



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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75¢



SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 120, No. 99, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Hidden Gem, Gatesville ISD reach cooperative agreement

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

In an effort to provide additional services to meet the needs of students and their families, the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees has approved a memorandum of understanding to partner with Hidden Gem.

The nonprofit family center offers a variety of services and was initially designed to get support in whatever areas needed for victims of crime.

Jenny Featherston, the executive director of Hidden Gem and also the victim's service coordinator for the local district attorney's office, gave an overview of the agency.

"Part of my job is to find resources for victims, and I noticed our county didn't have a

"I felt like God was impressing on my heart to do something to help people in our community."

JENNY FEATHERSTON

lot of that," she said. "I had to send people out of the county - to Temple or Waco - and that bothered me. We should never have to send people outside the county for help.

"I felt like God was impressing on my heart that I needed to do something to help people in our community. Righteous Roots (another nonprofit with a similar mission of helping

people) does a lot to help people, but one agency isn't going to be able to cover it all. We need a partnership to serve our community."

For those who have gotten off track in their education, finances or other areas of life, Hidden Gem offers classes to help people recover, get the skills and knowledge they need and to stay accountable in making improvements, Featherston said.

"Once people come to Hidden Gem, we no longer consider them victims, they are clients," she said.

"We want to step in and help offer resources to the community that it hasn't had," Featherston said. "We are a faith-based organization so grant opportunities don't always line up, and we are always looking

for donors. The Bible talks about taking care of your own and that's what we are trying to do."

Pam Williams, executive director of community relations for GISD, said Hidden Gem offers services that can benefit students and their families.

"We have students who can benefit from their classes and by getting them connected," she said. "It's essentially a hand off for us.

"I want to help build our local resources and want to provide for students and families, whatever their needs may be," Featherston said. "We've had some people come in off the street, sometimes barefoot, and we help them wherever we can. We feel that God is at the center of it. We are trying to partner with everybody to build our resources."

Local products highlight 1854 Mercantile

BY SABRINA ANDERSON
contributing Writer

What began as a small shop selling women's clothing just before the pandemic started is now known as one of Gatesville's local favorite one-stop-shops.

1854 Mercantile, named after the year Coryell County was founded, is a one-of-a-kind business that brings a special touch to the retail atmosphere.

Nikole and Scott Tatum, current owners of 1854 Mercantile, are Gatesville locals who simply jumped at the chance to have a space for local vendors to come together.

"We just thought it would be a great opportunity to branch out and have a store that would utilize local vendors and give the people of Gatesville another opportunity to buy local," said Nikole.

Unlike other retail stores, 1854 Mercantile prides itself on sharing its convenient storefront with other local vendors who create handmade goods. This includes everything from clothing and wood crafts to soaps and books.

Shoppers can also find freshly made treats such as cake pops, jerky and jam and even a small selection of seasonings.

"We have a little bit of everything," said Nikole. "It really is like an old-fashioned mercantile; you can find a little bit of everything."

While the business originated under another owner, the Tatums have been operating as owners since June 2022.

The location of 1854 Mercantile also moved from Route 36 to the



ALEX MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Nikole Tatum says 1854 Mercantile is an old-fashioned type of store that offers a little bit of everything. The business is located at the corner of Main and North Fifth St.

PLEASE SEE **MERCANTILE** | A2

Online counseling to be available for GISD students

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

An effort to help students get the counseling sessions they need has resulted in the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees approving a memorandum of understanding with the University of Texas Medical System and Dell Medical School.

"There is a backlog (of student appointments with LPCs (licensed professional counselors)," said Scott Harper, assistant superintendent of academic services for the district.

"We're always looking for resources and the telemedicine

platform would allow the students to receive counseling sessions without requiring them to leave school. We just need to provide a quiet private place for the session and then get them right back to class. This is a grant-funded program."

Harper said there are January and summer launches for the program, and he hopes to be able to get students served starting with the spring semester.

"They offer five short-term sessions, and they can link students to someone if long-term sessions are needed," he said.

"An urgent same-day assessment is available. It's all free to the school and free to the families. It's just another resource

for us to use."

Harper said there aren't enough local counselors available to provide sessions to students and having to drive out of the area can be a hardship for families and also take away valuable school time.

"With this program, students are able to get their counseling sessions and not miss out on school," he said.

Board member Linda Maxwell asked if each campus has a designated spot for the counseling sessions.

"We will work on making sure that's available," Harper said.

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DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Baked goods are among the items available at 1854 Mercantile.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A selection of books is prominently displayed.

MERCANTILE

FROM PAGE A1

downtown square of Gatesville, just past the courthouse on the corner of Main Street and North 5th Street.

"Since then, the foot traffic has increased exponentially. It's just been a better move all around," said Nikole. "We've always wanted that quintessential business on the square."

As with any shop, 1854 Mercantile came with its own set of hurdles for the new owners, including the ever growing issue of finding reliable hires. This was especially a challenge for the Tatums, due to each of them continuing to work full time, Nikole as a nurse at Hillside Medical Lodge and Scott at Hometown Floors.

"Finding a good workforce was definitely a challenge," said Nikole. "But we've got some really good workers in there right now; hopefully they'll stay a while."

The Tatums also had some challenges that every small business owner comes across, such as creating a reputation within the community. While 1854 Mercantile already had a great relationship with its shoppers in Gatesville, Nikole and Scott had to gain the community's love as the new owners. In doing this, they would ensure the unique experience of the business was here to stay and only grow from then on.

"I've never really dealt with vendors before," said Nikole.

"So dealing with vendors, especially vendors who maybe sell the same things, and not letting anyone feel left out or pushed aside... that was a challenge."

As the months change, they also try to keep the merchandise relevant to fit the upcoming seasons. These include events such as breast cancer awareness month and Halloween for October, Black Friday and Thanksgiving for November, and of course Christmas for December.

"We have to be fluid, and we have to constantly be bringing new things in... not get stagnant because no one wants to come in and see the same things every time they come in," said Nikole.

Although the original idea behind creating a business is to make money, the Tatums simply want to be successful enough at 1854 Mercantile to see their vendors do well.

"We had a vendor last month who picked up her check and was almost in tears because she had sold more than she thought she would, and she was so excited," said Nikole. "That was just the best feeling and I was so happy for her."

For more information about 1854 Mercantile or to inquire about becoming a vendor in their shop, you can visit them on the square in downtown Gatesville or visit their page on Facebook.

"We love this community," said Nikole. "We want to be able to offer different things to this community that you're not necessarily going to be able to find anywhere else."



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

1854 Mercantile offers an opportunity for local vendors.



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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

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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.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

*It's best to obey the law and not be a rule breaker***SAM HOUSTON**

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

Our family vacations in my youth involved traveling to where the grandparents lived and going camping. It was quite an experience and something I looked forward to in excited anticipation. My father knew an old farmer who had land adjoining the Chariton River and he would allow us to camp on his property. No state parks for us! We were out in the middle of nowhere which is right where we wanted to be.

When the family set up camp, there were tents to be erected, firewood to be gathered, latrines to be dug, and a host of other chores and activities to undertake. Looking back, it took a lot of work, but it was something the entire family enjoyed. We fished and swam during the day, played cards, and during the evening we would sit around the firepit and roast marshmallows or chase lightning bugs. There was no TV and of course no phones, but we did have a radio so we could hear the weather and the Cardinals baseball game. Each night my grandparents would drive over to have dinner with us and then join us as we sat around the fire and traded stories.

While we did fish with rods and reels, my dad also

enjoyed setting bank and trotlines to catch catfish. We would get in the aluminum canoe and go down the river, baiting the lines and checking to see if we had caught any fish since the last time we had "run our lines." Most of the time we were successful, and it was not unusual to catch three or four nice catfish each time we checked.

Of course, to catch fish we had to have bait, so we seined for minnows. Seining is the process of having a big vertical net with sinkers along one edge and floats on the other edge, with a couple of long poles attached to the ends. We would walk into a shallow part of the river and while Dad grabbed one end of the net, I would grab the other. We would walk through the water for a short distance and then lift the net to hopefully find we had caught a generous quantity of minnows. The minnows we caught were then used as bait for our fishing lines. I thought seining was as much fun as fishing because you never knew what you might catch. There could be a turtle or even a snake mixed in with the minnows.

During one episode of seining, we lifted the net and found we had managed to corral four little catfish. They were maybe 4 inches long. I immediately said to my dad, "Look Dad, baby catfish! Let's put them in the bucket and have Granddad take them to his place and put them in his pond." Granddad had a small

tank and I had visions of stocking the pond with fish, giving them a chance to grow, and catching them at some future time.

My dad replied to my inquiry by saying, "Son, that would be against the law. The state wildlife code says you must return any fish under six inches in length to the water immediately upon catching it." I heard what my father had said, and I immediately started searching for excuses. "But Dad, it is not like we are going to eat the fish, or kill them, we are just going to transport them to water in a different location. What could be the harm? No one will catch us."

Dad nodded his head and said, "I understand what you're thinking, son, but we would be breaking the law, and that makes it wrong. If a man starts rationalizing, he can always come up with an excuse to not follow the rules. It is best to simply do what the law requires. Once a man finds he can break the law and get away with it, it makes it that much easier to cross the line and break the law in another situation. Where does it stop?"

As Dad released the small fish back into the river, I shook my head seeing my dream of stocking Granddad's pond fly out the window. All I could think of was, what a waste!

I never knew my father to break the law or attempt to work around it. I never saw



Houston

him not follow a rule. To him, adherence was a citizen's responsibility. It was what made society work. It took me a few years and a few practical lessons to realize the power of my father's words.

Unfortunately, it seems like there are people in our society who do not think rules apply to them. They spend the bulk of their time trying to twist the law to their advantage. The ends seem to justify the means. It happens every day, and we often witness the turmoil it creates.

Like my wise father said, once it starts, when does it stop?

Thought for the day: I busted a mirror and got seven years bad luck. My lawyer thinks he can get it down to five.

Until next time.

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

Benefit to be held for Wade Key on Dec. 17

From Staff Reports

On Saturday, Dec. 17, a benefit will be held for Wade Key and his family. Join the community in supporting the Key family in its fight against cancer. The benefit will be held at the Gatesville Civic Center.

There will be a barbecue lunch at 11 a.m., and the cost will be \$10 per plate or donation. At noon, a cornhole tournament will begin and will cost \$50 per team. Contact Payton George for

more information about the tournament.

A raffle, door prizes, and an auction will also take place at the event. The items will include gift baskets, a \$200 Leon River gift certificate, a Glock 43X 9mm, an AR-15 223/5.56, Tokarev 12-gauge shotgun, a deep freeze, a fire pit and grill, a Management Buck Hunt and a Black Buck/Axis Doe Hunt.

Payton George can be contacted at 254-223-0207. The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veterans Memorial Loop in Gatesville.



Fitness Center sets Santa Sprint for Dec. 17

From Staff Reports

The Gatesville Fitness Center will hold a Santa Sprint race on Saturday, Dec. 17. The Christmas-themed race will begin at 7 a.m. and will start and finish at the Gatesville City Pool.

The 5K and 10K will have prizes awarded to the top three male and female runners in each age group. The Kids K will complete two laps around the top half of Raby Park (0.76 miles). The Kids K will include the ages of 12 and under. Christmas-themed medals will be given to each participant.

Tickets for the 10K and 5K will cost \$25, and the prices will increase after Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 11:59 p.m. The Kids K will cost \$15 per ticket, and registration will close on Dec. 14 at 11:59 p.m. It will reopen for the Kids K on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 12 a.m.

Tickets can be bought by visiting runsignup.com/gatesvillesantasprint. The Gatesville City Pool is located at 300 South 8th Street in Gatesville. For more information on the Santa Sprint, contact the Gatesville Fitness Center at 254-865-4012.

Dispatch

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of November 27 - 29. 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

Nov. 27

1:14 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 2100 block of FM 183.

10:20 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 100 block of Mesa Drive.

10:32 p.m., an accident was reported in the 300 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

10:52 p.m., a possible fire was reported in the 3000 block of CR 274.

Nov. 28

7:37 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2600 block of Bridge Street.

11:48 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

1:27 p.m., a theft was re-

ported in the 100 block of Park Lane.

4:11 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 400 block of N. 14th Street.

4:40 p.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of N. Lovers Lane.

6:12 p.m., a fight was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

Nov. 29

9:57 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2500 block of E. Main Street.

10:34 a.m., a possible fire was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.

3:34 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 9000 block of N. Hwy. 36.

4:03 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500

block of E. Main Street.

8:51 p.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of Bridge Street.

9:03 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.

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CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Nov. 27

4:53 a.m., shots being fired was reported in the 11000 block of S. Hwy. 36.

9:05 a.m., trespassing was reported in the 700 block of Old Georgetown Road.

12:26 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 800 block of FM 1996.

4:03 p.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 116 near Elijah.

5:12 p.m., poaching was reported on McKenzie Lane before Mountain Road.

5:41 p.m., a domestic dis-

turbance was reported at Leon Junction behind the community center.

Nov. 28

9:39 a.m., fraud was reported in the 100 block of Rocky Road.

11:10 a.m., a threat was reported in the 2600 block of Horseshoe Bend.

2:40 p.m., a possible fire was reported in the 2100 block of FM 183.

4:57 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2200 block of CR 154.

5:02 p.m., the burglary of a vehicle was reported on W. Hwy. 84.

6:33 p.m., illegal burning was reported in the 4500 block of FM 930.

Nov. 29

8:50 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 4000 block of FM 107.

9:39 a.m., a theft was reported on CR 208 and FM 215.

2:59 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 116.

4:48 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 9600 block of Hwy. 26.

7:48 p.m., a theft was reported on TX Hwy. 236 at Mother Neff State Park.

9:13 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 9600 block of FM 183.

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Area volleyball player named Academic All-District at Angelo State

From Staff Reports

Angelo State University Belles volleyball player Sydney Mundkowsky of Gatesville has been named to the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team for her performance on the court and in the classroom during the 2022 season. Mundkowsky is a 2020 graduate of Gatesville High School.

Mundkowsky, a junior outside hitter, has a 3.64 GPA and is majoring in psychology. She led the Belles with 225 kills and was ASU's lone All-Lone Star Conference selection.

She will now move on to the CSC Academic All-America ballot, which is voted on by sports information directors from across all of NCAA Division II. See more details at angelosports.com.

Angelo State University, founded in 1928, is a thriving four-year public school in Texas. Their Ram Family environment and Core Values help students feel at home, a place where they know faculty and staff care deeply about their success.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sydney Mundkowsky

Its excellent faculty make it possible for students to conduct undergraduate research, rank above state acceptance averages for professional schools and receive personal access to instructors and progressive facilities.

They are part of the dynamic Texas Tech University System with campuses across the state. Angelo State has been ranked as one of The Princeton Review's "Best Colleges" in the nation since 2010.

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

TO SUBSCRIBE: Call 254-865-5212

Obituaries

WILLIAM (BILL) WESLEY JOSLIN

Aug. 15, 1968 - Nov. 25, 2022



William (Bill) Wesley Joslin, age 54, of Gatesville, passed away Friday, Nov. 25, 2022, at his home.

A memorial video will be available on his YouTube channel, Revbeej.

Bill was born in Lewis-

town, Montana on Aug. 15, 1968, to Matthew W. Joslin and Carol Marie Joslin. He lived in Lewistown, Colorado Springs, Brownsville, Texas, and Copperas Cove. For over 20 years he worked as a pediatric nurse, working in Temple, Copperas Cove and Gatesville. His compassion and medical knowledge allowed him to adopt two boys with special needs. During that time, he was ordained as a Lutheran minister and adopted the moniker of Revbeej, a contraction of Reverend Bill Joslin. He was well known on the Periscope livestream and Instagram platforms for his hand feeding of hummingbirds, observations of his chickens and wildlife, road trips and paranormal investigations.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Matthew Joslin, and son, Preston Joslin.

He is survived by his spouse, Hobart Wheeler of Gatesville, son, Willie Joslin and mother, Carol Joslin.

Local artist Wendy Bye presented program at Morris Federation monthly meeting

The Morris Federation held its monthly meeting on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the local museum. The program was presented by Wendy Bye, who works as a paraprofessional and art specialist at Gatesville Junior High School. A few years ago, she spoke to the Morris Federation on art and shared pictures of some of her own artwork.

This time, her program was a hands-on project for members titled "What's My Line?" She explained that art can be complex and detailed, or it can be quite simple, but everyone has the ability to do something artistic. She distributed paper and pencil (with an eraser) to everyone, and her instructions were to draw a line (straight or curved or in some form) at three different locations on the paper, but without letting the three lines cross one another. Next, members were

told to exchange papers with another person, study the lines briefly, and then draw a picture, using those lines drawn by the other person. Art is in the eyes of the beholder, and each participant in this project saw some sort of design or picture that could evolve from those three original lines drawn by someone else. It was interesting looking at the pictures each member created, but it was obvious that creativity was at work.

This experience brought to mind the old "Zeebo the Clown" shows on television shown on KCEN-TV in the 1950s. Children came forward from Zeebo's little studio audience to draw a squiggle on the clown's over-sized paper pad mounted on his easel. Then it was up to Zeebo to stand back and pretend he was stumped and didn't know what to do with that irregular scribble ... but some-



Wendy Bye

COURTESY PHOTO

how, he always managed to turn it into a picture, known as a "Zeebo-gram."

Gatesville Country Club hosts Christmas party

From Staff Reports

The Gatesville Country Club will hold a Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.

The country club will provide live music, plenty of drink specials, karaoke, dancing and lots of finger foods. There will be door prizes for everyone to have a chance to win.

The Gatesville Country Club Santa will be at the party as well for picture-taking. There will be an ugly sweater contest, and the winning prize will be \$100.

Be sure to RSVP at the clubhouse. The Gatesville Country Club is located at 1308 Golf Course Road in Gatesville and can be reached at 254-965-6917.

BOOK REVIEW

It's not a conspiracy theory! Or is it?



TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

They're coming to get you.

They've done their mischief, their dirty work, things you can't even imagine they're capable of doing. Now you're next, and you won't even know when they strike because they're sneaky like that. They act, then you pay. Or maybe not. Read "Stuff They Don't Want You to Know" by Ben Bowlin with Matt Frederick and Noel Brown and learn the truth about the "facts" and what's really real.

Here's a big shocker: Your government is lying to you.

The authors indicated that it's happening now, and you may have spent considerable time worrying about it in the past few years. It's absolutely true that the government has been involved in some rather sketchy things, but it's also true that some of what you believe isn't a conspiracy and that there's probably a not-so-nerfariou explanation.

Take, for instance, the whole idea of chemtrails, HIV, pandemics and your health.

It's true that in the past, the U.S. government conducted experiments with biological weapons, cloud seeding, and the like. It's true that a lot of what happened then is still classified today. The reality is, though, that there are "very straight-forward scientific and sociological explanations" for all those things.

Black people have a "complicated" history in this country, and it didn't suddenly begin in the 20th century. What happened in Tuskegee, with syphilis, was real, not a rumor, but nobody's selling one-off sodas today with the sole purpose of sterilizing or sickening entire neighborhoods, and restaurants aren't out to experiment on you.

Are you being tracked by the government? Probably, but not because of a vaccine. "The government doesn't need a chip in a vaccine," the authors noted. You already have



"Stuff They Don't Want You to Know" by Ben Bowlin with Matt Frederick and Noel Brown c.2022, Flatiron Books, \$29.99, 240 pages

plenty of them in the cell phone you carry.

UFOs are real, by definition. If you can't identify what you see in the sky, it's a UFO. Another word for "propaganda" is "advertisement." And yes, absolutely, there's a form of voting, a "shadow system" in which you cannot participate and so far, it's perfectly legal...

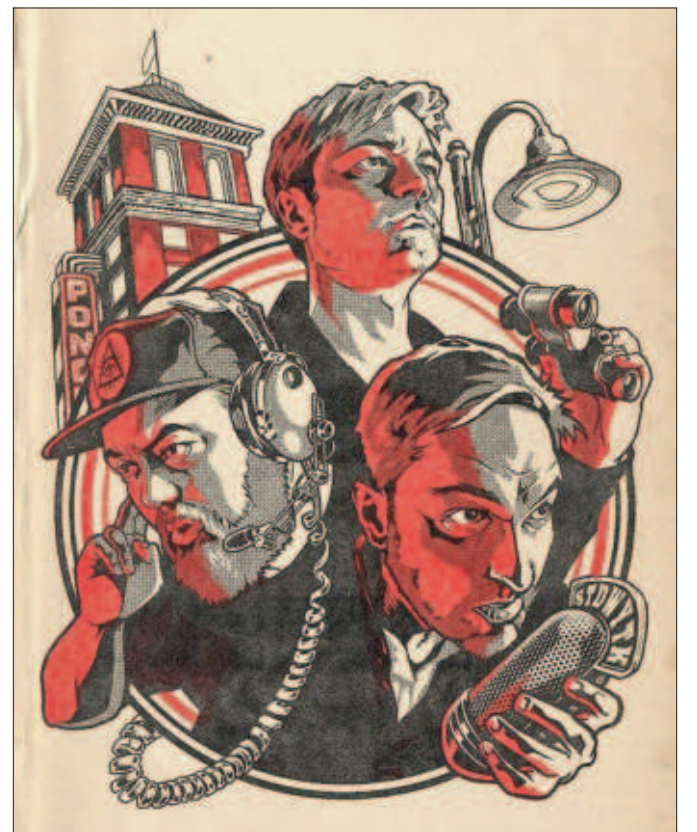
You learned it from your father's step-aunt's Facebook knitting group, so that kooky story you heard must be true. The surprise is that "Stuff They Don't Want You to Know" could corroborate what you heard - or it could take things apart, completely and methodically.

Think of it as a private argument finisher for the upcoming family holidays. Authors Bowlin, Fredrick and Brown help readers learn what a conspiracy theory is and how to ask the right questions about it, to ascertain its validity. Their experiences with the "Stuff They Don't Want You to Know" podcast lends authority when they're destroying harmful myths, and their confident, casual tone grants breezy

believability as they explain the nuggets of truth within what may seem to be out-there rumors and concepts.

This book is probably not going to change minds, but it might clarify or declutter

some. "Stuff They Don't Want You to Know" could also help to understand those with different thinking - and for that, you should be going to get it.



Authors Ben Bowlin, Matt Frederick and Noel Brown

Israel: The other Lone Star State

TUMBLEWEED SMITH
Newspaper columnist and producer of The Sound of Texas radio series



Tumbleweed Smith

We took a 12-hour flight from Miami to Tel Aviv, a modern city founded in 1909. Tel Aviv roughly translates to ancient spring. It is a growing metropolis (population approaching 500,000) with giant cranes used in constructing high-rise apartment buildings, where most people live.

In Tel Aviv we met up with our fellow travelers from Temple Beth El in Fort Worth. Ralph Mecklenberger, the immediate past Rabbi there, arranged the trip. Our group numbered 25. We were ready to spend two weeks exploring the Promised Land. Our first meal at a restaurant lasted hours, because the waiters kept bringing out platters of Armenian and Yemeni cuisine. There must have been a dozen courses. Such a variety of foods. Just like the variety of religions. So many tourists of all faiths go there. It's like Religion-land.

We saw previous civilizations covered up by other civilizations, which were covered up by still others. We saw historic sights and heard stories about significant people from thousands of years ago. Our journey took us to Joppa, a suburb of Tel Aviv, and saw the port where Jonah boarded a ship and would later be in the belly of a whale. We saw the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, the

Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, the Golan Heights the Negev desert, and traveled from the top to the bottom of Israel, looked into Syria and drove along the border of Egypt. We saw miles of vineyards and date palm, banana and olive trees.

In Jerusalem, we went to the West Wall, which was full of men and women praying in separate places. We toured the Old City and went to a busy marketplace where you could buy just about anything from jewelry to camels. In the City of David, we saw an impressive sound and light show that told the story of the country.

We did lots of hiking. Once, walking on the floor of a canyon, the Rabbi asked us to pause and look around and soak in the beauty of the mountains, the streams and the rich vegetation all under a perfect blue sky. He read some verses of scripture, then led us in reciting the 23rd Psalm. Afterward, there was a profound silence among the group, as well as a few tears and chill bumps. That was a highlight.

Another highlight was crossing into Jordan at Aqaba and getting to see the Treasury Facade at Petra. Some of us rode camels in front of the historic site, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It was a two-and-a-half-mile walk to the facade. At the start, there were Indiana Jones gift shops and snack bars.

We spent three nights at Eilat at the very bottom of Israel. It is a resort city with malls (one had an ice-skating rink) and all kinds of recreational opportunities. Wherever we went, we saw young people in T-shirts riding skateboards, bicycles, scooters and motorbikes. Hard to realize that we were far from home. We stayed in some of the finest hotels that laid out lavish breakfast displays. Getting a cup of coffee proved to be difficult, because we had to stand in line to get it. We learned a lot in Israel.

Event offered support to crime victims and their families

Survivors of crime and relatives of victims who died because of crime gathered at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center recently to remember their loved ones and to thank those who stood by them through the darkest of times. The event, known as the Tree of Angels, celebrated their seventh year of showing support to the community and their needs. Eleven Christmas trees were set up in honor of crime victims who died, and a 12th

tree represented survivors. Family members or friends of those who died were able to place an angel on a tree in their memory, and survivors or their loved ones were able to place a dove on the survivor tree to celebrate their triumph over adversity. "This gathering is very dear to my heart," said Jenny Featherston, crime victims' assistance coordinator for Coryell County. At last year's Tree of Angels, Featherston said "We want to cel-

ebate their loved ones with them, and it's a reunion for us to be with them and let them know we still support them." Her feelings remain the same today. Coryell County District Attorney Dusty Boyd, assistant DAs and other staff also attended the event, and voiced their support for victims and those who care about them. "This event is always very special to us, as we enter this challenging time of the year when the feeling of the

loss of loved ones and hearts are heavy, we hope that the relationships that have been forged through our shared experiences are ones of commitment and strength," Boyd said. He also mentioned that the Tree of Angels provides an important platform allowing them [the DA's office] to stay connected to the victims and their families and allow them to continue to forge and strengthen new relationships for those who have lost so much.

Boyd is quick to praise Featherston who has the dual role of working for the DA's office and coordinating efforts for the nonprofit Hidden Gem, and other volun-

teers for their efforts. This year's Tree of Angels was considered to be a great success to those attending. "It is always a very special event to us," Boyd said.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
TOP PHOTO: Jenny Featherston, crime victims' assistance coordinator for Coryell County, with District Attorney Dusty Boyd emotional support dog Winston.

LEFT PHOTO: District Attorney Dusty Boyd addresses a group of attendants at the annual Tree of Angels event.

4-H News

Local youth excel at recent 4-H competitions



BECKY COWARD
 Coryell County 4-H Extension Agent

District Food Contest which will be held December 14th in Belton. In the food and nutrition project, youth learn kitchen and cooking safety, how to prepare nutritious meals and snacks, and meal ideas to reduce your risk of disease. Learning experiences focus on nutrition, food purchasing, food preparation, food safety, and related careers. In the food challenge contest, youth are given a main ingredient and then must work together in a three- or four-man team to devise and prepare a recipe. They may add ingredients of their choosing and then they present their dish to a panel of judges, noting how it was prepared, safety practices, nutrition information and how they worked together to make their recipe. The top two teams from each age division will represent Coryell County at the District competition. Results from the County Food Contests are as follows:

Junior Food Challenge:

1st place Team- Cookie Chefs: Mary Mitchell, Rory Fine, Luna Mora, and Kylie Caraway

2nd place Team- Cookie Crumblers: Annalynn Buttry, Samantha Hadley, and Emma Desormeaux

3rd place Team- Hornet Cooks: Josephine Langenstrass, Prudence Jackson, and Lydia Crosby

4th place Team- Sunflowers: Kelton Baker, Charleigh Hunt, and Natalie Holden

Junior Food Show:

1st place Side dish: Emma Desormeaux

Intermediate Food Challenge:

1st place Team- Sauce Sisters: Brooke Reavis, Anna McPherson, Makaylie Williams, and Jaelee Thornton

2nd place Team- Impossible Impasta: Jayde Muegge, Olivia Hendrix, Caroline Langenstrass, and Madielyn Smith

3rd place Team- Little Einstein's: Lexi Brown, Annabelle Walls, Preston Barron, and Aiden Toombs

4th place Team- House Elves: Karleigh Wismer, Emily Wolff, Hannah Ashley, and Kadence Key

5th place Team- M&M's-Merrhya Garcia, Malorie Renner, Mia Mora, and Peyton Ritchie

Congratulations to all the



COURTESY PHOTO

Dutch Nielsen- 1st place Sporting Clays 4-H Gun Club Qualifier



COURTESY PHOTO

Colton Christian- 1st place American Trap 4-H Gun Club Qualifier



COURTESY PHOTO

CORYELL COUNTY 4-H FOOD CHALLENGE TEAMS ADVANCING TO DISTRICT: Pictured (L to R) Front Row: Jayde Muegge, Caroline Langenstrass, Emma Desormeaux, Annalynn Buttry, Luna Mora, Kylie Caraway. Second row: Olivia Hendrix, Samantha Hadley, Rory Fine, Mary Mitchell. Back Row: Brooke Reavis, Jaelee Thornton, Makaylie Williams, and Anna McPherson

Braving the cold morning, eighty-nine youth competed in American Trap and eighty-three youth shot in the Sporting Clay division of the Coryell 4-H Gun Club Qualifier Event held November 19th at the Waco Skeet and Trap Club. Placing for the locals were Dutch Nielson who won the Senior Sporting Clay division and Colton Christian who took first in Senior American Trap. The event, which was hosted by our county 4-H shooting sports club, was both a fundraiser for the club and a qualifying event for youth to compete at Fort Worth, Houston, Heart 'O Texas and San Antonio Livestock Expo Shooting Sports competitions. The 4-H Gun Club leaders Hugh Nielsen, Jeff Pruitt, Joe and Carrie Jones, and Agent Robert Ferguson, along with many volunteers, coordinated the event. The 4-H Shooting Sports project is another opportunity for youth to learn how to load and shoot a variety of firearms, proper maintenance of firearms, proper safety procedures in handling and shooting, and about shooting sports competitions. Leaders coach youth in rifle, shotgun, and pistol disciplines. The 4-H Gun Club meets the third Wednesday of each month and practices on the second Saturday of the month. Congratulations to the club on an outstanding event!

The Coryell County 4-H Food Challenge and Food Show was held November 21st at the Gatesville Intermediate School. Nine Food Challenge Teams and one Food Show participant competed vying for a trip to the

participants and good luck to those advancing to District!

Upcoming 4-H Events:

- Dec 7- District 8 Leaders 4 Life Contest
- Dec 10-Coryell County Youth Fair Horse Show Clinic #2- 11:30am
- Dec 11- Rabbit Clinic and practice show- 1pm

- Dec 14-District 8 Food Challenge and Food Show
- Dec 15- District 8 Quiz Bowl & Ag Product ID Contests
- Dec 18- Coryell County Youth Fair Horse Clinic- 2pm
- Dec 19- Healthier for the Holidays Baking Workshop @ Hay Valley Baptist Church
- Dec 19- County Ambassa-

dor Meeting and Christmas Party @ Hay Valley Baptist Church
 The fourteen 4-H clubs in the county are actively meeting each month. Please use the Membership Guide found at www.coryell.agrilife.org for meeting times and locations. Be watching for 4-H clubs participating in the

Gatesville Christmas parade on December 10th.
 For more information about 4-H opportunities in Coryell County, please contact Becky Coward at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 254-865-2414 or becky.coward@ag.tamu.edu.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Future home of Extraco Bank

Extraco Bank to change location

Extraco Banks purchased the former Texas First State Bank location in Gatesville at 2501 Highway 36 with the intention of moving its Gatesville banking operation to this site in late fall 2023. Previously, Extraco had purchased land located along U.S. Highway 84 with the intention of building a new branch.

"By renovating an existing bank location, we will be able to move and open our new branch much earlier than we would have if we had built a new branch," Doug Streater, president and CEO of Extraco Banks, said. "This is the fourth new branch project Extraco

has announced this year. We just completed a new branch in College Station and will break ground on two new branches in the Temple area in 2023."

The new branch site is less than a mile from the current Gatesville location and conveniently located directly off Highway 36 with access to U.S. Highway 84 as well. It will offer the same services and amenities as Extraco's other financial centers, such as a deposit ATM, Extra Banker video teller, and in-branch access to eBank online banking. Once the new branch is open, Extraco will move its current Gatesville

financial center operations to this location.

In addition to this new Gatesville location, customers have access to Extraco's other locations in Hamilton, Waco and Temple, as well as the Extra Banker virtual teller in McGregor that is available 24 hours a day.

"This new location is an opportunity for Extraco to refresh our commitment to the Gatesville community," added Tom Creek, Senior Vice President, and Market Executive. "We are committed to supporting the financial needs of this area for years to come."

'Christmas on the Square' to be hosted by Evant Chamber

The Evant Chamber of Commerce will host "Christmas on the Square" on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and enjoy Christmas carols and a visit with Santa. Shop for holiday treats, crafts, funnel cakes, cookies and

much more.

Payment methods will include cash, Venmo, and PayPal.

Vendors are wanted as well with no vendor fee required. Food trucks, TABC licensed beer and wine, home décor, Christmas décor, sweets, scents and nov-

elty items.

If interested in attending, visit www.evanchamber.org or email EvantChamberinfo@gmail.com for the map and vendor apps. The Evant Christmas on the Square will be located on Hwy. 281 in Evant.

Gatesville Adaptive Sports to offer soccer league

Gatesville Adaptive Sports recently announced that registration for their Adaptive Soccer League is now available online starting Monday, Dec. 5. Gatesville Adaptive Sports is an organization which helps chil-

dren and adults with special needs ages 5 to 22.

The soccer league will begin in February and will be free of charge. To sign up for the soccer league, visit <http://www.teamsideline.com/sites/GatesvilleTx/>

current-programs. Volunteers are always needed and can register on the same site as well.

For more information, call the Gatesville Fitness Center at 254-865-4012.

Centex Crime Stoppers

Online shoppers beware!

It is that time of year again! The time when our online shopping skyrockets as we prepare for the holiday season.

Please be aware of your delivery dates and track your packages. With the major delivery organizations (USPS, UPS, FedEx, etc.) traveling the same routes and making deliveries at approximately the same times it can be easy to know when to look for new boxes and packages on your porches or by your mailboxes

Consider being creative with outdoor furniture and plants to obscure the area where your packages are delivered. You can also utilize boxes or reinforced bags that are secured to your home or door with a lock. Just leave instructions for the delivery to be placed inside of the box or bag and provide a lock to secure it. And, as always, the more we watch out for each other the safer we all



Online Christmas shopping could mean more theft

are.

Know your neighbors and neighborhood and please report any suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season!

If you have any information about any case or any local crime, call Centex Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at 1-254-865-8477 (TIPS) or visit our website at [\[pers.org\]\(http://www.Centexcrimestop-\) or by downloading the "P3" mobile app available on both the Apple app store and Google Play Store. You never have to give your name, and if your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.](http://www.Centexcrimestop-</p>
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Crime Stoppers, citizens, police, and the media working together can make our community a safer place to live. Together we can make a difference.

High school honor roll for first quarter announced

Staff Reports

Gatesville High School recently released their "A Honor Roll" for the first quarter. Students named on the honor roll are as follows:

NINTH GRADE

Joshua Appelman, Nahdiah Appleton, Izaya Ayala, Macee Ayres, Carson Bailey, Abigail Boose, Colton Byler, Mason Cate, Mia Chacon, Miguel Encarnacion Almeida, Madeline Fast, Seth Finley, Savanna Glenn, Colt Heath, Madisan Heimback, Jessa Herry, Amanda Jones, Tristan Modisett, Kameryn Mooney, Madilynn Poliquin, Baylyn Roberts, Taylor Sanderson, Ivan Schiferl, Marin Seagraves, Madison Shalchi, Summer Stovall, Miles Tull, Levi Webb, Paisley Wells, Charlie Winkler, Benjamin Woodson, Avonte Zachary.

TENTH GRADE

Brianna Allen, Hannah Bartlett, Audrey Blanco, Romi Bomar, Jeret Burks, Grace Carothers, Kyle Casey, Dillon Daniels, John David-

son, Jackson Erwin, Reagan Fitts, Raylee Glover, Katherine Hopson, William Jefferson, Emily Kelly, Sara Kiphen, Elaina Knobloch, Caleb Mannix, Emilie Moore, Dana Myers, Dutch Nielsen, Malachi Olvera, Roman Perez, Gabriel Pollard, Ian Rainer, Keira Ruiz, Jaycee Shelton, Liam Shoaf, Callie Smith, Avery Streetman, Addison Taylor, Cameron Thompson, Ricardo Villagrana, Kaitlyn Walden, Memphis Wells, Zayla Wisehart.

ELEVENTH GRADE

Riley Aaron, Sean Aguilar, Caleb Blum, Barrett Boyd, James Coffman, Cayleigh Coursey, Wyatt Dunbar, Nathan Elliott, Natalie Fast, Breeann Gribble, Zoe Gribble, Scout Hall, Hayden Heck, Ellie Kelley, Jayden Kieltyka, Evan Knobloch, Jana Kroeger, Carsyn Modisett, Lawson Mooney, Jasmine Olivar, Bethany Penrod, Anna Phillips, Mikenna Reeves, Mia Shafer, Noah Smith, Aliyah Trotter, Olivia Walker.

TWELFTH GRADE

Hadleigh Ament, Jacy Archie, Ashlynn Ayers, Lola Barron, Charlize Breitingner, Korbin Brown, Brady Carothers, Lena Clawson, Joshua Coalston, Kylie Cox, William Crozier, Ashtyn Culley, Lindsey Cummings, Kaitlyn Darby, Rosalee Dilly, Slone Early, Preslea Edmond, Grant Erwin, Jeremy Featherston, Camden Galindo, Lucas Garcia, Rachel Garrett, Brenden Gohlke, Evalyn Gregory, Kason Herbelin, Shay Heuer, Kagen Hunt, Mason Lanham, Wyatt Lea, Benjamin Mabry, Khloe Mathews, Laura Mitchell, Emily Moffett, Mason Mooney, Kallyn Moreland, Gary Mullins, Maria Olvera Rodriguez, Cayla Parrish, Nickhil Patel, Wendi Perez, Kailey Sanchez, Elijah Saxon, Lauren Stuard, Hollianna Tassin, Ty Warren, Daria White, Carter Williams, Ryan Wilson, Jacob Ybarra.

Coryell Museum

From Coryell County News, Dec. 23, 1932, Issue No. 1

JANN DWORSKY

Coryell Museum volunteer

Coryell Museum has a copy of the first Coryell County News printed in 1932 and below are stories from the front page.

"Responding to a request from many prominent people over the rural sections of Coryell County and the urging of some of the leading businessmen of Gatesville, we are now placing before you a copy of the first Coryell County News. Take this paper, read it, study its present news sections, and then come to our office and have your name placed upon our rolls as a permanent reader, Sincerely C.W. Roberts, Editor and Owner. Our telephone is #69 and cost is \$1.00 yearly."

Gatesville streets will be lighted with many Christmas lights. In addition to approximately three blocks of colored lights, many of the business houses present a beautiful array of lights and decorations that quickly imbues the visitor with the Christmas spirit. Among the most conspicuous decorations are the large sized Christmas trees well covered with electrical displays at the homes of Fred Prewitt, Robert Arnold, Jr., and The

Bennett Hotel. Wm. Cameron Lumber Co., the Community Natural Gas Company and the Texas-Louisiana Power and Light Company, display miniature Christmas trees that have been erected on the store awnings and covered with electric lights, adding much beauty to the scene.

Fifty families are to be remembered Christmas by working through the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. After a systematic check of all the unemployed, aged and sick of Gatesville, it was revealed that there are approximately 50 families, totaling something like 200 men, women and children, who would appreciate a visit from "Old Santa." After a careful check, it has been found that, in some cases, considerable illness prevailed and medical attention is desired as well as food and clothing.

Fred G. Pruitt, secretary for the Chamber, also states that a general drive is being made for clothing for every age. Anyone may bring clothing to City Hall, where it will be received. Those not having any means of delivery will please call Mr. Prewitt and he will see that someone calls for it.

Actual work is now underway by hauling stone and

other building material to the building site of the J.R. Graham Lumber Company's new and modern fireproof concrete building which will be located on the same lot as now occupied for the past few years, just west of the City Hall building, according to Mr. J.R. Graham Tuesday afternoon when talking to a representative of the Coryell County News. The building will be 35-feet wide and 100-feet long with a similar building on the south side of the same lot while a covered driveway will be in between the two buildings. Mr. Graham only recently added a full line of harness and other farm necessities to his line of building material. (In the 1980s, J.R. Graham Lumber Company building was Coryell Museum's location.)

Come by Coryell Museum and visit our 26,000 square foot building. Our exhibits include: The Madge and Lloyd Mitchell Spur Collection, the Military Room, Doll House Room, School Room, Doctor's Office, and Log Jail Room. We also have a delightful gift shop with many Coryell County authors represented. Our hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.



Coryell Museum and Historical Center

STAFF PHOTO

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

BAPTIST

BETHEL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH: 3835 CR 127, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

BETHEHEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH: Elder, Hugh Montgomery, pastor; Peabody community 5 miles south of Pearl, 4555 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday services - Morning worship 4th Sunday each month at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 and FM 116; Sunday services - Bible study 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH: Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH: Bob Phillips, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 5:30 p.m.

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH: Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.; Wednesday evening services, 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EVANT: Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' and youth Bible study 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FLAT: 9775 TX-36, Gatesville; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Wednesday Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Wednesday Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GATESVILLE: 912 E. Main Street, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OGLESBY: 120 College Ave., Oglesby, Tx 76561; Sunday morning services - Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am; Wednesday evenings - supper at 5:40 pm, Kids & Youth Group 6:00 pm, Prayer meeting 6:00 pm; Jeremy Sanders, Pastor.

GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH: Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 South Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH: A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.

HAY VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH: 3110 Hay Valley Road, off Hwy 36 North. Sunday morning services - Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am. AWANA children's ministry Sunday evening 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Bible Study for men and women on Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

JONESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH: Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 North State Hwy. S, Jonesboro; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.

KING BAPTIST CHURCH: Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH: Royle T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Morning Service 11:00 a.m., Second Service 1:00 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

LIVE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH: Bro. Ken Laney, pastor; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:15 a.m., morning worship 10:30 a.m., Wed. evening Adult, Youth and Children's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH: Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship

Receiving Criticism With an Open Heart

"Whoever scorns instruction will pay for it, but whoever respects a command is rewarded. The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death."
—Proverbs 13:13-14 NIV



Most of us chafe at criticism, especially if it is delivered bluntly and concerning matters which hit close to home. We are also prone to bristle if the person is criticizing us on moral matters and isn't him- or herself a model of rectitude. But if we really want to improve then we should strive to find the kernel of truth in every criticism. We often take instruction and criticism to be inherently negative, but if it enables us to improve in some way then there is really something valuable in it. If we can somehow receive it with an open heart and genuinely thank the person giving it to us, then they are more likely to do us the favor of correcting future errors as well. We live in an era where everyone expects to get an A in their classes and a trophy for their athletic efforts, and so honest criticism is often lacking, and the result is that a lot of mediocre performances get high marks and many have lost the ability to receive instruction and criticism graciously. There is some grain of truth in almost every criticism, so seek to learn from it. — Christopher Simon

11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7:00 p.m. Wednesday.

OSAGE BAPTIST CHURCH: Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH: 2082 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday morning worship 10 a.m.

PECAN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH: 6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

PIDCOKE BAPTIST CHURCH: Donald McConnaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship service 11 a.m. www.pidcokebaptist.com

PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH: Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro, TX; Sunday school at 10 a.m. and Sunday worship at 11 a.m.

PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL: One mile north of Evant, Hwy. 281; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

PURMELA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: 875 FM-932, Purmela; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

SWEET HOME BAPTIST CHURCH: 511 North 14th, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday morning worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday services - Wednesday evening worship 7 p.m.

SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH: Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Drive, Gatesville; Sunday Services; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH: Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor; 1506 West Main, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m. Wednesday night services - activities for adults, youth, and children 6:30 p.m. Email: trinitybctx2@centurylink.net. Church: 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.

TURNERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH: Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.

WESTVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH: Interim Pastor: Eddie Taylor; 1102 West Main Street, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

WHITE HALL BAPTIST CHURCH: Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship services 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.

WHITE MOUND BAPTIST CHURCH: Bruce Cox, pastor. Sun. services - Sun. School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m. 642 CR 320. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558. **MOUND COWBOY CHURCH** Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday services - morning worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday of the month at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558. For more info. and location, call 254-865-5908.

CATHOLIC
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH: Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12:00 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. and Wednesday through Friday at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
CEDAR RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST: Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday services - Morning worship 10 a.m., evening

worship 6 p.m.

EVANT CHURCH OF CHRIST: Will Vann, Preacher; 310 West Brooks Drive, Evant; Sunday services-Bible Study 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:20 a.m., evening worship 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST: 4605 St. Hwy. 36 South, Gatesville; Sunday services - Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST: Justin Hall, minister; 2417 East Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.

LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO: 2413 East Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.

MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST: 1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove, TX 76522; Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Worship; Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. Bible Study; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.

PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST: 6790 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday services - morning worship 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF GOD
CORNERSTONE, Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Road, Gatesville; Sunday services - morning worship 11 a.m. www.facebook.com/pages/cornerstone/140632994733

LUTHERAN
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH: David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd. in Copperas Cove; Sunday morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH: Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Gatesville, Coryell City; Sunday services - Morning worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH: Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 and FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday services - Sunday School 9 a.m., worship 10:15 a.m.

METHODIST
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FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF GATESVILLE: 2600 E. Main Street, Gatesville; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship - 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children and Adult Bible Studies at 6:00 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. Visit us at fumcgatesville.org for more information.

OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College Street, Oglesby; Sunday services - morning worship 9:00 a.m.

PIDCOKE METHODIST CHURCH: Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy. 116 North, Pidcoke; Worship service Sundays at 10 a.m. 254-677-6242.

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CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH: Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 West; Sunday services, 10:30 a.m.;

Thursday services, 7:00 p.m.

CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH: Daniel Crowther, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday Worship services 9am & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6pm; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry and C3 Student Ministry.

CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH: Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11:00 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; (254) 218-5901.

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HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH: Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th Street, Gatesville, 865-6222. Sunday morning worship 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6:00 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC and state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Sundays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. aqui se reune La Iglesia de Cristo, in the 2400 Block of East Main Street, Gatesville.

LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: Peter M. Mafwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 10:45 am.

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans rout Houston Christian, 49-7, close football season at 6-5

Tarleton Sports Information

The reclassification period from NCAA Division II to Division I is one of the toughest things any program can face. Tarleton State University football Texans made it look easy.

The Texans crushed Houston Christian 49-7 on Saturday at Memorial Stadium in the 2022 season finale to finish 6-5 on the year, completing their third straight winning season to start their reclassification period. They are just the fourth program since 2004 to start that period with three straight winning seasons, joining habitual national champion North Dakota State, playoff regulars South Dakota State, and oft-successful Central Arkansas.

In fact, Tarleton's .567 winning percentage since the reclassification period began is the fifth best winning percentage among schools done with reclassification or with a year left in that same time frame.

Credit head coach Todd Whitten and his staff for continually fielding winning teams without shying away from tough opponents, as they take on more and more Division I programs every year, including the No. 4 ranked team in the College Football Playoff this year, TCU.

Now with 2022 in the

books, Tarleton looks ahead to next season. That will be the Texans' final year of the reclassification period.

Perhaps the best part is that the largest statistical contributors on the TSU football team are young players.

Quarterback Beau Allen, a redshirt freshman, neared 3,000 passing yards on the year after passing for 207 yards and three touchdowns on Saturday. It was his fourth 3+ touchdown game of the season, totaling 23 on the year, the most in the Western Athletic Conference.

Also on Saturday, Tarleton had a 1,000 yard rusher, a 1,000 yard receiver, and another receiver reach double-digit TD numbers. Sophomore Derrel Kelley III exploded for 239 yards on 24 carries (10.0 yards per rush) and two touchdowns, going for 1,004 yards (6.5 yards per carry) and eight touchdowns this season. His 239 yards are the fourth most rushing yards in a single game in program history, just 30 short of the all-time mark.

Sophomore wide receiver Darius Cooper had another big day with six catches for

155 yards and a score to finish with 1,063 yards on 54 receptions, plus nine touchdowns this year. Junior wide receiver Jaden Smith caught his team-leading 10th touchdown of the year in the game, going for 48 catches and 822 yards total.

Of course, Tarleton had major contributors out of their senior class, who they celebrated with a pregame ceremony on Senior Day. Saturday marked the last collegiate game for Zechariah Hopkins, Mookie Douglas, Gabe Douglas, Michael Irons, Donovan Banks, Blaine Hoover, Antoine Ware, Audley Isaacs Jr., Jaicorius Johnson, Segun Ijiyera, Kendall Dearth, Austin Whitehead, Shawn McFarland and Dionte Brooks, all integral members of the program.

On the third play of the game, junior defensive back Josh Kemp picked off HCU QB Justin Fomby and returned it 26 yards for the touchdown less than a minute into the game. That was Kemp's first career interception and his first touchdown.

Tarleton then forced a three-and-out to put the offense on the field for the first time, and the Texans had no issue marching down the field quickly, going 69 yards in four plays, with Kelley scoring his first of two scores from five yards out. Just like that, four minutes in, Tarleton led 14-0.

The Texans ended the first quarter up 28-0, with an Al-

len to Smith two-yard touchdown near the five-minute mark, followed by Banks' second pick-six of the year, his team-leading fourth interception of the season. Banks returned this interception 30 yards for the TD.

The only time HCU (2-9 overall, 1-5 SLC) threatened to score the entire game was aided by Tarleton, who muffed a punt to put the Huskies at the Texans' 34-yard line at the start of the second quarter. Fomby found Deuce McMillan for a 24-yard TD connection to make it 28-7 Tarleton. Other than that, it was pure domination for the purple and white.

Cooper caught a 14-yard touchdown from Allen late in the second quarter to send Tarleton to the locker room with a 35-7 lead after a 13-play, 98-yard drive. In the third, Allen found DeJuan Miller in the end zone from three yards out, Miller's first Tarleton touchdown in his third game played this season. That touchdown was set up by Kelley, who broke free for an 83-yard run to the Huskies' 7-yard line. He'd finish the deal later in the third for his second touchdown, a three-yard scamper. At 239

game in hand, he did not play the final quarter. Tarleton mostly coasted in the fourth quarter with a 42-point lead, getting others some run in the last game.

Defensively, Hoover and Bryson Collins each forced a fumble, and Ijiyera and Zach Strong each recovered a fumble, giving Tarleton four takeaways on the day.

Tarleton outgained HCU in total yardage 516-135, forcing Houston Christian to -21 rushing yards. Repeat - negative 21 rushing yards. That's

COURTESY PHOTO BY JOSEPH DUFFRAIN, TARLETONSPORTS.COM

SEASON FINALE: Tarleton State University's Texans overwhelmed Houston Christian by a 49-7 margin on Nov. 19 at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville to close the 2022 season. TSU finished 6-5 on the season, completing its third consecutive winning season to start the Texans' reclassification period.

past 10 years. The Texans raced for a season-high 309 yards on the ground themselves, their most since 347 against Fort Lewis last year on Sept. 11.



Texans top Boston College in Paradise Jam, return with silver medal



TSU Sports Information

One thing seemed obvious about the Tarleton men's basketball team when they played in the Paradise Jam tournament held in the Virgin Islands — the Texans will always keep fighting. The Texans brought home the silver medal, finishing with a 2-1 record overall at the tournament with wins over established NCAA Division I programs Belmont and Boston College, and the loss coming to Drake, the Missouri Valley Conference preseason favorite. The Bulldogs remained undefeated on the year (5-0) with the win.

Freddy Hicks, who earlier in the day was named the WAC Player of the Week, also garnered Paradise Jam 2022 Men's All-Tournament Team honors in another jaw-dropping performance to lead the Texans. Hicks scored a career-high 30 points on 10 of 20 shooting, plus 8 of 11 from the free throw line, just missing out on a double-double with nine rebounds and two steals. His 30 points were the most scored by a Texan in a game over the past two seasons.

"Very deserving," said head coach Billy Gillispie, regarding Hicks receiving All-Tournament Team status. "What a way to debut this season! He is and was everything to us. Had we been able to win the championship, I'm sure he would have been the MVP. He's a great young man that only cares about winning and playing for his teammates and Tarleton. What a joy to coach. Congrats to him!"

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
SILVER MEDAL SECURED: Tarleton State University's men's basketball team (3-2) earned the silver medal on Nov. 21 as the runner-up in the Paradise Jam tournament held in the Virgin Islands. The Texans won two of their three games in the tournament, taking down established NCAA Division I programs Belmont and Boston College. TSU's loss in the tournament was to 5-0 Drake, the Missouri Valley Conference preseason favorite.

Hicks entered Monday the eighth leading scorer across all of Division I at 23.5 points per game. With his 30 points, he's now at 25.7 points and 7.7 rebounds per game, shooting 54.1 percent from the floor.

Drake got off to a hot start in the title bout, going up 6-0 and then 9-3 while clamping down defensively. Tarleton remained calm after the first timeout and tied it 9-9. The two teams went back-and-forth most of the first half, all the way down to around four minutes remaining and the Bulldogs leading 25-22. Drake ended the half on a 10-3 run to lead by double figures at halftime, 35-25.

The three-point line was the difference in the first 20 minutes, as Drake made 6 of 11 (.546) from beyond the arc, 12 of 24 overall from the floor. Tarleton got plenty of good looks in the first half but just couldn't get them to fall, a change of pace from their previous games, something they had to work through coming out of the locker room.

And work through they did. Down 10, 45-35, with under 14 minutes remaining, a game-changing sequence occurred. First Shakur Daniel made a tough layup, then on the other end, Drake seemingly had a dunk, but the ball clanged off the rim. Tarleton grabbed it and hustled down the floor, leading to a Jakorie Smith three-ball that sparked the energy in the team and the gym, showing Tarleton wasn't going to go away so easily.

Drake responded with a jumper after a timeout, but Hicks buried a three right back to get within four. The Bulldogs then led 51-45 before Tarleton made another run. Hicks made two free throws, the Texans got a stop, Hicks made another bucket, and then Tiger Booker stole the ball and immediately finished a quick layup to tie the game 51-51 with 7:20 left. Drake, an established D1 program in their own right, kept their composure and took control back from there, ultimately winning by seven to take the Paradise Jam crown.

"The Paradise Jam was a tremendous experience for the Tarleton Texans," said Gillispie. "We got to play against three really good teams on a neutral court and the competition was great for our team as we progress through the season towards conference play."

For the game, Tarleton didn't have an issue with turnovers (11 compared to 17 forced of Drake), but they were outshot 19 of 39 (.487) to 22 of 59 (.373). Drake kept Tarleton at bay late by making their free throws, going 25 of 31 (.806) from the stripe.

"Our players enjoyed the experience both on the court and in the ocean," added Gillispie. The venue was great and the people here were extremely friendly."

Smith was Tarleton's second leading scorer at nine points, adding five rebounds. Daniel finished with six points, three rebounds and three assists. Shamir Bogues had four steals and two blocks in 24 minutes, while Booker led the bench with eight points on 3 of 6 shooting and three assists in 21 minutes.

Drake's Tucker DeVries, the Paradise Jam MVP, had 22 points on a perfect night shooting (5-5 FG, 4-4 3PT, 8-8 FT), adding eight rebounds, two steals and two blocks. Four of Drake's starters scored in double figures, including Garrett Sturtz, who had the game's lone double-double at 13 points (4-7 FG, 5-5 FT), 11 rebounds and three assists.

"It couldn't have gone better for our program, other than winning the championship, and I believe the faithful fans that were able to attend had a great experience as well," commented Gillispie. "Our players are extremely grateful for the Texan faithful and hope that we will fill up Wisdom Gym on Nov. 29, when perennial Big Sky champion Weber State visits. It can be the most special Division I, non-conference opponent that has visited Wisdom Gymnasium. Let's make it special! These guys deserve a sellout and will represent you well."

The Texans will return from paradise with two large non-conference games looming. On Saturday, the Texans will be at Wichita State for a rematch, tip-off set for 3 p.m. CT. On Tuesday, Nov. 29, the Texans return to Wisdom Gym for the first time in nearly three weeks for one of their toughest non-conference home games in the history of the program. Tarleton will face Weber State at 7 p.m. CT, and will look to pack the house by hosting "White Out Wisdom" with 500 free T-shirts going to attendees.

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- Nurse Aide - FT
- Admissions Clerk (Sat & Sun) - PT
- Admissions Clerk - FT & PRN
- Pharmacy Technician - FT
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- 0.87 Acres, 2 Br, 2 Ba Home, Gustine TX, 2 car attached carport, 2 living areas. 1 water well, metal build with concrete slab. \$154,900
- 2/1 brick home, 560 W. Hwy. 84, Evant, TX, recently painted, updated shower, garage/workshop, fenced in backyard, utility shed-boat shed. \$169,500
- 1.064 Acres, 4/2 Doublewide Home, 509 W. Brooks Dr., Evant, TX. Open floor plan, fireplace, kitchen island, garden tub, walk-in closet, 2 car carport, shed. \$182,500
- 8.5 Acres, 2 Br, 2 Ba Home, Gustine TX, 2 car attached carport, 2 living areas. 1 water well, metal build with concrete slab & an older wooden barn. \$255,000
- 10.01 acres east of Evant, TX. Lot 8 Phase 5 Rio Escondido Subdivision, good tree cover, rolling terrain, great views to build a home, gated subdivision. \$119,900
- 10.01 acres north of Evant, TX. Lot 85 Phase 4 Rio Escondido, Rolling Terrain, Good tree cover, good views. \$129,500
- 10.01 acres west of Hamilton, TX, CR 607. Electricity, great views, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover. Lot no. 1 in the Bluff View Subdivision. \$139,500
- 10.01 Acres, Lot 20 Phase 4 Rio Escondido north of Evant, TX. Good tree cover, great views. \$150,000
- 10.01 Acres, Lot 28 Phase 4 Rio Escondido north of Evant, TX. Good tree cover, great views. \$200,000
- 10.01 acres, Evant, TX, Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Lot No. 53. Langford Branch, Nice Home Site, scattered tree cover, native pasture \$225,000
- 11 +/- acres at Arnett, TX in Coryell County. Good tree cover, nice home site, the property will need to be fenced on the east boundary. You will need to drill a water well for water. \$179,500
- 11.64 acres 3/2 home south of Evant, TX in Coryell County. Nice porch, large master Br and Bath, barn, workshop, seasonal creek, Hwy. 281 frontage. \$850,000
- 20.02 acres, Evant, TX, CR 421, Hamilton County, Lot No. 21, Mulberry Creek, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$250,000
- 21 acres south of Evant TX, CR 154 W, Coryell County, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, good views, electricity running across the property. \$252,000
- 25 acres west of Purlmea, TX on CR 181. Stock tank, good exterior fencing on 3 sides, 1 side will need to be fenced, coastal and native grasses. \$275,000
- 25.06 acres Pottsville, TX Hamilton County, Paloma Vista Subdivision Lot 31, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, great views. \$275,000
- 33.43 acres, near Coryell City, Coryell County, FM 929 & CR 260 frontage, rolling terrain, good views. \$295,000
- 36 +/- acres west of Evant, TX, Hamilton County. Scattered tree cover & rolling terrain, Fiber Optic Internet Service, you will need to drill a water well. \$387,000
- 47.332 ac. south of Ireland, TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, good fencing on 3 sides, southside will need to be fenced. \$395,000
- 50.07 acres 8 miles south of Evant TX, Coryell County CR 154, rolling terrain, good tree cover and good views. \$425,000
- 50.28 acres 8 miles south of Evant TX, Coryell County CR 154, rolling terrain, good tree cover, good views, electricity on northeast corner of property. \$425,000
- 50.24 Acres, 3/2.5 home, 2171 CR 419, Evant, TX, rolling terrain, 40% being good tree cover, the remaining balance being open pasture, great views. \$675,000
- 52.73 Acres, 3/2.5 barn/minihome, 1197 CR 404, Hamilton, TX. Water well, metal building, nice porch, good tree cover, rolling terrain. 2 tanks, good fences. \$899,000
- 68.9 Acres, 3/2.5 rock home, 101 Mac Dr., Gatesville, TX, approx. 2900 ft of Leon River frontage, ceramic tile floors, carpet in the bedrooms, vaulted ceiling, rock fireplace, granite countertops, breakfast bar, garden tub, metal building approx. 45 ft x 24 ft, older barn approx. 50 ft. x 30 ft., cattle pens, 1 stock tank, approx. 48 acres of coastal. \$1,375,000
- 74.264 acres west of Purlmea, TX. FM 1241 & CR 181, stock tank, barn, cattle pens, good exterior fencing, approx. 65 acres w/coastal & native grasses. \$556,980
- 88.007 acres, 36 ft. Travel Trailer, 25 ft. x 30 ft. metal barn, Electricity, 1 tank, seasonal branch, water well, scattered tree cover, good hunting. \$720,000
- 100.054 acres 8 miles south of Evant TX, Coryell County, rolling terrain, good tree cover, good views, electric on property. \$850,000
- 105 acres south of Pearl, TX on Self Rd. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, small branch, barn, rain harvest system, \$743,775
- 179.562 acres 1.6 miles south of Gatesville, TX, FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. \$1,230,000
- 252.87 Acres, 3 Br, 2 Ba home, open floor plan, wood burning fireplace, breakfast bar, ceramic tile in kitchen, breakfast area & bathrooms. Laminite wood flooring in living room & carpet in 2 bedrooms, inground pool with slab that was poured for a future outdoor kitchen, 3 car attached carport with 12 ft. x 13 ft. storage building, a 60 ft. x 66 ft. metal building with 24 ft. x 60 ft. lean-to, there is also approx. 900 sq. ft. that has been framed out for living quarters inside the main part of the building, good exterior & interior fencing, set of cattle pens near the center of the property, rolling terrain with scattered tree cover and great views. \$2,150,000

CLASSIFIEDS

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JO ANN HEATON, DECEASED
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF JO ANN HEATON, DECEASED, were issued on November 4, 2022, in Cause No. 22-10731, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas to JAMES HEATH COLEMAN as Independent Executor. Claims may be presented to the Independent Executor at the following address:
 Representative, Estate of Jo Ann Heaton
 c/o Drew Popelka
 6173 W. Adams Ave., Ste. C-201
 Temple, Texas 76502
 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
 Dated this the 7th day of November, 2022.
 Popelka Law Firm, PLLC
 6173 W. Adams Ave., Ste. C-201
 Temple, Texas 76502
 By: Drew Popelka
 State Bar No. 24013345
 Attorney for Independent Executor
 00029748

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MICHAEL LANE TIPPIT, Deceased, were issued on October 17, 2022, in Cause No. 22-10735, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: MARTY LANE TIPPIT.
 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
 c/o: MARTY LANE TIPPIT
 117 N. 29th Street
 Gatesville, Texas 76528
 DATED the 21 day of November, 2022.
 James Rainey
 Attorney for MARTY LANE TIPPIT
 State Bar No.: 00791473
 3809 West Waco Drive
 Waco, Texas 76710
 Telephone: (254) 752-8644
 Facsimile: (254) 752-8624
 00029767



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

First Methodist Church representatives are asking that residents prepare their hearts for the holiday season as the First Methodist Chancel Choir, joined by

other talented singers in the community, perform Glorious Impossible on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. in the church sanctuary.
 The musical, written by

Russell Mauldin, sings of the miracle of Christmas. The director will be Charles Ament, accompanied by Rosemary Whittle and soloist Mary Kafer.

Admission will be free. First Methodist Church is located at 2600 E. Main Street in Gatesville.

Turnersville Cemetery Association to meet Dec. 6

The Turnersville Cemetery Association will have its fourth quarterly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. The cemetery association holds public quarterly

meetings in March, June, September and December, with additional called meetings needed in preparation for Homecoming.
 The public's attendance

at meetings, the hard work done when called upon, and all the support given to the Turnersville community make it a great place to live and be a part of.

For more information about the quarterly meeting of the Turnersville Cemetery Association, contact Debra Conlin at 254-496-1055.

Legacy Comes to Life

Cathryn Howard Coffman: Faith, family, pioneer spirit

EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of Cathryn Howard Coffman is told by her great-great-grandson Gerry Gieger. Gerry is a member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas and serves as President of the E.M. Daggett Chapter in Fort Worth.

dren: James (b. 1821); Eliza (b. 1823); Nancy (b. 1825); Seabern Joseph (b. 1828); Martha Jane (b. 1830); William Washington (b. 1832); Andrew Jackson (b. 1835); Amanda (b. 1837); Mary Frances (b. 1839); Jacob Warren (b. 1842), and an unnamed baby was born in 1827 but it only lived eight days.



COURTESY PHOTO

MOTHER AND PIONEER: Cathryn Howard Coffman is buried beside her husband in the old Bluff Cemetery between Detroit and Bagwell, Texas in Red River County.

I am Cathryn (Howard) Coffman, daughter of Baldwin and Elizabeth (Birdsong) Howard. My family called me "Caty." I was born Dec. 17, 1801, in that portion of East Tennessee that became Jefferson County. During my childhood, I attended school and learned to read and write. Primarily, our textbook was the Holy Bible.

The night of Nov. 3, 1833, I saw the Seven Stars Falling. The shower of meteors was so bright that the roosters started crowing and the chickens came off the roost, thinking it was dawn. The Leonid Meteor Shower, as it came to be called, was an event that caused thousands of people to repent and call out to God for forgiveness of their sins, thinking that the end was here.

Seabern, cut trees and lashed the logs into rafts, which made a pretty good ferry. Lovell made a good sum of money floating all the families with us across the river. We traveled in groups to discourage attacks by renegade Indians and highwaymen.

My third son, William Washington, was run over by a wagon and crippled. My oldest son, James, was deaf and mute, caused by the scream of a panther. My second son, Seabern Joseph, went to California to search for gold during the gold rush. My fourth and fifth sons, Andrew and Jacob, died in service to the Confederate States of America.

Before I reached womanhood, my family relocated to Madison County, Alabama. On Nov. 16, 1820, one month before my 20th birthday, I married Lovell Coffman, the first son of Elder Jacob Marion and Nancy (Walker) Coffman.

Many families were moving westward, and we determined to join them. Since my husband was a skilled wagon maker, we had a great wagon and no worries about repairs when we traveled. We started our pilgrimage west from New Market, Alabama toward Memphis, Tennessee where we crossed the Mississippi River. Our wagon was pulled by a team of fine oxen and our lead horse was a big plus for our travels.

When we reached the Red River, we were in IT (Oklahoma), although we thought we were in Miller County, Arkansas. We crossed at old Jonesboro, because there was a ford, and found John Robbins' settlement Robbinsville (Extinct), a few miles south. My husband thought it was a good place to settle so he bought 300 acres from Ice (Isham) Ferris and traded a wagon to John Robbins for 300 more. Both Robbins and Ferris were early Texas pioneer settlers. My husband built a large home for our family. In addition to farming, he made wagons from the fine white oak timber, which made excellent wheels and axles.

My husband was a good wagon maker but also a good wagoner. Lovell hauled freight from the river boats near Jefferson in Marion County to Bonham (Fannin County) and Sherman (Grayson County). On his final trip in 1866, he was robbed and murdered by highwaymen while waiting for a river boat to arrive. After his death, I continued to live in Red River County near my children until I died in 1884. I was buried beside my husband in the old Bluff Cemetery between Detroit and Bagwell, Texas in Red River County.

Elder Coffman had also migrated his family from Jefferson County Tennessee to Alabama. My father-in-law was a Primitive Baptist preacher, and we subscribed to the Baptist faith. He owned and operated a grist mill.

We replenished our provisions of flour and meal, lard, dried pork, and hardtack as best available. We traveled about 15 to 18 miles per day along the Military Road through Arkansas. Following the Western Trail, after Little Rock, was good traveling but we had to stop about every three days to allow the animals to rest and forage. All the walking made our goat go dry, so milk was virtually nonexistent.

I taught my daughters to cook, wash clothes, keep clean homes, grow a garden for fresh vegetables and raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. We canned in the summer to have food in the win-

In 2006, my descendants along with The Daughters of the Republic of Texas and The Sons of the Republic of Texas placed a Citizen of the Republic of Texas seal on my grave.



Cathryn "Caty" Howard Coffman

Christmas with the Chamber to be held Dec. 10

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will be holding a day-long event called "Christmas with the Chamber" on Saturday, Dec. 10.

The year's theme is "'Tis the reason for the season!"

The chamber for individual or family photos. There will be activities for the kids, as well as hot chocolate, hot apple cider and coffee will be served for one dollar each.

The Elf movie will be showing, and everyone is encouraged to wear a Christmas sweater.

The day will begin with Chamber Market Days from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and will be located at the chamber depot. The Christmas Parade will commence at 10 a.m. and will start behind H-E-B. This

In order to be entered into the ugly sweater contest you must have your photo taken anytime from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the chamber.

Christmas with the Chamber will end with a Christmas Family Night Sweater Party. The party will be at the chamber from 6 - 9 p.m.

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is located at 2307 S. Highway 36 in Gatesville. For further information contact The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.

Christmas Celebration at Hospitality House

The Central Texas Hospitality House will host their Christmas Celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

nutcracker exhibit, a bounce house, live music, door prizes, refreshments, a tour of the Central Texas Hospitality House, and a live Christmas story with a free give-away for the kids.

tation is given as an appreciation celebration with the Gatesville community, families, and surrounding areas for their support of the Central Texas Hospitality House.

pitality House is located at 708 Highway 36 in Gatesville. For more information, contact 254-404-2260 or email cthospitalityhouse@gmail.com.

The celebration will include various family activities. There will be a special

The Christmas Celebration

The Central Texas Hos-

Blue Ridge Cemetery Assn to hold fundraiser

The Blue Ridge Cemetery Association will be having a fundraising sale on Friday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 8 a.m. until noon. Blue Ridge Cemetery Association serves Hamilton

County and the Blue Ridge Community. The chapel is in need of repair, so they will be selling tools and donated items to raise funds to finish the work they've started on the chapel.

place at 151 Blue Ridge Church Road in Hamilton. The fundraising sale will be held as an "everything must go" event and no offers will be refused on miscellaneous items. Those wishing to donate can send their checks

to Blue Ridge Cemetery Association, 506 S. Williams, Hamilton, TX 76531.

For more information, contact Judy Brizendine at BRCA76531@hotmail.com.

Hornet girls battle past Whitney in OT



The Gatesville Hornet girls basketball team includes (from left) Paige Sentillas, Aliyah Trotter, Kylie Cox, Alanda Wimberly, Kamryn Higginbotham, Taylor Coward, Emma Pollard, Laura Trejo, Kagen Hunt and Tamiah Miller. COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville improves its record to 4-2 heading into Glen Rose tournament

Heading into the Glen Rose Tournament Dec. 1-3, the Gatesville Hornets girls basketball team compiled a 4-2 record following a hard-fought 48-45 overtime win over the Whitney Wildcats in a Nov. 29 home game.

Taylor Coward led Gatesville with 19 points and 11 re-

bounds. Kagen Hunt scored nine points for GHS followed by Tamiah Miller with eight.

In earlier action, the Hornets fell to the Lorena Leopards, 48-29 on Nov. 21, defeated the Troy Lady Trojans, 49-33, on Nov. 18, outpaced the Belton Lady Tigers 48-34 on Nov. 15

and fell to the San Saba Lady Armadillos 57-28.

The season-opener was a 55-14 Gatesville win over Live Oak Classical School.

(Alex Meelbusch and Jeff Osborne contributed to this report).

Oglesby Volleyball



COURTESY PHOTO

2022 LADY TIGERS: The Oglesby High School varsity volleyball team members include (top row, from left), head coach Amanda Martin, and players Victoria Cardenas, Addison Hamilton, Matti Dixon, Lacie Luckie, Hailey Meyers and assistant coach Kara Helms. Bottom row, from left, are Charolette Ritchie, Alyssa Castillo and Andrea Licea Perez.

Lady Tigers named to All District team

The recently announced all-district selections for the Oglesby High School Lady Tigers team include:

Co-Offensive MVP: Matti Dixon
Co-Defensive MVP: Lacie Luckie
First-team all-district: Hailey Meyers, Alyssa Castillo, and Andrea Licea-Perez.

Second-team all-district: Addison Hamilton, Charolette Ritchie, and Victoria Cardenas.

The Lady Tigers finished district play in second place with wins over Aquilla and Gholson, and advanced to the first round of the playoffs. They finished with a 17-11 season record with a district mark of 4-2.

"This is the first earned playoff berth and we are super excited for the future of the program," head volleyball coach Amanda Martin said.

Evant Volleyball



COURTESY PHOTO

2022 LADY ELKS: Members of the 2022 Evant volleyball team include Luwi Rodriguez, Isabel Gandy, Haylie Dryden, Molly Waldrum, Bree Ramirez and Haylie Dryden, Jolyce Acosta, Harley Weeks and Izzy Gandy.

Lady Elks named to All District team

Evant High School has announced the District 16-A All District members of the Lady Elk volleyball team. The Lady Elks finished with a 16-9 record, including a 4-0 district performance. They advanced to the area playoff round. The Lady Elks are coached by JoAnna Vaden.

Here are the Evant players who earned all-district honors:

Most Valuable Player - Harley Weeks

Offensive MVP - Molly Waldrum
Defensive MVP - Luwi Rodriguez
Best Setter - Bree Ramirez
1st Team All-District - Isabel Gandy, Hailey Neri
Honorable Mention - Jolyce Acosta
Evant Academic All-District - Izzy Gandy
Bree Ramirez, Luwi Rodriguez, Molly Waldrum, Harley Weeks

Oglesby Junior High Tigers fall to JJHS

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing writer

The Oglesby Junior High School Tigers dropped two basketball games to Jonesboro on Nov. 28.

The Oglesby B team fell, 24-5. Blayze Fisher was the lone scorer for Tigers, scoring five points, and adding two rebounds and one steal. Logan Ewing had five rebounds for the Tigers.

The Oglesby A team fell by a 26-12 count

to the Jonesboro Eagles. The Tigers continued to be plagued by turnovers. Holdyn Goff scored five points for the Tigers, and also contributed one assist and one blocked shot. Jaxon Howard hit three free throws, and had seven rebounds and one steal. Jaxon Markum scored two points, and recorded four rebounds and one steal. Mason Marquez scored two points and had five rebounds.

The Tigers scheduled to host Abbott starting at 6 p.m. on Dec. 5.

Area Fishing Report

Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 12.93 feet low. The 15-day water temperature decline was halted at the top of the week after a few days wherein the air temperature was warmer than the water temperature. This stable warming trend allowed the white bass fishing to bounce back a bit, putting half-day trip fish counts back around the 100 fish mark. The wet, cold conditions on November 25-26 brought down a great number of gulls which are now helping pave the way to finding fish for at least an hour or so each morning.

With the water temperature now right around 60 degrees, the white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab with stinger

hook has now begun to outperform the MAL Lure as the go-to lure for white bass and hybrid stripers. Working this lure vertically with a moderate cadence from the bottom upwards through the lower third of the water column has been the most effective approach this week. Thanks to the Thanksgiving week-end rains, Lake Belton added a much needed half foot of water and is still rising very slowly. Catfish are good pulling planer boards with fresh cut shad, freshwater drum or buffalo in mid lake flats near the river channel in 20-40 feet of water.

Stillhouse Hollow

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 10.61 feet low. White bass fishing at Stillhouse has moder-

ated and will likely stay "just OK" between now and late December, then pick up once again in January and February when the water drops below 58 degrees, high number of gulls arrive, fish begin to consolidate into large schools, and the fish begin to relate to near-channel topography.

The white bass bait of choice is now the Bladed Hazy Eye Slab with stinger hook. Days with winds from a southerly component and pre-frontal weather days are excellent. Calm, clear, cold post-frontal conditions are to be avoided. Some light, helpful bird activity materialized this past week thanks to a big push of migrating gulls which came in with the rain and cold on November 25-26.

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Senior Banner Allman takes a shot for the Hornets, who had a 4-1 record heading into the Salado Tournament.

SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

Hornet boys basketball enjoys its best start since 2008

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

Thanks to a 79-57 win over Little River Academy on Tuesday, Gatesville basketball is off to a 4-1 start, their best stretch to open a season since 2008.

Since starting 2-0 the Hornets have won two of their last three, beating Little River Academy and Lampasas by double digits while dropping a 59-55 contest to state-ranked Lorena just before Thanksgiving. All four wins this season have avenged 2021 losses against those same opponents.

Five Hornets scored in double digits in the Hornets home win over the Bumblebees. Tyler Shea and West Allman each had 14 while Carter Williams and Banner Allman scored 13 points apiece. Rayshon Smith added 12.

For Williams it was his highest scoring output and the best all-around game the senior has played so far this season. He added seven assists and notched four steals in the win.

"I thought Carter played well and made some big plays. He also did a great job all night defensively," head coach Brit Campbell said. "Nice to have five guys score double digits in a great team win."

Junior guard Trae Miller also turned in a stellar night picking up eight rebounds, six assists, and three steals to go along with six points. He had just one turnover. For the game, the Hornets had just ten turnovers against Academy's consistent full court defense.

"I liked a lot of things we did. Great transition offense, controlled the glass, and took care of the ball pretty well," Campbell said.

Like they have in all four of their wins, the Hornets benefitted from a pair of extended runs.

In the second quarter they turned an 18-12 lead into a 44-29 halftime advantage. That lead ballooned to 50-29 early in the third quarter before Academy ripped off a run of



COURTESY OF GHS YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Trae Miller races past an Academy defender in the Hornets victory over the Bumblebees.

their own.

The Bees closed the third quarter on a 7-0 run then scored the first bucket of the fourth to cut the lead to 57-47. They closed to within ten again at 64-54 before the Hornets finished the game with a 15-3 run.

"We stepped up and made big plays down the stretch to put them away. It's nice to see that kind of finish," Campbell said.

The Hornets currently have a six-man rotation that sees the bulk of their minutes but against Academy, foul trouble meant extended minutes for Kase Cox. The sophomore responded with six points and three rebounds.

The Hornets bench is likely to see more time as Gatesville heads to Salado for tournament play and a stretch of five games in three days. Campbell sees it as an opportunity for improvement for his team - both in the standings and in developing his reserves.

"We want to go win it but it is also great to be able to play a lot of games and have others guys step up and get some great experience without having much preparation," he said.

The Hornets offensive versatility was on display in the win over their former district rival Lampasas as they had their third different leading scorer in their first four games. Shea was virtually unstoppable with 23 points and 13 rebounds and also led in scoring and rebounding against Lorena.

"We have multiple guys who can be our

leading scorer and get 20 points a game. The other guys, they're not mad about it and it's going to change depending on what other teams do. So it's really nice as a coach to not worry about who the actual guy is because they can't take away just one guy," Campbell said.

Most of Shea's offensive attack came by land as he scored in transition, out of sets, and on putbacks. But he also attacked by air.

Up 40-35 to start the second half, senior Trae Miller split a double team, got into the paint, and floated a lob that Shea threw down sending the holiday Hornet crowd into a frenzy. It was one of seven assists for the junior guard.

"Trae's been begging for that play. I thought it was a perfect way to go start the second half to try and go get a lob alley-oop dunk. That kind of got us going in the third quarter," Campbell said.

The Hornets allowed just 22 second half points against Lampasas after giving up 19 in the first quarter. On the season, they are giving up just over 49 points per game while averaging 73.

"Typically our defense drives our offense. When we have solid defense that transfers over to offense that is what helps generate our runs," Campbell said.

In addition to Shea's double-double, Banner Allman continued his steady all-around

play. The senior guard had 18 points and 13 rebounds - including eight on the offensive glass.

"He can play every position offensive or defensively. He can be one of our best shooters, one of our best passers, one of the best rebounders, or one of the best defensive players. ... All around he does so many things for us. It's not always noticed by the average fan but people who know the game pick that stuff out. He's a guy who can literally play point guard to post offensively or defensively," Campbell said.

West Allman had 14 in the win over Lampasas while Rayshon Smith had seven. Williams had four points, four rebounds, three assists, and two steals in the win and Cox chipped in two points.

With about a minute to go in their loss to Lorena, it appeared the Hornets would head into the break undefeated. They led 55-54 with 40 second left thanks to a Rayshon Smith free throw but were undone by a pair of turnovers on their final two possessions falling 59-55.

The Hornets led 28-25 at the half and out-rebounded the No. 8 Leopards while forcing 17 turnovers.

Shea led in scoring and rebounding against the Leopards with 15 and 8, respectively. Smith had 14 points while Banner Allman had 13 points, five rebounds, and five steals.



Senior Carter Williams