



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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75¢



SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 120, No. 100, ISSN No. 0894-4954

The passing of a local landmark



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The old Coryell Memorial Hospital located on Lutterloh Street was recently torn down.

Location was built in 1942-43 by WPA

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

What began as a hospital designed to serve the health care needs of Gatesville residents and the surrounding communities is currently in the process of being demolished.

On Sept. 27 of this year, the Coryell County Commissioners Court approved Sierra Demolition of Round Rock to complete demolition, clearing and cleaning of the property located at 207 N. Lutterloh Street. Demolition of the 80-year-old limestone structure recently got underway.

The very first hospital in Gatesville, known as the Milton Powell Memorial Hospital, located in a private residence at the corner of Leon and Fennimore Streets, operated from 1936 until 1939

when it closed due to financial problems. The following year, in 1940, Coryell County voters passed an issue for \$30,000 in bonds to build a county hospital which was to be located on Lutterloh Street.

Construction of the new hospital began in 1942 and was completed in 1943. The building was designed by architects Brooks Pierson of Waco and L.S. Secret of Gatesville. The 34-bed hospital was built primarily with Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor at a cost of around \$60,000 and was constructed using limestone quarried in Coryell County.

Over thirty years later, the county decided to build yet another hospital and, in 1976, held a groundbreaking ceremony at 1507 W. Main Street. The new hos-

pital was dedicated in 1977 and boasted 40,000 square feet.

The old hospital building on Lutterloh was later renovated in 2013 and became a mental health unit. It became known as the Gatesville Center for Central Texas Services and provided treatment for those diagnosed with mental illness.

In recent years, the building had fallen into disrepair and suffered extensive water damage during the winter storm Yuri in 2021. The damage to the floor, walls, and ceiling made it cost prohibitive to repair.

County Judge Roger Miller said that the building's historical significance will not be forgotten. "A lot of us can say that we were born at that hospital. It served our community well and the building has stood for 80 years," Miller said.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The building housed Central County Services before deteriorating. A stone on the structure denotes it was a project of the Works Progress Administration in the early 1940s.

Lions Red Kettle fundraiser drive rings for charity

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign is underway in Gatesville, with the Gatesville Lions Club taking the lead in managing the community outreach program.

Those who visit the Gatesville Walmart between the hours of noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday should see volunteers ringing bells to help raise money that will stay in the community to help local residents.

Through the first four days of the campaign, more than \$1,500 was raised according to Tom Creek, treasurer for the Red Kettle campaign and senior vice president for Extraco Bank.

"All of the money raised through Red Kettle donations in Gatesville stays here locally," Creek said. He added that donations made to the corporate office do not stay in the area, which is all the more reason to contribute through the Red Kettle program.

"I know the money (donated through the Red Kettle Campaign) stays local because I am the one who makes the deposits and writes the checks," Creek said.

Whether the weather is cold and windy or sunny and calm, volunteers can be seen standing duty at the kettle.

"It wasn't easy (because of cold conditions) those first few days," said Jeremy Stills, chairman of the Red Kettle Campaign.

The program will continue through Dec. 23. For those who don't have cash or change to contribute, they can scan a QR code to make a donation.

"It's important to remind people that every single cent contributed stays here," Stills said. "The funds are used to help people who can't pay a utility bill or who need food — anybody in our community who needs help."

There was no local Red Kettle Campaign in 2021, which prompted leaders of the Gatesville Lions Club to step up and revive this program.

Stephen Schmidt, pastor of First Methodist Church in Gatesville and a member of the Gatesville Lions Club and Ministerial Alliance, said when the Red Kettle program for Gatesville was announced earlier this year that it makes a big difference in the community.

"It is vitally important to those who have needs in our community," Schmidt said. "These funds help so many people, and without the Red Kettle Campaign, it makes a significant difference, and not in a good way. These funds are needed to help the community."

Those interested in helping as volunteers can contact Stills at 267-221-7752 or jlse6@yahoo.com.

ESL serves as bridge for some students

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Not being able to speak the same language as everyone else can be a scary and frustrating experience, and throwing that concern into the educational mix can make it an even bigger concern.

Helping to bridge that gap is the Gatesville Independent School District's English as a Second Language program. Julia Martin, the district's ESL coordinator, gave an update on the program's successes and challenges during the November GSD school board meeting.

Students enrolled in the program, referred to as "emergent bilingual" are required to successfully complete the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) test, as required by the state education code.

"My goal is to make them be equal to everybody else in the school," Martin said.

The program is content based, and teachers who are certified ESL instructors play a primary role in helping the students overcome the

PLEASE SEE **ESL** | A2

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Adding Dazzle to area parade



COURTESY OF HELEN GONZALES
Members of the Gatesville High School Dazzlers dance team participated in the Salado Christmas Stroll on Dec. 4.

ESL

FROM PAGE A1

language barrier. "We want our ELA (English language arts) teachers to have ESL certification and we encourage other teachers to be ESL certified as well," Martin said. More than 100 of the district's students participate in the program at various grade levels. "There are four dominions — listening, speaking, reading and writing, and writing is the hardest one (for students to master)," Martin said. "This year for the first time they are including writing just like they did with the STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness)." Of 114 GISD students who most recently took the TELPAS, "34 showed growth, 53 remained the same, eight dropped (their test scores) and 19 were first-time takers," Martin said. "Each year the state likes to make the test a little more challenging. We step up with it and keep working."

A total of 89 GISD teachers are ESL certified. One of the programs used in ESL classes "is incredible and the kids really enjoy it," Martin said. There is a push to get parents involved to help strengthen their children's education, and those efforts have experienced success. "I'm really excited about that (parental involvement) and it's something TEA (the Texas Education Agency) really wants to promote. We have a summer school fiesta to celebrate their accomplishments and Dr. (Barrett) Pollard (the GISD superintendent) was there last year. It was a lot of fun." Martin said there are also regular calls to parents to keep them informed of student progress. "Julia does a great job to help bridge the language barrier," Pollard said. "It's not unusual for her to get a student straight from another country (who does not speak English) and it's not easy." Martin said reaching the ESL community is vital. "They're a community that's super important to me and all of you," she said.

Gatesville Adaptive Sports soccer league offered

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 children 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.



COURTESY PHOTO
Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Campbell passes the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team colors to Col. Christopher Kirkpatrick, commander, 2ABCT, 1st Cavalry Division at his change of responsibility and retirement ceremony Dec. 2 on Cooper Field at Fort Hood.

New command welcomed

FORT HOOD — The 2nd Armored Combat Brigade Team, 1st Cavalry Division, held a change of responsibility ceremony Dec. 2 at Cooper Field. Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Campbell relinquished responsibility of the brigade to Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Adams. For Campbell, the ceremony also marked the end of a military career spanning nearly 30 years. "Gen. Powell once said that "the day Soldiers stop bringing you their prob-

lems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care," said Col. Christopher Kirkpatrick, commander, 2ABCT, 1CD. "Command Sgt. Maj. Campbell never ever stops leading, and in my time as BLACK JACK 6 I have watched an endless parade of Soldiers coming into my battle buddy's office." The change of responsibility is a traditional military ceremony, which included

the outgoing command sergeant major, Campbell passing the brigade colors to Kirkpatrick, who in turn passed them to the incoming command sergeant major, Adams, representing his assumption responsibility for the brigade. "Campbell's passion for sharing what it takes to win in combat never wavered," said Kirkpatrick. "He brought the wisdom of eight deployments in support of some of our nation's toughest missions."



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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnnews.com

General Manager
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

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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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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Lots of changes over the course of 123 years — some good, some not so much



SAM HOUSTON
Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

As I sit to write this column it came to me, today is my grandfather's birthday. Exactly 123 years ago he came into the world. He passed away in 1994, so he had a long and full life. We were always very close, and as thoughts of him stream to the forefront of my mind, I cannot help but think of the life he led and the changes he saw.

Being born in 1899, it was just a mere 23 years earlier that Custer fell at the Little Bighorn. Oklahoma was not yet a state, nor was Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, or Hawaii.

He was born on the family farm where there was no electricity, indoor plumbing or running water. Those three conditions would continue for nearly 50 years until the county was electrified after World War II.

He survived the Spanish flu epidemic, though a sister did not.

He lived through World War I.

He saw the automobile replace the horse as a mode of

transportation.

He survived the Great Depression and witnessed farm prices drop like a rock in a well. He saw men waiting in long lines trying to find work, and families eating in soup kitchens.

He worked six days a week 11 hours a day and ranched after work for additional income to keep a roof over his head and feed his family.

He farmed, with mules pulling the plow, and eventually saw the tractor come into use.

He was 42 years old when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred and served on the Selective Service Board as his county filled the ranks of our nation's military.

He was thrilled with the invention of the radio and fascinated with the advent of television.

He was employed with the county road department and built roads still in use today.

He saw segregation end. He saw men go to the moon and walk upon its surface.

He raised five children and saw them all become successful, responsible citizens.

He was married to the same woman for 73 years, and he respected and appreciated her every single day.

Without question, Granddad saw a lot of changes. Changes in technology and changes in how people act and behave. Wonder what he would think about today?

He enjoyed nothing more than sitting beneath a shade tree, whittling and visiting with friends and neighbors. Not sure what he would have to say about people carrying their phones with them and being so engulfed in the information it has to offer.

He would not understand young women buying jeans that have large holes in them so they could be "stylish" — when he worked to make

sure his girls could afford jeans without holes.

He would be embarrassed for young men who let their pants sag down.

He would be bewildered that people only work a 40-hour week.

I feel like I know what he would have to say about politics. He would be dismayed at the money spent on campaigns and how elected officials seemed to do little about improving the lot of their constituents. He would also shake his head at people who have strong political opinions, but little facts to support or validate their feelings.

He would not understand why there needed to be so much paperwork in the world, and how a man's word ought to be enough to secure any transaction.

He also would not understand why so many people have been married multiple times. He understood relationships could be tough, but that commitment was a huge part of success in life, especially marriage.

He would be particularly confused seeing people fail to take responsibility for themselves and their own actions.

There have been a lot of changes in the past 123 years. Lots of growth, progress and shifting in social norms. Not sure the changes in my lifetime will be as great as those in Granddad's. I do hope that whatever changes come, people stay kind, loving, generous and caring. Those traits should never change.

Thought for the day: There are many ways of going forward, but only one way to stand still.

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

County Clerk, District Clerk office hours to change

The Coryell County Clerk's Office, joined by the District Clerk's Office, will be changing their hours of operation beginning Tuesday, Jan. 3. The County Clerk's office, normally closed for lunch 12-1 p.m., will now remain open. The office will close early at 4:30 p.m. each

weekday. After-hours appointments can be made for

those needing to come in between 4:30 and 5 p.m.

The District Clerk's Office will also remain open during their scheduled lunch hour and will close each day at 4 p.m.

"I think this will be beneficial for all concerned," Coryell County Clerk Jennifer Newton said.



LETTER

School lunches

I read with interest the article about lunches and food for GISD students. I know a hungry child can't be taught lessons in school or anywhere for that matter, even as adults.

Let's go back a bit: what is wrong with a student taking their lunch to school? This could and should be the parents' responsibility. I had a brother who was a finicky eater and every day he took a pressed ham sandwich with mustard on the bread and five pickles and a bag of Fritos; he is still alive, and he made it through school just fine! Of course, "back then" lunches were 20 cents. Mother gave us each 25 cents a day, but he chose to save his money! The extra 5 cents she gave us was for a snack at play time. We could purchase a soda drink or an ice cream. "Oh" the days of the past! Mother got up and cooked the family a good breakfast every day - then off to school we went as she worked away from home as many moms do today.

Another story is one of today's time. My grandson went twelve years to school and graduated quite healthy. He never ate one day in the cafeteria. He took his fruit and veggies and a beverage every day. We have insulated lunch carriers today - my brother took his in his Lone Ranger tin container. There are ways to feed your child. One more true story. My granddaughter took her lunch every day also. She did eat in the cafeteria only on pizza days, so I am wondering why the article in the

paper thought pizza was not so good for a student? I admit not every day, but again - take your lunch on the other days. Buy a milk to go with it. That is much better than charging up to 43 plus dollars and having to pay up at the end of school. Ten dollars doesn't sound bad, but again, nothing is free anymore in my opinion. We have to learn that at some time - especially now!

I know someone is going to write back and start in on this letter, or me - and say something to the effect of what if sack lunch kids are liable to be made fun of as being poor for bringing their lunches. Somebody in supervision should stop that immediately. Why not say "they are eating their favorite food, what's wrong with that?" I can see several teaching moments to this, such as "everyone is an individual and chooses different avenues in everyday life - whether it be food, dress, or jobs. If you can't say something nice, don't say anything. Eat up and be thankful and happy."

I've taught in schools where the sack lunch table was very popular because they got to leave and go outside and play when they were through. Of course, that is probably not on an agenda anymore as someone has to be on duty for that - so that idea is too old fashioned. Like I said - "Oh, back then!"

I taught for many years. Number one, I know children learn best not hungry and I have never wanted anyone to go hungry, especially my students. I used to make

arrangements with the cafeteria ladies to give a child something - a cracker, an apple, a sandwich if I sent one child to them. Kids usually have a snack in their backpack, so actually this didn't happen often. It never bothered me for a child to have a snack mid-morning anyway. I even encouraged it many times, especially if we drew the 12:30 time slot for lunch! Yes, that does happen, believe it or not!

I could tell the story when I taught all subjects to my class; they stayed with me all day - I loved it by the way because I felt we made great progress this way - so what if we took an extra five minutes for reading or math? And there was the year I had 42 students in my room - and no extra desk could be found and the 42nd child shared my desk with me. I told him "Now, you stay on your half," and he said to me, "you stay on your half" and kinda laughed. I deserved that! That was the year I had a right broken arm and learned to use my left, but I got their papers graded every day! So much for BACK THEN remembering. Good luck dear teachers - have a great year; enjoy your students - they will love you, and you them.

My mother taught school forever and she always said that if you help one child at least each year, you are successful. I've never forgotten her philosophy.

Thought for today: All will be fine, don't give up - anyone! Come on parents, do all you can too.

Sandra Tatum
Gatesville

Grace Assembly to host King's Table luncheon on Saturday

Grace Assembly Christian Church invites the community to dine at the Kings Table on Saturday, Dec. 10. The luncheon will begin at 1 p.m. and will continue through 3 p.m.

Grace Assembly will en-

joy lots of food, fellowship, fun, and songs. Lunch will include a main entrée, sides, desserts and beverages.

Appreciation bags will be handed out to the King's guests. It is Grace Assembly's mission to share the

love of Jesus Christ.

Grace Assembly Christian Church is located at 1408 Waco Street in Gatesville. For further information on the luncheon, contact the church at 254-865-6949.

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Chamber Depot

Gatesville Chamber of Commerce - 2307 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville, TX 76528

Reverend Dr. Dewey "Buddy" Wheat speaks to CRSP

MARSHA LEE
Contributing Writer

The monthly meeting for members of Coryell Retired School Personnel was held at Rancher's Steak House on Nov. 17.

The program entitled "Count Your Blessings" was presented by Reverend Dr. Dewey "Buddy" Wheat, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Gatesville since 2010. Born in McAllen, Tex-

as, his family soon moved to Pampa, Texas, which he still feels blessed to call home. After graduation from Pampa High School and West Texas State University, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Field Artillery. His training and education were an ongoing process.

Col. Wheat's career has taken him all over the world to Europe, the Middle East, South America, Asia, and the Pacific Islands. In 1984, he served as a Military Ob-

server with the UN Truce Supervisory Organization in southern Lebanon, during which time he survived three intense firefights and was held prisoner eight hours by the Hezbollah. He was a highly-decorated veteran of three combat deployments: The first was from 1990-91, working with the Pentagon under then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney during Operation Desert Shield (Iraq), leading into Operation Desert Storm (the Gulf War). The second deployment was one week after 9-11 when he began deploying his unit, the 1st Battlefield Detachment from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (War in Afghanistan and Global War on Terror).

The third was in 2002, participating in Operation Anacosta (the Shalokot Valley, Afghanistan). Col. Wheat felt his greatest accomplishment was "to have all his subordinates return from all three combat tours, unscathed." For his work, Col. Wheat received numerous decorations, commendations, medals and special honors, including a share of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize for his effort to try to bring peace between Golan, Israel and Tyre, southern Lebanon. For all these things, he feels richly blessed, and does not forget the

blessings came to him from above.

He shared one particularly memorable experience with the retired teachers. While stationed in Israel, he went to meet a group of ministers who were touring the Holy Lands. After meeting them and spending time with them, the group finally broke up, except for one minister, John, that Buddy knew. John approached Buddy and asked him, "What's going on? Buddy, you're not yourself." Col. Wheat more or less "broke down" and took this opportunity to "unload" on his friend. Afterward, John led a lengthy prayer with and for his friend, a prayer of thanksgiving. When Col. Wheat returned to his quarters that night, he spent a little more time in prayer himself.

Sometime later, when Col. Wheat was working as an unarmed Peacekeeper operating in Golan, Israel and Tyre, Lebanon, he and two other officers were assigned to go look at three villages and report back information for the State Department, but they were met by very dangerous men who had already killed 11 people, and they were refused entrance into the villages. Col. Wheat and another officer were sitting in an open Jeep on a hill overlooking the villages when they saw a movement out in the grass not far away. The other officer jumped from the jeep, but Col. Wheat found himself completely unable to move. He saw a young man stand up, aim a rifle at him and shoot directly at him... twice. Both rounds failed, and were ejected, at which time the man ran off to escape the other officer. The officer brought Col. Wheat back a "souvenir," the two ejected bullets, which came

from a weapon that had a reputation for never failing. He remembered John's prayer and immediately recognized this as a true blessing and a cause for thanksgiving. He prayed that if he "had a place in God's life, he would do all he could to do God's will."

Col. Wheat ended his military career in 2003. He felt called to attend Gettysburg Theological Seminary and was ordained in 2007 by the First Presbyterian Church. He was called for three years to pastor two small congregations in Pennsylvania. Then he was called to Gatesville, and he and his wife, Gayle, were blessed to be home in Texas once again after 37 years away. Gayle also ranks as a special blessing. He and she were high school sweethearts and have been married 50 years.

Periodically during the meeting, CRSP President Gail Johnson, drew numbers and gave the holder of that ticket a Christmas cup filled with treats and a message reading, "You've been mugged!" That person then had to share how he/she has been blessed.

A short business meeting followed. Our Foundation liaison Jo Ann Suggs, gave a brief report on Texas Retired Teachers Foundation. The meeting was then adjourned with a reminder of the trip to see the play, "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 3 and a reminder of our next meeting on Jan. 26. Everyone was wished a "Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving," a "Merry Christmas," and a "Happy New Year!"



COURTESY PHOTO

Reverend Dr. Dewey "Buddy" Wheat

Susan Patricia Pitts Memorial Scholarship now open

The time has come for the release of the 2023 Susan Patricia Pitts Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the John H. Reagan Chapter 325 in Gatesville.

Noting their 10th anniversary of the scholarship, the chapter started the scholarship fund, but some of the ladies decided to personalize the scholarship by naming it after the mother of one of the charter members whom they also knew while growing up.

Mrs. Pitts was very devoted and a big cheerleader for her daughter's education. Together, she and her husband made not only their daughter's educational experiences more memorable, but they also spread the love by including her classmates as well, when able.

The scholarship is open to any high school or collegiate (vocational or scholarly) students who either attend school in Coryell and Hamilton counties or have the home residency of Coryell or Hamilton counties.

There is an essay requirement. For information about the requirements and rules, please email johnhreagan325udc@yahoo.com.

The scholarship essay will be due by 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2023.



DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Nov. 30-Dec. 3. 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 911, 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. 30
12:47 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 7800 block of S. State Highway 36.
3:27 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
4:08 p.m., a threat was reported in the 1000 block of Highland Drive.
4:58 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of Pidcoke Street.
6:37 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
Dec. 1
12:20 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3000 block of S. State Highway 36.
10:26 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of Golf Course Road.
6:42 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Dodds Creek Drive.
9:18 p.m., a burglary was

reported in the 2400 block of CR 127.
11:37 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 8000 block of W. Highway 84.
11:56 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 900 block of CR 155.
Dec. 2
6:52 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.
9:22 a.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
11:36 a.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of E. Leon Street.
5:32 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1900 block of E. Main Street.
5:36 p.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.
Dec. 3
8:30 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 4400 block of S. State Highway 36.
12:07 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Pate Drive.

3:06 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of E. Leon Street.
4:37 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 500 block of N. 13th Street.
7:15 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.
9:19 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of Bridge Street.

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Coryell County Sheriff's Office
Nov. 30

5:48 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4800 block of W. Highway 84.
9:12 a.m., a burglary of a building was reported in the 2400 block of N. FM 116.
6:14 p.m., vandalism was reported in the 2100 block of CR 152.
7:57 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1000 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
Dec. 1
8:08 a.m., a man with a gun was reported in the 400 block of E. Circle Drive.
12:02 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 2412.
1:05 p.m., poaching was reported in the 8600 block of FM 182.
1:47 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.
3:28 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Roberts.
8:54 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported at the CMH Emergency Room.

Dec. 2
10:45 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1200 block of Marissa Drive.
1:45 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1000 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
2:20 p.m., fraud was reported in the 5200 block of FM 929.
4:19 p.m., fence damage was reported in the 3100 block of N. FM 116.
6:18 p.m., a scam was reported in the 900 block of FM 1783.
11:51 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1800 block of Oak Springs Road.
Dec. 3
7:00 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 800 block of Old Osage Road.
9:24 a.m., the burglary of a vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of S. Highway 36.
4:20 p.m., an out-of-control burn was reported on CR 318.
5:18 p.m., shots being fired were reported on Lutheran Church and Duncan Roads.

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Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022
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300-400 lb.	200-255
400-500 lb.	200-235
500-600 lb.	175-205
600-700 lb.	150-175
700-800 lb.	140-165
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	160-210
300-400 lb.	160-220
400-500 lb.	160-210
500-600 lb.	150-175
600-700 lb.	145-165
700-800 lb.	120-140
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	67-78
Low Yielding	50-60
Fats	65-75
Thin & Shelly	20-40
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	65-108
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	1300-1550
Young Fair	1100-1300
Aged Pairs	Split & Weighed
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	400-1350
Number of Head	1397
<i>Merry Christmas!</i>	
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Gatesville Elementary Extravaganza

Gatesville Elementary School recently held their fourth annual Christmas Extravaganza. The day consisted of pictures with Santa, food trucks, vendors, shopping, and other fun activities. Many of the elementary students visited the event along with their parents and grandparents. A few of the elementary teachers were on hand as well either to help out or just to shop.



Shoppers wound their way around the gymnasium which was crowded with vendors. **DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**



Many vendors were present with a variety of items that could be purchased for holiday gifts. **DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**



Tisa Edmond-Stevens and son, Bryson, serve up cotton candy in the foyer of the elementary. **DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**



Santa made a surprise visit to the Christmas Extravaganza and was available for photos. **DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**

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9:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

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Food trucks were on hand at the extravaganza to provide refreshments to the shoppers. **DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**

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OBITUARIES

LUCY MAE (SMITH) BRYANT

June 25, 1942 - Nov. 29, 2022

Lucy Mae Smith Bryant, age 80, of Gatesville, peacefully passed away at The Meadows Nursing Facility and met her Lord and Savior late Tuesday evening. Lucy was born in Winchester, Kentucky to Charles Ishmal and Ruth (Hall) Smith. She met Aljo Bryant and was married Feb. 17, 1965, settling in Texas in 1975. She and Aljo enjoyed

camping, travel, music and especially their grandchildren. Lucy was a loving wife and mother who was beloved by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Aljo Bryant; parents, Charles and Ruth Smith; daughters, Brenda Lairson Burnett and Anita Bryant; son, Darrell Keith Lairson; grandson, Billy Clifton. Lucy will be lovingly missed by her daughter, Sherri Bryant Missildine; son, Buddy

Lairson Jr.; grandchildren, Stephanie Lairson, Daniel Lairson, Nikki Lairson, Elizabeth Alexopoulos, Austin Heck, and Kaitlin Heck-Castillo. The family would like to thank the staff at The Meadows for their kindness and caring attention to Lucy over the last few years. A private ceremony will take place at a later date. Thoughts and memories may be shared at www.LakeShore-FH.com.

BOOK REVIEW

Good reads that will send young stargazers and astronauts-to-be into orbit



TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The lights on your tree kind of remind you of one thing.

Stars. All the stars in the sky, the ones you can see year 'round at nearly any time you wanna see them. Watching the stars and planets in our galaxy is almost like having the holidays every day of the year. If you dream of being up there with them, be sure to read these great books on space.

For the future astronaut in your life, "Can't Get Enough Space Stuff" by Stephanie Drimmer and Julie Beer is the perfect place to launch deep interest in what's beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

With this book, your 7-to-10-year-old space fanatic can begin with the basics, and the solar system on a page that's full-color and full of facts. A few flips away, your child will learn about black holes, the problems to overcome when living on Mars, astronaut records, and what it might be like to meet an alien. There are pages on meteorites, pages on what can be seen from a space station, and pages on how long a day is on the various planets.

But this book isn't all facts; it offers silly quizzes to take, space jokes, and plenty of easy-to-read entries that will spark any young astronomer's interest. And while "Can't Get Enough Space Stuff" is made for a second-through-fifth-grade reader,

grown-ups can have fun with it, too.

Seriously, though: do you ever outgrow your curiosity about space? If the answer is a great big "NO!", then you'll want to read, "Why Am I Taller: What Happens to an Astronaut's Body in Space" by Dave Williams and Elizabeth Howell, PhD.

So let's say you're prepared to go to the moon as soon as you're asked - but there are things you'd like to know before you start packing your suitcase. Williams, an astronaut, and Howell, a journalist focused on space exploration, have the right answers for you.

How, for instance, will prolonged space flight affect your body, your bones, and the biological systems that keep you alive? Will your mind and brain behave differently when you come back? Are there long-term effects that you should know about now and in the future? Of course, "space doctors" will keep you well-nourished and healthy, so what other benefits are there of a quick trip to the moon?

Here, you will read about astronauts who've gone before you, the things they ex-

perienced, how they learned to deal with physical issues in a moving space vehicle, what it was like to actually be an astronaut with a job to perform in a most unusual workplace, and what science can tell you about putting the human body outside this planet's atmosphere.

If these books on astronomy and space exploration don't quite put you over the moon, then be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help. They'll help you find the book you want to solve all your questions.

In the meantime, try these. "Why Am I Taller" and "Can't Get Enough Space Stuff" will light you up.



"Can't Get Enough Space Stuff" by Stephanie Drimmer and Julie Beer c.2022, National Geographic Kids, \$14.99, 129 pages

"Why Am I Taller: What Happens to an Astronaut's Body in Space" by Dave Williams and Elizabeth Howell, PhD c.2022, ECW Press, \$17.95, 240 pages

Fundraiser set for Hometown Angels

Join the Coffee Saloon in hosting their first annual cookie contest on Saturday, Dec. 10. The contest will begin at 10 a.m. and will be held during the Chamber Market Days.

There will be two categories to enter including "most festive" and "best tasting." The cost will be

\$10 per entry, and all the proceeds from the cookie contest will be donated to Hometown Angels.

Hometown Angels was brought to light around 20 years ago and continues to put smiles on children's faces each year. This is a local organization that was put together to provide gifts for

children in need during the holiday season.

For those interested in the cookie contest can contact the Coffee Saloon by private message on Facebook. The Chamber Market Days will be at the Chamber of Commerce which is located at 2307 S. Highway 36 in Gatesville.

Blue Ridge Cemetery Association to hold fundraising sale Dec. 9-10

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. Their chapel is in bad 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.

The fundraiser will take 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.

PEARL NEWS

It's a joyous season in Pearl



BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

What a joyous time of year, and we hope that your Christmas season is truly merry, bright and full of God's love and blessings. One of the signs of the season in Pearl is when The Pearl Church of Christ puts out its mailbags in the dining room. You never know what you might get in your bag, but Kay Pruett's bag is always the most interesting. People can't wait to see what gifts she will pull out of her bag each Sunday morning in December. We also remember our dear ones that have gone on before us during this time such as Mack Wilkinson. He and Kay had a running battle to see who could leave the craziest things in each other's bags. We sure miss those days. But, just to be clear, we do have those (well, maybe just a certain person) who have taken up where Mack left off. That being said... whatever tacky thing left in

Kay's bag this year, you can be sure that Linda Ray did not put it in there! That's her story and she's sticking to it! (If you have a mailbag in this church, please be sure and check your bag but please leave the bag.)

The Pearl Community Center reported a good turnout for the December Bluegrass event. There were lots of good jams and fellowship, and the food was delicious from the Bluegrass Café. The next Bluegrass weekend will begin on Friday evening, Jan. 6, and then a full day of music on Jan. 7. We'll talk more about the January event as soon as we finish the Christmas holidays!

The Pearl Cottage Bookstore also enjoyed a beautiful day on Saturday. The ladies reported that there were lots of new people and numerous visits with old friends from the past as well. The best selling items were the afghans and quilts. The bookstore has also reported that there are several items still for sale from the Self estate which benefits the Scholarship Fund. There are two sewing machines, a dining room table and eight chairs, a china cabinet, a cedar chest, several miscellaneous curio tables, miscellaneous chairs and two tubs of double-knit quilt tops. There are also two refrigerators that can be taken as is for free. Call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or 254-206-1999 for more information. I was able to enjoy the day

on Saturday at the LSHSRA in Athens, Texas, to see my oldest granddaughter, Callyn, participate in the Goat Tying and Breakaway Calf Roping events. She and her horses did well in spite of it being COLD. When we all left Nacogdoches early that morning, it was a balmy 74 degrees. When we stepped out of the truck an hour and a half later, we noticed a marked difference in the temperature to the negative and immediately wished we had checked the weather a little more closely. However, we made it through the day with what we could find to layer on in the trailer even though we might have looked more like we were going to a tacky party (remember those?) than a rodeo. Valuable lessons were learned by all concerned that day, and warm jackets/coats, gloves, and blankets will be in the trailer for all future events—even in July. Who knows with Texas weather?

This week's Bible Verse: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to His people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David (as He said through His holy prophets of long ago..." From Zechariah's Song, Luke 1:68-70 NIV

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page. Please send any Pearl news to betsyclark47@yahoo.com.

Lawn care tips for maintaining a healthy lawn this winter

Winter lawn care for a wide variety of turfgrasses slightly differs from that of spring, summer, and fall. Your lawn is no longer in the active growing season. In fact, most warm season lawns go dormant around this time.

Lawn care in the winter is still just as important as other seasonal maintenance practices as your winter care will greatly determine how well your lawn comes out of dormancy in the spring.

Although you shouldn't have to spend as much time maintaining your lawn during the active growing season, winter lawn maintenance is still a vital part of caring for your lawn.

MOWING YOUR LAWN IN THE WINTER

It's getting cooler outside and it's obvious that you won't need to mow as frequently as you have been all year. Our recommendation is to keep your grass a bit taller than normal.

When grass is too short, it doesn't offer as much protection for the base of the grass blades and allows frost to get into the growing areas of your lawn. Keeping this area as protected as possible

with slightly taller grass creates a barrier-like protection for the grass blades and stolons.

Be careful not to mow your lawn if there's a lot of moisture from snow or ice as this may damage the grass blades. Make sure the lawn is dry and only mow when temperatures are about 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Now is an excellent time to service, or winterize, your lawn mower so that it's fully operational and ready for the spring once mowing season resumes.

WATERING YOUR LAWN IN THE WINTER

Irrigation maintenance practices during the winter aren't usually as important in areas that receive rain or snow. In most areas, you will just need to water your lawn less than the active growing season.

However, if you are in an area that receives a dry winter, be sure to water your lawn enough so that the soil receives nourishment and keeps grass blades from drying out. Your lawn is dormant—this doesn't mean it is dead and doesn't still need water.

BEST WINTER FERTILIZER FOR LAWNS

Fertilization should generally take place during the active growing seasons such as the spring, summer, and fall. There is really not a need to apply fertilizer once temperatures consistently drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. It's similar to giving someone a pill while they are sleeping—it won't be as effective.

However, when spring comes, it will be time to fertilize your lawn. Researching different fertilizers that match your lawn's needs is something you can go ahead and start doing.

WATCH FOR WINTER WEEDS

Keep an eye out for winter grass weeds. Applying an herbicide during the winter isn't always effective since your lawn is dormant, which is why it's best to apply products preventively in the fall.

Some research has shown that it's safe to apply glyphosate, a non-selective herbicide, on dormant Bermuda grass to kill off other weeds without damaging the Bermuda grass. The efficacy of this is not as high as it would

be in warmer temperatures, but it can still be done when applied properly.

WATCH OUT FOR WINTER LAWN INSECTS

Most pests are going to be inactive at this time since it's so cold outside. However, oftentimes insects and pests will burrow under objects in the lawn like lawn ornaments, toys that have been left out, weeds, rotted branches, etc.

A good way to keep them from overwintering in your lawn and causing damage in the spring again is by removing a lot of these objects from your lawn so that pests don't have a place to take shelter from the cold.

Either hand-pull or apply a post-emergent herbicide to keep any weeds that have survived cooler temperatures and consider relocating any lawn objects to your garage or outdoor shed.

You can also apply a broad-spectrum insect control product to treat any insects or bugs you may spot in the meantime.

Certain insects like grub worms, ants, fleas, ticks, chinch bugs and spiders are sometimes known to survive



Raking leaves during the fall and winter months

during the colder parts of the year if they have places to take shelter.

CONTROL LAWN DISEASE IN WINTER

It's difficult to detect most lawn diseases during the winter season—especially if you have a warm season lawn that goes off-color and dormant as temperatures drop.

Oftentimes, symptoms of disease don't begin making an appearance until the spring as the lawn greens up and disease patterns are easier to distinguish.

It's still a great idea to apply disease control products preventively during the fall to keep diseases from tak-

ing over during the winter season. You may still notice some lawn diseases like snow mold.

AVOID EXCESSIVE TRAFFIC

Your grass is probably dormant, meaning it's not going to put a lot of energy into restoring itself after heavy traffic. Taking as much care of your lawn as you can by reducing traffic while it is "asleep" is one of the best preventative maintenance practices you can perform.

It keeps your grass from having to spend a bunch of energy restoring itself when it comes out of dormancy. Instead, let your grass focus its energy on flourishing as it comes out of dormancy.

Central Texas Hospitality House to host a Christmas Celebration

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

The celebration will include various family activities. There will be a special 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 giveaway for the kids.

The Christmas Celebration is given as an appreciation celebration with the Gatesville community, families, and surrounding

areas for their support of the Central Texas Hospitality House.

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

'Christmas on the Square' hosted by Evant Chamber set for Dec. 17

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.evantchamber.org or email EvantChamber-info@gmail.com for the map and vendor apps. The Evant Christmas on the Square will be located on Hwy. 281 in Evant.



Wade Key (pictured right) with his wife and two children.

COURTESY PHOTO

Benefit for Wade Key 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 corn-

hole 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

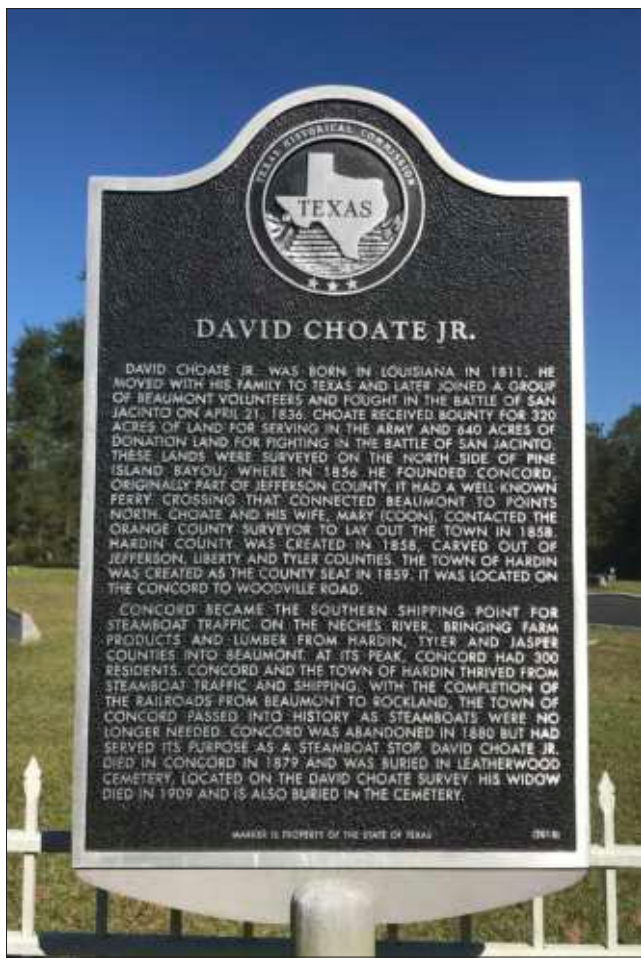
a Black Buck/Axis Doe Hunt. Sponsors of the benefit will be Mid-Tex Plumbing, TJ Electric, Stone Creek Ranch, S&S Fencing, Guns Unlimited, Sugar & Spice Catering, J&M's Hill Country BBQ and Diamond C Ranch.

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

LEGACY COMES TO LIFE

David Choate Jr.: Farmer, soldier, land speculator

EDITOR'S NOTE: David Choate is the great-great uncle of Robyn Davis. Robyn is a member and President of the Erastus "Deaf" Smith Chapter of The Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) in Pasadena. Robyn serves the SRT as the San Jacinto, District Representative and as a committee-man on the Texian Navy Day and Logo committees.



COURTESY PHOTO

Historical marker of David Choate Jr.

I was born in 1811 in Louisiana in a town called Zwolle. My father's name was David Choate Sr, and my mother was Sarah Clark. My father moved the family to Texas, receiving a Mexican land grant of 4,428 acres in 1831. We settled in what is now Hardin County. I had five brothers and sisters. Our family was farming ranchers and we were good at caring for our land and livestock.

In 1836, I had heard that General Santa Anna was marching across Texas to take away some of our freedoms. I joined up with a group of men in Beaumont. We began marching west to help relieve the men who were besieged in the Alamo. Upon arriving in Liberty, I met with my brother-in-law, Stephen Jackson, who had married my sister, Susan.

Stephen told me a rider came along with a letter from Colonel William B. Travis asking all men to come to the Alamo to help the men there. The group I was with combined with the volunteers in Liberty. We were now under the command of Captain William Logan. We started to march west to Bexar to relieve the men at the Alamo. Upon arriving in San Felipe, we were met by General Sam Houston and his army. We were told that the Alamo had fallen and that we were to head back east. Stephen and I helped the families leave from San

Felipe, which began what would be called the "Run-away Scrape."

Upon arriving in Harrisburg, Stephen left to return to Sour Lake to get my sister and their children out of harm's way. General Sam Houston continued to take us east. Many of the men were very unhappy that we just didn't turn around and face Santa Anna and his army for what they had done to our brothers at the Alamo and Goliad.

We arrived at Buffalo Bayou on April 19, 1836 and found it flooding. General Houston confiscated the flooring in the home of Isaac Batterson to build rafts, which were used to ferry us across Buffalo Bayou. About 283 Texians had to stay behind at the Battle of

San Jacinto because of illness. None of them wanted to miss the battle that we all knew would happen soon, but they were too sick to fight.

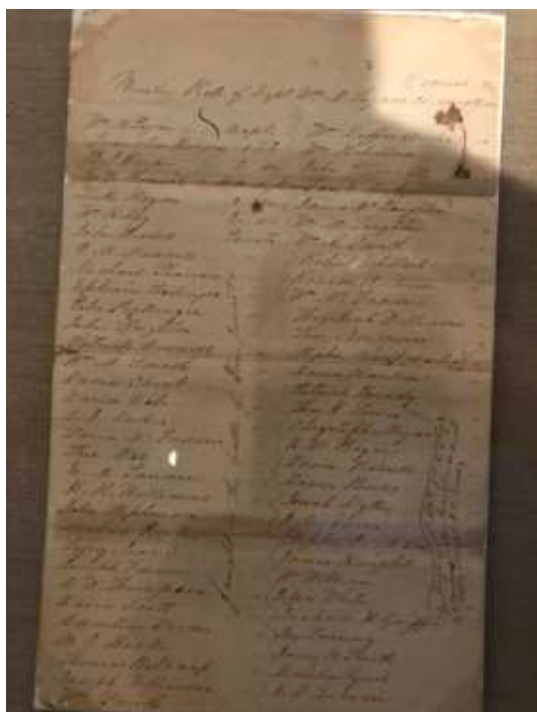
After crossing the bayou, General Sam Houston settled us in a meadow

just up from the marshes between Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River. My company was then placed under the command of General Sidney Sherman. We were told that Santa Anna and his army were nearby, so we were on alert and ready to fight. Our orders were to attack on the left flank.

In the afternoon of April 21, we were given the order to charge. We began marching toward Santa Anna and his army. Cannons started firing and we just ran at them shouting "Remember the Alamo!" and "Remember Goliad!" The battle only lasted a little while — and we found out later only 18 minutes. We felt good about whipping the Mexican army and avenging our family and friends who died at the Alamo and Goliad.

Eleven Texians died in the battle and 30 others were wounded including General Houston. The next day Santa Anna was captured, and he surrendered to General Houston. We had won our independence and liberty from Mexico. Texas was free!

After my service in the Texian army, I received land for helping gain Texas its independence. I began to farm the land and was somewhat of a land speculator. In 1850, I founded the town of Concord in Hardin County. We were along the stagecoach route from Beaumont, so we had a lot of visitors and trade. I also donated a plot of land in Hardin County that would become a cemetery known as Leatherwood. This is where I was buried upon my death in 1879.



COURTESY PHOTO

Muster Roll of Captain William Logan dated 6 March 36, bearing the name of David Choate

Christmas with the Chamber to be held Dec. 10 at the Visitors Depot

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

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

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.

When the parade is finished, there will be a chance for the little ones to get their photo with Santa. Families are welcome to stop by 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.

Christmas with the Cham-

ber will end with a Christmas Family Night Sweater Party. The party will be at the chamber from 6 - 9 p.m. The Elf movie will be showing, and everyone is encouraged to wear a Christmas sweater.

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.

'Santa Sprint' set 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.

Wade Key Benefit

December 17th
Gatesville Civic Center

Join us in supporting the Key Family in their fight against cancer!

- **BBQ Lunch at 11am**
- \$10 per plate or donation
- **Cornhole Tournament at 12pm**
- \$50 per team
- Contact Payton George for more info (254)223-0207

Door Prizes - Raffle - Auction

- Gift Baskets**
- \$200 Leon River Gift Certificate**
- Glock 43X 9mm**
- AR-15 223/5.56**
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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State University sophomore Freddy Hicks contributed 14 points and eight rebounds in the Texans' 75-65 basketball victory over Weber State University Nov. 30 at Wisdom Gym in Stephenville.

Texans triumph over Weber State University, 75-65

Tarleton Sports Information

Tarleton State University's bench players provided 46 points on the way to a 75-65 basketball win over the Weber State University Wildcats on Nov. 30 at Wisdom Gym.

The matchup started with a 15-8 run by Weber State (2-5, 0-0 Big Sky), scoring four 3-pointers over the first eight minutes of play. Tarleton (4-3, 0-0 WAC) quickly responded with a 15-0 run to push ahead of the Wildcats by eight points. The teams traded

points back and forth for the rest of first half with Tarleton leading by seven heading into the locker room. The Texans spent the first five minutes of the second half growing their lead to 12.

The Wildcats turned the tide and went on an 8-0 run to tie it

with 10 minutes left in the game. Tarleton then produced another run, going 12-1 to gain an 11-point lead. Weber State then would not get closer than seven points.

"I'm really proud of the guys that bailed us out tonight," said TSU head coach Billy Gillispie. "It's great to have depth and I believe we have it this year. This team is a work in progress, off to a great start and getting better every day."

The Tarleton bench players, led

by junior transfer Lue Williams, were key in the victory. Williams scored 16 points (5-9 FG, 3 of 5 3-pointers) for the second time this season and grabbed four rebounds. Freddy Hicks recorded back-to-back 14-point (5-11 FG, 4-8 FT) and eight rebound performances. Javontae Hopkins scored a season-high 11 points (3-3 FG, 5-10 FT) and picked up two rebounds, assists and steals. Corey-oun Rushin doubled his minutes on the season with a 10-point, five rebound and three assist

showing. Jakorie Smith and Garry Clark picked up seven points and two rebounds each.

Gillispie remarked that it was a great win.

"The best thing is that the guys that normally carry the load and weren't at their best were the happiest guys on our team," commented Gillispie. "They just love winning. It makes you extremely proud to see them care about each other like they do. Champions in every word."

TSU women ease past Western Illinois on road, 84-69

Tarleton Sports Information

Tarleton State University's women's basketball squad had already had a good start offensively to the season, but their shooting performance on Nov. 30 was nearly unprecedented.

The Texans made their second most three-pointers in a game in program history, 14, as they handled Western Illinois at Western Hall in Macomb, Illinois, 84-69. Tarleton improved to 4-2 on the year, dropping the Leathernecks to 1-5.

Tarleton was scheduled to play at home on Tuesday, Dec. 6 against Weber State.

TSU's women shot 14-of-29 (.483) from distance on the night versus Weber State, their second most three-point makes only behind the Texans' 16 made against Champion Christian in 2020. The trio of Teresa Da Silva, Jenna Dick and Tyler Jackson combined to shoot 12-of-21 (.571) from three-point land, finishing with 53 points combined.

Da Silva achieved Tarleton's first double-double of the season with 21 points on 7-of-12 shooting, including 5-of-8 from distance, 10 rebounds, and three assists. That made back-to-back 20-plus point games for the junior — her third in six games to start the year.

Dick poured in 17 points off the bench on 6-of-10 shooting, 4-of-8 from 3-point range. It was a season-high for the junior and ties the most she's scored at Tarleton, matching her 17 scored against UTRGV last season.

Jackson notched 15 points (3-5 3PT, 6-6 FT), three rebounds and three steals for her fifth double-digit performance in six games.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State University junior guard Teresa Da Silva scored 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds on Nov. 30 in an 84-69 women's basketball road victory at Western Illinois University.

Mayra Caicedo had a season-high, and game-high, six assists, adding eight points and three rebounds in 20 minutes.

The start to Wednesday's game foreshadowed the night for Tarleton, with the Texans draining a deep shot on each of their first three possessions, helping them jump to a 13-2 lead. It was looking like Tarleton might cruise from

there, but the Leathernecks responded with a 10-0 run to end the quarter to trail by just one through the first 10 minutes, 13-12.

The Texans went on another early quarter run to start the second, scoring the first seven points and going on a 13-1 spurt to lead 26-13. The Texans kept the foot on the gas this time, leading by 18 a few times in the frame and taking a 42-24

lead into the locker room.

It was more of the same for most of the third quarter, with Tarleton opening a 21-point lead, ahead 62-41 with three minutes left. Western Illinois got a burst to end the quarter on a 9-1 run to win the quarter 26-22 and trail 64-50 heading into the fourth.

There were 23 combined free throw attempts in the fourth quar-

ter as the teams traded the lead. Tarleton's win was never in doubt in the second half, making it back-to-back seasons starting with a 4-2 mark through six games.

Tarleton widely outshot Western Illinois 26-of-58 (.448) to 18-of-53 (.340), doubling the Leathernecks in three-point makes (7-of-28, .250).

Gingerbread house decorating at First Methodist Church

The First Methodist Church of Gatesville recently held a gingerbread house decorating event for children of all ages. Church volunteers built well over one hundred gingerbread houses and provided the candy and decorating supplies. Those participating produced some interesting designs with the help of family members and friends.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jennifer Boyd assists her eight-year-old son, Hez Boyd, as he decorates his gingerbread house.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

DeDe Grubb is shown helping her two grandsons, Noah Hopson (left) and Benjamin Hopson in decorating their houses.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Anna Kate Stanley is shown with her son, Dean Stanley, as they decorate their house together.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Michelle Martin is shown building one of the gingerbread houses which will soon be decorated.

Kid Scoop.com

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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HOLIDAY HIGH-RISE

APT. 15C: THE ANDERSONS
The Anderson family celebrates the birth of Jesus on Christmas. They give each other gifts, sing songs and decorate their home with a Christmas tree and colorful lights.

Follow the maze to put the ornament back.

APT. 15A: THE MILLERS
The Miller family celebrates Kwanzaa, a week-long celebration honoring African culture. They light red, green and black candles in a kinara and have a feast at the end of Kwanzaa. They also give each other small gifts.

Mrs. Miller wears a kaftan during Kwanzaa. Hold this page up to a mirror to find out what this is.

A KAFTAN IS A COLORFUL PULL-OVER ROBE

APT. 15B: THE WALDS
The Wald family celebrates Hannukah, a Jewish festival of light. They light a candle on a menorah each night for eight nights. They exchange small gifts each evening, sing songs and eat delicious foods. They display their menorah in their window. Menorahs come in many different designs. Find the two identical menorahs.

People from different cultures have a wide variety of winter celebrations, many more than can fit on this page. How does your family celebrate in December? Draw it here.

Extra! Extra!
Holiday Dot-to-Dot
Find the letters that spell each of the following words on one page of the newspaper. Use different color crayons to connect the letters in order to spell each word.
**CANDLES
FEAST
LIGHTS
FAMILY
CELEBRATE**

Standards Link: Social Studies: Students know how traditions and celebrations of other cultures compare.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

List three ways these celebrations are alike.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you find these four squares in this order on the larger grid?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find identical patterns.

Double Double Word Search

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

NEIGHBORS
APARTMENT
DECORATE
MENORAHS
KWANZAA
KAFTAN
SYMBOLS
EXCHANGE
FEAST
SONGS
TREE
HOME
FAMILY
GIVE
RED

T	R	K	S	G	N	O	S	D	N
S	N	F	A	M	I	L	Y	E	E
H	E	E	J	F	O	V	I	C	G
A	F	O	M	B	T	G	E	O	N
R	I	E	M	T	H	A	H	R	A
O	E	Y	A	B	R	O	N	A	H
N	S	D	O	S	M	A	C	T	C
E	T	R	E	E	T	E	P	E	X
M	S	K	W	A	N	Z	A	A	E

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Holiday Images

Look through the newspaper for words or pictures related to the holidays. Cut and paste these onto a sheet of construction paper to make a collage poster.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Use a variety of media to convey meaning.

Write On!

The Greatest Gift

What is the greatest gift you could give that doesn't cost money?

Kid Scoop Together: Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the articles below and correct the seven spelling and grammar errors you find. The first one is done for you.

Birds

Counting Birds

Every year for over a century, Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) have been run across America during the holiday season. Counting the birds every year at the same time and in the same location gives scientists important information about birds and the environment.

In 2007, Tom Rusert of Sonoma, CA had the idea to include kids in this important "citizen science" effort.

He launched the first Audubon CBC for Kids. It was so successful that now organizations around the country are started their own CBCs for Kids programs, following Rusert's model.

This is a wonderfully simple, healthy, hollyday celebration for almost any school, youth group or community organization.

Standards Link: Civics: Students understand the importance for individuals and society of commonly-held responsibilities such as being attentive to public issues.

Kid Scoop-doku™
Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word GIFTS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

T	G	I	
	G	I	
		F	G
	S	T	G
G	S		

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 Saturday Issue: 10 A.M. Wednesday

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 All forms of Debit and Credit Cards are accepted.

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

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015 FARM & RANCH

Backhoe, Dozer, Maintainer, Dump Truck: brush clearing, roads, driveways, waterlines, pits, demolition, fence row clearing, culverts. Small jobs ok. Ben Roberts, 254-248-4707 or 254-865-5754. 00029755

037 HELP WANTED

Central Counties Services (CCS) is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Case Worker position at our Gatesville, TX facility. Work involves developing and maintaining contact with individuals, families, and service providers for medical, social, educational, and other related client service needs. The assigned shift is normally Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM, but may vary at times. Bachelor's Degree is required. CCS offers a generous benefits package that includes paid health, life and long-term disability insurance, paid PTO, Center retirement contribution, and paid holidays. Optional 457 and Roth retirement plans available. A detailed position description is available on the Center's website. Applicants can apply online at www.centralcountiesservices.org. EOE

HELP WANTED! SALESMAN Auto or RV experience preferred. Must pass Drug Test & Background Check. Salary & Commission. Gatesville RV Service & Sales 254-865-7117. 00029778

HELP WANTED! SERVICE WRITER/MANAGER! Auto or RV experience preferred. Must pass Drug Test & Background Check. Salary based on experience. Gatesville RV Service & Sales 254-865-7117. 00029779

NOW HIRING

Assisted/Independent Living:

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- CNA-PRN all Shifts
- CMA - PRN

Home Health:

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- PCA PRN – for Gatesville and Surrounding Counties

Infection Prevention:

- BSN-RN – FT; Preferable Certified Infection Control & Epidemiology

Medical Clinic:

- Scribe – FT
- Certified Medical Assistant/CMA – FT

Medical Clinic – Quick Care:

- Registration Clerk – FT Thur. & Fri. 8am-8pm & Sat. 8am-6pm

Wound Care Clinic:

- RN or LVN – FT
- (HBO Certified Preferred)

Culinary:

- Cook – FT (Food Handlers Certification preferred)
- Cook Assistant – FT

EMS:

- Paramedic – FT
- \$8,000 BONUS

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- Health, Dental, Life and Supplemental Insurances. EOE.

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

037 HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING

• RN Unit Manager – FT

• RN FT & PRN – All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing

• LVN FT & PRN – All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing

***\$10,000 FT SIGN ON BONUS**

• CNA/NA – FT, All Shifts

***\$4,000 FT SIGN ON BONUS**

• CMA/CNA: FT, All Shifts

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Must be a Certified Medication Aide for Texas and must maintain a Certified Nurse Aide for Texas

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 Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
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045 SERVICES

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055 LOST & FOUND

Whoever found my beige purse with my drivers license in it, please drop it in my mailbox on the porch.
 00029766

060 GARAGE SALE

All footwear 1/2 price 12/06-12/10! The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m.
 00029688

Big Final Liquidation Estate Sale by Vintage Sisters Estate Sales in Oglesby Dec. 3&4. Saturday 60% OFF from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday 75% OFF from 1p.m.-4p.m.!! 5 buildings full!! 14056 US-84, Oglesby, Tx.
 00029769

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083 COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE

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 2 units, 1 restroom, storage space, and covered parking. Call (254) 223-0722, after 4 p.m. to schedule a visit. 00029760

070 LAND & LOTS

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45th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale 12:00 Noon, Jan. 21, 2023, El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, Texas. 100 bulls, 250 females, cattlemansale.com.

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On Fishing

Get ready to bundle up with colder weather arriving

BY MICHAEL ACOSTA
Special to The Messenger

The colder lake water continues to bring on the action for crappie and striped bass. For you power plant (Comanche Creek) bass anglers, the water may be warmer but the air is still cold especially when running down the lake.

Many seasoned anglers are prepared, but even the seasoned anglers or hunters need to keep their guard up.

One mistake and a tragedy can occur on the water. An accident with all the added clothing/gear/boots may make it more difficult, especially in the water.

Some people are prepared and some are not. Some days it doesn't appear to be that cold from the bank, but when you start down the lake it will be cold. It is always good to dress in layers and bring more than what you need. I know you all have heard that before, but it is a good philosophy.

It is true that once the fish start biting you will forget about the cold. However, it is real important to stay warm. Being exposed to the elements in an open boat can be tough and dangerous.

Hunters have the same problem sitting in those open stands. Somehow though, the water always seems to be colder.

I recommend a set of insulated coveralls, a jacket to break the wind, some good insulated boots, something to cover the head, and some good gloves. If rain is in the forecast, make sure your coveralls are rainproof, or bring a rain suit. You do

not want to be wet and cold. That can be dangerous.

Wool socks help tremendously, with a good set of boots. The first body parts to get cold for most folks are the feet and the hands. If you keep them warm, you will have a great time on the water.

It is a little tough to remove fish, tie knots, and do miscellaneous chores with gloves on. Some of these tasks can be mastered with gloves on, but other tasks may require removing the gloves and putting them back on as soon as possible. Keep a towel handy to dry your hands before you put the gloves back on.

The inexpensive chemical hand warmers can be placed in your shoes/boots and gloves to keep you warmer. Many folks use these religiously. I have found that it is better for me to get accustomed to the conditions and there is less impact to me versus going from hot to cold repeatedly. If you have a good set of gloves and boots you can keep warm without the warmers. There are even battery powered clothing available to keep you warm if your budget can afford them.

The coldest weather has yet to come. When it does, there are other precautions you should take. The real cold weather may have other obstacles. Slippery icy/slick surfaces on the boat, dock and launch can be dangerous. A fall off a boat can be deadly in cold water as I alluded to earlier. Slips and falls can take you to the emergency room. Walk carefully, and think about every step when

the conditions call for it.

Some mornings there may be fog present and you need to be careful heading out on the water. It may be prudent to stay close in, until the fog lifts. If you are to venture out in the fog, you can navigate with your GPS, but go slow and listen carefully for other boaters.

Cold, windy days on the water may be the most dangerous especially if you are fishing on an elevated deck or platform that's wet or slippery. Be careful and be methodical on every move. Better to stay in the gunnels.

Yes, you can be prepared and safe in the winter and have some of the best days chasing big striped bass. This cold weather brings on some of the best crappie, striper and sand bass fishing of the year if you are willing to get out.

Lake Belton fishing report from Texas Parks & Wildlife: 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 that arrived in late November 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.

GJHS 7th A tops Cadets

7th Grade A Team

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Gatesville	13	7	5	7	
— 32					
Connally	7	3	7		
12 — 29					

GJHS leading scorers: Grady Keeton 28, Draven Henderson 2, Eli Phillips 2.

Hornets fall in Glen Rose

The Gatesville varsity girls basketball team fell to 4-5 after three losses in the Glen Rose Tournament.

Following a 72-11 defeat at the hands of No. 1 ranked Glen Rose, GHS lost to Amarillo Caprock, 55-42, and to El Paso Eastlake, 46-33.

The junior varsity Hornet girls fell to Alvarado, 32-27, on Dec. 3.

The Hornets were scheduled to play the McGregor Lady Bulldogs in a home contest on Dec. 6, and will complete in Jarrell Dec. 8-10.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Hornets win Salado tourney

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

As the saying goes, “you can’t win ‘em all” — just don’t tell the Gatesville Hornets boys basketball team that.

The Hornets won their seventh straight game on Saturday by virtue of a 74-59 drubbing of Pflugerville in the championship game of the Coach Smith Memorial Tournament in Salado. They were 5-0 in the tournament, improving 9-1 on the season. They have not lost since a 59-55 setback against Lorena on Nov. 15.

In Salado, they took care of Liberal Arts and Science Academy of Austin 58-39, Decatur 54-37, Lampasas 65-53, and Bastrop 82-48 before disposing of the class 5A Panthers in the championship game.

While the title game win over the Panthers secured a gold trophy for the case at Sydney Pruitt Gymnasium, it was the victory over Decatur that made the loudest statement. The Eagles came into the game ranked No. 17 in the state in Class 4A after a regional quarter-final run in 2022.

After a disastrous first half, the Hornets turned a 24-14 halftime deficit into a 54-37 triumph using a dominant third quarter to secure what might be the signature win of the Brit Campbell coaching era. They out-scored the Eagles 18-0 in the third quarter, keyed by a quick offensive start, and maintained by an oppressive half-court defense.

Campbell said he offered no fiery halftime speech or pep talk against Decatur. He simply reminded his team to do what they do best.

“Really, we just talked about things we needed to do better on both ends of the floor. And I told the guys we were fine if we just fixed some things that we talked about and to make sure and come out and play solid, and to let our defense drive our offense,” Campbell said. “Nothing crazy. They just stepped up and played great.”

Great might be an understatement when describing how the Hornets played in the third quarter.

West Allman scored the first six points of the quarter by virtue of a three-pointer, breakaway layup, and free throw to make it 24-20 with 4:33 to go in the quarter.

Banner Allman then scored four quick points of his own to tie the game. First, he snatched away an offensive rebound and put it back to cut the deficit to 24-22, then hit a floater from 10 feet to tie the game at 24 with 3:20 to go. That’s when Williams got involved in the festivities.

The senior buried a corner three-pointer to give Gatesville a 27-24 lead, then scored on a slicing layup to make it 29-24 before Banner Allman knocked down three more free throws to give Gatesville a 32-24 advantage at the end of the third.

In the fourth, Shea slammed the door shut. He scored nine points in the period and punctuated the win with three dunks in the quarter.

The championship game win was keyed by a 23-point effort from Shea, who was named as the tournament’s Most Valuable Player. He was aided by a 20-point, six-rebound game from Banner Allman, and an 11-point, five assist output from Williams. That trio combined to average 46 points and 21 rebounds per game in the tournament and Shea put

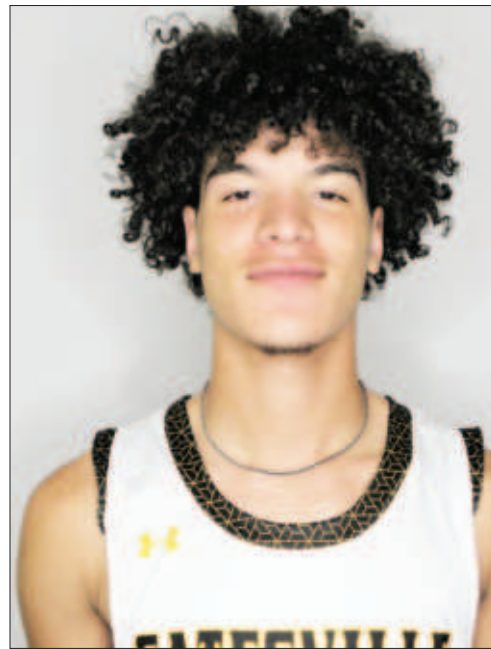


COURTESY PHOTO

TOURNEY CHAMPS: The 2022-23 Gatesville High School boys varsity basketball team pauses for a photo after winning the Coach Smith Memorial Tournament



Banner Allman



Tyler Shea



Carter Williams

another dozen clips on his highlight reel over the five tournament games.

He also wasn’t at a loss for words when asked to describe what it’s like to play with his fellow senior teammates.

“Banner and Carter are some of the best teammates anyone could ask for,” said Shea. “Carter is a ‘sneaky scorer’ and very smart.”

Allman said that the Hornets’ current chemistry and rhythm benefits each player in their own specific way.

“It just gives you more room to do what you are best at and be able to play with more freedom when you have full confidence that your teammates make plays happen,” he said.

“Banner is just a dog,” added Shea. “He’s an athlete and loves to compete and the team feeds off his energy a lot. He’s a big reason we can run the score up on a lot of these teams.”

Running up big leads has become commonplace for the Hornets as they have held a lead of at least 20 points in each of their nine wins. Their tournament championship win was not as close as the final score indicated as they led by 23 points with 1:21 to go before Pflugerville scored the final eight.

The Hornets led 40-24 at halftime and looked well on their way to another blow-out, but Pflugerville battled back and cut the Gatesville lead to 48-42 midway through the third quarter. After a Shea miss, the Panthers had a chance to make it a one-possession game, but Rayshon Smith forced a jump ball that gave possession to the Hornets.

That’s when Shea took over, playing a role in the final 11 points the Hornets scored in the quarter.

First, he took a feed from Trae Miller and scored to make it 50-42 then found Williams for a layup and a 52-42 lead. On the next play, his picked off a pass at halfcourt and finished with a dunk to make it 54-42.

Two plays later, Miller hit Shea again for another layup and a foul. He hit the free throw to make it 57-42 and finished his own personal run with a putback that stretched the lead to 59-42.

“I feel like we have great individual players but when we play as one, it’s pretty hard to stop us. We have great chemistry from just being around each other a lot,” Shea said.

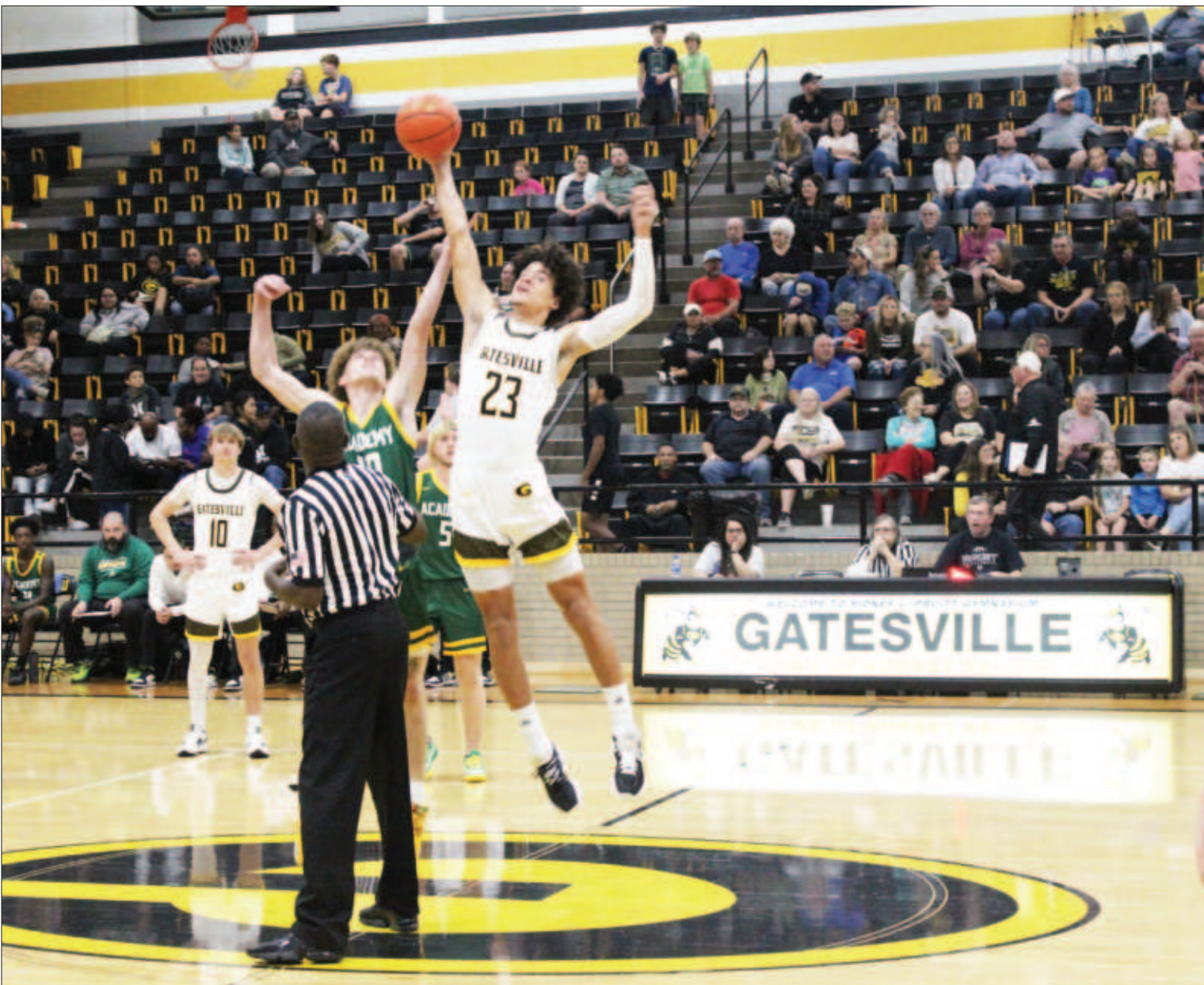
Allman pointed to three factors that allows for dominant stretches in games and such a dominant run over the last seven games.

“I’d have to say it’s our confidence and trust in each other and our love and joy for the game,” he said. “Lastly, it’s our ability to control the speed of the game.”

While aware his team is clicking right now, Campbell also maintains the perspective that there is a lot of season left and a lot of room for improvement.

“We need to improve on the little things to be more consistent,” he said. “I feel like the big picture stuff is there but there are little things that need to be fine-tuned and things we need to keep working to improve on.”

Gatesville begins another round of tournament play on Thursday in Hamilton. The Hornets open with Clifton on Thursday at 4:30 p.m., then face Eastland at 8:30 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

Senior Tyler Shea leaps high to control the ball for Gatesville in action against Academy. For his performance in the Salado tournament, Shea was named Most Valuable Player. He scored 23 points in the Hornets’ win over Pflugerville.