



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Firefighter of the Year credits teamwork with success

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Although Jeremy Stills was recently named the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year, he is quick to credit others in the department for all they have done to help him learn and grow.

"I have absolutely (been inspired) by others in the fire department," he said. "It's not just a testament to what I've done, it's a testament to those who serve this community. Without all of us pulling together and working closely with each other, there's no way any one of us could be successful."

"When it comes to experience, I'm at the low end of the totem pole. The leadership in this department is fantastic. We have outstanding firefighters here who have taught me a lot and shared their knowledge with me. That's really allowed me to learn things and get involved from day one. The people here support each other and have helped me grow in immeasurable ways."

Stills joined the Army in 1992 after graduating from high school, spending most of his military career in transportation. He also was a recruiter for three years.

After growing up in the Philadelphia area, Stills came to Texas when he was stationed at Fort Hood. He and his wife Alyssa met each other when they were stationed with the Army in Iraq.

"I had a buddy I was in combat with in Iraq in 2011 and 2012, and he said I should come up here and get to know my way around," Stills said.

Stills' wife was working at one of the local prisons before later taking a job with Southwest Transplant Alliance, so moving to the Gatesville area made sense.

Stills is one in a long line of firefighters who received the Firefighter of the Year designation.

"Chief (Billy Vaden) was Firefighter of the Year when I was two years old," Stills said. Robert Featherston, who also serves as an inspector for the city of Gatesville, has gotten the award three times and is one of the people Stills credits with making the fire department successful.

Stills also credits his wife with having a big impact on his life.

"We met in Iraq and got to know each other and got married after knowing each other for about 90 days," he said. "Eleven or 12 years later we are still happily married. That's a God-given blessing."

The opportunity to serve his community is what led Stills to become a volunteer firefighter.



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Firefighter Jeremy Stills has been honored as the Gatesville Firefighter of the Year, but credits his recognition and success to strong leadership in the department and the entire department working closely together as a unified team.

"One of the reasons I joined the fire department - and there are several reasons, is that I love to give back to the community. I am a 'God, family and country' type person," he said. "I also need structure in my life. After 20 years in the military, I am very institutionalized. This fire department is very structured. We are like one big family here."

Some of those who have encouraged Stills are Vaden, Featherston, Bobby Buster and training chief Lee Walker.

Frequent training helps the department be ready for the challenges it faces.

"Training is really a big part of serving

here — it's like training in the military," he said. "We train like we fight. From the top to the bottom. I have learned something from everyone."

Stills' first experience in firefighting was serving with the Levita Volunteer Fire Department.

"I was with the Levita department for two and a half years, but then we moved past South Mountain," Stills said, adding that because of the distance involved, it made sense to move to the Gatesville department.

Asked what the biggest challenges are, Stills said responding to crisis situations can be demanding.

"It can be difficult when you see people in need of help, whether they've been injured in a car accident or lost their home in a fire," he said. "Sometimes, animals perish in a fire and it can wear on your mind. You just have to keep telling yourself you are doing good. If you can leave the scene knowing you did your best, that helps. The good outweighs the bad."

"I haven't seen one thirty-second of what many of the people in the department have seen. We also use some of those past events in training. To hear the stories of what

PLEASE SEE **STILLS** | A2

County floodplain issues loom

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Coryell County Commissioners Court approved a short-term plan to seek a contractor to help with floodplain management issues, while also talking about the possibility of adding the position to the county in the future.

That action and discussion took place at the March 28 meeting of the court in which County Attorney Brandon Belt talked about the county's responsibilities regarding floodplain management.

"The flood damage prevention document specifies the environmental coordinator is the floodplain administrator, and obviously we don't have that position filled anymore," Belt said. "There are a lot of things involved in citizens being able to acquire (federal) flood insurance, and we need a floodplain administrator."

Commissioner Scott Weddle said that wasn't included in the budget for the 2023 fiscal year, "but we've talked about the need to fill that position."

County Judge Roger Miller said the best option for immediately meeting requirements is to contract with a local engineering firm to provide floodplain administration services.

"I believe in the short-term it's warranted to authorize the county attorney to send questions to an engineering firm," Miller

said. Belt said there are several items to consider.

"There are a lot of things that need to be addressed regarding floodplain management," he said. "In the absence of an administrator, I believe that falls to the commissioners court."

"Looking at the (federal) documents, there are a lot of things we're fixing to have to address that we haven't addressed before. It's because of development. I'm not sure we'll be able to keep that 13-year line in the sand of no residential development in floodplains. That's the line we drew in 2010."

Belt added that there is "nobody to review tracts in residential areas that have floodplains," and said government agencies and insurance companies want verification that floodplain regulations are being met.

"We're doing the best we can with what we've got, but we need some floodplain regulations in place," Belt said. "Cities don't have any floodplain management authority in their ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction - the area immediately outside a city limits)."

"I think the best place for this would be in either the emergency management coordinator's office or the road and bridge

PLEASE SEE **COUNTY** | A3

Lack of volunteers a concern for GVFD

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

While acknowledging Jeremy Stills' selection as Firefighter of the Year, Gatesville Fire Chief Billy Vaden echoed Stills' comments that it is a team effort that leads to success.

"There's no one person who makes things successful," Vaden said. "It's a collaborative effort and everyone's a part of it. We have 34 firefighters, and some are able to participate more than others. Our biggest problem is daytime help. The people who are off (work) are able to come in."

"It's hard to single out one group that does everything. We have some that are here on weekends or at night. Unfortunately, with volunteer firefighters it's getting to the point where we can't get enough dependable help."

"When I started, this community had a lot more mom and pop businesses, and people knew how important it was for people to be available (to volunteer as firefighters)."

With some of the larger companies not based locally, it can be more difficult for people to have the time away that is needed to fill the role of volunteer

PLEASE SEE **VOLUNTEERS** | A2

Fisher withdraws leadership candidacy

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Gatesville City Council is taking another look at city manager candidates after finalist James Fisher withdrew himself from pursuit of the position on March 31.

Fisher was initially offered the position and was in Gatesville to possibly finalize the contract late last week, but told Acting City Manager Bill Parry and Mayor Gary Chumley that he was "not able to make it work" and ended negotiations with the mayor.

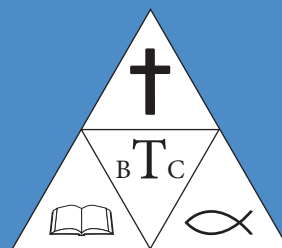
The Gatesville City Council had a special meeting on April 3 to discuss the position, and has considered another finalist for the post.



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Making a difference in the community, GISD

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Making a difference in students' lives may not be the exact job description for Michelle Martin, the truancy and dropout specialist for the Gatesville Independent School District, but it is a goal she works toward every day.

During a recent meeting of the Gatesville Lions Club, Martin talked about how students have been helped and encouraged, as well as of upcoming programs for the community.

Some of those she works closely with are students in GISD's WINGS (With Intentional Navigation to Graduate Successfully) program, which helps at-risk students earn their high school diploma.

"I had a class plan a Christmas meal for local families with teenagers," Martin said. "They had a \$50 budget to plan. I told them to plan a meal that they would enjoy. Their idea for what to include in a holiday meal might be different from mine."

Some students only had to plan a meal for a family of two, while others had to plan for a family of six.

"They said it wasn't fair, but I told them, 'That's life.' They each had a \$50 budget to plan no matter how many people were in the family. The student planning for two people had money left over and asked to give it to the student with a larger family. I thought, 'Oooh, y'all are growing.'"

Martin called H-E-B in advance, and after the students had planned their purchases, they went on a bus to shop.

"They didn't know where everything was and I pointed and told them, 'There's the signs. You have to go and look for things.'"

She said the first two students checked out with no problems, but the third student was over budget by about \$10 and had to put something back.

When they had made the purchases to help local families, Martin revealed what had been a secret.

"I said, 'Hey guys, I want to tell you something. Do you know who you were shopping for?' They said, 'Yeah, these families in our community.' I said, 'No, you were shopping for yourselves. The community cares about you and made these donations so you could



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Michelle Martin is involved in many things for the Gatesville school district, from encouraging at risk students to community outreach programs.

have a special meal. You don't know how many people in our community want you to succeed - they want you to do well.' It's been really fun to watch them grow."

Martin works with the at-risk students to teach them life lessons and offer practical advice. She works with them on how to create a budget, open accounts, fill out a rental application and learn about application fees, get library cards, and register to vote.

"These guys are essentially on their own already and I want them to have experience and confidence," she said.

Martin said her role with the district includes doing "anything and everything" to reach out to students and help them be successful.

"I talk to them about what they need or what their family needs, what's keeping them from going to school," Martin said.

She also helps plan community events such as the Spring into Summer showcase scheduled from 4:30-7:30 p.m. May 4 at Gatesville Elementary that will offer parents and students an opportunity to explore fun activities at area destinations ranging from museums and recreation sites to wildlife safaris. The event will also include a chance for local churches to let students and parents know about Vacation Bible Schools scheduled over the summer.

There will also be a bicycle rodeo and shot clinic in May.

Martin also helps to plan the Back-to-

School Bash, which is planned for Aug. 5 this year.

"Last year we gave away over 300 backpacks, 84 free haircuts, 60 to 70 hearing and vision tests and a shot clinic," she said. "Last year we easily had 1,000 people that showed up. It was packed and we ran out of everything and had to turn people away."

The event had been held at First Methodist Church previously but has been relocated to Gatesville Elementary for additional space.

Lions Club member Joyce Talbott complimented Martin and her co-workers for all they do.

"I'm amazed at how you've organized everything and encourage people in the community to get involved," Talbott said.

STILLS

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people have been through and know that these firefighters are still here and hard charging is also a motivation."

What has Stills enjoyed most?

"The camaraderie," he said. "One of the things that keeps a smile on my face and keeps me going is the friendship we have. Like any entity

or organization, things are not always 100%. We have bumps and ups and downs just like a family. We also know at the end of the day we're one big cohesive unit. You can count on anybody in this department. You can call at 3 in the morning for anything.

"I can't even put it into words how caring and giving the people in this department are."

Community support has also impressed Stills.

"This community is amazing at supporting the first responders," he said. "If we have a big wildfire the community comes together and the outpouring of support for us is beyond reproach. They bring food, water, Gatorade. You come over the hill (at the scene of a fire) and there will be 10 pizzas or a bunch of chicken waiting for us. I can't say enough about the way the community supports us."

Stills said bringing together peo-

ple from a variety of backgrounds and with different skillsets has helped strengthen the department.

"The diversity we have is definitely a key ingredient," he said. "We come from different walks of life and have a lot of different views and ways to do things, but we all work together, and that's one of the things that helps us to operate so consistently. Some people are more technically inclined, others are better at mechanical

things. We all come together to get the job done."

In addition to his role as a firefighter, Stills is also an active member of the Gatesville Lions Club, which emphasizes community service. In connection with the club, he is chairman of the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign that raises money for local charity efforts.

"This is a great place to serve," he said.

VOLUNTEERS

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firefighters, Vaden said.

"This role is very time consuming and not everyone has the time to be able to get here," he said. "What a lot of people don't understand is one day we'll run out of volunteers and we'll be forced to have professional firefighters."

That will be a much more expensive proposition for the city of Gatesville, Vaden said.

"You need about 15 (firefighters) to do it right, and even 15 can't handle the big things," he said. "It will cost about \$2 million or (\$2.5 million) to do that. That's a lot of tax

"The volunteer fire department is saving (taxpayers) money, but that can't be sustained forever."

BILLY VADEN
Gatesville Fire Chief

dollars. What's important for people to understand is the volunteer fire department is saving them money, but that can't be sustained forever. One day people will have to pay for it (a full-time professional fire department)."

Book auction funds charity, Lions Club scholarships

Children's books donated by Jon and Judy Brown to the Gatesville Lions Club recently generated \$235 during an auction at the March 15 meeting of the club at the Junction at 36 restaurant in Gatesville.

The five books raised between \$35 and \$55 each, and were purchased by members of the club.

The Lions Club is involved in several charity and community support activities, and funds scholarships.



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Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnnews.com

General Manager
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

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Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by 10am Tuesday for the Saturday issue. Articles about events that have occurred 30 days prior to submission

will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertisements.

All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and newspaper format as determined by management.

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OUR MISSION: The Gatesville Messenger shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

Folks around town



ALEX MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Deral McWhorter

Say hello to our neighbor, Deral McWhorter!

Deral has been the minister at Cedar Ridge Church of Christ for 34 years and has been the Executive Director at the Gatesville Care Center for 23 years. He loves presenting God's word and assisting the needy. He cherishes the absolute generosity of our local people. He reads the Messenger every issue and enjoys seeing the news of local folk, sports, and staying aware of the obituaries.

If you happen to see Deral around town, say hello! He is one of us!

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Seems like there are a lot of experts running around these days.



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

The creation of the internet has brought to our fingertips an infinite amount of information. Just this past weekend I needed to change the cabin air filter in my wife's car.

She had recently gotten the oil changed and when the serviceman examined her vehicle, she was advised the in-cabin air filter needed to be changed. She declined the offer to have the shop install a filter and came home and asked me what she should do. Not being particularly mechanically minded, I jumped on YouTube and found a video which showed me step by step, how to make the installation. After a trip to the auto parts store where I purchased a filter, I went to work. The job was quick, easy, and watching the video saved me time and frustration. The internet was a great source of information.

Of course, I use the internet for other things too. As a young man there were no VCR's and if you missed a show when it was aired, you were out of luck until rerun season rolled around. Some of you may remember back in the 80s, when Hill Street Blues was the number one TV show and aired on Thursday night. Folks would schedule their life around when the show was aired because they did not want to miss an episode. I was one of those people.

With the internet, people now watch the shows they want to see when they want to watch it, whether it be in the middle of the night or

first thing in the morning. The internet has made entertainment "on demand" and suddenly our needs are served instead of our lives having to conform to a programming schedule.

The unfortunate part of the internet is many times it gives a person access to information where people learn 10% of a subject matter, and then consider themselves to be informed. They then happily share their opinions to the world with a "high level of authority".

Some of the medical information websites are a good example. I have had several doctor friends relay to me the misperceptions they sometimes cause. The sites allow medically untrained people, like me, to type in their symptoms and receive a possible diagnosis of their medical condition. It is a positive to receive information which aids a person in learning of the status of their own health, but unfortunately in many cases of diagnosing issues with the human body, it is more complicated than answering a few simple questions. It is the reason doctors run tests and call for bloodwork before they draw an "informed opinion" as to

what is going on. My medical friend says it is not uncommon for someone to use the internet, draw a conclusion, then make themselves "sick" with worry only to find out when they do go to the doctor, their medical conclusion was unfounded and wholly incorrect.

On social media there are an unlimited supply of untrained constitutional law experts, who expound very firm positions about the law, the government, and who knows what else. Mind you these folks are not lawyers, or constitutional law professors, they are simple everyday folks who read one article or one piece of commentary and make conclusions which are simply not accurate nor based on recognized law.

I am all for free speech and the expression of ideas. All the while I pray for discernment on the part of the users of the internet. Just because it is on the internet, doesn't make it "the gospel".

Thought for the day: It is better to be slapped by the truth than kissed by a lie.

Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out.
sam@hcnews.com

Police Chief Brad Hunt speaks to Exchange Club members

DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Gatesville's newly appointed police chief, Brad Hunt, who was sworn-in just eight weeks ago, recently spoke to the Gatesville Exchange Club about his law enforcement career. In his opening comments Hunt said he was "honored to follow Nathan Gohlke" as police chief.

Hunt shared with the group his background in law enforcement.

"I'm a Master Police Officer. That means you've reached the highest level at the State Licensing Agency that you can through their training," he said.

Hunt holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Not being from a law enforcement family, he originally planned to be an English teacher, but was later inspired by a constable who made him realize that "you could be a human and an officer. It wasn't just a uniform, a badge, and an attitude." The constable encouraged Hunt to take a criminal justice class and, according to Hunt, "that was it" and he wasn't going to be an English teacher after all.

"The Lord has a way of directing you in the way you need to go and putting you where you need to be," Hunt said.

His first job was with the Temple Police



Brad Hunt

"Gatesville is an amazing place and I'm very honored and happy to be here. It's important that we all work together for the best for our communities."

BRAD HUNT
Gatesville Police Chief

Department starting in 1995. He was placed on the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) operations team in 1996 and held that position for nine years.

"That made me a much better training officer and drew me up pretty quick at the age of 24 with those kind of responsibilities," he said.

When Hunt retired from the Temple Police Department, he was the Division Commander over Special Operations, which included duties over community police, the traffic unit, the school resource unit, the violent crime enforcement squad, the SWAT team, the hostage negotiation team, and the honor guard.

One thing Hunt said that he has learned over the years is to keep in mind that performing his duty is not a personal thing, "I will show this person respect even when they're not showing it toward me." He also mentioned that "you tell us how we should be treating you and we react and we're listening to what you want the police to be in this town and what are important things (to the public)."

Following his 25-year tenure in Temple, Hunt later became police chief in Keene.

"I felt that calling to be the number one person to blame, not the number three. I learned a lot there, as a new chief, so that when I came to Gatesville, I had already made all those mistakes of the brand-new chief and knew what to be on guard for myself coming into a new location," he said.

Hunt mentioned to the Exchange Club that the top nationwide issue for the police profession is public perception - trying to build trust and legitimacy in communities. Concerning his new role in the community, Hunt said "Gatesville is an amazing place and I'm very honored and happy to be here. It's important that we all work together for the best for our communities."

Commissioners court approves plan for South Mountain duplexes

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Coryell County Commissioners Court approved a plat for the Taylor Addition in the South Mountain area, which will allow a developer to put multi-family homes on the property.

"We had them share some access points to cut down on the number of culverts," said Justin Mannix with the county's road and bridge department during a March 28 meeting.

The plan is for them to put in duplexes with septic systems. County officials expressed concerns with the tight fit of the septic systems on the property.

"We need to address that in the subdivision regulations going from a half-acre to an acre (requirement for properties with septic systems)," said Commissioner Ryan Basham. "We can update that," Mannix said. When you have a septic tank on a half-acre lot, it gets crowded."

"That is cutting it close," said County Judge Roger Miller.

"They'll have to meet the regulations and make it fit in that space," Mannix said.

In other areas of the developer's application, "they've dotted their i's and crossed their t's (meet requirements)," Basham said.

The property is located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of the town of South Mountain.

COUNTY

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department. There is a big piece (of floodplain management) related to emergency management and a big piece related to construction."

Belt said it's important to have an expert who can answer all floodplain questions.

"As we move forward and deal with growth, we're going to have to have somebody with different credentials than we've had in the past," he said. "I think we're going to have to amend the flood damage prevention order to deal with construction in

floodplains. We're going to need more authority than we've had in the past."

Belt said there are documents that are 91 and 68 pages related to floodplain issues for someone to closely review.

"There's just a lot of stuff going on and there's going to be even more going on," he said. "I think the time has long since passed for the county attorney's office to deal with floodplain items. I think that should be with the development department."

"There are (Community Development Block Grant) funds available to deal with floodplain issues, and I think we need to look at some of those - we definitely qualify."

Judge Miller said he didn't want to place the extra burden on the road and bridge department.

"Obviously there's some tasks we need to do," Miller said. "I hesitate to put it as an additional requirement for road and bridge at this point. I think they're pretty well engaged with other tasks and they will be for quite some time."

Weddle asked Belt if he thought there was enough work for a floodplain administrator to stay busy on that task 40 hours a week.

"No," Belt said.

"So, we need to combine it with another position," Weddle said. "In the meantime, we need something. Do you believe an engi-

neering firm would suffice?"

"Yes," Belt said. "We've been talking about this for a year now, maybe longer. We need to get this addressed and filled and our ordinances updated."

Miller suggested coming up with a short-term, mid-term and long-range solution.

"I think the short-term solution is to reach out to an engineering firm," he said. "Then at budget time we need to look at a long-term course of action."

The commissioner approved seeking assistance from an engineering firm to help deal with floodplain issues.

1st Cavalry Division hosts unmanned aircraft system training event at Fort Hood

BY LT. COL JENNIFER J. BOCANEGRA
1st Cavalry Public Affairs

Signal corps professionals serving across the installation participated in a combined General Atomics MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) training event Mar. 23.

Sgt. 1st Class Jose Munoz, a 1st Cavalry Division Electromagnetic Spectrum Manager planned, coordinated and hosted the training session with support from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technician, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Luis A. Rivera, and members of the Division Command, Control, Communications and Computer Services and Integration (G6) staff to provide signal system operators an overview of

the unmanned aircraft system. Munoz began coordinating for the training two months ago with the Air Cav Brigade. During the training, Munoz said trainees received opportunities to learn more about the UAS equipment, its capabilities and limitations which helps organize and plan for future operations.

"The UAS provides a lot including reconnaissance, surveillance and communications capabilities for units that are further out on the battlefield, so it is important to gain a better understanding of how they operate," Munoz said.

During the training, participants received an opportunity to learn about the MQ-1C Gray Eagle in-

cluding the aircraft's capabilities to support reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. Trainers also demonstrated the automatic takeoff and landing system which allows the UAS to be launched and recovered without any operator interaction.

any operator interaction.

OBITUARIES

CHARLES T. BUNNELL

Sept. 24, 1942 - Mar. 31, 2023



Charles T. Bunnell, age 80, of Kempner, passed away March 31, 2023, in a Waco hospital.

Charles was born September 24, 1942, in Gatesville to Oscar C. Bunnell and Ruby Mae Chambers Bunnell. Charles attended Killeen schools until his graduation from Killeen High School

with the Class of 1961. After graduation, Charles had a very brief time of service in the National Guard.

He married the love of his life Tana Rainbolt on September 13, 1968, in Killeen.

Charles was the owner and operator of Bunnell Metal Buildings serving the greater Killeen, Copperas Cove, and Kempner area. He also enjoyed farming and ranching up until the time of his passing. Charles was an active supporter of the Killeen Rodeo and for many years the Killeen Livestock Show.

His parents, a sister, Charlotte Morgan, and his beloved daughter, Malea Bunnell Hartley, preceded him in death.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife, Tana Bunnell, of Kempner; a grandson, Bandy Hartley of

Gatesville; two granddaughters, Charlie Bunnell and Frankie Miller, both of Gatesville, and a great-grandson, Aaron Holt, of Gatesville along with a host of extended family members and friends.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, April 4, at the China Creek Cemetery in San Saba.

In place of usual remembrances the family requests memorial contributions be made to the China Creek Cemetery Association, 2502 Westview Circle, San Saba, Texas 76877.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home in Killeen.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordbowerskilleen.com

LEROY LUEDEKER

Oct. 13, 1943 - Mar. 25, 2023



Leroy Luedeker, age 79, of Crawford, passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 1, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Lindsay Luedeker officiating. Interment followed at St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery in Coryell City.

LeRoy was born on October 13, 1943, in Crawford to the late Ernest and Laura Warmke Luedeker. His mother passed away when he was a small child and was raised by his stepmother, Mary Luedeker. He attended school in Crawford, graduating from Crawford High School in 1963. He entered the United States Army in 1965 and served two years in Germany. He married Donna Sandhoff in May of 1975.

They resided all their married lives in Crawford. He worked for Perma-Dwell Mobile Home manufacturing as a purchasing agent for over 20 years. He then worked for many years at LL Sams in Waco, before going to work at Franklin Industries until his retirement. LeRoy was a skilled craftsman and enjoyed wood working and could make almost anything. He also enjoyed playing golf, western shows, oldies music and classic cars. He loved

family get-togethers, telling old stories from growing up with his brothers and sister and cousins. In his retirement years, he enjoyed his cats and taking care of them, which had their own bowl, and each came only when called by name or heard his voice.

He was preceded in death by his parents and stepmother; an infant sister, Emily; and a brother, Bopsy Luedeker.

LeRoy is survived by his wife of 47 years, Donna Luedeker; son, Christopher Luedeker; granddaughter, Kara Luedeker; brother, Earl (Bobby) Luedeker and wife, Margaret; sister, Christine Reich; many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church, 10801 FM 929, Gatesville, TX 76528, or Waples Baptist Church, 1200 Temple Hall Hwy., Granbury, TX 76049.

GLENDA MARSHALL MCCORMICK

Nov. 16, 1942 - Apr. 1, 2023



Glenda Charlene Marshall McCormick, age 80, of Valley View, Texas, passed away on April 1, 2023, after a long battle with Chronic Pulmonary Disease.

Glenda was born on November 16, 1942, to Charles Winford "Dub" Marshall and Della Mae Barnard Marshall in Mound. While attend-

ing Gatesville High School, Glenda excelled in choir and was the editor of the annual staff. In 1961, Glenda graduated from GHS. After graduation, Glenda moved to Denton in 1962. When Glenda's older sister, Francis Marshall Tatum, passed away in 1968, Glenda adopted her nephew, Billy Wayne Tatum.

In 1964, Glenda became a medical assistant in the Internal Medicine/Cardiology office of William C. McCormick, MD. In 1982, Glenda earned her Certified Medical Assistant degree from El Centro College, becoming the first Certified Medical Assistant in Denton County. For many years, Glenda taught classes on Basic Medical Terminology, training other medical office professionals for Denton physicians. Glenda remained with Dr. McCormick for the rest of her career, and, together, they founded Westgate Hospital, now known as Medical City Denton and the Senior Health Center at the former

Flow Hospital.

Recognizing a need for geriatric health education, Glenda and "Papa Doc" held weekly free seminars on health and nutrition for senior citizens. On December 28, 1988, Glenda married William C. McCormick, M.D., thus combining their families: Billy Wayne Tatum, Dr. William M. "Mac" McCormick, James Lee McCormick, and John Alan McCormick. After Dr. McCormick's passing, in 1999, Glenda honored his memory by founding the Denton Foundation for Health Education. Working closely with local pharmacists and medical professionals, the Foundation continued to provide free health information and education to seniors. Through the Foundation, Glenda established a scholarship fund to help high school seniors and college students pursuing careers in the health field. Glenda was adamant that these scholarships go to students who needed the funds,

but who might not be able to secure other means of financial help.

In 2006, Glenda co-produced the original play *Be Still My Beatin' Heart or Up the Ol' Aorta Without a Paddle: A Musical Comedy* Western Medical Melodrama which raised over \$10,000 for the Denton Foundation for Health Education Scholarship Fund.

Over the years, Bill and Glenda collected many antique medical items, so when Denton Regional Medical Center (now Medical City Denton) was built, a small museum was installed in the lobby of the hospital. For many years, thousands of visitors to the hospital enjoyed the display of historical furniture and medical equipment. Several years ago, when the hospital was renovated, the museum was donated to the City of Denton Historical Society and has since found a permanent home on the upper floor of the Selby House Museum.

Glenda, better known to everyone as "Granny," dedicated her life to being a wonderful grandmother and a benefactor in her community. If anyone needed a shoulder to lean on, Granny

was there, cheering them on in joyous times and supporting so many through the difficult times. Through her continuous acts of kindness, small and large, Glenda demonstrated her love of helping people. A great supporter of Valley View schools, Glenda was quick to fulfill any need by donating gifts such as a book vending machine, Special Needs Bags for the Life Skills classes, and the funds for a new sound system, all for Valley View Elementary School.

As a person of strong faith, Glenda was a long-time member of Valley View Methodist Church and served by volunteering and helping to fund many projects over the years. She served on the Board of Parents Day Out, the church's pre-school, and gave monthly to help supply Blessing Boxes for community members in need.

As a young adult, Glenda battled Multiple Sclerosis for many years, followed by a diagnosis of breast cancer that led to chemotherapy and a mastectomy. Several years later, after having survived breast cancer, Glenda was diagnosed with bone cancer and, later, bladder cancer. With a twinkle in her eye,

Glenda would often quip, "I had things to do; I just forgot to die." Because of her cancer journey and survival, Glenda created beautiful baskets for cancer patients. These baskets were filled with practical and spiritual items that, she hoped, would allow a cancer patient to laugh, cry, and feel a sense of comfort that they were not alone. She delivered these baskets to doctors' offices, so that they could be given to any patient in need of solace. Many times, she delivered the baskets in person, hoping to give comfort to a fellow cancer patient who might need a shoulder to lean on.

Dr. McCormick preceded Glenda in death, as did her sisters: Francis Marshall Tatum, Jo Ann Marshall Knapp, and Louise Marshall Brede-meyer, and sons William M. McCormick, M.D., and James Lee McCormick.

Glenda is survived by her sister, Freddie Gayle Marshall Williams (DeWayne); sons, Billy Wayne Tatum (Patti Hodges) and John Alan McCormick (Gwen Anderson); nine grandchildren: Travis Neal Tatum, James Oliver Tatum, William Boyd McCormick, Andrew Taylor McCormick, James Cyrus McCormick, Carissa Erin McCormick Kettering, John Adam McCormick, Allison Tatum Nelson, and Katherine Danielle Tatum; nineteen great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Pallbearers will be Travis Neal Tatum, James Oliver Tatum, William Boyd McCormick, Andrew Taylor McCormick, James Cyrus McCormick, John Adam McCormick, and Kutter DeWayne Williams.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

There will be a memorial service at DeBerry Funeral Home on Saturday, April 8 at 1 p.m. Following the service, the family will gather at Roselawn Memorial Park.

Murphree Cemetery Association to hold annual meeting April 16

Submitted Item

The annual business meeting of the Murphree Cemetery Association in Evant has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 16, at the First National Bank.

The agenda will include

a financial report, the election of some of the officers and directors, and a report on the maintenance of the cemetery. The attendance of all interested parties is encouraged and appreciated.

Those unable to attend, but need to make their an-

nual maintenance payment, may send a check made out to Murphree Cemetery Association to P.O. Box 144, Evant, TX 76525. The maintenance fee is \$8 per grave and purchased grave site. For questions, call Scott Marwitz at 254-749-3932.

Greenbriar Cemetery Association to hold meeting May 6

Staff Reports

The Greenbriar Cemetery Association will meet on Saturday, May 6, at 9 a.m. at Greenbriar Cemetery. If

you are unable to attend, be sure to make a donation for the upkeep of the cemetery. Remit to "Greenbriar Cemetery Sherrie Barton, 2470 Greenbriar Road,

Gatesville, Texas 76528." For more information contact Sherrie Barton at 254-865-3341.

Almond Blossom Ministries presents New Mercies Conference

Staff Reports

Almond Blossom Ministries will hold a New Mercies Conference on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The conference will be held at the Gatesville Civic Center, hosted by Cheyenne Kizer, Founder of Almond Blossom Ministries.

Pre-registration is online at www.almond-blossomministries.com. Registration will cost \$45 with lunch included and \$35 without lunch. If you decide to have lunch, be sure to choose from the listed food choices online while registering. Lunch will be provided by various local food trucks.

The keynote speaker will be Tammy Trent. Trent has been ministering to audiences around the world



through her music and speaking since singing her first record deal in 1995. In early 2023 she became the new co-host on LIFE Today TV. The conference will also feature Shelli Zan, with the

Impact over Influence podcast. Impact over Influence is a non-profit organization designed to bring relevant, authentic, and relational Bible study that can be used across the world to bring people closer to the kingdom of God.

There will be activities including door prizes, goodie bags, free coffee, snacks, and fellowship. Music will be provided by Born to Worship. Almond Blossom Ministries can be contacted by email at almondblossomministries@gmail.com. The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Celebrate Children at

Day Of The Child

Saturday, April 15 • 10am-1pm
Veteran's Park on Hwy. 84
 Next to the Civic Center
Exchange Club of Gatesville

Free Activities for Kids!

Games, Children's Identity Kits & More!

Free Sack Lunch for Kids 12 & under

Free SEMINAR

Are you prepared for your future?

**FINANCIAL SEMINAR
FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

Presented by the
Hidden Gem Family Center

April 11th • 6 pm to 8 pm
 115 S. 7th St.
 Gatesville, TX 76528
AGES 17-25

EASTER

Worship & Celebrations

EASTER EGG HUNT TODAY AT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The First Methodist Church of Gatesville will host a community-wide Easter egg hunt from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8. The church is located at 2600 E Main St.

LIVE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH EASTER EGG HUNT

On Sunday, April 9, Live Oak Baptist Church will have an Easter egg hunt for children starting at 9:45 a.m. on the church grounds. Children are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets to gather eggs left by the Easter bunny. Live Oak Baptist Church is located at 113 FM 107 in Gatesville.

MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

HAY VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Hay Valley Baptist Church will hold its Easter Sunday egg hunt between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Church members and visitors will be able to watch the children hunt Easter eggs. There will be no adult Sunday school. An outdoor church service will begin at 11 a.m. Chairs will be provided, but those attending are welcome to bring lawn chairs. Hay Valley Baptist Church is located at 3110 Hay Valley Road in Gatesville.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH EASTER SERVICES

Trinity Baptist Church doors will open at 9:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 9. At 10 a.m., an easter egg hunt will begin for the children. Refreshments will be provided. The Easter Sunday service will commence at 10:50 a.m. After-Easter celebrations will be held on the following dates: Sunday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m., Monday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. For more information visit tbcgatesville.com online. Trinity Baptist Church is located at 1506 W. Main St. in Gatesville.

ON THE HUNT



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Hillside Medical Lodge hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for students from local preschools. The kids hunted 6,000 Easter eggs and had their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Residents also gave each child a stuffed Easter bunny and watched on as the children hunted for Easter Eggs.

Bar N Veterinary Clinic to host vaccination event April 15

Staff Reports

Bar N Veterinary Clinic, PC is set to host a discounted vaccination and microchip drive-through event on Saturday, April 15. The event

will be from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We Chip Pets will be in attendance to provide SmartTag microchips for \$10 to \$12. Microchips will be \$12 for smaller animals.

The event will be in the

parking lot on the south side of the vet clinic, drive-through style. Follow the cones stay in your vehicle, and the staff members will approach you. We Chip Pets will be located under the aw-

ning and Bar N Veterinary Clinic, PC will be set up by the large animal clinic entrance. Cats must be in a carrier.

To make the process flow faster follow the link,

<https://barnveterinaryclinic.com/new-client-registration/> before arriving. Existing clients with new patients may also be added to the form and updated before the event.

For more information contact Bar N Veterinary Clinic, PC at 254-865-8466 and is located at 4706 S. TX-36 in Gatesville.

Wood Cemetery workday and meeting to be held April 15

Staff Reports

A work day will be held Saturday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at Wood Cemetery. A meeting will commence following lunch at noon.

Be sure to bring gloves, hoes, shovels, lawnmowers, weed eaters, chain saws, and wheel barrows to help with the cleanup.

If you are unable to do any work, simply stopping by

with water would be enough. If you are not able to attend, consider donating to help upkeep the cemetery. Mail all donations to Wood Cemetery Association, attention Melinda Burke, 430 Old

Georgetown Rd., Gatesville, TX 76528.

For more information contact Melinda Burke, secretary and treasurer, at 254-865-2085 or 254-223-3546.

Wood Cemetery, believed

to have been named for noted pioneer educator D.R. Wood, was established with the 1858 burial of Sarah E. Shipman, wife of prominent local rancher John K. Shipman. More than 20 addi-

tional burials were recorded before John Shipman deeded 11.5 acres for a cemetery, church, and school in 1877.

New Oasis Worship Center to hold live auction fundraiser April 15

Staff Reports

The New Oasis Worship Center will host a live auc-

tion and fundraiser to benefit the New Oasis Worship Center building fund on Saturday, April 15 at the Flat

Community Center. A barbecue meal is scheduled to start at noon, with all the fixings including brisket,

sausage, beans, potato salad, bread, and tea. The meal will be \$15 for each plate. A live auction is to follow at 1 p.m.

To donate or for more information call Tina Ortega at 254-216-8066. The Flat Community Center is located at

159 CR 334 in Flat.

Market Day April 15 on Evant Square

Staff Reports

The Evant Chamber of Commerce is to sponsor the Evant Market Day on Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Market Day will be held on the square in Evant.

Admission is free. This community event will provide shopping opportunities, goodies, activities, and vendors. Tents are highly encouraged as well as weights to hold them down.

Vendor load-in will be earlier in the morning, with more details to come. To reserve a space and to receive a vendor application email susanbmurray@att.net or evantchamber.org.

Jonesboro V.F.D. to host BBQ luncheon

Staff Reports

The community is invited to attend the Jonesboro Volunteer Fire Department BBQ luncheon on Sunday, April 16. The luncheon will take

place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. held at the Jonesboro Community Center.

Adult plates will cost \$12 and child plates will be \$8. Dine in or carry out is available. There will be chopped

beef, sausage, potato salad, beans, iced tea or water, and homemade desserts.

Donations can be mailed to the Jonesboro Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 6 Jonesboro, Tx 76538.

Rabies/Vaccination Drive Thru Clinic

Saturday, April 15th
8:30-11:30 a.m.

South side of Bar N Clinic

Vaccine Discounts Available

"WE CHIP PETS" WILL OFFER DISCOUNTED MICROCHIPS FOR \$10-12

Bar N Veterinary Clinic, PC

4706 S. State Hwy. 36, Gatesville | (254) 865-8466

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Bass, Crappie, Coppnose Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear, Goldfish, Koi, Fathead and Shiner Minnows

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
10:00 - 11:00

Pre orders will not be accepted unless you need to order a large quantity of fish.

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2409 S. Hwy. 36 Business, Gatesville • 254-865-8226

Central Texas Stock Fish
512-752-8555

LIVE AUCTION

Benefiting New Oasis Worship Center building fund

April 15, 2023
Flat Community Center
159 CR 334
Flat, Texas 76528

BBQ Meal starts at 12:00 p.m.
Auction to follow at 1:00 p.m.

\$15.00 per plate
Plate includes Brisket, Sausage, Beans, Potato Salad, Bread and Tea

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of March 29 - April 4. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
March 29
 11:19 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1500 block of St. Louis Street.
 12:08 p.m., harassment was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
 6:18 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1700 block of Waco Street.
 9:20 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1700 block of Bridge Street.
March 30
 11:59 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of N. 30th Street.
 3:45 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.
 5:18 p.m., harassment was reported in the 2500 block of Lowrey Drive.
 8:49 p.m., an assault was reported in the 600 block of Live Oak Street.
March 31
 12:29 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1400 block of

E. Main Street.
 1:34 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
 3:33 p.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.
 8:35 p.m., an assault was reported in the 15000 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
April 1
 11:33 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
 3:59 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of Straws Mill Road.
 5:24 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
 7:21 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 400 block of S. 14th Street.
April 2
 7:48 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.
 12:06 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of N. 7th Street.
 4:19 p.m., an assault was

reported in the 3100 block of W. Hwy. 84.
 8:12 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
April 3
 9:01 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of E. Main Street.
 2:12 p.m., an assault was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.
 3:38 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1400 block of Mills Street.
 11:42 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
April 4
 1:45 a.m., an assault was reported in the 600 block of Live Oak Street.
 1:05 p.m. a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Park Street.
 6:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2400 block of Oak Drive.
 9:26 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of St. Louis

Street.
CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
March 29
 10:44 a.m., identity theft was reported in the 6100 block of W. Hwy. 84.
 3:52 p.m., an assault was reported in the 700 block of Sunny Avenue.
 9:14 p.m., a missing person was reported on E. Hwy. 84 and Bone Road.
 11:42 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 1500 block of FM 1829.
March 30
 8:56 a.m., an assault was reported in the 700 block of Sunny Avenue.
 11:32 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 183 at Pearl.
 3:22 p.m., a juvenile complaint was reported in the 700 block of Sunny Avenue.
 6:28 p.m., an animal complaint was reported on Talley Road.

March 31
 7:20 a.m., an electric pole was reported down on CR 230.
 4:52 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 700 block of Bone Road.
 8:43 p.m., an assault was reported in the 15000 block of Hwy. 36.
 9:31 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2100 block of Old Osage Road.
April 1
 12:57 p.m., stolen property was reported in the 1400 block of Mother Neff Road.
 1:45 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W. Hwy. 84 by CR 130.
 2:25 p.m., a dog bite was reported in the 4900 block of FM 184.
 7:59 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Glenview Drive.
April 2
 12:58 p.m., animal neglect was reported in the 1200 block of Oak Spring.
 5:58 p.m., shots being

fired was reported in the 200 block of CR 272.
 9:17 p.m., a threat was reported in the 400 block of Coryell City Road.
 9:31 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Sims Circle.
April 3
 10:54 a.m., vandalism was reported in the 1800 block of N. FM 116.
 5:55 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 600 block of Star Lane.
 6:28 p.m., harassment was reported in the 500 block of CR 339.
 8:28 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 2600 block of Horseshoe Bend.
April 4
 9:19 a.m., an assault was reported in the 700 block of Sunny Lane.
 10:23 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4200 block of FM 930.
 12:42 p.m., a theft was reported in the 4200 block of FM 930.

LETTER

STOP whining and be constructive.

In the Saturday, April 1, edition you published a letter pleading for "common sense gun laws," saying it is time "TO DO SOMETHING!" and blaming the NRA. As usual, there is no explanation of what that is. Just what would the writer DO if the power was handed to her? It is time for this type of complainer to STOP puling and whining and be constructive. But, alas, it is not within them to know anything about the subject. First, she needs to understand the weapon she has been told to hate. It is semi-automatic, it loads itself before the shooter has to pull the trigger again. It is not an assault weapon, they are defined by another law and extremely hard to get. The AR stands for ArmaLite Rifle, the people who developed the frame. Second, the NRA does fight to protect the 2nd Amendment, a much-maligned part of our Constitution. But it is a convenient scapegoat for agitators bent on subverting the Constitution. The NRA at least has a function that promotes gun safety and etiquette, its detractors have only stomped their feet and demanded compliance with their views. Third, the phrase "com-

mon sense gun laws" has been tossed about so much it no longer has a meaning. Or, perhaps, only the speaker knows the definition. I am for "common sense gun laws" but I am sure they are starkly different from the vision of the writer. So, whose common sense will prevail? Lastly, has anyone asked why the writer's statistics include the tragedy of youth suicides, which make up over half of the gun "incidents?" Is it to make us believe her or to be shocked into intemperate action that is far from common sense? Why did these shootings not happen when automatic weapons (think Tommy guns) were lawful and available? Maybe it was a society in which personal responsibility played large. Why do the Swiss not have a problem where their military takes military weapons home? Maybe it is not the weapons but the society that is at fault here, maybe we need people to talk about uniting us rather than screaming, "Why are you not doing what I want?" For every time a liberal asks me, "Why do we need an AR style (legal) rifle," I ask, "Why do you need (illegal) marijuana?" No good responses so far.

Edward Marty
Turnersville

Golden Deeds winner selection begins

The Exchange Club of Gatesville has selected several winners for the Golden Deeds Banquet to be held Monday, April 24 in the First Methodist Church Family Life Center, starting at 6:30 p.m. Winners to date are Timothy Muegge for the Care

Award, Rebel Brown for the Senior Citizen of the Year award, Sgt. Blake Riley for the Peace Officer of the Year award, and Jean Grimsley for the Educator of the Year award. The Proudly We Hail award will go to Hidden Valley RV Getaway. Winners yet to be named

are Firefighter of the Year, Health Professional of the Year, Book of Golden Deeds, and the Gatesville Exchange of the Year. The various students of the month will also be honored. Tickets to attend the Golden Deeds Banquet are available at the Gatesville

Messenger or the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce office for \$10 until April 20. There will be an "Italian Feast" and an opportunity to celebrate the very best in Gatesville.

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

The Gatesville Lions Club recognized Gatesville Intermediate School's sixth grade teacher Michelle Hall as their "Teacher of the Month."
 Meteorologist Rusty Garrett spoke to a group of third, fourth and fifth grade Jonesboro students about tornado safety.
 Justin and Marla Tatum announced the arrival of their baby boy, Shy Cooper Tatum, who weighed 6 pounds and 15 ounces.
 Gatesville Lady Hornet freshman golfer Rachel Shoemaker participated in a district tournament where she shot a 111 on the 18-hole course.
 The National Bank recognized employee Velda Johnson who had worked for the National Bank for over one year as a teller.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

The 11th annual Pizza

Hut Easter Egg Hunt was held at the Gatesville Recreation Complex for children ages 1-10.
 Kathy Brase of Leon Junction was attempting to find homes for approximately 500 baby rabbits. The Brasess' had brought home several titles from the American Rabbit Breeder's Association State Show.
 Thelma Massey, a lifetime resident of Coryell County, announced her candidacy for the Gatesville City Council.
 Leonardo DaVinci's famous painting, "The Last Supper," came to life as Live Oak Baptist Church's presented its fifth annual presentation of the drama depicting Christ and His disciples.
 Jonesboro High School was among the entries in Class 1A area One-Act Play competition scheduled at Baylor University. The play was directed by Jami

Hughes and Gayla Squyres.
40 YEARS AGO (1983)
 Betty Cutter, a clinical psychologist, had joined the staff at the Gatesville Mental Health - Mental Retardation Center as coordinator.
 Eleanor McCuiston had been chosen by the library board as the new head librarian at the Gatesville Public Library. She was succeeding Barbara Rosser who held the position for five years.
 Mark Breeden, a senior at Jonesboro High School, had won third place in the District 25-A ready writing contest.
 District 16-AAA medalist Tressia Jones was spearheading the Gatesville Hornet's quest for a regional golf championship and a berth in the state tournament.
 Robert Paul, a local musician and graduate of South Plains College, had begun

making preparations for his second annual concert at the Gatesville Civic Auditorium.
50 YEARS AGO (1973)
 Dr. Ernest Elworth Lowrey had been awarded the "Citizen of the Year" by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.
 Ray Byrom and Creston Brazzil emerged as winners in Gatesville's school board election where Byrom received 178 votes and Brazzil 169.
 Sarah Gohlke was re-elected as the president of the Parent-Teacher Association for the 1973-74 school year.
 Ernest Hahn of Gatesville reported that he had one of his bulls shot and killed in a pasture near the Dan Davidson place on Coryell Creek.
 Jim and Susan Saunders announced the birth of a baby boy, Justin Neil Saunders, who was born at Coryell Memorial Hospital.

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION
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Saturday, Mar. 18, 2023
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No. 1 Steers	
Under 300 lb.	215-300
300-400 lb.	210-275
400-500 lb.	210-265
500-600 lb.	190-240
600-700 lb.	175-215
700-800 lb.	165-195
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	180-235
300-400 lb.	180-235
400-500 lb.	180-220
500-600 lb.	170-210
600-700 lb.	155-185
700-800 lb.	140-165
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	90-102
Low Yielding	65-80
Fats	80-95
Thin & Shelly	35-60
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	90-123
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	1400-1850
Young Fair	1100-1400
Aged Pairs	Split
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	750-1550
Number of Head	464
NO SALE EASTER WEEKEND SAT., APRIL 8TH	
Hwy. 36, Gatesville • (254) 865-9121	
www.coryellcommission.com	

Morris Federation to meet today at Coryell Museum

Members of the Morris Federation will meet today, April 8, 2023, at 10:15 a.m. in the James Coryell Room at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

The program, which is titled "The Touch of the Master's Hand," will be presented by Bronwen Kirby. Bronwen has lived in Texas 16 years, with more than 10 of them spent in Waco. She became interested in classical music at age five and

began playing violin at age six. She graduated from the Central Texas String Academy last year. She has been making violins since age 12, under the instruction of Timothy Johnson. Bronwen also plays piano and organ, but her program today will

feature her playing several violin pieces on a violin that she made herself. She has been home schooled, will graduate this spring, and plans to enroll at Baylor University this fall.

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254-865-5212

Day of the Child event set for April 15

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.

The event will offer families in our community with helpful, positive parenting tips. 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 of-

fers 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.

For additional information about The National Exchange Club or "Believe in the Blue," please visit www.NationalExchangeClub.org.

PEARL NEWS

Mark your calendars for Pearl's Flea Market



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Mark your calendars for April 21-22 for the Pearl Community Center Flea Market.

Also, the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop will have a big indoor/outdoor sale! Items we will have will include a quilt rack with quilt tops, quilts, two dining room tables, coffee tables, end tables, a motorized cart, a washer and dryer, a dresser with lots of boxes of Amish Christian books, and a lot of exceptional glassware and jewelry. Of course, the usual bookstore items and more than 6,000 books will be available at those times as well. For more information, please call either Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or Kay Pruett at 254-865-5864.

Pearl Church of Christ has announced its annual Vacation Bible School dates — May 29 through June 2, 9 a.m. until noon. Please share this information with all your friends and family. Everyone is welcome!

Now, I cannot confirm the reliability of this information, but it was reported to me that Kay and Pearl (her faithful watchdog and

walking companion) were seen frolicking in Raby Park lately. What's more, it was reported that Kay was wearing the itty bitsy, teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini, AND Pearl was doing her level best to run from her master! As I said, I cannot guarantee the reliability of this information, so please don't talk about this any more than you have to. However, if you happen to witness such a spectacle, please feel free to email me (address below) so that I can confirm this suspicious activity. Strange how that ridiculous regalia finds its way back into its frame in the Pearl Cottage Bookstore each evening (If you don't hear from me next week, it's because the above-mentioned subject has "kilt" me!)

This week's Bible verse comes from I Peter 1:3 — Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (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 betsyclark47@yahoo.com

Gatesville Chamber hosts ribbon cuttings

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce hosted three ribbon cuttings on Saturday, April 1.

Community members as well as business owners and chamber directors joined together to celebrate the grand

re-opening of 1854 Mercantile and the grand opening of The Vintage Loft and Ace

businesses who recently opened on Main Street in Gatesville.



RE-GRAND OPENING: 1854 Mercantile located at 501-A E Main Street in Gatesville. Owners are Scott and Nikole Tatum.



GRAND OPENING: Ace Virtual Assistants located at 613 E Main Street in Gatesville. Owner is Crystal Whalen.



GRAND OPENING: The Vintage Loft is located at 613 E. Main Street in Gatesville. Owner is Liz Summers.

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APRIL 21, 22 & 23, 2023

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Texas Ladies State Chili Championship Cook-off

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CORYELL COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER

SPOTLIGHT

Hemmeline Cemetery



PHOTO COURTESY OF: FIND A GRAVE / PERRY JEFFERIES

Hemmeline Cemetery

MARKER TEXT:

In 1895, members of the German Bethel Baptist Church (now Bethel Heights Baptist Church) established this graveyard as the German Baptist Cemetery. A.T. Voss deeded two acres of land to the deacons of the church, to be used as a cemetery. The property was located approximately one mile east of the former church site, and was located across the road from the Hemmeline School, which was named for a family living nearby. The small community, originally settled by German immigrants, is now known as the Plainview/Bethel Heights community. The early organizational

records of the cemetery were handwritten in German and designated one acre to be divided into family plots of eight graves to be sold for \$1, with the second acre to be used by the community. Minutes in 1915 show that cemetery officials decided that the cemetery would be open to persons of any nationality or skin color, with preference given to members of the church congregation and their families.

Although no records exist showing an official name change, obituaries show that the cemetery came to be known as Hemmeline Cemetery during the early 1900s. American involve-

ment in World Wars I and II may have contributed to the permanent name change. Many people and institutions dropped German references or German-sounding names at that time in order to avoid hostility. The church also changed its name from German Bethel Baptist Church to Bethel Heights Baptist Church in 1940. The German Bethel Baptist Church (Bethel Heights Baptist Church) continued to administer the cemetery until 1974, when a cemetery association organized.

Historic Texas Cemetery - 2008

Coryell County marriage licenses filed in March

Marriage licenses filed during March 2023 in the Coryell County Clerk's Office included:

Robert Michael Arnold and Bethany Leeanne Tension, Douglas Earl Bledsoe, Jr. and Kelley Leigh Grubb, Daniel Lee Curtis and Renee Dorothy Curtis, Gary Wayne Davis and Kerry Joan Zacharias, Levi Tate Dewald and D'Laine Montgomery, David Wade Dillard and Darcey Kirstin Miller, Jeffrey Wayne Drake and Ruth Hatch Rucker, Brandon Conrad

Durham and Mackenzie Rose Griffin, Anthony Fernandez and Jacqueline Rose Monique Cora Cross, Kenneth Christopher Germaine and Megan Nicole Troxell, Gibson Alexander Haggenmiller and Briana Lauren Rooks, Cameron Tate Jones and Denise Hall, Michael Joseph Kluck and Jaclyn Schoonover, Joey Wayne Marble and Chasity Y. Stanford, Andrew Paul McEnroe, Jr. and Marissa Cheyenne Casas, Tristan Alan Ernesto Obregon and Rachel

Danielle Sturrock, Jayme Don Palady and Jenifer Sue Scott, Joshua Victor Pera and Julie Lynn Sharp, Cade Allen Robertson and Katie Lashae Snoddy, Tristan Raine Siling and Mackenzie Rilee Carter, Mathias Lynn Stewart and Rebecca Massie Stroud, John Moses Thames and Brittany Nicole Stacey, Christian Velazquez Santana and Jeanette Loraine Maldonado Serrano, Austin Gooding Wood and Anastasia Gwen Marina Nelson.

TxDOT urges texans to give driving their full attention

Press Release

Distracted driving is on the rise in Texas, and TxDOT is urging all Texans to pay attention on the road. In an instant, Karin Zaltsman lost her teenage daughter when a driver made the decision to take their eyes off the road to text while driving.

In recognition of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, TxDOT is sharing the Zaltsman's story of losing 13-year-old Emily, to remind Texans to keep their eyes up and phones down while driving. Described as kind, funny, smart, and driven, Emily had her whole life ahead of her, but one driver's decision to text and drive cut her life short. "Emily didn't die in an accident," said Karin Zaltsman of her late daughter. "Emily died in a crash that could have been prevented." Emily is one of more than 2,000 people killed due to distracted drivers since 2017. Disturbingly, distracted driving deaths increased by

10% in 2022. Approximately one of every six crashes on Texas roadways last year was attributed to distracted driving. "Distracted driving is a choice, and it has devastating consequences for communities," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "Texting, adjusting audio or navigation systems, or scrolling on a social media site can wait until you're safely parked. We're urging Texans to make the right choice and put the phone away." Texting while driving is not only incredibly dangerous, it's a crime.

Since Sept. 1, 2017, it has been illegal to read, write or send a text while driving in Texas, and violators can face a fine of up to \$200. Distracted driving crashes are 100% preventable.



TxDOT offers these tips to help drivers steer clear of a potentially deadly situation:

- Always give driving your full attention—any distraction is dangerous.

- Put your phone away, turn it off or use an app or phone settings to block texts and calls while driving.

- Pull off the road entirely and come to a complete stop before you use your phone.

- Tell friends, family and coworkers you won't respond to texts or calls while driving.

- Avoid eating or drinking until you are parked.

TxDOT's "Talk. Text. Crash." distracted driving awareness campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

No Dad of the Year Award

BY SANDRA TATUM
Contributing Writer

This is a true story - kind of funny and a bit sad at the same time. Just keep in mind about what Se'Vette and I wrote about in our "The Red Nail" piece. We each had a nail to hang our clothes on! That was long ago.

Back in 1949 and before, women stayed in bed at times up to 10 days after giving birth - but the average was at least five days. So our dear Mom put five clean outfits on our nails for sis and me before going to bring

brother No. 1 into our lives.

Dad brought the new one and Mom home on Day five and there were our five clean outfits still hanging on the nails. I vividly remember how Mom looked when she said to me, "Have you and your sister had a bath since I've been gone?" I told her we didn't get to go outside and play; we played with our dolls and tea sets in the house and rode around with Daddy to feed cows and goats in the jeep. Yes, we had a bath every night, but Dad had to defend himself.

"Their clothes weren't dirty, so they wore them more than one day!"

I never said anything, but we did wear our pajamas on some days too. Dad also said "I saved water and work for you and see, they are happy!" Nothing else was said, but we used to hear this story at family gatherings quite often. In other words, Mom didn't let Dad forget, every once in a while reminding him by saying, "no Dad of the Year award for you."

I wonder if this is where this saying originated.

Remembering Uncle Bob

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 April 22 and April 29, 1949, editions of *The Gatesville Messenger*:

The State Reformatory Back some 60 years ago, the good fathers and mothers who lived in Coryell County used to tell son Willie when he would get out of line and want to take charge, that if he didn't mend his ways and be a good boy, he would wind up in the State Reformatory at Gatesville, which was a state prison for boys under 18 years of age. I guess that they must have made the threat stand up,



COURTESY OF PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

STATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS: One of the many buildings that were constructed on the campus of the State Reformatory after its founding in 1888.

for from 1888 to the present date (1949), there have been only two or three boys from Coryell County committed to this institution.

But that's neither here nor there and ain't got nothing to do with why Coryell County and, more especially Gatesville caught the load when the all-wise fathers at Austin located the State Reformatory within three miles of the public square. This was back in 1888. Lawrence Sullivan Ross of Waco had been sworn in as governor of Texas on January 20, 1887, and he at once advocated needed reforms in the Texas Prison System. Boys under 18 who were convicted of crimes were sent to the penitentiary at Huntsville. Governor Ross advocated the separation of the boys from the men prisoners, and a separate institution for them. He figured that some boys might be reformed if they were in a different institution.

Evidently, he and the State Legislature seen the thing eye to eye, for they passed the law and appropriated the money for the new institution. The site-finding board located the reform school three miles north of Gatesville. I think their buy was a section of land, 640 acres. The two main buildings were three stories high with an attic. One was for the white boys and the other for negroes.

When they first started

the reformatory, it was operated nearly all together with single men as guards. There was living quarters for the superintendent and sergeant and their families, but none for the guards that herded the boys on the yard and in the fields. The State of Texas paid good wages for guards at the old Reformatory, and there never was any lack of men to fill the jobs. Every young feller in Coryell County that owned his horse and saddle and a .45 six-shooter had hopes of landing a job out there. The State paid \$25 a month for day guards and \$30 a month for night guards. Don't sound like much money in this day and time, but I know several ex-guards who saved enough money on their jobs to buy purty good little farms.

The grub on the guards' table was just the same as there was on the boys' table, with the possible exception that the guards were served fresh beef twice a week. And if you stood in line with the flunkies in the dining room you could get greasy "corner" cornbread instead of the middle cuts that were six inches thick and not always too done.

(Those wishing to learn more about the State School for Boys, can read Uncle Bob's column in its entirety in the April 22 and April 29, 1949, editions of *The Gatesville Messenger*).



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 includ-

ing 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

015 FARM & RANCH

Use Seal 'N Heal on cats, dogs, & horses to seal cuts & scratches with a bitter taste to prevent gnawing, allow healing. Coryell Feed & Supply 865-6315 (www.fleabeacon.com) 00030036

032 MISCELLANEOUS

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The Gatesville Messenger
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032 MISCELLANEOUS

HEAD START
TAKING APPLICATIONS!! (No Transportation Provided)
Gatesville Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Head Start is a pre-school offering excellent educational opportunities along with medical, dental, developmental, and nutritional benefits at no cost. The Head Start approach of individualized care and guidance is well suited to helping children with disabilities. Children between the ages of 3 and 5 may be eligible. There is no charge for participation in Head Start. Pick up your application now at the Head Start Center at 1105 Saunders Street. For more information, call your local center at 254-865-5423, or Hill Country Community Action Association at 325-372-5167.

HEAD START
ESTA ACEPTANDO APLICACIONES!! (Ningun Transporte Proporcionado)
Gatesville Head Start esta aceptando aplicaciones para el año 2023-2024. Head Start es una escuela para niños de edad 3-5 años que califican. Head Start ofrece oportunidades excelentes para educación y también beneficios de médico, dental, desarrollo, y de alimentos. Head Start ofrece mucha ayuda para niños y familias. No cuesta nada para que su niño atienda el programa de Head Start. Puede usted recoger ahora una aplicación para solicitar un puesto en Head Start. Para más información llame a la Head Start, 1105 Saunders Street, o del teléfono: 254-865-5423, o Hill Country Community Action at 325-372-5167.

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060 GARAGE SALE

Weekly Feature: DOLLAR CLOTHES! Tues, 04/11-Sat, 04/15. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030026

074 HOUSES FOR RENT

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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. 00030035

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given by 116 Storage of the sale of contents, by public auction, of the following, pursuant to the assertion of a manager's possessory lien against them in order to collect the amounts due on them:

John Burgan
Katherina Seward
Mike Summers

The auction will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 15, 2023 (weather permitting) at 116 Storage, 2445 S. Hwy. 116, Gatesville, TX.

Terms: Cash
00030029

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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- *\$10,000 FT SIGN ON BONUS

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Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
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Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
humanresources@coryellhealth.org **Job summaries at www.CoryellHealth.org**

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- Respiratory Therapist – PRN

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045 SERVICES

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CLASSIFIEDS

099
PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION: AVISO DE ELECCION GENERAL:

To the registered voters of the City of Evant, Texas: (a los votantes registrados de la Ciudad de Evant, Texas:

Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, on May 6, 2023, for voting in a General Election, to elect a Mayor and Three (3) City Councilmembers. (two [2] year terms). (Por la presente, se da aviso que las casillas electorales citadas abajo se abriran desde las 7:00 am hasta las 7:00 pm el 6 de Mayo de 2023, para votar en la Eleccion General para elegir alcalde y tres (3) miembros del Consejo.)

LOCATION OF ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACE: (SITIOS DE VOTACION EL DIA DE ELECCION:) EVANT CITY HALL, 598 EAST US HWY 84, EVANT, TEXAS. LOCATION OF EARLY VOTING POLLING PLACE: (SITIOS DE VOTACION ADELANTADA:) EVANT CITY HALL, 598 EAST HWY 84, EVANT, TEXAS.

DAYS AND HOURS: Monday, April 24, 2023-Friday April 28, 2023-9:00 am to 12 noon-1:00 pm to 5:00 pm., Monday, May 1, 2023-Tuesday, May 3, 2023-9:00 am to 12 noon-1:00 pm to 5:00 pm DIAS Y HORAS:

24 de Abril del 2023-29 de Abril del 2023-9:00 am to 12 noon-1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, 1 de Mayo del 2023-2 de Mayo del 2023-9:00 am to 12 noon-1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Applications fro Ballot by Mail shall be mailed to: (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:) City of Evant, Attn: Pat Parr, City Secretary, P.O. Box 10, Evant, TX 76525, Ciudad de Evant, Attn: Pat Parr, Secretaria de la Ciudad, P.O. Box 10, Evant, TX 76525 coevant@centex.net, www.cityofevanttx.com, 254-471-3135.

Applications for Ballot by Mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 25, 2023. (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio del 25 de Abril de 2023.) Issued this the 24th day of February, 2023. (Emitida este dia 24 de Febrero, 2023.)

Pat Parr, City Secretary 00030040

JENNIFER NEWTON
CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT
P.O. BOX 237
GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE
ALLEN PLACE JR.
109 S. 7TH STREET
GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF BERNICE EVELYN WOODSON DECEASED. CAUSE NO 22-10652, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. CECIL WOODSON FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 2023, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SAID BERNICE EVELYN WOODSON, DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 3RD DAY OF APRIL, 2023, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME ABOVE-MENTIONED TIME AND PLACE BY FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER CONTESTING SUCH APPLICATION SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO DO SO.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 21st day of March, 2023.

JENNIFER NEWTON
CORYELL COUNTY CLERK
CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: M. WALLACE
00030000

Showers for the homeless



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Homeless people in Houston can take hot 20-minute showers in mobile shower stalls provided by a group called Moving Waters.

"We're providing 150 showers a week," said Dr. Jennifer Park, who started the nonprofit group two years ago. "In 2021 we provided 400 showers. In 2022 we provided nearly 4,000."

Right now, Moving Waters has two shower trailers, each pulled by a truck. One trailer has three shower stalls, the other has four.

"In each stall there is a shower, a toilet, a sink, and it's all private," Park said. "Each stall has its own lock. These people don't get

much privacy. We don't get hung up on their living situation. We want to hear what team they're rooting for, what books they're reading, what music they like. We focus on the humanity of it."

They go to five locations in Houston.

"Our partner locations let us hook up to their water and electricity," Park said.

"We stay at each location for four hours on different days. Some people use the showers twice a week."

Each trailer is equipped

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 26, 2023, for the Mills Street Phase 2 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). For more information, contact Amy Jo Moreno at 254-714-1402.

00030037

**City of Gatesville
Notice of Request for Bids**

The City of Gatesville is seeking proposals from qualified vendors for Abatement by Wet Demolition and waste transport to TCEQ-permitted landfill. The City seeks a contractor to demolish and remove the former Rotunda Nursing Home, located at 2525 Osage, Gatesville, TX 76528. Bids will be received until April 20, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Major components of the work are as follows:
Abatement by Wet Demolition of the remaining structures.
Transportation of waste to TCEQ-permitted landfill.

Electronic bid documents, including specifications and location map are available on the City website (www.gatesvilletx.com)

The City of Gatesville reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Gatesville for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award. 00030021

NOTICE OF UNIT AUCTION

Notice is hereby given by Gatesville Storage of the sale of contents, by public auction, of the following units, pursuant to the assertion of a manager's possessory lien against them, in order to collect the amounts due on them:

TENANT	UNIT
Cavanaugh, Karen	C14
Diaz, Thomas	K11
Hernandez, Ramon	D11
Malcom, Carole	J07
McDonald, Yvonne	B46
McDonald, Yvonne	F13
McDonald, Yvonne	B34
McDonald, Yvonne	E04
Risley, Johanna	D02
Smith, Katelynn	A10
Vogt, Christy	H16

The auction will be held at 9:00 am., Saturday, April 15, 2023, (weather permitting), at Gatesville Storage, 2215 E. Main St., Gatesville, Texas.

Terms: Cash
00030031

Notice of Public Meeting

The Oglesby Housing Authority will hold a Public Meeting on May 4, 2023, at 1:00 P.M., at City Hall, to receive comments on the 2023-2027 Capital Fund 5-year Action Plan Budgets. All documents are on display and available for viewing at the office of the Housing Authority, located at 118 College Ave. (office), Tuesday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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JOHNNY BURKS, 254-223-0833

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For complete listings, go to 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 +/- acres, 3/2.5 barndominium, 1197 CR 404, Hamilton, TX. 1 water well, metal building, nice porch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, good fences. \$549,000
- 11.64 acres 3/2 home south of Evant, TX in Coryell County. Nice porch, large master bedroom/bath, barn, workshop, seasonal creek, Hwy 281 frontage. \$850,000
- 20 acres, 3 Br 2 Ba home, 8 ft porches, 390 CR 4147, Cranfills Gap, TX, Bosque County. Storage building, equipment shed, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$525,000
- 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 barndominium, 1197 CR 404, Hamilton, TX. 1 water well, metal building, nice porch, good tree cover, rolling terrain. 2 tanks, good fences. \$875,000
- 55.88 Acres, south of Evant, 2000 CR 3900, Lampasas County, cabin with bathroom, water well, electricity, rolling terrain with good tree cover, small seasonal branch. \$488,950.
- 60.23 acres, CR 238 near Turnersville, TX. 1 stock tank, good fences, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain. \$421,610
- 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, 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

Disabled American Veterans Fort Hood hiring event set for April 11

Press Release

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and RecruitMilitary will co-host a Fort Hood hiring event at the Killeen Civic & Conference Center on April 12 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The event is free to military veterans, their spouses, active-duty military personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

More than 60 employers actively seeking the unique talents of America's veterans will be on site representing a range of industries, from construction to medical to administrative and logistics, with career opportunities from entry level to senior management. In addition to employment assistance, the veterans expected to attend can utilize career counseling and resume assistance, network with fellow veterans and military personnel, and get support with their Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and claims assistance — all at no cost to them.

This year, DAV will sponsor more than 90 in-person and virtual job fairs. Since the inception of its employment initiative in 2014,

there have been nearly 274,000 attendees and more than 167,000 job offers. Last year, to support employers, dispel myths and demonstrate the business case for employing America's nearly 4 million veterans with a service-connected disability, DAV developed The Veteran Advantage: DAV Guide to Hiring and Retaining Veterans with Disabilities. This guide offers best practices and helpful tools for employers and strives to inspire more organizations to consider the veteran talent pool.

DAV's National Employment Director Ryan Burgos, an Army veteran of the Iraq War, is available to discuss trends in veteran and military spouse hiring, valuable employment-related resources, and job opportunities in the Fort Hood area and nationwide. To arrange an interview, contact Ryan Burgos at 859-442-2063.

To register for the Fort Hood hiring event and access additional no-cost resources for veterans and their families, go to jobs.dav.org online.

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GATHER 'ROUND



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Students from Trinity Baptist Preschool excitedly gathered around the Easter Bunny at Hillside Medical Lodge's recent Easter celebration.

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.

JALAPENO CORNBREAD By Stella Wiegrefe

- 1 c. canned cream style corn
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 c. corn bread mix
- 1 c. grated cheddar cheese
- 1/3 c. vegetable oil
- 1/2 c. chopped onion
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/8 c. canned chopped jalapeños

Preheat oven to 350. Grease an 8x8-inch pan. Combine all ingredients and pour into pan. Bake 45-50 minutes or until firm. Recipe may be doubled and baked in a 9x13 pan for 1 hour.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Business Directory

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

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Gatesville Senior Center recently honored all their volunteers by having a "Rainbow Tea" luncheon. The colors of the rainbow were represented at each table which were sponsored by those wishing to thank the volunteers for all their

hard work.

Those attending dressed in the color of their assigned table. Happy Birthday was also sung to Toi Fairhurst. Toi and her husband Robert deliver meals every Monday and are always willing to help on short notice.

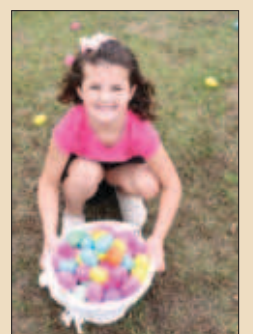
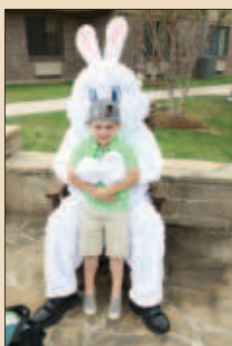
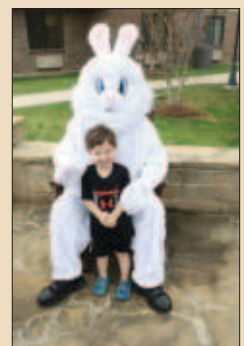
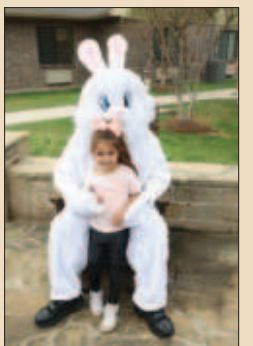
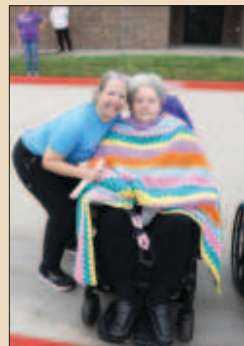
Rebel Brown, a regular and constant volunteer at the senior center, was also recently surprised by The Exchange Club when he was named the Senior Citizen of the Year.

COURTESY & DAVID SCOTT PHOTOS



Happy Easter

Hillside celebrated Easter with students from Trinity Baptist preschool. The kids hunted 6,000 Easter eggs and had their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Each child received a stuffed Easter bunny from our residents.



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Martinez excels at Texas Relays



Gatesville senior Carlo Martinez set a new record in the 3200 meter run on April 1 during the Texas Relays in Austin. He ran the event with a time of 9:14.83, eclipsing his old personal best of 9:42. **GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**

GHS boys take 1st, girls take 2nd in district tennis



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Gatesville High School's senior tennis players pause for a photo after the team's district tournament. The GHS boys won first place in district while the girls captured second place. Those pictured include, from left, Ben Mabry, Ty Warren, Alex Scott, Preslea Edmonds, Slone Early, Josh Coalston and Lucas Garcia.



London Kizer returns a shot during the district tennis meet. **SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**



Ben Mabry readies a return volley in district tennis competition. **SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**

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Outstanding effort on the court



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Alex Scott keeps his focus during the Hornets district meet.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Carolmarie Szustak defends the net during a district tennis match.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Finn Rogers fires a shot for GHS in the Hornets' district tennis meet.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Sloane Early shows power for GHS during a district tennis match.



TOMMIE NECESSARY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jonesboro regional golf qualifiers Lefty Kaibas, Kodi Suggs and Sierra Chapman.



TOMMIE NECESSARY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jonesboro golfers, from left Peyton Williamson, Emily Turner, Kodi Suggs, Sierra Chapman. The Lady Eagles finished third in district.



TOMMIE NECESSARY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jonesboro golfers (from left) Braxton Dossey, Hunter Beaty, Brody Weaver, Lefty Kaibas, Austin Massingill. The Eagles were the third place team at district.

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.



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- Custom orthotics
- Diabetic-related foot problems
- Flat feet
- Foot & ankle ulcers
- Fractures of foot & ankle
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- Limb salvage
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Lady Hornets softball still in control of playoff destiny

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

Despite falling to Robinson, the Gatesville softball team is firmly in the driver's seat to be the number three seed out of District 23-4A with four regular season games remaining.

The Lady Hornets wrapped the first round of district play on Mar. 31 with a 7-4 win over La Vega. They lost 1-0 to the Lady Rockets on Wednesday and faced winless China Spring on Thursday.

Through April 5, Salado leads the district at 6-0 with Robinson sitting in second at 5-1. Connally is also 3-3 but the Hornets beat the Lady Cadets 8-7 in their first meeting of the season.

In the win over La Vega the Lady Hornets had 13 hits - seven for extra bases. Brinlee Ford and Raylee Glover each had three hits apiece with Glover doubling twice and Ford smashing a double and a triple. Kinlee Glover had two hits

and drove in two runs in the win.

Madison Hester and Kallie Featherston shared the pitching duties in the win and combined to allow just one earned run. They struck out nine Lady Pirates and gave up only four hits.

Gatesville needed just six pitches to jump out to a first-inning lead they would never relinquish. Glover led off with a double and scored on a triple from Hester. A Kinlee Gardner groundout scored Hester to make it 2-0.

They got another run in the third inning thanks to an RBI single from Kegan Hunt then upped their lead to 4-0 in the top of the fourth inning after Ford tripled then scored on a Kaitlin Stuard groundout.

La Vega got three runs in the bottom of the fourth to make it 4-3 but the Lady Hornets came back with two more runs in the top of the sixth inning. An RBI double from Glover

scored Aliyah Trotter to make it 5-3 then Glover scored on a double by Gardner to make it 6-3.

The Lady Hornets final runs came in the top of the seventh on the strength of doubles by Hunt and Ford and an RBI single from Featherston.

The loss to Robinson was postponed one night due to severe weather and - when it finally started - was a pitchers duel of the highest order with the Lady Rocket's Raelynn Van Zee battling Hester and Featherston. Gatesville's duo gave up only two hits and allowed just one run while Van Zee allowed no hits and struck out 11.

A win over the Lady Cougars would essentially lock up a playoff spot for Gatesville but a win in their rematch with Connally on April 11 would likely secure the third spot. The Lady Hornets will finish the regular season at home against La Vega on April 18.

Hornets drop pair of extra inning games to Robinson

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

Despite a number of valiant pitching performances, Gatesville dropped its district-opening baseball contests in extra innings to Robinson, and the Hornets currently are 0-3 in district play after a loss to China Spring.

The Rockets defeated the Hornets 6-4 on March 29 in eight innings and won the rematch two days later 4-3 in nine innings.

The league opener took two days to complete thanks to a lightning delay that interrupted the March 28 game. The Rockets had a runner on first in the top of the sixth inning in a scoreless game when it was postponed by lightning and resumed the next night.

In the top of the sixth the Rockets scored twice to take a 2-0 lead but the Hornets bounced back in the bottom of the sixth when Bralen Veazey singled and scored Lawson Mooney.

They tied the game at 2-2 in

the bottom of the seventh inning thanks to a one-out double from Justin Johnson and a sacrifice fly from Kason Herbelin.

After Robinson scored four runs in the top of the eighth inning, the Hornets battled back in the bottom of the inning. Brady James singled to start the inning and a walk from Carter Williams followed. James scored on a passed ball to make it 6-3, then Williams came home on Johnson's RBI single.

With the tying run on first, Herbelin laced a line drive to left field that was somehow scooped up just before it hit the grass for the final out.

The Hornets showed similar fight in the rematch three days later, scoring three runs in the bottom of the seventh to force extra innings.

Down 3-0 heading into the last half-inning, Mason Mooney quickly cut the deficit to 3-1 with a no-doubt home run to left. Williams

was hit by a pitch and John Ibarra walked, then Herbelin dropped a sacrifice bunt that was misplayed allowing Williams and Ibarra to score and had Herbelin standing on third with no outs. A pair of strikeouts and a groundout ended the threat.

The Rockets scored on a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth to secure the 4-3 win. The celebration from the Rocket faithful displayed a certain degree of relief as the two wins are the first victories the Rockets have in boys sports this year.

"It's been a very tough week and a half. The guys fought back both games and our pitching was really good against Robinson. We had chances to win both games but have to tip our cap to them because we made costly mistakes late and left guys in scoring position and they didn't," head coach Chase Smith said. "We have won games and lost games late and I

hope the guys can use that experience as a positive and a learning experience because it probably won't be the last close game we play this year."

Despite the loss, there was plenty of positives - particularly the return of Grant Erwin and the relief efforts of freshman Gehrig Keeton.

Erwin - who has battled injuries this season - threw 5-1/3 innings, scattered five hits and allowed one earned run. Keeton pitched the final 3-1/3 innings and was tagged with the loss despite allowing just three hits and one earned run.

"Both Grant and Gehrig are coming off really good pitching performances so that is definitely a positive. We just have to minimize the mental mistakes and show up ready to play every day. I think the guys are doing a great job of learning from mistakes and keeping a positive attitude," Smith said.

Though No. 5-ranked China Spring dealt the Hornets their

third straight loss on April 3, the ever-optimistic Smith still indicated that he feels his team will peak at the proper time.

"I think the guys are doing a great job of learning from mistakes and keeping a positive attitude. I have been telling the guys it's not always the best team that wins, it's the team that plays the best that wins and we have to show up and play well if we are going give ourselves a chance to win," he said.

The Hornets faced China Spring again on April 6, then are scheduled to finish district with two games each against Waco Connally, Salado, and Waco La Vega. A 4-6 district record would get the Hornets into the postseason.

"The playoffs are very much still in the picture and I feel like we are a playoff team," Smith said. "We will keep working and getting better and if we play like we are capable of we will have an exciting last few weeks of the season."

GISD sports roundup

Boys Track: Senior Carlo Martinez ran a school-record time of 9:14.83 to place 13th overall in the 3200 meters at this morning's Texas Relays. Martinez, a University of Louisiana-Monroe signee, was competing against all classifications. He shattered his previous GHS record of 9:42.

Girls Track: Varsity totaled 76.5 points for a fourth-place finish at the Lorena Leopard Relays. Barrett Boyd doubled with gold in the pole vault (11'6") and 100 hurdles (15.34), while Vania Martinez was first in the 3200 (12:33). JV was fourth overall with 89 points.

Boys Track: Varsity scored 144 points to finish as runners-up at the Lorena Leopard Relays. The Hornets, who had won their first four meets of the season,

earned gold in six events: Ashtyn Culley, 6'0" in high jump and 21'4" in long jump; Trent Ray, 143'9.5" in discus; Carlo Martinez, 1:57 in 800; Justin Muegge, 5:06 in 1600; the foursome of Daniel Gonzales, Kason Herbelin, Tyler Shea and Mason Brizendine with a time of 3:39 in the 4 x 400 meter relay. JV won its division with 129 points.

Tennis: GHS ended up as co-champions in District 23-4A boy's tennis, while the Hornet girls finished second overall. GHS qualified five athletes for regional competition at the District 23-4A tournament. Slone Early secured his third-straight regional trip by winning the boys singles title, and the duo of Alex Scott and Ty Warren are headed back to regionals for the third straight season after win-

ning the boys doubles trophy. On the girls' side, Callie Smith and Kasey Fitzer finished first and second in girls singles to advance as well. It marks the third year in a row that GHS has produced the top two regional qualifiers in girls singles. Preslea Edmond and Olivia Walker earned the third-place medal in girls' doubles and will advance as alternates. The 4A Region III tournament will be held April 11-12 at Bryan High School.

Track: GJHS results from the Lorena meet - eighth grade girls were seventh overall with 26 points, seventh grade girls were seventh overall with 21 points, eighth grade boys were sixth overall with 48 points, seventh grade boys were sixth overall with 49.5 points.

Track: GJHS results from

Waco Connally meet - seventh grade boys won meet title with 174.5 points. Other team results: Eighth

grade girls were fourth with 82 points, seventh grade girls were third with 109 points, eighth grade boys

were fourth with 100 points. The Hornets' final meet will be the District 23-4A meet April 11 at La Vega.

CONGRATS AND GOOD LUCK GHS TENNIS!



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left to right are: Ty Warren, Alex Scott, Slone Early, Kasey Fitzer, Preslea Edmond, Callie Smith and Olivia Walker.

Gatesville High School has 5 qualifiers competing in the 4A Region III Tennis Tournament April 11-12 at Bryan High School.

From there, the top two finishers in each division will advance to the state tournament.

The qualifiers are Alex Scott, Ty Warren, Slone Early, Kasey Fitzer, and Callie Smith.

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)

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- Shot Record
- Copy of Parent License
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- Proof of Income (P-K only)
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Coryell County

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

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912 E. Main St.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m.

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3110 Hay Valley Road; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. AWANA children's ministry Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible Study for men & women on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.

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Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

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MOUNTAIN

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.

OSAGE

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PECAN GROVE

6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

PIDCOKE

Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.

PLEASANT VALLEY

Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

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Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

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Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday School 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.

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Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

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Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise & Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-4076.

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Oglesby ISD announces 2023-2024 cheer teams

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District recently announced their 2023-2024 varsity and junior varsity cheer teams for the upcoming school year.

The upcoming cheerleaders for the varsity team include Victoria Cardenas, Captain; Kaylee Stanford, Co-Captain; Marlee Henderson, mascot; Taetym Sanders, Jayda Gonzalez,

Autumn Meyers, Kelsey Ritchie, Zarah Wisehart, and Caitlyn Battreal.

The junior varsity team includes Delany Mafra, Scarlet Aaron, Paisley Sanders, Brynley Puryear, Alisyn

Smith, Abigail Insall, Adelyn Gomez, and Alianna Chrisner.

Oglesby Independent School District is located at 125 College Ave. in Oglesby.

Inaugural class of Jovita González de Mireles High School students graduate

Submitted article

Education can be intimidating; even more so for younger, inexperienced minds. Taking the initial step of kickstarting their academic journey opens a doorway to influence their futures from that moment forward.

Windham School District hosted the inaugural graduation of the Jovita González de Mireles (Mireles) High School, located at the Woodman campus in Gatesville, on March 3. The district's high school program follows requirements in accordance with the Texas Education Agency and are certified High School Diploma (HSD) programs. Established in February 2022, the duration of program participants' enrollment in the Mireles High School varies depending on numerous factors including the number of credits needed to earn the HSD. After months of rigorous course work, three women — Lexus Cadena, Lesly Facundo and Keilee Scott — received their high school diplomas.

Windham School District is incredibly proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates," Superintendent Kristina J. Hartman said. "This is a

monumental achievement, and I look forward to seeing these women apply what they've learned in the high school classroom as they progress to postsecondary education and employment within our Texas communities."

Being named as the valedictorian of her class, Scott said she honed in on her love for learning, pushing herself to achieve a goal she'd always labeled as necessary.

"At first, I was hesitant, it was intimidating," Scott said. "I was nervous about being able to focus being surrounded with my peers. But this was something that needed to be done. I wanted this achievement."

Facing the struggles of being one of the first students to attend the Mireles High School, Scott said she continuously pushed herself, despite her challenges.

"There were times when I wanted to give up or that I was frustrated with myself in the classroom," Scott said. "But I realized my long-term goals and I kept going."

With her diploma in hand, Scott credits her academic teacher, Ms. Wallace, for helping her discover her passion for mathematics, leading her to want to pursue a career in architec-

ture. "This is a checkpoint in my life," Scott said. "Ms. Wallace helped me love math. I want to continue learning."

Facundo said she felt behind in her education. Upon starting at the Mireles High School, she felt herself inspired to become more invested in what she was learning.

"I was nervous, and I was doubting if I would be able to get my diploma," Facundo said. "But I knew this was going to help me through my whole life. Being young, it is going to help me make better choices."

Her first day in the classroom, Facundo found herself having to tackle her biggest obstacle — being willing to break out of her shell and interact with her peers and instructor. That was a task her academic teacher, Ms. Flaniken, helped her achieve.

"I had to be more open to asking questions and communicating," Facundo said. "Even if it was hard, I had to be open-minded. Ms. Flaniken encouraged me through the hard moments."

Turning her tassel in front of the next set of prospective Mireles High School students, Facundo

encourages them to take the leap, and motivate themselves the same way she did for herself.

"You can do what you've always wanted," Facundo said. "No matter the circumstances, it is never too late."

Lauren Hatfield, Windham High School coordinator, said she looks forward to the growth of Mireles High School and the opportunities the program serves to its students.

"These women have made unbelievable progress to get them to graduation," Hatfield said. "Educators at the Woodman campus have worked diligently to ensure their students are prepared to make further goals for themselves. When they leave from the classroom, they are equipped with all of the necessary tools and skills to succeed."

Taking control of her future, Scott said she hopes the women who follow her footsteps across the stage at graduation feel as inspired as she did in that moment.

"I hope the next class that comes through feel as proud as I do right now," Scott said. "I want this to encourage women to get their high school diplomas."

SUDOKU

Last week's puzzle solution

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

MEMBER 2023

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Draw your face in the helmet and color your space suit!

Space

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

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

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton splits softball doubleheader with Grambling

Tarleton Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University cruised to a mercy-rule shutout softball victory in the first game of a rescheduled doubleheader against Grambling State on March 29, then lost a big first-inning cushion in the second game to split the day against the Lady Tigers.

The Texans (19-17, 3-3 WAC) hosted their first games at the Tarleton Softball Complex in more than two weeks, a day later than planned due to an altered schedule that was out of the Lady Tigers' (20-12-1, 6-3 SWAC) control.

Tarleton is now 11-4 at home this year. Grambling State moved to 5-3 on the road, 12-8 away from Grambling, Louisiana.

TSU 10, GRAMBLING STATE 0 (6 INN.)

Hits were hard to come by early in the first game before Tarleton exploded in the fourth inning, turning a 2-0 lead into a 7-0 advantage. Katy Schaefer then hit a walk-off three-run home run in the

sixth inning to end the game in run-rule fashion.

Grace Garcia (10-4) went the distance pitching in her shutout victory, allowing just four hits, two walks and a hit batter across six innings, striking out five. Garcia has accounted for more than half of Tarleton's 19 wins.

In the fourth, the first four Texans reached, with the first run scoring on a Germain RBI walk. Morgan Medford followed with a sacrifice fly to make it 4-0 Texans. Then back-to-back singles made it 7-0, with Hill getting the first to score one, then Schaefer the next to score two.

Schaefer followed up in her next at-bat with the walk-off blast, smoking a ball over the left-field wall to give Tarleton



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION

Tarleton State University recently split a softball doubleheader at home versus Grambling State.

a 10-run win.

Tarleton outthit Grambling State 8-4 in the opener. Schaefer went 3-for-3 with a

walk, posting five RBI and a run. Kayla Wallace went 2-for-3 with a run.

GRAMBLING STATE 7, TSU 6

Tarleton jumped out to a five-run lead in the first inning and then the bats went

cold, allowing the Lady Tigers to come all the way back and plate the go-ahead and eventual game-winning run in the seventh inning.

The Lady Tigers scored their first run of the day in the first inning in the second game, but the Texan deficit didn't last long. Tarleton opened its half with three straight singles, scoring two runs to take back the lead. Wallace then scored Kiana Gibson with an RBI double to make it 3-1, followed by a Brittany Coe bases-clearing three-run double to put Tarleton ahead 6-1.

Garcia (10-5) took the result for the second time on the day, this time a loss in relief, allowing three runs (two earned) on three hits and a walk in 2.1 innings, striking out three.

Despite the cold bats, Tarleton was still poised to sweep. The Texans held a 6-1 lead into the fifth inning until the Lady Tigers sent eight to bat in the frame, scoring three to make it 6-4.

Tarleton held that two-run lead into the final inning.

Former Baylor assistant hired as TSU's women's basketball coach

Tarleton Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University's women's basketball program has found its new leader, a man who holds a 40-year coaching resume with a national championship pedigree.

Tarleton Athletics announced on March 27 that they have hired three-time NCAA Division I national champion and longtime Baylor associate head coach Bill Brock as their women's basketball head coach.

Brock becomes the seventh head coach in program history.

"We have just brought one of the best, most well-respected women's basketball coaches in the country to Tarleton State University," said the school's Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics Lonn Reisman. "I've known Bill Brock for over 35 years. He is a tremendous basketball mind and an outstanding recruiter — maybe one of the best in the country. He's a man of character and will do an outstanding job of developing our young ladies on the court, in the classroom, and for life after basketball.

"He brings tremendous experience to our program and I have no doubt that he will build a foundation to



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION

After a long stint on the Baylor coaching staff, Bill Brock has been hired as the new women's head basketball coach at Tarleton State University.

grow our women's basketball program into one of the very best in the country," Reisman added.

Brock was on the Baylor women's basketball coaching staff under head coach Kim Mulkey for 18 seasons, serving as associate head coach for 16 years after two years as an assistant coach. He coached there from 2000-06 and 2009-21, bookended by a three-year stint as the associate head coach at Texas Tech from 2006-09. This past season, Brock served as the head coach at McLennan Community College, leading

the Highlassies to the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championships, their first berth since 1984.

"What an honor it is to be named the head women's basketball coach at Tarleton State University," Brock said. "I am thankful for this opportunity and appreciate the confidence demonstrated in me by Dr. Hurley and Lonn Reisman throughout the hiring process. My staff and I will work tirelessly to create a foundation that produces successful young women on and off the court. We want to bring championships to

Tarleton State. It's a great day to be a Texan."

Brock was the Lady Bears' associate head coach for three memorable national championship seasons in 2019, 2012 and 2005. He also helped Baylor to the 2010 Final Four, seven Elite Eight appearances, and 23 Big 12 Conference titles (12 regular season, 11 tournament).

Under Mulkey and Brock, Baylor was truly a powerhouse, going 552-83 (.869) across the 18 seasons, posting 20-plus wins each year, 30-plus wins 10 times, and a perfect 40-0 campaign in 2011-12. The Lady Bears made it to the NCAA Tournament in all but two of Brock's seasons, one because there was no tournament due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019-20. Over the last 11 years he was at Baylor, the team went 340-28 (.924).

In charge of the post players while at Baylor, Brock helped develop several All-Americans, including Sophia Young, Steffanie Blackmon, Danielle Crockrom, Destiny Williams, Brittney Griner, Nina Davis, Kalani Brown, Lauren Cox and NaLyssa Smith. He coached 10 WNBA draft picks that include seven first rounders, the No. 1 overall pick in 2013 (Griner) and the No. 2 overall pick in 2022

(Smith). Nine centers and forwards tallied 46 all-America awards under Brock's watch.

"Bill Brock is a proven winner everywhere he's been," Texas women's basketball head coach Vic Schaefer said. "He's been a part of championship teams. His teams are well coached. He's a veteran who has been around the game a long time. Bill Brock has always been about family, both his personal family as well as his student-athletes. Tarleton State can expect a highly competitive women's basketball program that will succeed both in the classroom, on the court and will represent their university and the community with grace and class. Tarleton State just hit a home run."

This past season at McLennan CC, Brock took the Highlassies to a 28-5 overall record, the first time they've reached the 20-win plateau since 2013-14. McLennan was ranked as high as No. 8 in the NJCAA poll and received one of eight at-large bids to the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championships.

Brock spent 13 years as the head coach at Grayson College from 1987-2000, establishing the program as one of the best in the junior college ranks. He was voted the conference Coach of the

Year nine times and regional Coach of the Year twice. He was recognized in 1996 as the National Junior College Coach of the Year by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

During his first year at Grayson, Brock led the Lady Vikings to their first Northern Texas Conference title and a top-25 national ranking. Grayson continued that success by winning 10 conference championships, two regional titles and two national tournament berths (2000 and 1996). In total at Grayson, he went 371-50, highlighted by a 36-1 season and a third-place finish at the 2000 NJCAA National Tournament. He also coached 10 Northern Texas Conference Most Valuable Players and nine All-Americans.

In 2019, Brock was inducted to the inaugural class of the Grayson College Athletics Hall of Fame. The school has named the gym "Bill Brock Court" in his honor.

Brock began his collegiate coaching career at East Central, spending two seasons as an assistant coach there from 1985-87. The Durant, Oklahoma, native, had spent three seasons as the head coach for the boys' basketball team at Durant High School from 1982-85.

Men's, women's track squads compete in Waco

Tarleton Sports Information

WACO — Tarleton Track and Field competed in Waco March 25-26 and recorded numerous podium finishes against Power Five schools and fellow WAC foes.

MEN'S RESULTS

Gabriele Tosti and Jaden Hall both competed in the triple jump. Tosti took second place in the event with 15.27m. Jaden Hall took third place and set a new personal record with a jump of 15.04m.

Reid Vincent, Justin Raines, Everett Sadler, and David Mvundura took fourth place in the 4x100m relay with a time of 40.55 seconds.

Bailey Smotek took second place in the 800m, running a time of 1:51.07.

Caterin Cox took sixth in the 110m hurdles with a time of 14.49 seconds.

Konnor Hoerman took seventh in 110m hurdles, running a time of 14.58 seconds.

Brandon McKissick finished fifth in the 400m dash, running a time of 47.60 seconds.

Justin Raines took sixth in the 100m dash, running a time of 10.42 seconds.

Everett Sadler took seventh in the 100m dash with a time of 10.55 seconds.

WOMEN'S RESULTS

Elise Smith finished third in the javelin throw, tossing of 41.03m.

Nakia Dunn took third place in the triple jump with a jump of 11.64m.

Jordan Rae took sixth place in the high jump, jumping of 1.68m.

Hanna Dudley took eighth place in the 100m dash, running a time of 11.82 seconds.

Kailey Sykora took sixth place in the 800m with a time of 2:14.54.

Texans drop 7-6 baseball decision to Utah Valley

Tarleton Sports Information

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Tarleton State University's wacky baseball weekend of game cancellations and a location change came to an end on March 25 as the Texans lost 7-6 to Utah Valley on the road at Bruce Hurst Field.

The game was the only one the two teams will play this season after snowy field conditions in Orem were too much to overcome. The Texans and Wolverines traveled to St. George where they could only play one game as Utah Tech and Stephen F. Austin were playing a weekend series.

The Texans (14-8, 1-3 WAC) allowed Utah Valley (13-10, 2-2 WAC) to plate multiple runs in three different innings. Keeping UVU off the bases was a challenge, as the Texans walked 13 batters, striking out just seven.

Tarleton scored three runs in the eighth inning, cutting the deficit to 7-6 as Kooper Shook hit a sacrifice fly to

score Cris Enriquez and Dylan Kurahashi-Choy Foo hit a two-run single up the middle to make it a one run game.

Zane Badmaev pitched the bottom of the eighth for Tarleton, allowing just one hit while keeping UVU off the board. Tarleton went down in order in the top of the ninth as the Wolverines' Casey Anderson (5, 1) struck out the side, picking up his first save.

Shook hit his fourth home run of the season in the fifth inning for Tarleton's first run to make it 2-1 in favor of UVU. The Wolverines added two more in the bottom half of the fifth, stretching their lead to 4-1.

Tarleton responded with two runs of its own in the sixth. Mason Hammonds walked, stole second and reached third on a passed ball, setting up Enriquez for an RBI single. Shook came through again, singling to score Enriquez as the Texans trailed 4-3.

The seventh inning was the

backbreaker. Grant Garza exited the game with two Wolverines on board and one out, making way for Jake Burcham. The second batter that Burcham saw hit a three-run home run to left center field, extending the UVU lead to 7-3.

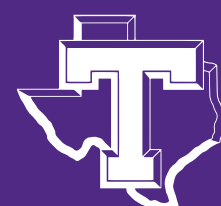
Dylan Delvecchio (L, 1-2) got the start on the mound for the Texans. He threw 4.0 innings, allowing four runs

(two earned) on one hit. He struck out two and walked eight.

Matt Haley came in for Delvecchio midway through the bottom of the fifth. He tossed one scoreless inning, striking out three.

Enriquez, Shook, Alec Williams and Jordan Andrade each totaled two hits. Shook led with three RBI.

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New leadership at Gatesville Primary and High School

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Two new principals have been named to replace the out-going principals at the Gatesville Primary School and the Gatesville High School, Gatesville Independent School District officials announced.

According to GISD superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard, during the selection process to find new principals, a large committee made up of staff members from the prospective campuses sifted through applications, developed interview applications, and then interviewed mul-

multiple candidates before making their final selection. The administration then vetted the lone finalist before the school board for approval.

"I believe our hiring committee made an excellent choice in their selection of the lead principals at the high school and primary campuses," Pollard said.

In a statement made by GISD, the following bios were recently submitted to the public via the school's Facebook page.

Liz grew up in Gatesville and graduated from GHS in 1998. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree and her teaching certificate from St. Edward's University in Austin and her Masters in Educational Administration from Lamar University. She has spent 16 of her 20 years in education as a classroom teacher and served the role of Gifted and Talented Coordinator and teacher for Gatesville ISD during the 2017-2018 school year. During the 2020-2021 school year, she joined the high school team as Assessment and Academic Advisor and has been an Assistant Principal on the campus since the fall of 2021.

Liz is passionate about students and learning. She is committed to supporting teachers, building relationships with students and

families, and strengthening community partnerships. "I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve the high school campus. I respect and treasure the students and staff and plan to start the next school year and each day focused on my "why" and making a difference."

Liz and her husband Dustin have two children.

Van has served Gatesville ISD since 2010, most recently as an assistant principal at the intermediate. Prior to this leadership position at the primary school campus, Van spent 12 years at the high school as a math teacher and coach. While at GHS, Van served as the math department chair for two years, helped sponsor the National Honor Society for 10 years, and taught upper-level math courses including Calculus, College Algebra, Statistics, and Precalculus. Van was an assistant football coach for nine years and a soccer coach for 12, including a five-year stint as the boys' head coach from 2012 to 2017.

A native of Stephenville, Van earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Texas A&M University before completing a master's degree in Educational Administration from Lamar University.

Van and his wife Jeannie, a social studies teacher at GHS,

have three children. Owen is in fourth grade, Dylan is in second grade, and Evie currently attends the PreK 3 program at Let's Grow Learning Center.

Van is excited to continue to serve the families of this community and the faculty and staff of Gatesville ISD in

his new position.

According to Dr. Pollard, "The new principals will officially take over after graduation in May. However, they are already fulfilling some duties as lead principals as the transitions begin."



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Liz Shoaf, Gatesville High School Principal



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Van Collins, Gatesville Primary Principal

Evant school district is taking referrals for Gifted and Talented services

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District is beginning the referral process for Gifted

and Talented services for the 2023-2024 school year. Evant ISD is committed to providing challenging learning experiences for students

with exceptional intellectual and creative thinking abilities.

As defined by the Texas Education Agency Code, a gift-

ed and/or talented student is "a child who performs or shows the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of the same age, experience, or environmental, exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area, possesses an

unusual capacity for leadership, and excels in a specific academic field."

Anyone wishing to refer a student attending Evant ISD in Kindergarten through twelfth grade can pick up or request a copy of the referral form at Evant ISD's central office. The form must be returned to the school by

Monday, April 17. Those unable to go by the school office should call and request a form to be sent to them.

For further questions or information contact Dr. Claudia Canales at 254-471-5536. Evant ISD is located at 339 N. Memory Ln. in Evant.

Gatesville High School Prom is April 15

Staff Reports

Gatesville High School will host Prom 2023 on Saturday, April 15. The prom will take place from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Texas Station Event Center. Tickets will be available for purchase through Friday, April 14.

Tickets are to be pur-

chased at the Gatesville Independent School District website by clicking "school store" on the top right corner and find "prom tickets." To check out, use a personal email, and the tickets will be sent to that email. The cost per ticket for juniors will be \$35 and seniors are free.

To enter, Prom students

may either print off their tickets or use their phone so that staff can scan the tickets.

For more information contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281. The Texas Station Event Center is located at 4604 TX-36 in Gatesville.

Head Start is accepting applications

Staff Reports

Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Head Start provides quality childcare for children ages three to five years old, and other needed services qualifying families at no cost.

The services that are offered at Head Start are educational activities, child development, family engagement, language and literacy, health and nutrition services, services through community partnerships, and special services for children with

disabilities.

Visit your local Head Start center to pick up an application or visit the website www.hccaa.com. Head Start is located at 1105 Saunders Street in Gatesville. For more information contact 254-865-5423.

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Scan the QR code to submit your photos today!

Celebrating PALS at Gatesville ISD

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Peer Assistance and Leadership (PALS) program recently held a banquet and award presentation ceremony at the Gatesville High School auditorium to honor the students involved.

The program, spearheaded by Star Hamilton and Justin Brumfield, guided the GHS students into being mentors and examples for the younger Gatesville Independent School District students.

The seniors who were presented with their graduation cords during the presentation included Payton Armstrong, Slone Early, Vielka Gonzales, Kason Herbelin, America Hernandez, Wyatt Lea, Ben Mabry, Khloe Matthews, Rylee Oliver, Grace Penrod, Alex Scott, Jose Silva, Jordan Underwood, Ty Warren, and Hayleigh Wilson.

During the ceremony, testimonials about the PALS program were given by senior Kason Herbelin, and juniors Jasmine Olivar and Cameron Baker. The testimonials were

followed by the induction of the sophomore class into the program.

The evening concluded with the second annual PALS scholarship award of \$250, presented to senior Ben Mabry. The All-Star PALS award was presented to senior Ty Warren for his outstanding service to the program.

Following the presentations, refreshments were served to the parents, students, and friends in attendance.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Top photo: PALS students sit in the Gatesville High School auditorium during a ceremony on March 29. Left: Ben Mabry, left, received the PAL scholarship and Ty Warren received the All Star PAL award, Right: Seniors received special recognition during the award ceremony.



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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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SATURDAY, April 8, 2023



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“DO NOT BE ALARMED.
YOU SEEK JESUS OF NAZARETH,
WHO WAS CRUCIFIED.
HE IS RISEN!
HE IS NOT HERE.”
MARK 16:6



HAPPY EASTER



What is the 'good news'?

(MetroCreative Connection)

The term "good news" is often used by Christians in reference to their faith. Good news is at the heart of Christianity, and it has both symbolic and literal meaning in reference to the New Testament.

According to the online biblical reference Bible Odyssey, "good news" is the literal translation of the Greek word "euangelion." It also can be interchanged with gospel, which is "good spiel" or "godspel," which means good news. New Testament authors offer that the good news means the salvation and liberation from sin and estrangement from God.

The Apostle Paul summarized the gospel, and in turn

the good news, in this way:

"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was bur-

ied, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve."

Christians believe Christ's death symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice and paved the way for Jesus' resurrection. The death and resurrection — proving that there would be life after death for the faithful — became the core tenet of the Christian faith. Everyone who accepts the gospel and has faith in God will receive salvation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Easter celebrations are important to Christians because this holiday is the most meaningful on the liturgical calendar. Easter highlights the good news in



COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE CONNECTION

Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?

(MetroCreative Connection)

Christians around the world fill church pews on Easter Sunday to participate in one of the most holy and important celebrations of the liturgical year. Although every Sunday presents opportunities to share in the word of God, Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father's side in heaven.

However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the core of the Christian religion as it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not exist as it was prophesied. Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross for others' sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of

Christianity has been built.

In 1 Corinthians 15:17, St. Paul wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." Pope Benedict XVI similarly summarized St. Paul's words, indicating that if the resurrection were taken away, it may be possible to piece together ideas about God and men, but the Christian faith would be "dead." In his book, Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict further wrote, "Jesus would be a failed religious leader... he would then remain purely

human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us."

According to Christianity.com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after

death, and they will have the same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

Out of Holy Week and Easter also came the start of Christian masses. On Holy Thursday, Jesus introduced his disciples to the bread that they ate at the Last Supper as "his body" and the wine as "his blood." This

would serve as the basis for the Christian celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.

Easter is a significant date on the Christian calendar that inspires Christians across the globe to celebrate their faith.

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."
1 Corinthians 6:14

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:45 A.M.

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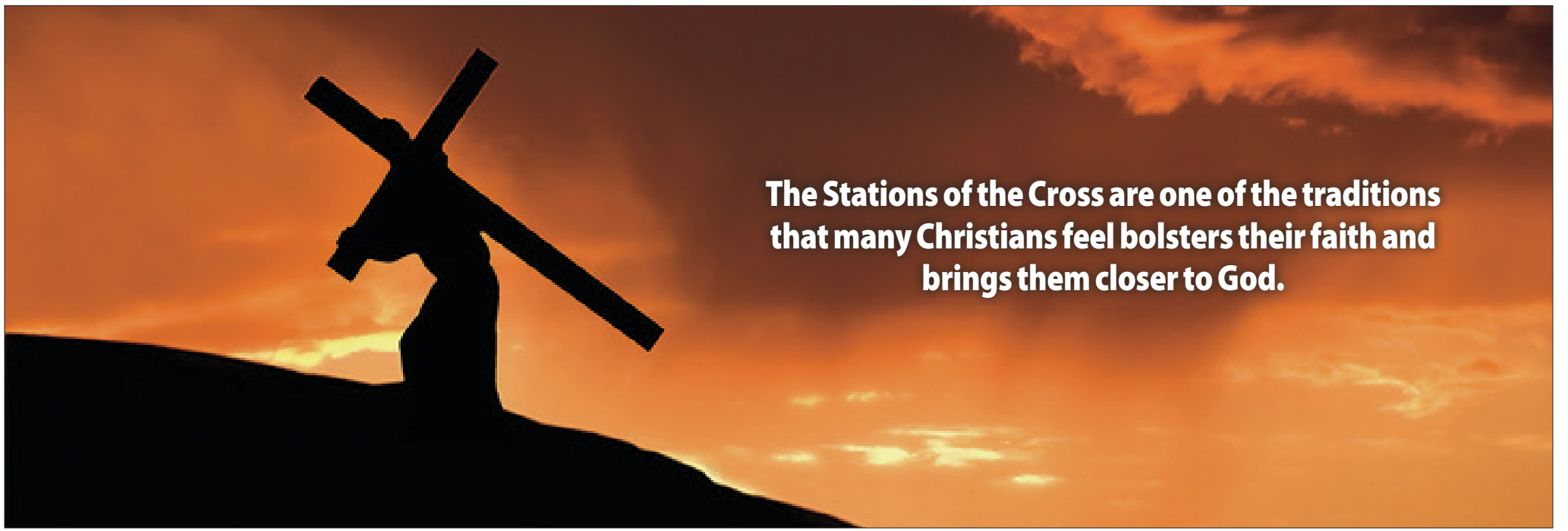
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The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE CONNECTION

Explaining the Stations of the Cross

(MetroCreative Connection)

Tradition is prominent in Holy Week celebrations. The week leading up to Easter Sunday, Holy Week, is a sacred time for faithful Christians. The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

What are the Stations of the Cross?

According to Catholic Online, the Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. Each of the 14 stations focus on a specific

event of Jesus's last day as a man.

Where can the Stations of the Cross be found?

Stations of the Cross are typically found in churches. Many times the Stations adorn the interior wall of a church, and Catholic Online

notes they're often depicted using small icons or images. Some churches with sizable exterior grounds may arrange larger Stations along footpaths in yards or gardens on the premises.

When do people most commonly pray the Stations of

the Cross?

Lent is the most common time to pray the Stations of the Cross, and some churches hold weekly prayer sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays during this time of year.

WHAT ARE THE 14 STATIONS?

Catholic Online notes the 14 Stations of the Cross are:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries the cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets with His Mother

5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls a second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls a third time
10. Jesus's clothes are taken away
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross

13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

The Stations of the Cross are an important Easter tradition that shed light on Jesus's resurrection. Individuals interested in praying the Stations of the Cross are urged to contact a local church so they can engage in this moving Christian tradition.

Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help to tell the story of the resurrection of Jesus.

MATTHEW 28: 1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen

from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

MARK 16: 2-7

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the

door of the sepulchre?" And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, "Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."

LUKE 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the

spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

JOHN 20: 1-10

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.



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HE IS † RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION



Your guide to the Easter liturgical celebration

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter is the holiest day of the year for Christians. According to biblical scripture, Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah and Savior to the World. Easter Sunday marks His resurrection from death on the cross, upon which He paid the full penalty for humanity's sins by offering a spotless sacrifice in Himself, established the Christian religion and belief in everlasting life after death.

THE ROAD TO EASTER

In the weeks leading up to Easter, the faithful participate in a 40-day period of fasting, repentance and spiritual discipline known as Lent. In western Christianity, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Easter is preceded by Holy Week, which starts with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and encompasses Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Services during Lent and Holy Week are spe-

cial and differ from others in the liturgical year. On Palm Sunday, for example, Roman Catholics and other Christians will take part in the reading of the Passion, which details Judas' betrayal of Jesus Christ, and His crucifixion.

EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil is an ancient liturgy celebrated on the night before Easter Sunday. It began as an all-night vigil, but has since been shortened. The Vigil

begins with the church shrouded in darkness before a candle is lit from a fire outside the church. The candle represents Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Eventually all the candles in the sanctuary are lit from the Easter candle. Readings focus on God's marvelous plan and span from Genesis to the New Testament.

THE MASS OF EASTER
(The Resurrection of the Lord)

Easter Sunday Mass is a celebratory time for Christians. Most attend services in their formal clothing and give thanks to Jesus and to bask in the light of His eternal life.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Easter Sunday features key readings and responses. The First Reading is from Acts 10:34a, 37-43, and speaks of Jesus of Nazareth be-

ing anointed with the Holy Spirit. The Second Reading is from Colossians 3:1-4 or Corinthians 5:6B-8, which details following Christ and turning away from sin and into His Glory. The Gospel that will be read can be one of these four: John 20:1-9, Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:13-35, or Mark 16:1-7. These readings each speak to the discovery of Jesus' empty burial tomb and reassure disciples they should not be afraid because He has been raised from the dead in glory.

Depending on the parish, refreshments may follow the Easter mass and there is a fellowship of the community joined together on this holy day. Families then go home to their individual Easter celebrations, often sharing a lamb or ham dinner with family and friends.

Easter Sunday Mass is the penultimate Holy Week celebration in the Christian Church. It is a time of great joy and tradition.



COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE CONNECTION

The Eucharist is a central component of the Christian faith.

Holy week celebrates the origins of the Eucharist

(MetroCreative Connection)

The Eucharist is a central component of the Christian faith. During the Eucharistic celebration, the sharing of bread and wine, which many Christians believe symbolizes the actual body and blood of Christ after the process of transubstantiation, takes place.

The Easter season is a key time to reflect on the origins of sharing communion and the Eucharist. Church teaching and Biblical study says the origin of the Eucharist

occurred at the Last Supper of Jesus, which is commemorated on Holy Thursday. According to the religious resource The Catholic Tradition, the Last Supper in the New Testament set the course for the tenets of the Christian faith. Christian liturgies exist because Jesus Christ told people to do what he had done, in memory of him.

The most detailed account of the first sharing of the Eucharist is found in St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, which pre-

dates the Gospels. St. Paul 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, offers nearly verbatim the terminology used in today's Apostolic liturgy. St. Paul's words read:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and giving thanks, broke, and said: Take ye, and eat: This is My Body, which shall be delivered for you: this do for the commemoration of Me. In like manner also

the chalice, after He had supped, saying: This chalice is the new testament in My Blood: this do ye, as often as you shall drink, for the commemoration of Me. For as often as you shall eat this Bread, and drink the Chalice, you shall show the death of the Lord, until He come.

Jesus and his disciples gathered on the first day of Passover for the Last Supper. In addition to sharing food and wine, Jesus explained that one in their midst would betray Him

and another would deny knowing Him.

Jesus also explained to the disciples how the bread was a symbol of his body and would be broken for them. In addition, the wine was a symbol for his blood and would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven, indicates Bible Study Tools. Additional Christian traditions which emerged during the Last Supper include the washing of feet. Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example to be servants to all.

From the Last Supper on, faithful Christians follow the guidance of Jesus Christ, and the Eucharist is the central component of masses within many Christian churches. Keeping this feast renews repentance and people's faith in Jesus' blood and sacrifice.

Easter is an opportunity to dive deeper into the Christian faith and the meanings behind the tenets of Christianity.

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The days of Holy Week



Maundy Thursday commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy) and the Last Supper.

COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter Sunday is often described as the holiest day on the Christian calendar. A day when Christians across the globe commemorate and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter Sunday is the culmination of the Lenten season of sacrifice. Easter Sunday comes on the heels of Holy Week, which is the most sacred week in the liturgical year in Christianity.

Holy Week consists of various days that have their own special significance in the minds and hearts of Christians.

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Trinity College at the University of Melbourne notes that Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, where he was greeted with crowds that enthusiastically waved palm branches. In

commemoration of that entry and greeting, Christians receive palm branches or palm crosses during Palm Sunday Mass.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Once known as "Spy Wednesday," Holy Wednesday focuses on the darkness of Holy Week and is meant to symbolize the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples. The religious service of Tenebrae, which is a Latin word meaning "dark-

ness" or "shadows," is typically observed during Holy Wednesday services.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy) and the Last Supper. The Last Supper is the final meal Jesus shared with his apostles prior to his crucifixion. Christian scriptures indicate that, during the Last Supper, Jesus predicted his betrayal by one of the apostles present at the meal. It was also during the Last Supper when Jesus foretells that Peter will deny knowing him three times before the next morning. Trinity College notes that Maundy Thursday reminds Christians of the new commandment that Jesus gave his disciples. That commandment was to love others as Jesus has loved them.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday commemo-

rates the trial of Jesus, his subsequent sentence of death, his torture, his crucifixion, and burial. Non-Christians may wonder why a day commemorating such events would be characterized as "good," but Trinity College notes that, in this sense, the word "good" is meant to connote something "holy" or "pious."

HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday marks the conclusion of Holy Week. Celebrations of Holy Saturday typically include a late-night Easter Vigil service that involves a liturgy and ultimately the celebration of the Eucharist. The two-part celebration is designed to commemorate the emergence from darkness into the light that is the Eucharist.

Holy Week is a significant period for Christians across the globe that commemorates many of the events that preceded the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

The Easter vigil is a liturgy celebrated on Holy Saturday.

Explaining the Easter vigil

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter is the most significant date on the calendar for Christians across the globe. A celebration of the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter serves as the foundation of the Christian faith. So it's no surprise that a day as significant as Easter is steeped in such incredible tradition.

The Easter vigil is one such tradition. According to CatholicCulture.org, the vigil is a liturgy celebrated on the eve of Easter Sunday, a day known as "Holy Saturday" within the church.

CatholicCulture.org notes that the Easter Vigil is divided into four parts, each with their own unique characteristics and traditions.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

The atmosphere in the church is noticeably different during the Service of Light, when all lights are turned out and the tabernacle is empty. The Service of Light begins outside the church and a new fire is lit and blessed upon entering. A Paschal candle is prepared and the priest lights the candle from the new fire. The candle is processed through the church as each celebrant lights his or her own candle from the Paschal candle, which symbolizes Christ. The Easter proclamation is then sung, explaining the significance of Easter.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

During the Liturgy of the Word, readings are chosen from among seven Old Testament and two New Testament passages. All nine need not be read, but three from the Old Testament must be read. CatholicCulture.org notes that the Gloria is sung before the reading of the Epistle of the Romans, while Alleluia is sung before the Gospel.

LITURGY OF BAPTISM

During the Liturgy of Baptism, the Easter water is blessed and new members are welcomed into the church through the ceremony of baptism. The faithful in attendance who have already been baptized also renew their baptismal promises during this portion of the Easter vigil.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Mass resumes during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and special prayers are inserted during the Eucharist prayer. According to CatholicCulture.org, the whole church is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for Christians during his death and resurrection.

The celebration of Easter includes many inspiring traditions. The Easter vigil is one such tradition that the faithful participate in each Holy Saturday.

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The significance of various symbols of Easter

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter Sunday is a day when Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates there are approximately 2.4 billion Christians across the globe, which accounts for nearly one-third of the global population.

Though certain Christian groups do not celebrate Easter, many consider it the holiest day of the year. Given that significance, it's no surprise Easter is steeped in symbolism. The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

EGGS

Eggs might now be more instantly associated with Easter egg hunts for children, but the American Bible Society notes that eggs are symbolic of more than just fun for kids. Eggs represent the new life that's symbolic of spring, which is when Easter occurs in the northern hemisphere. Christians view eggs as a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, though colored eggs are often seen as a fun Easter activity for kids, the ABS notes that the tradition dates back to the early days of Christianity, when red-colored eggs were used



to represent the resurrection.

CRUCIFIX

The crucifix, which is a distinct representation of a cross with Jesus Christ on it, is symbolic of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus. The ABS notes that the resurrection of Jesus symbolizes his victory over the power of sin and death.

THE LAMB

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the "Lamb of God" (Revelation 5:6-14), so the lamb is another important Easter symbol for Christians. In addition, in John (1:29), Jesus is referred to by John the Baptist as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

EASTER BUNNY

Another symbol, like Easter eggs, that people could be forgiven for mistaking as purely secular, the Easter Bunny is not entirely separate from the spiritual meaning of the holiday. As noted, Easter, even though it's a moveable feast, takes place in spring in the northern hemisphere each year. Spring is symbolic of rebirth,



COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

There are many symbols of Easter across the globe.

and the hare was a symbol of fertility among the ancient pagans. The spirit of rebirth associated with rabbits, particularly in spring,

also is reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus from his tomb. Easter is celebrated across the globe. Those celebrations feature

many significant religious symbols that have withstood the test of time.

Explaining the symbolism of candles on Holy Saturday

(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter Week is an exciting time for Christians across the globe. Easter Week begins with Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday, and during the week, Christians commemorate the Last Supper on Holy Thursday and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. Come Holy Saturday, it may seem as though there's little left for Christians to do besides

prepare for Easter Sunday Mass the following day. However, some churches hold Easter Vigil services on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. During these vigils, some of which may last several hours, priests will light what is known as a Paschal candle. This candle is several feet tall and within it are several rings of incense, which are intended to symbolize the wounds Christ suffered on the day of his

crucifixion. Once the Paschal candle is lit, the priest proceeds to the front of the church, periodically stopping to light various smaller candles. By the time the priest reaches the front of the church, it is illuminated

with what Christians believe is the light of Christ. But the Paschal candle's work does not end on Holy Saturday, as priests will then use the same candle throughout the year during baptisms and funerals.

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Tears of Eve: Meanings behind the Easter lily



Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden from the teardrops of Eve that spread when she and Adam were cast out of the garden.

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(MetroCreative Connection)

Easter symbols and traditions help make the holiday familiar and special. Eggs, hot cross buns and frilly church dresses help paint the picture, and so does a delicate and beautiful white flower.

The Easter lily plant is native to both Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands of Japan. The plant's flowering season begins in April and ends in

June. The plant produces pure white flowers on top of long stems. Easter lilies often adorn homes and church altars during this time of year.

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden from the teardrops of Eve that spread when she and Adam were cast out of the garden. These were believed to be tears of repentance.

Historians and biblical scholars say that the lily has always been highly regarded in the Christian Church. Jesus even references the flower in Luke 12:27, stating

“Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” Legend has it that, after Jesus' death and resurrection, lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus is said to have prayed before his crucifixion. They were believed to have sprung up from a drop of sweat from

his brow when his head was bent in prayer.

In Easter celebrations, the lily represents Christ's Resurrection, and thusly new birth and new life. The delicate, white blooms can be viewed as pure, innocent and untainted by the world.

The flower itself is used in various ways to tell the resurrection story. The bulb is buried in the ground as a representation of Christ's

tomb. The trumpet-shaped fragrant flowers also announce life after death, since bulbous flowers often regrow year after year, according to the religious resource All About Jesus. And the trumpet shape signifies the angel Gabriel's trumpet call.

It's common for Easter lilies to decorate homes, churches, gardens, and more throughout the Easter season.

“Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

JESUS

“He is not here; He has risen!”
Luke 24:6

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Explaining the meaning of Easter to children



COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

Easter is a beloved holiday among children. But even the most faithful youngsters can become confused about the meaning of the most significant day on the Christian calendar.

(MetroCreative Connection)

Explaining Easter to children can be a delicate matter, especially for very young children who may not fully understand the tenets of the Christian faith. Although Easter ends with Jesus Christ emerging from his tomb, prior to this glorious miracle there are subjects of betrayal, suffering and death. These religious messages can confound when commingled with the imagery of bunnies delivering chocolates, chicks and pastel-hued eggs. How do well-meaning parents relay the message of Easter without scaring or confusing children?

TEMPER THE MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE

A child's age bears consideration when gauging just how much to share about Easter. Between Palm Sunday, when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem, to Easter Sunday's Resurrection, the story of Easter features torture and death — which are topics not easily digested by anyone, especially children. Even the

core symbol of the Christian faith — the crucifix — is shocking.

For the youngest children, the extent of the torture and betrayal can be muted. For example, parents may say that Jesus was bullied and made fun of and that people didn't believe him when he spoke. Parents can note that even some of the closest friends to Jesus had their doubts. This may be easier for kids to digest because it's

something they may relate to.

Children may not understand the death on the cross; it's even challenging for adults to wrap their minds around that visual. It briefly can be mentioned that he was placed on a cross, as was customary during that era, but forgo the finer details.

FOCUS ON THE RESURRECTION

Parents will not want to talk about death without ending on the high note of Jesus' Resurrection. Remind children that Christ's death was temporary and that He now always will be with adults and children. Read passages from scripture that exemplify the Good News and the happy components of the Easter celebration.

EXPLAIN SECULAR IMAGES

Young children may be more focused on the commercial images of Easter

rather than the religious ones. Parents may want to gear symbolism toward the religious explanations and focus their traditions thusly. Baking hot cross buns can be fun and showcase the crucifix. Explaining how eggs are representative of Jesus Christ's new life when coloring them is another way to cut through mixed messages.

READ BOOKS

Some authors already have taken the challenge out of explaining Easter to children. Visit a religious bookseller, the church or a book store to find Easter stories geared to children.

Parents can decide how to explain Easter to their chil-

dren. Many moms and dads have found that focusing on the joyful aspects of Christ's

resurrection story is a simple, enjoyable way to explain Easter.

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