



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 121, No. 13, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Volunteers needed to help represent children in court

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Having an opportunity to make a positive difference in a child's life - especially a child who may be experiencing troubled circumstances - can be life-changing, and that is the goal of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Those who volunteer to serve as CASAs accompany children at court appearances, build a relationship with the child to make sure he or she is getting needs met, and have an opportunity to be a ray of hope at a time when circumstances may seem overwhelming to them.

Landon Belcher and Melissa Ward, who are both involved with CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties, spoke to the Gatesville Lions Club recently to talk about the need for CASA volunteers and how they make a difference.

When children's lives are disrupted because they are living in an unsafe environment, judges appoint adult CASAs to help look out for their best interests.

"CASA was formed in 1977 in Washington by a judge

who believed that children weren't getting the representation and support they needed, and it is now a national organization," Belcher said.

Volunteers must be at least 21 years old and undergo a background check. They are provided with 33 hours of training over four weeks. Topics include a basic understanding of the court system and trauma education. When their training is complete, they are sworn in by a judge to serve as advocates for children.

"As soon as a child is removed from a home, they enter the foster care system," Belcher said. "A CASA visits with the child at least once a month to talk about their concerns and how things are going, and to see what they need. They also make court appearances to represent the child."

"The good thing about CASA is that if a child has a CASA, they do better in school, typically spend less time in foster care, and are more often placed in a permanent home."

During one month - October 2022 - 104 children were helped in Bell and Coryell counties by CASA volunteers.

"Nine (children) didn't have advocates because there weren't enough people to help out," Belcher said.

CASA is making an effort in Bell and Coryell Counties to get the word out in hopes of getting more people to volunteer on behalf of children.

Although both men and women are encouraged to volunteer, there is a greater need for more men to get involved.

"There's about a 50-50 split between male and female when it comes to the children being served, but only 17% of CASA volunteers are male," Belcher said.

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 5:30 pm, Men of CASA will host a free mixer at Nolan Creek Brewery, 206 N. Penelope St. in Belton in hopes of recruiting more men to become

PLEASE SEE **CASA** | A2

Local slave records reflect troubled history

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Amongst the hundreds of record books located in the basement of the Coryell County Clerk's Office, one book in particular brings to mind the forgotten past of early day Coryell County. In a book labeled Mortgage Record Book A, another label below it reads "Slave Records," listed approximately 18 slave owners who bought and sold slaves in Coryell County between 1854 and 1864. The 1860 U.S. Census Slave Schedules for Coryell County reveal that approximately 396 slaves were living in the county while the free population was listed as 2,360 - 81 of which being slaveholders. Compared to other areas, Coryell County residents owned relatively few slaves.

In addition to the slave transactions, the Mortgage Book also included the sale of cattle and other property. According to local historian, Sherry Lawrence, she said in those days "Slaves were considered to be personal property like livestock or crops; and the sale or trade of slaves was recorded in the same Coryell County record book as the sales or trades of personal property between individuals." Lawrence explained that in the slave records that the sale of a slave included their first name, sex, age, complexion, soundness of mind and body, and always included the statement that they were a "slave for life."

Amid all the names and documents was a record for the sale of a young woman named Harriet. She was listed as 19 years of age and was owned by Coryell County resident William Duval Coates. He in turn sold her to J.H. Patterson for \$1,000 in January of 1860. The previous year, Robertson had purchased a woman named Melinda who was about 24 years old. As far as it is recorded, these two women were the only slaves owned by the Robertson family.

Little is known about the young woman named Harriet. In 1850, she was listed in the slave schedules of Harrison County, Mississippi.

The records indicated that she had been born in Mississippi and was also one of eight slaves owned by the Coates family. Just prior to 1858, the Coates family left Mississippi and travelled by wagon to Coryell County. In later years, Harriet would



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
The grave of former slave Harriet Coates, who died in 1907 and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Gatesville.

recall the move to Texas saying that she had walked all the way from Mississippi to the Leon River in Coryell County behind a covered wagon. Within a few short years after settling in the Gatesville area, Coates sold young Harriet to the Robertson family.

Harriet, who assumed the surname of her owner, "Coates," remained with the Robertson family who eventually hired her out to the James Saunders family as a housekeeper where she continued to work for the family even after she was freed following the Civil War. According to Lawrence, the family provided Harriet and her children with a cabin behind the Saunders home on Main Street and later bought a house for her in the Black residential area.

Harriet Coates died on March 7, 1907, in Gatesville and was buried at Oak Grove Cemetery. Her tombstone only records her name and the date of her death since a slave's actual birthdate was often unknown and could only be estimated. The 1900 U.S. Federal Census for Coryell County does list her as being "about" 70 years of age, which would have made her birth year as being around 1830.

The story of Harriet Coates was typical



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Kat Hengst, a land clerk at the Coryell County Clerk's Office, examines the mortgage book which lists the sale of 38 slaves between 1854 and 1864.

of many enslaved African Americans. Of the 38 slaves listed as being bought and sold and recorded in the courthouse's old Chattel Mortgage Book, their stories will

go unknown, unrecorded, and will remain a mystery in part of the county's forgotten history.

Coryell County is in the mix for multiple grants

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Coryell County is in the mix for several grants, and the Coryell County Commissioners Court recently got an update on the process.

Steve Manning and Maddie Todd with Natural Resources Solutions, a consulting firm helping the county with data collection and the grant application process, told county officials about the status of multiple grants during the Feb. 14 meeting of the commissioners court.

Todd said that much of the work on the county's hazard mitigation plan is expected to be complete by April 13.

"It's 65% done," she said. "We'll go over survey results and look at mitigation actions, and we've been in contact with TDEM (the Texas Department of Emergency Management)."

NRS and the county held meetings in Gatesville, Evant, Oglesby and Copperas Cove to get feedback from area residents about their concerns regarding potential natural disasters, such as floods, fire, drought and extreme weather conditions.

"One question that arose is what if a city borders another county," Todd said.

Evant and Copperas Cove are located in both Coryell and adjacent counties, but Todd said for the purposes of the hazard mitigation plan, both communities will fit entirely within the Coryell County footprint.

"We had a really great turnout (at the public meetings)," Todd said. "As of Feb. 1, there were 1,600 views on the (hazard mitigation) website and 4,100 Facebook views." The survey allowing local residents to communicate

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JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Landon Belcher told the Gatesville Lions Club that while all types of people are welcome to participate in the CASA program, there is an acute shortage of men involved.



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Melissa Ward recently spoke to the Gatesville Lions Club about the need for Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASAs.

CASA

FROM PAGE A1

hand the positive difference advocates make in children's lives.

"CASA volunteers have one kiddo, and they are the eyes and ears of the judge for that kiddo," Ward said.

Children of all ages are served, but many of them are under age 3 and can strongly benefit from an adult advocate looking out for their best interests.

"The goal is to eventually reunite the child with its family if possible."

LANDON BELCHER

Except in situations where the child may be in danger or in a bad environment, Belcher said there is an emphasis on trying to help families come back together.

"Any time a child is removed from a home with their

biological family, the goal is to eventually reunite the child with its family if possible, because there is a strong biological connection already there," he said.

Those who want to help CASA but are not able to serve as advocates can serve in other ways, Ward said. One option is a group called CASA Friends that often works behind the scenes to assist with items such as gift bags, books and food for participants.

For more information on CASA, visit casabellcoryell.org, search Facebook for CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties, or call 254-774-1881.

GRANTS

FROM PAGE A1

(hazard mitigation) website and 4,100 Facebook views."

The survey allowing local residents to communicate their concerns, and rank which natural disasters they perceive to be the greatest threats, has closed.

"There were 367 total responses, and we're doing a final public survey analysis," Todd said. She added that the highest number of responses were from the 76528 (Gatesville) ZIP code.

"Drought was the biggest concern, and dam failure was the lowest," she said.

Manning, the president of NRS, said he was pleased with the public's feedback. "It was a good response," he said. "You compare it to the broadband survey, which was open for two months, and this got a bigger response."

"Smaller communities really showed up (to voice input). There was good turnout for Oglesby and

Evant. Jonesboro gave almost as many responses as (Copperas) Cove. All the ZIP codes (in Coryell County) were represented, so we feel we can get a really good understanding of people's concerns. While drought was the biggest concern, if you looked at it in 2016 it would probably be floods."

In its SS4A (Safe Streets For All) grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Coryell County was a co-applicant with the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) and the Killeen Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization. However, when it comes to funding, the county will have a direct line for grant opportunities to improve transportation safety and to reduce roadway fatalities and injuries.

A total of \$1.8 million was granted to counties within the CTCOG footprint, and \$358,000 of this is directed toward Coryell County.

Manning noted that only Harris County (the Houston area) and Travis County (the Austin area) had transportation department grant awards higher in Texas than the one Coryell County is part of.

"We want to highlight a couple of things," said County Judge Roger Miller. "Harris County and Travis County were the only areas in Texas that had higher awards. That's a big deal — it's a really big deal. Once we have a plan, the county is eligible for up to \$30 million to implement an action plan."

The county is also awaiting a response from the U.S. Forest Service on its wildfire protection plan, which will result in an additional \$246,000 in federal funding to help protect people, animals and property from the ravages of wildfires.

Coryell County is looking to address building codes and subdivision regulation issues, and is working with the Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District to determine ways to help protect local water resources.

"The county is experiencing pretty strong growth, and this will address what you can do in your codes to manage it," Manning said.

Black History event set at CTC

The Central Texas College (CTC) Foundation's Center for Africa-American Studies and Research will co-host a Black History Month event with Texas A&M University-Central Texas titled "Justice, Equality and Resiliency" at the CTC Anderson campus Center on Feb. 28. Keynote speaker is Autumn Caviness, director - Marketing and Public Relations at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin.

The event, which is free and open to the public, begins with a social at 5:30 p.m. followed by the presentation at 6 p.m.

For more information, call the CTC Foundation at 254-526-1662.

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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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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

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.



COURTESY PHOTOS

SECOND PLACE STEER: Lane Kinsey with his 2nd place steer at the Ft. Worth Stock Show.

Youth from Coryell County 4-H compete at Ft. Worth Stock Show

Local 4-H youth recently competed in both the livestock show and judging contests representing Coryell County 4-H at the 2023 Ft. Worth Stock Show. Results from the show and contests are as follows:

Stock Show results:
 • 2nd place light weight Exotic steer- Lane Kinsey
 • 4th place middle weight Exotic steer- Lilly Kinsey
 • Steer participant-

Hubbard Kinsey
 • 4th place ORB heifer- Cayla Parrish
 • 5th place Dorper lamb- Addyson Edwards
 • 7th place goat- Thiele Alvarado
 • 10th place Dorper lamb- Thiele Alvarado

Judging contest results:
 • 3rd place Senior Plant ID Team- Caleb Mannix (7th high individual), Jack Bussey, and Chase Janke

• 5th place Junior Plant ID Team- Mia Conley (9th high individual), Marcy Conley, Levin Lynch, and Lane Brookshire

• Plant ID team participants- Alyssa Whisenhunt, Leonela Rodriguez, Hubbard Kinsey, and Peter Conley

• 18th place Senior Horse Judging Team- Luwi Rodriguez, Irena Murphy, and Mia Conley



THIRD PLACE WINNERS: 3rd place Senior Plant ID Team at Ft. Worth- from left to right, Chase Janke, Jack Bussey, and Caleb Mannix.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Remember the Alamo: how could we forget?

SAM HOUSTON

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



Houston

It was some years ago, but on this summer day, my vehicle was in serious need of a car wash. The temperature had been locked into that mid-summer 95- to 105-degree block, so everything in the entire county was dried out and dusty.

Tomorrow is February 23. On that date 187 years ago marks the beginning of the siege at the Alamo.

Texas was not yet a republic and a long way from becoming a state in the Union of the United States. It was a possession of the sovereign nation of Mexico and its President Santa Anna, had traveled north bringing 10,000 Mexican soldiers to south Texas. He was intent to once and for all, eliminate all opposition to the authority of the Mexican state. Trouble had been brewing for months with the independent minded Texian population dissatisfied with the authoritative nature of Mexican government, with many expressing the desire for independence.

The Alamo defenders were facing an experienced, well-trained army, perhaps the best one in the western hemisphere. They were fighting overwhelming numbers and were short of food and supplies. They were not an army, they were a rag tag group of men, hardly even militia. They were an odd collection from different backgrounds and cultures, but all shared the dream of independence and freedom. If necessary, they were all prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice to achieve that dream.

After 13 days of siege the valiant defenders of the Alamo were overwhelmed and perished to the man. Their

bodies were removed from the old mission by their opposition and burned as a warning to all who would oppose Mexico. Their bravery and dedication will forever live in the hearts of their fellow Texans.

On March 27, following the battle of Refugio and the Battle of Coleto, 425 prisoners of war from the Texian Army were executed by the Mexican army in the town of Goliad. The Texians had surrendered under the belief they would be treated as prisoners of war and would be set free in a few weeks, however this was not to be. General and President Santa Anna ordered the mass execution to take place, including Colonel James Fannin the commander of Mexican forces.

The Texian population attempted to flee the Mexican army by heading east in what has become to be known as the "Runaway Scrape." General Sam Houston, the commander of all military forces of Texas faced hardships and a divisive army, as many troops wanted to stop and engage the enemy, but Houston knew the Texians were severely outmanned and out equipped. The only hope for Texas was to wait for the right opportunity to end the hostilities in a single blow.

On April 21, this opportunity came at San Jacinto. The battle lasted a mere 17 minutes with the army of

Texas inflicting over 1500 casualties on the Mexicans. The Army of Texas suffered casualties of 6 killed and 23 wounded, with Sam Houston being one of the injured. During the battle the enraged Texans called "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad" as they went about destroying the Mexican forces. Who could have imagined such a one-sided victory?

February, March and April are important Texas history months. We should all stop and say a prayer for the men and woman who fought and died to create our Texas. We should remember their resolve and the principles for which they stood. Don't take what they sacrificed for granted. Remember our heroes and remember the Alamo!

God Bless our Texas!
 Thought for the day: "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission." John F Kennedy

Until next time...be thankful that of all the people on the earth, you have the privilege of being a "Texan".

sam@hcnews.com

Five tips to prepare your garden for spring in winter months

The cold winter months can seem to stretch on forever for those of us who love our lawns and gardens! Instead of staying shut indoors, why not make the most of your time and bundle up for some springtime lawn prep?

Some planning and work on the front end will help make your garden all the better and spring garden maintenance more manageable. Here is a short checklist of items to work on this winter.

Get Your Tools Ready

Winter is a great time to dust off your spring tools and arrange for any cleaning or repairs needed. It's also the time to take stock of what might be missing from your shed that you'll need come springtime.

Think about items like your mower, garden spreader, blower, rakes, shovels, etc. There is nothing more frustrating than going to do yard work on a beautiful spring day only to realize that the tools and equipment you need either aren't there

or don't work.

Clean Up Beds

Get the not-so-fun task of cleaning up the beds in your yard out of the way during winter so that in the springtime, you'll be able to enjoy planting and seeing the plants and flowers you cut back thrive with new growth.

Clip away anything that didn't make it through the winter or needs pruning and think about making room for new plants and flowers. Think about adding fresh straw or mulch to beds if

needed.

Create a Spring Planting Plan

If it's just too cold and miserable to be outside but you still want to get a jump start on your spring garden, get your creative juices flowing and create a spring lawn and garden plan.

Think about what you'd like to grow, what grows best in shade vs. sun and begin to map out where things will go in relation to what you already have growing. Taking time to draw up a plan will prove beneficial in the end as opposed to figuring things out as you go... things like timing and placement are

important!

Select a Spring Fertilizer

Temperatures are finally starting to warm up and the arrival of spring draws closer. As temperatures increase, soil temperatures also increase and this creates different conditions within the soil. Your garden will require certain nutrients at this time.

Pull Winter Weeds & Get Rid of Pests

Garden weed control is much easier to tackle on the front end, so now is the time to get rid of those weeds that will hamper spring growth. It might seem like everything

is either dormant or dead in the winter, but not those pesky weeds! They seem to hang on no matter what.

Go ahead and rid your lawn and beds of weeds so that you will have healthy soil to plant your spring plants and flowers in the spring. Be sure to apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent spring and summer weeds!

Pests are another issue that will quickly get out of control come springtime, so consider pre-treating your garden with a broad-spectrum insecticide to make sure that grub worms in your garden don't move in.



COURTESY PHOTO

Now is the time to start preparing your garden for spring.

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LETTER

Dissatisfied with trash collection!

I do not like being a complainer, BUT I am totally dissatisfied with the current trash collection.

1. My trash container has turned over several times (at least four).
2. On Tuesday, Feb. 14, I had gone to a church Bible study. When I left about 9:30 a.m. or 10 my trash container was upright

with the lid closed. On my return home, the trash container had turned over, no trash removed. I had paid for trash pick up, yet no trash removed. I don't like paying for services which I do not receive.

3. This isn't MY PROBLEM, I have no idea how to keep the trash container upright. (If any suggestions, I will be happy to receive them.)

Lissa Derrick
Gatesville

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of February 16 - 18. 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 Feb. 16

1:12 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. State Hwy. 36.

7:20 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 600 block of E. Main Street.

8:27 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 800 block of S. 7th Street.

11:22 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 4100 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

4:35 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of Golf Course Road.

8:36 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 8th Street.

Feb. 17
6:02 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.

11:50 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

1:14 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3300 block of E. Main Street.

4:15 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 4100 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

6:13 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

8:52 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

Feb. 18
4:02 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of E. Leon Street.

11:53 a.m., an accident was reported in the 300 block of N. 19th Street.

2:24 p.m., a burglary was reported the 400 block of E. Main Street.

5:06 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Chicktown Road.

6:28 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.

7:34 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2400 block of Bridge Street.

5:40 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 200 block of Linda's Lane.

9:15 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2600 block of Snow Road.

Feb. 17
7:15 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 200 block of CR 253.

9:10 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Skyline Circle.

10:07 a.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of Julia Drive.

4:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Julia Drive.

5:30 p.m., the burglary of a building was reported in the 200 block of Linda's Lane.

8:26 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4500 block of CR 107.

Feb. 18
10:14 a.m., a case of fraud was reported in the 2800 block of Poplar Drive.

10:26 a.m., an attempted break in was reported in the 1500 block of King Country Road.

10:29 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of CR 2719.

3:43 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 700 block of Lutheran Church Road.

4:30 p.m., criminal trespass was reported on FM 183 at Pearl.

7:18 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 2100 block of CR 251.

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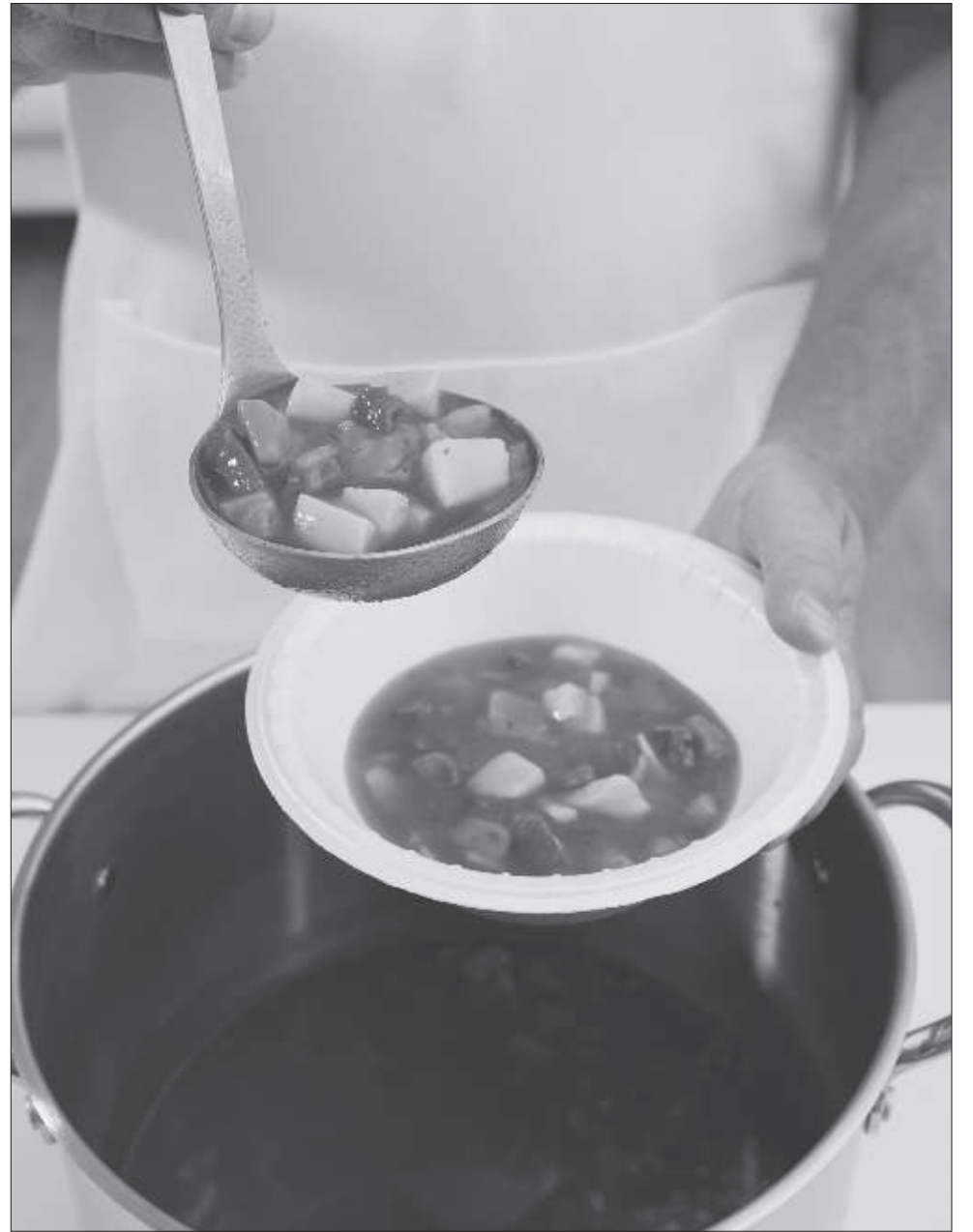
CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Feb. 16

1:08 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 300 block of CR 92.

8:43 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 600 block of CR 132.

12:45 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 500 block of Mountain Road.

4:53 p.m., terroristic threats were reported in the 2100 block of Circle Drive.



The 7th Annual Spring Stand Down and Community Triage to take place March 4 in Killeen

The 7th Annual Spring Stand Down and Community Triage will take place on Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

The Stand Down and Triage will be for all homeless to get support, food, and services. For those in need, they will be given two hot meals, clothing, shoes, goody bags with personal items, and haircuts. In addition, they will be offered medical and dental screenings, HIV and STD testing, VA support, VSO support, Vet Center support, Indigent Health Support, a free clinic, American Red Cross, Humana, Transition Support, and various other resources for those experiencing homelessness or the threat of homelessness.

For those in Gatesville wishing to attend, the pickup point will be at the Gatesville Care Center at 7:15 a.m. The Care Center is located at 105 N. 7th Street. The pickup point in Copper-

as Cove will be at 8:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 12:45 p.m. at the Copperas Cove Public Library located at 501 S. Main Street. An additional pickup point in Copperas Cove will be in the Wendy's parking lot at 8:55 a.m., 10:55 a.m., and 12:55 p.m. Wendy's is located at 2740 E. Business 190.

For more information, call 254-681-8522, or email operationstanddowncentraltexas@gmail.com. Their website can be visited as well at www.osdct.org.

as Cove will be at 8:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 12:45 p.m. at the Copperas Cove Public Library located at 501 S. Main Street. An additional pickup point in Copperas Cove will be in the Wendy's parking lot at 8:55 a.m., 10:55 a.m., and 12:55 p.m. Wendy's is located at 2740 E. Business 190.

1950 Federal Census Review Program to be presented by CCGS

The Coryell County Genealogical Society will meet on Tuesday, March 14, at 6 p.m. at the Gatesville Public Library. Local historian, Sherry Lawrence, will present a program, featuring the 1950 U.S. Federal Census, with a review of previous Federal Census reports.

Census reports are vital to genealogists in their pursuit of establishing family relationships. The latest census available to the public is the 1950 U. S. Federal

Census, and many people will now be able to see themselves in a census for the first time. Since 1850, the Federal Census reports contain the names of all members of a household, making these reports most useful. The earlier census reports only gave the name of the head of household, with household members identified by age groups and sex. Even with this limited information the early census reports give valu-

able information, establishing location of a family and proximity to extended family members.

Although intended for much different purposes, census information has proven to be a genealogist's gold mine.

Meetings are open to the public, so, if you are interested in local history or want to learn more about genealogy, please join the group.

PEARL NEWS

It's good to be back!

BY BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

It's good to be able to write the Pearl News again this week. Last week, you may have noticed, I was absent due to a case of the "gallopin' gosh amighties," an apt description of what this East Texas Clark clan suffered from.

We are all free of fever now, but not a one of us is able to leap tall buildings in a single bound yet. Thank you to all who have prayed for us! Those prayers are heard and are definitely working!

To update you, the Pearl Church of Christ experienced another successful annual Valentine Auction for "His Kids" on Feb. 12. The grand total raised was \$9,759! All of the proceeds

go to His Kids for their summer Christian camps. Thirteen members of His Kids were able to attend the services and auction. The church wishes to thank all of those who donated, bid on items, and helped to make this auction successful in many ways! Thanks to you all, a very grateful group of young people will be able to attend camp at no cost to them. What a wonderful way to further the Kingdom and all the glory goes to God!

The next Pearl Bluegrass and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day will be held on March 4. The book cottage will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. Be sure and visit Linda, Kay, and Corlisa! You never know what treasures you might find in the cottage! Plus, just browsing the over 6,000 books in the store is fascinating! Most items are "buy what you want, pay what you want," and all proceeds go toward local charities. Visit the friendliest little bookstore in Texas—you'll be so glad you did!! There's no place like Pearl!!

Have you met the Pearl mascot? He's a cute little dog that loves to visit with Linda Ray at the Pearl Church of Christ and other places around Pearl when she is there working. This



Clark

little dog whose name is Oliver even knows when Sunday is. Oliver is actually the namesake of my grandson, Oliver. On the last Sunday that I attended church in Pearl, Oliver, age 3, was with me. A group of kiddoes took Oliver out to play on the playground when the sweet little dog showed up. The kids loved my Oliver and the dog so much that they named this pup after him. The name stuck. So, if you drive up to any place in Pearl where you might find Linda Ray, there you will likely find Oliver (the doggie), too!

This week's Bible verse comes from Romans 8:35, Romans 8:37—Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (NIV)

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page! Please send any Pearl news to betsyclarke47@yahoo.com.

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OBITUARIES

MONA JOY PATTERSON BATES

July 11, 1932 - Feb. 13, 2023



Mona Joy Patterson Bates, aged 90, passed away peacefully at her home in the Coryell County countryside on February 13, 2023.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, February 24, 2023, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Interment will be at Coffey Cemetery.

Joy was born on July 11, 1932, the fifteenth of fifteen children, to Robert John Marvin (Bob) Patterson and Belle Moore Patterson in a

rural farming community near Turnersville. By any measure, Joy led a remarkable life. Joy was profoundly shaped by her childhood on the farm during the Great Depression. She spoke fondly of the community spirit that characterized life at the time in Coryell County. She and her family enjoyed helping neighbors during the Depression and collecting scrap metal and used cooking oil to support the military effort during World War II. Joy blended her concern for community with a strong individualistic streak. She earned a pilot's license in 1949 at age 16, the same year she graduated from high school as her class's salutatorian. She left Coryell County to attend Arlington State College.

On June 22, 1953, she married fellow Coryell County resident Don Bates. She and Don, a petroleum geologist, and Korean War veteran, lived in Fort Worth (where son Brad was born) and Alice (where first daughter Shannon was born), before finally settling in Midland (where final child Robin was born). Don had a long and stable career as a geologist in the Permian Basin, and for many years Joy enjoyed raising a family in Midland.

She became an active member of the community, volunteering with a number of organizations, making dozens of friends, and becoming an enthusiastic member of the local Democratic Party. Joy loved volunteering as a poll worker and knocking on doors and making phone calls on behalf of candidates. Her collection of memorabilia (not to mention stories) from six decades of political volunteering is unmatched.

Joy had a passion for antique collecting, selling, and (especially) buying. Few Saturdays passed without Joy visiting as many garage sales as she could. Her trove of "treasures" is truly impressive. Later in life, she and her sisters LaVerne and Georgia operated Sister's Antiques in the old drug store on Main Street in Gatesville.

When Lyndon Johnson carried out his Great Society Program (which he, like Joy, saw as a continuation of the New Deal programs that touched the Coryell County of Joy's youth), Joy enthusiastically accepted a position with the newly created Head Start Program. From a base in the Midland public school system, Joy touched the lives of hundreds of people through her work as a social

worker and administrator. She taught basic skills to parents, ensured that children attended school regularly, coordinated with outside organizations to provide needed resources to families and children, held vaccine drives, and performed dozens of other needed services in her community. In order to further her career, she attended classes at Midland College and the University of the Permian Basin for training in a Master of Social Work program.

Don suddenly passed away in 1991 and Joy retired from Head Start shortly thereafter. In 1995, she fulfilled the wish she and Don had created to retire in the peaceful countryside of Coryell County. By herself, she sold her home in Midland, bought a piece of property from her sister and brother-in-law, Georgia and L. V. Arnett, and had a beautiful home built on a bucolic piece of property along Cowhouse Creek. Joy was a skilled organic gardener and cultivated an impressive vegetable garden at the farm, along with a sizable fruit orchard. For the next two decades, Joy loved hosting massive family gatherings at Thanksgiving and Easter. Few things

brought Joy more satisfaction than hosting dozens of family members. No visit to the farm was complete without gathering along the Cowhouse Creek for "weenie roasts," campfires, singing, skipping rocks, and enjoying the beauty of being in the country.

On June 4, 1999, Joy married Tommy Ross, and the two enjoyed more than 23 years of life together. She and Tommy lived a quiet life split between Gatesville and Tommy's summer home near the headwaters of the Rio Grande in Creede, Colorado. They fulfilled another of Joy's passions, music, by attending the monthly Pearl Bluegrass Festival near her home where, until recently, Joy was an active volunteer.

Joy is preceded in death by her parents, "Bob" and Belle Patterson, her first husband, Don Bates, and her siblings Pete Patterson, Bonnie Kilgore, Ted Patterson, Junie Williams, Oma Jean Applegate, Pug Smith, Bo Patterson, Bonnie Patterson, Vick Patterson, Mayme McDonald, LaVerne Bates, Joe Patterson, and Delores Ramsey.

She is survived by her husband, Tommy Ross, and her beloved sister, Georgia Arnett, both residents of Gates-

ville. She is also survived by her three children Brad Bates, and his wife, Carol, of Midland; Shannon Berger, and her husband, Kent, of Midland; and Robin Winfree, and her husband, Keith, of Fulshear. She is survived by grandchildren, Ryan Myers (wife Diane), Lauren Miller (husband Jared), Brooks Winfree (fiancée Nakia), Lilly Winfree (husband Chris Durgan), Rachel Bates, and step-grandchildren Laura Jones (husband U. V.), Beth Taylor (husband Kevin), and Tyler Mowles. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren Maverick Sedillo, Aceleigh Sedillo, Azalea Conner, and Jared Santiago Miller, along with step-great-grandchildren Augustus Jones, Carmody Jones, Lachlan Jones, Harrison Taylor, Scarlett Taylor, and Dahlia Taylor.

The family wishes to thank Joy's live-in caretakers for their dedicated service during the final months of her life.

In lieu of flowers, the family has designated that memorials be made to the Boys and Girls Club, 2533 E. Main Street, Gatesville, TX 76528, or Pearl Community Center, 2082 FM 1690, Gatesville, TX 76528.

JEANNE M. GILLIS

May 25, 1943 - Dec. 3, 2022



Jeanne M. Gillis, of Kyle, Texas, passed away on December 3, 2022, at the age of 79, surrounded by loved ones.

Jeanne was born May 25, 1943, to Elmo and Faye Allen in Boulder, Colorado. Her father was in the Air Force during and after

World War II, so she grew up living in several "far off" areas around the world. Jeanne started school in the Philippines, attended Boulder High School, and graduated in Kaiserslautern, Germany in 1961.

Jeanne continued her education attending Temple College to become a nurse. Jeanne successfully completed her nursing education and became a licensed LVN working in hospital emergency rooms and nursing homes. While in Texas, Jeanne became a certified security guard and was hired by the IRS in 1985, where she met the love of her life, Kirk.

Jeanne loved life and made the most of it. She was very kind, big hearted, and would help you in any way that she could. Jeanne enjoyed the outdoors and gardening, dancing, motor-

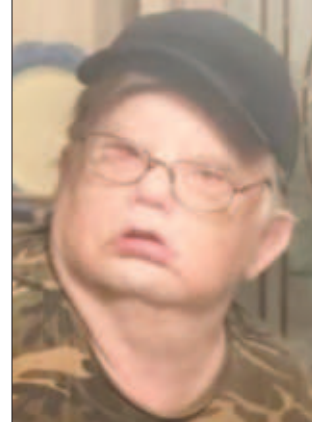
cycle riding, camping, hiking, and traveling. But most of all she enjoyed spending time with family, friends, and her pets.

Jeanne was preceded in death by her father, Elmo Allen and her mother, Faye Allen. She is survived by her husband, Kirk Gillis, of Kyle; her daughters, Kitten and husband, Mark Locke, of Jonesboro, Jeanette and husband, Ron Abrahamson, of Gatesville, Juanita and husband, Johnny Harjo, of Midwest City, OK; one loving sister, Andra Powell, of Gatesville; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great nephews.

Services will be held at Gatesville Church of Christ, 2417 E. Main Street in Gatesville on Sunday, February 26, at 1 p.m.

MIKEY GLASS

April 3, 1953 - Feb. 10, 2023



Mikey Glass, age 69, of Liberty Hill, passed away at

his residence on February 10, 2023. He was born April 3, 1953 in Gatesville to June Harold and Mary Alice (Hale) Glass. He graduated from high school in Gatesville and then attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. He had worked at a telephone company as an operator. Mikey was of the Baptist faith. He was a kind and gentle soul. He loved his cats, reading, and listening to country western music. Mikey loved his home and enjoyed a good meal. He was a good son who loved his mother very much, he was always ready to help anyone that needed it and

never had a negative comment about anyone.

Mikey is survived by his mother, Mary Alice Glass of Liberty Hill, one sister, Kathy Beeson and husband, Chris, of Kempner and one niece, Kimberly Foust and husband, Scott, of Burnet. He was preceded in death by his father.

The Celebration of Life for Mikey Glass will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Heritage Funeral Home in Lampasas.

Arrangements are entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home of Lampasas, Texas.

United Women in Faith met Feb. 14

BY SHIRLEEN CHANDLER
Contributing Writer

United Women in Faith met on Feb. 14 in the Banquet Room of the Methodist Church in Gatesville beginning at 5:30 p.m. Twelve members and one visitor, Cindy Martin, were present. Hostesses were Linda Shirley, Jeanette Shepherd, and Kay Smiley.

President Patsy Smart started the meeting by leading in the blessing. Following refreshments, Smart thanked the hostesses and read the Purpose. Mary Beth Rivers read from the Daily Prayer Guide and Velva Riddle read from the Response Magazine. Shirleen Chandler presented the program, A Call-to-Prayer and Self-Denial, concerning Racial Justice. The UWF has a long-standing commitment to fight for racial justice, especially when it concerns women, children, and youth. The members read the scripture together, Isaiah 61: 1-3a, where God spoke to Isaiah about his desire for his people to have their needs met and to live free and productive lives. With February being African American History Month, honoring history and contributions of African Americans, Chandler mentioned happenings from our past, our present, and looking to the future of upholding our Charter for Racial Justice, part of which was shared. She led the members in singing an old Negro Spiritual, "Swing Low." Members were invited

to contribute to the cause.

Among committee reports, Chandler received the District Yearbook, which was emailed to members. She led the group in making changes to the yearbooks, regarding district events. She also reported on attending the Legislative Event in Austin last month, where Texas Impact led a detailed conference about the legislative session which had just begun. Attendees learned about

bills to be introduced and the concerns for women, children, and youth. Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator Blanke-meyer reported delivering cards for Valentine's Day to 12 church members in local facilities. For Easter, she will lead the organization in preparing gift bags for those folks.

The meeting adjourned with the benediction.

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Senior Center to hold Heart Health Month presentation Feb. 22

The Gatesville Senior Center invites the community to come to a free one-hour session that will educate the public on how to take better care of your heart.

The presentation will begin at 10 a.m. with speaker Donna Schwausch, who is with the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension of Coryell County. The session advocates for the prevention and control of risks associated with heart disease and strokes.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men

and women in the United States. According to the CDC, one person dies every 34 seconds in the U.S. from



cardiovascular disease. In 2020, it was reported that cardiovascular disease and strokes killed more than 314,186 women.

Schwausch, CEA-FCH, Coryell County can be contacted by calling 254-865-2414, or by email at Donna.Schwausch@ag.tamu.edu. The Gatesville Senior Center is located at 208 N. Lutterloh Ave. in Gatesville and the phone number is 254-865-8234.

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600-700 lb.	165-205
700-800 lb.	150-185

No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	170-215
300-400 lb.	165-230
400-500 lb.	175-215
500-600 lb.	160-190
600-700 lb.	150-175
700-800 lb.	130-155

Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	85-98
Low Yielding	65-75
Fats	75-90
Thin & Shelly	30-55

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)
Yield Grade 1&2 90-115

Cow & Calf Pairs	
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GHS students participate in SkillsUSA welding competition

Recently, William Crozier, Cody Attaway and Zach Wilson took first place in SkillsUSA Welding competition and are now bound for the

state competition. Carley Dowling, Addison Woods, and Devion Walker were all competing for the first time in the competition.

SkillsUSA brings together industry and labor representatives, educators, and the public to watch students compete in leader-

ship and hands-on skill events for a full day. The SkillsUSA begins at the local level with contests in classrooms nationwide.

Winners advance through district and state competition, and the best of the best make it to the national event. Students benefit no

matter how they place in their contests.



COURTESY PHOTO

FIRST PLACE WELDERS: GHS students from left, Zach Wilson, Cody Attaway, and William Crozier recently took first place in the SkillsUSA welding competition.



COURTESY PHOTO

FIRST TIME COMPETITORS: Competing for the first time were, from left, Addison Woods, Devion Walker, and Carley Dowling.

Coryell 4-H youth to participate in upcoming photography contest

District 8 of 4-H will have its 2023 photography contest during the month of March. The Coryell County online entry deadline will be March 2 at 11:59 p.m. The contest will be open to all Coryell 4-H youth in grades K-12.

This is a great opportunity for the 4-H youth to showcase their photography skills. No entry fee will be required. Winners at the county contest will

advance to district. The 4-H youth are encouraged to dig out those cameras and go find the beauty in their surroundings. This year's contest



will open online March 6 and run through March 24. Please note that all photos entered in the district contest must have first qualified from their county contest. Students need to make sure they check with their CEA for their contest dates and deadlines.

All rules, guidelines and categories can be found by visiting: <https://agrillife.org/.../events-and.../photography-contest/>

Miss Spring Fest Pageant to be held March 25 at Texas Station

The first "Miss Spring Fest Pageant" will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 25, at the Texas Station Event Center. The ages for contestant entries include Baby Miss, infant to 2 years of age; Tiny Miss, ages 3-5; Little Miss, ages 6-9; Junior Miss, ages 10-13; and Queen, ages 14-18. There will also be other categories including Most Photogenic and People's

Choice. The early deadline to enter will be March 1 with an entry cost of \$30. The late deadline will be March 15 at a cost of \$50.

For more information about the pageant, please contact Susie at 254-383-2307. Texas Station Event Center is located at 4604 Hwy. 36.



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

© 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 39, No. 13

Mountain to Monument

Have you ever looked at a stone, a cliff, or even a mountain and thought you could see a face?

In 1924, the American sculptor Gutzon Borglum was invited to the Black Hills in South Dakota to turn a mountain into an enormous sculpture. When he looked at one of the mountains, he saw that he could carve the faces of four of our presidents there.

Who is carved into Mount Rushmore?
Four presidents were chosen to be carved into Mt. Rushmore. Unscramble the name of each president. The clues will help you.

OREGEG TAWGONHISN
The first president of the United States.

MOTSHA FEFEJORSN
Third President of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence.

ARMAAHB COLLNNI
Our 16th President ended the Civil War and slavery.

DOORTHEE VELSTROEO
The 26th U.S. President helped to grow the country at home and abroad.

Crazy Horse Memorial
A mountain in the Black Hills is being carved into the shape of a man. It is a giant carving of Crazy Horse, a fearless and famous Lakota war leader.

When finished, the Crazy Horse Memorial will be the biggest sculpture in the world.

Chief Standing Bear and other Native American chiefs invited sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski to carve the Crazy Horse Memorial out of a mountain. Work began over 70 years ago, and it will take many more years to complete it.

Extra! Extra!
Carve Out the ABCs
Choose one page of the newspaper. Find five or more words and write them on another sheet of paper in ABC order.

Standards Link: Identify cause and effect using visual cues.

Grow a Picture
You can make a small picture larger in much the same way Borglum and Ziolkowski expanded small sculptures into mountain-sized ones.

Look at the small drawing of Crazy Horse. It is drawn in a grid of small boxes.

To the right is a grid with larger boxes. Copy the drawing of Crazy Horse, one box at a time, and you will make a drawing that is larger than the original. One box is done for you.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The Black Hills are filled with wildlife. Prairie dogs romp and play in the fields and meadows. Can you find the prairie dog that looks different than all the others?

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Monument Fun Facts

Have a family member take a guess at answering these questions. Use the code to check their answers.

■ = 0	⊗ = 5
■ = 1	⊗ = 6
■ = 2	⊗ = 7
⊕ = 3	⊗ = 8
⊗ = 4	⊗ = 9

- How tall are the faces on Mt. Rushmore?
_____ feet tall
- How wide are the eyes on Mt. Rushmore?
_____ feet wide
- How long are the noses on Mt. Rushmore?
_____ feet long
- How wide are the mouths on Mt. Rushmore?
_____ feet wide
- How tall is the face on the Crazy Horse Memorial?
_____ feet tall
- How long is the outstretched arm on the Crazy Horse Memorial?
_____ feet long
- How long is the pointing finger on the Crazy Horse Memorial?
_____ feet
- How tall is the horse's head on the Crazy Horse Memorial?
_____ stories tall

Learn more about these monuments by visiting: crazyhorsememorial.org
www.nps.gov

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Memory Buddies

Play this game with a buddy. Choose a picture from the newspaper. Study the picture for one minute. Then cover the picture and take turns telling each other everything you can remember about it.

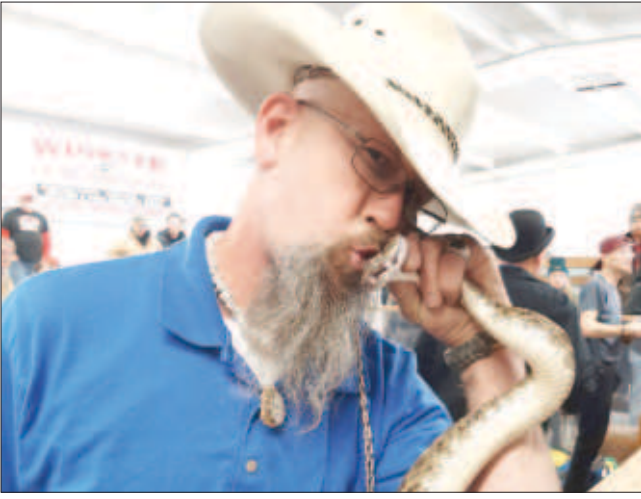
Standards Link: Language Arts: Summarize main ideas in writing.

Write On!

If I Were President

Imagine that you have been elected President of the United States. What would you do? What would you change?

53rd annual Rattlesnake Roundup set for this weekend



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

KISSSSSS ME: Rattlesnake handler kisses a snake on the head at last year's show in Oglesby.

The Oglesby Lion's Club is scheduled to hold its 53rd annual Rattlesnake Roundup on Saturday, Feb. 25, and Sunday, Feb. 26. The Rattlesnake Roundup will include a snake show and vendor fair, which will take place at the Oglesby Community Center.

General admission will be \$5. Children under six years of age are free to enter. Oglesby Independent School District will provide breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7 a.m. through 10 a.m. Concessions will be taken care

of by the Oglesby Volunteer Fire Department and Oglesby ISD.

Snake registration will be on Saturday morning, Feb. 25. Registration will open at 7 a.m. with a fee of \$5. There will be no professional snake hunters, and snakes will not be registered after 10 a.m. on Feb. 26. A Safety Pledge will need to be signed, and a correct hunter's license will be required.

World famous snake handler Jackie Bibby will perform live demonstrations at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 4

p.m. Bibby has more than 50 years of snake handling experience. Bibby is known for taking risks to break records. In 2006 Bibby held 10 western diamondback rattlesnakes in his mouth for 12.5 seconds, setting the Guinness World Record in the "Most Live Rattlesnakes Held in Mouth" category.

The Vendor Fair will be Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be live entertainment from "Ed Leonard & Friends" on Saturday from 11 a.m.-4

p.m. On Sunday, "Tell Runyan" will perform from 1-4 p.m.

A car/motorcycle show will take place on Feb. 25, and a community blood drive.

For more information call 469-450-4973, or email oglesbyrattlesnakeroundup@gmail.com. Information can be found online at <https://oglesbyrattlesnakeroundup.com/> or on Facebook at Oglesby Lions Club Rattlesnake Roundup.

The man who made swings

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Tumbleweed Smith is a newspaper columnist and producer of The Sound of Texas radio series.

When Andrew Gunn of Dayton moved into his house nearly sixty years ago it was practically in the country, located about a hundred yards from a two-lane highway.



Smith

He used to walk across the highway on Saturdays and Sundays to a service station where he met his buddies and they drank beer, ate BBQ, and played dominoes.

Now that former two-lane highway is a four-lane thoroughfare and Andy wouldn't think of trying to cross it because there's a constant stream of vehicles whizzing by. The area where his house once stood by itself is now an established neighborhood of homes and stores.

Andy used to keep a pet king snake in his front yard. He didn't like water moccasins. Once he found one on his front porch and it slithered into the space between the porch and the house. So, he mixed some concrete and poured it in that space.

"That snake is buried in concrete," Andy said.

He was a heavy equipment operator and then worked 25 years for an oil distributor.

"I retired in 1979 at age 53," Andy said. "That's pretty good, I think."

Then he started a business of his own.

"My wife and I were set-

ting here one day, and she asked me if I thought we could make any money selling swings. I told her I would give it a try and started making swings. It snowballed. We had a good business," Andy said.

His swings were sturdy, made of pine lumber.

I built a regular swing, then one that had the state of Texas on it. I built an A & M swing and one with a longhorn steer. Made quite a lot of money back in them days," he said. "Lakes around here were just going in and people would show up here after dark wanting swings to take to their property. I had my shop full of swings."

He could make three or four swings in a single day, working from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"My wife would come out and tell me it was time to eat, and I'd tell her I'd be there when I found a stopping place," he said.

He did all the work himself. Each one was handmade.

"Some people put them in an A-frame or hung them from a tree limb. The swings had armrests with eyebolt

screws in them where they could attach a chain and hang them from the front porch ceiling. They sold pretty good," he said.

The swings came in different sizes.

"Well, you take a 5-foot, three people could sit comfortable in it. A 4-foot, two people, well three if you put two grownups and a kid, you know. I never painted a swing because I ain't no painter," he said.

He's not building them now, but his swings will soon be back on the market.

"My buddy up at Mike's Café is going to start making them again here pretty quick using my patterns," Andy said. "He's getting all set up now."

He made the swings 30 years. When he started, Andy sold his swings at prices ranging from 12 to 15 dollars. When he quit making them the prices ranged from \$100 to \$150. He thinks the swings he made are still in good shape, comfortable and people are continuing to enjoy them.

Litter clean up day set for Feb. 25

Keep Gatesville Beautiful will be hosting a litter clean up day on Saturday, Feb. 25 and are seeking volunteers.

Those interested in helping are asked to meet at the Gatesville Public Library located at 111 N. 8th Street at

9 a.m. on Feb. 25. To register for the event, visit keepgatesvillebeautiful.com.

The mission of Keep Gatesville Beautiful is to educate and engage Gatesville citizens to take responsibility for a cleaner, more

beautiful community. It is a community driven non-profit organization that works to improve the community's environmental awareness.

Keep Gatesville Beautiful is 100% volunteer run.



COURTESY OF WORLDWIDE CEMETERIES

Pidcoke Cemetery

CORYELL COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER "SPOTLIGHT"

Pidcoke Cemetery

Marker Text:

Serving the rural Pidcoke and Harman communities, this cemetery dates to at least 1885, the year six-year-old Mattie Jeter was buried here after dying in a fall from a wagon. Local landowners H. S. (Tip) Perryman and W. H. Belcher formally deeded portions of their land for a community graveyard in 1896, and members of both the Perryman and Belcher families are interred here.

The Pidcoke community was named for English colonist the Rev. Richard Burton

Pidcoke's sons, Hartley and Reginald, who began a successful ranching enterprise in the area in 1857. Stock raising and other agricultural pursuits sustained the economy until the acquisition of land for Camp Hood in 1942 resulted in the relocation of many families.

Generations of families are buried in the Pidcoke Cemetery, including that of H. S. Perryman, a native of Arkansas, who drove cattle to Kansas and served as Coryell County tax assessor (1876-1886). Perryman died in 1897, soon after donating land for the cemetery. Oth-

ers interred here include veterans of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The Pidcoke Cemetery Association, dating to at least 1936, cares for the cemetery. The association has conducted a census of the cemetery, worked to provide markers for unmarked graves and acquired additional land in 1985. The graveyard remains in use as a reminder of Pidcoke's settlement and heritage. (2001)

Location: From FM 116 in Pidcoke, turn onto CR 142 to reach the cemetery.

Whatever happened to....

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

A graduation ceremony was held for fifth graders at the Gatesville Intermediate School who had completed the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. High school role models Ashley Goss and James Barron helped hand out the certificates.

U.S. Representative Chet Edwards was holding a town hall meeting in Gatesville where he discussed several issues, including a possible war with Iraq, the budget and veterans' benefits, and answered a variety of questions from locals.

Coleman Autoplex was advertising a drawing to win a free trip for two to Las Vegas. Employees promoting the drawing included Gus Krueger, Rick Gonzales, Mark Staton, Buddy Cuevas, Ronnie Warren, and John Barron.

Students in Kay Bell's kindergarten class had the chance to rub their physical education teacher's bald head. Brian Edwards, the head boys' basketball coach, had agreed to shave his head if the Gatesville squad qualified for playoffs... and they did.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

Former Gatesville mayor John Ward was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice. Ward, age 38, was to sit on the board

through Feb. 1, 1999, pending confirmation by the Texas Senate.

A vital and incredibly historic asset for Coryell County, and for all of Central Texas, had been reaffirmed with the addition of Mother Neff State Park and the scenic Old River Road to the National Registry of Historic Places.

Osage resident, Alfa B. Nettles, was set to be honored on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Friends were invited to come and help her celebrate. A party in her honor was being held at the Osage Baptist Church.

40 YEARS AGO (1983)

Cub Scout den members in Pack 272 were busy working on projects for their Blue and Gold Banquet. The banquet was held in February each year to celebrate the birthday of Cub Scouting. The organization was celebrating their 53rd year of scouting.

Pete Wasson, along with his wife Nancy and son David, visited in Boston, Mass., where they attended the dedication of the Tina and Gordon Wasson Ethnomycological Collection in honor of his parents. The event was held at the Botanical Museum at Harvard University in Cambridge.

Gatesville Mayor Creston Brazzil signed a proclamation designating the week of Feb. 19-26 as FFA week.

Gatesville FFA president Billy Hopson and vice-president Tim Eary were present for the signing.

50 YEARS AGO (1973)

Five Gatesville High School seniors, Elizabeth Bennett, Cindy Byrom, Tony Henson, Brian McCorkle, and Phillip Williamson were selected by the S.L. Pruitt chapter of the National Honor Society for national recognition as outstanding NHS members.

The Riverside Nursing Home in the Fort Gates community was closed, and its 23 patients transferred to other nursing homes in the area. The facility, which had been open since 1966, was closed by the State Health Department saying the building had no fire sprinkler system.

Gatesville High School band members were rehearsing a Peter Rabbit book review scene for "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." Betsy Floyd was playing Peppermint Patty, Carla Donaldson was playing Linus, Judy Rhoads playing Lucy, and Cindy Nichols as Snoopy.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Conners were hosting a housewarming party in their new brick home on their ranch located two miles west of Bee house. Neighbors and friends had a special invitation to come and see their spacious new home.

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans picked 10th in WAC baseball poll

Tarleton Sports Information

The Western Athletic Conference released its 2023 WAC Baseball preseason honors and coaches' poll earlier this month. Tarleton was picked to finish 10th among the 13 universities by vote of the league's head coaches, ahead of Utah Valley, Seattle U and Stephen F. Austin.

Grand Canyon was selected to win the conference with 10 first-place votes, followed by Sam Houston in second with three second place votes.

Sam Houston's Carlos Contreras and Grand Canyon's Jacob Wilson were selected as the WAC Preseason Players of the Year. Grand Canyon's Daniel Avitia was

named the WAC Preseason Pitcher of the Year.

The Texans will play 30 conference games this season. The divisional format from a season ago is no longer in place. Starting this season, the teams will compete for eight spots in the conference tournament. This season, Tarleton is eligible for the conference tournament at the Division 1 level for the first time.

Season tickets are on sale now to see the Texans play in the newly renovated Tarleton Baseball Complex.

2023 WAC BASEBALL PRESEASON COACHES POLL

Rank	Team (1st-Place Votes)	Points
1.	Grand Canyon (10)	141
2.	Sam Houston (3)	131
3.	California Baptist	115
4.	Abilene Christian	100
	UTRGV	100
	Sacramento State	100
7.	NM State	88
8.	Utah Tech	54
9.	UT Arlington	47
10.	Tarleton	40
11.	Utah Valley	38
12.	Seattle U	36
13.	Stephen F. Austin	24

Hicks, Booker combine for 41 points to help Texans edge Utah Tech

Tarleton Sports Information

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Tarleton State University's Texans caught fire in the first half and didn't look back on Feb. 11 as they topped the Utah Tech Trailblazers 75-71 on the road at Burns Arena.

The Texans (14-12, 7-6 WAC) shot 17-of-23 (.739) and 7-of-10 (.700) from beyond the arc before halftime. TSU's Freddy Hicks was perfect from distance in the first half, making all three of his shots beyond the arc.

Tarleton was led in scoring by Hicks, who picked up a game-high 21 points. He also recorded six assists and four rebounds.

The Fireside District Player of the Game, Tiger Booker, scored 20 points and picked up two assists.

The Texans were first on the board, courtesy of a contested jumper from Shakur Daniel. Utah Tech (11-15, 3-10 WAC) immediately re-

sponded with a three pointer to take the one-point lead.

The teams exchanged the lead six times over the first 11 minutes of the half. The Texans then mounted a 12-1 run over four minutes to extend their lead to 10.

Four Texans, including Hicks, Booker, Jakorie Smith and Lue Williams, connected for seven shots beyond the arc to extend their lead to 13 to end the first half.

Daniel claimed the first points of the second half for the Texans, draining a pull-up three pointer to extend Tarleton's lead to the largest of the game, at 16.

The Texans maintained a 15-point lead over the Trailblazers through the first 10 minutes of the second half. Utah Tech mustered a 10-1 run lasting five minutes to reduce Tarleton's advantage to five points with just over two minutes remaining in the game.

With time winding down,

the Trailblazers implemented a full court press in hopes of diminishing their deficit. The Texans persevered and were able to push the ball up the court, wrecking Utah Tech's strategy.

Booker played a crucial role in sealing the win. He was 8-for-8 from the free throw line in the final three minutes of the game, ensuring the Texans lead stayed intact.

Utah Tech's full-court press proved unsuccessful as the Texans secured the victory.

Daniel notched 10 points, five assists, four rebounds and two steals. Williams picked up eight points and Coreyoun Rushin scored three points while also causing havoc for the Trailblazer offense.

Smith scored seven points and had five rebounds. Shamir Bogues picked up five points, four rebounds and two steals.



Tiger Booker (12), who scored 20 points in Tarleton's 75-71 men's basketball victory Feb. 11 at Utah Tech University, takes aim at a free throw.

Raines sets 200-meter school record to lead Texans at Jarvis Scott meet in Lubbock

TSU Sports Information

LUBBOCK — Tarleton State University's track and field squads concluded the two-day Jarvis Scott Open on Feb. 11 at the Texas Tech Sports Performance Center with some impressive performances all the way around.

Justin Raines once again broke a school record, this time in the men's 200-meter run, finishing in 21.57 seconds. His time topped Mikel Stone's run of 21.63 from 2020. Raines placed 16th in the men's 200m final.

Kevin Baez made his return to the track and did not disappoint, running the men's mile in 4:15.98. He won his heat handily and placed sixth.

Gabriele Tosti jumped 15.29m in the men's triple jump, good for a third-place finish behind two student-

athletes from TCU. Jaden Hall placed seventh with a jump of 14.94m for a personal record.

Danielle Thomas finished highest among Texan women runners in the 200m, placing ninth and running it in 25.10 seconds.

Dora van Doremalen cleared 1.70m in the women's high jump for a second-place finish. Jordan Rae followed behind, placing fourth and clearing 1.65m.

Alan Palmer and Jamariyan Howlett cleared 2.02m in the men's high jump to place second and third.

The TSU women's 4x400m relay team of Jordan Anglin, Hanna Dudley, Alessa King and Macie Evans placed sixth, running 3:49.72.

Tarleton will now set its sights to the WAC Indoor Championships in Seattle from Feb. 24 to Feb. 25.



Tarleton State University's Gabriele Tosti recorded a jump of 15.29 meters in the men's triple jump during the recent Jarvis Scott Open track and field meet held Feb. 10-11 inside the Texas Tech Sports Performance Center. Tosti's performance was good for a third-place finish behind two TCU athletes.

TSU women fall in double overtime to CBU, 89-84

Tarleton Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — It took 50 minutes of basketball, but after 22 lead changes and 19 ties, California Baptist won a double overtime classic Feb. 11 at Wisdom Gym over Tarleton State University, 89-84.

The Texans (7-17, 1-12 WAC) nearly were trying to snap their season-long losing streak — with multiple chances to win the game, and coming up with multiple defensive stops to preserve it. The Lancers (13-11, 9-4 WAC) made 8-of-10 free throws in the second overtime, plus used a late three-pointer to head home with the win.

Tarleton's women have lost eight consecutive games, their longest losing streak since 2002-03.

It was Tarleton's sixth double overtime game in program history, and first since Feb. 2, 2017, vs. Eastern New Mexico. The Texans are now 2-4 in double overtime games all-time, last winning in 2011.

Several Texans had big performances to give fans a show on Play4Kay day, for which Tarleton wore pink accessories, hosted a silent auction and gave out free pink wristbands to show support and to raise money for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund.

Teresa Da Silva achieved her sixth 20-plus point game of the season, playing 49 of a possible 50 minutes, and recording 24 points, five rebounds and four steals.

For Tarleton, Nyajah Mitchels scored a career-high 21 points on 9-of-14 shooting, adding two rebounds in 20 minutes. Teammate Tyler Jackson played 48 minutes, going for 12 points, six rebounds and three assists. Jenna Dick added 11 points on 4-of-8 shooting, including 3-of-5 from distance, three rebounds and four assists.

California Baptist's Grace Schmidt had a game-high 27 points on 10-of-20 shooting, to go with eight rebounds.

This game was as close as it could get, beginning that way with neither team leading by more than a possession in the first quarter. Da Silva nailed a three-pointer with 37 seconds left that CBU's Kinsley Barrington answered at the first quarter buzzer to end the frame knotted at 12-12.

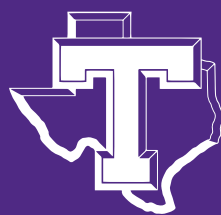
It turned into three straight Tarleton possessions with three-pointers as the Texans opened the second with back-to-back three-pointers. Tarleton took a 30-28 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The largest lead for both teams in the third quarter was four points, with the squads going back-and-forth. Tarleton made 7-of-9 (.779) in the quarter to lead 50-47 entering the fourth.

The Lancers scored the first four points over the first minute in 2OT. Da Silva made a lay-up with 20 seconds to go to get Tarleton back within three, but the Texans wouldn't connect again, losing by five.

WANT MORE?

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Texas Farm Bureau awards over \$235,000 in scholarships annually

Annually, Texas Farm Bureau awards over \$235,000 in scholarships in a variety of packages designed to meet different student needs. TFB High School Scholarships include District Scholarships, a Young Farmer & Rancher High School Scholarship, and the Dick Mitchell Memorial Scholarship. Details and requirements for each scholarship are listed below. The 2023 scholarship applications are due by March 15.

S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award

To acknowledge former TFB President S.M. True Jr., a \$20,000 scholarship was established for college students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program with at least 60 hours of college credit and declared agriculture as their major. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be a Farm Bureau member-family for at least three years at the time of application. Students are encouraged to apply at the end of their sophomore year for TFB's most prestigious scholarship.

Mia Balko Student Teaching Scholarship

This scholarship was renamed in honor of the late Mia Balko, who was the director of youth outreach and scholarship coordinator for TFB. Prior to joining TFB, Balko was an ag-

ricultural science teacher. Four senior agricultural education students will receive the Mia Balko Student Teaching Scholarship each semester. The scholarships, valued at \$1,500, aim to help students cover expenses during their semester of off-campus student teaching. Students who will be student teaching off-campus in fall 2023 are encouraged to apply.

YF&R Scholarship for Enrolled College Students

The Young Farmer & Rancher Enrolled Scholarship is for students already in college pursuing undergraduate degrees. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours and a GPA of 2.5 or higher to qualify. Applicants must also intend to pursue a career in agriculture. Three \$2,000 Young Farmer & Rancher Enrolled scholarships will be awarded.

Rural Veterinary Scholarship

The Rural Veterinary Scholarship is in its second year. Four scholarships valued at \$10,000 each will be awarded. Applicants must be a second- or third-year veterinarian student at Texas A&M University or Texas Tech University with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. The applicant must also plan to enter a rural and/or food animal

practice in Texas after graduation.

TSTC Scholarship

TFB has made scholarship funds available to first-year students attending Texas State Technical College (TSTC). Forty \$1,000 scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis through the Texan Success Scholarship. Another \$10,000 is available through the Helping Hands fund, which is meant to help students with unexpected costs that do not qualify for academic financial aid. For more information on TSTC scholarships, visit tstc.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships.

Scholarship Donations

To make a non-tax-deductible donation to the Texas Farm Bureau Scholarship Funds, please send a check made payable to "Texas Farm Bureau" with "TFB Scholarships" noted in the memo line. Checks may be mailed to ATTN: McKenna Bush, Youth Outreach Coordinator, P.O. Box 2689 Waco, TX 76702-2689. *Texas Farm Bureau is a 501(c)5 non-profit. Therefore, donations are considered non-tax deductible.

For questions related to scholarships, contact youthactivities@txfb.org or call 254-751-2258.

Retirement reception set for Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry

A reception honoring retiring Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The reception, hosted by the City of Gatesville staff and city council members, will be held from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the city council chambers, located at 110 N 8th Street.

Parry has spent the last eight years as Gatesville's city manager. His official retirement date is Feb. 28 but he has agreed to stay in Gatesville as a consultant until his position has been filled.

The public is invited to stop by and extend their well wishes to Mr. Parry.



Parry

Coryell Retired School Personnel to hold meeting Feb. 23 at Ranchers

The next regular meeting for CRSP (Coryell Retired School Personnel) will be Thursday, Feb. 23 at Ranchers' Steakhouse.

Members may come at 9:30 a.m. to visit and socialize, and the meeting will start at 10 a.m.

One of the main activities for the meeting will be playing "BINGO for Books." Members can make a donation or choose to pay per card per game. All money collected will go into the Children's Book Project Fund. The or-

ganization needs to replace lots of books given away in 2022 -- about 2,320 books. Members are asked to help by bringing small gifts to use as bingo prizes.

Members are also reminded to bring in their count of volunteer hours for Debbie Grmela. Next month is dues payment month, but members may make their payments at this meeting (total dues are \$45, which includes \$35 for the state and \$10 for our local chap-

ter).

Upcoming dates to remember include:

March 23: the meeting program will feature M.J. Wofford as Elizabeth Barrett Browning; April 12: "A Day at the Capitol" with four local members attending (Gail Johnson, Cheri Braziel, Gerald and Gayla Linton); and May 16: the district meeting in Waco at the Region XII Education Service Center. Any number of delegates may attend the district meeting, where JoAnn Sugg will be presiding as President.

Gatesville Senior Center in need of volunteers for Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is currently in need of volunteer drivers in Gatesville. Meals on Wheels is a federally funded program for older adults who are homebound, unable to prepare a meal,

don't drive, and have no one to cook for them. The program provides home-delivered nutritious meals to seniors in our community on local routes only.

The Gatesville Senior Cen-

ter is looking for four drivers per day to drive four different routes. The shifts will be Monday through Friday, starting at 10:30 a.m. The Meals on Wheels run will take approximately one hour

to complete. Volunteers can build their own schedules with no contract necessary. If you are a volunteer age 55 or older, you may be eligible for different perks.

Meals on Wheels America

is the oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based senior nutrition programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior hunger

and isolation.

The Gatesville Senior Center is located at 208 N. Lutherloh in Gatesville. For more information contact the Senior Center Director, Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234.

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NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, The Gatesville Messenger does not guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC website is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

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2005 Lexus ES350, 190K miles, current engine has less than 100K. Blue with tan leather, good condition, runs good and everything works. \$4,900. (903) 915-0459.
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032 MISCELLANEOUS

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FREE to anyone willing to pick up two lease campers needing work. Cabover used for storage for years, 18' goose neck, AC broken, vacant years. Left by former hunters. Near Star, Texas. Call 832-444-3817.
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 • BSN-RN – FT; Preferable Certified Infection Control & Epidemiology

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 • Certified Medical Assistant/CCMA – FT
 • Outpatient Admission Clerk – FT, Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm
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 • RN or LVN – PRN All shifts

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 • CT/X-Ray Tech – PRN; TDH MRT & ARRT w/1 yr. exp. in CT/X-Ray
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 (Full Time)

*****\$3,000 Sign On Bonus with 1 year contract*****

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 00029862

Multi-family Garage Sale Saturday, Feb. 25, 8am-? 8765 FM 2412 (Levita).
 00029921

070 LAND & LOTS

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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SALLIE THOMASA DeLORD, Deceased, were issued on February 7, 2023, in Cause No. 22-10681, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: WENDY KAY VOGT.

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: WENDY KAY VOGT
 1035 CR 334
 Gatesville, Texas 76528

DATED the 16th day of February, 2023.

/s/James O. Cure
 James O. Cure
 Attorney for WENDY KAY VOGT
 State Bar No.: 05252800
 2584 Blue Meadow Dr.
 Temple, TX 76502
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 Facsimile: (254) 773-2477
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GHS Sports Roundup

Softball: Varsity finished fourth in the 16-team Killeen ISD Invitational. After starting the tourney 5-0, the Hornets lost to Harker Heights 5-1 in the semifinals on Saturday and to Leander Glenn 9-2 in the third-place game. GHS (6-2 overall) hosted Clifton here Tuesday. The Hornets will be hosts of their own varsity tournament Thursday through Saturday.

Varsity defeated Georgetown Gateway (3-2), Round Rock McNeil (11-4) and Killeen Chaparral (14-3) to finish 3-0 in Thursday's pool play at the Killeen ISD Invitational.

On Friday, varsity clubbed La Vega 10-3 to finish Day 2 of the Killeen ISD tournament 2-0. Earlier in the day, GHS nipped Killeen Ellison 6-5 in the tourney. Enhanced coverage of GHS softball will begin in the Feb. 25 edition of The Gatesville Messenger.

Girls Soccer: Varsity lost at Salado 5-0. The Hornets trav-

eled to Academy on Tuesday to begin the second round of league play.

Boys Soccer: Varsity lost to Salado 3-0. GHS began the second half of league play Tuesday at Lampasas.

Golf: GHS Boys shot 368 to finish 3rd in the regional showcase tournament in Huntsville. On the girl's side, Avery Streetman finished fourth in the medalist race with a round of 94.

Tennis: Varsity results from the Waco Midway tournament: Slone Early, was second in boys singles; Preslea Edmond and Olivia Walker were second in girls doubles; Katelyn Sanchez and Ben Mabry were second in mixed doubles; London Kizer and Finn Rogers were third in girls doubles; Callie Smith was consolation champion in girls singles; Alex Scott and Ty Warren were consolation champions in boys

doubles. GHS' next outing comes Friday at the Waco ISD Invitational.

Girls Powerlifting: GHS finished eighth overall at the West Invitational. Brookelyn Byrd and Vielka Gonzalez notched silver medals. Next up is the THSWPA regional meet March 3 at Dublin for lifters among the Top 10 in their respective weight classes.

Boys Powerlifting: GHS finished fourth overall at the West Invitational. Zach Bryant won gold in the super heavyweight class with a total of 1,535 pounds (635 squat, 380 bench press, 520 deadlift). Gabe Charles finished second, while Caden Brister, L.J. Hall and David Sims were third. Next up is the THSPA regional meet March 11 hosted by GHS. Lifters ranked in the Top 10 of their weight classes qualify for the regional meet.

Area Fishing Report

Lake Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 13.79 feet below pool. The water temperature roller coaster continues. Fish are both tight to the bottom on breaklines in distinct schools, as well as, parallel to and just off of the main river channel in very large, slowly moving, suspended schools. The fish on bottom were temperamental, typically responding well as soon as our presentations arrived at bottom, then losing interest quickly. Success with 3/8 or 5/8 ounce white Bladed Hazy Eye Slabs using a combination

of easing, slow-smoking, and occasional snap-jigging. The suspended fish near the channel were aggressive when they were seen moving horizontally on sonar and, during such times, would hit a slab worked with a slow-smoking tactic. However, if the fish were not moving, they would typically only respond to a dead-sticked soft plastic with a jig head positioned horizontally. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfishing are excellent. Drifting old river channels that are 20-35 feet deep using fresh cut bait has produced great num-

bers of eating size as well as trophy blue catfish. Flatheads have been caught near shorelines with timber on live bait. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing. Crappie are fair most fish are in 18-35 feet of water using hand ties and plastics. Fish still haven't made the push to the shallows. Report by Zach Minnix, JigNJerK Guide Service.

Stillhouse Hollow

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 11.80 feet below pool. The water temperature roller coaster continues. Top approaches for white bass include snap-jigging with

intentional, long pauses between snaps using the smallest, 3/8 ounce Bladed Hazy Eye Slab in white for bottom-oriented fish, or using a deadsticking approach for suspended fish using a horizontally-oriented shad-imitating soft plastic of less than three inches in length on a jighead. Bird activity can be misleading, as gulls and terns turn their focus on feeding around loons and cormorants instead of around shad-eating gamefish. Use side-imaging to find isolated schools of fish on deep flats adjacent to the river channel.



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Gatesville baseball expecting bounce back season

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

After a frustrating 2022 season, Gatesville baseball head coach Chase Smith has one clear goal for his 2023 squad.

He wants a “perfect” season - regardless of wins and losses.

“We’ve adopted a mantra this year of ‘perfect’. We look at everything that happens - good or bad - and say ‘perfect, here’s a chance to get better,’” Smith said.

Last season’s squad was primed to compete for a district title and prepped for a playoff run when those hopes were dashed before the first pitch of the season was ever thrown.

The Hornets lost Lawson Mooney, Banner Allman, Ayden Necessary, and ace Bralen Veazey before practice ever started in 2022. To put it into baseball terms, they started the season with an 0-2 count.

Yet remarkably, they were in the playoff hunt until the final day of the season and the hand that was dealt last year now has the Hornets returning a remarkable amount of varsity experience this year. It has also changed how Smith approaches every situation that isn’t ideal.

“Instead of getting down or frustrated we just look at every situation as a way to get better. For example, if practice gets rained out and we have to go to the gym or classroom we just say ‘perfect,’” Smith said. “This way they’re prepared for whatever we are about to face. That mentality transfers over to games. So if an at-bat doesn’t go our way or our pitches aren’t getting calls on the corners we just say ‘perfect’ and adapt.”

When asked about which player has embodied his new mantra in practices and scrimmages thus far, Smith provided an unexpected example - senior reserve William Crozier.

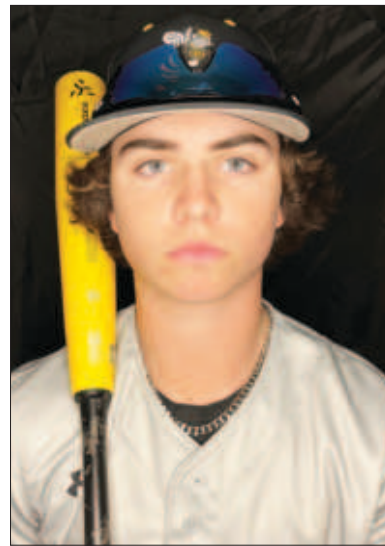
“Crozier is the ultimate teammate and is a leader for us. He is always sprints out to the field every day and is the last guy to leave.



Mason Mooney



Kason Herbelin



Grant Erwin



Banner Allman

“Instead of getting down or frustrated we just look at every situation as a way to get better. ... This way they’re prepared for whatever we are about to face. That mentality transfers over to games.”

CHASE SMITH
GHS head baseball coach

He didn’t get to play in our scrimmage against Lorena but he just said ‘That’s okay. I’m here to be an example.’ More than his game he is a leader and we feed off of that example.”

The mood at practice has also been helped by the prospect of adding talent like Mooney, Veazey, and Allman back to an already talented roster. Mooney hit .340 for the Hornets as a freshman and was a first-team all-district selection in 2021. Veazey, also a freshman in 2021, went 5-3 with a 2.70 ERA and was the district Newcomer Of The Year while Allman led the team with a .370 average en route to being a second-team all-district choice as a sophomore.

Smith described Mooney and

Allman as “difference makers” for the Hornets.

“Lawson just doesn’t let guys get away with things and he is not phased by one single thing. As he goes, so go the rest of us,” Smith said. “And Banner adds so much. He just good at what he does and he is confident at what he does.”

Veazey will assume the role of staff ace while senior Grant Erwin will likely be in the number two spot. Erwin flashed his potential last year when he threw a complete game two-hitter against state-ranked Cameron Yoe.

“Having Veazey out there is such a confidence booster. When he is on the mound we expect to win. He’s an ace and everyone knows it,” Smith said. “And Grant is so

fun to coach. He listens and he takes things and he applies them.”

Veazey and Erwin will likely see the bulk of the starts but the Hornets have plenty of pitching reinforcements in the form of seniors Kason Herbelin and Banner Allman, junior Justin Johnson, sophomore John Ibarra, and freshman Brady James.

They will join eight returners from last season’s squad as well as a host of newcomers on the roster this season giving Smith something he hasn’t had in his two seasons as head coach - depth.

“We’ve got some versatility this season. It’s going to be hard to put a lineup together some days but it is making for some great practices. It’s super competitive at practice like it should be,” Smith said.

While he is an option on the mound James will open the season as the Hornets starting third baseman and Smith also expects the left-hander to add pop near the top of the lineup.

“He’s just a hitter, plain and simple. He might be the best pure hitter we’ve ever had coming up,” Smith said.

Allman will play shortstop while Johnson and Ibarra will battle for the job at second base as Neces-

sary will again miss the season with an injury. First base will see some combination of Erwin and fellow seniors Ben Mabry and Carter Williams. Junior Sean Aguilar will play left while Herbelin will roam center and senior Mason Mooney will settle into right field for another season.

Smith’s reserve options will include Crozier, seniors Jacob Ybarra and Antonio Osario, juniors Caden Brister, Gage Ford, and Clayton Gregory, and freshman Gehrig Keeton and Miles Tull.

Smith said he expects his team to be improved defensively. Thanks to a number of players learning new positions, the Hornets committed 90 errors in 26 games last season compared to just 41 errors in 30 games in 2021. They will also continue to be aggressive on the base paths particularly with speedsters like Mooney, Aguilar, and Herbelin.

“We’re fast. If we are going to be good at anything we will certainly be good on defense and on the bases,” he said.

He also expects to make more noise in District 23-4A where the Hornets are picked fourth in the six-team district. China Spring - a state-semi-finalist in 2022 - is favored to win the district followed by Salado and Robinson.

“I don’t think people really know what we have this year and that’s going to play in our favor,” he said.

The Hornets opened the regular season against Jarrell on Feb. 20 and will compete in tournament play in Salado beginning this Friday.

Starting Saturday there will be expanded coverage of Gatesville High School softball. For recent softball results, see the GHS Sports Roundup on Page A11 of The Gatesville Messenger.



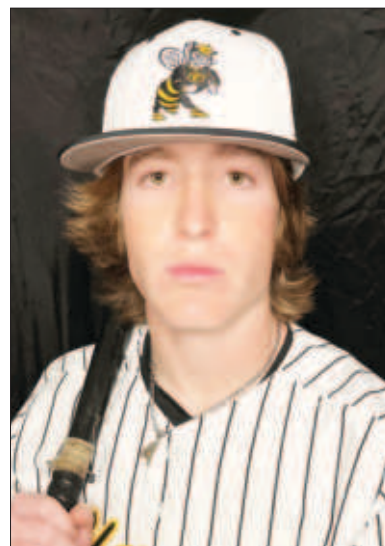
Brady James



Bralen Veazey



Lawson Mooney



Sean Aguilar

GHS Athletic Hall of Fame selections announced for 2023 induction cycle

The newest inductees to the Gatesville High School Athletics’ Hall of Fame were selected on Feb. 16. The Class of 2023 inductees are:

* Johnny Jones, boys golf, 1961 state champion individual medalist.

* Keith Clarke, boys track, three-time state-meet qualifier and 1987 state cham-

pion in the 200 meters.

* Brian Edwards, boys basketball athlete and boys basketball coach.

* 1965 girls track state champions (first year awarded by the UIL).

The Hall of Fame Banquet will be Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Gatesville Civic Center.

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