



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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## City manager finalists introduced



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The four finalists for Gatesville city manager are, from left, James Fisher, Scott Albert, Neal Wendele and David Harris.

## Each candidate has extensive city administrative experience

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
Senior Writer & Editor

Gatesville will soon have a new city manager, and local residents had an opportunity to meet the four finalists for the position during a meet and greet session on March 22 in the Gatesville City Council Chamber.

The candidates are Scott Albert, James Fisher, David Harris and Neal Wendele.

Wendele is city manager in Todd Mission, Texas, 50 miles northwest of Houston. He said he was attracted to the Gatesville opportunity "because this is home. I grew up in Harker Heights and my Dad was stationed at Fort Hood. I am happy where I am but I got excited when I saw the Gatesville opening. I applied right away."

Wendele said his first priority will be "meeting all the employees, the people who are in the trenches and make everything happen. I will ride around and get to know the community. This is the kind of place I am really looking forward to raising my family in if so chosen."

Albert, who is city manager in Hondo, said Gatesville's location is what interested him "personally and professionally" and that he sees "great opportunities for Gatesville."

Albert's background includes helping

with local government development in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the proximity of Fort Hood also appeals to him.

"I think it's a great fit for me with my background in economic development," he said.

Albert said his first priority would be "to get to know the community, civic organizations, different leaders and listen to staff about areas to work on. Bill (Parry, the outgoing city manager) has done a wonderful job but there's always room for improvement and to move Gatesville forward for the future."

Fisher has worked as city manager of Branhams and other communities.

He described Gatesville as "a great community with a lot of history" and said he also appreciates the city's central location.

"My kids and grandkids live in the Dallas area and (Gatesville) is in close proximity to that area and everything. It's a great community - there are a lot of positive things you can find here."

Fisher said his first priority would be "getting to know the community and staff and working with the community and schools."

"Every community has its hot-button issues and I would look at gathering informa-

tion and then collaborating. I am excited for this opportunity and I appreciate the people coming out (to the meet and greet event). The citizens care about the community and I appreciate them getting involved and being part of the process."

Harris' most recent city management experience was in Balcones Heights, Texas, in the San Antonio area.

Asked what attracted him to the opportunity in Gatesville, Harris said, "the bright lights and big city - no," and laughed.

"I see this as a grand opportunity to work in a town that has a rich history and tradition of great government that has been carried on through the years."

He said the strong military presence in the area, which is similar to that in San Antonio, also appeals to him.

Harris said his first priority would be "to listen and to gather information. It takes time to get to know people and understand what is most important to them. We all have a story that needs to be told and I want to listen and then draw conclusions before going to a plan of action. This community has a tradition of great leaders and I hope to continue that. I also realize it's a team effort and the city manager is like the head coach."

Mayor Gary Chumley thanked local residents for attending the meeting.

"We want to get community input and we really appreciate you being here," he said.

The Gatesville City Council was scheduled to meet starting at 8:30 a.m. March 23 to interview each of the candidates.

Although Parry's term as city manager officially ended Feb. 28, he is continuing to serve as a part-time consultant for the city until a new city manager can take office.

Parry said he has been impressed with the efforts of Strategic Government Resources (SGR) in helping the city to focus its search. SGR also helped guide the selection of new police chief Brad Hunt.

He said his role in the selection process has been limited.

"You can't have me heading efforts in selecting my replacement," Parry said. "Mike (Halsema, the city's director of finance and human resources) has done a great job facilitating the process and the City Council has a solid slate of candidates to choose from. They are all either currently serving as city managers or have previous city administration experience. They have a lot of knowledge and experience and strong backgrounds in city leadership."

## Deal allows inmates to be housed in Johnson County

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
Senior Writer & Editor

County leaders approved an agreement with Johnson County that could cost up to \$4,800 per day to house Coryell County Jail inmates, but will help resolve overcrowding issues that have placed the county on the Texas Commission on Jail Standard's noncompliance list.

The cost to house each inmate is \$100 per day, which is the same amount the county pays to other counties for similar services. However, some of those counties are much farther from Gatesville, leading to additional transportation costs and taking more time for county staff to complete the transport.

"The only thing I'm concerned about is the wording (of the agreement) with

48 beds," said County Judge Roger Miller. "Are we committing to 48 beds?"

Sheriff Scott Williams said the county will have an interim period but will eventually be responsible for filling that space.

"Yes sir — they'll charge us for the inmates they have from us for a three- or four-week period until we can fill that 48," Williams said. "We'll take the majority of inmates we've sent to farther areas and send all our females there. We'll shorten our route, and they have a very good medical facility on site."

Commissioner Ryan Basham asked the sheriff if he believed Johnson County would work better with Coryell County than some of the other counties that have offered jail space.

"Absolutely," Williams said. "They gave us a full tour, and they toured our facility. They will take minimum and medium (security inmates). They have an 80-bed facility. This is really going to fix us. It's our best shot to fix this."

Miller pointed out that other agreements to house inmates in other areas haven't worked out as intended.

"We tried this with Burnet County, and it didn't work," he said. Now we're going down the same route again. They have the right to reject any of our inmates. They'll be able to pick and choose."

Commissioner Scott Weddle asked why the agreement with Burnet County didn't work out and why this one will

PLEASE SEE **COUNTY** | A3

## GISD to host community event

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
Senior Writer & Editor

The Gatesville Independent School District places a priority on parent and community involvement, and Michelle Martin, who aids the district with those efforts, gave an update to the GISD Board of Trustees on March 20 about upcoming plans.

"We came up with an idea to do a couple of community events, and the next one is May 4, which will be Spring into Summer," Martin said. "We want to give parents ideas on what they can do as a family during the summer. We have gathered 38 different vendors and entities to participate."

Among the ideas for fun visits and activities are the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, the Topsey Exotic Ranch which showcases a variety of wildlife, and Sun Country Cycles, Martin said. She added that

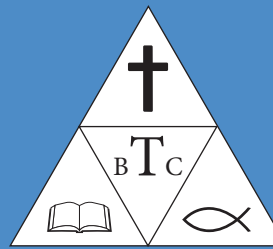
PLEASE SEE **GISD** | A3



## Trinity Baptist Church

A Church That Cares

Sunday School 9:30 am  
Worship 10:50 am  
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor  
1506 W. Main Street, Gatesville, TX  
Church 865-8495 | Pre-school 248-0041



Mission Statement:  
"The family of Trinity Baptist Church exists to love God and people, teach God's Word, and to help all mankind to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in absolute obedience."





**JEFF OSBORNE** | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER  
 GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard stands with third-grader Junior Rodriguez, teacher Alesha Thornton, Assistant Principal Karrie Judd, Principal Keegan Webb, and Junior's mom, Daniela Rodriguez.



**JEFF OSBORNE** | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER  
 GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard stands with Gatesville High School ISS Director Tony Fernandez and GISD school board member Charles Alderson, whom Fernandez said had a big impact on him.

# GISD honors student, staff member during Spotlight presentation

**BY JEFF OSBORNE**  
 Senior Writer & Editor

Juan "Junior" Rodriguez was honored during the Student Spotlight presentation and Tony Fernandez was honored during the Staff Spotlight at the March 20 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Junior, a third-grader at Gatesville Elementary School, was recognized for his sharp eye in helping to keep his school safe.

"We've spent a lot of time talking to kids about safety and always being on the lookout for people who look suspicious," said GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard. "Junior

stopped Toby Williams, our maintenance director and really gave him the third degree. He is watchful and always has a smile on his face."

Elementary Principal Keegan Webb said of Junior, that he took the teachings about safety "to heart and stopped Toby Williams when he didn't recognize the 'unknown' person in the hallway. Junior asked him, 'Who might you be' and 'What do you do here?'" to ensure that Mr. Williams was a person that was safe to be in the school hallways. Junior never fails to have a smile on his face and a greeting for everyone he sees. We appreciate Junior and his effort to help keep our school

safe. Please help us congratulate Junior for his great attitude and his focus on school safety."

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Fernandez leads the In School Suspension program at Gatesville High School.

"He grew up here, has been a part of the community and is a great addition to GISD," Pollard said.

In an information packet given to school board members, it was noted that "Mr. Fernandez knows how to relate to the youth in our community. Over the years, he has taught mixed martial arts to many young people. Tony also has tremendous school

spirit. You can find him every Friday night on the sidelines of our varsity football games helping out."

GHS Assistant Principal Liz Shoaf said: "Tony is a valuable member of the high school team. His willingness to help wherever and whenever needed is extremely appreciated."

"He does a great job building up our students and helping them to see their worth and value. Tony leads by example and sees every day as an opportunity to help students and the campus be the best they can be."

## Get Off the Fence and Back on Your Feet

### Meet Coryell Health's New Podiatrist

**Dr. James Townson, DPM**

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

Podiatric Medicine & Surgery

#### COMMON CONDITIONS TREATED - INFANTS TO ADULTS

- Arthritis of foot & ankle
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- Diabetic-related foot problems
- Flat feet
- Foot & ankle ulcers
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- Pediatrics
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**THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**

Presents the **FIRST ANNUAL BLUEBONNET PHOTO CONTEST 2023**

**Bonnets in Bloom**

**MARCH 20 - APRIL 24**

WINNERS SELECTED WEEKLY

**GRAND PRIZE WINNER\*** receives **\$100 Cash Prize** Bluebonnet T-Shirt Year long subscription to **The Gatesville Messenger** Submitted photo on front page of the newspaper!

\*announced on April 24

All submitted photos to be featured on the **Gatesville website** with winners chosen **every Monday!** Weekly winners will receive a Bluebonnet T-Shirt, their photo featured on Gatesville social media, and a **free subscription to the newspaper!**

Scan the QR code to submit your photos today!



# Folks around town



ALEX MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Stephanie Estredge

## Say hello to our neighbor, Stephanie Estredge

Stephanie is a waitress and manager at Feed Mill, a local restaurant. She has lived in Gatesville for 25 years and has worked at Feed Mill for more than 11 years. She says she really loves what she does and has met a lot of great people over the years. She loves that we have a good, strong community, and that everyone looks after one another. She is pleased to read the paper because it covers our community as well as surrounding counties.

If you happen to see Stephanie around town, say hello! She is one of us!

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

## Random musings to make you smile or say, huh?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

**W**inter is now officially in the books and spring has arrived! The coming of spring brings the fear of tornadoes, hail, damaging winds and the like, but spring also brings us bluebonnets, green grass, warmer temperatures, and the inspiration that the world is coming alive after a long winter.

Every now and then, folks need to stop thinking about local politics, traffic issues, rising housing costs and the price of food. With the coming of spring, I thought it would be fun to review some unusual or little-known facts that I hope will make you smile. Nothing wrong with having a little fun, is there?

Here they are:  
· “Selfies” now cause more deaths per year than

shark attacks.

· There are more stars in space than there are grains of sand on every beach on the planet.

· Without saliva, humans are unable to taste food.

· It snowed in the Sahara Desert for 30 minutes on Feb. 18, 1979.

· Humans have been performing dentistry since 7000 B.C., which makes dentistry one of the oldest professions.

· Hawaii is the only state with one school district.

· No “only child” has ever grown up to become U.S. president.

· The king of England reportedly owns all of the country’s swans.

· Actress Betty White was technically “older than sliced bread.” Sliced breads emerged in 1928 while Betty White was born in 1922.

· You cannot sneeze with your eyes open.

· Fruit Loops, though having individual colors, all taste the same. There are no individual flavors.

· Play-Doh wasn’t always a children’s plaything. It was first developed as a wallpaper cleaner.

· A banana is a berry, and a strawberry is not.

· The nose and ears are the only two body parts that never stop growing.

· Three presidents, all founding fathers of our nation, died on July 4th — John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe.

· Part of Canada is south of Detroit.

· Bats are the only mammal that can fly.

· Elephants can’t jump.

· Mosquitos are the deadliest creatures on Earth because of the diseases they carry.

· German chocolate cake does not come from Germany. It is named for its creator, Sam German.

· There is enough concrete in the Hoover dam to build a two-lane highway from San Francisco to New York City.

· Americans eat more than 150 million hot dogs each year on July 4th.

I hope everyone gets outside in the days to come and enjoys the mild temperatures, sunshine, and the emergence of all things spring! Spring makes me feel replenished, renewed, and looking forward to the future. I hope it does the same for you.

Thought for the day; The promise of spring’s arrival is enough to get us all through the dreariest of winters.

Until next time ... smile, laugh and keep ridin’ the storm out.

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

# County gets update on jail medical care; need for 24/7 service

BY JEFF OSBORNE

Senior Writer &amp; Editor

The Coryell County Commissioners Court received an update on medical services provided at the Coryell County Jail and the status of its contract with Southern Health Partners to provide those services.

Sheriff Scott Williams said he walked the nurse who had been providing those services out of the facility, adding that supervisors are licensed vocational nurses or registered nurses and they are providing care until a new nurse can take over responsibilities at the jail.

“I have expressed to Southern Health Partners that they really need to get us a nurse,” Williams said. He added that he has told the company that “they can provide us medical or we’ll find someone to provide medical.”

A traveling nurse has been covering the Coryell County Jail while the position remains open, Williams said.

Commissioner Scott Weddle asked if Southern Health Partners is defaulting on the contract with the county.

“They’ve been tiptoeing the edge of that razor blade for several months now,” Williams said.

“If at any point during the interim they fail to meet their contractual requirements, we need to have this documented,” County Judge Roger Miller said.

Williams said Southern Health Services had provided good care at the jail in the past.

“They have been good to us, but the last few months they have stumbled,” he said. “They’ve been jumping through hoops but the sheriff’s office’s patience is very thin with them.”

County Attorney Brandon Belt said it is vital for the county to be in compliance with providing all required medical care.

“The jail standards commission is looking at everything and the (commissioners) court is going to have to consider 24/7 medical coverage at the jail,” he said. “As the county

attorney I recommend this.”

Judge Miller said the county’s medical coverage at the jail is an issue that has been discussed during meetings with the jail standards commission.

“We need to look at what we need, not just the minimum standard,” Miller said.

Sheriff Williams said with jail expansion scheduled, “this is an opportunity to look at other opportunities to provide services.”

Belt said the burden of keeping up with medicine for inmates is something that should be done by medical personnel.

“Jailers don’t need to be put in the position of dealing with it,” he said. “We don’t currently have 24/7 medical coverage (at the jail). We’re not covered on the weekend.”

Williams said inmates needing medical attention are taken to the emergency room on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. “That’s not a good solution,” Belt said.

## COUNTY

FROM PAGE A1

succeed.

“Bell County started paying more (to Buren County for jail space),” Williams said.

“We’re on the hook for 48 — how many inmates are we currently housing outside the county?”

As of March 14, sheriff’s department staff said there are 37 Coryell County inmates in facilities outside the county.

“Our 16 female inmates on-site in Coryell County would be sent to Johnson County before we add any males to it,” Williams said.

Miller asked what is gained by removing

the female inmates from Coryell County.

“We instantly gain eight beds in jail (by redesignating dormitory space),” Williams said. “Right now, we have 109 (inmates), and we’ll take 16 from our jail. That is prior to moving any males out. Our long runs are to Haskell and Comal (counties), and we’ll send those inmates to Johnson County. The 48 (inmate commitment) is a no-brainer. We’re going to meet it.”

Weddle said the county will need to not only meet that 48-inmate criteria, but to maintain it in order for it to make financial sense for the county.

“I was really impressed with their jail warden,” Williams said. “He’s a retired TDCJ (Texas Department of Criminal Justice) war-

den with 30 years’ experience. Their sheriff and I get along like peas in a pod.

“They have full medical facilities (in Johnson County) with everything on site. The other jails are charging us \$50 an hour (to take inmates to medical appointments), and with two deputies required, it’s \$100 an hour for any medical emergency or psych evaluation visit.”

Weddle said the cost to the county will be worth it if it resolves the jail noncompliance issues that have loomed over the county.

“It’s \$100 a day times 48 inmates, but it makes sense if we utilize that,” he said.

While Coryell County will have an expanded jail in the future, the jail standards commission is requiring the overcrowding to be

resolved immediately.

“Until we’re 30 days below the 80% (jail occupancy) rate, we’ll never be in compliance (with state standards),” Williams said. “We’ll face sanctions in terms of monetary fines. Right now, our options are limited. The goal is to reduce the inmate population in Coryell County to 70 to 75 inmates to reach that 80% threshold.”

Ryan Basham said it is crucial for the county to meet those compliance standards.

“With this, at the end of the day we’re in compliance with the jail commission,” he said.

“Even at \$4,800 a day, we’ve got to get into compliance,” Miller said.

## GISD

FROM PAGE A1

Sun Country is also helping with a bicycle rodeo scheduled for the next day.

“We’re giving out 100 free (bicycle helmets), half of which were donated by the community and half by the Texas Medical Association,” she said. “We are spotlighting kids who have good attendance with gift cards and bicycles to give away.”

She said students who have no more than three absences, and no disciplinary referrals will be entered into a drawing for various prizes.

“We have invited all the local churches to bring informa-

tion about their Vacation Bible Schools or camps, and we will have a community calendar. We want to make this a big community event and have it every year. Hopefully it will get bigger and better.”

The following day, GISD will also host a shot clinic for those needing vaccines.

“We’ll also have a Back to School Bash in August, which is a really cool thing,” Martin said. “We’ll have 300 pairs of brand new shoes to give out.”

Krista Hitt, a caseworker for the district’s School Community Guidance Center (SCGC) said she appreciates having the opportunity to participate in community outreach efforts.

“Thank y’all for allowing us to do what we do,” she told the board. “Not every district does things like this.”

Hitt said she and some other GISD staff attended a con-

ference in the Houston area last year, and that GISD was the only district that had a program like the SCGC. She said GISD will present a program at an upcoming conference on why the district does this and the impact it makes on students and the community.

“We are planting a seed and hopefully it will be a jump-start, and others can see what they can do in their districts as well,” Hitt said.

Joyce Cole, a social worker for the district, said 20 GISD students were able to participate in a student advocacy program at the state capitol. They were able to meet legislators and talk about things that are important to students.

“They learned they do have a voice and the legislators listened to them,” she said.

# Gatesville Exchange Club to host Day of the Child event April 15

Submitted Item

Members of the Exchange Club of Gatesville will join thousands of fellow Exchangers across the country throughout the month of April to promote child abuse prevention awareness in their local communities.

The Exchange Club of Gatesville will be hosting its “Day of the Child” child abuse prevention project on Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in front of Gatesville’s Freedom Park on Hwy. 84.

Day of the Child, first held in Gatesville in 1998, is an effort to reach families in our community with helpful, positive parenting tips. Exchange believes parents have the power to make positive parenting choices in the lives of their

children and

The Exchange Club of Gatesville is offering some easy-to-use tips to help all parents. They will also partner with other organizations who offer services to children and families.

A free hotdog sack lunch will be provided for children ages 12 and under. Lunches will be available for those older than 12 for a nominal fee.

If your organization offers services to children and you would like to have a space, contact any Exchange Club member.

The National Exchange Club, America’s Service Club, is inspiring communities to become better places to live with their National Project, the prevention of child abuse, and three Programs of Service — Americanism, Youth Project,

and Community Service.

To date, The National Exchange Club’s efforts have helped more than 700,000 families and 1.8 million children break the cycle of child abuse through its Exchange Parent Aide Program and public education projects. The Exchange Parent Aide Program, Exchange’s proprietary child abuse prevention model, has been cited in the “Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect.”

For additional information about The National Exchange Club or “Believe in the Blue,” please visit [www.NationalExchangeClub.org](http://www.NationalExchangeClub.org).



## GATESVILLE CITY HALL MOVES TO A NEW LOCATION



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville City Hall, formerly located at 110 N. 8th Street, has moved to a new location just a block away at 803 Main Street. The move took place on Monday, Feb. 27. All offices and departments that were housed in the old location can now be found in the new building including the office of the city manager and the city secretary. Office hours will remain the same, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. City Hall can be reached by calling 254-865-8951.

## Enter the Gatesville Messenger 'Bonnets in Bloom' photo contest now for chance to win

### From Staff Reports

The Gatesville Messenger presents the inaugural Bluebonnet Photo Contest, "Bonnets in Bloom," sponsored by Barrett Haines of Re/Max Roy. The public is encouraged to submit favorite photos for a chance to win the contest.

"The bluebonnet is our state flower, and other than a cowboy hat and the 'lone star,' I know of no other

symbol that says Texas more than bluebonnets," Gatesville Messenger Publisher Sam Houston said.

Photo submissions do not have to be taken this year, so you can use an older photograph. Go online to [www.gatesvillemessenger.com](http://www.gatesvillemessenger.com) and click on the link to the "Bonnets in Bloom." You can upload your photo and will then be entered in our "Bonnets in Bloom" contest.

When you submit your entry, it will appear as part of the "bluebonnets gallery" on the newspaper's website, making all entries available for viewing to the public. Starting last Monday, March 20, the newspaper began selecting a weekly winner, and additional weekly winners will be chosen for a period of five weeks.

Each weekly winner will receive a "Bonnets in Bloom" T shirt, recogni-

tion on the newspaper's social media sites and website, and a free one-year subscription to the newspaper. At the end of the five weeks of weekly winners, a Grand Prize will be awarded and the winner will receive \$100 cash, a Bluebonnet T-shirt, and a one-year free subscription to the newspaper. The winning photo will adorn the front page of The Gatesville Messenger.

## United Women of Faith met on March 14

### Submitted by Shirleen Chandler

United Women in Faith met on March 14 in the Banquet Room of the Methodist Church in Gatesville beginning at 5:30 p.m. Fourteen members and one visitor, Cindy Martin, were present at the meeting. The hostesses were Mary Beth Rivers and Marilyn Decker.

President Patsy Smart began the meeting by leading in the blessing. During refreshments, Linda Klontz

led members in choosing a new prayer partner. Following refreshments, Smart thanked the hostesses and read The Purpose. Rivers read from the Daily Prayer Guide, and Velva Riddle read a prayer from the Response Magazine. Riddle led the program from the book "Who Can We Be Together?" This session comes from Luke 13:10-17, where Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The woman had been sick for many years, and Jesus wanted her to

have a better life. Jesus called the religious leaders hypocrites because they objected to his healing her on the Sabbath. In our world today, there are many people who are old, sick and suffering from handicapping conditions. We need to keep focused on what can be done to help. Shirleen Chandler led the group in singing, "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

President Smart called the business meeting to order. Under new business,

Riddle led members in a discussion about Easter bags that will be given to people in local care centers. Items need to be wrapped and should be enough for 13 people and three nurses' stations. Members decided to meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday morning, April 4, to prepare the bags. Anyone who cannot meet at that time may bring their gifts to the office beforehand.

The meeting adjourned with the benediction.

## Mountain Baptist announces Easter schedule

### Staff Reports

Mountain Baptist Church will hold its Easter Sunday "SON RISE" service at 7:30

a.m., followed by a fellowship breakfast at 8 a.m. Afterwards, a bible study will take place at 10 a.m., and at

11 a.m. there will be a Resurrection Celebration. There will be no evening service. Easter Sunday, April 9, cel-

brates the day that Jesus rose from the tomb. In the year 325 the Council of Nicaea decreed that Easter should be observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox.

Revival Services will be held from Sunday, April 30, through Wednesday, May 3. The services will be every Sunday at 11 a.m. and each evening at 6:30 p.m.

Mountain Baptist Church can be reached by calling 254-865-7528. It is located at 6319 US-84 in Gatesville.

## OBITUARIES

### ANDREW C. HOLT

May 28, 1961 - Mar. 15, 2023



Andrew "Andy" Holt, age 61, of Kempner, passed away on the evening of March 15, 2023. Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m., Friday, March 24, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Copperas Cove. Burial followed at Copperas Cove City Cemetery.

Andy was born in Stuttgart, Germany, moved to the United States as a young child, and eventually ended up in Gatesville, Texas, where he graduated high school. For 20 years Andy worked sandblasting and painting water towers. Later in life he worked and retired as a mechanic, which was his true passion. He loved cars,

FORDS to be precise, especially his Mustang that he would take to the track to race.

Another favorite of Andy's was to take his wife Teresa out Country Western dancing. Andy was one of the kindest people you could ever meet and truly never met a stranger. He was so generous and would stop what he was doing to help anyone in need no matter day or night. He will be missed dearly by so many.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Helga.

Andy is survived by his wife of 26 years, Teresa; his nine children, Blaise Holt, Rheanne Moore and husband, Dominique, Renee Butterfield and husband, Austin, Regina Norton and husband, Mundo, Daniel Norton and wife, Melissa, Rachel Kirkham and husband, James, Aaron Norton and wife, SonMi, Eric Norton and wife, Shannan, and Jason Norton; his 28 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; his father Russel Holt and stepmother Loretta; and his two brothers, Jim Holt and Patrick Holt.

Condolences may be left on the Tribute Wall at [www.vissfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.vissfamilyfuneralhome.com).

### ROBERT DERFLINGER

Aug. 24, 1939 - Mar. 15, 2023



Robert Derflinger, Sr. age 83, of San Antonio, passed away on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Friday, March 24, at First Baptist Church in Gatesville. Interment followed at Hemmeline Cemetery.

Robert Franklin Derflinger was born August 24, 1939, at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C., to the late Russell Henry Derflinger and Effie Norton Athey Derflinger, who resided in Front Royal, VA. Robert lived in Front Royal until his high school graduation in 1958. He and his buddy, Johnny Gardner left and joined the US Air Force in 1958, serving in Texas, England, Maryland, and Okinawa, serving during the Vietnam Era. During his military service in Fort Worth, he met and married Mary Lou Patterson of Gatesville in 1959. He was then sent to Mildenhall in Suffolk, England and later assigned to Andrews AFB in Maryland. Robert and his young family then moved to Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, where they resided until leaving the

service and settling in San Antonio in 1966. After his military service, he started his business venture as an Exxon Dealer and serviced a large customer base in the area for over 20 years. He was an extremely hard-working man and industrious. He was a very personable individual known for his story telling and preaching. He loved the Lord and served as a deacon and member of Alena Baptist Church and Oak Ridge Baptist Church in San Antonio. He enjoyed the hobbies of gardening and reading, particularly his western novels and his Bible daily. He loved spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Walter Derflinger, Irvin Derflinger, Ollie Derflinger, Virginia Hickerson, Marvin Derflinger, Clarence Derflinger, Lillian Pauline Lange and Betty Jo Madigan.

Robert is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Lou Derflinger; son, Robert Derflinger, Jr. and wife, Debby; daughter, Kathryn Hojnacki and husband, Anthony; daughter, Paula Greenwood and husband, Troy; grandchildren, Elisha Hojnacki and husband, Christopher Hillhouse, Krista Flores and husband, Marcus, Vance Derflinger and wife, Melanie, Samantha Rodriguez and husband, Willy, Madison Pryor and husband, Daniel, Taylor Hojnacki, Gregory Greenwood, Benjamin Derflinger, Christopher Greenwood and Stacie Greenwood; and eight great-grandchildren, Lillian, Avora, Kinley, Theodore, Adalynn, Riley, Eleanor, Genevieve and soon to arrive baby boy Derflinger. He is also survived by sisters, Anna Mae Shrader of Front Royal, VA and Madeline Burns of Maryland and many nieces and nephews.

## Pre-K & Kindergarten Round Up

**April 11 - Pre-K**  
**April 18 - Kindergarten**  
**12:00-6:00 P.M.**  
**Gatesville Primary**  
 (North entrance facing football stadium)

**PLEASE BRING:**

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- Birth Certificate (with raised seal)
- Proof of Income (P-K only)
- Shot Record
- GISD Faculty or Military ID (P-K only)
- Copy of Parent License

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# Exchange Club of Gatesville to host Golden Deeds Awards

## Article Submitted

The Exchange Club of Gatesville is requesting nominations for its Golden Deeds Banquet to be held on Monday, April 24. The Exchange Club honors community volunteers, and various awards and nominations are

needed for:

1. Care Award: For an individual who has contributed to the care and enrichment of services to children in the community.
2. Senior Citizen: A senior citizen who has performed outstanding service

to the community.

3. Health Professional: a healthcare professional from any field who has performed their job with exceptional dedication and compassion.
4. Proudly WE Hail: A person who has consistently

and regularly flown the American flag properly at their home or business during the last year(s).

5. Book of Golden Deeds: This most prestigious award recognizes dedicated volunteers who, over several years, have given endless

hours of their time and talents to make our community a better place to live.

Other awards will also be presented to include: Educator of the Year, Youths of the Year ACE Scholarship winners, Firefighter of the Year, and Peace Officer of

the Year.

Nominations are due on March 29. Forms are available at The Gatesville Messenger, from Exchange Club members, or by email: josugg@embarqmail.com.

# Medical benefit to be held for Johnny McClure April 1

## Staff Reports

A medical benefit to help Johnny McClure, Sr. and his family with medical expenses will be held on Saturday, April 1, at the Oglesby Community Center.

Earlier this year, McClure was hospitalized and underwent surgery to remove one of his toes due to diabetes. Shortly after the surgery, he ended up with two different bacterial infections in his bloodstream. He was then

put on continuous antibiotics to fight the infections but had severe reactions to the medications. That resulted in a lack of function in his kidneys, and he had to have dialysis three times a week until his kidneys started to

function better.

The fundraiser will be an all-day bake sale and a \$10 barbecue meal will be sold from 10 a.m. until gone.

Several items will be raffled including a Taurus 9mm pistol, two sets of family

day passes for four people to North Texas Jellystone's Pirates Cove in Burleson, gift cards to Edible Arrangements in Waco, and various other items. It will cost \$6 for one ticket and \$10 for two tickets.

A community dance will begin at 7 p.m. with music by Sharpshooter. It will cost \$10 to enter.

The Oglesby Community Center is located at 118 Main Street in Oglesby.

# Texas Station Event Center presents 2023 Spring Fest

## Staff Reports

Spring Fest will be held today, March 25, at the Texas Station Event Center from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Admission will be free until 6 p.m. There will be vendors and plenty of activities to par-

take in including a cornhole tournament, shopping with vendors, and more.

There will be live music including performances from Clayton Landua, and Colton Hawkins & The Standards.

Cen-Tex Reptile and Wildlife Services will be at the

event to educate the community on the importance of reptile and wildlife safety. The organization rescues and relocates reptiles and wildlife from locals' homes.

The barbecue cookoff entry will cost \$250 for each team, and there are limited

spots available. Each team will have the options of making chicken, ribs, pork, and brisket. First through third places will receive an 80% payout per category, with \$600 added a pot. A \$30 bean jackpot will be in place, and anything goes.

The first "Miss Spring Fest Pageant" will be held starting at 11 a.m. The contestants have the chance to be the first Tiny Miss, Little Miss, Junior Miss, or the Queen. The extra categories include Most Photogenic and People's Choice.

For more information about Spring Fest, call 254-223-4445. The Texas Station Event center is located at 305 Old Fort Gates Road in Gatesville.

# First Methodist Church plans events leading up to Easter

The First Methodist Church of Gatesville is planning events leading up to Easter.

The choir will present the musical cantata "Ransomed & Redeemed" on Sunday, April 2 starting at 6 p.m. at the church. The choir director will be Charles Ament,

accompanied by Rosemary Whittle. Combined with other talented singers in the community, the work by Bradley Knight will prepare listeners for Holy Week and the Easter experience. Admission is free.

Maundy Thursday will be celebrated at the church on

April 6 at 6:30 p.m. and Good Friday will be celebrated on April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The church will also host a community-wide Easter egg hunt from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8.



COURTESY PHOTO

# Keep Gatesville Beautiful to hold clean-up day

## Staff Reports

Keep Gatesville Beautiful will hold a clean-up day on Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Raby Park. The clean-up event is to help keep litter out of Texas wa-

terways.

Those interested in participating can meet at Raby Park and be sure to register online at [keepgatesvillebeautiful.com](http://keepgatesvillebeautiful.com) before arriving to let them know how many

people will be in a group.

The clean-up will take place along the creek at the park. Bring comfortable and durable shoes to wear.

For more information visit [keepgatesvillebeautiful.com](http://keepgatesvillebeautiful.com).

# 42 Tournament hosted by T-ville Community Center

## Staff Reports

The Turnersville Community Center invites the public to come to the 42 Tournament to be held on Saturday, March 25. The entrance fee will cost \$10 per person and \$20 per team. Registration will be from 11:30 to 12:30 and the tournament will begin at 1 p.m. Mexican style cuisine will

be served at noon. The cost will be \$12 and for children under the age of six will be \$6. If you are participating in the tournament, the meal will be half price. The community center will not be serving alcoholic beverages, but you can bring your own. Glass containers are not allowed.

A Turnersville Community Center fundraiser will

take place at the tournament as well, including a bake sale and a silent auction.

To download the registration form, visit [www.tvilcecc.com](http://www.tvilcecc.com) online. For more information, or if anyone needs a partner call 254-494-0110 or 254-494-0010 and leave a message.

# Easter egg hunt set for April 1 on the courthouse square

## Staff Reports

Spur Nutrition announced it will present its first annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 1, on the courthouse square.

Children will be divided

into age groups for the hunt. The age groups will be zero through two years old, three through six years old, and seven years old and up. A few of the eggs will be filled with golden tickets, which will be for a larger

prize.

Spur Nutrition will begin cardio drumming at 9 a.m. and will serve shakes and teas. For more information visit Spur Nutrition on Facebook.

# Brown Bag Ministry changes distribution location

The Brown Bag Ministry will be helping the homeless and those in need by passing out brown paper bags full of non-perishable food items every Thursday from 11 a.m. until noon. Previously, the food bags were distributed at Raby Park, but the pick-up loca-

tion has been changed to the parking lot of the old "9 Ball Café" located at 301 N. Lutterloh.

The bag items will be non-perishable such as pop-over canned goods, packets, crackers, and bottled water. There will be no forms to be filled out or

questions asked to receive the bags. There will be a maximum of two sacks per person — first-come, first-served.

The bags will be bigger than a typical brown lunch bag, but smaller than a grocery bag in size.

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# The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of March 15-21. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 911, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

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**CITY OF GATESVILLE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**March 15**  
8:50 a.m., a theft was reported in the 4600 block of S. State Highway 36.  
2:13 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 4100 block of S. State Highway 36.  
4:59 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.  
6:19 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1400 block of E. Leon Street.

**March 16**  
11:59 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.  
12:45 p.m., harassment was reported in the 900 block of E. Main Street.  
6:06 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.  
8:37 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of N. 9th Street.

**March 17**  
1:28 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of S. 7th Street.  
3:36 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1700 block of Mary Street.  
5:22 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.  
8:13 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1800 block of San Jose Street.

**March 18**  
6:36 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Baize Drive.  
12:36 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 11000 block of E. Highway 84.  
12:37 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of S. 7th Street.

**March 19**  
12:41 p.m., a fight was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.  
1:01 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.  
4:38 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the 2500 block of Osage Road.  
5:46 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 100 block of CR 340.

**March 20**  
1:02 a.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of Avenue D.  
5:53 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.  
3:58 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 400 block of S. 7th Street.  
9:24 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 4600 block of S. State Highway 36.

**March 21**  
8:23 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 600 block of E. Main Street.  
1:33 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of Coryell City Road.  
6:02 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.  
7:37 p.m., a theft was reported in

the 3500 block of Old Osage Road.

**CORYELL COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**March 15**  
8:42 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1700 block of Fort Panic Road.  
10:34 a.m., a stolen vehicle was recovered on Vista Road at FM 116.  
5:14 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 7600 block of FM 1690.  
8:41 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 4300 block of CR 107.

**March 16**  
12:51 a.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 300 block of Cattle Drive.  
3:47 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1000 block of FM 107.  
4:25 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Highway 84 at the first rest stop.

**March 17**  
12:23 p.m., a major accident was reported on FM 184 at CR 366.  
2:42 p.m., a possible fire was reported in the 8900 block of FM 929.  
5:12 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 800 block of CR 334.  
10:32 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of River Oaks Drive.

**March 18**  
8:14 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2700 block of Willow Loop.  
12:12 p.m., damaged property was reported on FM 2412 at CR 174.  
6:36 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1200 block of W. Avenue D.  
9:29 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 300 block of CR 357.

**March 19**  
1:30 a.m., shots being fired were reported in the Willow Loop Area.  
7:54 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on S. Highway 36 by Old Waco Road.  
1:28 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1200 block of Straws Mill Road.  
4:52 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 2900 block of FM 116.

**March 20**  
12:36 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of W. Highway 84.  
2:17 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 5200 block of Slater Road.  
7:04 p.m., an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was reported on N. Highway 36 at Eagles Nest.  
8:55 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of Nathan Drive.

**March 21**  
6:26 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 1400 block of Duncan Road.  
1:48 p.m., property damage was reported in the 3800 block of CR 142.  
4:15 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1000 block of CR 145.

## OPERATION STAND DOWN



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers from Coryell County recently met at the Gatesville Care Center and rode a bus provided by Trinity Baptist Church to Killeen to be a part of the 7th annual Stand Down and Community Triage. The event was held for the homeless to get support, food, and services. For those in need, they were given two hot meals, clothing, shoes, goody bags with personal items, and haircuts. They were offered medical and dental screenings along with services from other support organizations. Pictured, from left, are Chris Cole, Jeremy Bell, Paul Bertrand, Randy Johnson, and Damien White.

## CRIME OF THE WEEK

### Main Street building burglarized

Centex Crime Stoppers can use your help in solving a case of burglary of a building. During the overnight hours from March 20 to the early morning of March 21, an unknown person(s) committed an act of burglary of a building in the 600 block of E. Main Street. Suspect(s) made entry to the building and stole vari-

ous electronics, including a laptop, as well as a revolver (pistol). If you have any information about any case or any local crime, call Centex Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at 1-254-865-8477 (TIPS) or visit our website at [www.Centexcrimestoppers.org](http://www.Centexcrimestoppers.org) or by downloading the "P3" mobile app available on both the

Apple App Store and Google Play Store. You never have to give your name, and if your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward. Crime Stoppers, citizens, police, and the news media working together can make our community a safer place to live. Together we can make a difference.

## Spur's historic Palace Theater on comeback trail, thanks to restoration efforts



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

When the Palace Theater in Spur closed in the 1970s, it ended up belonging to the Chamber of Commerce, which offered to sell it to the county historical commission for \$10.

The commission accepted the offer. They took a survey of citizens to see if they were interested in seeing the theater restored. They got a positive, enthusiastic response. "The Palace was built in 1929," said Harry Bob Martin, Spur historian. "When we got it in 2007, the roof was falling in, bricks were falling off of it. It was just a wreck. It leaked like a sieve when it rained. We had no money." Harry said the historical group got busy raising money for the huge remodeling job. They sold memorial bricks for \$40 and got some grant money. "In six weeks, we raised \$36,000."

One of the first things they wanted to do was to restore the big Palace sign on the building. They hired a sign company in Abilene to do the work. It was a big event when the lighted sign was turned on. "The whole town was standing in the street in front of the theater. When they turned on the sign, it blew the streetlights out. The power company got it fixed right quick. We put it on a timer, and it comes on every night. That was the beginning of our restoration effort." The last movie Roy Rogers made, "McIntosh and T.J.," was filmed around Spur. The city has a very active homecoming event every year when graduates of Spur High School return for a big weekend of reunion and celebration. It's open to all classes. At one homecoming, the historical commission rented some projec-

tion equipment and a screen and showed "McIntosh and T.J." in the Palace Theater. "After the showing, a guy was walking out and came up to me and said what a great event that was. He had graduated from Spur in 1964 when the theater was still showing movies. He asked me what was next for the theater. I told him it was just a dollar thing now and we were short on funds. He asked me if \$50,000 would help. I said yeah." The man, who controlled funds for an entity that awarded grants told Harry to apply. That man ended up contributing \$100,000 to the rebuilding of the Palace. There were other grants and fundraisers. After the building was completed, the commission looked into digital projection equipment. "We took bids and bought some at a good price. Then we started looking for a screen. We built a steel frame for it. That was \$1,500. I found the screen that's up there now at Charley's Movie Screen Company in Michigan. I bought it online for a little over \$600. It's 28 feet wide." The theater now has stage presentations and movies. "We charge \$5 for an adult ticket. Three dollars for a child." I had the pleasure of performing my new one-man show, "Outrageous Women of Texas Character" at the Palace.

**WSD INFORMATIONAL CAREER TOUR**

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<p><b>Woodman Campus</b> Gatesville Area</p> <p><b>Saturday, March 25, 2023</b> 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Travis State Jail</b> Austin Area</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 29, 2023</b> 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM</p>
<p><b>Hughes Campus</b> Gatesville Area</p> <p><b>Monday, March 27, 2023</b> 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Halbert Campus</b> Burnet Area</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 30, 2023</b> 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM</p>

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**HAMILTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM** **Care Runs Deep in Rural Hamilton**  
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**NOW HIRING**



**Assisted/Independent Living:**

- CNA – FT, Night shift
- \*\$4,000 SIGN ON BONUS
- CNA-PRN all Shifts
- CMA - PRN

**Home Health:**

- PCA PRN – for Gatesville, Copperas Cove, and Hamilton
- RN Case Manager – FT

**Infection Prevention:**

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

**Medical Clinic:**

- LVN – FT
- Certified Medical Assistant/CCMA – FT
- Clinic Registration Clerk – FT Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm
- Registration Clerk (Float) – FT Must be willing to travel

**Medical Clinic – Temple:**

- LVN – FT
- Certified Medical Assistant (CCMA) – FT

**Culinary:**

- Chef – FT (Food Handlers Certification preferred)
- Cook Assistant – FT, Competitive Pay & Benefits

**EMS:**

- Paramedic – FT
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**\*SIGN ON BONUSES W/1-YEAR COMMITMENT**  
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Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288  
humanresources@coryellhealth.org

**Job summaries at**  
[www.CoryellHealth.org](http://www.CoryellHealth.org)

**045 SERVICES**

Central Texas Landscaping & Services, LLC: Mowing, Landscaping, Brush Clearing, Trash Clean Up, Pipe Fence Painting (Ospho), Road Installation. John, 254-216-3684. Licensed & Insured. 00029588

**Schuman's HEAT & AIR Inc.**

**Residential & Commercial Service • Installation Refrigeration**

Servicing All Brands  
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**Darrel Schuman – Owner**  
**254-499-0054**  
TACLA27524C [www.schumansair.com](http://www.schumansair.com)

**045 SERVICES**

TREE WORKS Tree Service: tree trimming, removal & stump grinding. Free estimates. Call Lloyd, (254)223-3287. 00029937

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Septic Systems • Land Clearing  
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**045 SERVICES**

**Jason Paul Constuction:**  
Painting, Decks, Roofs, Texture, Flooring, Windows, Sheetrock, Porches, Add Ons, Metal Buildings, Trash Haul Off and Dump Trailer Rental. 254-383-3305 or 254-404-3367. 00029934

**FERGUSON ROOFING**  
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00029936

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00029938

**R&M FENCING & DOZING:** barbed wire, custom pipe, entryways, corrals, barns, fence row clearing, metal buildings, residential & game fencing, solar gate openers, dozer work. Free estimates. **Larry Riddle, 254-248-2205; Joyce McAdams, 254-248-4318.**  
00029940

**CENTRAL TEXAS REMODELING AND HANDYMAN**  
Tile, sheetrock, painting, decks, fences, flooring, windows, siding, roofing, texturing. **Cecil Woodson, 254-216-3835.**  
00029941

**060 GARAGE SALE**

25 CENT WEEK! Tues, 28 - Sat, 04/01. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00029926

**FOUR FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
March 31-April 1, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., 114 Rocky Branch Rd. Women's clothing small-2X, shoes 7 1/2-10, men's clothing Med.-2X, shoes 10-11, boy's clothes 2T-3T, NEW boutique items, houseware/decor, and two iron bedframes. 00029993

**GARAGE SALE** at Cornerstone Church, 338 State School Road. March 31 & April 1, 9 a.m., no early birds, please! Benefitting the youth.

**074 HOUSES FOR RENT**

Country Living:  
2BR/2BA, 10 miles west of Gatesville on CR177, \$1,175/mo. and \$1,175 Security Deposit. Subject to background/credit checks. Available NOW! Application required  
Call 214-683-3931 00029980

FOR RENT: 1 Bedroom, private bathroom, plus common areas in my home. No alcohol or drugs allowed on premises. Background check required.  
254-931-2523 for details. 00029992

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## 099 PUBLIC NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-TRC109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS:

ROBERT JAMES COUNTS; GINGER LEE COUNTS -vs- W M SIMPSON; LAURA SIMPSON; ROSA LEE SIMPSON CHUPP; ALICE SIMPSON; TOM JOHN SIMPSON; EFFIE SIMPSON MCINTOSH; RUBY MCINTOSH WILCOX; OPAL MCINTOSH LAYFIELD; LAURA MAY SIMPSON; W F SIMPSON; MONTA SIMPSON; EDWARD SIMPSON; AKIN SIMPSON; HAROLD SIMPSON; JOHN MCMILLIAN (MAC) CHUPP; OTIS MONTRAVILLE CHUPP; KITTIE REBA HEATH CHUPP; ANNIE PEARL CHUPP; ROY LEON COWAN; JESSE MORRIS CHUPP; MARVIN CHUPP; PAULINE MAY CHUPP; LILLIE ADELL CHUPP; GRADY MCMILLIAN CHUPP; LILLIE ADELL CHUPP; RUBY T CHUPP; MAMMIE ADDIE CHUPP GILCHRIST; MARLIN GILCHRIST; VERNON GILCHRIST; VIOLA GILCHRIST; RUBY GILCHRIST; CORDELIA GILCHRIST; AUBREY T. GILCHRIST; GENEVA GILCHRIST; JESSE GILDER CHUPP; KENNETH CHUPP; LOTTIE CHUPP; DOROTHY CHUPP; JOHNNY CHUPP; THURMAN (TOOTER) CHUPP; THELMA BROWNLEE CHUPP; CHARLES CHUPP; JOHN FRANKLIN CHUPP; BENNY WAYNE CHUPP; LILIE BELLE CHUPP SOLOMAN; CLARA CHUPP; MINNIE MAE CURRY TO; WM SIMPSON; LAURA SIMPSON; ROSA LEE SIMPSON CHUPP; ALICE SIMPSON; TOM JOHN SIMPSON; EFFIE SIMPSON MCINTOSH; RUBY MCINTOSH WILCOX; OPAL MCINTOSH LAYFIELD; LAURA MAY SIMPSON; W F SIMPSON; MONTA SIMPSON; EDWARD SIMPSON; AKIN SIMPSON; HAROLD SIMPSON; JOHN MCMILLIAN (MAC) CHUPP; OTIS MONTRAVILLE CHUPP; KITTIE REBA HEATH CHUPP; ANNIE PEARL CHUPP; ROY LEON COWAN; JESSE MORRIS CHUPP; MARVIN CHUPP; PAULINE MAY CHUPP; LILLIE ADELL CHUPP; GRADY MCMILLIAN CHUPP; LILLIE ADELL CHUPP; RUBY T CHUPP; MAMMIE ADDIE CHUPP GILCHRIST; MARLIN GILCHRIST; VERNON GILCHRIST; VIOLA GILCHRIST; RUBY GILCHRIST; CORDELIA GILCHRIST; AUBREY T. GILCHRIST; GENEVA GILCHRIST; JESSE GILDER CHUPP; KENNETH CHUPP; LOTTIE CHUPP; DOROTHY CHUPP; JOHNNY CHUPP; THURMAN (TOOTER) CHUPP; THELMA BROWNLEE CHUPP; CHARLES CHUPP; JOHN FRANKLIN CHUPP; BENNY WAYNE CHUPP; LILIE BELLE CHUPP SOLOMAN; CLARA CHUPP; MINNIE MAE CURRY

Defendant - GREETING: NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org." You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock AM on the Monday next after expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable 440TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Coryell County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gatesville, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 01/20/2023 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit as follows, to wit: BEING 2.00 ACRES OF THE SAMUEL FRIEND SURVEY, ABST. NO. 370 IN CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING PART OF A 4 ACRE TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED AS SECOND TRACT IN A DEED FROM ALICE SIMPSON TO LEWIS MONTRAVILLE SIMPSON, ET AL, DATED JULY 17, 1947, AS RECORDED IN VOL. 160, PAGE 508 OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS; AND BEING PART OF A 5.2 ACRE TRACT OF LAND AWARDED TO RUBY MCINTOSH, ET AL, IN CAUSE NO. 6358 OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS; AND BEING PART OF LOTS 4 AND 5 OF BLOCK 21 OF THE TOWN OF LEVITA, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT CAB. 1. SLIDE 424 OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS, AND BEING AWARDED TO ROSA CHUPP IN SAID CAUSE NO. 6358; AND INCLUDING A 20 FOOT WIDE ALLEY BETWEEN SAID LOTS AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT. as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gatesville, Texas, this 22nd day of February, 2023.

Attorney for Plaintiff or Petitioner, MARK SESSUMS  
PO BOX 150573, AUSTIN TX 78715

Clerk of the Court: Becky Moore, District Clerk  
P.O. Box 4, Gatesville, Texas 76528, Coryell County, Texas  
By: ASHLEY LAMB, DEPUTY 00029945

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-TRC109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS:

GARY LEE JACKSON

-vs- W M SIMPSON; LAURA SIMPSON; ROSA LEE SIMPSON CHUPP; ALICE SIMPSON; TOM JOHN SIMPSON; EFFIE SIMPSON MCINTOSH; RUBY MCINTOSH WILCOX; OPAL MCINTOSH LAYFIELD; LAURA MAY SIMPSON; W F SIMPSON; MONTA SIMPSON; EDWARD SIMPSON; AKIN SIMPSON; HAROLD SIMPSON; JOHN MCMILLIAN (MAC) CHUPP; OTIS MONTRAVILLE CHUPP; KITTIE REBA HEATH CHUPP; ANNIE PEARL CHUPP; ROY LEON COWAN; JESSE MORRIS CHUPP; MARVIN CHUPP; PAULINE MAY CHUPP; LILLIE ADELL CHUPP; GRADY MCMILLIAN CHUPP; LILLIE ADELL CHUPP; RUBY T CHUPP; MAMMIE ADDIE CHUPP GILCHRIST; MARLIN GILCHRIST; VERNON GILCHRIST; VIOLA GILCHRIST; RUBY GILCHRIST; CORDELIA GILCHRIST; AUBREY T. GILCHRIST; GENEVA GILCHRIST; JESSE GILDER CHUPP; KENNETH CHUPP; LOTTIE CHUPP; DOROTHY CHUPP; JOHNNY CHUPP; THURMAN (TOOTER) CHUPP; THELMA BROWNLEE CHUPP; CHARLES CHUPP; JOHN FRANKLIN CHUPP; BENNY WAYNE CHUPP; LILIE BELLE CHUPP SOLOMAN; CLARA CHUPP; MINNIE MAE CURRY

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You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock AM on the Monday next after expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable 440TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Coryell County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gatesville, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 01/20/2023 in the above entitled cause.

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Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gatesville, Texas, this 22nd day of February, 2023.

Attorney for Plaintiff or Petitioner, MARK SESSUMS  
PO BOX 150573, AUSTIN TX 78715

Clerk of the Court: Becky Moore, District Clerk  
P.O. Box 4, Gatesville, Texas 76528, Coryell County, Texas  
By: ASHLEY LAMB, DEPUTY 00029947

## 099 PUBLIC NOTICES

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## 099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship for the Estate of KAIYA ROSALIE TORRES, were issued on February 27, 2023, in Cause No. 22-392, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: KIMBERLY KATE GERDA TORRES.

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: Mary Wiley  
Attorney at Law  
100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 302  
Harker Heights, Texas 76548

DATED the 14 day of March, 2023.

MARY WILEY  
Attorney for KIMBERLY KATE GERDA TORRES  
State Bar No.: 24032669  
100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 302  
Harker Heights, Texas 76548  
Telephone: (254) 634-6969  
Facsimile: (254) 634-6587  
E-mail: mary@lindleylawoffices.com.  
00029988

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship for the Estate of LYNETH EIRAH TORRES, were issued on February 27, 2023, in Cause No. 22-393, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: KIMBERLY KATE GERDA TORRES.

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: Mary Wiley  
Attorney at Law  
100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 302  
Harker Heights, Texas 76548

DATED the 14 day of March, 2023.

MARY WILEY  
Attorney for KIMBERLY KATE GERDA TORRES  
State Bar No.: 24032669  
100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 302  
Harker Heights, Texas 76548  
Telephone: (254) 634-6969  
Facsimile: (254) 634-6587  
E-mail: mary@lindleylawoffices.com.  
00029989

## 102 REAL ESTATE

## 102 REAL ESTATE

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**715 E. U.S. Hwy. 84, Evant, TX 76525**  
For complete listings, go to [www.burksrealestate.com](http://www.burksrealestate.com)

- ▶ 2/1 brick home 560 W Hwy 84 Evant, TX, recently painted, updated shower, garage/workshop, fenced in backyard, utility shed-boat shed. \$169,500
- ▶ 10.01 acres east of Evant, TX Lot 8 Phase 5 Rio Escondido Subdivision, good tree cover, rolling terrain, great views to build a home, gated Subdivision. \$119,900
- ▶ 10.01 acres north of Evant, TX Lot 85 Phase 4 Rio Escondido, Rolling Terrain, Good tree cover, good views, \$129,500
- ▶ 10.01 Acres, Lot 20 Phase 4 Rio Escondido north of Evant, TX. good tree cover, great views. \$150,000
- ▶ 10.01 Acres, Lot 28 Phase 4 Rio Escondido north of Evant, TX. good tree cover, great views. \$200,000
- ▶ 10.01 acres Evant, TX, Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Lot No. 53. Langford Branch, Nice Home Site, scattered tree cover, native pasture \$225,000
- ▶ 11 +/- acres at Arnett, TX in Coryell County, good tree cover, nice home site, the property will need to be fenced on the east boundary. You will need to drill a water well for water. \$179,500
- ▶ 11.64 acres 3/2 home south of Evant, TX in Coryell County, nice porch, large master bedroom and bath, barn, workshop, seasonal creek, Hwy 281 Frontage. \$850,000
- ▶ 20.02 acres, Evant, TX, CR 421, Hamilton County, Lot No. 21 Mulberry Creek, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$250,000
- ▶ 20.02 acres, Evant, TX PR 42107, Hamilton County, Lot 43 Phase 6 Rio Escondido, rolling terrain, good tree cover, season creek. \$265,000.
- ▶ 25.06 acres Pottsville, TX Hamilton County, Paloma Vista Subdivision Lot 31, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, great views, \$275,000
- ▶ 33.43 acres, near Coryell City, Coryell County, FM 929 & CR 260 frontage, rolling terrain, good views. \$295,000
- ▶ 36 +/- acres west of Evant, TX, Hamilton County, scattered tree cover & rolling terrain, Fiber Optic Internet Service, you will need to drill a water well, \$387,000
- ▶ 38 +/- acres, south of Pearl, TX, Coryell County, FM 183 frontage, rolling terrain and scattered tree cover, nice views and would make a great home site, Centrally located, about 20 minutes from Evant & Gatesville and about 45 minutes from Copperas Cove-Killeen, Waco & Temple. \$372,400
- ▶ 47.332 ac. south of Ireland, TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, good fencing on 3 sides, southside will need to be fenced. \$395,000
- ▶ 50.24 Acres 3/2.5 home, 2171 CR 419 Evant, TX, rolling terrain, 40% being good tree cover, the remaining balance being open pasture, great views. \$675,000
- ▶ 52.73 Acres, 3/2.5 barn/condominium, 1197 CR 404 Hamilton, TX. 1 water well, metal building, nice porch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, 2 tanks, good fences, \$875,000
- ▶ 68.9 Acres, 3/2.5 rock home 101 Mac Dr. Gatesville, Tx., approx. 2900 ft of Leon River frontage, ceramic tile floors, carpet in the bedrooms, vaulted ceiling, rock fireplace, granite countertops, breakfast bar, garden tub, metal building approx. 45 ft x 24 ft, older barn approx. 50 ft. x 30 ft., cattle pens, 1 stock tank, approx. 48 acres of coastal. \$1,275,000
- ▶ 82.43 acres west of Evant, TX, Mills County. Open pasture, scattered mesquite tree cover, native grasses, 1 stock tank & is fenced on 3 sides with approx. 1910 ft that needs to be fenced on the south side of the property. \$560,524
- ▶ 88.007 acres, 36 ft. Travel Trailer, 25 ft. x 30 ft. metal barn, Electricity, 1 tank, seasonal branch, water well, scattered tree cover, good hunting. \$720,000
- ▶ 105 acres south of Pearl, TX on Self Rd. good tree cover, rolling terrain, small branch, barn, rain harvest system. \$743,775
- ▶ 179.562 acres 1.6 miles south of Gatesville, TX FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. \$1,230,000
- ▶ 252.87 Acres, 3 Br 2 Ba home, open floor plan, wood burning fireplace, breakfast bar, ceramic tile in kitchen, breakfast area & bathrooms. Laminite wood flooring in living room & carpet in 2 bedrooms, inground pool with slab that was pour for a future outdoor kitchen, 3 car attached carport with 12 ft. x 13 ft. storage building, a 60 ft. x 66 ft. metal building with 24 ft. x 60 ft. lean-to, there is also approx. 900 sq. ft. that has been framed out for living quarters inside the main part of the building, good exterior & interior fencing, set of cattle pens near the center of the property, rolling terrain with scattered tree cover and great views. \$2,150,000

## 099 PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids addressed to City of Gatesville will be received at City of Gatesville City Hall, 803 E. Main Street, Gatesville, TX until 3:00 PM on April 12, 2023, for the Lovers Lane Water & Wastewater Improvements. Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud shortly thereafter on the same date in the same place. Copies of the bidding documents can be obtained electronically via CivCast ([www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com)). For more information, contact Amy Jo Moreno at 254-714-1402.

## 099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF CALL FOR BIDS  
LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY

The objective in issuing this Notice of Call for Bids is to solicit bids for the lease of up to 5 (five) acres of land out of the 33.37 acres owned by Coryell County located at 1300 Coryell City Rd., Gatesville, Texas, from qualified companies or individuals that have the need for the property for an approved use, as fully described in the Notice of Call for Bids.

BID START DATE: March 27, 2023  
BID CLOSING DATE: April 18, 2023

BID SELECTION: April 25, 2023, at Commissioners' Court Session  
All qualified companies or individuals interested in providing bids for lease of real property detailed herein, should respond with a written proposal to the County. Final selection will be made in accordance with the policies and administrative directive of the County and other statutory provisions. Responses must be received by 11:00 a.m. on April 18, 2023, to Coryell County, Office of the County Attorney, 210 S. 7th St., Gatesville, TX 76528, after which time and date they will no longer be accepted. Late responses will be returned and will not be considered. Responses may be mailed or delivered in person. The complete bid documents are available on the Coryell County website at: [www.coryellcounty.org](http://www.coryellcounty.org) or in the Office of the County Attorney. Telephone number is (254) 865-5911, ext. 340.

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## Mound community lost dear member recently



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News  
Correspondent

Mound lost a dear wife, mother, wonderful grandmother, and sister. Mrs. Nancy (Lois) Hopson Dixon, died Monday, Feb. 20, 2023. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Feb. 25, at White Mound Baptist Church Tabernacle.

Burial was in the Mound Cemetery. Nancy was born Nov. 28, 1953, to the late Truett and Lois Cole Hopson of Mound. Nancy Dixon will truly be missed by her husband, Kenneth Dixon, and her children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and numerous nephews, nieces, and other relatives.

The Elmo Winkler family lost its leader on Sunday, March 12. He was surrounded by his family, and he will be greatly missed. Elmo is survived by his wife of 60 years, Peggy Winkler. Three children; daughter, Susan Winkler Dossey and husband, John Dossey. Son, Mike Winkler and wife, Marci Winkler. Son, Matt Winkler and wife, Jill. Seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, one brother, Glenn Winkler and wife, Mary, and numerous nephew and nieces.

Gracy and Hudson May of Gatesville spent Saturday night with Cheryl Ford. Cheryl Ford and her brother, Billy Bob Ford, took the Kids to the Topsey Exotic Animal drive-through.

Jenson Kinnear celebrated his sixth birthday with

friends and family at Mound Cowboy Church Saturday, March 18. It was toy story, Wild Kratt and Kirby themed, along with tons of glow sticks and a cake. The party was given by his parents, Devan and Staci Kinnear.

Carolyn Blakley has been recovering from breaking one of her legs. She had surgery Friday and has been at home recovering. Mrs. Bettie Blakley of Pearl has come to help Carolyn.

Mrs. Betty McFarlin had Gaylene Smith, Jalene Sutton, Ellen Ann Gummelt, and Sue Jones Thursday for lunch.

Colleen Palmer of Temple and Sue Jones visited Monday in Waco with Aunt Sugie Williamson.

Rev. Bruce Cox of Robinson, Barbara Herndon, Doris Hoff of Gatesville, Ray and John Stephens, and Elizabeth and Benjamin Phillips were Sunday dinner guests of Martha Lawhorn.

Martha Lawhorn and her grandson, Benjamin Phillips, attended a cattle sale in Crockett Saturday afternoon.

John Paul Stephens and family of Flower Mound spent a few days with Ray and John Stephens.

Those who had birthdays in the month of March were Alicia Reuter, Kelby Shults, Staci Combs, Gary Heavin, Cheryl Ford, Paul Hopson, Sherrie Barton, Beth Haines, Mary Sue Winkler, Lauren Goins, Keva Campos, Brance Spencer, Billye Rhudy, Jennifer Mann, Pat Schoenewolf, Rachel Hopson, Lou Ann Cashel, Nancy Suson, Samantha Penny, Cynthia Lynch, Sue Jones, Phillip Jones, Kelli Tatum, Corey Ayres, Karen George, Allison Hopson, Sara Poynter, Ronnie Harris, Angie Cupps and Ray Evetts.

## Pearl Community Fellowship Church gets new sign



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

The Pearl Community Fellowship Church has installed a new sign in front of their building.

Also, they have a new storage building. These things are a nice addition to the Pearl Community. Drive by and see them while you're out and about looking for bluebonnets! There ARE bluebonnets in Pearl!

Please keep Polly Cummings and Jim Wilkinson in your prayers, as they are dealing with health issues. Seasonal allergies are also on the rise, with many people suffering from them right now. However, we are thankful for the rain that is bringing new life and color to our world ... even as we sneeze our way through the day! Happy Spring, y'all!

Margerie Oney of Gatesville passed away on March 11, 2023. Funeral services were held at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel on Wednesday, March 15, with interment at Pearl Cemetery. Please keep the Oney family in your prayers.

Whenever you're at the Pearl Cottage Bookstore,

please visit the oldest home established in Pearl. The Gasoway cabin was moved to the Pearl Cottage Bookstore grounds from Cunningham Cave several years ago. The cabin was built in 1870 by W. W. Gasoway, who came to Pearl in the late 1860s. He actually lived in the cave for a while. On Oct. 18, 1883, he obtained a patent on the 160 acres of land assigned to him by Governor Ireland. He built the cabin on that land north of Pearl. This place is still known today as Gasoway Cove. While living there, he would give a dance on Saturday nights. People came from miles away to attend. The log house was later moved about a mile from the Gasoway place and set up for a barn on what is now known as the Otha Medard Ranch. The cabin was moved by two wagons and some mules. The Pearl Cottage Bookstore has copies of the Gasoway cabin book for sale for \$5.

This week's Bible verse comes from Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (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 betsyclarck47@yahoo.com.

## RIBBON CUTTING



The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Haute and Gaudy, which was recently purchased by Jill Van Ness from Sara Jo Dixon Poynter. Haute and Gaudy is a "traveling boutique" offering clothing, jewelry and a variety of items. Pictured are: Jill Van Ness (center), joined by representatives from the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Whatever happened to...

### 20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Assistant Warden Andy Massingill and employees of the Hughes Unit were presented the President's Award at the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Showcase.

Ryan Hutsell was nominated to represent the state of Texas as a national scholar at the National Young Leaders conference in Washington, D.C. She was listed as the daughter of Rich and Kathy Diaz of Gatesville and Mark and Pam Hutsell of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Jonesboro High School long jumper Robert Price competed in a track meet held in Hamilton. Price and the Eagles finished third in the team standings with 73.5 points. Price, who was a freshman, took first place in the long jump.

The Gamma Alpha Chapter celebrated its 66th year in Gatesville as well as the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International's 74th year. Mary Anne Leib, a hostess at the event, helped to cut the anniversary cake.

Jessica Young, a Jonesboro ISD student, participated in the high jump at the Hamilton Relays. Young finished second in the event after clearing 4 feet, 2 inches. She led the Lady Eagles with 36 individual points.

### 30 YEARS AGO (1993)

Andrew and Nina Kendrick celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The couple were married on Feb. 7, 1933, in the bride's home on State School Road on a snowy day and made a wedding trip (in stages) to San Antonio.

The winner of a quilt given away at the Coryell Museum was Henrietta Nichols of Gatesville. The quilt, part of a 77-piece exhibit featured at the museum, was made from entries in the 1991 quilt block contest.

The Gatesville High School band was visiting Orlando, Florida. The 115-member band was a guest performer at the Disney/MGM Studios Theme Park, performing down Hollywood Boulevard before hundreds of spectators.

A special swearing-in ceremony was held at the post office for Gene Bridges, the new postmaster in Gatesville. Bridges, a postal employee for 26 years, was replacing Joe Skelton, who retired in October 1992 after serving as Gatesville's postmaster for 10 years.

Coryell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary made a final \$5,000 payment on a pledge of \$10,000 to Coryell Memorial Hospital for the ambulance fund. The completed pledge of \$10,000 for the ambulance fund was among the largest

projects undertaken by the Auxiliary.

Wendy Jo Reavis, daughter of Joyce Chancellor of Gatesville and Joe Beasley of Temple, had joined the Army under its Delayed Entry Program. She was to report in May to begin basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

### 40 YEARS AGO (1983)

Norman and Jeff Hall were proud to open Uncle Normie's Bar-B-Q #2 at 1601 W. Main Street in Gatesville. They planned to offer the same type of food at the new location, which included a dining room and drive-through window.

David White, a Department of Public Safety trooper based in Copperas Cove, had been named by the Copperas Cove Exchange Club as Officer of the Quarter. White, who was reared in Gatesville and was a GHS graduate, was reported as the son of Glenn E. White and Alberta White.

Mrs. Mabel Bailey, a retired Gatesville teacher-librarian, made a contribution to the Coryell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary fund to pay for automatic electric doors, which were to be installed at the hospital's main entrance.

In a business transaction completed in early March, Carl Womble of Aledo purchased Hahn Motor Company owned by brothers Ernest and Gus Hahn. The

brothers had first established the dealership in 1967.

Staff Sgt. William E. Long, son of Earl and Mary Long of Gatesville, had been decorated with the Army Achievement Medal in Schwinfurt, West Germany. Long was an armor crewman with the 3rd Infantry Division.

Baylor University student Will Davis Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Davis, Sr., was named pastor of the Hay Valley Baptist Church near Gatesville. Davis, a junior history major, had plans to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1973)

Coryell County's Commissioners Court accepted a bid of \$12,859.41 by Connell Chevrolet Co. of Copperas Cove to provide the county with three 1973 model 1-1/2-ton trucks. The vehicles were to be used as rural firefighting trucks.

Eight inmates scaled the prison-type fence at the Mountain View School for Boys. They weren't caught, however, before a car had been stolen and a church was entered in Gatesville. Seven of the eight were

captured the next day and the remaining inmate was caught in the Dallas area.

John T. Lynch Jr. assumed the post of city manager in Gatesville. He was formerly assistant city manager at Bellmead. Lynch was chosen by the City Council to succeed Jim Walker, who had resigned the previous November.

The 18th annual Coryell County Horse Show featured Ollie and Allie Bynum as the event's chairmen, Beverly Bankhead as the sweetheart, Marsha Ogden as the alternate sweetheart, and Bill Roberts as the president of the show-sponsoring Gatesville Riding Club.

Kathy Keeton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Keeton and a freshman at Baylor University in Waco, received a letter notifying her that she was on the Dean's Honor List for the fall semester. She had a grade-point average of 3.8.

W.H. Lawrence of Gatesville, a pioneer of Coryell County, was honored on his 92nd birthday with a gathering of 73 relatives and friends. The celebration was held for two days at the Gatesville Community Center.

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COURTESY OF EVANT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Evant, Texas

## CORYELL COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER "SPOTLIGHT"

## Evant, Texas

## Marker Text:

The town of Evant traces its history to an earlier settlement in this area. Langford Cove, founded in 1855 by Asa Langford (1820-1970), was located adjacent to and partly within the southern boundary of the present town of Evant.

A United States Post Office was authorized in 1876 under the name Cove. Evan T. Brooks and his family arrived in the area in 1876. In 1881 Brooks platted a townsite which was filed in

Hamilton County records as Brooksville. The same plat appeared in Coryell County records in 1884 as Evant, so named from a combination of Brooks' first name and middle initial. Streets and blocks were carefully planned, including a town square. The Cove post office was transferred to Evant and renamed in 1885.

In 1878, a one-room plank schoolhouse was erected on land donated by Asa Langford in 1875. It was replaced

in 1888 by a stone structure which, with additions and modifications, served Evant Independent School District until 1976.

Over the years, businesses were established and churches and community groups were organized. The citizens of Evant voted to incorporate in an election held in December 1976.

Location: Highway 281, Town Square  
Marker Erected: 1986

## Remembering Uncle Bob

*Editor's note: Robert Lee "Uncle Bob" Saunders was an early-day resident of Gatesville and the son of one of Gatesville's early business pioneers. Born in 1880 in Gatesville, Uncle Bob had many memories and stories from his childhood which, later in life, he put in writing during the 1940s and 1950s for The Gatesville Messenger in a weekly column titled "Down Memory Lane."*

According to John Frank Post, editor of the Gatesville Messenger from 1946-1978, "Mr. Saunders composed his Down Memory Lane columns from his West Main Street home in the shadow of the county courthouse dome. Deadline time would find him hunched square-shouldered over his small desk pecking away at his typewriter." Post continued, "disdaining the rules of grammar and political correctness, he wrote like he talked - straight and plain-speaking. He was spared any tedious research, as his gifted memory supplied him with facts that he could weave into his own inimitable embroidery, using colorful anecdotes, local history, and happenings. Yes, Uncle Bob knew how to juice up a story."

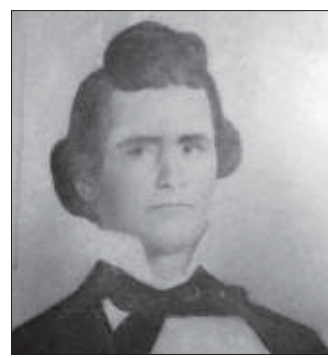
Post recalled that the "Down Memory Lane" column was a hit with the readers of the newspaper from the beginning. Post said that Uncle Bob's close friends felt he viewed his writing as a "gift to his generation and a legacy to generations to come."

The following is an excerpt of Uncle Bob's Down Memory Lane column that appeared in the Oct. 24, 1947 edition

of The Gatesville Messenger concerning his memories of Rogers Mill on Cow House Creek.

Rogers Mill  
Now there could have been some more old mills on the Leon River, but not to my knowledge, so I am going to take out from the Leon River country and we will go over to Rogers Mill on the Cow House Creek. I don't know when Uncle Bob Rogers came into the Cow House country, but it was way back yonder I am sure. I was a right sharp chunk of a boy when I first begin to go to Rogers Mill camping and fishing, and all I know for certain is that Uncle Bob lived on the east bank of the Cow House and the mill was on the west bank. It was a long walk to where you could walk across oil slick rocks to the mill house on the west bank, so Uncle Bob always kept his rowboat tied up to the east bank so he could row across and save that long rough walk. When we used to go fishing out there, Uncle Bob was past middle age, and the only request he ever made of us boys was that we not use his boat in the day time. We were welcome to use it at night to run lines up the creek from the old mill pond and many is the time we used it at night and caught them big catfish up around the bend.

Uncle Bob shore treated everybody good that camped there, and he always visited me and Sam Williams (Dusty Roads wur his nickname) when we camped under the trees up on the east side. One time he told Sam and I that he built the dam across the creek himself without any help. It shore was a



COURTESY OF ANCESTRY.COM

Robert Rogers, owner of Rogers Mill

good dam, and it impounded enough water in the pond to turn that old undershot wheel that operated the mill stones that did the grinding. It ground it slow and didn't burn up the meal. You could shore make good corn pone with the meal from that old water-power mill, and situated like was about halfway between Pidcoke Ranch on the south and Stringtown (King) on the north, it was patronized by all the folks that lived in the Cow House country.

Fifty years ago I do believe that Cow House Creek was the best fishing stream in Central Texas, for you could always catch a mess of fish of some kind or another, and if you camped on the west side of the creek in that grove of timber above the old mill you could kill a mess of squirrels without ever leaving camp. Lots of folks from Gatesville made that drive out to Rogers Mill and, like I say, Uncle Bob always made everybody welcome. While some few people depredated on the old fellow, most of us tried to be decent when we were on and round his mill.

## Beekeeper tells Morris Federation about Smiling Bee Honey Farm

BY MARSHA LEE  
Contributing Writer

On March 11 the Morris Federation learned about beekeeping from Christina (Baker) Coleman of Smiling Bee Honey Farm in Levita, Texas. As a youngster, she watched her father and older brother work as beekeepers, but she and younger siblings were not allowed to help. Later, when she had a chance to work with them, beekeeping became a passion, and she loved working with the honey bees.

Her first suggestion for anyone interested in becoming a beekeeper is to learn as much as possible about honey bees - from books, beekeeping clubs, beekeeping classes, and neighboring beekeepers. One needs to understand how and where to build a hive, how the hive works and how responsibilities are divided up among bees, where to get good bee stock, and what is needed to provide adequate management for beekeeping (i.e., necessary safety equipment, how to prevent and troubleshoot problems, and much more).

In selecting a site for the apiary, these are a few things that need to be considered: an abundance of flowering shrubs and flora, a water source nearby, an open and shaded dry place, an area clear of dry leaves, a location away from power stations and highways, available ventilation, and an area receiving both morning and evening light.

Each colony will have perhaps 50,000-60,000 bees, but only one queen bee is allowed to survive. Several queen bees may hatch, but usually the first one to hatch kills her rivals. She is the reproductive individual and generally leaves the hive only either to mate, or as an experienced queen with a swarm. (A swarm may occur when the bees get agitated due to heat or overcrowding in the hive, and the beekeeper must watch for signs of a swarm and act before it occurs in order to prevent losing much of his stock of productive workers as well as a good queen.) The queen may be recognized because she has a larger abdomen and smaller wings than the worker bees, but often the beekeeper puts a colored mark on the queen's back so she can be easily located in the hive.

The male bee is called a drone. He is larger than the worker bees and in some ways his body resembles that of a bumble bee. His only function in life is to mate with the queen bee. The queen may leave the hive to find a group of drones. Sometimes the drones may come from her hive, or they may have come from a mile or more away. The queen may mate five to seven times, and up to around 40 or more times. After mating only one time, the drone dies. Those who do not mate may return to their hives, but eventually they become a drain on the hive, and since they serve no purpose, the worker bees



COURTESY PHOTO

Christina Coleman

kill them. The queen saves the sperm to use for the rest of her life, which may be two to six years. (In the past, the average was six to seven years, but the average now is two to four years.) She will lay about 1,000-1,500 eggs per day during the honey production season, replacing bees who have died. Between 175,000-200,000 eggs are laid each year.

The last class of bees are the worker bees (sterile females). They are aptly named because they do all the foraging, care and feeding of the young, honey production and storage, wax production, cleaning and defending the hive. They carry off dead bees and drones they have killed. They feed and protect the queen. Their lifespan may last only four to six weeks. They forage as much as 5,500 miles back and forth to the hive and may visit 50 to 100 flowers on each trip, but a worker bee only makes an average of 1/2 teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. They collect nectar and pollen, which combine with enzymes in their honey gut to mix into "bee bread," used to feed larvae and the queen.

Coleman said that she doesn't always wear the protective clothing for beekeepers because she is used to the bees, and they are familiar with her. There are exceptions, however, such as when she is performing certain jobs that may disturb the bees or if they are agitated. Asked how to tell when they are agitated, she said that the bees will fly into you headfirst, as if giving a warning that their space has been invaded. For the most part, the workers are fairly docile, and if they sting anyone or anything, they die shortly afterward.

In warm weather, nearby or more distant flowers and flowering shrubs allow worker bees to bring in food to make honey and to make royal jelly to feed the queen. Coleman sets out water nearby for the bees and adds sugar water (half water and half white sugar) for them. Once she removes the sugar water, she replaces it with sugar patties, especially for the winter months. In hot weather, the worker bees may gather around the queen and beat their wings to keep her cool. In cold weather, they gather close in to surround the queen, and the beating of their wings causes warmth. Coleman said that one time she was standing close enough to a hive that her leg began to feel a strong burning sensation, then she realized the heat was being created by the workers in the hive. Their wings beat about 11,400 times per minute, and that's what causes the buzzing sound bees make.

Hive management includes many responsibilities and close monitoring of the hive. The beekeeper needs to watch for signs of swarming, such as agitation, building new queen cells or swarm cells as indicated by peanut shell-shaped extensions from the lower part of the hive, indication of an ill or aged queen, or bearding (bees gather outside the hive with strands similar to beards coming off the hives, indicating lack of circulation and heat from overcrowding).

Splitting the colony is one possibility, and there are several ways of doing this, depending on your beekeeping plans. Another thing to watch for is the queen bee dying; if this happens and is not addressed, the entire hive can be lost. Avoiding purchase of new bees that are ill is an issue. Use of insecticides and sprays by neighbors or by neighbors of individuals from whom you buy your bees can taint your whole colony and the honey as well. Sometimes individuals call for help in removing bees from their property. She related one story of an ambulance driver who left the door of the vehicle open overnight, and the light inside the ambulance attracted a bunch of bees by morning. Coleman said that people are asked not to spray hives with insecticide, but rather to call someone trained to remove bees - a sheriff, police chief, county agricultural agent, or beekeeper. The insect spray causes the hive to become a total loss, whereas others will know how to remove the bees safely and perhaps save them for another colony.

Harvesting and processing honey is another job for beekeepers. Raw honey is locally produced, taken from the hive, very lightly filtered, and never fully heated to the level of pasteurization. Pure honey is pasteurized; it is removed from the hive and gently filtered to remove dirt, pollen, and dead bugs before being packaged, and it is pure 100% honey with no added ingredients. Processed honey is over-pasteurized to the point where it loses most of its nutritional value. Honey can last for a long time; some from about 3,000 years ago was found in King Tut's tomb, and it still looked edible.

Coleman emphasized the importance of bees. They are instrumental in our current agricultural system as pollinators of 30% of the world's most common food crops. They are the only insect that produces food for humans, with honey being a most valuable nutritional food. It is full of a variety of essential minerals, antioxidants, and amino acids. Eating honey is a natural way to get an energy boost, and studies have shown that it works well in preventing fatigue and enhancing performance of athletes.

The wax plays an important role in many industries, including cosmetics, polishing, and pharmaceutical industries. Honey is an antimicrobial healing agent and can be used effectively on minor burns or scrapes. It has been shown to speed the healing of wounds and helps as therapy for breathing, allergies, arthritis, emphysema, and bronchitis. Coleman explained that she has a deep or brood size honey bee frame in a window at her home with a working bee hive inside. It has two tubes extending from it, one going outside to allow the bees to leave and return from foraging all day, and the other coming inside with a plastic mask on the end so that she can hold it up to her nose and smell the honey and wax. She said that it not only smells pleasant, but also helps allergies, sore throats, and breathing.

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# Mother Neff State Park receives Lone Star Legacy designation

**Press Release**

Mother Neff State Park near Moody received the Lone Star Legacy Park designation by the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) at a ceremony at their annual institute in Frisco on March 2. Mother Neff State Park was the only state park to receive the award from seven parks nominated this year.

A Lone Star Legacy Park is classified as a park that holds special prominence in the local community and the state. To qualify for consideration, the park must have endured the test of time and become iconic to those who have visited, played and rested on its grounds. Nominated parks must be a minimum of 50 years old and meet at least one of the following criteria: the property represents distinctive design and/or construction; the park is associated with historic events or sites; the park is associated with events specific to the local community/state or the park is home to unique natural features.

Nestled along a scenic stretch of the Leon River

southwest of Waco, Mother Neff is one of Texas' earliest state parks. Isabella E. Neff — affectionately known as “Mother Neff” — envisioned her acreage near the Leon River as a place for the public to gather, rest and recreate. In her will, she left the Neff Picnic Grounds ... “to the public for religious, educational, fraternal and political purposes.”

Neff was the mother of Pat M. Neff, Governor of Texas from 1921 to 1925. In 1923, Pat Neff established the Texas State Parks Board and charged them with creating a statewide parks system. This effort coincided with a national movement to create regional park systems. Between 1934 and 1938, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company #817 constructed buildings, structures, recreational facilities, roads and trails for the park. Pat Neff liked to say that Mother Neff was the “mother of state parks.”

Today, the park offers Texans a place to recreate outdoors with glimpses of the past all around. It still serves as a community and family

gathering spot. The natural environments of the river and floodplain corridor, along with upland prairie and forest settings, provide outdoor classrooms for natural science studies for area schools and universities.

The trail system leads visitors to explore the rich landscape and diverse wildlife. The scenic drive allows an accessible way for all visitors to enjoy the pastoral settings. The genesis of this park is unique in the Texas State Park system due to the public use granted by the Neff family. A sense of place is very strong because of the history of the Neffs and the design brought to life by the CCC. The history of this site and its natural resources combine to make Mother Neff State Park a distinctive and important public park for visitors from Texas and beyond.

Mother Neff State Park is located at 1921 Park Road 14, Moody, Texas 76557. For more information, please visit [tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/mother-neff](http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/mother-neff) or call (254) 853-2389.

Parks have played an im-

portant role in the development of our communities throughout history. Local parks helped promote community, natural respite and social interaction as com-

munities were founded, developed and prospered.

Seven parks received the honor in the 11th year of the statewide program. Other parks recognized include Pan American Neighborhood Park, Austin; Veterans Park, Boerne; Bunche Park, Fort Worth; Thomas Park, Katy; Brackenridge Park, San Antonio; and Tyler Municipal Rose Garden, Tyler.

TRAPS is a nonprofit 501(c)3 professional and educational organi-

zation founded in 1937 with a membership of more than 2,000 parks and recreation professionals. TRAPS is committed to advancing the field of parks, recreation, and lei-

sure services in Texas, while advocating for enhanced recreation opportunities and increasing public green space for Texans. For more information, visit [traps.org](http://traps.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left to right are Rodney Franklin, State Parks Division Director; Shannon Blalock, Texas State Parks-Region 5 Director; Michael Strutt, Director, Cultural Resources Program; Melissa Chadwick, Park Superintendent, Mother Neff State Park; Larry Weiss, Mother Neff State Park Association copresident; and Charlotte Weiss, Mother Neff State Park Association Historian.



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# Gatesville Army officer to retire after 20 years, six deployments

BY ASHLEY INGE  
Staff Writer

After more than 20 years of serving his country, Army Command Sergeant Major Raul Cantu will soon be hanging up his uniform for the last time.

Cantu — who graduated from Gatesville High School in 2000 — originally had no desire to ever join the Army. In fact, it wasn't until after midterms in his first semester at the University of Texas at San Antonio that he realized he had a different calling in life.

"Coming from a small town and moving to a big city and then trying to work, and go to college, I just didn't have the maturity or the self-discipline to really be kind of successful in that environment," he said. "So, I just walked into a recruiter's office and kind of discussed some options, and in January of 2001, I was at Fort Benning, Georgia at basic training."

Cantu joined the Army as an infantryman and within his first 18 months of enlistment, he was deployed to eastern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom — one of two deployments he made in that operation.

"The mission of the infantry in the Army is to destroy the enemy through close combat on the battlefield, so at the time that I joined the Army, I was a paratrooper," he explained. "I was in an airborne division, so we conducted static line parachute assaults onto airfields — anywhere around 1,000 feet for training is what we would do."

From there, Cantu did two more deployments in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as a humanitarian mission in New Orleans, Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

Since June 2022, he has been in eastern Europe on his sixth — and last — deployment in support of Operation European Assurance, Deter and Reinforce as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February.

For the last two years, he has served as the Command Sergeant Major for his unit of 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment "Blue Spaders," 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and 101st Airborne Division.

Since his basic training began in January 2001, Cantu has served a total of 22 years in the Army.

But now, at 41, Cantu is ready to focus on what matters most to him — family.

Cantu met his wife, Mary — who is also a Texan — during his third deployment to Iraq. Together, they have two children: Alina, 13 and John, 11.

"My main reason for leaving is I want to invest in time with my family," he said. "I just want to spend these last few years that we have the kids in the house with them and



Sgt. Major Raul Cantu, a 200 Gatesville High School graduate, stands with Battalion Logistics Officer Allan Watson, a 2012 GHS graduate.

*"He is somebody who leads from the front, and he is essential to our battalion. He is the ultimate leader, in my opinion, and being from the same town as him, I can take pride in that."*

**LOGISTICS OFFICER ALLAN WATSON,** speaking about the impact that Sgt. Major Raul Cantu has made on him as well as their battalion.

invest in time with my wife. Also, we move a lot in the Army, so I want my kids to be in one high school. If I stay in, there's a good chance they would be in at least two, if not three, high schools."

Cantu said his favorite part about the Army is the "team aspect," and how close he

is to several of his platoon mates.

He also said he works with "some of the best," including 1st Lieutenant and Battalion Logistics Officer Allan Watson, who coincidentally is also from Gatesville.

"During one of our newcomers' briefs when Allan came to the unit, I had mentioned that I'm a native Texan and we started talking and he said, 'Where are you from?' and I said, 'Gatesville,' and he said, 'No way, I'm also from Gatesville,'" Cantu said. "He's only the second person that I've talked to face to face who is from Gatesville."

Watson, 29, graduated from Gatesville High School in 2012, and has known Cantu for about two years now.

"CSM Raul Cantu has served as mentor to me as a young lieutenant for two years," Watson stated in an email to the newspaper. "His leadership ability and knowledge of not only the infantry but the Army as a whole is something, in my opinion, worth acknowledging. His dedication to his craft and swiftness to teach soldiers on any subject, enlisted or commissioned, is a testament to his commitment to the profession."

Watson went on to describe Cantu as being "extremely knowledgeable, incredibly smart, and a very rare leader."

"He is somebody who, when I imagine a certain major, he is the embodiment of that," Watson said. "He is somebody who leads from the front, and he is essential to our battalion. He is the ultimate leader, in my opinion, and being from the same town as him, I take pride in that."

After Cantu's last day in the Army on June 13 of this year — which, coincidentally, will be the fifth anniversary of when Watson first enlisted in the Army — Cantu will be moving to Lufkin, where Watson's brother and sister-in-law currently reside.

"There will be some form of connection there for a while," Watson stated. "I'm looking forward to his future. I know he's going to kill it in the civilian world, as they say, and he's gonna do really well. As a fellow Hornet, I am proud to have had the opportunity to learn and train with a man like CSM Cantu. I do not know much, but I do know he is rare for this profession."

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## Fort Hood troops participate in gunnery

BY SGT. DARRELL STEMBRIDGE  
Fort Hood Press Center

Tank Crews assigned to 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted Table VI gunnery from Feb. 23 to March 13 at Fort Hood.

Table VI is also classified as the "gate to live fire." Qualifying individual crews in Table VI enables those crews to safely participate in the higher echelon live-fire exercises at the section and platoon levels. Table VI is the final table in certifying a tank crew during gunnery, but the path to table VI involves a tremendous amount of planning, training, and collective tasks in a live fire environment, in order to deploy, fight and win whenever called upon.

"Table I-IV are a foundation for crew qualification and include learning fire commands, conducting dry-fire rehearsals, weapons familiarizations, bore sighting and live-fire zeroing the main gun." 1st Lt. Nathaniel Tucek, fire direction officer, 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, said. "When we get to our table VI, we have external evaluators so there's no conflict of interest from having anybody in the company evaluating us."

Mission readiness and lethality will always remain a top priority for the Army and the First Team. Qualification for gunnery happens about every six months, ensuring each

battery, from the loader to the fire direction officer, is trained and ready to respond with lethal and accurate force.

"As a 19 Series, the main thing we are in charge of is our platform and when we go out there, we want to make sure we are competent, proficient and lethal on those platforms," Tucek added.

A tank crew consists of four positions: tank commander, gunner, loader, and driver. The table of organization determines the ranks held by each of those positions. Overall, the Troopers are preparing for long distance fights and keeping the enemy contained.

"We have to make sure we are proficient at what we do," Sgt. Alex Ceja, fire direction specialist, said. "As a fire mission is received, each crew member has a job, such as the driver moving up and down, the loader has to load the rounds, and the gunner has to be able to identify their targets."

This training exercise builds trust as well as team cohesion and tests their ability to process fire missions by engaging targets in unique situations ensuring crew members of each battery are certified and mission ready for future rotations or deployments.

"Any improvements on our overall engagements throughout the exercise advances our future for mission readiness," Tucek said.

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## Easter Services

# Schedule

- ▶ Easter Cantata April 2 at 6 p.m.
- ▶ Maundy Thursday service April 6 at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Good Friday service April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

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SONIA DAVIDSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Emma Davidson competed in the 220-pound weight class.



COLLEEN FITZER | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Kasey Fitzer competed in the 114-pound weight class.

## Davidson, Fitzer finish among top 10 lifters in state

**STAFF REPORT**

Gatesville High School's Emma Davidson and Kasey Fitzer both had a strong showing at the Texas Women's Powerlifting Association state meet, finishing among the top 10 powerlifters in the state in their classification.

"Both of these girls did an amazing job today," said GHS powerlifting coach Jason Moffett. "They lifted very well against some very good competition. They are both sophomores, so

we are looking forward to having them back for two more years."

In the 114-pound weight class, Fitzer lifted a total weight of 615 pounds — 235 in the squat, 135 in the bench and 245 in the deadlift.

In the 220-pound weight class, Davidson had a total of 755 pounds, with 325 in the squat, 200 in the bench and 230 in the deadlift.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville High School boys golf team took top honors in the GHS Invitational on March 20, and will next play on March 27.

## Led by Max Healer, Gatesville golfers win first place in GHS Invitational

**STAFF REPORT**

In recent golf competition, the Gatesville Hornet boys team shot an overall score of 355 on March 20 to win the team title at the GHS Invitational.

Max Healer carded a 78 to claim medalist honors, while teammate Kasen Bankhead shot 81 and won a tie-breaker

for second place. In girls play, Avery Streetman shot a 94 to tie for fifth in the medalist standings.

GHS is scheduled to be the host of the first round of the District 23-4A tournament on Monday, March 27.

## Lady Hornets top China Spring, 11-5

**BY CHRIS ALLMAN**

*Sports Correspondent*

Gatesville High School's Lady Hornets softball team used a late-inning offensive surge Tuesday to blast China Spring, 11-5.

The Lady Hornets (15-10, 1-1) trailed 5-4 heading into the top of the sixth inning but scored seven runs over the final two frames to pick up the win and level their district record. It was a reversal of fortune for the Lady Hornets as they lost their league opener 8-4 to Robinson when the Lady Rockets scored four times in the seventh inning to steal the win.

Those late-inning struggles were absent in the win over China Spring.

"I thought the girls did a great job of sticking to a game plan. Every inning was a little battle and our focus was to score one more run than them each inning," said head coach Andrea Holbrook. "I know it seems pretty obvious, but it helped us with our mental endurance today."

Gatesville scored at least one run in five different innings including two in the fourth, three in the sixth, and four in the seventh. Eight of the starters in the lineup had hits, led by a three-hit, four-RBI night from Grace Carothers. Raylee Glover, Madison Hester, Kinlee Gardner, and Brinlee Ford each had two hits and Lauren Stuard walked twice, had one hit, and scored three runs.

Hester allowed just two earned runs and struck out four in her complete-game gem.

In their three-run sixth, the Lady Hornets manufactured their first run thanks to a walk from Stuard, a sacrifice bunt from Kallie Featherston, and an RBI double from Carothers. Hester then scored Carothers with an RBI single and Glover doubled to put runners on second and third. An errant pick-off throw scored Hester to make it 7-5.

In the seventh, Gatesville scored four more runs on just three hits. Kegan Hunt singled and later scored on a sacrifice fly from Carothers to make it 8-5, and Lauren Stuard scored on a wild pitch to extend the lead to 9-5. Their final insurance runs came when Aliyah Trotter scored on a double from Glover and an RBI single from Hester.

"We executed a ton of situational hitting that put us in a good position to score runs and Madison pitched well but defense really stepped up tonight and played well behind her. Overall it was a good team win," Holdbrook said.

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# Hornets blast Bosqueville in warm-up before district opener



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mason Mooney waits for the pitch in the Hornets' win over Bosqueville on March 21.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Ben Mabry gets a good leadoff for GHS in the Hornets victory over Bosqueville on March 21.

# Hornets avenge earlier loss to No. 2 ranked Bulldogs

BY CHRIS ALLMAN

*Sports Correspondent*

Gatesville baseball wrapped up their non-district schedule on Tuesday with a 14-3 run rule victory over Bosqueville.

The win was small measure of payback as the Bulldogs - the No. 2 ranked 2A team in the state - beat Gatesville (9-9) 6-3 in the Rogers Tournament championship on March 4.

"Our guys have been working their tail off and doing things right and it paid off tonight. That's the key to keep building and keep getting better and hopefully peak at the right time and that's when it counts," head coach Chase Smith said. "I'm extremely proud of all our guys putting together a complete game like they did."

After a 12-0 shutout loss to 4A No. 15 Taylor on Mar. 17, the Hornets offense bounced back against Bosqueville. Mason Mooney and Brady James had two hits apiece with Mooney driving in three runs. Lawson Mooney, Kason Herbelin, and Justin Johnson also had hits.

The most telling stat in the win was the number of times the Hornets struck out - zero.

"I thought we executed our game plan and that was to be aggressive early in counts and not give in with 2 strikes. I felt like we were due to have a good offensive game," Smith said.

Johnson drew a pair of walks - the Hornets walked eight times in the game - and scored two runs. James, Lawson Mooney, Mason Mooney, and Banner Allman also scored two times each.

After a six game stretch against elite pitching in which they averaged just under two runs per game, the Hornets busted out against the Bulldogs.

Mason Mooney got the scoring started with a two-run single in the bottom of the first inning to give Gatesville a 2-0 lead. Then the floodgates opened in the third when they scored five times then added seven more runs in the fourth.

While they scored 14 runs, they only needed four as Hornet pitching allowed just one earned run. Ace Bralen Veazey allowed just three hits and struck out four over 4.1 innings. Allman closed out the win getting the final two outs.

"I feel like we saw glimpses of the type of team we can and want to be tonight but I still feel like we can be even better in all phases," Smith said.

After completing a non-district schedule that featured six state-ranked teams, Smith's squad now turns their attention to trying to secure their second playoff berth in the last three years.

"I felt like it was what we needed to beat a quality team heading into district. We have a few days to fine tune and get ready for a tough district schedule," he said.

The district schedule will feature back-to-back games between teams. The Hornets will take on Robinson on Mar. 28 in Gatesville then rematch with the Rockets in Robinson on Mar. 31. A pair of games with China Spring will follow and they will face Connally and Salado before finishing the district slate with games against La Vega.

China Spring is ranked No. 7 in the most recent Diamond Pro/THSB 4A Top 25 while Salado is ranked No. 23.

# GHS girls basketball Coach Chaffin reflects on season, future

BY ERIK L. WHITE

*Special to The Messenger*

Kim Chaffin is the girls head coach for the Gatesville High School Lady Hornets basketball team. This past season Chaffin experienced a tough season with an overall record of 8-22 and a 1-9 record in district. A few weeks after the 2022-2023 season, Chaffin shared her personal upbringing, her experience with the team and gave her perspective on the 2023-2024 basketball season.

Chaffin played for Leland Bearden at Symer High school back in 2002, where her coach won 800 games in his career. Chaffin stated that Bearden was her role model and someone she truly aspired to resemble one day.

"Playing for a man like that built a love for the game while instilling in me the fact that determination and work ethic were key components to success."

Once her high school career was over, Chaffin decided to continue her playing career at the University of Texas Permian Basin where she studied to become a teacher and a coach.

When asked what brought Chaffin to a town like Gatesville, she responded by describing how much love she had for small towns in Texas.

"I have always seen myself living in a small quiet town and knowing that Gatesville had been a large contender in the state title run also gave me a reason to stay." Chaffin said there was a big opportunity for the program to bounce back and improve. "I knew this program had the potential to get back on track within the playoff race, and that was just something I wanted to be a part of."

It's no secret that the 2022-23 season for GHS girls' basketball team was a struggle. This season, the team was plagued with injuries to most of the older players and that was a huge setback for the girls.

"A back fracture took our point guard out of the mix for 13 games. We also saw a handful of ankle in-

juries, a dislocated finger, and a concussion". However, Chaffin explained how this team used all the adversity to grow a stronger foundation within the team and within one another.

"Having a handful of our older athletes sit out due to injuries gave the younger players a chance to step up and attain key minutes that will add to their overall success and experience towards their next season, she said." Despite a losing season, Chaffin said she was proud to see so many of her athletes step up when needed.

When compared to last season Chaffin explained how much the team has grown within just a year. "We have more than doubled the wins from last season. Last season the team did not win any district games, and we were able to pull out one district win."

When asked about the players she is looking forward to coaching next season, Chaffin explained how much she enjoyed working with all the athletes on her team but pointed out two players that would really be the core of their team leadership next season.

"Junior player Taylor Coward had a handful of double-doubles throughout the season and sophomore player Tamiah Miller was the team's leading rebounder throughout the season. These two individuals will be the ones to step up in the 2023-2024 season and I can't wait to witness their transition as athletes."

Chaffin answered the question on what her perspective on the highlights and challenges of the 2022-23 season were like as well as how the team will be moving forward in the next season.

"There is always something to be done to become better. We are already working on the mental aspects of our game in a major way, and we are attacking other sports within the off-season," she said. "We are in the position to grow exponentially in the upcoming months and with a solid focus, we will continue to grow as a team."



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Despite a tough season that included several injuries, the Gatesville girls basketball team improved its win total from the previous year.

## Area Fishing Report

### Lake Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 14.04 feet below pool. Having finally eclipsed that magic 60 degree mark late last week, the white bass fishing is improving with every passing day. Although some fish can still be found in large schools in water as deep as 40 feet, more and more action is moving shallower each day with whites chasing shad all the way up to the bank on windblown shorelines. Gulls and terns are the shortcut to finding this fast action. Deep fish are being caught on white, 5/8 ounce Bladed Hazy

Eye Slabs. Shallow fish are taken on MAL Lures retrieved just fast enough to keep them from hitting bottom in the shallow water. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish have been fair. With frequent temperature changes catfish have been scattered in varying depths. Shallow water with muddy bottoms from 2-5 feet has been consistent with fresh shad and other cut baits. Flatheads are beginning to move around river channels and have been good on live perch. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing. Crappie are fair in the deeper waters, but they are start-

ing to make a move shallow biting jigs with slick bait or an ATX lure company 2.25 wicked shad. Report by Zach Minnix, JigNJerK Guide Service. Bass are good in stickups and laydowns in 3-10 feet of water in the backs of creeks and coves. Flip your favorite plastics in green pumpkin or multicolored flaked watermelon colors. Good catches shallow and medium crankbaits. There are a lot of white bass and some stripers in the shallows, so you can hammer these with shallow crankbaits. Report by Bryan Cotter, Texas Hawgs.



# GISD slates summer sports camps

Gatesville High School will have a variety of summer sports camps which start May 30, and registration is underway. Cost for most of the camps will be \$40.

The first camps of the summer will include:

- \* Football from May 30-June 1 for grades 1-6 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- \* Girls basketball May 30-June 1 for grades 1-9 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- \* Baseball from June 5-7, with sessions for grades 1-2 from 8:30-10:30 a.m., grades 3-5 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and grades 6-9 from 1-3:30 p.m.
- \* Tennis from June 5-7 for grades 1-9 from 8-11 a.m.
- \* Softball from June 5-7, with sessions for grades 1-5 from 8-10 a.m. and grades 6-9 from 10:30-12:30 p.m.
- \* Boys basketball from June 19-21, with sessions for grades 1-6 from 9 a.m. to noon and grades 7-9 from 1-4 p.m.
- \* Volleyball from July 10-12 for grades 1-9 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- \* Wrestling from July 10-14, with sessions for grades 1-6 from 8:30-9 a.m. and grades 7-12 from 10-11 a.m.
- \* Football from July 24-26 for grades 7-9 from 7:30-10:30 a.m.
- \* Soccer on Sunday afternoons in September and October for grades 7-12. Times and costs will be determined at a later date.
- \* Hornet SWARM speed and strength sessions for grades 9-12 will be June 5-July 21 from 7-8 a.m. and for grades 7-8 will be June 5-July 21 from 8:15-9:15 a.m. These camps are free to attend.

More details can be found at [gatesvilleisd.revtrak.net](http://gatesvilleisd.revtrak.net) online.

# Family Math Night slated at Primary

**STAFF REPORT**

Gatesville Primary School will have a family math night event on Thursday, March 30 from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

The event offers fun for the whole family while learning about math through fun games, activities, and hands-on projects.

Attendees can explore eight hands-on stations, choose from three activity levels at each station, create projects to take home, go at your own pace, reinforce classroom learning, and connect with the community. The event offers a fun way to focus on math.

For more information contact the Gatesville Primary School at 254-865-7264. Gatesville Primary School is located at 308 Hornet Way in Gatesville.

# Pre-k and kindergarten registration dates set

The Gatesville Primary School recently announced the registration dates for kindergarten and pre-k registration for the 2023-2024 school year.

Registration for pre-k will be on Tuesday, April 11, from noon until 6 p.m. Registration will be at the main entrance to the Primary School – the north entrance facing the football stadium. Pre-k students must be four years old on or before Sept. 1, 2023.

Kindergarten students must be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2023. Registration will be on Tuesday, April 18, from noon until 6 p.m. The registration location for Kindergarten will also be at the main entrance of Gatesville Primary.

Items that the primary school will need for registration include:

1. Official birth certificate with raised seal (not the hospital certificate).
2. Social Security card
3. Complete, validated immunization record including four-year boosters
4. Picture I.D. of parent enrolling child (driver's license)
5. Proof of residency (utility bill, lease contract)
6. Proof of income for household – three months of pay stubs (pre-k only)
7. GISD faculty or military ID (pre-k only)

For additional information or if you have any questions, please contact the Gatesville Primary Office at 254-865-7264.

# Gatesville Junior High to have cheer tryouts meeting March 28

**STAFF REPORT**

Gatesville Junior High School will hold a mandatory parent meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium on Tuesday, March 28.

A tryout clinic will take place from Monday, April 3 through Wednesday, April 5. The clinic will start at 4 p.m. each day in the junior high's new gym,

and two practices are mandatory for attendance. It will be closed to all parents.

Tryouts will also be held on Thursday, April 6 beginning at 5 p.m. in the junior high's new gym. This also will be closed to all parents.

To receive the tryout material, join

the google classroom at XPG4QOZ. For more information contact Amber Colson by email at [acolson@gatesvilleisd.org](mailto:acolson@gatesvilleisd.org) online.

Gatesville Junior High is located at 307 S. Lovers Lane in Gatesville.

# Gatesville Junior High to host Summer Music Camp

Registration is now open for the Gatesville Summer Music Camp, to be held on Monday, June 26 through Thursday, June 29 at the Gatesville High School.

Over the course of four days the children will be taught an entire musical. Each day will consist of lessons on singing, acting, choreography, music fundamentals, costumes, props, and staging. This year's show will be "It's Saturday!" a musical celebrating a day off in the life of a kid. That is, until his mom wakes up with the "to-do list."

The camp is open to students who have finished kindergarten through eighth grade. Campers will be divided in groups based in age/grade level. The cost will be \$50 per student, and the deadline is Friday, May 12.

The camp will include multiple rehearsals daily, creating props during craft time, recreation time during the camp chat, and a camp T-shirt.

Each day the doors will open at noon, and camp will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. Dismissal will be at 4:30 p.m. each day. Campers can eat lunch on campus at noon if needed.

A cast party will take place on Thursday, June 29 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. A pizza dinner will be provided. All parents,

family members, and loved ones are invited to attend the performance on June 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gatesville High School Auditorium. Admission is free. The cast and chorus will present "It's Saturday!" showcasing all the skills, music, choreography, and staging they learned throughout the week.

There are several main characters that have multiple speaking lines and solos that will require preparation prior to camp week. If your student is within third through eighth grade and is interested in one of the roles, auditions will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 4 p.m. in the Gatesville High School choir room. Email Cherith Wells at [gisdchoir@gatesvilleisd.org](mailto:gisdchoir@gatesvilleisd.org) to secure your student's audition spot and get the audition materials. The audition will be closed to the public.

Space is limited, and on a first-come, first-served basis. Send in registration form and payment to Gatesville High School as soon as possible to ensure enrollment. Make checks payable to "GHS Choir." Registration will be non-refundable. Registration is also available online at the GISD School Store.

Send your school news to [editor@gatesvillemessenger.com](mailto:editor@gatesvillemessenger.com)

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875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
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Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.  
**KING**  
Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
**LIBERTY**  
Royce T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m.; Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.; Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.  
**LIVE OAK**  
David Crosby, Interim Pastor; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday evening Youth & Children's Bible Study 6 p.m.

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Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.  
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Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
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**PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP**  
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**THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT**  
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m.; Wednesday service 7 p.m.  
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# RECIPE

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



COURTESY PHOTO

## Fredericksburg Peach Pound Cake

BY BECKY NECESSARY

- 1 c. butter, softened
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 6 eggs, room temperature
- 2 c. ripe peaches, peeled & chopped
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- sweetened whipped cream
- 3 c. flour
- cinnamon for garnish
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda

Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan. Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the vanilla. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; add to the creamed mixture. Fold in sour cream and chopped peaches. Pour into prepared pan. Bake for 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 hours, or until a toothpick comes out clean. To serve, top each slice with sweetened whipped cream with a dash of cinnamon on top. Serves 12.

Last week's puzzle solution

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

## SUDOKU

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

## BOOK REVIEW

# 'The Things We Make' takes readers on deep dive into science

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You've been tapping your chin for 10 minutes.

Deep in thought, you've barely moved while you've studied the problem in front of you. There's a solution to this conundrum and it's probably an easy one but you'll have to dig for it. It might even be right in front of you - or maybe, as in the new book "The Things We Make" by Bill Hammack, Ph.D., the fix is in your hand.

Centuries ago, medieval builders of cathedrals were "elite workers (and) were well paid." Their supervisor, a head mason, the elite of the elite, "commanded benefits far surpassing" others because of his superior knowledge: he knew how to craft archways and windows that withstood the weight of tons of stone without collapsing. Though the head mason was likely illiterate, he knew this because he had a rule of thumb.

It was, in the end, just a matter of simple engineering. It worked, wrote Hammack, because using rules of thumb can help attain the "best change in a poorly understood situation using available resources" - and we use such rules

often, sometimes without even realizing it. Using rules of thumb, he said, is true every time anyone "has designed a solution to a complex problem ... for millennia of human history."

This rule of thumb method - this "engineering method" - is why land-line receivers are as long as they are: female secretaries were the primary users of early business telephones; a series of rule-of-thumb measurements told inventors that the space between a woman's ear and her mouth was just this distance. It's how European automakers should make crash-test dummies. It's why some women's bikes are more comfortable to ride than others. Hammack cited a scientist who had access to rules of thumb and became "obsessed" with moving water in order to understand the dynamics of fluid, and a scientist who figured out how one computer's bits avoid colliding with other computers online. In all cases, the "engineering method" led to a solution.

Without it, said Hammack, humanity would be at a stand-still.

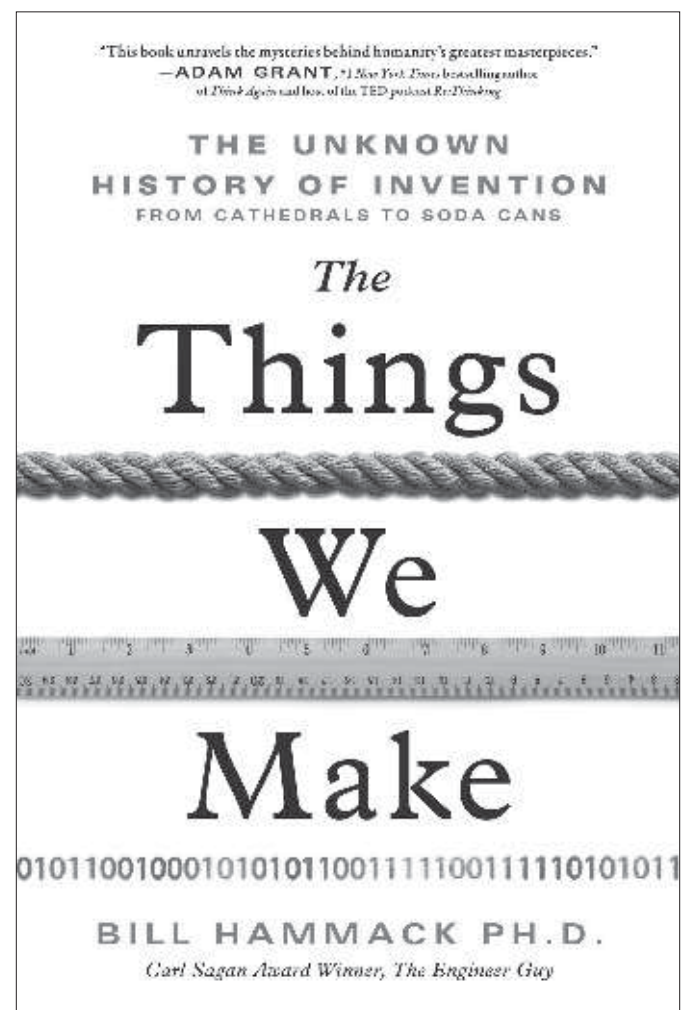
Sometimes, you're too busy to notice.

There's splendor in the every-

day but so much goes unnoticed: the design of your belongings, the alcoves in a building, the lean of a bicyclist on the sidewalk. These are things that, once seen, can't be unseen and in "The Things We Make," your eyes will be opened.

But first: if you're a tinkerer, you're science-minded, or if you live by workarounds, author Bill Hammack makes you feel even smarter, explaining how you've become a link in history merely because you've used an interesting, ancient crowd-source that you (maybe) didn't know existed. Go ahead, boast, but notice, too, that this book also begs readers to stop and appreciate the mundane and the magnificent. Someone else used an "engineering method," too, and we can't live without the fruits of their labors.

Be aware: this book takes a deep dive into science and it's not for everyone. If you're fascinated by engineering, though, find "The Things We Make" and tap into it.



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Things We Make" by Bill Hammack Ph.D., *The Engineer Guy* c.2023, Sourcebooks. \$26.99, 272 pages

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### Texans fall in WAC tourney quarterfinals, get set for CBI tourney

TSU Sports Information

Upon just their third year of reclassification to NCAA Division I and on the heels of their first D1 winning regular season, Tarleton State University's men's basketball team has accepted an invitation to the College Basketball Invitational.

The Texans will continue their season at the 2023 Discount Tire College Basketball Invitational, which is regarded as one of the top national postseason tournaments at the Division I level. "When the season starts, it's every team's goal to be invited to compete in the post-season," said head coach Billy Gillispie. "We are extremely happy to be one of the teams selected this year.

"These players have played their hearts out for Tarleton State University and are as deserving as any team in the country to still be playing," the coach continued. "We have had a lot of outstanding moments in our Division I journey with even better things in store for the future and this tournament is a springboard for perennial postseason success."

Tarleton, which was tabbed as the No. 7 seed, and was scheduled to open the CBI against 10th-seeded Radford (Virginia) University on March 19. Radford competes in the Big South conference and

was 19-14 (12-6) so far on the season.

#### WAC TOURNAMENT

LAS VEGAS — The seventh-seeded Tarleton State University Texans had another competitive men's basketball contest in their first ever WAC Tournament, but the second-seeded Utah Valley Wolverines ran away with it late to win the quarterfinal matchup 72-58.

The Texans' run in the WAC Tournament may be over, but their season may not be. At 17-16, Tarleton still had a strong chance for a postseason tournament invite, eligible to participate in everything except the NCAA Tournament and NIT, due to their ongoing reclassification period.

The WAC regular season champion Wolverines improved to 25-7 with the win and were scheduled to face the winner of the last quarterfinal game between (3) Southern Utah and (11) Utah Tech.



COURTESY OF TSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Men's basketball postseason play is not over for Tarleton State University's Texans after their quarterfinal loss in the WAC Tournament, in which Jakorie Smith (23, pictured putting up a shot) scored 12 points. The Texans were invited to the Discount Tire College Basketball Invitational to compete in the program's first NCAA Division I postseason national tournament. Tarleton, the No. 7 seed, was scheduled to open that tournament against 10th-seeded Radford on March 19.

The Texans gave it their all on March 9 at Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, their second game in their first ever WAC Tournament, the first year they were eligible to compete in it. The Texans stormed back from a 10-point first half deficit to within a couple of possessions most of the second half, getting within a point with just over 14 minutes to play. But the Wolverines pounded the boards and blocked 10 shots, using a late 16-5 run to turn a 47-43 lead into a 63-48 advantage with five minutes to play.

The Wolverines out-rebounded the Texans 37-26 and outshot them 26-of-48 (.542) to 20-of-56 (.357). They also made 7-of-15 (.467) from distance compared to Tarleton's 2-of-9 (.222) mark. The Texans won the turnover battle for the ninth straight time, scoring 23 points off

of 20 Utah Valley turnovers while allowing just five points off of 13 giveaways.

Jakorie Smith led the Texans in scoring for the second straight time in Las Vegas with 12 points, adding three rebounds and two steals.

Four Texans scored in double figures, two starters and two reserves, Smith being one of them. Shamir Bogues had 11 points on 5-of-9 shooting, five rebounds and two steals. Freddy Hicks had 10 points, a team-high eight rebounds and two steals. Tiger Booker totaled 10 points and three steals. Shakur Daniel finished with eight points, a team-high four assists and two steals. Lue Williams rounded out the scoring with seven points and three rebounds.

Utah Valley had big nights out of Justin Harmon (23 points, 10-14 FG, three steals) and Trey Woodbury (21 points, 6-9 FG, 4-6 3PT, seven

rebounds, four assists). Plus, Aziz Bandaogo had a strong second half, scoring 11 of his 12 points in the final 10 minutes, with seven rebounds and three blocked shots in the game.

Hicks opened the quarterfinal battle with a layup to give Tarleton an immediate lead, then both teams traded buckets to account for all five lead changes the game would see early. When Utah Valley made it 8-6 on a Woodbury triple, it would not relinquish the lead the remainder of the contest, although Tarleton was right with Utah Valley throughout.

Daniel had the midrange working in the first half, and calmly made it 10-8 at the 14-minute mark with a deep deuce. Utah Valley held Tarleton in check for a good stretch, taking a 25-15 lead with under five minutes to play, before Williams made the Texans' first longball to

cut the deficit to seven.

Booker ended the opening half in style, finishing a nice drive to make it 29-23 with two minutes to play, then immediately getting a steal and finish to cut the deficit to four. Daniel made another long two with 10 seconds left to send the purple and white into the locker room down seven at the break, 34-27.

Hicks and Bogues scored the first four points of the second half to get Tarleton back within three, then Smith picked off Woodbury a bit later and finished the play to bring Tarleton within two, 37-35.

Smith later took a fast break opportunity to the hole and made it a one-point game, 41-40, with 14:21 left. The teams traded baskets over the next few minutes before Utah Valley went on their run that essentially iced the game.

### Texans top UTA for season's first WAC baseball win

TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — A wild pitch that escaped UT-Arlington's catcher brought Tarleton State University's Jack Wagner sliding safely home from third base as the Texans completed a comeback walking the Mavericks off 5-4 in the ninth inning on March 12 at the TUS Baseball Complex.

It was the Texans' (11-5, 1-2 WAC) first Western

Athletic Conference win of the season as they avoided a series sweep by the Mavericks (7-8, 2-1 WAC). It was Texans' first win over UTA at the Division I level after losing in their first five tries.

Trailing 4-1 heading into the bottom of the eighth inning, the Texans proceeded to scratch across three runs to tie the game at four. With two outs and two runners on, Kooper Shook's RBI single made it 4-2.

Grant Kerry and Cole Miears were then hit by pitches in consecutive at-bats as the Texans made it 4-3. The tying run came courtesy of a UTA wild pitch as Shook jetted home from third base.

The game-winning run in the ninth came the same way as the runs in the eighth did, with two outs. Jack Wagner singled to left field, the first baserunner of the inning after two Texan groundouts. Carter Dobrinski singled to right

field in the next at-bat, pushing Wagner to third. Wagner then scored on a passed ball while Shook was batting.

Jake Burcham (W, 1-1) threw three innings, blanking the Mavericks in the eighth and ninth innings to help fuel the Texan comeback and earn his first win of the season. He had two strikeouts and two walks, allowing just one run in the seventh inning on four hits.

The Texans' first run came

courtesy of Cole Miears in the third inning, as he answered UTA's one spot in the top half with a solo home run to left field, his second homer of the season.

UTA plated two runs in the sixth as Tyson Pointer doubled down the left field line to score one and Cade Sumbler hit an RBI single as the Mavericks took a 3-1 lead. Wilson Galvan led the Mavs with three hits, an RBI and run scored.

Hunter Day got the starting nod on the mound for Tarleton and threw six innings, allowing three runs on eight hits, striking out four. Connery Peters (0-2) was given the loss as two runs (one earned) scored on his watch in the final 1-1/3 innings.

Miears led Tarleton with two hits and two RBIs. Mason Hammonds also added two hits while Wagner had one hit, two walks and two runs scored.

### Anderson wins in Sugar Land, team takes third place

TSU Sports Information

SUGAR LAND — Jack Anderson was already having an incredible spring, and it got exponentially better on March 7 in the Colin Montgomerie Invitational.

Anderson holed two birdies late to cap off his tournament victory, the first indi-



Anderson

vidual title by a Texan in the NCAA Division I era, as he shot 12-under par for medalist honors. Max Bengtsson placed tied-sixth to help lead Tarleton to a third place re-

sult and their best score to par of the season at -10.

"It's been awesome to watch Jack turn the corner this semester, he's played solid golf from the get-go," head coach Chance Cain said. "He was steady all tournament and it was awesome to see him drop two birdies in the final three holes to come

out on top by two. Max also played fantastic this week. It's good to see his confidence back to where it needs to be and shooting the scores he knows he's capable of.

"Overall, it was a great performance by the team," Cain continued. "We'll have a nice little break until we head to UTRGV in Kerrville at the end

of the month."

This makes two top-two finishes in the last three tournaments for Anderson, following his silver medal achievement at the Pat Hicks Invitational in St. George, Utah, in mid-February. This time around at Sweetwater Country Club in Sugar Land, Texas, Anderson was top of

the leaderboard at -12 (68-66-70), his best score of the year. He surpassed his -8 finish at the Pat Hicks Invitational.

The Texans will have a lengthy break before their next tournament, The Big Texan Invitational at Comanche Trace in Kerrville on March 27-28.

### Fifteen Tarleton athletes earn medals in season's first outdoor meet

TSU Sports Information

ARLINGTON — Tarleton State University's track and field teams competed March 9-10 in the UTA Invite at Maverick Stadium in the Texans' first outdoor meet of the 2023 season.

The Texans collected 15 individual medals and two team medals for a successful outing competing against the likes of UTA, the

University of North Texas, Dallas Baptist, and TCU.

On the women's side, five student-athletes took home medals. Jordan Anglin won the women's 400m, running it in 56.28 seconds. Two more Texans finished second and third in the 400m for an all-Tarleton podium appearance. Macie Evans finished second, running 57.98 and Alessa King came in third with a time of 58.29.

TSU freshman Jordan Rae, from Coleman, took home first place honors in the women's high jump as she cleared 1.69m.

Rese Schoonover finished second in the 400m hurdles, running it in 1:04.67. The native of Stratford also medaled in the 100m hurdles, finishing third with a time of 14.97 seconds.

The women's 4x400m relay team took third place,

running 3:56.30. Macie Evans, Jordan Anglin, Alessa King and Brenna Lee made up the squad.

The men's side saw eight athletes medal. Jacksonville College transfer Everett Sadler won the 100m dash, in 10.66 seconds.

Konnor Hoerman took first place in the 110m hurdles with a run of 14.64 seconds, a personal best.

Freshman Noah Newman

earned first place in the 400m hurdles, completing it in 53.95 seconds. Brady Sisneroz placed third in the 400m hurdles, in 54.97 seconds.

McMurry University transfer Dazhuan Walton was a second-place finisher in the 200m with a time of 21.92 seconds.

Freshman Canyon Staton placed third in the 400m with a time of 48.75 seconds.

Fellow freshman Ca'terrin Cox took third in the 110m hurdles, finishing in 14.93 seconds.

Ethan Bratton took fourth place in the men's discus, throwing 47.52m.

The TSU men's 4x400m relay team took third place, finishing in 3:25.21. Noah Newman, Braylon Hoffman, Bryson Crippen and Ca'terrin Cox made up the squad.



# Fiber Arts for Everyone meets at library

The Fibers Arts for Everyone group continues to meet at the Gatesville Public Library every other Monday from 3-4:30 p.m. The group's activities include knitting,

crocheting, quilting, needle felting, cross stitch, along with many other forms of fiber arts.

The group started meeting a little over a year ago and

now boasts about 25 members who attend every other Monday.

The fiber enthusiasts invite newcomers and beginners to join the group so that they

can be given instructions on how to work with fiber. If you would like to visit one of the meetings, bring a current project or a project you would like to start but don't

quite know how to begin.

Donations of yarn are also welcomed, and can be donated to the group by contacting Linda Bramhall at 682-262-6505.

DAVID SCOTT  
| THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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## World's Biggest Bee

The world's biggest bee, called **Wallace's giant bee**, disappeared almost 40 years ago. Scientists thought it was gone forever, or extinct.

In 2019, scientists traveled into the forests of Indonesia. There, they discovered a living Wallace's giant bee!

**Giant Jaws**  
The giant bee has enormous jaws called **mandibles**. It uses the mandibles to scrape sticky **resin** off trees. They use the resin to build burrows within termite nests, where females raise their young.

**Does it sting?**  
Wallace's giant bee **does** sting. But, unlike the honeybee, it does not die when it stings.

**What does a giant bee eat?**  
Like other bees, they feed on nectar and pollen but they don't make honey. Follow the maze and write down the letters along the correct path to discover how much larger Wallace's giant bee is than a typical honeybee.

**How much larger is Wallace's giant bee than a typical honeybee?**  
F \_\_\_\_\_

**How Big?**  
Use the code to discover why the giant bee causes such buzz in the scientific community!

Wingspan: \_\_\_\_\_ inches ( \_\_\_\_\_ cm)

About as long as an adult human thumb: \_\_\_\_\_ inches long ( \_\_\_\_\_ cm)

**The Big Bee with Many Names**  
Use the code to discover different names this big bee is called.

Indonesians call it **Raja Ofi** which means:

7	19	22	16	18	13	20
12	21	25	22	22	8	
21	15	2	18	13	20	
25	6	15	15	23	12	20

**CODE**

26 = A	13 = N
25 = B	12 = O
24 = C	11 = P
23 = D	10 = Q
22 = E	9 = R
21 = F	8 = S
20 = G	7 = T
19 = H	6 = U
18 = I	5 = V
17 = J	4 = W
16 = K	3 = X
15 = L	2 = Y
14 = M	1 = Z

**What bees are these?**  
Do the math to label each of these bees!

14 + 17 = Pigmented Miner Bee  
17 + 11 = Western Bumble Bee  
18 + 18 = Valley Carpenter Bee  
13 + 13 = Western Honeybee

**Extra! Extra!**  
**Big, Bigger, BIGGEST**

Look through the newspaper for pictures of three things. Cut them out and glue them to a piece of paper in order from big, bigger to biggest. Do the same thing to show things that are small, smaller and smallest.

**Standards Link:** Understand comparative and superlative forms.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### The Cutest Bee on Earth

These bees, with scientific name *Amegilla bombiformis*, look cute and cuddly. If you want to snuggle up with one of these bees, you're in for a treat because the male bees don't sting. These bees live in Australia. Circle every other letter to reveal the nickname for this bee.

C T R E L D N D W  
Y K B C E H A J  
R V B U E F F E

T \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Standards Link:** Follow simple written directions.

### Kid Scoop Together

## World's Smallest Bee

Unscramble the letters to find the missing words.

One bee is teeny tiny. Scientists call it the *Perdita minima*. Many people call it the \_\_\_\_\_.

**YRIAF EBE**

The fairy bee lives in the American southwest. It lives alone and makes a tiny nest in sandy desert \_\_\_\_\_.

**LISO**

The fairy bee grows to be less than two millimeters long. Its entire body can easily fit on the head of an averaged-size bee.

People who look for this tiny bee look for its shadow on the ground. It is easier to find its shadow than the bee.

This bee is so small that it can easily pass through the mesh of insect \_\_\_\_\_.

**TENS**

**Standards Link:** Spell grade appropriate words correctly.

### Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

## Endangered Species

Look for articles about animals that are endangered. What is causing each animal's endangerment? What can be done to prevent the loss?

**Standards Link:** Use evidence from text to support a position.

### Write On!

## Buzzy Day

One day I woke up and I was a bee. Then ...

*Finish this story.*

The numbers on the flower petals add up to the number in the center of the flower. **Oops!** All but one petal, that is! Figure out which petal on each flower needs to be plucked so that the numbers on the petals add up to the number in the center.

**Standards Link:** Calculate sums and differences.



# Gatesville Hornets swarm state capitol



Gatesville High School law enforcement and debate students recently visited the Texas capitol building in Austin, where they visited with District 59 state Rep. Shelby Slawson.

COURTESY PHOTOS

## Students get insight into legislative and political topics

Star Hamilton's Law Enforcement and Debate students at Gatesville High School recently took a road trip to Austin to the state capitol where they visited with District 59 Texas state Representative Shelby Slawson (R, Stephenville). In addition to visiting with Rep. Slawson, the students took a tour of the capitol building.

About their visit, Slawson commented "Gatesville Hornets in the Texas House! We were thrilled to welcome a group of Gatesville ISD students to their Capitol. They brought in-

sightful questions about bills important to our region and general legislative and political topics of interest. District 59's kids are our future leaders, and these young men and women do their community proud!"

The GHS students visiting the capitol included Ellie Knobloch, Alaynah Wrisk, Avery Streetman, Aerialle Appleton, Alex Johnson, Mackenzie Stacher, Natalie Fast, Devyn Ayala, Grayson Stewart, Josh Coalston, Wyatt Lea, and Carson Barnett.

## Gatesville March Madness Pickleball Tournament winners recognized



COLLEEN FITZER | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured, from left, are the first and second place finishers in the 2023 March Madness Indoor Pickleball Tournament: First place, Silver Division, Alex Scott and Rachel Conner; first place, Gold Division; Calvin Ford and Slone Early; second place, Gold Division, Cort and Kylie Dixon; and second place, Silver Division, Chance and Tori Taylor.

The 2023 March Madness Indoor Pickleball Tournament was recently held at the Gatesville Civic Center, sponsored by Gatesville Parks and Recreation. Eighteen teams across two divisions battled for three days for a shot at bringing home hardware.

In the Gold Division, first place went to The Young & The Old team (Calvin Ford and Slone Early). Second place was awarded to the Del Dixon Sour Pickleball team (Cort and Kylie Dixon). Third place went to 1829 Special (Will Davidson and Kelsey Sage).

In the Silver Division, Alex Scott and Rachel Conner won first place. Second place was awarded to Dixon Realty (Chance and Tori Taylor) and third place went to Maria Dorta and Kenneth Whited.

## Swarm Wideman slates golf tournament April 1

### STAFF REPORT

Swarm Wideman 16U will host a golf tournament on April 1 at the Gatesville Country Club. Tee time will be at 10 a.m.

The cost for each team will be \$250 for the four-man scramble. Cash prizes will be awarded to first and second places. First place will be \$500, and second place will be awarded \$300. Mulligans will be awarded, \$5 dollars each.

To sponsor a hole, the cost will be \$100.

For more information or to sponsor a hole contact Chris Garrett at 254-702-1170. Gatesville Country Club is located at 1308 Golf Course Road in Gatesville.

## Tickled Pink Dance Studio accepting sponsorships

Tickled Pink Dance Studio is taking sponsorships for their competing dance teams for the 2023 spring and summer seasons. The funds will help finance all costume and accessory fees, contest registration fees, and travel and accommodation expenses required for traveling.

Tickled Pink Dance Studio's competition teams will be competing in the StarQuest National Dance Competitions taking place in Austin, Baytown and at the World Finals in Galveston. There are three teams that will be competing in the events. The teams include the Rainbow Team, the Glitter Team and the Diamond Team.

Sponsorship options include Gold Level Sponsor which will cost \$300, the Silver Level Sponsor which will cost \$200, and the Bronze Level Sponsor which will cost \$100. Each sponsor will receive recognition with its logo on the dance team shirts, a logo and business highlight on the Tickled Pink Dance Studio Facebook page and its logo on the dance banner used for spring recital pictures.

Make checks payable to Tickled Pink Dance Studio. All receipts will be emailed to each sponsor. For more information on sponsorships, contact the Tickled Pink Dance Studio at 830-279-9851. Tickled Pink Dance Studio is located at 409 N. TX-36 Ste. 2 in Gatesville.

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# Small renovations that can make a big impact

(MetroCreative Connection)

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra "go big or go home" when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that's not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners' bucks as well.

## COUNTERTOPS AND HARDWARE

A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners' budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners' ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

## PAINT

Painting a space is an inex-

pensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

## LIGHTING

Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It's worth it to invest in new lighting,

whether it's a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

## WEATHERPROOFING

Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for

around 45 percent of all energy costs.

## MUDROOM

Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

## ACCENT UPDATES

Any space, whether it's inside or outside a home,

can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes.

## Customer service is top priority for Whitt Building Supplies



COURTESY PHOTO

Since opening in 2015, Whitt Building Supplies has focused on strong customer service, a philosophy that has helped the business thrive and expand.

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
Senior Writer & Editor

Since 2015, Whitt Building Supplies has made customer service its priority, and that commitment has led to expansion and to helping people not only in Coryell County and Central Texas, but throughout the state.

Owned by Brandon Latham, Doug Young and Jimmie Cummings, the business, located at 1411 Texas

Highway 36 in Gatesville, has thrived in helping people to meet needs with metal buildings and all types of farm and ranch supplies.

"We have two 18-wheelers that deliver all over Texas and three dualies (pickup trucks) that pull trailers (with supplies) all day, every day," said Whitt employee Chase Cole.

He said Whitt is working on a new and improved website that will have 3D building designs for customers

to view.

Billy Latham has worked for Whitt since 2017 and has seen the business grow significantly.

"We've multiplied by quadruple I'd imagine," Latham said. "We are also getting our other store up and running in Marlin."

He added that Jacque Hobgood has been with the business "from the start, and she's been (Brandon Latham's) right hand in everything."

The store owners and employees have a strong depth of experience in serving customers, and a personal touch has helped attract and keep customers.

Asked what has allowed the business to be successful, Latham said it's a commitment to doing things right and catering to what customers need.

"I'd say the efficiency of how everything is run," Latham said. "Customer service is the number one

thing we pride ourselves on. We take care of things right away and you don't have to wait for a response from corporate somewhere. People can call us and deal with a person on the phone right away. We treat people right and that's what keeps them coming back."

From the Texas coast to the Panhandle and all places in between, Whitt has a presence.

"We have trucks running all over the place," Latham

said. "It's really good small-town service. Anything people need they can give us a call. We have 14 or 15 people and it's a multimillion-dollar business. Because we just have a handful of people, we have to keep our head on a swivel and stay busy. Everyone who works here is important to helping our customers."

"Give us a call at any time. There's nothing too big or too small for us. We'll get it done."

## Safety upgrades to consider for seniors who are living at home

(MetroCreative Connection)

Many seniors want to spend as long as possible residing in the comforts of their own homes. According to AARP's 2021 "Home and Community Preferences Survey," more than three-quarters of U.S. adults age 50 and older prefer living at home. But getting older often comes with certain deficits that may not make current living situations the safest for seniors.

Retirement Living reports that an older person is treated in an emergency room for a fall-related injury nearly once every 10 sec-

onds. Falls cause millions of injuries and 32,000 deaths a year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Seniors may be affected by low vision, mobility limitations, cognitive decline, balance issues, and loss of muscle strength. Certain adaptations may be necessary if seniors want to stay in their homes, particularly in older homes that have not recently been renovated.

### CHANGE KNOBS TO LEVERS

This is an easy modification. Levers are much easier for individuals with arthritis or persons who lack

dexterity in their hands. Everything from doorknobs to faucet knobs can be replaced with levers.

### CREATE ZERO-THRESHOLD ENTRYWAYS

Zero-threshold entryways, also known as flush entries, do not require crossing a lip or any raised barrier. They can appear on doorways and showers and make it easy for people who have mobility issues, as well as those using scooters, walkers and wheelchairs, to move about unencumbered.

### CLEAR CLUTTER/ MOVE OBSTRUCTIONS

One inexpensive modification is to remove extraneous furniture and accessories. Such a change widens walking spaces in a room and accommodates walkers and wheelchairs. In addition, furniture can be pushed to the room's perimeter to make moving around easier. It's also important to remove area rugs, as they're often tripping hazards.

### INSTALL GRAB RAILS AND SUPPORTS

Minimizing falls could

come down to providing support in key rooms of a home. Adding grab rails in the bathroom near the toilet and in the shower can help a person use those facilities without assistance. Install a grab rail close to seating in the kitchen to add support.

### CONSIDER SMART LIGHTING

Motion-activated or darkness-activated lighting switches and fixtures can automatically turn on lights, thereby improving visibility. Also, rocker light switches are easier to maneuver than standard toggles.

### INVEST IN A STAIRLIFT

Single-story homes are preferable for growing older gracefully, but many seniors live in multi-story homes. A stairlift makes a multi-floor home more accessible, according to Elder, an eldercare service provider. Stairlifts make it easier to traverse staircases and reduce the risk for falls.

These suggestions are just a few of the many home modifications that can help seniors safely age in place.

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# Do I want to DIY?

Three questions to determine if it's best to renovate on your own

(MetroCreative Connection)

do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it's best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners are the same, but the follow-

ing three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

## CAN I AFFORD TO DIY?

Professional home improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes.

Projects that are minor in scope and don't require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

## DO I HAVE THE TIME?

Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

## CAN I PULL THIS OFF?

DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it's imperative that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack

of renovation experience does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals.

Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they're ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.

**COURTESY PHOTO**  
No two homeowners are the same, but there are three questions that can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.



## Budget-friendly ways to freshen up the exterior of your home

(MetroCreative Connection)

As any homeowner knows, renovation projects tend to cost a lot of money. The average cost of a home renovation is difficult to gauge, as such endeavors run the gamut from complex projects like a kitchen overhaul to simpler ones like painting a room inside a home. Indeed, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry notes that scope is what drives the cost of a renovation project.

Though there might not be an "average cost" of a renovation project, homeowners can expect to spend thousands of dollars on projects that are not very small in scale. Navigating such an expense at a time when inflation remains high might be difficult for some homeowners looking to maintain the appearance of their home exteriors. However, there are many budget-friendly ways homeowners can tend to the exterior of their properties.

### POWER WASHING

Power washing won't break the bank but it can revive the look of a home. Power washing removes dirt and grime from the siding of a home and a power washing can be used to clean porches, walkways and patios as well. Hardware chains like Home Depot and Lowes typically rent power washers, but homeowners who don't want to do it themselves can hire a professional for a few hundred dollars, if not less. Power washing after winter can be a good idea, as the elements can take a toll on a home's exterior. A good power washing before spring and summer entertaining season can thus give a home a fresh, clean look without breaking the bank.

### FURNISHED FRONT PORCH

A furnished front porch can serve as a welcome sign to neighbors and provide a great place to relax with a morning cup of coffee and a good book. Homeowners with a small porch won't need to bust their budgets to upgrade their front porch furnishings. Some small chairs with bright cushions, a small table and a rug underfoot can revamp an entryway at low cost.

### WINDOW BOX INSTALLATION

Installing window box planters is another cost-effective way to brighten up a home's exterior. Homeowners can hang window boxes outside windows on the front of their homes and then fill them with brightly colored flowers to add an inviting pop of color to their home exteriors. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens urge homeowners to take weight into consideration before buying window planters. Keep in mind that soil and developed plants can be heavy, so look for a sturdy box as well as one that has drainage holes.

### REPLACE HARDWARE


Another simple way to freshen up a stale exterior is to replace hardware. Door knobs, knockers, house numbers, and even the mailbox can appear dated after a while. Replacing these items is inexpensive and quick but can have a profound impact on how the exterior of a home appears to residents and visitors.

Exterior renovations need not break the bank. Various simple and inexpensive tweaks can quickly revitalize the exterior of a home.




There are many budget-friendly ways homeowners can tend to the exterior of their properties.

COURTESY PHOTO




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# Learn the basics of container gardening

(MetroCreative Connection)

**G**ardening is a rewarding hobby that has been linked to health benefits like reduced stress and improved mental well-being. Gardening also can lead to an inviting home landscape full of attractive blooms and/or delicious foods.

Backyard gardens have long been planted after clearing a plot of land, tilling and amending the soil, and planting rows of favorite crops. However, gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

## WHAT IS CONTAINER GARDENING?

As its name implies, container gardening is growing plants inside of containers. These containers can be flower pots, rectangular deck boxes or even large raised

garden beds.

## PROS TO CONTAINER GARDENING

One of the advantages of container gardening is that plants can be moved in and out of sunlight to ensure the right growing conditions. This isn't as easily achieved when gardens are stationary. Also, beginner gardeners may be more able to control soil conditions inside of a small container rather than a vast ground-based garden, which will require a good deal of manual labor. Pots and boxes also can be grouped together to create eye-popping displays, usually at lower costs than the sheer volume of plants that would be needed to fill out an expansive landscape.

## CONS TO CONTAINER GARDENING

Container garden plants

will not have direct access to the ground, so they need gardeners to create the ideal growing conditions. Developing the right care formula can be challenging. The home and garden resource The Spruce says that drainage is an important factor in container gardening, and most containers do not offer enough drainage holes. If water cannot escape the soil, the roots of the plants can rot and die. It's not enough to add stones or gravel to the bottom of containers. Drill additional holes in the bottom (1/2-inch in diameter for small or medium-sized pots; one inch in diameter for larger pots). Also, be sure to check on soil moisture so that watering can be adjusted. During hot stretches, plants may need to be watered more frequently.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

## PLAN FOR PLANTS THAT PLAY WELL

Grouping plants together can create visually stunning combinations. However, it is important to choose plants that require the same amount of light and moisture. Look at plant tags when visiting the garden center and select complementary plants, or ask a store employee. Mixing different

plant shapes, colors and leaf textures, as well as plants of various heights, can help containers look filled out.

## FEED PLANTS ACCORDINGLY

Plants need nutrition to thrive in containers. Quality potting mixes will contain fertilizers, but nutrition will wane over time. Every couple of weeks, container plants will need either fresh potting mix or granular fertilizer

added to feed them. Oregon State University Extension Services suggests using a slow-release fertilizer or worm castings several times throughout the season.

Container gardening is a great way to add plants to smaller patios, reduce the workload involved in maintaining expansive gardens, and customize conditions for optimal growth.

# Four tips to pick the right plants for your landscape

(MetroCreative Connection)

**E**ach year, gardening enthusiasts anxiously await the arrival of spring. Spring is a great season to plant new flowers, plants, grasses, and trees, making it a popular time of year to spend sunny days out in the yard.

Veteran gardeners may know their landscapes well and be able to pick the right plants on their own. Novices may need a little help as they look to give their landscapes a whole new look. The following are some tips to help homeowners pick the right plants for their landscapes.

## CONDUCT A SITE EVALUATION

A colorful landscape featuring an array of plants and flowers can be eye-catching and add curb appeal to a property. However, where plants will be planted is a significant variable that must be considered before homeowners choose what to plant. The Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst notes that site evaluation is the first step when picking plants. A number of factors must be evaluated, including light availability; water availability; exposure to the elements, including wind and extreme temperatures; and competition from existing vegetation, among other things. Document these variables prior to picking plants. For example, take note of the area you plan to plant to see if it is full sun or partial shade, and then pick plants whose growing conditions align with those you observe.



COURTESY PHOTO

The maintenance required to keep a plant healthy and looking good is a key consideration when designing a landscape.

## LOOK AT MORE THAN LOOKS

Aesthetic appeal might be what homeowners most desire from their landscapes, but that appeal is only achieved when the right plants are chosen for a space. If the wrong plants are chosen, they're unlikely to thrive or they could threaten existing vegetation, thus compromising the overall appeal of the property. Native plants can often handle local weather conditions,

so prioritize natives over more exotic plants whose key attribute is aesthetic appeal. If jaw-dropping aesthetic appeal is your top priority, speak with a local landscaping professional about which natives can provide that without compromising surrounding vegetation.

## CONSIDER MAINTENANCE PRIOR TO PLANTING

Maintenance is another

variable gardeners must consider. Newly planted trees may require substantial watering until they've fully established their roots, and some homeowners may not have time for that. In addition, certain plants may require a considerable amount of pruning in order to create and maintain the look homeowners desire. Individuals must be willing to invest the time and effort necessary to maintain new plantings that

require such diligence. If not, look for plants that don't require much maintenance while keeping in mind that even low-maintenance plants still require some effort and attention.

## CONSIDER LOCAL WILDLIFE

If your lawn is routinely visited by local wildlife, then look for plants that won't look like a meal to these welcome, if uninvited, guests. For example, if you routinely

see deer lounging around in your backyard, look for deer-resistant plants. This is a good way to protect your investment, of both time and money, and ensure minimal wildlife traffic through your newly landscaped yard.

Spring gardens are awe-inspiring, especially when homeowners embrace various strategies for successful planting.

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# The many benefits of houseplants

(MetroCreative Connection)

The lines between the outdoors and indoors are being blurred. Homeowners build extensive outdoor living spaces so they can relax on weather-resistant furniture and even cook in lavish kitchens in their backyards. In addition, indoor three-season rooms full of bright, open windows that showcase outdoor vistas challenge the boundaries between outside and inside.

For those working with limited budgets, there are some inexpensive ways to enjoy the majesty of natural landscapes indoors. Houseplants can be used to improve indoor spaces, and they also provide various health benefits.

## HELP WITH ALLERGIES

According to WebMD, rooms with houseplants tend to have less dust and mold in them than those without. Leaves and other parts of the plants serve as natural filters, catching airborne particles and allergens. Plants with textured leaves might be especially effective at trapping particles.

## PUT MORE OXYGEN INTO THE AIR

The human respiratory system works by bringing in oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide. Plants do the opposite during photosynthesis. They absorb carbon dioxide and then release oxygen. Plants can put much more oxygen into the air, improving indoor conditions.

## INCREASE INDOOR HUMIDITY AND REDUCE ILLNESS

Studies from the Agricultural University of Norway found that indoor plants can increase humid-

ity in indoor spaces, which decreases the incidences of sore throats, dry coughs, dry skin, and the common cold. Higher absolute humidity can decrease the chances of survival and transmission of the flu virus.

## FILTER THE AIR

Researchers who presented their work at the 252nd National Meeting & Exposition of the American Chemical Society found certain houseplants can combat the potentially harmful effects of volatile organic compounds. Plants may help filter out VOCs like benzene, acetone and formaldehyde, which can enter indoor air via cleaning supplies, dry-cleaned clothes, furniture, printers, and paints.

## IMPROVE INTERIOR ATMOSPHERE

Prevention magazine says plants can be used to screen unattractive areas, moderate room temperature by shading spots from the sun and

even reduce noise. Plants also can improve ambiance and create a pleasing atmosphere in a room.

## CAN IMPROVE MOOD

Growing and caring for plants can alleviate everyday stress. A nationwide study from UK Magazine Gardeners World found 80 percent of gardeners declared themselves satisfied with life compared to 67 percent among non-gardeners. Gardeners were more positive mentally. Greenery can help people feel more at home and improve mental health. A rehab center in Norway found patients reported a greater increase in well-being four weeks after having greenery added to their surroundings.

Houseplants can improve indoor areas and positively affect personal health.



Houseplants can be used to improve indoor spaces, and they also provide various health benefits.

COURTESY PHOTO

# Poisonous plants to avoid around the house

(MetroCreative Connection)

Homeowners must consider various factors when choosing plants to display in and around their homes. That's because, despite their beauty, various plants are toxic to humans and animals.

Avoiding potentially poisonous plants can prevent injuries and even deaths. Here's a list of some plants homeowners may want to avoid.

## RHODODENDRON

Rhododendrons produce flower clusters that bloom in the spring. They also pro-

duce thick, glossy leaves that thrive in the fall and winter in many areas. If any part of the plant is swallowed it can cause vomiting and potentially slow the pulse.

## LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY

This popular plant grows close to the ground, blooming bell-shaped, sweet-smelling flowers. If large doses of the toxin in this plant are ingested, it can gradually slow the heart down and potentially prove fatal.

## DUMB CANE

The houseplant dieffenbachia, commonly known as Dumb cane, adds tropical

appeal indoors. The sap of the plant causes the tongue to burn and swell, enough to block off air to the throat. It can be fatal if ingested by both pets and humans.

## ENGLISH IVY

This go-to draping vine looks lovely cascading down from planters or shelving. While its toxins need to be ingested in large amounts to cause problems, English ivy can cause skin irritation, rash and fever, particularly after eating the berries.

## BITTERSWEET NIGHTSHADE

Bittersweet nightshade grows as a weed on some

properties. It's particularly problematic for those who have pets or young kids because of the brightly colored berries it produces. The highest level of toxicity comes from these berries.

## FOXGLOVE

According to The Spruce: Decor, foxgloves are among the most toxic specimens commonly grown on landscapes. They are widely coveted for their pink, purple and white bell-shaped flowers that grow in tall spires. They're also deer- and rabbit-resistant, making them especially popular. However, foxgloves contain potent car-

diac glycosides that can be lethal in high doses.

## PHILODENDRON

Philodendron are easy to care for and hearty. While not fatal, a bite of philodendron can irritate the skin and cause nausea and swelling of the mouth, throat and tongue. Similar effects occur with Pothos, another common and hearty houseplant.

## YEW SHRUBS

The needlelike leaves of this shrub are toxic to humans and animals, as are the fleshy, bright red berries that grow toxic seeds. Kids may be tempted to pick and con-

sume these bright berries.

## PALMS

Several different palm trees are poisonous to people and pets. Palms are an overlooked source of poisoning tragedies in warmer climates. Formosa palm, Sago palm, Queen Sago, and Cardboard palm are some of the varieties that can cause issues if ingested or allergic skin reactions if touched.

When planning a landscape, work with a skilled garden expert to choose plants that will not be hazardous to family and pets.

## Are You Protected?



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# How to throw a last-minute dinner party

(MetroCreative Connection)

**D**o you feel like having a party? A spur-of-the-moment desire to host friends or family is not uncommon. Though it may be ideal to give yourself a few days to plan a dinner party and assemble what's needed to be your best host, sometimes inspiration strikes and compels people to throw last-minute dinner parties.

In such instances, these tips for putting together a feast on the fly can be especially valuable.

## KEEP IT SIMPLE

Build your menu around your own specialty, ideally one that is easy to prepare. Don't try out that fancy new cookbook recipe right now. Single-pot casseroles or pasta dishes whip up in a flash and can feed a crowd.

## STOCK ESSENTIALS AT HOME

It's easier to invite people over at the last minute if you don't have to shop for supplies. Keep a running in-



These tips for putting together a feast on the fly can be especially valuable.

COURTESY PHOTO

There likely won't be time to clean your entire home before an impromptu party. Therefore, focus on the kitchen, dining area and guest bathroom. Gather errant items from around the house and store in a bedroom behind closed doors. Close doors on other spaces that are off-limits during the party.

## GET THE KIDS INVOLVED

If you have children, give them jobs to help out. They can set tables, fill ice cube trays or run the vacuum over high-traffic areas. Removing some tasks from your to-do list can free your time for other needs.

## SCOUR YOUR HOME

Create interesting place settings or a festive table with items you already have on hand. Consider using food as functional decor on a table. A bowl of lemons makes an eye-catching centerpiece.

Make last-minute dinner parties happen with a few tricks of the trade.

ventory of foods that can be brought out at a moment's notice, such as items that may go on a charcuterie platter. Olives, block cheeses, crackers, salad fixings, cured

meats, and fresh vegetables can be arranged in a heart-beat. With a can of chick peas, some garlic, lemon juice, and parsley at the ready, you can quickly create

a homemade hummus, too. **CONSIDER A POTLUCK**

Guests may want to help out if they are invited over on short notice. A potluck is

a perfect way to fill a table with food with minimal effort, as everyone contributes a little something.

## CLEAN THE VISIBLE ROOMS

# Tips for organizing your cluttered kitchen

(MetroCreative Connection)

Kitchens serve as the heart of many homes. Thanks to the popularity of open floor plans, kitchens also tend to be highly visible from nearby spaces, such as family rooms and even main entryways. A messy, cluttered kitchen can be an inefficient eyesore that's visible from various locations in a home. That makes getting organized in the kitchen a worthwhile goal.

The following are some tips

to help homeowners organize their kitchens.

## START WITH THE UTENSILS

Utensils come in all shapes and sizes. Take inventory of your utensils, discarding or donating items you don't use. Next, designate drawers or countertop storage solutions for the utensils you use most often. Place them within easy reach, and take into account your dominant hand for placement.

## CATEGORIZE YOUR PANTRY

Empty the pantry, paying attention to staples you regularly use. Then figure out a system for categorization that works for your household. Perhaps place all baking essentials together, such as flour, oil, baking soda, and cocoa powder. Maybe you need to designate a "kids corner" in the pantry where you keep fruit snacks, granola bars and breakfast cereals. Use uniformly shaped containers to store packaged foods so you're not contending with

oddly shaped boxes and bags.

## USE EXTRA WALL OR CEILING SPACE

Large pots and pans can eat up cabinet space or clutter the inside of an oven for those who don't have any other space. While your decorative enamel Dutch oven might fit nicely on a shelf or counter, cast-iron pans and skillets can be hung from durable hooks over an island or near the stove.

## ORGANIZE UNDER THE SINK

It can be difficult to keep cleaning products tidy and within reach. Try installing a short tension rod inside the cabinet and use it to hang spray bottles, rubber gloves and cleaning cloths.

## TAME YOUR CONTAINER COLLECTION

It's tempting to save all of those take-out containers or empty margarine tubs for leftovers. But if there's an avalanche every time you open

up a cabinet to reach for a container, you probably have too many. Invest in one type of storage container so you can nest the containers and lids for ultimate organization.

An organized kitchen is more attainable than it may seem. Some simple strategies can help homeowners make these home hubs less cluttered and more calming.

# Candle crafts tap creativity

(MetroCreative Connection)

Crafting is enjoyed by children and adults. Even the most ardent arts and crafts enthusiasts might be surprised to learn that their favorite hobby can offer a number of benefits related to their health and well-being.

Research shows that regularly engaging in crafts can have tangible health benefits. The rhythmic and repetitive movements of certain crafts, as well as the need to focus one's attention, can produce a calm that helps anyone, including those who may experience anxiety, according to health and self-care resource Berkeley Wellness. In an online study published in the British Journal of Occupational Therapy that surveyed more than 3,500 knitters, researchers found knitting was "soothing" and "restful" and had meditative or zen-like qualities.

The sense of accomplish-

ment after completing a project is another great reason to engage in arts and crafts, which also may boost cognitive health by protecting certain neurological pathways in the brain.

There are many ways to engage with arts and crafts. Woodcrafting, painting, mosaic work, and metal arts are some popular activities.

One time-honed craft activity that is good for beginners or advanced crafters alike is candlemaking. Today's craft stores sell many different types of waxes and products that can produce beautiful scented candles.

## TEACUP CANDLES

Candles can be housed in various vessels, but a clever turn is to use teacups or mugs to mimic the look of popular beverages. There's also the reassurance that such beverage holders can withstand hot wax.

Start by visiting a craft store and choosing a type of

wax. Gel waxes are versatile and can boil, pour and set up easily. They'll also be mostly translucent, which is great for replicating the look of various drinks. Follow the instructions on the packages for usage and invest in coordinating wicks, colorants, and appropriate scents.

It's also necessary to choose a style of candle. In a teacup, a tea-colored hue wax paired with a lemon scent can be reminiscent of a hot cup of lemon tea. Use other glasses or mugs to replicate the looks and scents of hot chocolate, mimosas, cappuccino, and much more.

As you become more comfortable, experiment with incorporating molded wax embellishments, such as lemon slices, ice cubes, berries, or even cinnamon sticks. This will help drive home the realism and whimsy.

Treasure these candles for use around the house, or gift them to others on special occasions.



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