



SROs work to help keep schools safe

BY STEVE PETTIT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The walls of Gary Stiles' office, tucked just inside the main entrance of Gatesville Elementary School, bear witness to his storied career in law enforcement.

Over a dozen framed certificates and official awards share space alongside photographs that chronicle his years of community service. Stiles, 58, who oversees four Gatesville school resource officers, has been a sergeant in the Gatesville Police Department. His many accolades include a Lifesaving Award bestowed by the Texas Department of Public Safety in 2016.

"I'm an employee of the city of Gatesville right now," he explains, "but as soon as the paperwork is approved in Austin, I'll be working for the Gatesville ISD." The switch is expected to take place any day, and aside from new badges and uniforms, nothing will change for the SROs.

Stiles was raised in Florence and began his law enforcement work 33 years ago in Copperas Cove. He later served Williamson County as an investigator and was recruited, made a senior corporal and assigned by the Highway Patrol to cover a vast area that included Killeen, Copperas Cove and Gatesville as well as Bosque County. He retired four years ago and was asked to helm the SRO program in Gatesville.

Three of his daughters work in law enforcement and his wife was a supervisor for Austin's 9-1-1 program.



STEVE PETTIT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

PLEASE SEE SRO | A2

Future Gatesville ISD Police Chief Gary Stiles, who has spent decades in law enforcement, is overseeing the school district's new police force.

GISD recognizes student's commitment, perseverance



Lia Castillo, a third-grader at Gatesville Elementary, stands with GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard and staff members during the Aug. 30 school board meeting. Lia was recognized for her dedication and perseverance during the Student Spotlight award.

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Illness, surgery does not prevent Gatesville Elementary third-grader from school dedication

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Everyone faces challenges in life — but for some, those obstacles can seem mountainous. Gatesville Elementary School third-grader Lia Castillo is one who has overcome much at an early age, battling childhood cancer but remaining fully committed to school.

"Lia beat leukemia when she was only 3 years old and she

has had some recurring health issues, so she had a little surgery and missed the second day of school," said Gatesville Independent School District Superintendent Barrett Pollard.

But the desire to see other students and teachers meant that Lia refused to be sidelined for long.

"Lia was so excited about meeting her classmates and teachers that she insisted on going to the first day of school at Gatesville Elementary," Pollard said.

Since her surgery, she quickly returned to class because

she missed her classmates and teachers.

"We wish all students loved school as much as Lia and were as dedicated and hard working despite obstacles.

For her perseverance and dedication, Lia was recognized during the Student Spotlight at the GISD Board of Trustees meeting on Aug. 30.

"What a testimony to her commitment to being at school, and she's had good reports so far," Pollard said. "She's doing great."

Gatesville Elementary STEM Lab seeks to spark love of science in children

BY SE'VETTE EARLY
STAFF WRITER

At Gatesville Elementary School, students attend STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Lab as one of their rotation classes. Marla Tatum teaches the class. Tatum has been teaching STEM Lab for six years.

Tatum was asked about what STEM entails at the Elementary level and what important role it plays in the lives of elementary children:

"My number one goal in the STEM Lab at elementary is to spark a love for science and to begin teaching about the many different fields of engineering and the engineering process," Tatum said. "At the beginning

of each school year, I try to get the students curious and excited about science. I often say that science is like magic — except that it is real!"

She explains to her students that science and math go hand in hand, especially as they grow older and begin to take challenging science and engineering classes. She wants them to understand math's importance if

they're going to become an engineer or scientist.

Another big focus in the STEM Lab is the introduction to coding. Robotics is introduced in the classroom, and students are taught beginner coding skills. Coding is essential if students want to pursue a degree in engi-

PLEASE SEE STEM | A2

SRO

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Stiles has 2 grandchildren enrolled at Gatesville Elementary.

The Uvalde mass shooting radically changed school security, he stresses. "That was our 9-11 event," he says. "It forced drastic changes to school safety." Some specific initiatives and physical alterations he won't discuss, as a nod to caution, but he's quick to acknowledge the support and encouragement he's received from the Gatesville ISD administration.

"(Gatesville ISD Superintendent) Dr. Pollard is very proactive in setting up the SRO program and keeping it going," Stiles adds. "I was surprised that a community the size of Gatesville had such a forward thinking school administration."

He pauses to reflect on pre-Uvalde safety initiatives. "We were already keeping the exterior perimeters secure. When COVID hit it put a stop to parents and grandparents eating lunch with our students."

He ticks off increased security measures, including bullet-resistant coatings applied to window and door glass, one-way viewing that is opaque when viewed from outside, each visitor stopped at the front entrance, driver's license scanned and then required to wear a pass and be escorted by administrative staff member or an SRO. Also, each classroom door is locked to the hallway and only one exterior entrance door is unlocked - located at the main front entrance.

A Gatesville Police cruiser is conspicuously parked in a can't-miss spot at the main entrance all day long.

While locked to prevent outsiders from entering, all exterior doors are unlocked to allow rapid exit from inside should fire or any other calamity occur. "This building was built to be pretty," Stiles comments. "Safety was not the priority."

He believes that the trend of redirecting teachers and administrators to notice potentially troublesome behavior will help school safety. "To pick up on clues - red flags - that's important." He downplays the notion that SRO presence on campus is in any way punitive. "I'm not here to discipline students," Stiles emphasizes. "We want the kids to be comfortable with us. If bad things happen they'll come to us because they trust and regard us as friends."

He lists three points that are the Gatesville SRO goals. "First, I'm the 'safety guy.' Second, I'm here to teach kids and third, I hope to serve as a mentor. A positive male role model." Stiles' SROs are also certified as Mental Health Officers.

A new volunteer program, Friends On Duty, allows retired law enforcement and military to assist SROs. "These are folks that have been vetted and trained, capable people that can help us out," he comments. Interested individuals may contact Stiles or the Superintendent's office for more information.

"Uvalde brought everybody in this state to recognize the importance of safety for our kids," Stiles says. "And I have a vested interest in our students' safety. The day I started here I went from having two granddaughters in this school to having 600 grandkids."

Lieutenant Governor visits Gatesville



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick talks with Junction at 36 employees during a visit on Aug. 29.



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick chats with Coryell County Commissioner Kyle Matthews.



Gatesville ISD SRO Gary Stiles says he hopes to serve as a mentor and role model to young students.

STEVE PETTIT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

STEM

FROM PAGE A1

engineering.

Tatum uses the first through third grade essential knowledge and skills for science to build her lessons and incorporate technology, engineering and math. An example of this would be the students learning about the weather. They would have a station in the classroom to build a bridge out of Legos to solve the problem of road flooding.

LEGOS are an integral part of the STEM Lab. They aid the students as they develop and create various structures to solve an engineering problem. Another station in the weather unit would be making a tornado in a bottle so that students can visualize and understand the vortex of a tornado.

A third station would be to use the Dash Robots. The students learn basic coding skills in the STEM Lab. They can then code the Dash robot to perform a rescue in a "pretend" emergency weather situation (technology and engineering). One last station in this unit would be to measure and record the temperature in three different locations (math and

technology). The STEM Lab is only a 30-minute class, so the lesson would take several weeks to complete.

Tatum said she enjoys teaching STEM at the elementary school level because the

students get so excited when they perform an experiment. Tatum said, "I love to provide that spark for the love of science and see them so eager and excited to learn."

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DEADLINES:

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

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of August 30 - 31. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Aug. 30
12:28 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 6300 block of E. Highway 84.
7:43 a.m., a theft was reported in the 3900 block of S. State Highway 36.
12:30 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.
5:30 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 200 block of S. Lovers Lane.
10:36 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.
Aug. 31
12:47 p.m., an accident was reported in the 200 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.
2:05 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
2:21 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of Grandview Drive.
9:07 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.

9:30 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.
10:30 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1400 block of State School Road.

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CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Aug. 30
12:31 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 6300 block of E. Highway 84.
10:18 a.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of FM 1996.
10:24 a.m., suspicious

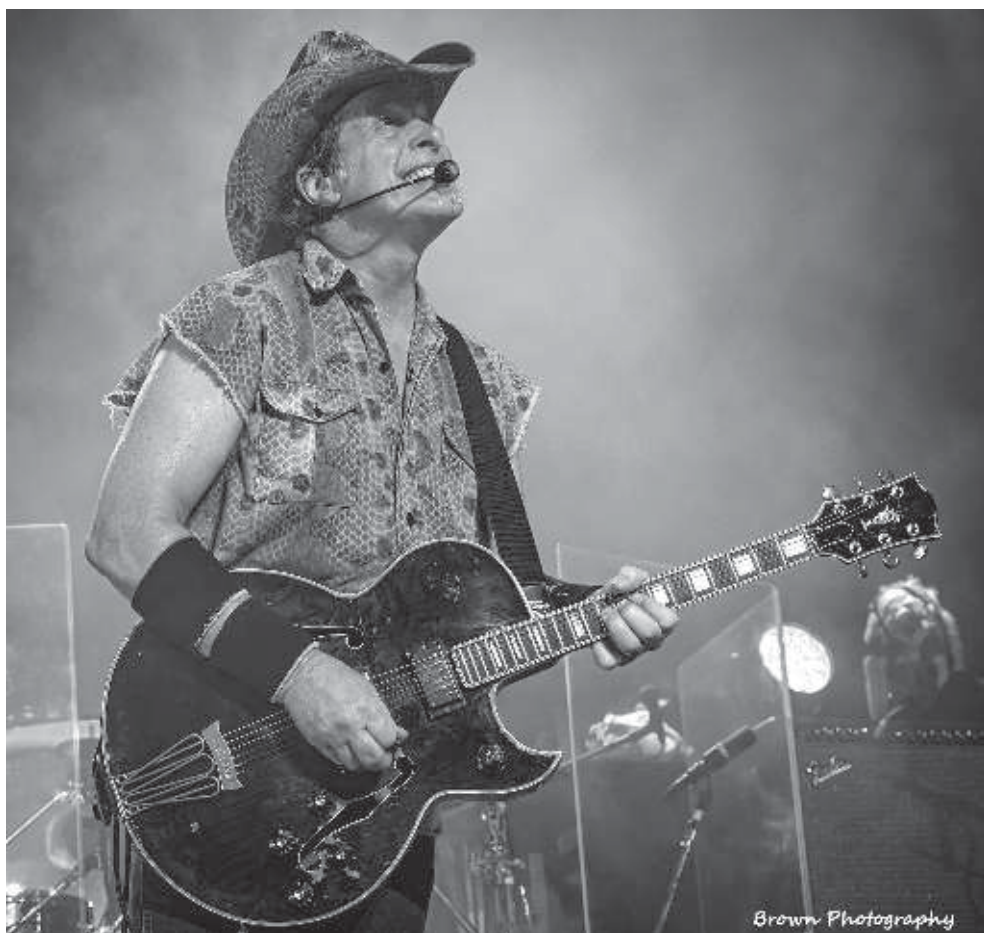
activity was reported in the 2200 block of CR 213.
5:47 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 16000 block of E. Highway 84.
7:42 p.m., suspicious activity was reported on Moccasin Bend Road.
10:50 p.m., a runaway was reported in the 600 block of Thomas Street.
Aug. 31
4:24 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1600 block of CR 341.
10:07 a.m., a break in attempt was reported in the 800 block of Flintrock Drive.
11:18 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1500 block of FM 184.
11:41 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1700 block of Fort Panic Road.
6:47 p.m., illegal burning was reported on FM 2412 at Plum Creek.
8:02 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 200 block of Kathy Street.

Gatesville ISD Transportation Department announces use of Parent View app for students

Gatesville ISD recently announced the arrival of a new app called Parent View. The app allows parents to see when their child scans on or off the bus, the current bus location, and enables parents

to set alerts to notify them when the bus is close to their house. The app will also allow GISD to communicate directly with parents by individual bus, instead of having to send out mass messages every time.

In order to complete the registration process, parents will need a unique four-digit registration access code for their student. Please contact the student's home campus for the registration code.



FRIENDS HELPING VETERANS: Bare Bones BBQ will present classic rock star Ted Nugent on the Bone Yard Stage in Gatesville on Saturday, Sept. 10, in a show to benefit the Friends Helping Veterans organization. Special guests will include Calvin Ross and the Dirty Groove Noise featuring Lexxi Garza. Bare Bones BBQ is located at 4302 S. Hwy. 36. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://bare-bones-bbq.ticketbud.com/ted-nugent>

“Day of Service” scheduled for September 10 in Gatesville

September 11 is a nationally recognized Day of Service and Remembrance, honoring those who were tragically impacted by the 9/11 attacks and to honor the first responders who put their lives on the line. Citizens are encouraged to come together in acts of service on

this day. Since September 11 falls on a Sunday this year, Gatesville will hold their Day of Service on Saturday, Sept. 10.
Keep Gatesville Beautiful encourages individuals and community organizations to come together on Saturday, Sept. 10 for a Day of Service.

Volunteers will assemble at the Gatesville Public Library parking lot starting at 8:30 a.m. to receive assignments ranging from litter pick up to park beautification projects. Volunteers can sign up ahead of time at www.keepgatesvillebeautiful.com.

4-H to present Rabbit Extravaganza

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office announced that the Texas 4-H will be presenting the 2022 Statewide Rabbit Extravaganza on Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Bell County Expo Center. Registration will be open until Sept. 13.

This statewide competition is open to enrolled Texas 4-H members of official 4-H age. The extravaganza will include educational workshops, rabbit shows, rabbit photography, art contests and youth contests.

The Expo Center is located at 301 W. Loop 121 Belton, Texas 76513. For further information regarding this event, please contact Shelly.Franklin@ag.tamu.edu or visit texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/rabbits/

CORYELL MUSEUM

Coryell Museum looks forward to annual Spurfest

JANN DWORSKY

Spurfest is Saturday, Sept. 17 and we will have many activities, butter tasting and fiddle playing. There will be door prizes every hour and a quilt raffle. Games for the kids will be in the school room. In the Coryell room will be an artifacts demonstration. Samples of the thousands of items that have been scanned into the computer will be shown. Music will be in the Dawson Coper Exhibit Hall. Samples of biscuits and gravy will be available for your tasting pleasure as well as dulcimer music and a picture with our very own Santa. Karem Shrine will put on Cowboy skits 10 minutes of every hour and a Cowboy talk will be given at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. It is a fun day so come down and join us.

The Coryell Museum has had many of the Coryell County News donated to us and below are excerpts from May 8, 1934 and May 11, 1934.

“Notice is hereby given that on November 14, 1933, at a stockholders’ meeting of Planters State Bank located at The Grove, Texas, the proposition was duly submitted to the stockholders to close the business. All depositors and creditors will be paid in full.” This bank still stands at The Grove and this week we drove over to look in the windows and see the bank inside the store. Beautiful wood and decorative bars on the front of the bank make it attractive and set it apart from the general dry goods store. All of the dry goods store is still in place and looks like it did in 2010.

“Mrs. William Elps, age 69, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Bauman, here on May 4. Miss Bertha Blohm was born in Berlin, Germany but came to America in her youth and in 1881 was joined in marriage with William Elps at Temple. She was a member of the Gatesville Baptist Church.”
“For Sale: Five full blood Persian kittens. See Howard Horn at Meeks Café.”
“For Sale: Blackberries.

wish I could have visited and seen that in action.”
“For the benefit of disbelievers, actual photographs are on display here to prove one of the best fish yarns heard in these parts in many a day. To be more definitive, the pictures are being shown at Mayes Studio. Returning last Saturday morning, a fishing party composed of Judge Robert W. Brown, C.C. Sadler, Dr. H. Haynes, L. S. Holer, Byron Leaird, Jr.

Fred Prewitt and Ed Ray Walker ‘chow master.’ They brought back with them tales of a great fishing experience. The party spent three days fishing on the Sabinas River and Lake Don Martine in Mexico, camping on the falls of the river. It is reported that the fishermen caught a fish-a-minute while casting their hooks over the falls. Their catch included bass weighing



15 cents per gallon. Picking days Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. A.K. Gray, 2 miles on the Moccasin Bend Road.”

“Coryell Man Invents Mechanical Farm Device. Frank Beverly, Killeen, Route 3, has invented a windmill that does all the chores around the farm. This windmill is constructed entirely of Model T Ford parts. A generator charges six batteries, furnishing the light for his house, barn, and chicken house. Another belt runs to the washing machine and does the washing for the family. Another belt hooks on to the wood saw and saws all the wood. Still another belt runs to the threshing machine that threshes all the grain on his farm and ranch. If the wind is too high and runs too fast, it automatically cuts itself off.” Well, now I

about a pound each and catfish of about 5 and 6 pounds. Several times two fish were caught on the same cast.”

“Miss Zelma Scott of Evant visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zim Scott, over the weekend. (Miss Scott later wrote “History of Coryell County.”) Miss Virginia Meharg and her mother from White Hall visited friends here Sunday.”

Also in the paper was Chapter Four of the novel “Flame of the Border,” by Vingie E. Roe, which took up most of one page. They gave in tiny print a synopsis of the other three chapters. Coryell Museum and Historical Center is open Wednesday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Our cheerful volunteers will welcome you to tour our wonderful museum.

Morris Federation to meet

The first meeting of the Morris Federation for the 2022-23 year will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, in the James Coryell Room at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

Dues may be paid at the meeting. Place your money or check in an envelope with

your name on the front of it and give it to the treasurer, Sue Vernon.

Yearbooks detailing programs and activities for the upcoming year will be distributed and briefly discussed.

The September program will be presented by Faye

Nichols from the Gatesville Public Library. She will be speaking on the subject of “Banned Books Week.”

After the program, members may enjoy a social time with refreshments provided by their hostesses, the newly-elected officers of The Morris Federation.

Class of 1972 plans 50th reunion

The Gatesville High School Class of 1972 are making plans for their 50th class reunion. It will be held on Saturday, September 24, from 6-10 p.m. at

the Gatesville Civic Center. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. The class is also seeking contact information for missing class members.

For more information, please contact Kathy Sievers at sievers2@aol.com or Keith Steward at keithstew53@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

RICHARD FRED SCHAUB, JR.

Aug. 12, 1941 - Aug. 23, 2022



Richard Fred Schaub, Jr., beloved father, and "Pops" passed away on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, in Temple,

at the age of 81.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at Arnett Cemetery, near Gatesville, with Chaplain Gary Baxley officiating. Memorial services will be announced at a later date, for Richard and his wife, Lynne in Temple.

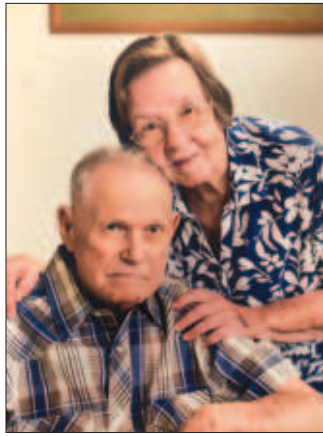
Richard was born on August 12, 1941, to Fred and Maudine Collings Schaub in Gatesville. He attended Gatesville High School and earned a master's in political science from Baylor University. He was married to Lynne Elkins Schaub of Temple, for 54 years before she preceded him in death on September 22, 2021. Richard loved the Lord and faithfully attended First Baptist Church of Temple. He was a professor teaching politi-

cal science at Temple Junior College. He served others well as a longtime employee of Bell County Rehabilitation Center, where he oversaw a facility that specialized in adolescents with physical impairment. He later transitioned and served a community of people experiencing homelessness at Martha's Kitchen and Shelter for the remainder of his working life. Outside of his working career, Richard spent years taking care of his parents' farm and enjoyed being a dedicated Baylor University football, basketball, and baseball fan over the years.

He was deeply loved and is survived by his daughter, Lisa Schaub and grandson, Caleb of Georgetown.

JEANETTE LINDSEY

Aug. 7, 1934 - Aug. 30, 2022



Jeanette Lindsey, age 88, of Lampasas, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022. Services were held at

Northside Baptist Church in Lampasas on Saturday, Sept. 3, at 2 p.m. Interment followed at Smith Cemetery in Kempner.

Jeanette was born in Burnett County on Aug. 7, 1934, to Russell and Edna Queen Roberts. She was a devout Christian woman who loved her family fiercely, especially her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She worked at Lampasas Flower Shop, Tartans, and Bowdens before staying at home to take care of her children. She was also known as a great cook and loved making meals for people and ironing many people's clothes in Lampasas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Edward

Lindsey; son, Jerry Lindsey; granddaughter, Shelly Lindsey; and son-in-law, Earnest Cole.

Survivors include her daughter, Joy Cole of Gatesville; son, Terry Lindsey, and wife, Debbie of Lampasas; grandchildren, Rusty Cole, Julie Pearce, Misty Ruff, Tracie Chapa and husband, Marcus, Kristy Marcellus and husband, Justin; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Nell Ray, and numerous cousins and other loving family members.

GHS honors teachers for Distinction Designation Ratings

Gatesville High School recently announced that its English 1 & 2 and Biology teachers for the 21/22 school year earned Distinction Designation Ratings

from TEA in English and Science. They were instrumental in helping students prepare students for last year's STAAR EOC exams. Congratulations were of-

fered to Se'Vette Early, Patti Farley, Raymond Evetts, Emily Pritchett, Kylie Young and Sarah Blanchard. Not pictured are Katie Kelley and Sonia Davidson.



COURTESY PHOTO

Teachers receiving awards were, from left, Se'Vette Early, Patti Farley, Raymond Evetts, and Emily Pritchett.



COURTESY PHOTO

GHS teachers receiving awards were, from left, Kylie Young and Sarah Blanchard.



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANDREW BUTLER PHOTOS

Harman School

CORYELL COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER SPOTLIGHT

Harman Schoolhouse and Community Center

THE MARKER TEXT READS:

M.F. Harman deeded two acres to be used for a school and gathering place until the community, known as Harman Community, moved in 1904 to Henry Wood's pasture, near Perryman Creek. In 1917-18, on four acres bought from Milton L. and Mary

Lou Harman for \$200, a new facility was built here, with three classrooms, offices, and a stage. A teacherage was added in 1921. Over the years, the schoolhouse served Boy Scouts, a home demonstration club and even a rat killing club. After consolidating with Gatesville schools in 1948,

the former schoolhouse remained a community center, owned and maintained by local trustees and used for special events, reunions, and festivals. (2002)

Location: FM 580, 5 miles west of intersection with FM 116, to Harman Road

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Trials, tribulations of being an NFL player

SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is a publisher, actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.



The NFL season is about to begin, with the Cowboys opening the season against Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Bucs on Sunday night. I am a big baseball fan, but for my money, the NFL has surpassed Major League Baseball as the national pastime. Seems like almost everybody is a football fan. Between the fantasy football leagues, the gambling on game results, to the casual fans, tens of millions are glued to the TV screen whenever an NFL game is being played.

We non-professionals like to complain about how much the players get paid. Generally, I think people are envious to see grown men getting paid so much money to play a "game." Secretly, the fans imagine themselves in their high school playing days, and then picture being out on the NFL field, receiving those huge game checks for tens of thousands of dollars. For some reason, folks focus on what the players make, and never what the team makes

because of the players. People work hard at their jobs, and I can understand why some are envious of the money paid to professional athletes — but it sure looks to me like NFL players earn every nickel.

Playing professional football is a tough, difficult job. To begin with, the damage the game does to players' bodies is significant. Each year, players get bigger, stronger and faster, which means the collisions have more force and impact. Just to get to the NFL means a player has gone through high school games, college games and an untold number of practices. All the high-impact collisions add up, and a player's body pays a price. According to a University of North Carolina study, the life expectancy for former NFL players is just 55 years? That is more than 20 years less than the rest of the population!

Did you realize the average NFL career is only 3.3 years? At the same time, the average NFL salary is \$860,000 per year. Yes, that is a lot of money, but if the average player only works for 3.3 years, it is not much spread over the rest of your life.

As I watched the last minutes of the Cowboys' final exhibition game, I could not help but think about the young men fighting for a job on the team. At the start of training camp, each team has 90 players, which had to be cut down to a final 53 the week before the season starts.

This means 37 men who had trained all their lives for a chance to play in the NFL were going to be sent home. All the workouts,

weightlifting and running they endured will be for naught. The dreams of those 37 men will be dashed on the rocks of failure. They gave it their all, and then were told their best is not good enough. Hard to watch anyone's lifelong dream become unreachable.

Even if a man makes the team, his future is not certain. He can be injured, to never play again. If a player has a couple of bad games, he can be "waived" and sent home. Former NFL Coach Jerry Glanville once said, "The NFL stands for NOT FOR LONG."

You either produce, and keep producing, or you are out of the league. I wonder how many of us face that sort of pressure daily and how we would respond if we did. Sounds like a tough life to me.

I love my football and I am going to enjoy the game this Sunday night. I look forward to the next 18 weeks of watching the regular season and learning what teams make the playoffs. Eventually, there will be a new Super Bowl champion. I hope it is the Cowboys, but my betting money is staying in my pocket. I have been disappointed too many times.

Thanks to the players who risk their safety and health to play the game I enjoy so much. They earn every red cent.

Thought for the day: The coaches who can outline plays on a chalkboard are a dime a dozen. Winning coaches are the ones who can motivate their players to become champions.

Until next time.
sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

Slater Cemetery Workday set

Slater Cemetery will be hosting a workday, meeting and lunch on Sat, Oct. 1, at 9 a.m. Make sure to bring your work gloves, a chair

and a dish to share.

If you will not be able to attend, you may donate to the Slater Cemetery Association, Bancorp South,

P.O. Box 779, Gatesville, TX 76528.

For any further information contact Lee Campbell at 254-216-3642.

Hall memorial fundraiser Sept. 10

The "Big" John Hall Memorial Cornhole Tournament and the Jennifer Hall Scholarship Dance are scheduled to be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Jayson Harris Pavilion at Fair Park in Hamilton.

The cornhole tournament will begin at noon with registration opening at 11 a.m.

The entry fee for the two-person teams will be \$50 per team. There will also be a silent auction.

The Jennifer Hall Scholarship Dance will be from 6:30 p.m.-11 p.m. It will cost \$20 per adult and \$10 for children age 12 and under. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The music lineup

will be Hard Luck Band, Clayton Landua and headliner Bart Crow.

For more information or to donate items, please contact either Roseann at 254-372-4408, email roseann_hall@yahoo.com or Chelsi at 254-493-7909, email chelsihall32@gmail.com.

Spurfest to bring fun for the entire family to downtown area

There will be something for everyone at the 21st edition of Spurfest at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center on Saturday, Sept. 17. The event is free and runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., drawing attention to the city's designation as the "Spur Capital of Texas."

The designation commemorates the massive spur collection of the late Lloyd and Madge Mitchell, which is on display in the museum. Visitors can view about 6,000 out of a collection of 18,000 spurs that are on permanent display on two floors of the museum. The collection includes spurs worn by Pancho Villa and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. The spur collection is recognized as the largest collection of spurs in the United States and perhaps in the world.

Spurfest activities will include Old Time Demonstrations, the Shriners Karem Cowboys, a quilt raffle, fresh churned butter, chuck wagon biscuits and gravy, several activities for children, along with live music in the morning and afternoon.

There is a vintage doctor's office to visit, a beauty shop, general store, post office and a blacksmith shop. Visitors to the museum can also see antique cars, the soda shop, the historic 1854 log jail and view the large collection of spurs.

Coryell Museum and Historical Center is located at 718 E. Main Street. For more information about Spurfest, contact museum president Erv Adams at 254-865-5007 or email coryellmuseumhc@yahoo.com.

The Gatesville Old Time Fiddlers Contest is making a return appearance during Spurfest, at Gatesville's City Auditorium.

This Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association-sanctioned contest will begin at 1 p.m., drawing top fiddlers from across the state to compete for prizes.

Contestants will compete by age in categories ranging from under 10 years to 60-plus. There will also be competitions for twin fiddles and accompanists, with the day culminating in the championship round, featuring the top fiddlers from the day.

The ending time is expected to be around 6 p.m. but is dependent on the number of overall entries.

Admission is free and spectators are welcome to come and go throughout the day.

The event is presented by the City of Gatesville with funding for fiddler prizes provided by community supporters.

Those interested in sponsorship opportunities or would like to be a supporter with a donation, please contact Sherry Hopson at 254-223-3939 or Cheri Shepherd at 254-499-0102. They can also be contacted for details about entering the contest.

The Old Time Fiddlers Contest is one of three free events in downtown Gatesville on Sept. 17.

For those wishing to become a financial supporter of the Old Time Fiddlers Contest, donations starting at \$50 will be accepted or ads can be purchased for the programs starting at \$100.

CRUZIN CRUZER CAR SHOW

The Cruzin Cruiser Club will be holding its 36th annual car show on the courthouse square in Gatesville during Spurfest on Sept. 17.

There will be a \$100 cash drawing for pre-registering. Pre-register online (cruzincruzers.com).

The Cruzin Cruiser Club, formerly known as Coryell

County Pickups Unlimited, held its first show on the Coryell County Train Depot parking lot with only 22 entries. This year the Cruzin Cruzers will have more than 65 award plaques.

For more information about the event contact Tracy Semmel at 254-216-3319 (after 5 p.m.), Lavinia Shelton at 254-493-1371, or the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.

QUILT RAFFLE

The Coryell Museum and Historical Center is currently selling tickets for a quilt raffle which will be held during Spurfest on Sept. 17. Local resident Grace Dallimore donated a YoYo Quilt to the museum to help raise money for the museum during Spurfest.

Tickets will be \$10 each and can be purchased from any Museum Board member or in the Museum Gift Shop. Any volunteer interested in selling tickets can contact Erv Adams at 254-223-0014.



SPUR CAPITAL: A set of spurs on display at the Coryell Museum

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONTEST

Mundkowsky Makes KBI All-Tournament Team at Angelo State

Three players on the Angelo State University Belles volleyball team were named to the All-Tournament Team for ASU's Kathleen Brasfield Invitational that marked the start of the 2022 season. One of the three players included Sydney Mundkowsky, a 2020

graduate of Gatesville High School. Mundkowsky lead the Belles to a 3-1 record that included sweeps of Southern Nazarene, New Mexico Highlands, and East Central, as well as being third on the team with 26 kills and added three blocks and digs.

Wells graduates from Sam Houston State

Sam Houston State University in Huntsville recently announced the names of their summer 2022 graduates. Commencement was held on Aug. 6 at the Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum.

Taylor Wells, of Gatesville, graduated with a Bachelor of Business

Administration, Management.

Sam Houston State University's mission since 1879 is to provide high quality education, scholarship, and service to students and to regional, state, national, and international constituencies.

OFF THE SHELVES

Sign up for library cards in September



FAYE NICHOLS
Library Director

September is Library Card Signup Month! Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the American Library Association and libraries unite in a national effort to ensure everyone signs-up for their own library card.

Throughout the school year, public librarians and library staff will assist parents and caregivers with saving hundreds of dollars on educational resources and services for students. From free access to STEAM programs/activities, educational apps, technology workshops to the expertise of librarians, a library card is one of the most cost-effective back-to-school supplies available. We are happy to announce that The Gatesville Public Library has partnered with GISD to offer our digital collection to every student enrolled in school. Through the use of the Sora app from Overdrive, students can use their school credentials to check out eBooks from our library's collection using parameters set by each campus. This also allows every student to have access to our digital collection whether they have their own library card or not.

Back by popular demand and requests to continue throughout the year, we will have our ABCs of Yoga for Kids every Monday at 10 a.m. This basic yoga class will include poses for each letter of the alphabet and the use of yoga stories

with poses to act out the story. We will also throw in some nutrition tips and ways to stay healthy for kids. Children and their caregivers are encouraged to attend. Yoga mats are furnished.

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Monday, Sept. 5 Library closed for Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 6 - 6 p.m. Mystery Book Club- We will be learning about and discussing Joe Pickett from the novels by C.J. Box.

Monday, Sept. 12 - 3 p.m. Fiber Arts for Everyone: Are you experienced in your medium, just beginning or want to learn? Come gather, visit, and work on projects. Share ideas and expertise. Knitters, crocheters, quilters and all other forms of fiber artists are welcome.

Tuesday, Sept. 13 - 6 p.m. Coryell County Genealogical Society will meet. Everyone interested in genealogy is welcome to attend.

Tuesday, Sept. 20 - 6 p.m. Colors & Coffee coloring group for adults.

Monday, Sept. 26 - 3 p.m. Fiber Arts for Everyone

Tuesday, Sept. 27 - 10 a.m. Books Sandwiched in Book Club, reading "West with Giraffes," by Lynda Rutledge

Every Monday, 10 a.m. ABC's of Yoga for Kids- Learn a yoga pose for every letter of the alphabet and some healthy eating habits!

Every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Storytime for pre-K and elementary age kids

Every Wednesday, 1 p.m. Mad Matters plarn party. Help is needed to flatten bags to cut in strips and loop together to make the "plarn" for crocheting the mats.

Be sure to keep an eye on our website at gatesvilletx.com/library for the latest news and our events calendar. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @gateslib. For questions or more information, call the library at 254-865-5367 or email me at fnichols@gatesvilletx.com.

Do well, be well with Diabetes 5-week program

Be Well with Diabetes is a program for people with Type 2 Diabetes. It is a 5-week program that explores a new topic each week. Get the facts from diabetic experts and professional educators, ask the questions you want answered, get the encouragement you need to make positive changes and meet others who have the same concerns you do. Classes will be held on Thursdays Oct. 6 through

Nov. 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the McLennan County Extension Office, located at 4224 Cobbs Dr., Waco, TX 76710. These classes are offered free of charge.

For more information and/or register, please contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for McLennan County at 254-757-5180 or email Colleen Foleen at colleen.foleen@ag.tamu.edu.

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Andrew Day, M.D., F.A.C.C.
will be seeing patients every month at the
Coryell Specialty Clinic

If you feel that you may need a cardiovascular evaluation, please contact your primary care physician about referring you for an appointment with **Waco Cardiology Associates • (254) 399-5400. Caring for the hearts of Central Texas.**
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DEADLINES

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

All Classified Ads Must Be Paid In Advance

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All forms of Debit and Credit Cards are accepted.

We are not responsible for errors when ads are taken over the phone. We ask all advertisers to read over their advertisement after the first run and let us know if corrections need to be made. Corrections can be made to advertisements after the first run if we are informed immediately by advertiser, so read carefully.

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

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, The Gatesville Messenger does not guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-6508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC website is www.ftc.gov/ftizop.

015 FARM & RANCH

Backhoe, Dozer, Maintainer, Dump Truck: brush clearing, roads, driveways, waterlines, pits, demolition, fence row clearing, culverts. Small jobs ok. Ben Roberts, 254-248-4707 or 254-865-5754.
 00029560

035 WANTED

Looking for information on persons responsible for taking the motor and transmission from a 2006 Silverado Pickup. Parked on the property rented to Jim & Jackie Craig at 3908 S.State Hwy. 36. Please call (205)779-2270 or (580)603-2034.
 00029567

037 HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING: \$500 Hiring Bonus! Residential Framing Superintendent (Structural Framing) AND Experienced Roofing Metal Framers. Email Resume' to Ifuller@jroof.com
 00029471

Looking for an experienced tow operator or someone who has a good head on their shoulders to train. Must be at least 21 years old to obtain a TDLR tow license. This is not an 8-5 job. Will include nights and weekends. If you do not want to work and make money don't waste your time and ours.

We are a growing company with new equipment. Looking to expand into other areas. Pay will be weekly. Salary plus commission for night and weekend tows.

Apply in person or call Kevin at 254-405-5490
 00029569

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 • CNA-PRN all Shifts

Coryell Health Medical Clinic:
 • LVN – FT
 • Registration Clerk – FT/Float
 • CCMA - FT

Coryell Health Home Health:
 • RN Case Manager – FT
 • PCA PRN – for Gatesville and Surrounding Counties

Culinary:
 • Cook – FT (Food Handlers Certification preferred)
 • Cook Assistant - FT

EMS:
 • EMT Paramedic or Licensed Paramedic – FT
 *\$8,000 BONUS
 • EMT B – FT & PRN

Emergency Department:
 • RN - PRN all shifts

LAB:
 • MLT – 6pm-6am FT

Med Surg:
 • RN House Supervisor – FT Nights
 *\$10,000 SIGN ON BONUS
 • RN – FT nights
 *\$10,000 SIGN ON BONUS
 • CNA-FT Nights
 *\$4,000 SIGN ON BONUS
 • RN or LVN PRN all shifts

Mills County Medical Clinic - Goldthwaite:
 • X-Ray Technologist – FT

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 • CT/X-Ray Staff Radiological Technologist – PRN
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APPLY IN PERSON OR DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FROM WEBSITE:

1507 W. Main St. off: (254) 248-6386
 Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
humanresources@coryellhealth.org

Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org

037 HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING



• 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/NA – FT, All Shifts
 *\$4,000 FT SIGN ON BONUS
 • CMA/CNA: FT, All Shifts
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110 Chicktown Rd. off: (254) 404-2500
 Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288

Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org

070 LAND & LOTS

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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 00029561

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060 GARAGE SALE

HALLOWEEN and Fall Decor Tues, 09/06 - Sat, 09/10. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m.
 00029538

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage425 Texas 36, Gatesville, Texas 76528 will have an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy the landlord's lien. The sale will be at www.storageauctions.com beginning 9/5/22 @ 11 a.m. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Units to be sold: Kristina Robinson, Keith Webb, Sharon Brown, Adam Shuemake, Elisa Philips, Jimizie Watson, Nicole Vicks, Karri Goleman, Michael Wiley, Pamela Wolff, Jordan Register, Robbie Lynch, Alisha Hamilton, Sherry McCoy, Henry Anthony, Cynthia Bryant, Nancy Jane New: furniture, clothing, electronics, household items, misc boxes/ tote. 00029547

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Replacement Automated Weather Observation System

Sealed bids for the installation of Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS III PT) need to be addressed and delivered to City Manager William H. Parry, III 110 N. 8th Street, Gatesville, TX 76528. Bids will be accepted until Friday, September 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m., then publicly opened and read. Any bid proposal received after closing time will be returned unopened.

In general, the Aviation Construction work consists of: Installation of Automated Weather Observation Systems III. The system shall be installed in accordance with this specification and as approved in Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular 150/5220-16, latest version and FAA Order 6560-20B, or latest version.

Bidding documents may be examined at: www.gatesvilletx.com/rfps or at City Hall, 110 N. 8th Street, Gatesville, TX 76528

Technical questions concerning the specifications should be directed to Robert Featherston, rfeatherston@gatesvilletx.com, (254)535-2179.
 00029568

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Martinez leads Hornets to CC victory

When it comes to cross country excellence either locally or statewide, one name that continues to earn plenty of acclaim is Carlo Martinez.

The Gatesville High School senior on Aug. 31 won his second consecutive first place finish, taking top honors in the Brownwood Invitational with a time of 14:45.

The Hornet boys also took first place as a team in Brownwood, with Jason Muegge finishing fourth overall to also earn Top 10 honors.

The Hornet girls finished eighth overall in Brownwood, with Vania Martinez taking first place with a time of 12:00.

The cross country teams will both be in action on Sept. 8 at the Waco Midway/Hewitt Kiwanis Club Invitational on Sept. 8.

Gatesville also recently took first place in the Hillsboro Invitational.

Friday results will appear in Sept. 10 Messenger

Because of early deadlines for the Labor Day holiday, game results which usually appear in the Wednesday paper will instead be published in the Saturday paper this week.

The Sept. 10 edition of The Gatesville Messenger will also feature team photos for Gatesville, Jonesboro, Evant and Oglesby's football and volleyball teams.

Hornets enjoy homecourt win



The Gatesville Hornets recently enjoyed a volleyball home victory over the Killen Kangaroos on Aug. 30.

SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Area Fishing Report

Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 83 degrees; 9.01 feet low. The lake is in a state of flux after the flood waters from heavy rain. Before the heavy rains the return of southerly winds triggered a strong morning white bass topwater bite. Fish were hitting MAL Original lures, rattling hard baits, and various poppers equally well. Fishing was best as the sun shone on the lake, and was hindered with any degree of cloud cover. The action lasted until around 10:15 A.M. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Crappie are good in timber 20-30 feet deep with ounce Slab City Jigs tipped with a minnow. Report by Zach Minnix, JigNJerk Guide Service.

Stillhouse Hollow

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 83 degrees; 8.90 feet low. White bass continue to concentrate on both breaklines and slow-tapering bottoms in 34-46 feet of water. Downrigging to find fish, then using MAL Dense Lures vertically at first, then horizontally after the vertical bite cools off continues to pro-

duce morning limits of fish. The long-running topwater action fueled by smaller, "schoolie" largemouth bass seems to have dried up with the north winds. Locally heavy rains have the upper third of the lake muddied with much debris present washed in by both Trimmier Creek and the Lampasas River. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Waco

FAIR. Water stained; 83 degrees; 9.36 feet low. Crappie are good on brush piles in 8-24 feet of water, and under boat docks with trees with minnows or soft body jigs tipped with minnows. Smaller groups of fish are more aggressive to bite. Catfish are mixed in with the crappie. Black bass are fair. Sand bass and hybrids are good on the old road beds early in the morning with topwaters. Report by Robert Stover, Workingman Crappie Guide. Crappie are good in 14-18 feet of water with two inch wicked shad tipped with a minnow. Report by Zach Minnix, JigNJerk Guide Service.

Whitney

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 7.12 feet low. After the recent rains target freshwater currents for largemouth bass and catfish. Striped bass are excellent using live bait, swimbaits, and topwaters. Crappie are fair in 10-25 feet of water in standing brush. White bass are slow using live minnow and slabs. Largemouth bass are fair using big spoons, swim jigs and Texas rigs. Catfish are good suspended in 30 feet of water along the edge of the river channel using cut bait and punch bait. Report by James Davis, James Davis Guide Service. Largemouth bass are good early morning with topwater bait on points leading into creeks, and Carolina rigged flukes on main lake points. Striped bass are good and very active on topwater baits through mid morning. Report by James Moore, North Texas Bass Fishing and Moore Striper Guide Services. Striped bass are great throughout the reservoir on live shad along the channel edges or drifting flats in 12-30 feet of water. They can also be caught trolling umbrella-

rigs with white, chartreuse grub tails and bucktail jigs. Report provided by Kraig Sexton, Sexton's Guide Service LLC, Fishing Charter, Marine Electronics & Accessories Installation.

Buchanan

GREAT. Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 14.56 feet low. Largemouth can be caught good around rock piles and shallow vegetation throwing topwaters, 10 foot crankbaits or squarebills and soft plastics. To target striper, hybrids and white bass look for surface action and get there quickly, throwing a topwater walking style bait, wakebait or a number of different crankbaits to run through the schools. If the topwater action slows down, look at your electronics to find big schools out deep and drop jigging spoons on them. Report provided by Bryan Cotter, Texas Hawgs Bass Fishing Guide Service.

Brownwood

SLOW. Water slightly stained; 83 degrees; 6.70 feet low. Bass are excellent to 6.88 pounds on jigs, shaky heads, Texas rig worms and crankbaits scattered around the rocky boulders 6-18 feet of water.

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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PIE TIN TO PLASTIC TOY

How many flying discs can you find on this page?

Can you find each of these pictures in the big picture?

PIE TIN TOSS

The students at Yale University loved William Frisbie's pies. They even loved his pie tins!

Tossing empty pie tins became a favorite way to pass time between classes. A firm flick of the wrist and the tin floated through the air.

But the metal pie tins hurt when they hit someone. As a safety measure, students started yelling, "Frisbie!" to alert others that they were tossing a tin to a pal.

In 1948, Walter Frederick Morrison and Warren Franscioni created a plastic disc that could fly with better accuracy than a tin pie plate.

When Morrison sold the rights to Wham-O in 1957, the company named the disc the Frisbee® (pronounced FRIZ'-bee).

Today, the 65-year-old Frisbee® is owned by Mattel Toy Manufacturers, only one of at least sixty manufacturers of flying discs.

Find the two identical Frisbees.®

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Flying Disc Pattern Activity

Circle the disc that will continue the pattern in each row.

Standards Link: Patterning: Understand and extend patterns.

Double Double Word Search

FRISBEE
PLASTIC
MEASURE
FRICKET
FLOATED
FLYING
CAMERA
PLATE
DODGE
COURT
CATCH
ALERT
YALE
SOLD
DISC

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

S	D	E	T	A	O	L	F	C	T
M	E	A	S	U	R	E	P	A	U
E	D	E	N	T	L	G	M	T	
G	H	T	B	R	A	P	N	E	E
D	C	I	E	S	D	E	I	R	K
O	T	L	T	O	I	D	Y	A	C
D	A	I	A	L	S	R	L	T	I
Y	C	I	L	D	C	N	F	T	R
O	S	S	P	C	O	U	R	T	F

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Silly News Story

Mix and match news stories to create silly stories. Select a **who**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **why** and **how** from different stories. Write a silly news story with these facts. For extra silliness, use quotes from other news stories.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write in a variety of forms and genres.

Write On!

My Invention

Imagine you invented something that helped the world and made you famous. What would that invention be? How would it help the world?

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Flying Disc Golf

Make a course of six or eight "holes" by setting up a series of objects or sites to try and hit with a Frisbee.

Tie a brightly colored ribbon on a tree or pole as a good place to start. An empty bucket or laundry basket also makes a good "hole."

One or more players take turns attempting to hit each target with a flying disc toy.

Players count how many throws they take to hit the target. Wherever your Frisbee lands, you take your next shot from that spot.

Hole	Evan	Stacy
1	4	6
2	5	2
3	2	2
4	3	4
5	6	5
6	4	2
	24	21

Add up your score. The player who completes the course in the fewest number of throws wins.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understands and follows the rules of the game.

FLYING DISC GAMES

Many games are now played with a flying disc.

Here is a list of some of them. How do you think each game is played? Look them up and find out if you guessed correctly.

- Disc Dog
- Double Disc Court
- Fricket
- Disc Golf
- Flutterguts
- Goaltimate
- Dodge Disc
- Freestyle
- Ultimate

Help this dog catch the Frisbee.®

Extra! Extra! New Combos

Look through the newspaper for two items that don't seem to go together. Think of as many ways as you can to invent something new by combining those two things. For example, what could you make with a combination of a camera and sunglasses?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Spotlight shines on Tenley Winkler

BY STEVE PETTIT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Tiffany Winkler first took her daughter Tenley to tumbling classes, the 8-year old had a request. "She liked tumbling," Tiffany recalls, "but she asked if she could start learning gymnastics."

After Tenley attended a few recreational classes at Extreme Cheer and Tumble in Temple, the coach pulled Tiffany aside. "She told me that Tenley had great potential and should consider competitive gymnastics," Tiffany explains. That was four years ago, and today Tenley has amassed an enviable array of awards. Life around the Winklers' Gatesville home has changed, too.

Tenley, a student at Gatesville Intermediate, travels to and from Temple five days each week for her arduous 4-hour gymnastics workouts. Tiffany, employed full time as a pharmaceutical rep, and dad Brent, a director of construction for an Austin-based company, juggle Tenley's schedule as well as 9-year-old Tripp's. He's a third-grader at Gatesville Elementary. The family has two dogs as well as a pair of cats, and Tiffany's parents, who live close by, often assist with transporting Tenley back and forth to Temple.

An articulate, engaging girl, Tenley says her favorite school subject is math, the best restaurant is Chili's and her mom's home-cooked spaghetti can't be beat. "I like to swim and love being outdoors," she adds. Listening to pop and country music as well as creating TikTok short-form videos are some of her spare time pursuits.



Tenley Winkler has been awarded numerous medals for her performance in gymnastics, including several from gymnastics superstar Simone Biles. STEVE PETTIT | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

Her remarkable gymnastics history began with Tenley initially competing at Level 3, skipping the first two levels of the 1 through 10 ratings. Those first competitions, held under the auspices of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF), had Tenley scheduled to compete against girls at her rating level, even if they were years older. After three seasons, her competitions were switched and are currently administered by USA Gymnastics, the national governing body for gymnastics in the United States, responsible for selecting and training teams for the Olympic Games and World Championships.

"That means that now I only compete at my stage," Tenley says. "It's based on skill level and age." Her first competitive season was revelatory, Tiffany comments. "She won everything and skipped ahead to level 5."

Gymnastics "meet season" runs from January through May

with four regular qualifying meets: State in April and Regional in May. Tenley's 2022 State meet was one she and her family won't soon forget.

"It was Tenley's Level 7 competition," Tiffany remembers. "We drove to Frisco, Texas the night before the meet, and Tenley had severe stomach pains and was throwing up." The day of her meet found Tenley in the hospital undergoing an emergency appendectomy. After eight days, she was released and told to take a full two weeks off.

Fully recovered, Tenley competes in vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. "My favorite event is floor," she says, "and I probably need more improvement in bars." In addition to coach Joella Reinhardt, Natasha Matveeva, who was associated with the then-Soviet Union Olympic team years ago, has mentored Tenley. "Natasha develops the cho-

reography for my floor routine," Tenley says, explaining that it's judged for artistry and dance technique. Tenley creates her own individual beam routine.

Tenley plans on at least a couple of more years in gymnastics. "I want to do other sports as I get older - triple jump, pole vault, plus volleyball," she remarks. She's won first place awards in UIL oral reading competition and is interested in theater, too. "I'm really enjoying choir at school now," she adds.

Does gymnastics play a role in her future? "Well, I might coach a little when I'm in high school," she says, mentioning a career as a physician for a long-term goal. "But I really don't do well with blood," she laughs. "So maybe I'll be an anesthesiologist. They get paid well."



Tenley Winkler's house is a busy place, and the Gatesville 12-year-old raves about her mother's spaghetti. STEVE PETTIT | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER



(Left) 12-year-old Tenley Winkler sticks her landing. She currently competes under the USAG governing body. (Right) Tenley says she loves being outside. STEVE PETTIT | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER