process which are not particularly fun? Most realities about aging are not

considered until they strike home. For instance, who in their 20s imagines the difficulty of pulling on socks at age 70? As a 25-year-old, does one contemplate the anxiety of being 65, laying all warm and comfortable in bed, struggling as the urge to use the bathroom strikes for the third time that night? Do young people anticipate one day having the fear of climbing a ladder, the difficulty of bending over and picking up dropped items, or withstanding the seemingly endless cracks and creaks released as an older person up from a



Houston

chair or rises from bed in the morning? I think not. Do we purposely avoid even considering the inevitable? Maybe? Is that why so many people refuse to prepare a will or pre-purchase a

burial plan? They do not want to consider the inevitable loss of youth?

I have found that generally, people consider old age to be 15 years older than their current age. When my mother was in her late 70s, she regularly attended a senior aerobics class. I still remember telephoning her one snowy day to learn of her disappointment in the class being canceled. She told me her instructor feared one of the "old people" in the class might fall on the ice and hurt themselves. Being in my 40s at the time, I reminded Mom

that she was 77. I inquired who she believed those "old people" in her class were, knowing they were all over 70. She promptly explained, "it is certainly not me." Mom never wanted to be considered "old."

We don't know what comes as we age, any more than we knew what to expect from adulthood when we were a teenager. We imagine and speculate, but until we experience it, we don't really know or appreciate the inevitable changes. I guess uncertainty scares people from embracing the change and results in them trying to hold onto the past.

Today is the youngest I will ever be because tomorrow I will be just a little bit older. The train is running down the track. I've decided to get onboard and ride to the end of the line. When I get there, I will be beat up, used up, worn out, and will not look youthful nor be able to do what I could when I was 25. But I will have a big smile on my face, and I will be forever thankful for the ride.

Thought for the day: Old age is like everything else - to make it a success you have to start young.

Until next time.
sam@hcnews.com

Gatesville School Board, City Council election Nov. 8

GATESVILLE ISD

The Gatesville Independent School District recently announced the filing and general election dates for the upcoming School Board member election. Seats up for re-election will be those of Cheyenne Kizer and Mary Anne Leib. Filing is currently underway and the last day to file as a candidate for the school board will be Aug. 22, at 5 p.m.

Candidates can pick up a candidate packet at the Gatesville ISD Administration Building, 311 S. Lovers Lane, in Gatesville.

For additional information, contact Tara Dixon, Superintendent's Administrative Assistant at 254-865-7251, Ext. 1130, or email tdixon@gatesvilleisd.org.

CITY OF GATESVILLE

The Gatesville City Council consists of a mayor and

six council members. The mayor and council members places 2, 4, and 6 are elected in even-numbered years and places 1, 3, and 5 are elected in odd-number years and hold office for a period of two years. The following Council Member office terms will expire in November 2022: Mayor (Incumbent Gary Chumley), Ward 1, Place 2 (Incumbent Barbara Burrow), Ward 2, Place 4 (Incumbent Billy Sinyard), and Ward 2, Place 6 (Appointed Incumbent John Westbrook). To date, Mayor Gary Chumley is the only candidate to have filed for re-election.

The candidate filing period to be placed on the ballot is underway and will continue through Aug. 22. Candidates may file at Gatesville City Hall located at 110 N. 8th Street.

For more information, call 254-865-8951.

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'Popcorn with the Principals' is Aug. 4

Gatesville Elementary School would like to invite elementary families to "pop in" for "Popcorn with the Principals" on Thursday, Aug. 4, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. It will be a come-and-go event

which will be held in the elementary gym. The elementary principals would enjoy meeting all of the new students and their families and also the returning students.

Gatesville Elementary School is located at 2537 E. Main Street. The school can be reached by calling 254-865-7262.

PEARL NEWS

More than music at Pearl Bluegrass



BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

The next Pearl Bluegrass event will be Aug. 6. If you would like to be part of the stage show lineup, please contact Ronald Medart at 254-865-6013. You can also go on Liz Patton's Facebook page to Pearl Bluegrass Jam and leave a message there. It looks like Liz has been working on updating the web page. Check it out at pearl-bluegrassjam.org.

Besides the wonderful music in Pearl, the food and fellowship are beyond compare. Visit the Bluegrass kitchen while you're there. The prices are great, and the proceeds go to support the Pearl Community Center. Also remember that there are full hook-ups for your RVs, 30 and 50 amps which are only \$20 and \$25 per night and jamming often goes on Friday and Saturday nights—and there's pie in the kitchen from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. Y'all come!

Kay Pruettt is having an "Everything Must Go Moving Sale" on Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. However, if you want to go earlier, you can call Kay at 254-865-5864 to make an appointment. Included in the sale are items such as an Ashley wood stove, hand tools, Pyrex, antiques, collectibles, kitchen items, furniture, plants, gardening books, succulent books, a 4-foot pencil cactus, craft supplies, ice chests, clothes and lots more. This sale is on the same day as the next Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day and the Pearl Bluegrass event. Kay's house is right down the road from the Pearl Community Center at 1260

CR 153, so you will have easy access to all Bluegrass and shopping for that day.

The Pearl Cottage Bookstore will also be open as usual on Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. There are over 6,000 used books, hard and paperback, in many different genres as well as various and sundry other items at the store. Most everything is "buy what you want, pay what you want," and all proceeds go to local charities. You never know what you might find.

Connie Long's grandson and the Penny's great-grandson, Justin Muegge, did very well at the Corpus Christi Track Meet last week. He won the 800-meter and the 100-meter. He also participated in the 400-meter. Congratulations, Justin. What a great accomplishment, especially in this heat!

The Pearl Baptist Church (Pearl Country Church) will be preparing a meal for the Evant ISD teachers on Wednesday, Aug. 3. They are in for a treat as that church has some wonderful cooks.

The Pearl Baptist Church is now accepting donations for a silent auction to benefit the Evant Fire Department. The festival for the EFD will be held on Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be games for young and old, the silent auction, music and food. Everyone is invited to attend.

I recently learned that when the Ray family was in Corpus Christi last week that they got to have dinner with Turtle Powell and reported that they enjoyed their visit so much. We all miss Turtle terribly, especially during VBS, but we are so glad to hear that he is doing well in Corpus. Turtle is enjoying his job at a hotel there and said that he has actually registered people from Purlmela and Gatesville from time to time. So, if you plan to go to Corpus, find out from Paula which hotel Turtle works in and plan a stay there. He would love to see "home folks."

Linda Ray got a rather strange call from her grand-

daughter who lives in Hawaii earlier this week. In fact, Randi told Linda that she was calling her for a recipe. Now, for those of us who know Linda, we can assure you that she is not a "kitchen" person. In fact, Linda asked Randi, "Wait, is this some kind of cruel joke?" But Randi seriously wanted Linda's one and only homemade recipe for Crock Pot butter beans and sausage. And yes, that is a dish that Linda cooks hands-on, and they really are delicious.

Her other recipe goes as follows: go to the grocery store, head to the freezer section, take out anything Stouffer's, (or anything that can be microwaved), follow the package directions, and then go off and do other more interesting activities until the Stouffer's is done. It works—I know because I have often used that recipe myself.

However, I've eaten Mr. Ray's home cooking and figured out that he has kept this sweet family alive with his own "real" recipes for years! Let it be known, though, that Linda has many other talents that absolutely do not involve the kitchen, and for that we are extremely grateful. Creativity is not just for the kitchen, after all.

This week's Bible verse: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all of the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18

And some prayer requests, please pray for rain, for the students and staff as they return to the local schools, and for our country!

Contact me at betscylark47@yahoo.com to submit any Pearl news.

Check out Jennifer Rush-ton's Facebook page, Pearl Community Center, Texas! There's no place like Pearl!

The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of July 28 - 31. 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

July 28
5:31 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.
8:51 a.m., an accident was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.
11:18 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
6:44 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
11:11 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1500 block of Mills Street.

July 29
6:01 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Old Osage Road.
11:26 a.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Idylwood Drive.
1:06 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 100 block of CR 342.

5:34 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
9:27 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 29th Street.

July 30
2:46 a.m., a prowler was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

3:06 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 3100 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

10:26 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.

4:40 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 3200 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

9:40 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 4100

block of E. Hwy. 84.

July 31
2:37 a.m., a threat was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.

12:21 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.

2:24 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 100 block of CR 160.

5:30 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of State Hwy. 36.

8:46 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4100 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

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July 28
1:45 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 1300 block of Oak Springs.

8:52 a.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of CR 254.

6:23 p.m. a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of Mooney Avenue.

6:51 p.m., an out-of-control child was reported in the 600 block of Thomas Street.

11:02 p.m., a livestock com-

plaint was reported on W. Hwy. 84 and CR 128.

July 29
12:30 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 5400 block of FM 215.

12:42 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 2600 block of FM 107.

1:56 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on FM 183.

2:39 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of CR 318.

11:42 p.m., a stranded motorist was reported on FM 116 and Thomas Street.

July 30
12:23 a.m., a stranded motorist was reported on FM 116 south of Pidcoke.

4:22 p.m., a fire was reported in the 1500 block of Bald Knob Road.

7:26 p.m., a theft was reported in the 11000 block of FM 1783.

9:15 p.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

9:45 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 4100 block of W. Hwy. 84 near CR 160.

July 31
8:00 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 200 block of FM 107.

9:55 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 2800 block of S. FM 183.

12:26 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.

8:56 p.m., a threat was reported in the 4300 block of FM 1113.

9:39 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 2200 block of CR 342.

Community-wide pep rally to "Meet the Hornets" is Aug. 17

Gatesville ISD Athletics will be hosting a community-wide pep rally and "Meet the Hornets" program on Wednesday, Aug. 17. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m.

at Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium. During the evening, members of the GHS athletic teams will be recognized. There will also be an ice cream social for fans

and athletes to get the chance to meet all GHS coaches and staff members. The GHS band, cheer and dance teams will also perform.

Gatesville ISD Meet the teacher/open house scheduled Aug. 9

The Gatesville Independent School District recently announced the date and times for the Open House and Meet the Teacher at each of the GHS campuses. The event will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 9, with times at the following campuses: Gatesville Primary School 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.; Gatesville Elementary School 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.;

Gatesville Intermediate School 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.; Gatesville Junior High 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.; and Gatesville High School from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Any questions about the Open House or Meet the Teacher night can be answered by calling the office at each individual campus.

Meet the Teacher events set for Oglesby, Jonesboro, Evant schools

Meet the Teacher evenings will be held at Coryell County schools including Jonesboro, Evant, and Oglesby.

Evant ISD will have their Meet the Teacher on Thursday, Aug. 4, from 6-8 p.m. The school is located at 339 N. Memory Lane in Evant. The school can be reached by call-

ing 254-471-3160.

Oglesby ISD will host their Meet the Teacher evening on Monday, Aug. 15, from 6-7 p.m. The school is located at 125 College Avenue in Oglesby. The school can be reached by calling 254-456-2271.

Jonesboro ISD will have

their Meet the Teacher evening on Wednesday, Aug. 17, from 6-8 p.m. A meal starts prior to Meet the Teacher at 5:30 p.m. The school is located at 14909 E. State Highway 36 in Jonesboro. The school can be reached by calling 254-463-2111.

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County 4-H awards celebration held at City Pool



COURTESY PHOTO

4-H GOLD STARWINNERS: Cayleigh Coursey (left) and Kylee Deason.



COURTESY PHOTO

SENIOR AMBASSADORTEAM: front row from left, Zoee Gribble, Hadleigh Ament, Matti Mann, Kinlee Gardner, Cayleigh Coursey and Kinsley McPherson; back row, from left, Caleb Mannix, Jack Bussey, Lane Brookshire, Zak Huckabee, Thiele Alvarado, Chase Janke and Lane Kinsey. Not pictured are Hunter Beaty, Jeret Burks and Madison Hester.

BECKY COWARD

County Extension Agent/
4-H Youth Development

4-H members, parents, and leaders were all recognized at the annual Coryell County 4-H awards celebration held, Wednesday, July 20 at the Gatesville City Pool. One hundred people were in attendance to celebrate the accomplishments of members and award outstanding individuals for the year. After swimming, pizza and watermelon, an awards program was held.

The following 4-H Club managers were recognized for their dedicated service in leading our county clubs:

Cattle Drive - Amanda Clarke and Stacia Smith; Coryell 4-H Canines - Kim Gibson and Sara Laskowski; Coryell 4-H Gun Club - Hugh Nielsen and Carrie Jones; Coryell City - Julie Gardner and Gina Ament; Five Hills - Bobbi and Terry Aulabaugh; Gatesville - Brandy Rhodes and Kim Dewald; Hard Bargain - Tanna Tippit and Kacie Brown; Hay Valley - Jennifer Mann and Erika Archie; Hornet GOLD Elementary - Nicole Shonkwiler; Hornet GOLD Intermediate - Tracy Coursey, Emily Yarbrough and Amanda Huckabee; Jonesboro - Tina Janke and Misty Wallace; Pecan Grove - Ellen Ann Gummelt.

The new clubs chartered

this year are:

Coryell 4-H Horse Club - Jenna Murphy; Hornet GOLD Junior High School Club - Wendy Bye; Muddy Boots at House Creek Elementary - Cassie Ray.

Highlights of the year were read by Becky Coward, 4-H County Extension Agent. Agents Donna Schwausch and Robert Ferguson assisted with the awards presentation.

The following awards were presented:

4-H Rookie Awards: Mary Mitchell and Colt Brookshire; Bronze Star Junior: Allie McPherson and Jozie Wolff; Rising Star Junior: Eve Fulton and Pete Wallace; Silver Star Intermediates: Anna McPherson and Makaylie Williams; All-Star Intermediates: Zak Huckabee, Lilly Kinsey, Kace Laster, Thomas Belt, Kinsley McPherson, Clancy Archie, Lillie Mann, Hunter Beaty, Bailey Wolff, and Lane Brookshire; Gold Star \$200 scholarship and award jackets: Kylee Deason and Cayleigh Coursey; I Dare You Danforth Leadership Awards: Kinlee Gardner, Chase Janke and Hadleigh Ament; Community Service Award: Thiele Alvarado; Super Star Senior Awards: Caleb Mannix, Lane Kinsey, Charles Belt, Jeret Burks, Zoee Gribble and Matti Mann.

A special presentation was made by Tammy Lawhorn and Shandi Meredith award-



COURTESY PHOTO

CLANCY LAWHORN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: from left, Tammy Lawhorn (presenter), Cayleigh Coursey, Marcy Conley, Jonathan Haag, Noah Haag, and Shandi Meredith (presenter).

ing scholarships on behalf of the Clancy Lawhorn Memorial Scholarship Fund. Those recipients were: Cayleigh Coursey, Marcy Conley, Jonathan Haag and Noah Haag. New Ambassador Team members for 2022-2023

were announced:

Seniors: Thiele Alvarado, Hadleigh Ament, Hunter Beaty, Jeret Burks, Lane Brookshire, Jack Bussey, Cayleigh Coursey, Kinlee Gardner, Zoee Gribble, Madison Hester, Zakary Huckabee,

Chase Janke, Lane Kinsey, Kinsley McPherson, Matti Mann, Caleb Mannix.

Juniors: Clancy Archie, Thomas Belt, Colt Brookshire, Eve Fulton, Lilly Kinsey, Kace Laster, Anna McPherson, Allie McPherson, Lillie Mann, Mary

Mitchell, Pete Wallace, Makaylie Williams, Bailey Wolff, Jozie Wolff.

New enrollment for 4-H members begins in August. Please contact the County Extension Office for any questions regarding membership.

Back to School Bash Aug. 6

A Back to School Bash will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Gatesville. There will be free backpacks and school supplies, haircuts, vision and hearing screening, COVID vaccines for all ages (a parent must accompany a child for the

vaccine), car seat/booster checkups and a bounce house.

This event is the result of community-wide involvement including 4-H, Freedom Reins Counseling, Canyon Creek Behavioral Hospital, Texas AgriLife, National Guard, Fort Hood, U.S. Army, Gatesville ISD, Scott

and White Clinic of Gatesville, Coryell Health Clinic, Acrewood Dental, Gatesville Fire Department, Gatesville Police Department, Gatesville Public Library, Gideon's, H-E-B, Coryell Child Welfare Board, Walmart, and Coryell Community Church.

The church is located at 2600 E. Main Street.

Williamsons to gather Aug. 6

The descendants of Stephen and Sarah Williamson will hold their Williamson family reunion in Gatesville on Aug. 6.

The family will gather at 9:30 a.m. in the right-side private dining room

of Ranchers Steakhouse in Gatesville for visiting, a program, lunch, and a brief business meeting.

Paula Melbern Weeks of Hewitt is the chairperson of the Williamson Reunion. Mailings about the reunion

activities have been sent to all known family members. If you are a descendant and haven't received a mailing, contact Paula Weeks at 254-855-6123 or Marsha Richards at 832-233-2725 for more information.

Hill family reunion Aug. 13

The family of Albert and Florence (White) Hill reunion will be held on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Jonesboro Community Center. Doors will open around 10 a.m.

Barbecue brisket and tea will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring their favorite side dish and any items they might want to donate for the raffle. For more

information, contact Elizabeth Lord at 254-679-1090.

The Jonesboro Community Center is located at 11625 Highway 36 in Jonesboro.

C.A.F.E. to attend Greater Vision gospel concert in Temple Aug. 13

The Christian Adult Fellowship Events group at the First United Methodist Church will be travelling to Temple on Saturday, Aug. 13, to see gospel recording artists Greater Vision from Tennessee.

The group will leave from

the parking lot of the church at noon and will eat at Sam's Southern Eatery in Temple. Those attending are responsible for paying for their own meal.

The cost for the trip will be \$40 which includes the ticket

price and transportation. The deadline for reserving a ticket will be Tuesday, Aug. 9. Tickets may be purchased by contacting the office at the First United Methodist Church at 254-865-2520 or Ruth Jones at 254-865-2112.

Pinterest mini-camp offered

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will be hosting a Pinterest one-day mini camp to area youth. Those attending will see new things, learn new skills and have loads of fun. Cost of the camp will be \$25 per person and will

cover the cost of supplies.

Youth will have two different camp locations to choose from. In Gatesville, the camp will take place on Thursday, August 4 at the Gatesville Civic Center from 1 to 4 p.m. In Copperas Cove, the camp

will take place on Friday, August 5 at the Copperas Cove Library from 2 to 5 p.m. Both camps will be limited to 25 youth per day.

Registration for the camps can be made by calling 254-865-2414.

Eulogy for a tree



TUMBLEWEED SMITH
Newspaper columnist and producer

The tree was planted around 1960, the year our house was built. It was a lace bark elm and stood in a small yard all its own just below ground level. It seemed to enjoy it there and grew to be tall and spectacular. Visitors commented on its beauty and wanted to know what kind of tree it was. It gets its name from the light and gray bark patterns it produces. Research indicates it is a medium- to fast-growing tree, adapts to many soil conditions and is relatively free from the diseases ravaging other elm species, making it a tough and durable tree for any situation. It is also known as a Chinese Elm. It provided a wonderful sight as we looked at it through the sliding glass

doors in the dining room. In the summer it put on dark green leaves that gave plenty of shade. Its shadows on the lawn were fascinating to watch as they changed with the setting sun. In winter the tree put on a festive air as the branches were covered in snow.

Our sons climbed that tree and sat in it to read. So did our oldest grandson. We have dozens of photos of the tree in all seasons and with different family members and friends standing near it. The bark on the tree sheds at certain times of year, indicating it was alive and thriving. We took it for granted that it would always be there, a symbol of stability and permanence. We never considered it not being there. We kept it pruned and fed and watered. We loved that tree. It was more than just a part of the landscape. It was a part of us.

About the time COVID hit, the tree started having trouble. Some branches failed to produce leaves and the tree seemed to go into shock. Severe drought the next two years damaged the tree. A bout of below-freezing temperatures twice in one winter pretty well finished it off. As we looked at the barren dead

branches, shards of bark lying all around the tree, we considered having a chain saw artist come and create some kind of artistic tribute, maybe carve some birds resting on the tips of the branches.

After a few months we decided to remove the tree. It had stood in that little yard for a long time, and we regretted losing it.

The tree is gone but we're slowly getting used to seeing the canyon and the big sky that the tree had previously obscured. Where the tree once stood, we can now see a dramatic vista.

We have noticed that the tree's offspring are putting down roots and growing around the huge stump. They seem to be saying, "We'll take over now. You go ahead and rest." They have grown to nearly four feet and surround the remains of the tree trunk. Some other lace bark elms are growing tall nearby, reaching six feet or so.

We have half a dozen other lace bark elm trees around our house, but they have a long way to go to reach the elegance of the one that used to stand just outside our dining room. But we are encouraging them.

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HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START
TAKING APPLICATIONS!!! (No Transportation Provided)
Gatesville Head Start & Early Head Start are now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Early HS is available for children ages 18 months - 3 years old. Head Start is a pre-school offering excellent educational opportunities along with medical, dental, developmental, and nutritional benefits at no cost. The Head Start approach of individualized care and guidance is well suited to helping children with disabilities. There is no charge for participation in Head Start. Pick up your application now at the Head Start Center at 1105 Saunders St. or 1111 W. Main St. For more information, call your local center at 254/865-5423 or 254/865-5555 or Hill Country Community Action Association at 325/372-5167.

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START
Gatesville Head Start y Early Head Start ahora están aceptando solicitudes para el año escolar 2022-2023. El HS temprano está disponible para niños de 18 meses-3 años de edad. Head Start es una escuela preescolar que ofrece excelentes oportunidades educativas junto con beneficios médicos, dentales, de desarrollo y nutricionales sin costo alguno. El enfoque de Head Start de atención individualizada y orientación es muy adecuado para ayudar a los niños con discapacidades. No hay ningún cargo por participar en Head Start. Recoja su solicitud ahora en el centro de Head Start en 1105 Saunders St. o 1111 W. Main St. Para obtener más información, llame a su centro local al 254/865-5423 o 254/865-5555 o a la Asociación de acción comunitaria de Hill Country en 325/372-5167.

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- RN FT & PRN – All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
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- *\$10,000 FT SIGN ON BONUS

- CNA/NNA – FT, All Shifts
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humanresources@coryellhealth.org

Job summaries at www.CoryellHealth.org

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- RN Unit Manager – FT
- RN FT & PRN – All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
- LVN FT & PRN – All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
- *\$10,000 FT SIGN ON BONUS

- CNA/NNA – FT, All Shifts
- *\$4,000 FT SIGN ON BONUS
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Big Moving Estate Sale, Saturday, August 6, 8am to 4pm at 1260 C.R. 153, Purlmeta, Texas (in the Pearl Community). Large Ashley wood stove, tools, gardening & succulent books, pottery, 4 ft pencil cactus, fall decorations, craft supplies, rugs, 2 plant cold frames. For information, call (254) 865-5864 Kay Pruett.
00029495

099
PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given by 116 Storage of the sale of contents, by public auction, of the following, pursuant to the assertion of a manager's possessory lien against them in order to collect the amounts due on them:

Christopher Allen
Watachia Sanchez
Joseph Hubert
Korey Porter
Shelia Hughes
Barbara Lancaster

The auction will be held at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 6, 2022 (weather permitting) at 116 Storage, 2445 S. Hwy. 116, Gatesville, TX.

Terms: Cash
00029482

099
PUBLIC NOTICES

ATTENTION ALL HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC MEMBERS NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING VENUE CHANGE

Hamilton County EC's Board of Directors have made the decision to relocate their annual membership meeting to be held at the Circle T Arena, 4007 TX-36, Hamilton. The meeting will continue as planned to be held Friday, August 5 at 7 p.m. Meals will be served 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative received notice Monday, July 25, that the Hamilton ISD high school's air conditioning system was not functioning to capacity. After having to cancel the annual meeting the past two years, the Board preferred not to cancel or postpone the meeting for a later date.

Please be aware, although the facilities at Circle T are under a covered area, there is no air conditioning. However, there are over-head fans that will generate some degree of air flow. The Cooperative regrets the late notice of this change. We will do our best to make the most of this situation. If you have any questions, please contact Hamilton County EC at (254) 386-3123 or 800-595-3401.

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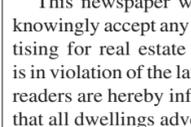
Evant ISD will offer free meals to all students for the 2022-2023 school year

070
LAND & LOTS

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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.

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Commercial/Industrial Land - Aug. 30 - Real Estate to be sold Absolute, Regardless of Price. ExxonMobil directs immediate sale. 3.7 Acres South of Marilyn St., Conroe, TX; 38,147 SF, 577 W. Santa Fe St., Conroe, TX; 5.37 Acres, Mc Farland Rd., League City, TX. FineAndCompany.com, 312-278-0600.

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ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - Responsible for addressing and following up with animal complaints within the City, enforcing animal laws and ordinances, removing dead, injured or dangerous animals from city streets and residential premises, and maintaining the City's Animal Shelter. **Starting salary: \$32,760*** ***EXPERIENCE PAYS MORE**

Description of job duties/requirements/benefits and to download an application: GatesvilleTX.com - Look under "Employment tab"



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Rolling out the red carpet for rodeo



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Riding Club Rodeo Sweethearts helped lead the way in enthusiasm, knowledge and support for the 2022 GRC Rodeo. The queen for this year was Kaitlyn Stuard, the princess was Kaylee Faber and sweethearts were Skyloh Wimberley and Davin Reinke.



Epic Images
by Teresa

COURTESY PHOTO BY EPIC IMAGES BY TERESA

Exciting moments were never in short supply during the Gatesville Riding Club's 85th Annual Rodeo at the GRC Arena July 28-30.



Epic Images
by Teresa

To order photos from the Gatesville Rodeo or for more information about a photography session, call or text **254-498-1120**.

Hornets open season with a big win



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Finn Rogers keeps her eye on the ball in the Hornets 19-5 season-opening win against the Robinson Rockets. The match was played July 28 in Gatesville.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Ben Woodson prepares to return the ball during a contest against the Robinson tennis team.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Callie Smith is among the Gatesville athletes helping defend the Hornets' district title.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Slone Early goes airborne for Gatesville to help his team earn a season-opening triumph over the Robinson Rockets.