



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Carlo Martinez makes his mark at Gatesville High School

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Even with all the success he has enjoyed over a storied athletic career at Gatesville High School, senior Carlo Martinez entered uncharted territory on May 11 when he competed in two events — the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter races — in the University Interscholastic League Class 4A state track and field meet in Austin.

“I have never gone to state before in track and field — this is my first time,” Martinez said. “I have gone to state in cross country three times — my sophomore, junior and senior years.”

What has enabled Martinez to do so much better in track this spring than in previous years?

“I just applied myself to my workouts more,” he said. “I started doing everything

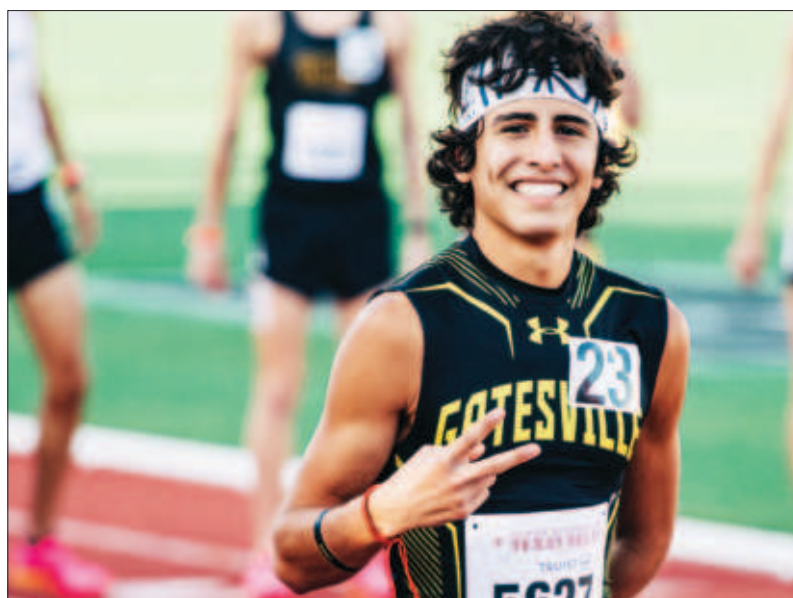
“It’s crazy what a difference it makes when you apply yourself. I wasn’t running as much last year.”

CARLO MARTINEZ
state track competitor

I needed to do to become a better athlete. It’s really crazy what a difference it makes when you apply yourself. I wasn’t running as much last year.”

Asked how much he is currently running,

PLEASE SEE **MARTINEZ** | A2



GLADYS WHITENBURG
THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

After advancing to state competition in cross country three straight years, Carlo Martinez earned a spot at the Class 4A state track meet, and competed in two different events on May 11.

Old jail demolished



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The old Coryell County Jail, built in 1932, was recently leveled to make way for a 47-bed expansion of the current jail. The building most recently housed offices for two Coryell County justices of the peace.

Conflicting views voiced regarding cost-cutting

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

While keeping construction costs for the future Leon Street Annex appears to be a priority for the Coryell County judge and each member of the commissioners court, a discussion about the topic during the May 9 commissioners court meeting revealed some differences in approach.

County Judge Roger Miller said he placed an item on the agenda regarding options for cutting costs to reduce the budget of the proposed Leon Street Annex and giving guidance to Southwest Architects to include that in their plans.

“We need to implement cost cutting measures and look at reducing the size and scope of the generator (for the building),” Miller said. He added that is a result of an \$870,000 cost overrun on jail expansion costs.

During a meeting in April, commissioners Scott Weddle and Kyle Matthews had said it is too early to begin cost cutting measures on the Leon Street Annex because a guaranteed maximum price for the building has not been revealed.

“I thought a majority of the court decided we were premature in this - where do you get the \$870,000?” Weddle asked. “That \$870,000 is the difference in the (initial) estimate of what the jail expansion would cost versus what came in,” Miller said.

“I guess we’re going to look at it differently,” Weddle said. “I want to make sure we have enough to cover the expense. If we put a server over there (for electronics), we’ll need the (larger) generator.”

Weddle added that a suggestion to consider “removing benches in the courtroom and replacing them with folding chairs ... My thought is it doesn’t have the decorum of a facility we’ll have for at least 30 years, and the way Coryell County does things, it might be 80 years.”

Miller said reducing the size of the interior is another item to consider.

“One thing that glaringly sticks out is to reduce the square footage - to find a way to cut square footage. I know that gets into some pretty extensive redrawing of plans,” he said.

Matthews said he wants to avoid making cuts too early in the process.

“I want everybody to be patient,” he said. “There’s nothing wrong with telling an architect to be gentle. It is a professional building, and it does need a roof, floor and doors.”

Weddle said a certain amount of space is needed for a courtroom.

“Being a court, it does have a square footage requirement,” Weddle said. “I am an eternal optimist - I look at what we can do and not what we can’t do. I love being challenged. I did some number crunching and have some figures to present to the court.”

Sheriff Scott Williams said having benches will enhance the security of the building.

“As far as courtroom security, it’s a whole lot harder to throw a bench than a folding chair,” he said.

Weddle said he is assuming that the guaranteed maximum price will hold closely to the number that was presented in January.

He said the estimated cost for construction of both the Leon Street Annex and expansion of the jail is \$13,689,364 without options, and with options, the county is looking at a \$320,248 shortfall.

“One of the things we have to keep in mind before we talk

PLEASE SEE **ROTUNDA** | A3

PLEASE SEE **COUNTY** | A3

Contract awarded for Rotunda demolition

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Gatesville City Council awarded a contract for \$176,636 to RNDI of Rockwall Texas to demolish the former Rotunda Nursing Home at 2525 Osage Road.

The city acquired the building, which has been abandoned by its former tenant since 2000, through tax foreclosure in

2008. Asbestos abatement and demolition of two wings of the building were completed in 2014 and 2015.

After five unsuccessful attempts to acquire grant funding, Gatesville’s persistence finally paid off in 2021 when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the city

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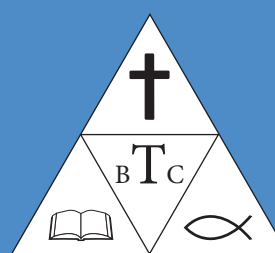
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Patterson joins Council



COURTESY PHOTO BY GARY CHUMLEY

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER: Joe Patterson was sworn in by Gatesville City Secretary Wendy Cole on May 9 as the new Ward 2, Place 2 representative on the Gatesville City Council. Patterson replaces Billy Sinyard, who resigned in April.

Bridge Street house work continues

Contractor Layton Willis updated the Gatesville City Council on May 9 about work underway at 2006 Bridge Street, which has been ruled

substandard. Framing, electrical and plumbing work is done. He said the house was to be ready for an inspection on May 12.

Lions help empower blind, visually impaired

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Since 1925, when celebrity and advocate Helen Keller asked the Lions Club to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness,” Lions have championed the cause of the visually impaired.

During a Gatesville Lions Club meeting, Renee Kettler, the Second Vice District Governor, gave an overview of World Services for the Blind, a school in Little Rock, Ark. that helps visually impaired people from the United States and throughout the world learn valuable skills to help them obtain employment.

“It’s quite impressive,” Kettler said. “It began in 1947 with a donation from the Little Rock, Arkansas Lions Club. They saw a need to serve the community of the visually impaired and to give them skills to be able to live an independent life despite their disability.”

Today, Lions Clubs all over the world, including the club in Gatesville, help to fund the school. Kettler said that more than 16,000 people from all 50 states and other countries have attended the school.

“The mission is to empower people who are blind or visually impaired to achieve sustainable independence,” she said. “What does it do? Much like college, it teaches skills. There is also a GED (general equivalency diploma) program. The school teaches a vocation or skills such as small engine repair, working with computers and a variety of other things.”

Options also include technology, call service, credit counseling, office work and small business management.

Some of the school’s administrators are also blind, including Chief



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Renee Kettler, Second Vice District Governor for Lions Clubs in Central Texas, spoke to the Gatesville Lions Club about World Services for the Blind.

Executive Officer Eric Yarberry. “He brings a world of knowledge” to the organization, Kettler said.

Heather Miller is the director of education and training. Unlike Yarberry, who has been blind since birth, Miller became blind later in life because of complications from diabetes.

“She was a prosecutor for nine years and developed blindness as an adult,” Kettler said. “She found out about World Services for the Blind and discovered it was something she loved, and she wanted to be a part of the organization.”

The cost of attending the school can be expensive and varies according to the equipment needed and course length for each individual attending. Many of those attending have the costs covered by the Lions Club.

“The amount of time it takes (for those attending) can range from six

months to a year and a half,” Kettler said. “There are scholarships to help cover the costs, and donations of World Services for the Blind help fund these. “The average cost is between \$1,500 and \$3,000 a month.”

“World Services for the Blind has a job placement program as well, giving opportunities throughout the United States.”

Those interested in enrolling in the program are required to visit the school in Little Rock as part of the application process.

Kettler said the keynote speaker for the school’s 75th anniversary celebration was a graduate of World Services for the Blind who later received a doctorate from Harvard, has published several books and is a public speaker who travels nationwide.

For more information about World Services for the Blind, visit www.ws-blind.org.

CORYELL HEALTH WELCOMES

Timothy Dannemiller, MD

Family Medicine Physician

Coryell Health is pleased to announce Dr. Timothy Dannemiller, board certified family medicine physician, has joined our primary care physician practice and is accepting new patients at Coryell Health Medical Clinic- Gatesville. Dr. Dannemiller brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of men’s health. He believes preventing a health problem is better than having to overcome one. Dr. Dannemiller attended The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine on a four-year US Navy scholarship and completed his residency in Family Medicine at the Naval Hospital in Pensacola. He served as Senior Medical officer for the Naval Branch Medical Clinic Naval Air Station in Meridian, MS as well as a US Naval Flight Surgeon for VT-23/Training Wing One.

For his outstanding and innovative practice of medicine, Dr. Dannemiller has earned a Navy Achievement medal and three Naval and Marine Corps Commendation medals.

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GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Carlo Martinez heads to the finish line during a track meet held in Gatesville earlier this spring. He competed in two events at the state track meet on May 11.

MARTINEZ

FROM PAGE A1

Martinez said, “I am running anywhere from 40 to 50 miles per week. I was running about 30 miles a week in cross country. I increased the miles so I can do well in track season.”

Workouts are a solo pursuit for Martinez. “It’s something I have to do solo other than cross country,” he said. “Sometimes it can be really difficult running alone. That’s one of the reasons I’m really looking forward to college (he has signed to continue

his athletic career at the University of Louisiana at Monroe). It’s important that I mentally push myself.”

What is he expecting at the state meet? “I kind of know what the competition is like and I know it will be difficult,” Martinez said. “I have to do my absolute best if I want to win.”

Asked what has helped inspire his pursuit of excellence this spring, Martinez said, “My relationship with God has gotten a lot stronger, and it’s helped me persevere.”

He also credited his parents and coaches “for really helping me, encouraging me and always being there for me.”

Council approves subdividing property

The Gatesville City Council approved a request to subdivide 11.4 acres out of the A, Arocha survey on South Highway 36 in the Newman Addition into five lots.

The property is not far from the Bar N Veterinary Clinic. The subdivision had been

unanimously approved from the planning and zoning commission.

“It complies with all requirements of a city subdivision,” said Interim City Manager Billy Parry. The city provides sewer service to the area.

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

Pamela Rudolph

Say hello to our neighbor, Pamela Rudolph!

Pamela is the Director of Services at the Gatesville Senior Center. She has lived in Gatesville all her life and has worked at the Senior Center since August 2022. She enjoys being involved with the community, as well as bringing new experiences to the members and meeting new clients. Pamela reads The Gatesville Messenger and is pleased to see the diversity of articles and a variety of community interests.

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

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

What happens after graduation is what really counts



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

We are getting precariously close to the start of graduation season. Just another couple of weeks and our high school seniors will walk across the stage, receive their diploma, and move on to the next chapter of their lives. It is an exciting time for family and friends and sometimes a little overwhelming for graduates.

So many questions are directed at the graduates as to their "plans" for the future and it would seem the expectations of the world are laid at their doorstep. "Where are you going to school? What do you want to become?" These are questions we elders repeatedly throw into conversations with young people. After the first 100 or so inquiries, I can imagine some graduates might wish they should wear a sign around their neck declaring their intentions, to avoid yet another recitation.

Of course, the questions are asked with good intentions and genuine concern about the student, but why is there so much focus on a "plan?" Is it because society compels graduates to have a plan? Do we place pressure on graduates and imply they must know how they

want to spend the rest of their life? Why is there such a rush to decide? Is some of the concept of "the plan" to benefit parents, so they can tell their friends and family their child's lofty goals and receive affirmation they have done a good job as a parent?

I had ideas of what I wanted to do with my life when I graduated high school but thank goodness, I had a degree of self-awareness and on occasion, took the road less traveled. Instead of only doing what I knew would please my parents or fulfill the expectations of my inner circle of family and friends, I gave myself the gift of exploring the world around me and trying to find the place that was the best fit. Now nearly 50 years later, I still frequently take the road less traveled and will go to my grave happy I have done so.

But my choices are not the best choice for everyone. I do admire people who, for example, decide they want to be a veterinarian in the third grade. They study furiously through high school and college to make the grade, enter vet school to get their advanced education, and then spend the next 40 to 50 years doing the task they have been trained in. Their lives must be uncomplicated because of their dedication to one purpose, and one goal. If such a person feels fulfilled and satisfied with their life choice, more power to them.

Alternatively, I have witnessed many people in life who spent years of time and a fortune in dollars to "become" something, and once they achieved their goal, did not really enjoy where they landed. Young people can become enamored with a vision or fantasy of their future, and when the reality of life comes to pass, they can find the dream did not fulfill them as they expected.

Life only happens once. We will all make at least a few poor "life choices" during our time on earth, but decisions about careers are one of the major decisions in all of life — right up there with

whom to marry and whether to have children. It is best to have eyes wide open and be as certain as possible on how to spend those precious hours that make up our lives.

Graduates, have a plan, but keep your options open. Look around and see if the vision of life you have imagined is truly the one you want to have. Every occupation has its rewards and its drawbacks. There will be challenges in every job, and you alone must determine if the challenges of a specific career are something you wish to face. Life is long. You will grow and learn as you gain experience. Do not be afraid to reconsider or change from your original "plan." Alternatively, don't be afraid to stick to a plan if it is what you truly wish for yourself. The grass is not always greener.

Thought for the day: "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward. You must trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future." — Steve Jobs.

Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out.

sam@hcnews.com

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Older Americans Month recognized

COUNTY

FROM PAGE A1

\$320,248 shortfall.

"One of the things we have to keep in mind before we talk about redrawing and going back to the drawing board is that both the architect and the construction manager at risk have contingencies," Weddle said. "Anything over that number they pay for and anything under we get back. Naturally they're going to have a high number (for contingencies).

"The total of contingencies on the entire project is \$785,677. That's potential money that can come back to the county, and also potential money to add an extra step or something. Regarding this \$800,000 (which Miller referred to), it's almost already in there. Being the eternal optimist, we're looking pretty good with \$785,000 in uh-ohs."

Weddle said the contract with Johnson County to house inmates from

Coryell County in its jail would have reduced costs when the 47-bed jail expansion is complete. The projected date for that is February 2024.

"We can't lose sight of the goal and we're looking at February 28, 2024," he said. "I'm going to continue to look at it and tweak it. In my opinion we're in pretty good shape. I'm not happy they came in higher (on costs) for the jail. But on the contingencies, I'm fully expecting to get some money back."

Miller said the projected obligation and hard number for the cost of jail expansion and the Leon Street Annex is closer to \$14,340,213.

"If you look at that, the deficit becomes \$735,000," he said. "I think that's the number we've got to look at. I'm not trying to put the cart in front of the horse. Right now, we're over on one cost projection. Right now, they're 0 for 1."

"We may have to budget for FY (fiscal year) 2024 before we get the bid packers in."

Weddle said he thought the packets

would be received sooner.

"No, I think they'll have everything in before budget season," Weddle said. "I do not think we need to look at reducing the (building) footprint. We can look at fixtures and such. I would ask that we wait until we get closer to the GMP (guaranteed maximum price) and see if they come in at what you say."

"I can put in additional numbers - two different sets of books - I'm making a joke, but the optimists and the pessimists."

"I hope I'm not coming across as a pessimist," Miller said. "I don't know how we can afford another 15% deviation. I think we'll be challenged at this point even with a number of \$735,000. There's some things in the contingencies that would have to go our way."

Weddle said the cost savings from housing fewer inmates out of county will make a difference once the jail expansion is complete.

"It's a tremendous amount of money going out of this county that we'll be able to bring back," he said.



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County Judge Roger Miller, left, hands a copy of a proclamation recognizing May as National Older Americans Month in Coryell County to Alan Mathis, a member of the Silver Haired Legislature, which helps to represent the interests of senior citizens at the state level, including visits to the Texas Legislature.

ROTUNDA

FROM PAGE A1

a Brownfield Cleanup grant which required a 20% local match. A total of \$183,409 in federal funds were awarded to remove the two remaining structures on the property. The city's match is \$36,682.

Gatesville received five bids for the demolition. The lowest was from Sierra Demolition of Jarrell for \$145,000. Interim City Manager Bill Parry said that bid "lacked specifics in terms of their plan, as well as experience" in doing similar work.

RNDI's bid was the second lowest. "They presented a

detailed plan and have extensive experience," Parry said. "They have conducted asbestos abatement and demolition in 40-plus schools in Dallas ISD, 120 properties in Dallas, and Grayson College. After consultation with Baer Engineering and the EPA Region 6 project manager, RNDI provided the best value for this project and both concurred with that recommendation."

Other bids were received from: Joe Ramon Construction of San Antonio for \$351,790; American Abatement of San Antonio for \$379,075; and Coastal Bend Demolition of Corpus Christi for \$410,000.

Parry said a public meeting will be set before work begins to let people know about the process.

Working for Texas seniors

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Gatesville resident Alan Mathis, a member of the Texas Silvered Haired Legislature with his wife Rosemary, spoke to the Coryell County Commissioners Court about the organization.

Coryell County Judge Roger Miller read a proclamation recognizing May as National Older Citizens Month and gave a copy to Mathis during the May 9 commissioners court meeting.

The area which Mathis and his wife represent stretches from Milam County to Lampasas County and includes Coryell County.

"By 2030, all the baby boomers will be over 65," Mathis said. "There are more senior citizens in Texas than the entire population of 24 states."

"We are very proud of some of the legislation we were able to help get passed for older Texans. Number

one is the personal needs allowance. If someone is in assisted living, they get \$2 a day, or \$60 a month. We got both chambers (of the Texas Legislature) to support raising it to \$80 per month."

Mathis said the organization also helped support the Teacher Retirement System, and a measure to be able to offer a state identification card instead of having to show an original birth certificate in dealing with different agencies.

"There's a man in Hamilton who is 99 years old and had to show an original birth certificate, and we helped change that," he said.

Commissioner Kyle Matthews said Mathis and his wife are very involved in community affairs.

"Alan and Rosemary are super active in the community and not just Gatesville - all over the county," Matthews said.

Gatesville Council awards bid for major replacement project on Mills Street

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Replacement of water and wastewater lines and manholes on Mills Street from 14th to 18th streets is scheduled to begin this summer after the Gatesville City Council awarded a contract to LC Paving and Construction during its May 9 meeting.

"It's a fairly significant project and we anticipate that it will begin this summer," said Interim City Manager Bill Parry. "It will go on concurrently with the Lovers Lane (water and wastewater line replacement), so we will have two major projects at the same time."

LC Paving and Construction of Coolidge, Texas had the low bid of \$661,645. Six other bids were also received: for \$710,277 from Quality Contractors of Waco; for \$977,779 from TTG Utilities of Gatesville; for \$745,726.59 from B-Corp Utilities of Gatesville; for \$796,970 from DJ Hansen Construction; for \$745,077 from

"It's a fairly significant project and we anticipate that it will begin this summer. It will go on concurrently with Love Lane (water and wastewater line replacement), so we will have two major projects at the same time."

BILLY PARRY
interim city manager

JH Contracting of China Spring; and for \$852,888 from Westar Construction of Georgetown.

According to a memo to the Council, the water and wastewater infrastructure in that area, among the oldest established part of Gatesville, is estimated to be 70 to 100 years old. "The condition of water/sewer lines, manholes, etc. require a replacement strategy as opposed to constant repairs," the memo stated.

In addition to new water and sewer

lines, the project will also include the replacement of eight manholes, six new fire hydrants and service connections.

Walker Partners of Waco, acting as the city engineer, reviewed the bids and evaluated the contractors, recommending LC Paving and Construction.

"I love awarding to local contractors, but B-Corp is already doing the Lovers Lane project and the other local company, TTG, was over \$300,000 more," Parry said.

History transported to the museum

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Salvaged from the recent demolition of Coryell County's fourth jail, which was built in the early 1930s, was a certain cell door located in the upstairs of the facility. The special door was used to gain access to what was known as the "Bull Pen" where the male "bad guys" were kept in the early years.

The cell door, which was manufactured by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company in St. Louis, Missouri, was unique in style since the locking process was a rotating combination lock rather than a key entry like the other cell doors. This type of lock by the Pauly company was known as a "Key-Bar Grating" mechanism that was patented in the late 1800s.

Coryell County Commissioner Ryan Basham recently shared a humorous story about the combination cell door when his grandfather, Deputy Jack Fry, and highway patrolman David White were in charge of transporting an inmate from the jail's Bull Pen to the courthouse. The pair could not get the combination dial to work on the cell door and had to call upon Sheriff Windy Cummings to come to the jail to unlock the cell door. "It was a heck of a note that they couldn't get the door open and had to call on Sheriff Cummings to do it himself," Basham said.

The unique combination door was recently cut from the rest of the cell block and removed during the demolition of the building. Its new home will be alongside other artifacts from previous Coryell County jails at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Senior Maintenance Technician Todd Pierce, escorted by Commissioner Ryan Basham, is shown transporting the cell door to the Coryell Museum.

Dutch Oven Gang to host fundraiser for historic church

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The locally known "Leon River Dutch Oven Gang" will provide some down-home cooking to benefit the ongoing restoration process of the historic Eagle Springs Baptist Church located in southeastern Coryell County.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 20. The gang will begin serving lunch around noon, and provided on the menu will be pulled pork, potatoes, baked beans, peach cobbler, and dump cake - all cooked on-location in genuine old-time Dutch ovens. The meal can be paid for by simply making a love donation to the church restoration.

Charlotte Weiss, a member of the Leon River Dutch Oven Gang said, "we love helping out as well as teaching about Dutch oven cooking."

Dr. Eric Moffett of Coryell Community Church in Gatesville will address those assembled with a short message at 11 a.m. followed by lunch served at noon. Gospel music will also be

on the agenda.

The Eagle Springs Baptist Church, an offshoot of the Onion Creek Baptist Church, was built in 1878 in the community of Eagle Springs. The church was constructed primarily from cypress wood, which was hauled to the location by oxen-drawn wagons from Galveston. The small, one-room church is considered to be a rare type of architecture due to the two front doors - one for the men to enter through and one for the women. Very few of these historic churches are still in existence in Texas today. The inside of the church remains much the same as it did when Governor Pat Neff attended there as a child. The church pews, pulpit and pulpit chairs are all original to the building.

About 17 years ago, the Historic Eagle Springs Baptist Church Association was formed in order to raise funding to have the church repaired and restored. Repair work remains continuous on the soon

to be 145-year-old structure. Although funds were recently raised to have the floor of the church professionally leveled, the building continues to slant to the east. The siding, window-sills, and parts of the eaves of the church need to be replaced, and the building needs to be painted.

Association member Martha Deeringer said, "The Leon River Dutch Oven Gang is a group of amazing folks who can cook up culinary magic in Dutch ovens."

Deeringer said the church will be open to visitors who can see how their ancestors worshiped nearly 150 years ago.

The public is strongly encouraged to attend this worthwhile fundraising event.

"Don't miss your chance to taste some delightful cooking, have a great lunch, and help out a historic Coryell County church at the same time," Deeringer said.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
The historic Eagle Springs Baptist Church is located at 14225 FM 107, a few miles from Mother Neff State Park.

Fifth-graders help demonstrate what's new in 4-H

BY MARSHA LEE
Contributing Writer

Earlier this month, members of Retired School Personnel (CRSP) learned a little about 4-H, what it is, what is involved, and how it has changed over the years. The program was organized by County Extension Agent and 4-H Youth Development Coordinator Becky Coward.

Coward explained that 4-H is similar to a club, and that it is for kids and teens between ages 5 and 18. Those in grades 3-12 can belong to

4-H, and many areas have "clover kids" to include kindergarten through second grade. 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, empowering nearly six million young people with skills for a lifetime giving back to their community, being their own best selves, working in an environment with like-minded people who care about them, and learning to explain their projects - which could become a career or lifelong passion for them.

In Texas, 4-H began in 1908 in Jack County. A 4-H Museum now exists in the city of Jacksboro. It is part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M System. 4-H has become an activity for youth through in-school and after-school programs, school and community duties, and 4-H camps.

When 4-H began, it was primarily focused on agriculture. It is no longer just an organization for kids with animals to raise and

show. All 4-H members must have one hands-on project. Organized by topics, 4-H projects now reach out into categories of (1) Agriculture and livestock; (2) Family and community; (3) Natural resources; (4) Leadership and citizenship; and (5) the STEM group, which includes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

4-H depends on adult volunteers to mentor youths, oversee local clubs, and run events (competitions and fairs, for example). Volunteers will be trained in various fields. They go through volunteer orientation, child protective course training, and are carefully screened.

To help demonstrate what's new in 4-H, Coward brought two 4-H Club members with her. They were Greyson Bay and Maddox McAndrew, both fifth-graders at Gatesville Intermediate School. When a retiree asked what the four H's meant, the boys both responded with "Head, Heart, Hands, and Health."

Coward went on to explain that the four H's represent actions that members strive to achieve. The Head indicates clearer thinking (training to think, plan, and reason); the Heart stands for greater loyalty (being kind, true, and sympathetic); the Hands point to larger ser-

vice (useful, helpful, and skillful); and the Health leads to better living (resisting temptations, realizing, and enjoying life). The "4-H Pledge" states that these actions will be performed by members "for my club, my country, my community, and my world."

The project Greyson and Maddox are working on involves robotics, one of the STEM group of projects (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Robots are all around us. They help make life easier and they are more efficient, and more fun. The field of robotics is expanding at a rapid pace, and Texas 4-H is poised to help lead young people into this exciting field. The mentors for Greyson and Maddox are Leighann Goodwin and Santana Bay. During the school year, the boys meet weekly with their mentors. Working in teams, they learn to design, build, code, and program their own robot. The primary platform for the project is Lego robot parts.

Greyson explained that they had named their robot "Taco Cat." He and Maddox then demonstrated a few of the commands they have taught Taco Cat: to turn around, to follow a particular path, to avoid certain colors, to stay off the fold line on their paper, and to

pick up items. One of the retirees asked what else they might like to train a robot to do, and one of the boys shouted out, "To clean my room," which caused some laughter. The teams meet with their mentors again in August, where they expand on what they have learned and hopefully become interested in competing against other teams in robotics.

At one point, the robot did not respond to the boys in the expected manner. Greyson said, "I'm curious. I wonder why he did that?" Maddox took over the computer and started working on the problem, with Greyson looking on and making suggestions.

Coward asked if the audience had heard what the boys said, and she repeated it for the group. She said, "This is a big part of what 4-H projects are all about ... curiosity, skill-building, troubleshooting, problem-solving, and teamwork." The organization also encourages leadership, good citizenship, and community service. A lot has changed since 1908 when 4-H began, but it is clear that 4-H itself has changed, adapting to the times and greatly expanding its offerings to millions of young people.



COURTESY PHOTO

Greyson Bay and Maddox McAndrew display their 4-H project, a robot named Taco Cat that they made and programmed themselves.

LETTER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Sam Houston, I want to tell you and your staff that I think your now once a week newspaper is great! The thick paper is full of so many news articles that are interesting and educational - like bee keeping - and teacher and student awareness. The new businesses that are here now are so helpful, also. Some of us don't get out and around as much as we used to - so now we know about these new places and citizens that are making Gatesville a better place to live.

I do enjoy the sports coverage. Also, of course, tennis is my favorite as you all know. The coverage of all sports is so important because all athletes work and train very hard and spend many hours training in their own time. All youngsters love to see their names, pictures, accomplishments and winning rewarded.

Thank you, Gatesville Messenger staff, for our newspaper.

Sandra Tatum
Flat, Texas

Central Texas Travel Club to hold monthly meeting May 16

Submitted Item

The May meeting of the Central Texas Travel Club will be held on Tuesday, May 16 at Johnny's Steaks and Barbecue in Salado. The gathering will begin at 11 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in travel, without any dues or membership requirements.

For more information visit Central Texas Travel Club on Facebook or contact centraltexastravelclub@outlook.com.



100 S'more Years Celebration with Mother Neff State Park scheduled for today

Staff Reports

Mother Neff State Park will celebrate its 100th year with crafts and s'mores on Saturday, May 13. The celebration will take place from 8:30 a.m.

to 4 p.m. Be sure to stop by the park headquarters to receive a free s'mores kit to enjoy.

If you are not able to make it to the park on the day of the celebration, host your own s'mores get

together. Post a photo of your s'more's celebration to Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag "100SmoreYears."

Mother Neff State Park was the first official Texas State Park, the land was

donated by Isabella Neff in 1916.

Mother Neff State Park is located at 1921 State Park Road 14 in Moody.

Texas Parks and Wildlife celebrates 100th anniversary, 259-acre Mother Neff honored as first park

DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

This year, as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department celebrates its 100th anniversary, much of the credit for the creation of the park system can be bestowed on former Governor Pat M. Neff and Mother Neff State Park located in southeastern Coryell County.

The lady for which the park is named was Isabella Eleanor Neff, graciously referred to as "Mother Neff," who has been granted the title of the "mother of the state park system." It was often said that she obtained the term of endearment of being called "Mother Neff" from cattle drivers who would pass through the Neff property. Isabella would always offer the travelers food and coffee.

Born in Virginia, by the time she was 16, Isabella Shepherd was teaching school along with her father. Her young suitor, Noah Neff, had ventured off to Texas in search of land but soon returned to Roanoke, Virginia to claim his sweetheart. He wed young Isabella in 1854 when she was 24. Just 18 days following their wedding, the newlyweds began their 1,300-mile, 49-day trip to Texas by wagon. They traveled six days each week, stopping on Sundays to observe the Sabbath, honoring their deep Christian convictions.

The young couple arrived in Belton on Jan. 2, 1855. After leaving her luxuriant lifestyle in Virginia, Isabella was not impressed with the frontier life and the new surroundings she found herself in. In a letter to a relative, she wrote about her first im-

pressions of Texas: "I cannot say that I am much pleased with Texas, I hope to be better pleased when we have become settled at a house of our own. I think this is a very pretty country, but like all new countries, has many inconveniences - everything is scarce and high, and nothing but bread and meat to eat, and cornbread at that."

Three months after their arrival in Belton, Noah and Isabella Neff found the property they had been searching for. The land stretched across the Coryell and McLennan County lines near the Leon River. The land was good for farming and ranching and even had a spring on it, which provided them with fresh water. They also purchased a portion of land that was heavily wooded on the banks of the Leon River. That wooded parcel would help with collection of firewood and lumber for building, also provided a nice, shaded area where the family could relax.

On April 19, 1855, Noah Neff paid \$800 for what would be later known as their beloved "homeplace." Together, Noah and Isabella constructed a small log cabin near the spring where they would raise nine children including their youngest, Pat Morris Neff - who would later become the governor of Texas.

Young Pat Neff grew up in the nearby community known as Eagle Springs, where he attended school and worshipped in the small Baptist church. The Neff family became very active in the church and in the small community that was only a few short miles from their



COURTESY OF DAVID SCOTT

Mother Neff State Park

home.

In the wooded area along the banks of the Leon River, young Pat's chore was to care for his father's hogs. In this wooded area, while tending the hogs, he would stand on a tree stump and give "oratories" or speeches to the hogs, which he later

credited for helping him gain patience and confidence while speaking to the public.

It was in that grove of trees along the shady banks of the Leon where many members of the community would often gather for reunions, picnics, and politi-

cal events with the blessings of the Neff family. At that time the area was known as the "Neff Picnic Grounds" or Neff Campgrounds.

Considering that particular area to be a vital part of the community, Isabella Neff decided to leave the six acres of her riverfront property to the state of Texas so that people could continue to enjoy the site. That was the humble beginning of what is now known as Mother Neff State Park. Following her death in the Governor's Mansion in 1921, her body was returned to her beloved Coryell County where she was buried next to her husband, Noah, at the Post Oak Cemetery near Oglesby.

In her last will and testament, she gifted the six acres to the state to be used for "religious, educational, fraternal, and political purposes." She also insisted that there be no fee for the use of the property and that the community should make use of the land freely. In accordance with his mother's will, Governor Neff deeded the six acres to the state and then named it the "Mother Neff Memorial Park." The only restriction in the deed was the understanding that the Neff family would always have the right to claim the pecan crops from the massive pecan trees along the Leon. Governor Neff would later add a sizeable amount of land to his mother's original donation creating a 259-acre park.

At the time of Mother Neff's passing, there was not an official state park system in existence, but with the continued perseverance of Governor Neff, who served

two terms as governor, the Legislature established the Texas State Parks Board in 1923 - now celebrating 100 years.

In an interview this year with Texas Trailblazers, Mother Neff State Park superintendent Melissa Chadwick said, "Mother Neff is sometimes called the mother of the Texas State Parks. Without Pat Neff, I don't know if there would have been that push. He was very instrumental in getting the system started and bring in the Civilian Conservation Corps to Texas." From 1934 to 1938, CCC Company 817 built roads, walking trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, and an iconic stove viewing tower on the land. The CCC company has also been credited with building many of the structures that remain at the park today. Although most of the historic structures in the park are closed to the public due to the frequent flooding of the Leon River, a new visitors center is now located on higher ground and the park receives hundreds of visitors each year.

As the Texas Parks and Wildlife celebrates its 100th anniversary, Governor Neff can be thanked for his contributions to promote legislation for the creation of the system. The TPWD can also thank Neff's mother, Isabella Eleanor Shepherd Neff, who had the foresight and the compassion for her neighbors to leave a place for them to meet and commune with nature.

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Entry Fees:
\$100-3 Meats (Brisket, Ribs, Chicken)
\$10-Appetizer JACKPOT
\$10-Beans JACKPOT

Turn In Times:
Appetizers-12 Noon
Beans-1PM • Chicken-2PM
Ribs-3PM • Brisket-4PM

\$1500 ADDED MONEY
GRAND CHAMPION WINS \$400

For Rules and Cooking or Judging Sign Up:
Kyle 254-865-3819 or Melinda 254-865-3335

*No electricity or water on site

OBITUARIES

RAYMOND JONES

July 8, 1938 - April 28, 2023



Raymond Jones, age 84, of Gatesville, passed away on Friday, April 28, 2023, in Gatesville.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 2, at Restland Cemetery.

Raymond Leo Jones was

born on July 8, 1938, in Gatesville, to the late Lynn D. and Inah Mae Ballard Jones. He graduated from Gatesville High School in 1956. He then attended Abilene Christian University and Tarleton State University. He married Connie Everett on October 3, 1959, and they resided in Gatesville all their married lives.

He worked for Nabisco for thirty years, retiring in 1997 and was known as the "Cookie Man." After his retirement, he worked for POCO Automotive and Mountain Water Supply. Raymond enjoyed gardening and was known to grow the best tomatoes in Coryell County. He also worked on lawn mowers and was always helping his friends. He was a member of Live Oak Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death

by his parents and a nephew, Torre Sexton.

Raymond is survived by his wife of 63 years, Connie Jones; children, Rickey Jones and wife, MaxAnne, Mikel Jones and wife, Lori, Gary Don Jones and companion, Joy Bogart, Sherri Young and husband, John; sister, Martha Sexton; five grandchildren, Matthew Jones and wife, Hailey, Taylor Jones, Ethan Jones, Austin Jones, Cassidy Young; two great-grandchildren, Hudson Jones and Jett Jones; and numerous nieces and nephews which he loved dearly.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to The Big Sting, 3417 Imperial Dr., Gatesville, TX 76528.

Shivaree Color Run scheduled for June 3

Staff Reports

The annual Shivaree color run is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The color run will begin and finish at the star in the upper left-hand corner to the side of Vintage Royalty Boutique, by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

The course will be family friendly, consisting of 1.5 miles to complete by either running or walking.

Age groups and pricing will include four through 10 years old at the cost of \$15, 11 through 17 years old at the cost of \$20, and 18 and up will cost \$25 per person. If registration is finished by Sunday, May 14, you will

receive a color run T-shirt. Registration ends on Sunday, June 3 at noon. To sign up visit <https://runsignup.com/colortheshivaree> online.

For more information the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce can be contacted at 254-865-2617.

Purmela 2023 Homecoming slated May 27

Submitted Item

The annual Purmela homecoming will take place on Saturday, May 27 at 10 a.m., held at the Purmela

Baptist Church located at 875 FM 932 in Purmela.

A pot-luck lunch will be served at noon. Paper products and drinks will be pro-

vided.

The Evergreen-Bundrant and Smith Cemetery Association meetings will follow.

Pidcoke Methodist Church to hold annual Big Feed 2023

Staff Reports

The Pidcoke Methodist Church located at 11230 FM 116 in Gatesville, will hold

their annual Big Feed 2023 on Saturday, May 13. The dinner will be free and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

There will be all you can

eat catfish and brisket.

As of November 2022, Pidcoke Methodist Church became part of the new denomination known as the

Global Methodist Church. The Global Methodist Church is the fourth denomination for Pidcoke since it was established in

the late 1800's as part of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The Pidcoke Methodist Church can be reached at

254-677-6242.

Dine at the King's Table with Grace Assembly Christian Church

Submitted Item

Grace Assembly Christian Church invites the community to dine at the King's Table today, May 13. The meal will begin at 1 p.m.

and will continue through 3 p.m. There will be fellowship, fun, song, and plenty of food.

The King's cooks will have beef and chicken enchila-

das, tacos, Mexican rice, charro beans, and a variety of desserts prepared for the meal. Beverages will include tea and water. Appreciation bags will be given out for

the King's guests.

Grace Assembly Christian Church has a long, proud history of serving the people of Gatesville. Through the dedication of leadership,

staff members, and volunteers, and impact in worship are committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ and are here to spread his message.

Grace Assembly Christian

Church is located at 1408 Waco Street in Gatesville. For further information on this event, call 254-865-6949.

First Methodist Church presents musical May 21

Submitted Item

The First Methodist Chancel Choir along with talented community singers are

set to present the musical "Ransomed and Redeemed" on Sunday, May 21 at 6 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Ad-

mission will be free.

Written by Randall Knight, the performance will include solos by Robert Fowl-

er, Chelsea Johnson, Diana Fincher, Marsha Fowler, and Stephen Schmidt. Director is Charles Ament. Accompa-

nist is Rosemary Whittle.

The First Methodist Church is located at 2600 E.

Main Street in Gatesville.

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Joy Cole, the 12-year-old daughter of Randy and Kathy Cole of Gatesville, had been chosen as a state finalist in the National American Miss Pre-Teen Pageant to be held in Dallas.

Former Gatesville City Councilwoman Lucile Plane was honored at her final meeting as a council member. She had served since 1996 and was awarded a plaque by Mayor Daren Moore.

Alma Bessie Clary of Gatesville was feted with a 100th birthday celebration at the Gatesville Housing Authority. The party was hosted by her children, Dorothy Barrington, Billy Clary, and Bobbie Ferrell.

Raymond Inman, a senior at Gatesville High, had composed a number, "Summer Serenade" that was to be performed at the Texas Music Teachers Association meeting in Arlington.

Matthew Vandagriff was named the recipient of the Perry Academic Award during the Mississippi College Days Convocation. The award was given each year in the field of religion.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

Becky Barnhill, a senior at Gatesville High School, emerged as state champion at the UIL 1993 state academic meet in Austin. She became only the second Gatesville High student to win a state literary championship.

Two members of the Gatesville City Council attended their final meeting. Councilmen Cronje Swindall and Ken Poston did not seek re-election. Gatesville mayor Wyllis Ament presented both with certificates.

Mrs. Elsa Rabbe was hon-

ored on her 90th birthday with a celebration at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Berry.

Gavin Massingill, a graduating senior at Gatesville High School, was honored with a party at Ryan's Steakhouse in Waco. Special guests were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Massingill.

Navy Airman Recruit Derek S. Amberson, son of James and Linda Greene of Gatesville, had graduated from the Aviation Structural Mechanic Hydraulics Maintenance Course.

40 YEARS AGO (1983)

Diana Lynn Smith graduated with honors from Tarleton State University. The 1979 graduate of Gatesville High School was listed as the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Neuman of Coryell City.

President Bob Bates reported that the Gatesville's Lions Club cleared \$591 from its mop and broom sale conducted over the city.

Brett Gilbreath, son of Wes Gilbreath of Gatesville, cleared 13-6 to tie for third in the Class 5A pole vault competition at the state UIL

track and field meet held in Austin.

Brad Harris of Gatesville received the Time Insurance Company's President's Award in recognition of "exceptional performance in life sales and customer service."

Roger Miller, a soon to be senior, had been chosen president of the Gatesville High School's student council for the 1983-84 school year.

50 YEARS AGO (1973)

Phillip Lee Williamson, son of Rev. and Mrs. Lee Roy Williamson, had been notified

that he had been accepted into Baylor University's honors program.

Accepting awards at the Girl's State Track and Field Meet in Austin were Carliss McNeeley, Carla Winters, Judy Kafer, and Debbie Dickerman.

Three Gatesville High School seniors, Bobby Jones, Billy Bartlett, and Mike Magee were honored with a wiener roast held at the Williams' ranch.

A record-breaking 21 entries in Coryell County's pecan queen contest promised to make the competition

interesting. The contest was sponsored by the Coryell County Pecan Growers Association.

Susan Perryman Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Perryman, received a Bachelor of Science degree in social work at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

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700-800 lb.	175-205
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	210-265
300-400 lb.	210-265
400-500 lb.	195-235
500-600 lb.	185-220
600-700 lb.	165-195
700-800 lb.	150-180
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	88-101
Low Yielding	70-85
Fats	85-94
Thin & Shelly	45-65
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	100-128
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	1650-2050
Young Fair	1350-1650
Aged Pairs	Split
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	750-1775
Number of Head	634

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Cen-Tex Crime Stoppers presents annual Donut Dash

Staff Reports

Cen-Tex Crime Stoppers will hold its' annual Donut Dash on Saturday, May 20. This will be a chip timed race; it will start and finish at the Gatesville City Pool located at 300 S. 8th Street in Gatesville.

Cen-Tex Crime Stoppers is a local organization that encompasses the City of Gatesville, City of Clifton,

Coryell County, and Bosque County. The organization pays cash rewards for information leading to arrests of suspects who commit crimes in the area. Callers can report tips 24 hours a day, and the identity will stay anonymous.

Runners will have the option to run a 5K or 10K race, both will offer unique challenges for runners of all ages. The top three finish-

ers in each age group will be awarded. The age groups will include 19 and up, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 and up. There will be a Kids K Fun Run this year and all participants will receive a ribbon.

Tickets can be purchased at runsignup.com/Race/TX/Gatesville/CrimeStoppers-DonutDash. Race day registration and packet pick-up will be on the morning of

the race from 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. at the race site. This will cost \$40, with cash or check only. Packet pick-up will be available on Friday, May 19 at the Gatesville Fitness Center as well.

Cen-Tex Crime Stoppers is actively seeking sponsorships for the 2023 Donut Dash. The \$100 sponsorship includes a name on the back of the race shirt, a name listed in the thank you ad,

and name listed on the race banner. The \$250 sponsorship will include a logo on the back of the race shirt, a name on the mile marker sign, a logo in the thank you ad, and a logo on the race banner. The \$500 sponsorship will include a logo on the mile marker sign and the water station, a logo in the thank you ad, a logo on the race banner, and two race shirts. The \$1,000 sponsor-

ship will include four race shirts, an announcement of a name during the race awards, and everything that is included with the other sponsorships will be included with this one. Be sure to email the logo to pgilbert@gatesvilletx.com by Monday, May 1.

All proceeds will benefit the Cen-Tex Crime Stoppers.

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 May 18, 1951, edition of *The Gates-*

ville Messenger:

Haunted House Stigma
Leaving the public square on the south side of the courthouse, you will travel down West Leon Street to the Leon River, where you cross on the old county wagon bridge and hit the old Lampasas Road. Forging off to the south is the old Georgetown Road and up on a hill to the left used to be an old two-story house, which is the subject of this sketch.

Now remodeled and rebuilt, this house is a palatial home of Col. Henry Sadler and his wife and daughter, Mrs. Thomas Richardson. It is indeed a privilege to visit these good folks in their lovely home. Looking at this old home in this good year of 1951, you certainly wouldn't ever dream that it was at one time called the old Haunted House on the

Hill.

To be a haunted house there must be a tragedy connected with it, so let me tell you the story of that old rock house and you can judge for yourself whether there are any grounds for it having been called haunted.

In 1887 John Graham purchased ten acres of land on the extreme north end of 107 acres. This land was a hill overlooking Gatesville to the east. Graham contracted with two of his Cowhouse neighbors who were stone cutters and contractors to build him a two-story rock home on that windswept hill, a home something like the big rock mansion of George F. Adams that graced West Gatesville along about that time.

The Cowhouse contractors quickly went to work. There was an abundance of good prairie rock in nearby

pastures to be used. Several of us boys who lived in the west end of Gatesville were mighty curious about the rock house being built, so we would often walk up there and inspect it. The Cowhouse fellers seemed like they knewed what they were doing.

It weren't long until they had all the walls up and the roof on and the floors all laid and the windows in. It was beginning to look like a home when, all at once, the fellers quit work and it just stood there with the west wind blowing through it.

It wasn't long before I heard the reason they weren't working any more was because Newt Blackwell, one of the contractors, had got in a squabble with a Cowhouse neighbor over a land line and had been killed in the ensuing fight. John W. Graham, the owner, failed to

have the rock house completed and it stood vacant for several years.

It shore looked spooky and maybe was haunted. Some of the folks said that in the wee small hours of the night you could hear somebody hammering on stone. The Knowing Ones said it was the spirit of Newt Blackwell wanting to complete the stone house.

That's the way the old two-story rock house on the hill where the gentle zephyrs blow got the name of the Haunted House.

After leaving the place vacant and unfinished for several years, the heirs of John W. Graham sold the land and uncompleted house to Ed Tillman, who was our first Cotton Belt Railway agent. He had the house completed and he and his family moved over there.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of May 3 - 9. 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. The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of May 3 - 9. 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

May 3
12:07 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1000 block of St. Louis Street.
2:53 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of Saunders Street.
5:44 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 800 block of E. Main Street.
8:10 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the 2900 block of E. Main Street.
May 4
12:27 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2500 block of Jackson Drive.
3:06 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
3:50 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the 100 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
6:44 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of W. Main Street.
May 5
2:37 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the

600 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.
4:06 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.
8:34 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
9:47 p.m., an accident was reported in the 900 block of E. Leon Street.
May 6
6:03 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
7:06 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the 500 block of Bridge Street.
7:31 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1200 block of W. Main Street.
11:28 p.m., an assault was reported in the 3100 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
May 7
3:23 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
6:29 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of W. Leon Street.

7:30 p.m., a hazmat spill was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
8:41 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.
May 8
6:18 a.m., criminal activity was reported in the 1800 block of E. Main Street.
12:14 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1700 block of Waco Street.
3:40 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
8:48 p.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of N. 26th Street.
May 9
6:22 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 100 block of Leisure Acres.
2:13 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 100 block of S. 34th Street.
6:46 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2400 block of Business Hwy. 36.
7:56 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 14th Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

May 3
12:41 a.m., harassment was reported in the 600 block of CR 133.
6:56 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of FM 932.
10:20 a.m., an explosion was reported in the 3400 block of FM 1829.
8:21 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
May 4
12:35 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1300 block of Duncan.
2:57 p.m., a theft was reported in the 700 block of Old Osage Road.
6:55 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of CR 213.
8:24 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 10000 block of FM 9320.
May 5
9:58 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the

9700 block of FM 929.
4:51 p.m., an assault was reported at the Flat Fire Department.
5:11 p.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 1113 and Grimes Crossing.
8:05 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 500 block of Tom Sawyer.
May 6
9:27 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 100 block of CR 268.
2:22 p.m., an animal bite was reported at Topsey Exotic Ranch.
3:48 p.m., a theft was reported in the 7700 block of FM 929.
10:41 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 400 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
May 7
9:59 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 700 block of Schelle Road.
10:51 a.m., shots being fired was reported in the 3500 block of CR 267.
8:04 p.m., a missing person was reported in the 100 block of Coleton Drive.

9:01 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported at the corner of W. Hwy. 84 and CR 176.
May 8
11:21 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 2800 block of S. Hwy. 36.
12:36 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Vista Road.
2:13 p.m., an assault was reported in the 14000 block of E. Hwy. 36.
2:24 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of E. Live Oak Street.
May 9
1:16 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4000 block of FM 1783.
3:37 p.m., criminal trespass was reported at Gatesville ISD.
5:31 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported on FM 116.
8:50 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 7800 block of S. Hwy. 36.

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I Spooked Dave Scott

BY SANDRA TATUM
Contributing Writer

Dave told my daughter, Se'Vette Early, that the day he typed my story "The Buzzard" for the paper, he went home and there on a post sat a buzzard! He said the whole time he was typing he was thinking "what a disaster!" - then he was kinda spooked at his own home the same day!

Oh Dave, I'm sorry and I do hope my story didn't spook too many others. Maybe I should have titled it 'Beware of Buzzards'!

It is May now and they have mostly departed from my place, thank goodness! I don't get around well at all because of my fall that ended up with a bad knee and shoulder. I'm always telling everyone that when the buzzards fly around and over my house that I hope it isn't because I get around so slow - they are just waiting for me to fall, etc. LOL

MOUND NEWS

William Wayne Coalston will be missed in our community



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Mound lost one of its residents, Mr. William Wayne Coalston, who died on Thursday, May 4. A celebration of life service was held on Wednesday at Scott's Funeral Home. Mr. Coalston will truly be missed in our community.

Several eighth graders of Mound attended their end of the year eighth grade gala Friday evening at the Civic Center in Gatesville.

Sophia Kelly of Gatesville spent the weekend in Mound with Allie McPherson.

Doris Hoff of Gatesville visited Saturday in Mound with Martha Lawhorn.

The McPherson girls competed at the District Eight educational presentation competition in West and each one received a medal in their class/

division.

Allie placed second in Intermediate Horse, Anna placed third in Intermediate Health and Safety.

Kinsley placed third in Senior Horse and secured another state qualification. Her family is excited to attend her first 4H State Roundup where she will be competing in Horse Quiz Bowl, Horse Judging, and either Hippology or Educational Presentations. The McPherson family can't wait to see what the future holds for Kinsley and her teammates in June.

Mr. Noah Truett Hopson, son of Paul and Rachel Hopson, won first place in the district with his fire prevention poster. His poster will compete at the state competition in June.

Thomas Belt, Grady Keeton, Lillie Mann and Anna McPherson participated in the Gatesville Junior High School National Junior Honor Society's fourth annual Induction Ceremony of the Bobby Cole Chapter last Tuesday evening in Gatesville. Several people of Mound attended this event.

Brodie Fisher and Hailey Meyers attended the Oglesby Junior/Senior Prom. The king and queen of the prom was Aiden Gomez and Lacie Luckie.

The weekend guests of Frank and Susie Hopson were McKenzie David, Randy and Tracy Sage, Natalie Gonzalez, and Kelsey Sage. Happy belated birthday to Natalie and Randy.

Ruby Pullen and her horse Stella qualified this weekend for the Mike and Sherry-lynn Johnson's Vegas Tuffest Junior World Champion barrel race. The race is held in Las Vegas in December. She qualified in the 12U and the 19U. Ruby Caroline Pullen is the niece of Barbara Hopson.

Elli, Jensen, and Molli Kinnear traveled to Cedar Park with their parents, Devan and Staci Kinnear, and grandparents, Tony and Theresa Kinnear to watch Disney on Ice on April 27.

The Barnard family had their annual Reunion Sunday. There were 80 in attendance that represented 16 different Barnard families.

Mrs. Bettie Blakley of Pearl spent Monday with Carolyn Blakley.

Emma Blakley and Callie Goins went to Clarendon on Friday to watch Jenna Coward's graduation.

Robert Blakley spent Saturday afternoon in Pearl with his mother, Mrs. Bettie Blakley.

Playing by ear



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Luann Neely of Marshall says music is her life. "You know, music does make you smarter. It really does make your brain work better. I still love doing it and will keep on doing it until I can't."

Luann taught choir to junior high and high school students in Marshall, then retired to travel the world.

"On our first trip, my husband wanted to teach me how to travel light, so we traveled for weeks in Costa Rica with just a backpack. We traveled for about ten years to around 15 different countries, then I returned to Marshall High School and junior high coaching kids as they compete in singing competitions. We have a good thing going."

Many of her students have been in the all-state choir. Luann is not a singer. She plays piano.

"I didn't learn. We did not have a piano in my house

growing up. I was at a family friend's house who was baby-sitting me while my mother went to do errands.

The woman was in the kitchen, and I sat down at the piano and played Sentimental Journey. She came in there and asked me if the radio was on. I said no and she asked me if I played that song on the piano. I said yes and she made me play it again. I've been playing ever since. I was barely 3 years old when that happened. I could play anything I could hear. And I still can."

When I visited with Luann, she had just returned from a cruise that took her from Lisbon, Portugal to Barcelona, Spain.

"My son had won this cruise. He had donated money to a charity through a raffle and he won this cruise. I was down visiting him in Florida when he told me about this cruise he had won. He said, 'I don't know who I'm going to take with me.' I said, 'Well here I stand'. He said, 'Oh, Mom I didn't even think of you. Of course, we can go.' So off we went."

They traveled on the upscale cruise line, Silver Sea.

"We had our own suite with our own butler, so it was quite something. I never dreamed I would get to experience something like that."

She ended up entertaining

passengers.

"My son and I were in one of the lounges having an after-dinner drink when a jazz guitarist and singer from Portugal came in to entertain. They were going to be playing a song I knew so I asked if I could play with them. We ended up playing the whole evening. Some of the songs I had never heard before, but I was able to follow along with them. They loved it. They said, 'where have you been?' It was really fun."

Luann has a master's degree in piano and did learn to read music. She says playing by ear is a gift from God.

PEARL NEWS

Pearl loses two dearly loved people, Wanda Manning and Dick Decker



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

The community of Pearl lost two very dearly loved people this past week. Wanda Manning, a Pearl resident for more than 61 years, and Dick Decker, formerly of Pearl but still a huge part of the community, went home to be with their Lord and Savior on Saturday, May 6.

Manning's services were May 9, at Scott's Funeral Home. Burial was scheduled to follow at Pearl Cemetery.

At the time of this writing, Decker's services have not been set. However, we do know that the service will be held at Pearl Church of Christ. Please check and/or like the Pearl Church of Christ Facebook page to find out more about Decker's service. Join the community in keeping the families in your prayers.

Upcoming dates of the Pearl Bluegrass event and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore days for the remainder of 2023 are: June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, (second Saturday in September) Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov.

4, and Dec. 2. Mark these dates on your calendar and come see us in Pearl.

The Pearl Cottage Bookstore has a lot of new items. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the above listed dates. Most items are "take what you want, pay what you want," and all proceeds go to local charities. There are more than 6,000 books in the store as well as various other items. You never know what you might find at the bookstore. Go see Kay, Linda, and Corlisa. You'll come as curious customers and leave as favored friends. This is Pearl Book Cottage's 14th year.

May 7 was Scholarship Sunday at Pearl Church

of Christ. The church was blessed to be able to give out 10 scholarships that day! You can view the pictures of the recipients on the Pearl Church of Christ Facebook page. The scholarships are funded via memorials, auctions, and designated donations, and the church thanks everyone who has helped make these scholarships possible.

Pearl Church of Christ Vacation Bible School is almost upon us - May 29 through June 2, 9 a.m. until noon. Please share this information with all of your friends and family. Everyone is welcome.

Don't forget that Sunday, May 14, is Mother's Day.

This week's Bible verse comes from II Corinthians 1:3,4 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (NIV)

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

CORYELL COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER

SPOTLIGHT

First Christian Church

Marker Text:

The First Christian Church of Gatesville had its beginnings in the 1880s. Officially organized in 1892, the congregation built this structure and met here until it disbanded in 1972. The building continued in use as a house of worship for other groups for several years until it was deeded to the Coryell County Museum in 1990. The building exhibits well-crafted elements of the Greek Revival style in its arched windows and steeply pitched roof.

Marker placed 1992 - Texas Historic Landmark

Note: This structure, which was located on Leon Street next to the old Scott's Funeral Home, was burned to the ground by an arsonist in September of 2011. The historical marker and medallion, which were once attached to the building, are now on exhibit at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.



First Christian Church historical marker and memorabilia

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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 alimento. 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, # del telefono: 254/865-5423, or Hill Country Community Action at 325/372-5167.

FOR SALE: Remington Model: (770) 30:06 with scope Several boxes of ammo, \$650 cash. Call: 307-690-5145. Belton 00030108

**037
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00030088

**060
GARAGE SALE**

DOLLAR SALE Tues, 05/16-Sat, 05/20! The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030066

4-Family-Yard-sale: 606 S. Lovers Lane-Saturday, May 13, 8a.m.-1p.m. Many vhs&dvd movies-priced to sell! Baby items, toys, electronics, teaching tools, household items, clothes, quilt supplies & materials. 00030091

**074
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00030068

**070
LAND & LOTS**

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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.

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**045
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**045
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CLASSIFIEDS

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville, Texas 76528 will have an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy the landlord's lien. The sale will be at www.storageauctions.com beginning 05/08/2023 @ 11am ending 05/17/2023 @ 11am. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Units to be sold are: Paul Griffin, Elizie Braddy, Maccayla Gribble, Kelli Jennings, Christopher Allen, Ashley Kingley, Cheryl Waller, and Mackenzie White. Inventory: furniture, clothing, electronics, household items, misc boxes/totes. 00030057

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of George Elvie Cryer, Deceased, were issued on 4-19-23, in Cause No. 23-10815, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: George Edward Cryer. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: George Edward Cryer Guardianship of George Elvie Cryer 1865 CR 140 Gatesville, Texas 76528

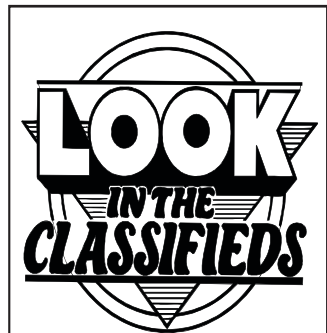
DATED the 3 day of May, 2023.

Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for George Edward Cryer
State Bar No.: 04091800
P.O. Box 246, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000 or 6800
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
E-mail: doriraymistic@hotmail.com
00030105

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Elaine Wilkey, Deceased, were issued on May 8, 2023 in Cause No. 22-10763, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Marcia Thomas.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Allen D. Place, Jr., Attorney at Law 109 S. 7th Street, Gatesville, Texas 76528 DATED the 9th day of May, 2023. Allen D. Place, Jr., Attorney for Marcia Thomas State Bar No.: 16058500 109 S. 7th Street, Gatesville, Texas 76528 Telephone: (254) 865-8475 Facsimile: (254) 865-5274 E-mail: allenplacejr@aol.com 00030110



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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage 425 Texas 36, Gatesville, Texas 76528 will have an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy the landlord's lien. The sale will be at www.storageauctions.com beginning 05/24/2023 @ 11am and ending 05/31/2023 @ 11am. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Units to be sold are: Shane Mathenson, Ricky McDaniel, Randall Stovall and Cathy White. Inventory: furniture, clothing, electronics, household items, misc boxes/totes. 00030097

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Laura Jean Bunger, Deceased, were issued on April 17, 2023, in Cause No. 23-10826, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Darrell Bunger.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Darrell Bunger, 104 Mesa Dr., Gatesville, Texas 76528 DATED the 4 day of May, 2023. Kirby Crow Stermer, Attorney for Darrell Bunger, State Bar No.: 24094606 619 E. Main St., Gatesville, Texas 76528 Telephone: (254) 865-6003; Facsimile: (254) 323-0070; E-mail: kirby.stermer@gmail.com 00030106

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

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

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE
CHET SOUTHWORTH
2109 SOUTH CLEAR CREEK ROAD
KILLEEN, TEXAS 76549

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY SCOTT OWEN, DECEASED. CAUSE NO 23-10843, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. PAMELA SINDELAR FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 4TH DAY OF MAY 2023, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SAID JEFFREY SCOTT OWEN, 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 15TH DAY OF MAY 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 5th day of May, 2023.

JENNIFER NEWTON
CORYELL COUNTY CLERK
CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: M. WALLACE
00030111

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

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- 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 barn/condominium, 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 barn/condominium, 1197 CR 404, Hamilton, TX. 1 water well, metal building, nice porch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, 2 tanks, good fences. \$875,000
- 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



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MAY YARD OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Keep Gatesville Beautiful chose the home of Rhona and Mickey Carrigan, at 3403 Greenlawn Dr. in Stoneridge, as their May Yard of the Month. This yard's colorful display of plants, flowers and yard art caught their eye. Rhona and Mickey do their own yard work and tend to their own flower beds. Their landscape includes a Bradford Pear Tree, a Mexican White Oak, and Arizona Ash Trees, Nandina and Texas Sage bushes and an assortment of flowers including Knock Out Roses, Hardy Hibiscus, Geranium, Petunias, Begonia, Gerbera Daisy, and Marigold. They are also very proud of their backyard and porch, which is also very attractive. Thank you Carrigans for helping to keep Gatesville beautiful!

Bell County Master Gardeners release May events schedule

The Bell County Master Gardeners Association recently announced its events schedule for the month of May. For those interested in gardening, the events held during the month are:

MAY 18

Please plan to attend the Bell County Master Gardener Association Free Monthly Seminar "Landscaping with Native Plants" on Thursday, May 18 at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Texas Agrilife Extension Office, BCMGA Learning Center (on the North end of the parking lot), 1605 N. Main St., Belton. Certified Master Gardener Christy Reese will explain how using drought-tolerant native plants will add beauty to your landscape in addition to conserving water. She will provide recommendations of native plants for your yard that have proven to be adaptive to conditions in Bell County. Christy will address how plant selection is critical to a successful landscape.

Class limit is 50. Please register at bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com.

Donations will be accepted to support continuing education opportunities in Bell County.

MAY 23

The Bell County Master Gardener Association and Harker Heights Activities Center will present a special event seminar, "Texas Superstar Perennials," Tuesday, May 23, at 6 p.m. at the Harker Heights Activities Center, 400 Indian Trail, Harker Heights. Certified Master Gardener Sylvia Maedgen, will discuss deer-resistant plants, as well as pollinators and other perennial Texas Superstars that you can use in your landscape.

Registration for the seminar opens on May 8.

Class limit is 50. Please register at <http://bit.ly/3XL5RdD>

Please email Kailie Gomez at kgomez@harkerheights.gov or call 254-953-5465 if you have any questions.



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M. J. Wofford Presents: "The Love Story of Elizabeth Barrett Browning"

MARSHA LEE
Contributing Writer

(Part 2 of a 2-part series) M. J. Wofford grew up in Graham, Texas, earned her BA at Baylor University and her MA at the University of Texas, specializing in secondary education with majors in English and history. The English Department at Baylor was formerly located in the basement of the beautiful Armstrong Browning Library, which houses the largest collection of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning manuscripts and memorabilia in the world. Majoring in English, along with taking "The Browning Course" under Dr. Jack Herring, no doubt placed M. J. Wofford in that building many times, leaving a profound influence and attraction to the love story of these two Victorian poets. She recently shared their story with members of Coryell Retired School Personnel.

PART II: A VICTORIAN LOVE STORY COMES ALIVE

The relationship between Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning began with his admiring her two volumes of Poems, published in 1844. His first letter to her was dated January 10, 1845, and opened with the line, "I love your verses with all my heart, dear Miss Barrett..." Later in the letter, he repeated those lines and added "...and I love you, too." Thus began their courtship, whose daily progress was recorded in their letters - all 574 of them - preserved and available in book format or by a digital collaboration project between Baylor University, Wellesley College (where the actual original letters are located), The University of Texas at Austin, and others. They corresponded for about five months, and Browning finally asked a mutual friend, John Kenyon, to arrange a meeting between the two. The date was set for May 20, 1845, in her room at the house on 50 Wimpole Street in London. Browning knew where the house was located; he had walked down that street past the house many times, hoping just to get a glimpse of her outside or even in a window.

Elizabeth was a writer better known at that time than Robert. However, her health was at a low. She had almost become a recluse, seeing only a couple of her sisters in her room on occasion. Her willingness to participate in conversation about social or aesthetic issues which had been strong in youthful days had diminished, as had her overall health. She did not leave her room. She knew of Browning, had a high regard for his writing, and even had a picture of him (along with those of other writers) in her room. She was a little surprised at the remark in the first letter ("and I love you, too.") However, five months of correspondence eased any apprehensions, and they shared so much in common. Her father, of course, had no liking for Robert Browning and thought he was up to no good.

So, Elizabeth had her maid, Elizabeth Wilcox, curl her hair and help her prepare to meet Mr. Browning. He assured her that he just wanted to meet her and have a friendship. They found many things in common: their intelligence, their love of reading and poetry, love of Italy, love of the Greek language and history, and a passion for reading and learning. (Browning's father had a library of over 7,000 volumes). They found they could talk to one another very easily and about any topic.

Eventually, Robert began to talk with Elizabeth about her health. Didn't she want to get out of her room, go outside, ride in a carriage, laugh, and get stronger? Her response was, "Why should I do that?" To which he replied, "Don't you know by now?" (meaning he was now interested in building a relationship). And...Elizabeth became hopeful! However, the next day when he came by, she had been crying because she didn't think they could ever have a relationship. Why? She was older than him (Six years older); she was an invalid and that would hold him back from doing things he wanted to do; she had doubts about love (had been hurt once before when one she cared for had no feelings for her, and what about her father's "love" when he squelched the idea of moving elsewhere to save her life and told her she would probably die a recluse and an invalid in her room in London?); and her father would say "no." Robert asked her what she wanted to do. Would she stay there the rest of her life because her father said "no"? Wouldn't she prefer to travel, to move to Italy, to enjoy life? She began to see good things and to believe their love would last. But she was still a bit "conflicted." Yet, she said, "If I'm not sick and we have good weather, then I will do as you say."

Secretly, she asked for a sign. Well, the weather that

winter was unusually mild. In the spring, Robert brought her flowers -- purple violets (her favorite). With Robert's help, her health improved. She learned to stand up on her own, then to take a few steps on her own, to walk out of her room, and even to walk down the stairs on her own, and to sit in the living room for the first time in years. She even went outside and walked with Robert, laughed, and enjoyed nature.

On September 12, 1846, Robert and Elizabeth eloped, taking her maid along as a witness. Robert declared he would never call her "Miss Barrett" again, but she told him that he would have to do so for another week because she would return home. Her family would be away from home the following week, and that was when the couple left. They took with them the maid, Elizabeth Wilcox, the spaniel, Flush (even though he had bitten Robert more than once out of jealousy), and the 574 love letters exchanged during their courtship. They honeymooned in Paris, then moved to Italy, where they made their home. Elizabeth's father did disinherit her (as he said he would do to any of his children who married). He died in 1857, but he never saw or spoke to her again, not even after his grandson was born. Elizabeth expected her father to cut her off, but she did not anticipate the rejection by some of her siblings. However, they came back around after a while.

Between 1845 and 1846, Elizabeth wrote a series of 44 love sonnets, which were written for Robert during their courtship. The content and tone of the sonnets changed as their relationship grew, expressing initial doubts and fears about beginning a relationship, then showing overcoming of anxieties, and gradually becoming more accepting and passionate. She had kept these to herself and never intended to publish them because of their deeply personal nature, and her husband did not even know they existed. After sharing them with Robert, he insisted that they needed to be published because he felt that they were "the best sequence of English sonnets written since Shakespeare's day." He tried to disguise the title in order to protect their privacy by making people believe they were translations from foreign sonnets. Originally called Sonnets from the Bosnian, the title was changed to Sonnets from the Portuguese at her husband's suggestion, perhaps because his nickname for Elizabeth was "my little Portuguese." The Portuguese could also refer to Catarina from a poem by Camoens, considered Portugal's greatest poet. Regardless of the origin of the name, most people were not fooled by who wrote them and in what context. The sonnets are some of the most famous love poems of the Victorian Age, or any other. They are probably Elizabeth Barrett Browning's best-known works, especially "Sonnet 43" which begins, "How do I love thee, let me count the ways..."

Life for the Brownings was wonderful in Italy. Both poets continued to write, and they often critiqued and encouraged one another with comments and suggestions. Elizabeth grew stronger and at age 43, even after three miscarriages, at age 43, they had a son, born in Florence in 1849 at their Casa Guidi. He was named Robert Wiedeman Barrett Browning. Wiedeman was his paternal grandmother's maiden name, but the child's pronunciation of the name came out as "Penini," so "Pen" became his name. That her



COURTESY PHOTO

M.J. Wofford speaks of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's love story

pregnancy with Pen was successful was attributed to the fact that Elizabeth discontinued the use of laudanum, which had been prescribed for her illness. She described him as "so fat and rosy and strong that almost I am skeptical of his being my child."

By the late 1850s, Elizabeth's health was beginning to deteriorate again. In 1857, she published Aurora Leigh: A Novel in Verse, her most ambitious undertaking. It was highly popular, but it also drew criticism for its sympathetic treatment of an independent woman, an artist, and an unmarried mother. She had taken an interest in the cause of Italian unity. She had published Casa Guidi Windows, a work about Italy, including political reflections, and in 1860 she published a book called Poems before Congress, a collection of political poems, which was not well-received. The death of her father in 1857 and the death of her sister, Henrietta, in 1860 grieved her much. The Brownings spent the cold winter of 1860-61 in Rome, where Elizabeth became gradually weaker and used more morphine to ease her pain. They returned to Florence in June 1861. On June 29, her sleep was very restless, and Robert sat on her side of the bed in the early morning hours, holding her in his arms. She woke briefly and he asked her how she was feeling. Her answer, her last word, was simply, "Beautiful." Unknown at the time, she had an abscess on her lung that had ruptured, and that was the cause of death. She was buried in the Protestant English Cemetery of Florence.

The issue of dress for Pen was one of the few points of contention between the Brownings, so one of the first things Robert did was to have Pen's long golden curls cut and have him dressed in proper boy's clothing. He published a book of Elizabeth's last Poems that were left and made an effort to gather up belongings in Casa Guidi. He did not sell the place, but he no longer felt like he could live there without Elizabeth. So, he and 12-year-old Pen moved back to London. He continued to write, never remarried, and died on December 12, 1889. Robert Browning was buried at Westminster Abbey, in London.

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Hornets win bi-district championship



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Gatesville Hornets baseball team and coaching staff pause for a photo with the bi-district championship trophy on May 6.

Gatesville earns first post season baseball win since 2010

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

It doesn't take a baseball savant to look and see that the future is bright for Gatesville baseball.

But the present is pretty darn good as well.

Thanks to two of their most complete games of the season, the Hornets disposed of 24-4A champion Marble Falls two games to one in the bi-district playoff round to capture their first playoff series win since 2010.

The Hornets won game one 9-3 in Gatesville before traveling to Marble Falls for game two where they lost 6-1. They fell behind early in game three but rallied for an 8-3 series-clinching victory.

It's just the fifth playoff series win in school history and head coach Chase Smith - a player on the 2005 and 2006 teams - has been a part of three of them.

"It is the reason I got into coaching and teaching. I wanted to help this program grow and give these kids a chance to make memories like I still cherish from my playing days here at Gatesville," Smith said. "This town and this program mean so much to me. To see these guys' confidence grow and to have the fan support like we have had

all year makes me so proud to be an alumni and still a part of this town."

The Hornets' growing confidence has been in display over the last month of play. Since dropping to 0-4 in district and 9-13 overall after a loss to China Spring, the Hornets have won seven of their last nine games. Smith said a day-by-day approach and a commitment to baseball basics has contributed to the growing momentum.

"I feel like we have just had great 'next day' practices and have continued to work hard on getting better all year and the past few weeks I have seen us both in practice and games play some of the best defense I have ever seen Gatesville play," he said. "I really feel like that's one of the biggest difference makers for us this year is how bought into defense and situational baseball the guys have been and it's led to us having more success."

Continued success is undoubtedly on the horizon for Gatesville baseball and future teams will be able to look back at Saturday's game three win as a pivot point in program history.

In the 6-1 game two loss the Hornets had no hits, managed just

three baserunners, and were facing elimination on their suddenly resurgent opponent's home field. The prospects of a series-loss loomed even larger when the Mustangs jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first.

"There was no panic that I could see in any of them. I told them I wanted them to relax and make sure they had more fun than those guys. Play loose but be prepared every pitch and they were," Smith said.

In the second inning, the Hornets came back with two runs of their own. Ben Mabry delivered a one-out single that was followed by three straight walks - the last of which scored Mabry to make it 2-1. Banner Allman then followed with a sac fly to tie the game at 2-2.

Marble Falls jumped back in front 3-2 in the bottom of the second but would not score again.

In the top of the third Carter Williams reached on an error then advanced to third on a single from Mabry and scored on a passed ball to make it 3-3. Mabry would later score on a balk to give Gatesville a 4-3 lead they wouldn't relinquish.

In the fourth, Gatesville added two more runs when Bralen Veazey scored Allman and John Ibarra



ALEX MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Lawson Mooney waits for the pitch during warmups before the opening game of the Hornets' baseball playoff series against Marble Falls.

with a one-out double to make it 6-3. Veazey would strike again in the top of the sixth inning with another double to score Ibarra and push the lead to 7-3.

Later in the inning, Mabry drove in his second run of the game to push the lead to 8-3.

"It just felt different like the confidence was finally getting there. I think they realize they belong in that setting and just how good they can be," Smith said.

Game three amounted to a bullpen game for the Hornets as they handed the ball to senior Aydan Necessary as their "opener". Necessary allowed just two earned runs in 1.1 innings of work before handing the ball to Ibarra.

In addition to going 2 for 2 in game three and 4-8 in the series, Ibarra shut down the vaunted Mustangs offense - which came into the game averaging just over 10 runs per game - throwing 4.2 innings of relief. The sophomore used a mix of pitches to frustrate the Mustangs. He allowed just three hits and struck out two in his time on the mound.

"John has kinda been flying under the radar I feel like since district started. He is one of those guys that seems to get a hit every game and is just solid offensively and defensively," Smith said. "Then to come in when we needed

him the most after not pitching a lot this season is just a testament to what kind of competitor that kid is."

Ibarra's stellar effort also meant that the Hornets had the option to use Veazey - arguably one of the state's best and their undisputed ace - to close the door on the series.

Veazey threw just 82 pitches in six innings of work in his game one victory which meant he could be used in relief if needed. UIL rules allow a pitcher to throw 110 innings in a series before they are required to rest for four days meaning Smith had Veazey available for 28 pitches in either game two or game three if needed.

In the seventh inning of game three, Veazey needed just 20 pitches to get the final three outs and send the Hornets to the area playoffs.

"Bralen is a special talent that Gatesville hasn't seen the likes of for a while and maybe not ever. You feel like you are going to be in and have a chance to win every game he is on the mound for you. He hit two balls really hard that third game and was a huge reason we won that series. I am proud of him because he works so hard at it and deserves every bit of

PLEASE SEE VICTORY | B2



ALEX MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Bralen Veazey was dominant on the mound for Gatesville in game one, striking out eight Marble Falls batters. He also closed out game three of the playoff series for the Hornets to help Gatesville advance to the area championship.

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VICTORY

FROM PAGE B1

recognition he gets," Smith said.

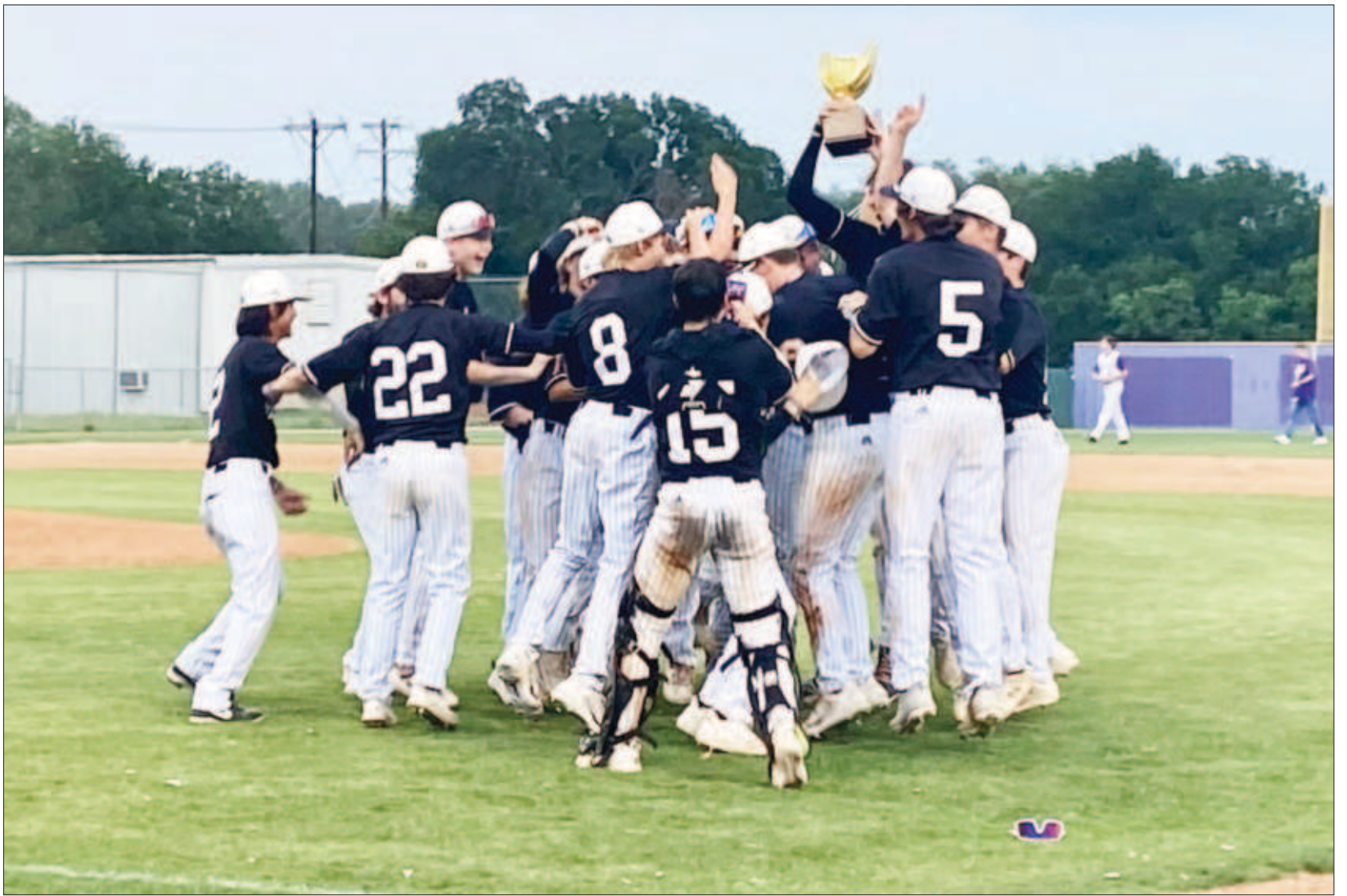
Veazey was dominant in game one scattering six hits and striking out eight. He was also helped by a four-run first inning from the Hornets offense.

"We had a pretty good scouting report on those guys and we wanted to score early and get a lead. We knew we had Veazey on the mound so if we could scratch a couple early we could hopefully hold onto and build the momentum. We had great at bats and were able to be really productive at the plate," Smith said.

The tone for the series may have been set in the first inning of game one when Lawson Mooney was hit by a pitch to open the game the proceeded to do what Lawson Mooney does - create havoc on the base paths. The junior catcher stole second base, advanced to third on an error, then scored after baiting the first baseman into a rushed throw. In the series, Mooney walked three times, scored three runs and stole three bases giving him 26 steals on the season - a new program record. Smith has taken to saying that every Mooney single is essentially a double.

Marble Falls mounted their only real threat in the top of the fifth when they scored twice to cut the lead to 7-3 but the Hornets responded in the bottom of the inning when Mooney reached and scored on a double from Allman.

In the game one win, seven different Hornets had hits including doubles from Allman, Ibarra, and Kason Herbelin. Herbelin had a fantastic series picking up three hits and a pair of walks from the No. 9 spot in the lineup - further evidence of what Smith called a total team effort.



The Hornets celebrate their playoff series win over District 24-4A champion Marble Falls on May 6.

CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

For the first of many times on the weekend, the weather came into play in the bottom of the sixth inning of game one. A lightning delay forced the game to be finished on Friday as Allman got the final three outs of game one about 19 hours after it started.

The wheels on the bus were going round and round for both teams all weekend. In total, Marble

Falls made two trips to Gatesville to complete game one while the Hornets traveled to Marble Falls a first time on Friday night only to be delayed. They drove home that night and returned to Marble Falls for games two and three on Saturday.

The game two loss - while lacking in offense - did feature two quality pitching efforts from Hor-

net underclassmen. Freshman Gehrig Keeton got the start, threw three innings and allowed just one earned run while junior Clayton Gregory contributed an inning of scoreless work.

"So many people have been and were selfless all year and all series. We had guys like Mabry and (Justin) Johnson who played 2-4 positions Saturday," Smith said. "It was

a total team effort and to see those guys supporting one another both on the field and in the dugout was really awesome."

The Hornets faced the Giddings Buffaloes in the area round. Games one and two were scheduled for Friday, May 12 with a third game on May 13 if necessary. All three games are being played at Hutto High School.

A win over the Buffaloes - who are 10-17 on the season and the third-place team from 22-4A - would send Gatesville to the regional quarterfinals for just the third time in school history.

Giddings earned a 15-2 one-game playoff win over Houston Furr on May 5.

One of the common opponents the Buffaloes and Hornets have faced is the Robinson Rockets, which defeated Giddings 8-4 on March 18.

Gatesville meanwhile, lost a pair of extra innings contests to the Rockets, falling 6-4 on March 29 and 4-3 on March 31.



Ben Mabry



Bralen Veazey



Kason Herbelin



John Ibarra

GISD Sports Roundup

Girls-Boys Track: GHS' Barrett Boyd and Carlo Martinez will compete in the UIL Class 4A state meet Thursday at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas in Austin. Boyd will compete in the girl's pole vault (3:00 PM), while Martinez will run in the boy's 3200 (9:30 AM) and 800 (7:50 PM) meter races.

Baseball: GHS had seven players named to the THSCA Academic All-State team: 1st team - Kason Herbelin, Ben Mabry, Mason Mooney and Ayden Necessary; 2nd team - Grant Erwin and Carter Williams; honorable mention - William Crozier.

Softball: GHS senior Lauren Stuard was an honorable mention selection on the THSCA Academic All-State team. The award is based on class rank, GPA and ACT-SAT scores. A signing ceremony for GHS senior Kaitlin Stuard will be held Monday (3 p.m. at GHS Sidney L. Pruitt Gym). Stuard will be signing to play at Chesapeake Community College in Maryland.

Girls Track: GHS placed three athletes on the THSCA Academic All-State team: 1st team - Lindsey Cummings and Khloe Mathews; honorable mention - Lauren Stuard.

Boys Track: GHS placed three athletes on the THSCA Academic All-State team: Honorable mention - Cameron Harley, Carlo Martinez and Trent Ray.

Soccer: GJHS scores vs. La Vega - Girls lost 4-0, boys lost 9-0.

GISD Sports Camps

Gatesville Independent School District has scheduled several sports camps this summer which are coached by Gatesville High School and Junior High coaches, with assistance from GHS varsity athletes.

The camps will focus on fundamental skills and technique and participants will learn Hornet schemes and terminology.

Cost for the camps is \$40 each, except for soccer, which is to be determined.

Camps include:

- * Football (grades 1st-6th), May 30-June 1.
- * Girls Basketball (grades 1st-9th), May 30-June 1.
- * Baseball (grades 1st-9th), June 5-7.
- * Tennis (grades 1st-9th), June 5-7.
- * Softball (grades 1st-9th), June 5-7.
- * Boys Basketball (grades 1st-9th), June 19-21.
- * Volleyball (grades 1st-9th), July 10-12.
- * Wrestling (grades 1st-12th), July 10-14.
- * Football (grades 7th-9th), July 24-26.
- * Soccer: Will have open field sessions scheduled later in the fall (TBA).

Signup is available online at: gatesvilleisd.revtrak.net/athletic-camps#/list

Area Fishing Report

Lake Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 70 degrees; 13.71 feet below pool. White bass fishing has become a bit more challenging this week. The last of the Franklin's gulls are departing, so helpful bird action is winding down. White bass have been feeding heavily at first light, going quiet through the mid-morning, then becoming active again with rising winds and light levels in the 11 o'clock hour. The low-light shallow water bite will produce a lot of fish in a short span casting MAL Heavy

Lures with chartreuse tails and counting them down to a 4-, 6-, or 8-count and then retrieving at a fast pace. After fish move back offshore, using the same lure with a vertical smoking tactic continues to produce fish. Heavily schooled fish are slow to bite. These lethargic fish seem to prefer a horizontal presentation. The #13 Silver Prismatic Pet Spoon with yellow tail is a go-to behind a 3-armed umbrella rig. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfishing is excellent using fresh cut bait. While catfish prepare for

the spawn they can be found in shallow water less than 10 feet. Flatheads have been good around the mouths of creeks. Channel catfish are excellent on prepared bait and cut chicken. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

Lake Waco

GREAT. Water stained; 74 degrees; 10.22 feet below pool. Crappie are good on brush piles in 10-18 feet of water. The lakes are slowly coming up while it has not affected the bite, you will need to use dark water colors in the muddy water.

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Pearson named new assistant principal at Gatesville Intermediate

Staff Report

Angie Shoaf Pearson will be replacing Van Collins as assistant principal at Gatesville Intermediate School as Collins will be assuming the role of principal at Gatesville Primary.

Angie Pearson was born and raised in Gatesville and graduated from Gatesville High School in 1994. She received her Bachelor of Science degree and

teaching certificate from Tarleton-Central Texas and her Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from University of Texas Arlington. She spent 15 of her 20 years in education as a classroom teacher and interventionist. The last five years she has been an assistant principal in the Temple ISD.

"I believe in the state-

ment that it takes a village, and I am committed to forging the relationships with students, staff, families, and community members to ensure that all students meet their full growth potential. Gatesville is a special place to me, and my family, and I am so excited to be returning home to serve the community that I love," Pearson said.

Angie and her husband, Jonathan, also a life-long Gatesville resident, are the proud parents of one son, John Riley Pearson, who is a senior at GHS and will graduate in May with plans to attend TSTC and then UNT.



Angie Shoaf Pearson

COURTESY PHOTO

Summer Music Camp offered at Gatesville High School

Staff Report

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

Over the course of four days the children will be taught an entire musical. Each day will consist of lessons on singing, acting, choreography, music fundamentals, costumes, props, and staging. This year's show will be "It's Saturday!"

a musical celebrating a day off in the life of a kid. That is, until his mom wakes up with the "to-do list."

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

The camp will include multiple rehearsals daily, creating props during craft time, recreation time during

the camp chat, and a camp T-shirt.

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

A cast party is slated for Thursday, June 29 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. A pizza dinner will be provided. All parents, family members, and loved ones are invited to attend the performance on June 29 at 5:30 p.m. in

the Gatesville High School Auditorium. Admission is free. The cast and chorus will present "It's Saturday!" showcasing all the skills, music, choreography, and staging they learned throughout the week.

There are several main characters that have multiple speaking lines and solos that will require preparation prior to camp week. If your student is within third through eighth grade and is interested in one of the roles, auditions will be held

on Wednesday, May 24 at 4 p.m. in the Gatesville High School choir room. Email Cherith Wells at gisdchoir@gatesvilleisd.org to secure your student's audition spot and get the audition materials. The audition will be closed to the public.

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

Registration is also available online at the GISD School Store.

For more information contact Cherith Wells, Director of Choirs, Gatesville ISD by email at gisdchoir@gatesvilleisd.org or Tim Klinger, Associate Choir Director at 254-865-8281 extension 5233.

Tickled Pink presents dance recital on May 20

Staff Reports

Tickled Pink Dance Studios will present its annual Spring Recital on Saturday, May 20 at the Gatesville City Auditorium located at 110 N. 8th Street. Performances will commence at 2 p.m.

The recital will be featuring performances from the Tippy Toes Ballerinas, the Beg Ballet, Ballet Two, the third-year soloists, competition dance teams, and Tickled Pink Dance Cheerleaders.

Tickets can be purchased

for \$10 and will be available soon at the Tickled Pink Dance Studio.

For more information contact tickledpinkdances-tudio.com.

Little Hornets Cheer Camp to be held in June

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School cheer team will host a Little Hornets Cheer Camp from Monday, June 5 through Thursday, June 8. The camp is scheduled to be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Gatesville High School new gym.

Registration for the camp is open to students from kindergarten through sixth grade. To receive a camp shirt, registration must be turned in by Sunday, May 7 and will cost \$45 per person. All late registrations will cost \$55, without a

camp shirt included. For more information contact Holly Redford at hredford@gatesvilleisd.org. Gatesville High School is located at 205 S. Lovers Ln.

Golf is a sport where you use a club to hit a small ball into a hole in the ground. The golf course is a big area with lots of holes, and each hole has a starting point called a tee.

The player has to hit the ball from the tee and try to get it into the hole with as few hits as possible. That's called a "stroke". The player who finishes the course in the fewest strokes wins the game.

Golf is a fun sport that you can play with friends and family. It takes a lot of practice to get good at it, but it's always fun to try!

Can you color the golfer?

TEE

cleared space on a golf course for hitting the ball at each hole

Golf

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

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

Tee	Birdie	Bogey
Hole	Par	Cart
Club	Green	
Fairway	Caddy	

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A

B

Answers: 1. Tire is black 2. Extra letter on cart name 3. Golf ball on green 4. Extra clubs

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Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' & youth Bible study 6 p.m.

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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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875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 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.

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

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Bruce Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.

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Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.

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Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 514 N. 13th St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesdays Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday service, 7:30 p.m.

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Plant sale to be held at GHS greenhouse

Staff Reports

Buzz's Floral Shop will be presenting its annual plant, vegetable, and flower sale at the Gatesville High School Greenhouse. The plant sale will be on Tuesday, May 16, Friday, May 19, and Wednesday, May 24 from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Morgan Smart at msmart@gatesvilleisd.org.

First National Bank offers free snow cones on May 25

Staff Reports

To celebrate the last day of school, The First National Bank of Gatesville will provide free snow cones for the community to enjoy on Thursday, May 25.

May 25.

Snow cones will be provided by Bryson's Sno-Dizzle in the First National Bank parking lot located at 3411 E. Main Street in Gatesville from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The First National Bank of Gatesville has served the community and surrounding areas since 1912.

For more information on the event contact The First National Bank of Gatesville at 254-865-2783.

Evant National Honor Society workday held May 1

Staff Reports

The National Honor Society of Evant Independent School District recently had a workday on Monday, May 1. The workday was a community service project that was held at Coryell Health RehabLiving Center located at 110 Chicktown Road in Gatesville.

110 Chicktown Road in Gatesville.

The National Honor Society chapter of Evant ISD has memberships open to students who meet the required standards in four areas of evaluation including service, leadership, and character. A variety of students are selected for membership each year

by a majority vote of a five-member principal-appointed faculty council, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of Evant ISD.

Evant ISD can be reached at 254-471-3160.

Jonesboro FFA to hold awards banquet on May 16

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District Future Farmers of America will hold their annual awards banquet on Tuesday, May 16. The banquet will be held at the Jonesboro Community Center located at 11625 TX-36, and will commence at 6:30 p.m.

There will be meals provided for the guests at no cost. Donations will be accepted.

The Jonesboro Future Farmers of America program gives students the opportunity to show livestock at the county fair and various other major shows in the Spring, as well as attending meetings to obtain knowledge

about Future Farmers of America.

The nationally known Future Farmers of America organization was first established in 1928 in Kansas City.

Be sure to RSVP with Beth Gann, FFA advisor by email at beth.gann@jonesboroisd.net.

Gatesville Junior High cheer team to hold bake sale fundraiser today

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Junior High cheer team will hold a bake sale today, May 13. The sale will be in front of Vintage Royalty from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be plenty of sweet treats including cookies, cakes, cupcakes, and brownies. Dog treats and game day bows will be available for purchase as well. All proceeds will benefit the Gatesville Junior High cheerleaders.

Vintage Royalty is located at 2401 S. TX-36, Suite 100 in Gatesville.

Jonesboro ISD presents High School awards night May 23

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District will present their annual High School awards night on Tuesday, May 23. The awards will be held at the Jonesboro Community Center, located at 11625 TX-35, and will commence at 6 p.m.

Meals will be provided at the cost of \$15 a plate.

The Class of 2025 will provide a gift basket fundraiser at the event as well.

For any further information contact Jonesboro ISD at 254-463-2111.

Gatesville varsity tennis banquet to be held May 22 at high school

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School varsity tennis team is to hold their awards and recognition banquet on Monday, May 22. The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Gatesville High School cafeteria.

This will be a potluck supper, meaning that everyone in attendance will bring a dish for everyone to share. Be sure to bring your favorite potluck dish that will serve up to 10 people.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 S. Lovers Lane.

Oglesby FFA showcase, open house set May 17

Staff Reports

The Oglesby Future Farmers of America program will hold a showcase and open house on Wednesday, May 17 at the Oglesby High School agriculture building.

The showcase will begin at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Future Farmers of America is a youth organization that prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Members gain knowledge learning from hands-on experiences, which gives students tools to achieve real-world successes.

Oglesby ISD is located at 125 College Avenue in Oglesby.

RECIPE

This recipe appeared in the "Methodist Best" cookbook in 2008. The Gatesville Messenger plans to run 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.

Mexican Charro Beans

BY DEBBIE BERGMAN

- Ingredients**
 3 c. dried pinto beans
 5 sm. green chilies, chopped
 1 clove garlic chopped
 1 lg. tomato chopped
 1 sm. onion chopped
 ½ c. chopped fresh cilantro
 9 c. water
 1 (12-oz.) can of beer
 1 c. fried, drained, and chopped bacon

Directions: Cook the pinto beans in water with the chopped garlic clove. When the beans are about halfway cooked add the bacon. Take the tomato, onion, chilies and cilantro and sauté in 1 tablespoon of cooking oil. When they are all tender, add to the cooked beans. Pour in the beer and cook for an additional 15 minutes. Serve it in side bowls, it is a little on the loose side.



COURTESY OF ALLRECIPES.COM

Mexican Charro Beans

Last week's solution

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

SUDOKU

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

A&M holds off Texans for 6-5 baseball victory

TSU Sports Information

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION — Tarleton led Texas A&M for six innings of play on May 2 at Blue Bell Park, but a late three-run home run from the Aggies paired with a close call in the top of the ninth saw the Texans fall, 6-5.

With the bases loaded in the top of the ninth and the Texans trailing 6-5 with one out, Jordan Andrade stepped in to pinch hit for Payton Pennington. Andrade hit a ground ball to the Aggie third baseman who turned a 5-4-3 double play to seemingly end the game. However, it appeared the play at first base was closer than it looked, and Andrade may have beat the throw or at least touched the base as the ball was arriving. The umpires went into a review for a few minutes, but ultimately decided the call on the field stood. Had it been overturned, Alec Williams would have scored from third and the game would have been tied at 6-6. Piercen McElyea got the

start on the mound for Tarleton and had a quality start, throwing 5 innings allowing one run on one hit. He walked five and struck out three. Tarleton got the scoring started with a run in the second inning as Dylan Kurahashi-Choy Foo sent a rocket over the left field wall, a no-doubt solo home run, his third of the season.

A&M tied the game at one with a sacrifice fly from Trevor Werner in the third inning.

Choy Foo and Crews each led the Texans with two hits while Wagner paced the team with three RBI.

The sixth inning saw the most action for both teams. The Texans took a 4-1 lead as Jack Wagner hit a three-

run home run, his team-leading 12th, to left field to score a pair of Mason's — Mason Hammonds and Mason Crews.

A&M answered back with two runs on back-to-back RBI singles from Jordan Thompson and Max Kaufer, but the Texans left the sixth inning with a 4-3 lead.

Zach Poe entered in the bottom of the sixth and pitched through the seventh. He threw 1.1 scoreless innings, allowing a lone hit while striking out two and walking one.

The eighth inning ultimately did the Texans in as the Aggie shortstop, Hunter Haas, hit a three-run home run off Tarleton's Jake Burcham to take a 6-4 lead. Zane Badmaev entered in the eighth inning and got the final two outs, striking out Trevor Werner and inducing a groundout to Wagner at first base.

Tarleton scored in the ninth as Crews drove in a run with an infield single to the shortstop with the bases loaded to bring in Choy Foo.



COURTESY OF TSU SPORTS INFORMATION

The sixth inning saw the most action of Tarleton State University's baseball game at Texas A&M, especially when Jack Wagner (pictured) swatted a three-run home run for the Texans, his team-leading 12th on the season.

TSU closes softball regular season with fourth straight win

TSU Sports Information

HOUSTON — With just one regular season series remaining, the Texans softball team seems to be peaking at the right time — heading into the WAC tournament in Phoenix.

Tarleton beat Houston Christian 5-2 on May 2 in its final regular season non-conference tilt, winning its fourth straight contest. The Texans (29-24, 12-9 WAC) have won six straight road games, finishing their true road schedule 9-10 on the year.

The Huskies (20-28, 9-12 Southland Conference) lost their fifth straight game.

Pitcher Grace Garcia (12-8) earned her team-leading 12th win of the year as she went the distance at Husky Field. She allowed two earned runs on seven hits and two walks, and recorded three strikeouts in seven innings. Garcia has now tied Tristan Bridges' win total from last year for the most softball wins in a single-season by a Texan since Tarleton joined the NCAA Division I ranks.

Tarleton outit Houston Christian 10-7 and committed no errors to the Huskies' two.

Kayla Wallace started runcoring innings three times for TSU, reaching base four times on the night. She went 3-for-3 with a walk, scoring two runs.

After Garcia sat down the first three HCU batters, Tarleton struck in the top of the second to go ahead 2-0. Wallace started the rally with a single, then moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Jordan Dickerson. Morgan

Medford moved Wallace to third on an infield single before stealing second. With runners on second and third, Amanda DeSario scored Wallace with an RBI single, then Kelci Hill followed with an RBI single of her own to score Medford.

The Huskies answered with a pair of their own in the third. They loaded the bases on their first three plate appearances. Garcia threw a runner out at home on a fielder's choice for the first out, then induced a fly ball for the

second out that brought a run home. HCU singled to make it 2-2 before Garcia limited the damage.

The Texans retook the lead in the fifth inning. With two outs, Wallace hit her tied-team-leading fourth triple of the year. Dickerson followed with an RBI single to boost Tarleton up 3-2.

Tarleton added insurance runs in the seventh, as Wallace started the rally for the third time. Kaylin Ortner later scored as a pinch runner on a throwing error to make

it 4-2 Tarleton, then DeSario doubled home Medford for her second RBI.

Garcia allowed just two baserunners over the final three innings, going three-up-three-down in the seventh.

In addition to Wallace, DeSario (two RBI, one walk), Medford (two runs), and Hill (one RBI) also had multi-hit nights. Dickerson added that RBI single, and Austin Germain recorded two walks.



COURTESY OF TSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Tarleton State University golfer Jack Anderson has been named to the All-WAC Second Team, one of 16 players across 13 WAC programs to take All-Conference honors.

Golfers end season with WAC tourney

Tarleton Sports Information

BOULDER CITY, Nevada — Tarleton's first season in nearly 30 years concluded on April 30 at the WAC Championship, where they turned in their best round on the final day in their first conference tournament.

Jack Anderson led the Texans like he did most of the season, shooting -4 (72, 69, 71) to finish tied for 17th. As a team, Tarleton took 10th at -1 (287, 293, 283) at Boulder Creek Golf Club.

"It was not the performance we were wanting, but I'm overall pleased with the progress this team made in the first year," head coach

Chance Cain said. "This week we had the game to be in the top-five with 61 under-par strokes, but we made too many mistakes to keep us in the running. It's something the team is well aware of and now we have the summer break to work like crazy to clean those areas up in order to be ready for the fall start.

Anderson finished his collegiate career with an incredible spring semester. Across seven total tournaments, he shot under-par four times, and across 21 total rounds, he fired six rounds in the 60s. Max Bengtsson was next on the individual leaderboard for TSU, carding +1 (71, 77, 69),

tying for 35th. Masen Ward shot +2 (75, 73, 70) (tied-39th), Alvaro Huidobro was +3 (69, 76, 74) (tied-43rd), and Cristobal Sepulveda shot +14 (82, 75, 73) for 60th.

Of Tarleton's five team members, three had their best 18 holes in the final round to put the team under-par for the event and move them into the top-10.

Grand Canyon won the WAC Championship at -34 (280, 273, 277) while New Mexico State's Garrison Smith was the medalist at -19 (64, 65, 68).

The Texan freshman Bengtsson ended his WAC Championship with his best

round of 69. He improved his place on the individual leaderboard with 13 spots on the final day to tie for 35th.

Ward ended his collegiate career by shooting -3 over his final 12 holes, a clean finish with three birdies. He had the tied-second best overall score on Par 5's in the tournament at -10, averaging a gross score of 4.17.

Huidobro, a sophomore, led the Texans after the first day at -3 (69). Sepulveda, the third underclassman and second freshman playing for Tarleton at the WAC Championship, shot +1 (73) on the final day for his best round of the event.

ASUN-WAC football partnership rebrands as United Athletic Conference

Tarleton Sports Information

The ASUN Conference and Western Athletic Conference (WAC) football partnership is now officially known as the United Athletic Conference, as announced jointly on April 17 by the football-sponsoring members of both conferences.

Entering its third year as a formal football partnership but first as a single entity, the United Athletic Conference now fully operates like a single-sport conference with an independent budget, policies and governing documents. The group will recognize its own league champion and at-large FCS playoffs automatic

qualifier under a singular conference banner beginning with the 2023 football season.

The newly christened United Athletic Conference currently has nine participating institutions, including Tarleton State University: Abilene Christian University, Austin Peay State University, University of Central Arkansas, Eastern Kentucky University, University of North Alabama, Southern Utah University, Stephen F. Austin State University, and Utah Tech University. The conference will officially add the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) in the fall of 2025 when it begins sponsorship of football.

As previously announced on Jan. 5, the governance structure of the United Athletic Conference features co-chairs of the Council of Presidents, Dr. James Hurley from Tarleton State University and Dr. David McFaddin from Eastern Kentucky University. Also included in the leadership is Executive Director Oliver Luck, WAC Commissioner Brian Thornton and outgoing ASUN Commissioner Ted Gumbart, with incoming ASUN Commissioner Jeff Bacon officially joining upon Gumbart's retirement at the conclusion of the 2022-23 academic year.

The 2023 United Athletic



Conference schedule will be limited to six conference games among its nine members. The 2024 schedule will feature a full eight-game single round robin. The team

with the best conference record (and owns any applicable tiebreakers in the case of matching league records) will be declared the United Athletic Conference champi-

on and FCS playoffs AQ.

A full conference rollout including official marks, an official website and more information will be released in the coming months.

GHS CTE students recognized

Gatesville ISD's Career and Technology Education (CTE) department recently recognized high school students for their achievements in a variety of categories including animal science, automotive technology, construction tech, criminal justice, culinary arts, floral design, graphic design, health science technology, and welding.

The CTE programs are designed to prepare students for college and career readiness. Students today are entering a highly competitive workforce and must be able to integrate and apply 21st Century skills, technical knowledge and skills, and core academic knowledge.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



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Above center: Criminal Justice

Above right: CTE teachers from left to right: Charles Conley, Peanut Blanchard, Sharon Inbody, Amanda Latham, Morgan Smart, Star Hamilton, Sherry Stephens, Angela Tyree, Kelly Saunders, and Charles Lisenbe.



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Gatesville Elementary Springs into Summer

The Gatesville Independent School District Community Outreach recently hosted "Spring into Summer" which was held on Thursday, May 4, at the Gatesville Elementary School. Information was provided about educational, sports, theater, and music camps, local VBS and church events, area wide family friendly activities, summer feeding programs, and much more. There was also a Bike Rodeo for children ages 5 and up with free helmets provided to those wishing to participate.

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER





EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

APRIL



Steve Fisher

This amazing gentleman has been with Hillside Medical Lodge for 36 years and has worn many hats! He made the decision a while ago to move back to the Laundry/Housekeeping Supervisor position and has been working around the clock to finish with his duties as Activity Director until we were able to hire someone new. He says he is thankful to be able to see his residents daily just in another aspect!

Steve, there are no words to describe how thankful we are for your hard word and dedication!

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