



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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City leaders focus on flooding woes, solutions

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

City leaders and community members on Jan. 24 heard details about the city's master drainage plan, which looks to take aim at flooding problems that will take an estimated \$6.7 million to address.

"When I first arrived here, it was quite obvious that due to improper planning water has been allowed to go wherever it wants to go," said Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry, who spent years working to help develop a city drainage master plan to take aim at some of the issues that result in flood damages, threats and inconveniences.

The city was able to qualify for \$250,000 in funding — including \$225,000 from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and a required match of 10% — or \$25,000, from Gatesville itself to address the drainage issues.

"It's important the City Council realize there will likely be a follow-up required on impervious surfaces," Parry said.

Impervious surfaces, such as asphalt and concrete, do not allow water to seep into the ground but instead create runoff that can lead to problems downstream.

Having a master plan in place will enable the city to qualify for federal grants to help alleviate flooding concerns.

The city has worked with Walker Partners, an engineering firm based in Waco, to identify both problem areas and different solutions that can help reduce local flooding.

Curtis Biddle, a project engineer for Walker Partners, said the work done is an important first step in making positive changes for the community.

"This is the first ever master drainage plan for the city of Gatesville, and it sets up the framework for y'all's decision making in the future to address flooding issues," Biddle said.

"The Leon River is the primary source of flooding (in Gatesville), and it was worse prior to 1963 when Lake Proctor was built (upstream in Comanche County)."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently developed a hydraulic model for the Leon River watershed from Lake Proctor to Lake Belton, and Gatesville was able to use this data for its drainage plan.

Several key areas where flooding occurs were identified, and Biddle said potential solutions have been suggested for

each of those.

"The low-water crossing on Straws Mill Road is one area," Parry said. "Sometimes when you fix one thing it can create a larger problem downstream. What's key — this will eventually lead to a section of capital improvements for drainage."

"It's important to identify the problem areas and then focus on what can be done to fix it. There are grants available if you can show and justify what you need."

Among the areas of concern identified were:

- * The area near Kalyn Siebert on Highway 84
- * Dodd Branch Crossing at FM 2412
- * Dodd Branch at Moccasin Bend Road
- * Leon River at East Leon Street
- * Faunt Le Roy Park
- * Leon River at the Leon Wastewater Treatment Plant
- * Shady Lane at Business 36
- * Golf Course Road

PLEASE SEE CITY | A2

Gatesville Lions Club hosts chili supper



JEFF OSBORNE
| THE GATESVILLE
MESSENGER

Top photo, Gatesville Lions Club members Eric Moffett, the new pastor at Coryell Community Church, and Scott Johnson, a financial advisor, serve up chili and soup during the Gatesville Lions Club's 46th Annual Homer Davis Memorial Chili Supper on Jan. 27 in the Gatesville High School cafeteria. Bottom photo, Rosemary Mathis and Linda Klontz check out the wide variety of desserts available at the event.

Matthews named Citizen of the Year

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor



Matthews

Service to his community above and beyond his role of county commissioner has earned Kyle Matthews the distinction of Gatesville Citizen of the Year.

That announcement was made by Mason Matthews, Kyle's son, who is a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors, during the 2022 Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Membership and Awards Banquet on Jan. 28 at Windmill Hill.

During the announcement, Mason noted that his father has been a resident of Gatesville for 20 years, a retired state employee and a passionate volunteer who is involved with several different local service organizations, including the Coryell County Youth Fair.

Mason said he has learned a lot about service to the community through his father's strong example. "He truly takes what he teaches to heart," Mason said. "He is always polite and respectful and strives to be helpful, always looking to do what he can for others. I hope one day I can be half the citizen that he is. It is hard to quantify all that he does."

Matthews previously worked for both the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Department of Public Safety. He and his family also opened the Elk Stop convenience store in Evant despite adverse economic circumstances at the time, saying, "I knew it was

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4-H, youth fair help build skills, confidence

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

With another Coryell County Youth Fair in the record books and frequent 4-H programs continuing, Becky Coward with the Coryell County Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office gave a presentation on Jan. 26 to the Gatesville Exchange Club.

Coward said the youth fair is a year-round endeavor, with many activities that take place behind the scenes playing a crucial role in the success of the week-long youth fair each January.

While much of the attention during the event goes to the livestock categories, Coward said the home economics portion of the youth fair also attracts strong participation.

"Home economics includes things like woodworking, baking, crafts and preserving foods, which is sometimes a lost art," Coward said. "The youth fair brings families together and teaches kids new skills. The baked foods (category) is always a hit. We were able to utilize the services of some soldiers from Fort Hood who served as judges."

Also showcased during the youth fair are skills in ag mechanics, which covers a range of areas including repurposing furniture.

"There were probably 400 to 500 entries in home economics," Coward said.

As for the livestock portion of the fair, Coward said, "our animal numbers were down a bit except for the horse show. We had 42 entries in eight different categories, and a lot of kids around here are still involved in working with horses. I'm proud to see that involvement."

An event that generates plenty of excitement is the pig scramble, in which third-graders chase a pig in hopes of securing a little extra funding.

"They turn loose the pigs which weigh 30 to 40 pounds and if the kids can catch one, they get \$100 toward the purchase of their first 4-H project to show at the fair," Coward said.

There was also an auction on the last Saturday of the fair that allowed youth to receive financial rewards for their efforts.

"I'm super-duper proud of these kids and their hard work," Coward said.

Busy 4-H slate continues

While the youth fair is over for another year, that doesn't mean 4-H activities have slowed down.

A Coryell County livestock judging team has been selected to participate in an international competition in Scotland in June, which is just one example showing the level of dedication and skill that local youths have developed.

"Right now 4-H is very busy," Coward said, adding that there are activities or meetings nearly every weeknight in addition to the weekend commitments, and these continue throughout the year.

Members of the local 4-H clubs will have an opportunity to visit the state capitol in March, make presentations to the community in April and participate in the state 4-H contest in June. There are also summer camps focusing on different things.

Coward credited the dedication of adult volunteers for contributing to the success of the programs.

"All of this would not be possible without the many volunteers who work to make things happen," she said. "I so appreciate all of those who give their time and talents."

Seeing children and teens thrive in 4-H is very rewarding to her, Coward said.

"Watching a young kid go from being shy and withdrawn to wanting to compete at the state level is really special," she said. "It is really exciting to see their confidence develop. I don't want to lose sight of what 4-H does for kids."

"Every day they get to experience something new and that energizes me and I love it. I have a very understanding husband as well."



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Becky Coward, a Texas A&M Agrilife extension agent specializing in 4-H programs for Coryell County, spoke to the Gatesville Exchange Club on Jan. 26 about the positive impact of 4-H and the county youth fair.

Get Off the Fence and Back on Your Feet



Meet Coryell Health's New Podiatrist

Dr. James Townson, DPM

Coryell Health is excited to introduce our new podiatrist, Dr. James Townson, DPM.

Dr. Townson is a foot and ankle surgeon specialist with over 10 years of experience in the medical field. He is board certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery and strives to ensure all his patients receive the most complete and efficient care possible.



Podiatric Medicine & Surgery

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CHAMBER

FROM PAGE A1

something the community needed."

Others honored during the banquet include:

- * Director of the Year: Kaira Perez
- * Ambassador of the Year: Diana Barnett
- * Junior Ambassador of the Year: Grace Penrod

- * Best Customer Service: Spur Nutrition
 - * New Business of the Year: Coffee Saloon
 - * People's Choice Award: Studebakers Pizza
 - * Business of the Year: First National Bank
- Features on award winners will appear in upcoming editions of The Gatesville Messenger. A special section recapping the Chamber banquet is scheduled to appear in the Feb. 11 edition of The Messenger.

CITY

FROM PAGE A1

- * Straws Mill Road
- * Stream at Highway 36 and Arrowood Lane
- * Stream at U.S. Highway 84
- * Stream at Mears Drive and 28th Street
- * Stream at FM 929
- * Stillhouse Wastewater Treatment Plant at Leon River
- * Sun Valley neighborhood

Out of these areas, six projects have been identified to address concerns, and different options were presented with varying costs.

In one neighborhood, 10 structures are primarily affected. One option, which would include raising the street, would cost an estimated \$2.3 million "which makes it not particularly feasible," Biddle said. A different way to mitigate flooding would still cost the city about \$1.4 million "which is still fairly high," he added.

Biddle recommended city leaders work with those residents who are impacted to get Federal Emergency Management Agency grants to elevate the structures.

"That's the most practical approach," Biddle said.

A second project at the Leon River and wastewater treatment plant would cost an estimated \$642,000 and could be covered with state revolving funds.

Project 3 is the low-water crossing at Straws Mill Road, and would involve raising the road at an estimated cost of \$411,000, which would be funded in part by an infrastructure grant.

Projects at Arrowood Lane would be partly covered by the county's acquisition of Community Development Block Grant funds.

Another portion of the work at Arrowood could be addressed by adding box culverts under the highway.

"This is the result of 95 years of neglect we've just allowed to happen. If we don't start attacking this, we are going to have habitual perpetual flooding problems in the city of Gatesville."

BILL PARRY
City Manager

Project 5 at FM 929 would require raising the road about a foot, along with replacing and adding culverts.

Project 6 in the Sun Valley neighborhood had significantly differing costs, depending on the approach taken. Biddle noted that if buyouts were used for the city to acquire the property from the owners, it would cost "over \$11 million and is not feasible."

Another option is to build a levee around the area, with a total estimated cost of \$1.4 million.

"That's very practical and would be a good project to pursue under the TWDB flood infrastructure" plan," Biddle said.

He said the city needs to focus on "a strong effort to find funding sources. There are \$6.7 million worth of projects."

Parry said these are not the only areas of the city that experience flooding, adding "the others haven't been studied yet."

He said the flooding problems have been aggravated by decades of inaction.

"This is the result of 95 years of neglect we've just allowed to happen," Parry said. "If we don't start attacking this, we are going to have habitual perpetual flooding problems in the city of Gatesville."

GHS band to have mattress sale Feb. 4

Gatesville High School's Band Department will have a mattress sale fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at the high school, 205 S. Lovers Lane.

A portion of the proceeds from each mattress purchased will go toward the GHS band program.

Beautyrest mattresses will be sold, with adjustable bases, luxury pillows and mattress protectors available.

Twin, full, queen and king mattresses will be available, with 25 styles displayed. Delivery is available. A \$50 discount is available for purchases over \$299.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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DEADLINES:

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

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

All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and

newspaper format as determined by management.

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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.

Junior High auditorium to be named in honor of Clay Reeves

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GATESVILLE ISD.

In the near future, the Gatesville Independent School Board will vote to approve the dedication of the Junior High auditorium to long-time educator Clay Reeves. With a career spanning 55 years in Gatesville, Mr. Reeves taught Pre-Algebra and Algebra to generations of students. However, he made another huge contribution to the students of GISD through his theatrical productions. In addition to his math courses, Clay began teaching a speech and drama elective at GJHS.

A class that started with simple sketches quickly evolved into elaborate theatrical productions. In 1976, to commemorate the Bicentennial, Clay wrote his first production, titled American Hysteria. It is important to note that every 7th grade student participated in some fashion with the production of that play. With each passing year, the plays would become more elaborate. Mr. Reeves not only wrote the scripts, but he would help with the sound and lighting as well as designing props, scenery, and costumes. Some of his notable plays were: The Legend of Sherwood Forest, Earth Angel, Cat's Whiskers, Bamboozle, Prince's Bride, and Mississippi Smith.

With the help of fellow staff members Terry Hale, Connie Bell, and Anne Eubanks, the GJHS stage would be home to elaborate props, which included such things as a waterfall, a giant



Clay Reeves

COURTESY PHOTO

spider, a slide, a giant skull, and even glitter rain. The remnants of some of that scenery can still be found on stage. Clay even occasionally performed in his plays, often singing, or acting alongside his students. His final theatrical performance was 1992's Prances with Fools. Each spring, junior high students would work tirelessly through try-outs and practices, after school and on Saturdays.

It was not unusual for the 585-seat auditorium to be completely filled with

folks the nights of the performances. Those plays became highly anticipated social events of the year. As he reflected on this time in his life, Clay explained, "my script would initially be 400 to 500 handwritten pages. I liked to just start writing and see where it took me. Sometimes it worked, and sometimes it didn't." It is GISD's honor to dedicate the GJHS auditorium to Clay Reeves.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

A rant in favor of the government, when it works smoothly for us all

SAM HOUSTON

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



HOUSTON

As I begin this column I have a feeling I may be kicking at a hornet nest, but upon reflection, I am determined to speak my mind even though it may fly in the face of commonly held beliefs and a few readers may shake their head at me in dismay.

I recently reached the age where I could file with Social Security for my retirement benefits. I have reached full retirement age and can apply for my benefits even though I continue to work. Going to the Social Security website, I completed the online forms and hit submit. Soon I learned I would start receiving benefits by the end of the month. The entire process was fast, easy and efficient.

On Thursday I got a phone call from a bank in Gainesville with a rather unusual question. Though I did not have an account at the bank, they knew who I was because I manage an account at that bank for my Miss Jayne, an elderly senior citizen. It would seem Social Security was trying to make an electronic deposit for me, but I did not have an account at that bank. Social Security did have my account number, but it was for an account at a completely different bank.

My response was to instruct the bank to reject the electronic transfer. I would reach out to Social Security to clear up the matter. I then began investigating the copy I had printed out from the Social Security website when I applied. Lo and behold, some dummy (meaning me!) had provided inaccurate information. Somehow I had sent the wrong routing number when I completed the paperwork. Social Security was trying to do exactly what I had told them to do. The error was completely and to-

tally my fault.

On Friday morning I got on the phone and called the nearest Social Security office to see if I could clear up the matter. After a very brief wait on hold, a courteous customer rep took my call, asked a few questions, fixed the problem and assured me I would have the money I was due, deposited in the correct account within 48 hours. Before I got off the phone I expressed to the young woman my thanks and told her how much I appreciated her kindness and for working with me to fix my problem.

Somewhere in the 80s it became very fashionable to blame every problem on the government and that seems to be the sentiment many people still hold. Let me disclaim, I am not saying the government is the solution for all our problems, or that the government is better situated to handle matters than private citizens. I am not a socialist. However, we do have a government, and while they are far from perfect, considering the enormity of the job they undertake my experience is they generally do a pretty good job.

In this case, the entire problem was caused by my error. When the matter was brought to the attention of the powers to be, they aided me, and made it right. What more could I ask for?

Does the government make mistakes, and does it sometimes act inefficiently? Of course, it does! The last

time I looked, so does every entity I have ever done business with. The government is made up of human beings, just like our private businesses, and sometimes individuals make errors.

Am I suggesting the government is perfect? Heavens no, but when I hear people go on and on about how bad the government handles things, it makes me want to check into their work product. I wonder how perfect they are, or how perfect their business operates. I bet their performance is not nearly as perfect as what they expect of every branch of government from the feds to local city offices. I would think we all want the best result possible in all things. Maybe we should be a little more understanding when it doesn't work out that way.

Thank you, kind lady, at the Social Security office who helped me. Thanks to everybody in a civil service job who is doing the best they can to serve us, the people. It is a thankless job, and this is one time I wanted to say to a person, "We appreciate what you do."

Thought for the day: "We are all imperfect. We cannot expect perfect government." — William Howard Taft

Until next time I will be riding the storm out.

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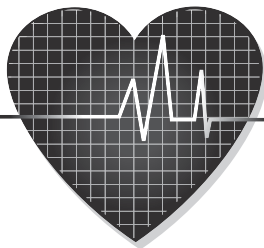
February recognized as National Heart Health Month

National Heart Health Month was instated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in December of 1963, and the first celebrated month was in February of 1964.

Heart Disease has continued to be the leading cause of death of women in the United States over the past few decades. According to the American Heart Association nearly 45% of women are living with some form of cardiovascular disease in America today. National Heart Health Month is also celebrated with National Wear Red Day, which has been observed on the first Friday of February each year since 2004.

National Wear Red Day brings awareness to women's heart health. This day is supported by the American Heart Association and is celebrated with National Heart Health Month. Women play a huge role in society. They are our mothers, daughters, counselors, sisters, providers, and our nurturers. As deeply as women take care of those around them, National Wear Red Day is a great way to honor women who are struggling with any cardiovascular disease and

continue to provide for their families on a day-to-day basis. Celebration of this day can include simply wearing red, planning an all-red party, decorating your office space, or even wearing a new bright red lip stick.



Heart Health Month

Harvard University Health suggests these tips for a healthy heart:

1. Take a short walk. If exercising isn't your forte, try taking a 10-15-minute walk. It is a great way to start the day.
2. Lift a little. Lifting a two-pound weight a few times a day can benefit toning your arm muscles.
3. Eat a fruit or vegetable a day. Many fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamin C. Try consuming more strawberries, cabbage, citrus, and bell peppers.
4. Make breakfast count. Start the day off with some whole grains and fruit, like oatmeal or whole-wheat toast.
5. Stop drinking your calo-

ries. Cutting out at least one sugar-sweetened soda can easily save you 100 or more calories a day.

6. Have a handful of nuts. Walnuts, almonds, peanuts, and other nuts are good for your heart. Try grabbing some instead of a bag of chips or cookies.

7. Sample the fruits of the sea. Eating fish or other kinds of seafood at least once a week instead of red meat will improve your brain, heart, and waistline.

8. Breathe deeply. Try breathing slowly and deeply for a few minutes each day. It can help you relax. Slow, deep breathing may also help lower blood pressure.

9. Wash your hands often. Scrubbing up with soap and water often during the day is a great way to protect your heart and health.

10. Count your blessings. Taking a moment each day to acknowledge the blessings in life is one way to start tapping into other positive emotions. These have been linked with better health, longer life, and greater well-being.

LETTER

The true meaning of Christmas.

Dear Editor,
I am writing to thank Gatesville-area residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Generosity throughout contributed to a successful shoebox gift collection season at drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child. Across the U.S., the project collected over 9.3 million shoebox gifts in 2022. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2022, the ministry is now sending nearly 10.6 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes — packed with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items — Gatesville-area volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever

received. Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 209 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Samaritan's Purse delivered its milestone 200 millionth shoebox, which was packed on a country-wide tour and then hand-delivered to a young girl in Ukraine.

Across Texas, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved

year-round can also be found online at samaritanspurse.org/occ or by calling 817-595-2230.

Although local drop off locations for gifts are closed until Nov. 13-20, 2023, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Sincerely,
Lizette Miller
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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

Pints for polio

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Tumbleweed Smith, of Big Spring, is a newspaper columnist and producer of The Sound of Texas radio series



Smith

In 2016, when John Scott was a Rotary District Governor he presented the idea for a fundraiser to his home club, The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club. It was Pints for Polio where people pay a fee to sample beers. "The club thought it might be too big an undertaking for a club of 40 members," says John. "But two members, Brent Strande and Barney Dodds, thought it was a good idea, so they ran with it."

The club rented an event center downtown and set up tables where people sampled different types of beer in two-ounce cups. The entry fee was \$25 and those attending were given pint-sized glasses and three tickets, each good for a pint of beer. They had advertised the event and it seemed to take hold. The downtown area was undergoing revitalization and the citizens felt they wanted to support it. The first event drew 250 people and raised \$10,000. "We thought we could never beat that," says John. "But it took hold as an annual event that has grown every year and residents look forward to it. The last PFP raised \$45,000 and drew a crowd of 700."

This year will be the 6th year for Pints for Polio in Big Spring and to date it has raised \$100,000. Half the money goes to Rotary's program of polio eradication worldwide and half goes to local projects that include

giving bicycles to students in all elementary schools in the county who have perfect attendance. Another club activity is giving money to teachers who develop programs worthy of a financial boost. Still others are town cleanups and putting reflective tape on fire hydrants so firemen can find them at night.

The entry fee for this year's PFP is \$50. The date is March 25. John says it takes about 60 people to put it on. "We get help from the other Rotary Club in town. It takes a lot of organizing and planning. We write down how we could make the event better each year. We have made a video to show other clubs how to hold a pint's project. It's on our club's Facebook page. Some clubs in the district have started PFP and our event draws Rotarians and others from throughout the state."

John says some people prefer wine, so wine is offered along with the beer. Wine is served in wine glasses. "Much of the wine and beer is donated," says John. "Some well-known wineries on the South Plains donate and beer distributors give us cases of beer they are wanting to promote. We also buy wine and beer. Of course, we have soft drinks and water, too."

John and Brent Strande are quite interested in alcohol. John enjoys fine whiskey and is trying to get a brewery started in Big Spring. Some of his beer is in kegs at the event. Brent has a place called The Train Car in downtown Big Spring. It has a full bar and a selection of cigars in the smoking room. Yep, it's in a train car.

John figures the proceeds from his club's PFP have saved the lives of about a million kids. Not bad for a small club in a town of 30,000 people.



COURTESY OF QUESTER

DEEP ROOTS: Purmela Baptist Church, whose congregation can be traced back to 1886.

CORYELL COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER "SPOTLIGHT"

Purmela Baptist Church

Marker text:

This congregation traces its history to 1886, when the Rev. W.M. Blakely and 10 charter members organized the Basham Baptist Church in the old Basham School Building at the Smith Cemetery (ca. 1.7 Mi. S). Basham Baptist Church merged with Salem Baptist Church (also known as Round Valley Baptist Church) in 1901, and the new consolidated congregations built a sanctuary at Cravey Crossing on

Cowhouse Creek (ca. 2 mi SW). The church's name was changed to Cravey Crossing Baptist Church. Worship services were conducted in the creek.

In 1927, after the congregation voted to relocate to this site, the Cravey Crossing Church building was dismantled and rebuilt here by volunteers. The name was changed to Purmela Baptist Church when construction was completed in 1928, and soon worship

services were conducted weekly. Throughout its history, this church has served members in a large rural area. The church facilities have been enlarged over the years to serve the growing congregation, which continues to maintain many of its historic traditions.

Marker erected in 1991.

Location: From Gatesville, take Hwy. 84 about 14 miles west, then take FM 932 about one mile north.

Morris Federation to meet Feb. 11

The Morris Federation will hold its next meeting on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 10:15 a.m., in the James Coryell Room at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

The program will be titled

"Off the Beaten Path." It will be presented by Dona Gallagher, based on her personal experiences and interesting observations from some of her many travels. Morris Federation members are en-

couraged to attend and may bring guests.

The Coryell Museum is located at 718 E. Main Street in Gatesville.

Medical Raffle to be held for Zacha

A medical raffle is underway for 2022 GHS graduate Dayne Zacha, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

Zacha is in his first year of college, majoring in nursing. He plans on being an oncology nurse to help others battling cancer. Zacha has a huge love for his family and for tennis.

Those wishing to contribute to the raffle can purchase a \$50 raffle ticket for a chance to win a half of beef donated by Barnard Beef Cattle Company.

Those purchasing the raffle tickets, if their ticket is not selected, they can use their \$50 donation on any half or whole purchased in the next six months. One

hundred percent of the proceeds go to the family.

Four interest-free payments of \$12.50 can be made on PayPal.

To purchase a ticket or for more information, visit <https://www.barnardbeef.com/product-page/dayne-cole-raffle-ticket> or call 254-22-3297.

PEARL NEWS

Pearl community mourns the loss of former, long-time resident

BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Maureen Adams who passed away on Jan. 24.

Mrs. Adams had lived in the Pearl Community for many years before moving to Evant. She had worked at the Evant school for 45

years and was dear to everyone whose lives she touched. We will miss her but are so grateful for the privilege of having known such a wonderful Christian woman!



Clark

There are still many items left at the Self estate for sale. However, you must contact Linda Ray at either 254-865-9282 or 254-206-1999 to make an appointment to see them. See the list in the next paragraph. (A lot of furniture from the garage, barn, and house has been moved to the Pearl Church of Christ tabernacle. Those items are priced at "take what you want, pay what you want." You can leave your money on the Communion Table in the church. All your generous donations go to the Scholarship fund and are greatly appreciated!)

Several items of furniture from the house cannot be moved to the tabernacle. Those items include two sewing machines in cabinets, a full-size wooden bed, a four-poster queen-size bed, a China cabinet, several small bookshelves, and an entertainment center with TVs. All of these items are "make an offer." You will need to be able to move these items yourself, so you may want to bring someone with you who can help you lift and load your purchases. Cash and carry only.

Also in the Self house are a free Victorian sofa and side chair. They need a good cleaning but are in very good shape. Again, all proceeds go to the Pearl Church of Christ Scholarship Fund, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Pearl Cottage Bookstore opens again on Feb. 4 at 10 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. Remember, you can participate in the Junk-in-Your-Trunk event by paying \$5 to set up your booth or trunk around the bookstore.

This nonprofit bookstore offers more than 6,000 used books from many genres, all in great shape. You can find all sorts of other treasures there, too!

You will also love the friendly, cozy atmosphere the bookstore has to offer. Three great ladies, aka "the girls," make you feel welcome, appreciated, and loved! (That's so true, Kay, Corlisa, and Linda!! You three are the very best — the cream of the crop! Customer service on steroids describes your personalities!) I recently read a quote by Gabrielle Zevin that says, "A place is not really a place without a bookstore." Well, we already knew that there's no place like Pearl — and we have the best used bookstore there is that's also a nonprofit charity house! Now that's a Place with a capital "P!"

This week's Bible verse comes from I John 4:8: Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." (ESV)

Be sure and click "like" on the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page! Please send any Pearl news to betsyclark47@yahoo.com.

Data Control Codes	10					60		98	
	General Fund	ESSER II, CFRSA Act Fund	ESSER III, ARP Act Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds			
REVENUES									
5700	Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,186,976	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,472	\$	1,237,448	
5800	State Program Revenues	1,582,325	-	-	-	21,124		1,604,049	
5900	Federal Program Revenues	22,669	148,055	248,154	-	266,048		714,926	
5020	Total Revenues	2,792,570	148,055	248,154	-	367,644		3,556,423	
EXPENDITURES									
Current:									
0011	Instruction	1,272,090	120,899	134,713	-	130,445		1,658,147	
0012	Library and Instructional Resources	15,761	-	254	-	-		16,015	
0013	Curriculum and Staff Development	900	-	-	-	-		900	
0023	School Leadership	142,720	-	1,015	-	1,400		145,135	
0031	Guidance and Counseling	4,366	968	-	-	7,731		13,065	
0033	Health Services	1,714	-	-	-	-		1,714	
0034	Student Transportation	82,949	28,188	254	-	-		89,391	
0035	Food Services	-	-	13,054	-	168,332		181,386	
0036	Extracurricular Activities	180,861	-	507	-	42,790		224,158	
0041	General Administration	308,184	-	1,015	-	4,896		315,075	
0051	Plant Maintenance and Operations	280,957	-	50,822	-	-		331,779	
0053	Data Processing Services	117,068	-	-	-	-		117,066	
Debt Service:									
0071	Debt Service - Principal	33,751	-	-	-	-		33,751	
0072	Debt Service - Interest	1,486	-	-	-	-		1,486	
0073	Debt Service - Issuance Costs and Fees	-	-	-	-	6,000		6,000	
Capital Outlay:									
0081	Facilities Acquisition & Construction	-	-	-	558,670	-		558,670	
Intergovernmental:									
Payments to Shared Services:									
0093	Arrangements	12,186	-	46,520	-	-		58,706	
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	15,114	-	-	-	-		15,114	
6030	Total Expenditures	2,451,585	148,055	248,154	554,670	355,594		3,767,558	
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	341,485	-	-	(564,670)	12,050		(211,135)	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)									
7914	Loan Proceeds	-	-	-	1,000,000	-		1,000,000	
7080	Total Other Financing Sources and (Uses)	-	-	-	1,000,000	-		1,000,000	
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	341,485	-	-	435,330	12,050		788,865	
0100	Fund Balances, Beginning	1,310,872	-	-	-	11,217		1,322,089	
3000	Fund Balances, Ending	\$ 1,652,357	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 435,330	\$ 23,267	\$	2,110,954	



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

ONE TOUGH COOKIE: Mackenzie Statcher is pictured braving the cold in an effort to sell Girl Scout cookies. Her goal is to sell 5,000 boxes this year.

Girl Scout cookie sales continue until Feb. 28

Despite the wind and recent cold weather, the determination, and stamina of 15-year-old Girl Scout, Mackenzie Statcher, was in full force when it came to selling cookies - she could be described as one "tough cookie" herself. Despite the weather conditions, Statcher said "I sold 4,068 boxes of cookies last year and I'm shooting to sell 5,000 this year." To date, she is well on the way to reaching her goal already selling 2,000 boxes since the selling period opened on January 18.

Currently in 10th grade, Statcher has been named a "Senior" in the Girl Scouts. Next year, she will become an "Ambassador." She said that she has learned so much from being in the organization for the past seven years.

"Being a Girl Scout has been a very good experience for me," she said.

By selling cookies, working at concession stands at Baylor, and by selling Fall Products (nuts, candy, and trail mix), Girl Scout participants can raise enough money on their own to help sponsor learning involved trips. Last year, area Scouts visited Hawaii including a trip to Pearl Harbor. In 2023, participants will go on a cruise followed by a trip to Japan in 2024 and a trip to Paris, France in 2025.

Mackenzie is the daughter of Michael and Shelia Stacher of Gatesville who are very proud of their daughter's determination and active participation in the Girl Scout organization.



Business Directory

 <p>Billy Latham Sales</p> <p>Office (254) 865-2190 Cell: (254) 223-2272 billy@wbsupplies.com</p> <p>1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass Gatesville, Texas 76528</p>	 <p>Brian Riddle Project Manager brianriddlerunningmroofing@gmail.com</p> <p>Running M Roofing & Construction, LLC</p> <p>FREE INSPECTIONS - 254-223-1971 Commercial • Residential • Claims Specialists</p>	 <p>GOSSETT TRANSMISSION SERVICE P.O. Box 291 • 1900 Main St. Gatesville, TX 76528</p> <p>JIM GOSSETT RAY GOSSETT</p> <p>254-865-5791</p>
<p>Rhudy Insurance Agency</p> <p>Let us help you with your insurance needs.</p> <p>Rebecca Rhudy-Hunter Insurance Agent</p> <p>2601 S. Bus. Hwy 36 Gatesville, Texas 76528 254-865-1398 254-865-7718 rebecca@rhudyinsurance.com</p> <p>Germania Insurance</p> <p>Home • Auto • Life • Liability • Mobile Home</p>	<p><i>R & M Fencing & Dozing</i></p> <p>FREE ESTIMATES</p> <p>Fence Row Clearing Barbed Wire Custom Pipe Fencing Entryways & Corrals Barns & Metal Buildings Residential Fencing Game Fencing Dozer Work Available</p> <p>LARRY RIDDLE 254-248-2205</p> <p>JOYCE MCADAMS 254-248-4318</p>	 <p>Brandon Latham Owner / President</p> <p>1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass Gatesville, Texas 76528</p> <p>mobile: 254-223-1723 Office: 254-865-2190</p>
<p>Jaydie Dixon Owner</p> <p>DIXON ROOFING</p> <p>FREE ESTIMATES Residential & Commercial Insurance Claims Specialist 254.248.4053 P.O. Box 67, Gatesville, TX</p>	<p>FERGUSON ROOFING</p> <p>Serving Central Texas</p> <p>Locally Owned Company COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL Free Estimates.....254-466-5128</p>	 <p>O & J SUPERIOR PLUMBING</p> <p>RMP M41774 CAMERA LOCATOR RPZ Backflow</p> <p>Jeff Tesar Office: (254) 404-2242</p>
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OBITUARIES

PAM HAYDEN

Nov. 14, 1959 - Jan. 26, 2023



Pam Hayden, age 63, of

Gatesville, passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2023, in Galveston.

Funeral services will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with cremation following services. Pam's family will receive visitors one hour prior to services at the funeral home.

Pamela Ann Hayden was born on November 14, 1959, in Huntsville. She was the daughter of the late Donald Turland and Janie Kovacic. She worked for T.D.C.J. in the medical field and for Co-

ryell Health. Pam loved her plants, animals, she enjoyed going on cruises and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a granddaughter, Madysun Faber.

Pam is survived by her children, Darrel Council and wife, Tammi, LaDonna Faber and husband, William, Brandy Crawford; brother, Dewey Ray Wilkins; grandchildren, Torrance, Drake, Star, Kaleb, Thomas, Meghan, Kaylee, Le'yah; and one great-grandchild, Elijah.

ALFRED A. LUJAN

Feb. 25, 1941 - Jan. 24, 2023



Alfred A. Lujan, age 81, of Turnersville, passed away on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, in Temple.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 1 p.m. Monday, January 30, 2023, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Interment with full military honors followed at Turnersville Cemetery. The rosary was recited at 2

p.m. Sunday, January 29, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with visitation following from 3 to 4 p.m.

Alfred Antonio Lujan was born on February 25, 1941, in Benson, Arizona to the late Antonio and Lorenza Hernandez Lujan. He enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 17 and served in Vietnam. He received the Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster and retired in 1980 as 1st Sgt as a Military Police Officer, with 21 years of service to his country. He married JoAnn Puckett Barnard on March 26, 1986. After his military service, he began a career with Texas Department of Criminal Justice, until his retirement in 2002. He was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. After his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his family, raising cattle and caring for his land. He was also an active volunteer at the Turnersville Community

Center.

He is survived by his wife, JoAnn Lujan; children, Sherri Cox and husband, Nelson, Cliff Barnard and wife, Traci, Alfred (Tony) Lujan, Lori Logan, Leland (Lee) Lujan; grandchildren, Whitney Carothers and husband, Justin, Britney Mooney and husband, Matthew, Raygan Hunt and husband, John, Lauren Goins and husband, Drew, Morgan Barnard, Keith Logan and wife, Ashley, Jolee Hill-Storms; great-grandchildren, Brady Carothers, Grace Carothers, Mason Mooney, Kameryn Mooney, Jackson Evetts, Cash Evetts, Harper Goins, Baby Goins, Kaeleigh Logan, Prince Villanueva.

In lieu of flowers, the family has designated that memorials be made to the Turnersville Cemetery Association, 8100 FM 182, Gatesville, TX 76528.

MAURINE ADAMS

March 8, 1932 - Jan. 24, 2023



Maurine Adams, age 90, of Evant, passed away on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 4, 2023, at Pearl Country Church, with Rev. David Booth officiating. In-

terment will follow at Pearl Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, February 2, at Scott's Funeral Home.

Alice Maurine Adams was born on March 8, 1932, in Midland to the late Farris and Irene Dillard Landis. She married Johnnie Lloyd Adams on August 6, 1949, in Iredell. They resided in the Pearl community for 50 years. She worked for the Evant Independent School District for 45 years as a teacher aide, bus driver and substitute teacher. She touched countless lives with her commitment to education. She often talked about all her good friends and fond memories that she had from the school, church, and community. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, gardening, crafting, and traveling. She moved to Evant in 2000 and was very active in

the Evant Gardening Club and Keno Club. She was a longtime active member of Pearl Country Church, formerly Pearl Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd Adams, on October 8, 2008; sisters, Carrie Self, Sherry Hunt; and a son-in-law Monty Barnes.

Maurine is survived by her daughters, Phyllis Barnes of Kempner, Stacy Perez and husband, Ron, of Salado; sister, Norvell Hernandez and husband, Paul, of Ruidoso, New Mexico; grandchildren, Bill Reneau and wife, Crystal, Justin Perez, Lauren Perez, Lexy Burns, Brad Perez and wife, Karley; and 14 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Pearl Country Church, c/o Connie Long, 5685 CR 139, Gatesville, TX 76528.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of January 26 - 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

Jan. 26
1:12 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of College Street.
11:32 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 500 block of CR 266.
1:24 p.m., a hit and run accident was reported in the 400 block of S. 8th Street.
1:55 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of S. 8th Street.
4:57 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 7000 block of S. State Hwy. 36
10:52 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Meadowview Lane.

Jan. 27
9:53 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.
11:40 a.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of N. 30th Street.
4:41 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.
5:33 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 3400 block of Crown Drive.
6:52 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
9:07 p.m., harassment was reported in the 500 block of Bridge Street.

Jan. 28
1:17 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1100 block of W. Main Street.
3:28 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 600 block of State School Road.
2:26 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 600 block of N. State Hwy. 36.
4:42 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of S. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.
5:16 p.m., a missing person was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
5:42 p.m., an intoxicated

driver was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.
Jan. 29
2:30 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of S. 5th Street.
7:27 a.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.
9:29 a.m., an accident was reported in the 4000 block of FM 1783.
10:02 a.m., a hit and run accident was reported in the 600 block of CR 107.
12:47 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of E. Leon Street.
11:06 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 200 block of N. 14th Street.

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CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jan. 26
9:07 a.m., an out-of-control child was reported in the 100 block of College Street.
11:30 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 500 block of CR 266.
11:45 a.m., a hit and run accident was reported on Hwy. 190 and FM 2067.
3:05 p.m., the burglary of a habitation was reported in the 100 block of Coelton Drive.
7:04 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on N. Hwy. 36 near Jonesboro.
10:54 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Bobcat Lane.

Jan. 27
12:18 a.m., a noise complaint was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.
8:44 a.m., animal neglect was reported in the 200 block of Thackston Road.
2:13 p.m., a fire was reported in the 1200 block of CR 421.
3:57 p.m., a major accident was reported on S. FM 116 at Horseshoe Bend.
4:48 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on FM 116.
10:27 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4000 block of FM 1113.

Jan. 28
10:21 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1300 block of FM 930.
11:01 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of Coryell City Road.
12:09 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 2900 block of Straws Mill Road.
6:58 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 6400 block of FM 1783.
7:13 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2100 block of CR 251.
11:51 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 6400 block of FM 1783.

Jan. 29
9:21 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 3300 block of Moccasin Bend Road.
11:37 a.m., a minor accident was reported on N. Hwy. 36 at CR 197.
12:40 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported on Rancier Road.
3:17 p.m., animal neglect was reported on Hwy. 236 at Iron Bridge Park.
9:02 p.m., a runaway was reported in the 100 block of S. FM 183.
10:37 p.m., harassment was reported in the 9800 block of FM 1783.

Disaster assistance available for 2022 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Coryell County are eligible to apply for 2022 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on short and long season small grains, native pasture, improved pasture, and annual ryegrass. LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing

losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or

if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2023, for 2022 losses.

For additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact your Coryell County USDA Service Center at 254-865-7012 option 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION

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No. 1 Steers	
Under 300 lb.	190-235
300-400 lb.	190-235
400-500 lb.	180-215
500-600 lb.	170-195
600-700 lb.	155-180
700-800 lb.	140-165
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	170-210
300-400 lb.	160-210
400-500 lb.	160-205
500-600 lb.	150-185
600-700 lb.	140-165
700-800 lb.	120-155
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	80-92
Low Yielding	65-75
Fats	75-85
Thin & Shelly	35-55
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	85-118
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	1350-1900
Young Fair	1100-1350
Aged Pairs	Split & Weighed
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	500-1350
Number of Head	840
SELLING FEB. 4TH	
5 Yearling Charolais Bulls	
1-3 yr. old Charolais Bull	
2 yr. old Char-Bray bull	

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School News

Sudoku

		3					5	
	7						9	6
8		2	5		6	3	4	
				9	5		2	
6			7		3			5
	2		1	8				
	5	9	3		1	7		4
4	1						3	
	8					5		

Puzzle by websudoku.com

See answers on page 10.

Mundkowsky named to honor roll

Sydney Mundkowsky, a 2020 graduate of Gatesville High School, was one of 170 Angelo State University student-athletes and student athletic trainers to be named to the Lone Star Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll during the 2022 fall semester in recognition of her hard work in the classroom. To be eligible, student-athletes must earn a minimum GPA of 3.30 for the semester and be on an active roster.

Angelo State University, founded in 1928, is a four-year public school in San Angelo. 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.

Their 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. Angelo State is a part of the Texas Tech University System with campuses across the state.

Central Texas College names employees and department of the year

Central Texas College (CTC) recently announced its employees and department of the year during a recent awards ceremony held in the school's Anderson Campus Center. Also announced were the Chancellor's Award recipient, the Student's Choice award winner for favorite faculty member and the first-time student success Zap awards.

Earning Employee of the Year honors for the CTC Fort Hood, Continental, Europe and Navy sites were Sharon Hughes, advisor/evaluator - Fort Hood, and Yuni Angwin, custodian - Fort Hood. The central campus non-academic employees of the year were Charlie Roseberry, director - Continental and International Records/Course Scheduling, and Laythia Waddell, office assistant III - Outgoing Transcripts. The academic employees of the year at the central campus were Vicky Flores,

teacher - Child Development Center, and Babet Bob Davis, office assistant II - Communications Department. Earning the Student Choice Award for favorite faculty member, as voted on by students, was Donna Brewer, professor - Mathematics.

The Department of the Year was won by Hospitality Programs. CTC Chancellor Jim Yeonopolus selected Diana Castillo, quality assistance liaison/military programs liaison, as the Chancellor's Award winner.

The first-ever faculty, staff and department Zap Awards were presented for outstanding contributions to student success. The faculty winner was Guadalupe Bluhm de Saldivar, program coordinator/professor - Hospitality Programs. Norma Cruz, student admissions specialist - Admissions and Recruitment was the staff winner. The department Zap Award was won by Eagles On Call.

Poston awarded degree from University of Alabama

Vivian Poston, a 2018 graduate of Gatesville High School, was recently awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Alabama. The university

awarded more than 1,650 degrees during its fall commencement ceremonies.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is

the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research, and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an

inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances

discovery, creative inquiry, and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic

growth in Alabama and beyond.

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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The Snowy Owl

Like a ghost, the snowy owl glides through the air in soundless flight. This owl is different from most owls because it hunts during the day and at night. Most owls hunt at night. In the arctic region, the summer days and nights are always light. An owl waiting for darkness to hunt would starve before the dark days of winter arrive.

Connect the dots to draw a snowy owl in flight.

Why White?

Many animals can blend into their environment. This is called camouflage. There are few trees on the tundra, so the snowy owl's white plumage blends with the snowy world of the northern arctic.

In the spring, when the snowy owl makes a nest, the snow has started to melt and the brown earth shows through patches of white snow. The female snowy owl's soft white feathers are streaked with brown so she cannot be seen as she nests on the ground.

Here are three other animals that blend into their habitats, or homes. Can you unscramble their names?

**POLEDAR
REDE
EGIRT**

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have external features that help them thrive in the different environments they inhabit.

How big is a snowy owl?

The snowy owl is one of the largest owls, with a height of about 27 inches (69 cm) and a wingspan of up to 60 inches (152 cm). Wingspan is the measurement from wing tip to wing tip, when the wings are fully stretched.

Microwave oven	25 inches (63.5 cm)
Teacher's desk	40 inches (102 cm)
House cat	25 inches (63.5 cm)
Baseball bat	33 inches (84 cm)
Tennis Racket	27 inches (69 cm)
Small car (width)	67 inches (170 cm)

How many of the things in this chart could fit into a snowy owl's wingspan?

Measure 60 inches (152 cm) on the floor. Now lie down with your arms outstretched along the line. Measure your outstretched arms. How do you compare?

Standards Link: Measurement: Students compare the length of objects by using direct comparison of standard units.

POLEDAR REDE EGIRT

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

SNOWY	Y L O W G P S A B P
OWL	M E M T O W R O D M
WINGSPAN	E T H G I S N E L E
MEMBRANE	G T O B L E N D Y M
DIGEST	A N A P S G N I W B
BONES	M U P O S B L G O R
COUNT	U O C H E W R E N A
TUNDRA	L C T S O H G S S N
SPOT	P C A R D N U T W E
SIGHT	
CHEW	
PREY	
BLEND	
GHOST	
PLUMAGE	

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

Double Double Word Search

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

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple multiple-step directions.

From the Kid Scoop Lesson Library

Create Camouflage

Choose a picture in the newspaper. Cut out a circle of white paper that fits over one-third of the picture. Color the white circle to match the picture underneath. This is camouflage.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple multiple-step directions.

Write On!

Animal Report

Write a paragraph reporting on your favorite animal. Include at least three facts about this animal.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Count and name a number of objects.

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Try these exercises to have fun and exercise the owl way!

Fly like an owl.

Stretch your arms wide apart and swoop around outdoors.

Perch like an owl.

Squat down like you are sitting on a tree branch watching for mice on the ground. Fold your arms into wings with your thumbs in your armpits. How long can you stay in this position?

Hop like an owl.

Start in the perch position. Then hop to the right, hop to the left, hop forward, hop backward.

Twist and turn.

While sitting in the perched position, turn your head as far to the right as you can. Then turn your head as far left as possible.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the health benefits of physical activity and exercise.

Owl Eyes

All owls have excellent sight so that they can spot creatures like mice that run fast along the ground. Owls' eyes are not the same as human eyes. We move our eyes in their sockets to see from side to side. The owl must turn his head to see in different directions. Owls also have a third eyelid, which protects the eye.

It is a milky white eyelid that comes up from the bottom of the eye. Its purpose is to clean and refresh the owl's eyes. This third eyelid is called a **nictitating membrane**.

Standards Link: Life Science: Adaptations in physical structures improve an animal's chance for survival.

Count the Eyes

Look through the newspaper and count the number of eyes that you find. How many are human eyes? How many are the eyes of other animals?

Standards Link: Number Sense: Count and name a number of objects.

The Eyes Have It

The snowy owl has round, yellow eyes. Can you find the pair of eyes that match?

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Students compare and sort common objects.

Baby owls are called owlets. Can you help the mother owl find her way home to her owlets?

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™



TSU SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Tarleton State University's Shakur Daniel (13) and Freddy Hicks (2) put defensive pressure on a Seattle University player during their Jan. 19 men's basketball game during the recent road trip. Scoring droughts for the Texans in the second half resulted in a 67-47 loss.

Texans start off strong but go cold in road loss to Seattle

TSU Sports Information

SEATTLE — Tarleton State University's Texans began their Jan. 19 men's basketball game neck-and-neck at Seattle University, but several scoring droughts in the second half resulted in a 67-47 loss to the Redhawks, who have not lost a game at home this season.

After that game, the Texans and the Redhawks were the only teams in the WAC still undefeated at home this season.

Tarleton (10-9, 3-3 WAC) was first on the scoreboard courtesy of Freddy Hicks, who made his return to the court after suffering an injury against Baylor 10 games prior. Seattle (15-4, 6-0 WAC) was quick to respond scoring its first of several three-point shots in the first 10 minutes of play.

With just over eight minutes left in the first half, the Texans regained a one-point lead off an and-one play from Shamir Bogues.

Tarleton and Seattle traded buckets resulting in four lead changes

over the final seven minutes of the first half. Going into the locker room, the Redhawks held a slight lead, 24-22.

Tarleton's swarming defense caused havoc for Seattle offensively in the first half. The Texans held the Redhawks to 10-of-27 (.370) shooting from the field and yielded no free throws.

The second half proved to be a different story for the Texans, and they were unable to regain the lead. Tarleton couldn't get its shots to fall as Seattle extended its lead to

nine points, thanks to a six-minute scoring drought by the Texans.

With eight minutes gone in the paint ended the Texans' dry spell. Nine unanswered points from the Redhawks, and TSU foul trouble, resulted in a 16-point lead halfway through the second half.

The Texans put together a minor run before the Redhawks put a stamp on the game for their 20-point win.

Tarleton was led in scoring by Lue Williams and Hicks. Williams

picked up 14 points (6-12 FG) and eight defensive boards. Hicks, the Fireside District Player of the Game, also scored 14 points while recording six rebounds, four steals, and three assists.

Bogues notched eight points and four rebounds. Freshman Lajae Jones entered the game late, picking up four points. Shakur Daniel and Coreyoun Rushin each scored three points. Daniel also grabbed three rebounds and two assists.

Two school track records set as Texans compete in Lubbock's Corky Classic

TSU Sports Information

LUBBOCK — Tarleton State University's track and field teams wrapped up two days of competition at the Texas Tech Sports Performance Center Jan. 13-14 as two athletes broke school records with plenty of other impressive performances to go around at the Corky Classic.

"We had some athletes have a solid weekend," said head coach Clay Holland. "However, we have a long way to go to meet our true potential as a team. We will get back on track these next two weeks to be mentally and physically prepared so we will be in position to meet the standards we set for this team."

JAN. 13

In the first event for Tarleton on that Friday, the women's pole vault, true freshman Sage Barmettler cleared 3.53 meters and broke the Tarleton indoor women's pole vault record. The Danbury, Texas, native surpassed Sarah Vann's mark of 3.52 meters in 2014. The mark was good for third place at the Corky Classic as Barmettler was the lone Texan to medal at the meet.

That record was followed by Bailey Smotek's impressive performance in the 600-yard run. The junior Holland, Texas, native ran a 1:10.32 to place second in his heat, fourth in the event and overtake Cameron Krc's previous best of 1:13.90 in 2015.

RECORD ALERT

Bailey Smotek crushed Tarleton's indoor 600-yard school record, placing second in his heat and fourth overall in the men's 600-yard dash with a time of 1:10.32.

On the women's side of the 600-yard run, sophomore Kailey Sykora led her heat from start to finish on the way to a 13th place finish (1:30.04). The run placed her second all-time in Tarleton's record books for the women's indoor 600-yard run.

Brandon McKissick ended the day with a fifth-place finish in the 400m dash, running it in 49.06 seconds. The Liberty Hill native is no stranger to success in the 400m dash as he earned All-WAC second-team recognition in the 4x400m relay at the 2022 WAC Indoor Championships.

Senior Gentrye Munden cleared 1.70m in the women's high jump to earn a fifth-place finish and slide into third place on the Texans all time indoor high jump list.

Sophomore Brenna Lee and senior Alessa King took second and third in their heat of the women's 400m dash. Lee ran 59.74, good for a personal record while King ran 1:00.34. The duo placed 11th and 13th, respectively.

Junior Brady Sisneroz secured personal records in the 400m dash and the 60m hurdles. In the 400m dash he ran 49.95 and was able to win his heat, ultimately placing 11th overall. He had a time of 8.56 in the 60m hurdles.

To close out the 400m top

performers, Brady Sisneroz finished atop his heat and 11th overall with a run of 49.95.

Graduate student Alan Palmer tied for fourth in the men's high jump, clearing 2.02m.

Justin Raines placed 16th overall in the 200m, running 21.84 to pace the Texan men and overtake his previous 200m best of 21.87.

Freshman Canyon Staton won his 200m heat with a time of 21.95. He continued his early success, as he medaled in the 400m dash at the Crimson and Gold Invitational in December, running 49.16.

JAN. 14

Reid Vincent and Raines were able to move on to the 60m dash semifinal that Saturday, after both ran a 6.84 in the prelims. Both improved on their times in the semifinal, with Vincent running 6.83 and Raines 6.80.

Sophomore Reese Schoonover moved on to the semifinal of the women's 60m hurdles after running a 9.33 in the prelim. She also ran a 9.33 in the semi-final.

James McIntyre placed seventh in the men's long jump with a mark of 6.77m.

Juniors Jaden Hall and Jordan Flores impressed in the triple jump as Hall jumped 14.42 for a sixth-place finish. The jump was good for second all-time in Tarleton's indoor triple jump. Flores placed eighth with a mark of 14.37 — third all-time on the indoor triple jump behind Hall.

TSU WOMEN FALL TO UT-ARLINGTON



TSU SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Tarleton State University's Mayra Caicedo (24), a senior guard from Colombia, contributed 13 points during the Texans' Jan. 14 Western Athletic Conference women's basketball home game versus UT-Arlington at Wisdom Gym. The battle was riveting, but UTA pulled out a 76-70 victory over the Texans, who slipped to 7-10 overall and 1-5 in WAC play. The Lady Mavericks improved to 8-10 and 2-4.

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- Outpatient Admission Clerk – FT, Mon.-Fri., 8am – 5pm

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- Paramedic – FT
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Coryell
HEALTH
REHABILITATING
AT THE MEADOWS

- RN – PRN all shifts

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- Phlebotomist – FT/ PT/ PRN, 1st Shift 5:30am to 2:00pm and 2nd Shift 2:00pm to 10:00pm

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**099
PUBLIC NOTICES**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-TRC109 & 114
THE STATE OF TEXAS:
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION V.
ANDREA LEE ALLEN;
DANA MARIE REED; AND
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT
LAW OF ROBERT LARRY MURRAY, DECEASED

Cause No: DC-22-54191
IN THE
52ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OF CORYELL COUNTY,
TEXAS

TO: AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW ROBERT LARRY MURRAY, DECEASED

Defendant - GREETING
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with a clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock AM on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable 52ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Coryell County at the Courthouse in said County in Gatesville, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 11/10/2022 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: THIS PROCEEDING CONCERNS THE FORECLOSURE OF A LIEN ON THE FOLLOWING REAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS COMMONLY KNOWN AS 914 LAURIE LN, COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS, LOT SEVEN(7). BLOCK NINE (9), MEADOW BROOK ESTATES SECTION THREE, COPPERAS COVE, CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS, AS PER PLAT RECORDING VOLUME 3, PAGE 20 AND/OR CABINET A, SLIDE 141, PLAT RECORDS OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HEREBY MADE FOR ALL PURPOSES as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gatesville, Texas, this 29th day of December, 2022.

Attorney for Plaintiff or Petitioner
BRADLEY CONWAY
5601 DEMOCRACY DRIVE,
SUITE 265
PLANO, TX 75024
Clerk of the Court:
Becky Moore, District Clerk
P.O. Box 4
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Coryell County, Texas

By: Lonna Gossett, DEPUTY

Public Notice
The annual meeting for the Grove Water Supply Corporation will be held at The Grove Community Center on Thursday, February 9, 2023. The business meeting will start at 7:00 P.M. No election will take place due to one board member running unopposed for expired positions.

Glenn Schwanke, President
The Grove WSC

Amy Veazey
254-223-3650

**045
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CLASSIFIEDS

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

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JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CORVELL

BY VIRTUE OF ORDERS OF SALE issued pursuant to judgment decrees of the District Court of Coryell County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter numbered and styled causes, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on the 11th day of January, 2023, seized, levied upon, and will on the 7th day of February, 2023, at the Courthouse Steps, at 10:00 A.M. on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, as provided for by the TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE.

All of the following properties being located in Coryell County, Texas and each property being more particularly described on an instrument recorded in the Volume and Page reference (V__/P__) or document number of the Deed Records, Coryell County, Texas. The approximate property addresses reflected herein are the addresses on the tax records and may or may not be completely accurate.

PROP #	CAUSE #	STYLE	PROP DESCRIPTION, ADDRESS, ACCT #	MIN BID
1	CTX-14-03135	Coryell County v Tim Sullivan	Lot 5, Block 6, Town of Leon Junction (V468/P37), CR 347, #000000116464	\$15,946.83
2	CTX-19-03559	Coryell County v William Harney, et al	A Manufactured Home only, L#RAD1069837, S#OVU0028, located on Cedar Grove Estates Mobile Home Park, #53, 53 Locust Drive, #147243	\$2,774.88
3	CTX-21-03711	Coryell County v Prime Choice Properties, LLC	Lot 11, Block 8, Northern Hills Addition, 1st Extension (Instrument #273355), 507 Traci Dr, #123326	\$5,940.69
4	CTX-22-03752	Coryell County v Lidia Chacon, et al	Part of Lot 14 & 15, Block 13, Lutterloh Addition (Instrument #322737), 409 N 14th St, Gatesville, #113140	\$6,666.67
5	CTX-22-03760	Coryell County v Christie Romero, et al	Lot 16, Block 1, Anlo Addition (Instrument #331976), 2108 Saunders St, #111132	\$4,325.60

This sale will be conducted to satisfy the judgment(s) for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interests due on the properties described herein, and for all costs of court and sale.

I do hereby verify that true and correct copies of the foregoing Joint Notice of Sale have been delivered by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and by regular mail, to each of the Defendants named in each of the numbered and styled causes.

DATED the 11th day of January 2023, at Gatesville, Texas

[Signature]
MIKE GONZALES
Chief Deputy, Coryell County, Texas

You may contact the attorney for the taxing units at (254) 756-7755.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Ralph Williams, Deceased, were issued on 12-20-22, in Cause No. 22-10743, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Alyce Noreen Williams.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Alyce Noreen Williams
Estate of Robert Ralph Williams
1904 Walker Place Blvd
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

DATED the 21 day of December, 2022.

Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Alyce Noreen Williams
State Bar No.: 04091800
P.O. Box 246, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000 or 6800
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
E-mail: doriraymistic@hotmail.com
00029880

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(on the square)

Recipe

This recipe appeared in the "Methodist Best" cookbook in 2008. The Gatesville Messenger plans to run a series of recipes from their cookbook. If your church has a cookbook or if you would like to submit your own recipe of your favorite dish for possible publication, please email it to editor@gatesvillemessenger.com.

MEXICAN CHICKEN CASSEROLE
Marcia Strieber

- Whole chicken
- 3 cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 bunches green onions
- 1 sm. carton sour cream
- 3 chopped jalapenos
- Doritos style chips
- 2 T. butter, margarine or olive oil
- cheddar cheese



Boil whole chicken, cool, and debone and cut into bite size pieces. Sauté two bunches of green onions and jalapenos in butter, margarine, or olive oil. Add chicken meat, soup, and sour cream and a little water for moisture. Layer: Doritos style chips crushed on bottom layer, chicken mixture and cheddar cheese. Repeat layers ending with cheese on top. Bake at 350 for one hour.

Groundhog Day fun and facts

Groundhog Day offers a touch of whimsy during the often bleak midwinter chill. Across the country, eager celebrants await a rascally rodent to determine if there will be six more weeks of winter or if the nation will receive an early reprieve from the cold.

It is fun to guess if an early spring is coming, and even more so to rely on a large ground squirrel to play meteorologist. To further enhance the Groundhog Day experience, burrow into these interesting facts about the holiday and the animal itself.

- The world can thank the Germans for the Groundhog Day tradition. The see-his-shadow concept was adapted from a German Candlemas Day tradition in which clergymen would bless the candles they needed for the cold season. If the candles brought a sunny day, there would be six more weeks of winter. However, clouds and rain signified that winter would end soon. Germans who settled in Pennsylvania in the 1700s brought the custom to America.
- Germans once used a hedgehog as their animal forecaster. When relocating to Pennsylvania, groundhogs were used because they were more common than hedgehogs.
- Punxsutawney Phil is perhaps most revered for his forecasting abilities. However, more than a dozen states have their own prognosticating groundhogs. These include Buckeye Chuck in Ohio, Birmingham Bill in Alabama and General Beauregard Lee in Georgia.
- Phil has been predict-



COURTESY PHOTO

Groundhog Day is tomorrow, Feb. 2.

- ing the weather at Gobbler's Knob for more than 130 years. This is quite a feat considering groundhogs typically live between six and eight years. Folklore indicates Phil sips a magical drink that will prolong his life for seven more years.
- Phil's full name is Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather-Prophet Extraordinary.
- Groundhogs also are called woodchucks and are a species of rodent known as marmots. They typically weigh between 12 and 15 pounds. Woodchucks really have nothing to do with wood or chucking. The name stems from an Algonquian name wuchak.
- The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration says Phil has seen his shadow more times than not between 1887 and 2019. Statistically speaking, six

more weeks of winter is often the norm.

- Groundhogs prefer to live in open country or at woodland edges. They are never far from a burrow made in well-drained soil. Most have summer and winter dens.
- Groundhogs are adept at predicting the arrival of spring, just not in the way people have come to know from Groundhog Day. Since they hibernate, when groundhogs emerge from their burrows, it's a sure sign spring is on its way.
- The 1993 movie "Groundhog Day" starring Bill Murray helped solidify Punxsutawney Phil as a national hero and household name. Since then, crowds numbering as high as 30,000 have made the pilgrimage to see Phil in person.

Groundhog Day brings some levity to an otherwise uneventful time of year.

Answers for Sudoku puzzle on page 7.

1	6	3	4	7	9	8	5	2
5	7	4	2	3	8	1	9	6
8	9	2	5	1	6	3	4	7
7	3	1	6	9	5	4	2	8
6	4	8	7	2	3	9	1	5
9	2	5	1	8	4	6	7	3
2	5	9	3	6	1	7	8	4
4	1	6	8	5	7	2	3	9
3	8	7	9	4	2	5	6	1

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Did you know?

The Alzheimer's Association® reports that remaining socially active throughout adulthood can possibly delay the onset of dementia. And that's not the only benefit to remaining socially engaged as an adult, which researchers have linked to reduced rates of disability and mortality. The Alzheimer's Association® also indicates that social engagement may reduce

the risk for depression in older adults. That's a significant benefit, as the National Council on Aging notes that the risk for depression is elevated among older adults compared to young adults. Retirees can consider a host of ways to remain socially engaged, whether it's volunteering, participating in clubs or moving to communities tailored to individuals 55 and older.

Such communities may facilitate social engagement among residents by establishing or promoting clubs, organizing group sightseeing trips and arranging for other opportunities for inhabitants to get to know their neighbors.

Hornet girls fall to China Spring in district clash



JEFF OSBORNE
| THE GATESVILLE
MESSENGER

Kagen Hunt slips past China Spring defenders on her way to the hoop. China Spring beat Gatesville, 34-20, on Jan. 27.

Tennis team competes at Anna Coyote Tournament



SE'VETTE EARLY
| THE GATESVILLE
MESSENGER

Gatesville senior Slone Early took first place in boys singles tennis competition on Jan. 27 in the Anna Coyote Tournament in North Texas.

Area Fishing Report

Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 53 degrees; 13.88 feet below pool. A cooling trend in the winter when the water is already cold is hard to get excited about. Expect sub-par results and slow, tedious fishing. Bird action by gulls and terns is hit or miss, and not consistent enough to plan a trip around. The smallest Bladed Hazy Eye Slab, 3/8 ounce, in white with a stinger hook is my default bait now when fish show near, but separated from, bottom.

A slow-smoking retrieve or a long, slow pull upward off bottom works well for active fish, and snap-jigging on bottom works well for inactive fish.

Waco

GREAT. Water stained; 57 degrees; 11.86 feet below pool. Crappie are good on brush piles and break lines in 15-25 feet using minnows and chartreuse and white or monkey milk 1/8 ounce jigs. Bass are in brush piles in 10-15 feet of water and also at the mouths of creeks with steeper break lines and rock. Fishing slowly with finesse jigs, shaky heads and squarebill crankbaits. White and hybrid bass are moving with the shad right now, so fish just under the shad. Report provided by Justin Prisock, Prisocks Fishing Guide Service. Crappie are 30 feet deep suspended 15-20 feet in the water column, or on brush piles in 15-20 feet of water using 1/8 ounce jigheads paired with ATX lures. Report by Zach Min-

nix, JigNjerk Guide Service. Fish continue to be scattered. Crappie are roaming in the creek channel suspending close to drop-offs or main lake points using crappie jigs paired with a 1/16 ounce eye hole jig.

Stillhouse Hollow

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 54 degrees; 11.84 feet below pool. A cooling trend in the winter when the water is already cold is hard to get excited about. Expect sub-par results and slow, tedious fishing. As is often the case on Stillhouse, these January and February fish are of high quality long and girthy. Bonus, quality largemouth bass are also beginning to show up in the catch. Bird action by gulls and terns is hit or miss.

Area Sports Roundup

GJHS 7A tops La Vega on buzzer-beater

Eli Phillips buried a three-pointer just before the final horn to give the Gatesville Junior High School 7A squad a 31-30 boys basketball win at Waco La Vega. Phillips led all scorers with 11 points while Grady Keeton had nine points and Draven Henderson added seven.

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Gatesville	4	11	6	10	31
La Vega	5	9	10	6	30

Leading Scorers: Eli Phillips 11, Grady Keeton 9, Draven Henderson 7, Callen Webb 2, Kaydon Buster 2.

OJHS basketball

The Oglesby Junior High School Tigers dropped game 1 to Iredell Dragons 23-10

on Jan. 26. Holdyn Goff led in scoring with 8 points, 2 steals, and 2 rebounds. Mason Marquez had 6 points, 4 rebounds. Jaxon Markum hit 4 points, 7 rebounds, and 1 assist. Abram Shaw scored 4 points, and Logan Ewing had 2 points.

Game 2

Oglesby Junior High School dropped a close boys basketball game to the Jonesboro Eagles 22-20 on Jan. 28 in the Walnut Springs Junior High Tournament.

Holdyn Goff led the way with 13 points, 3 rebounds, 1 blocked shot, and 1 steal. Abram Shaw added 4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal.

Mason Marquez had 1 point off of a free throw, plus 3 rebounds. Kayson Campbell recorded 2 points, 5 rebounds, 2 blocked shots, and 1 steal.

- Submitted by Tom Norrell

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Hornets cage Cougars, 64-50



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Gatesville senior Banner Allman moves past a China Spring defender in the Hornets' district victory over the Cougars on Jan. 27.

Smothering defense helps GHS stay in district title chase

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

Gatesville turned in its most complete game in more than a month on Friday, using a stellar defensive stretch over the second and third quarters to dispose of China Spring 64-50 and maintain an outside shot a district title.

The Hornets (25-4, 4-1) outscored the Cougars 36-17 over the middle two periods to turn a 15-13 first quarter deficit into a 49-32 lead after three quarters. It was a performance head coach Brit Campbell was more than excited to see after three straight nail-biters in district.

"I was really proud of our overall defensive effort. I thought it was the best we have played in a very long time," Campbell said. "(China Spring) is a really good team when they shoot it well and they have so many guys who can shoot it. We did work on a few adjustments defensively, but more than anything the guys played hard ... aggressive, and just got after them on the defensive end."

China Spring (17-12, 2-3) hit three three-pointers in the first quarter but managed to hit only 4 of their final 28 attempts. They attempted 35 three-pointers and 25 two-pointers.

"I think it was just us getting after it, getting back to are old ways of just flying around, and playing together," said Banner Allman.

In contrast to the Cougars bombs-away approach, the Hornets attempted only eight three pointers - connecting on four. They shot 56% from two-point range and scored 46 points in the paint.

The win means that the Hornets wrapped



Kase Cox



Carter Williams

up the first half of the district slate at 4-1 and in second place in the league standings. The win also carries some added value for the Hornet program as it came against a consistently excellent program in China Spring. Familiarity between players also contributed to the big-game atmosphere.

Connally sits atop the 23-4A standings at 5-0 after the first round of district. The Hornets (4-1) are second, followed by La Vega (3-2), China Spring (2-3), Salado (1-4), and Robinson (0-5). The Hornets were scheduled to visit Connally on Jan. 31 pending weather

conditions being appropriate for travel.

"I think we were more fired up to play them 'cause we played them a lot in the fall and summer," Allman said. "They were all good games and we knew the stands would be packed."

Tyler Shea and Banner Allman combined to score 30 points in the paint and grab 20 rebounds. Shea led all scorers with 21 points and had nine rebounds while Allman turned in another double-double, with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

While Shea and Allman have proven to be

the Hornets' two most consistent, statistically productive players - they combine to average 36 points and 17 rebounds per game - it was Carter Williams who again demonstrated his value in the win over the Cougars.

The senior forward scored 10 points, pulled down four rebounds, dished out four assists, and was a constant disruption to the Cougars' offense. Williams scored all of his points inside the paint.

"Carter is extremely important. He plays great defense night in and night out, usually guarding one of the team's best players," Campbell said. "He scores big buckets naturally and has a knack for coming up for one right when we need it. He's also one of the best at passing the ball and making things happen with his unselfish and team-first mentality."

Gatesville took a quick 2-0 lead but would trail until Williams hit Banner Allman for a layup to tie the game at 15-15. China Spring quickly took the lead back at 17-15 on a layup from Braden Jewell but the Hornets closed the second quarter on a 17-5 run.

Banner Allman hit a three-pointer to make it 18-17. Then Williams put back a miss for a 20-17 lead. Shea followed with his own personal 5-0 run to push the lead to 25-17.

Following a China Spring timeout, Jewell buried a three-pointer to cut the lead to 25-20. Up 26-22, the Hornets scored the last six points of the half via a runner from Williams, a layup from Shea and a buzzer-beating lay-in from Trae Miller.

Miller's layup gave the Hornets a 10-point cushion, 32-22, at halftime but a late third-quarter run ultimately provided the difference.

After Banner Allman hit a three-pointer to make it 44-30 late in the third quarter, the Hornets were whistled for a technical foul - much to the dismay of Campbell and to the packed Gatesville side of the bleachers.

Perhaps in response - or merely in protest - to the call, the Hornets closed the quarter with an inspired stretch of basketball led by sophomore Kase Cox.

China Spring's Zach May hit two free throws to make it 44-32 after the technical but Cox - a sophomore forward - scored the final five points of the quarter. His layup made it 46-32 and then he connected on a three-pointer with 10 seconds left in the quarter to make it 49-32.

"They definitely cranked it up. That call fueled our guys and we turned it on even more," Campbell said. "Kase gave us great minutes, he played some lock-down defense came out and was aggressive and confident on offense."

In the fourth quarter the Hornets extended their lead to as many as 21 points as the Cougars attempted to shoot their way into a comeback - but made just 1 of 13 three-point attempts in the quarter.

On the night China Spring forced 24 Hornet turnovers that led to 23 Cougar points. The Hornets outrebounded the Cougars 41-23 and scored 22 points on second-chance baskets.

"Overall I was excited to see us play the way we did," Campbell said. "It was a huge game against a great team and the guys definitely played for it."



Gatesville's Trae Miller (2) celebrates with his teammates after a big play against China Spring.

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