



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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## Pilot remembered 80 years after being declared 'Killed in Action'



Lt. James 'Sonny Boy' Hair

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

With Memorial Day soon approaching, a young Coryell County man should be recognized and remembered for his heroic actions during World War II, which resulted in him sacrificing his life for his country.

James Marion Hair, affectionately known around town as "Sonny Boy," was born in Gatesville on Nov. 28, 1918. He was the only son of Marion Jackson "Byrd" Hair and Eugenia "Genia" Hair. Always known for his athleticism and good personality, he played football for three years at Gatesville High School, where he graduated in 1937. He would continue his football career while he attended Sam Houston State University in

Huntsville where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1941.

Following his graduation from college, Hair enlisted in the Air Corps on July 12, 1941, five months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which launched the United States into the raging war. It was his lifelong dream to be a pilot. Soon after enlisting, he graduated from advanced flight training and would later receive special training for piloting the B-17 "Flying Fortress."

Hair was first based in England where he participated in some of the earliest bombing raids over Nazi sites in occupied France. He later earned an Air Medal for "exceptional skill and resourcefulness" in navigating his bomber back to the base after it was dam-

aged by enemy fire in October of 1942.

The unexpected happened on March 22, 1943, during a high-altitude bombing mission over Palermo Harbor in Sicily, Italy. The bomber that Hair was piloting, along with his co-pilot Lonnie Miers and seven other crew men, was hit by flack over their target, which resulted in the engine exploding and the air ship breaking up in mid-air.

According to War Department records, one of the crew members reported, "We were making our run over the target when all of a sudden the plane was full of fire, then everything went black." Another crew

PLEASE SEE PILOT | A3

## Gardening, lawn care highlighted

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
Senior Writer & Editor

With a focus on agriculture and natural resources, Robert Ferguson, Coryell County extension agent, concentrates on a broad area. During a May 17 meeting of the Gatesville Lions Club, he talked about specific gardening and lawn concerns that local residents might have.

"Agriculture and natural resources include feral hogs, fish, pond management — you name it," Ferguson told the Lions. "I'm a jack of all trades and master of none."

One of the issues that has been a big concern because of heavy rains this spring is an influx of fungus.

"With gardening locally, there have been a lot of questions about fungus on trees and vegetables because we've gotten a lot of rain and had cool nights and days," Ferguson said. "That has caused the fungus problem to explode. We can deal with it easily with fungicide. There's a tradeoff, and I'd rather have the rain."

Pests are also a recurring concern. "There are cutworms and cabbage loopers which make loops in leaves, and aphids are a big problem this time of year," Ferguson said. "There is a sticky substance all over trees, and that's aphid excrement."

"As far as control methods, I'm not an organic grower. I believe in old-fashioned chemical (control) methods." He said in addition to chemical treatment — in which the label must be followed — there is also a mechanical method, in which pests can be brushed off plants.

Items such as Sevin Dust can be used on vegetables, but they must be washed thoroughly afterward, "which they should be anyway," Ferguson said.

Contact insecticides are also effective but must be reapplied after rain.

"We don't want anything that stays on soil a long time," Ferguson said. "Not only will it kill the bad bugs, it will also affect beneficials and pollinators as well. Be careful when you use insecticides that they do not mess with pollinators and beneficials."

Lawn care is another overriding issue

PLEASE SEE AG | XX



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Top, County Extension Agent Robert Ferguson talked to the Gatesville Lions Club about gardening and lawn care. Bottom, from left, grass burrs and cutworms are common concerns.



## County grapples with camera requirements for sheriff's office

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
Senior Writer & Editor

While the Coryell County Sheriff's Office limps along with a pressing need for new body cams and in-car cameras, the Coryell County Commissioners Court is discussing ways to pay for the equipment, estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$673,000.

The issue was on the agenda of the May 23 meeting of the commissioners court, and Sheriff Scott Williams expressed frustration with a lack of resolution on the issue.

Several other members of the sheriff's office also gave their input, with one saying, "It's a time sensitive issue right now."

County Judge Roger Miller said finding a way to pay for the cameras is a pressing matter.

"The issue in my mind is the funding mechanism," Miller said. "That's a pretty significant chunk of money - there's not just pots of money laying around." He said he had seen one estimate for \$450,000, "and that's just for the body cams."

Sheriff's office representatives said they had received four different quotes for the cameras.

"We really need to move forward on something now," the sheriff's department representative said. "The system is going downhill. We are always having failures on the body cams and car cams."

Sheriff Williams said the company that had provided equipment for Coryell County "has completely folded. I understand we're looking at funding and we're trying to get a grant. I know the district attorney's office and county attorney's office needs any kind of recording we provide, not to mention it's a statutory requirement that we have this."

One member of the sheriff's office said, "Right now, we're borderline not being in compliance. We're trying to Band-aid the system. I'm afraid if the server goes, that's it. Hopefully you'll have the right info to

PLEASE SEE CAMERAS | A2

## Water pump purchase to help secure city water availability

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
Senior Writer & Editor

In an effort to secure reliable access to water, the Gatesville City Council approved the purchase of a water pump for the Lake Belton intake structure during the May 23 meeting of the Council.

"There is a concern if the pump goes out it could impact our ability to get water during the hot summer months," said City Manager Scott Albert, who was serving in that capacity for his first meeting. Albert officially started working for the city on May 10. He was present at the May 9 Coun-

"There is a concern if the pump goes out it could impact our ability to get water during the hot summer months."

SCOTT ALBERT, GATESVILLE CITY MANAGER

cil meeting, but Interim City Manager Bill Parry was at that meeting as lead facilitator for the Council.

The estimate to replace the pump, received from Global Pump Solutions, is \$136,150. The city plans to use funds

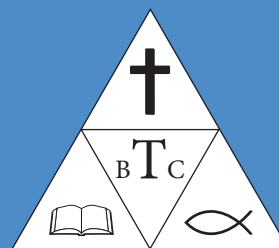
PLEASE SEE PUMP | A3



## Trinity Baptist Church

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**JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**  
 Joesph Hall (left) and Jacob Edwards stand with GISSD Superintendent Barrett Pollard.



**JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**  
 GISSD Superintendent Barrett Pollard stands with ESL Coordinator Julia Martin.

## Gatesville ISD Student Spotlight

**BY JEFF OSBORNE**  
 Senior Writer & Editor

Two Gatesville students who went out of their way to help younger students during April storms were honored during the Student Spotlight presentation portion of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees meeting on May 15.

"Our lead Friend on Duty, Adam Fitzer, wanted to nominate two outstanding

young men for this month's student spotlight," said GISSD Superintendent Barrett Pollard. "Jacob Edwards and Joseph Hall were very helpful during the first big storm we had on April 20. There was tremendous runoff down Marshall Street — it was like a river.

"After the storm subsided, students had to go to Marshall Street to load into buses. It was difficult for them

to cross the street because of the heavy runoff, and it was still raining. Jacob and Joseph held students' hands, escorted students and watched over them until the buses arrived.

"Mr. Fitzer described these two young men as very responsible, calm, courageous and selfless during a difficult situation."

**BY JEFF OSBORNE**  
 Senior Writer & Editor

In the best of circumstances, school can be challenging for many students. Add language barriers, and that challenge can sometimes seem insurmountable.

Fortunately for those attending Gatesville Independent School District, they have an advocate in Julia Martin, the ESL (English as a Second Language) coordinator, as well as her co-work-

ers. Martin was recognized for those efforts during the May 15 meeting of the GISSD Board of Trustees.

"Julia and her team are always working hard to have a program that is implemented with fidelity and strives to meet the unique needs of our English language learners across the district," said GISSD Superintendent Barrett Pollard. "Julia, along with Lee Marris and April Covarrubias, serve our entire district. Besides teaching these students on a daily basis, they also orchestrate an elaborate summer school for students each year.

"This year Julia also or-

ganized a family event at the high school that was very well attended. She invited Dr. (Jacinto) Obregon to speak to the students as an English language learner who is now a prominent doctor (for the Baylor Scott & White Healthcare System). His story was inspiring. She had food and door prizes. Students and parents had a great time attending the event. The event was publicized on social media and received a lot of recognition."

Martin was honored at the Region 12 Education Service Center's Bilingual and ESL Support Awards on May 17.

# MEMORIAL DAY

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## CAMERAS

FROM PAGE A1

it. Hopefully you'll have the right info to get us on the right track."

Commissioner Scott Weddle said at an earlier meeting where the issue was talked about, the commissioners court only had one quote. "This time we have four which provide various services. ... We don't have the money in the budget."

"Do we have the money if one of my guys gets in an officer-involved shooting and there's no body cam? This is a requirement," Williams said. "This is not something we can kick down the road. I've brought this to you three times. I'm tired of begging the court for what we need. You've got to understand I'm in a bind."

Commissioner Kyle Matthews said the commissioners court is exploring different options.

"This is not a decision I can make in 15 minutes - I need time to study it," Matthews said. "It's a huge purchase, and one company would charge us \$50,000 a year for (video) storage."

Matthews said commissioners are working with the county auditor to come up with a solution.

Weddle told the sheriff's department that the commissioners court "is here to support you 100%. We have to work together as a team to see how we can fund it and what the timing is."

Judge Miller said "there are some things that need to be answered before the court can make an informed decision. From my standpoint, I don't have enough information to be comfortable making a decision. That's a pretty significant amount of money."

Miller asked how many

"This is not something we can kick down the road."

### SHERIFF SCOTT WILLIAMS

functioning body cams the sheriff's office had. He also asked when the company that had supplied the sheriff's department's cameras had given notice that the system would be discontinued.

Sheriff Williams said his office was notified of the discontinuation "two weeks before the first time we brought (the issue) to the court."

Another representative of the sheriff's office said cameras were going down and being worked on continuously, and that it wasn't possible to say exactly how many were working at any given time.

"We try to troubleshoot the body cams, we try to make it work," he said. "Body cams fail on a daily basis."

He said those involved with mental health and criminal investigations had purchased some cameras off Amazon to use "and are trying to piece things together."

One company that made a presentation to the commissioners court on May 23 about new cameras for the jail also provided information about body cams and in-car cameras. No decision was made following that presentation.

"We look at not just what our department needs, but what the D.A. and county attorney need," a sheriff's office representative said. "We're trying to make sure we're in compliance and have the equipment we need."



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### DEADLINES:

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

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

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

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



# Folks around town



ALEX MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

**Jamie Velasquez**

## Say hello to our neighbor, Jamie Velasquez!

Jamie works in sales at Bare Bones Barbeque. He was born and raised in Gatesville and has worked at Bare Bones Barbeque for several years. He enjoys interacting and caring for customers each day. He likes the hometown feeling combined with country living. He reads The Gatesville Messenger to stay up to date with the newest information in town.

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

## PILOT

FROM PAGE A1

member recalled Lt. Hair saying, "Sorry fellows, but you will have to bail out," and some were able to parachute out of the bomber before it plunged to the earth below. Captain Emmet Cook would later write, "I am quite sure that 1st Lt. James M. Hair, the first pilot, was still at the controls when the ship blew up. Lt. Lonnie Miers, the copilot, was trapped near the forward escape hatch." Both young men, both Texas natives, perished on that fateful day.

Hair's parents were notified about the incident and held hope that he had been able to parachute to safety. The War Department first listed him as "Missing in Action." His family continued to remain optimistic, but after four years of waiting for some kind of word, in 1947 they erected a large tombstone in the Gatesville Masonic Cemetery in his memory.

According to an article that appeared in the Gatesville Messenger, "... it was customary for the United States to report their men 'Killed in Action' unless evidence of the survival was discovered. No evidence of this was reported to the Hair family."

In 1950, several years after the probable death of Lt. Hair and his co-pilot was first reported, new evidence emerged and it was discovered that their remains, along with their dog tag identifications, were located by a citizen living in Palermo where they were interred in a small cemetery. Seven

years since the two went missing over Italy, their remains were returned to Texas where they were buried together in a common grave at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. Due to the condition of their remains, and prior to DNA testing, it was impossible to identify Hair and Miers definitely, so it was decided that they would be buried together.

In 2009, the Sam Houston State University Lettermen's Association reached out to the Gatesville Messenger with an inquiry into the life of Sonny Hair and his family. Hair had been elected to the SHSU Hall of Fame.

Upon reading the article of inquiry in the newspaper, Erle Powell and John Frank Post were the first to call with information about the former Gatesville High School football player. Both men described Hair as being "a good athlete."

While a student at SHSU, Hair played football in the backfield from 1938 until 1940, earning All-America honors in 1938 and twice receiving all-conference honors. "To include a member of the 'Greatest Generation' will make this year's event even more special," Jack D. Kyle, secretary of the SHSU Lettermen's Association said, in 2009. Lt. James Hair was inducted into the SHSU Hall of Fame during a fall ceremony.

While Hair's remains are interred in the national cemetery in San Antonio, the marker in the Gatesville Masonic Cemetery reminds locals of an amazing young man who became known as a "World War II hero."

## PUMP

FROM PAGE A1

from the utility fund balance to pay for the pump. The project will be subcontracted to Jergensen Pump, "which is familiar with the pump's at the city's intake structure," according to a memorandum to the Council.

Information provided to the Council indicates that this intake structure at Lake Belton consists of four pumps used to draw water, which is then treated at the city's water treatment plant.

The memorandum to Council indicates "one of the four pumps lost a bearing, leading to the pump locking up and becoming inoperative. Although we have three operating pumps, one of the three pumps is an original pump installed when the intake structure was first built and has limited pumping capacity."

If the city were to lose a second pump, the note to Council said the city could be required "to implement mandatory water rationing."

The purchase of the pump will help to resolve those concerns.

Because Global Pump Solutions is a member of the Buy-Board, a member of the pre-approved purchasing cooperative, the city did not have to seek bids for the purchase of the pump.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Don't Forget to Remember our Brave Men and Women on Memorial Day



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

In just a few shorts days, Memorial Day will be upon us. By the end of May, most schools are out, the kids are hitting the neighborhood pool, and families are beginning to partake in their summer vacation.

Maybe it is not unreasonable to think of Memorial Day as a three-day weekend which serves as the official kickoff of summer, but while summer activities are noble pursuits, I do hope we all stop for at least a few moments over Memorial weekend and thank the men and women who have given their lives in defense of our nation. Celebrating those brave souls is the true reason for the holiday.

As a reader of history, it is easy for me to become engrossed in an account about Valley Forge, the Alamo, or Iwo Jima, and picture myself being a part of the battle. Straining to imagine what it was like to be there, I struggle to sense the weather conditions, the sounds of battle, and the devastation which surrounds me. I question myself wondering how I would measure up under the pressure of battle? Would I feel fear, anger, or would

there be no feeling at all? No matter how well the author writes the passages or how vivid my imagination is, I sense they can never accurately depict the horror of the battlefield and the experiences of each individual soldier. Surely battle must be personally experienced to be truly understood.

I frequently find myself thanking the good Lord that I never had to experience the horror or war.

When "Band of Brothers", the story of Easy Company, 506th Parachute Regiment of the 101st Airborne made its debut on HBO, I watched every episode with keen anticipation. Easy Company was engaged at D-day, the Battle of the Bulge, and the invasion of Germany. I loved the very realistic depiction of their exploits, but particularly enjoyed the interviews of the actual Easy Company survivors and listening to them share their memories.

Bastogne was the primary location of the Battle of the Bulge. American troops were surrounded by Germans while experiencing freezing temperatures with little winter clothing or food, and dwindling ammunition. I recall "Bull," a sergeant in Easy Company, telling how years after the war when there would be a particularly cold night at his home in Texarkana, his wife would frequently complain about the weather conditions. Bull said he would look at his wife, shake his head and say, "It is not near as cold as Bastogne." His comments hit me so very hard because I could feel "Bull's" words. I knew the frozen deadly experience of Bastogne was never far from his mind. He had survived but the sights and sounds of battle were never far away.

When I visited Gettysburg, tears came to my eyes while standing on the ground where Pickett's Charge took place. The emotion I experienced was overwhelming as if I could hear the screams of dying and wounded men and sense the firing of ar-

tillery. The thought of the 50,000 casualties in a single engagement over three days made me look for stains of red in the ground where I walked. No matter which side they fought, I could feel each soldier's devotion to duty, their love of home, and the loss their families experienced when they learned of the death of their "citizen soldier."

I wish not another American, man or woman, would die in battle, but I am not naive enough to believe my wish will be granted. Freedom has a price, and the bill comes due for some young man or woman on a regular basis. I fear such will continue long past my life. All we can do is offer our thanks and respect. We must never forget their sacrifice.

God bless the souls of those who have fallen and God Bless these United States.

Thought for the day: It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

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

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## Nextlink begins fiber installation in Gatesville

Special to The Messenger

On May 22, Nextlink began installing fiber in the city of Gatesville. GAC Enterprises, the contractor installing the fiber on behalf of Nextlink, started construction east of Highway 36.

You will see GAC construction crews in and around Gatesville neighborhoods over the next six months installing fiber.

Nextlink and GAC are committed to making this construction process as easy as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch with Nextlink at 855-903-4169 or nextlinkinternet.com/construction. Below are questions homeowners may have regarding the fiber construction and responses from Nextlink.

### What do I need to do to make sure that underground items (sprinkler system, sump pump, etc.) in my yard are not damaged?

Notify Nextlink if you have any items under your yard that they need to avoid. You can either mark these items with pink flags, spray them with landscape-safe paint, or report them directly to Nextlink.

## AG

FROM PAGE A1

people are concerned about. Ferguson said different lawns need different methods of care. He said property owners can get bags from the extension office and collect soil, which they mail to the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office to be analyzed. To obtain these, call 254-865-2414 or visit the local extension office at 202 Veterans Memorial Loop in Gatesville.

Water conservation is a vital concern, Ferguson said.

"Last year when we were going through a bad drought you didn't want to see neighbors spraying hundreds of gallons of water on St. Augustine grass," he said. "Also, if it's raining, turn your sprinklers off. I've been past numerous houses that have their sprinklers on during the rain. It causes problems with the lawn. When you get too much moisture, the water can't evaporate."

When watering is needed, Ferguson said early morning is the best time to do so, adding that "it helps prevent problems such as brown patches."

"Half an inch a week of watering is good if we're going into a drought — you don't have to water every day," he said. "To measure the water, get a tuna can, cat food can, or chicken can and set it around the sprinkler. See how much water is collected and gauge how much water the lawn is getting."

While it is important for trees to get water, it is important not to overwater. Ferguson said if people are watering trees "all the time, the root system doesn't go deep. The deeper the roots go, the better the tree can withstand dry weather."

Concerns about fertilizer use "are a loaded question because there is no best," he said, adding that it depends

on specific lawn conditions based on the health of the individual property owner's grass. He again recommended the soil samples be mailed to get the best indication. The cost of that service is currently \$6 per bag.

"How much (fertilizer) to put out?" Ferguson asked. "You need to know how many square feet are in your lawn, by measuring it or you can use Google Earth to draw property lines. You might be buying a bag of fertilizer and putting it on your lawn and only need half a bag. I don't recommend fertilizing all year long because it can cause nitrogen burn. Early spring and six weeks before the last frost are the best times to fertilize. If you fertilize in the middle of the year, you are going to increase your mowing."

Ferguson said those who have specific concerns and who live in Coryell County can call the extension office at 254-865-2414 and ask their questions. They can also set up an appointment for Ferguson to come out to look at their property.

"It's a free service to all Coryell County residents," he said.

Weeds are another big concern for gardeners and property owners, and Ferguson defined these as "anything unwanted in the ecosystem. He said he recently had an article about weeds on the Coryell County Agriculture News and Events Facebook page and encouraged people to visit the extension office's Facebook page.

"A weed is what you perceive it to be," Ferguson said, adding that what bothers one person may not bother another.

He said there are chemical means to control weeds but those using them should be absolutely certain they are using the right items.

"You need to read the label any time you put a chemical down," Ferguson

### Does Nextlink have permission to be on my property?

Yes. They have the legal right to access the designated utility easements. These easements typically run along a back alley, street, sidewalk, rear lot line, or between two lots. If the easement is within a fenced yard, construction crews will need your help to access the area.

### Will Nextlink ensure that my property is not damaged?

Nextlink will make every effort to minimize impact to properties and leave everything as it was prior to construction beginning. Once construction is complete and weather permits, Nextlink will restore lawns in areas where digging occurred. Additionally, if any damage to property does occur, rest assured Nextlink will cover the costs to restore it.

### When will I be able to get fiber internet installed at my home?

If Nextlink construction efforts are currently underway in your neighborhood, please be sure to register at fiber.nextlinkinternet.com. This will allow Nextlink to communicate construction updates to you as well as ensure you are one of the first homes, contact to schedule an installation appointment once construction is complete

said. "The label is the law."

Ferguson was asked about the problem of grass burrs, which are painful for people and pets.

"Grass burrs are their own fickle nuisance," he said. "There are a couple of things you can do. One is to fertilize. Grass spurs don't like fertilized lawns. There is pre-emergent for crabgrass and grass spurs that can be used as a treatment in early spring and late summer. You need to get rid of the seed heads. You can remove the plants by the roots or remove the grass spurs mechanically.

"If your lawn is heavily infested with grass burrs you can smoke it with Roundup, which is a contact herbicide. But be careful. You spray that on anything, and it dies. Then you can replant that area with Bermuda grass.

"If you miss using pre-emergent, you'll regret it. I did, and I couldn't do anything about the grass burrs except to go out and start picking."

Ferguson was asked about oak wilt.

"It's still a big problem," he said. "I get calls about it constantly throughout the year. It is a slow progressing disease. If you start seeing problems (with distressed oak trees), call me and we can set up an appointment. We also have someone in Hamilton County (a tree specialist) we can work with.

"The best time to prune trees is the hottest and coldest times of the year, typically June through August and November through January or February. That is when the beetle that causes oak wilt is in dormancy. Pruning releases a smell that attracts the beetle. You can also use tree paint to put on tree wounds."

Anyone with questions related to agriculture, local natural resources, gardening and lawn care can also reach Ferguson at robert.ferguson@ag.tamu.edu by email.



# The DISPATCH

## CYNTHIA NEATHERLIN

Oct. 30, 1938 - May 18, 2023



Cynthia Smith Neatherlin, age 84, of Levita, last closed her eyes in this world on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, at Ater Cemetery, with Rev. Danny Crosby officiating.

Cynthia was born on October 30, 1938, in Pearl, to the late Oscar and Anna Smith. She attended school in Pearl and Evant, graduating from Evant High School in 1957. While in the fourth grade, she met Charles Neatherlin and he became the love of her life and they married on August 26, 1961. Charles was always busy and for al-

most 62 years, she followed his every step. She was an exceptional gardener, homemaker, wife, mother and "Gran." She and Charles were members of Levita Baptist Church, where she was the Church Clerk for 30 years, and taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She was a member of Levita Bible Fellowship.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Carolyn Brooks; brothers, Gervase Smith, and Bryan Smith.

Cynthia is survived by her "once in a lifetime" husband, Charles Neatherlin; daughter, Doris Farrar and husband, Billy; grandchildren, Rebekah Brown, Brittany Lord and husband, Josh, Orin Brown and wife, Marissa, Justin Brown and Dustin Brown; great-grandchildren, Jaycie, Kayleigh, Emmie and C.J.; sister, Gwen Fleming; brothers, F.B. Smith and wife, JaQue, James Smith and wife, Lynn; and Duane Smith. She also leaves behind treasured nephews, nieces and cherished family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Levita Bible Fellowship, 4460 FM 930, Gatesville, TX 76528.

## VIRGINIA MANN

June 15, 1941 - May 15, 2023



Virginia "Jensey" Leland Mann, age 82, of Gatesville, passed away on May 15, 2023, of natural causes.

Jensey was born on June 15, 1941, in Birmingham, Alabama to Leland Alexander Mann and Virginia Bell Dillard Mann. At the age of three, she moved with her parents to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where she lived until she went away to Georgia for high school at Brenau Academy, graduating in 1959, and went on to achieve her bachelor's in English Literature at Brenau University in 1963.

After graduating from college, she followed her parents to Indian Harbor Beach, Florida and met and married Stephen Shacoski in 1965, and had three children. Jensey became a part of a building community of divorced and single mothers at a time when getting a bank account or credit card on their own was near impossible, and when interviewing for jobs was told that, although she might be more or equally qualified, the men interviewed had a family to provide for, so, "we had to give the job to him."

Jensey persevered and while raising her children; she taught college English at Florida Institute of Technology from 1966 to 1973, in Brevard County, Florida, and eventually became a dedicated and proud high school English teacher spending most of her career at South Fork High School from 1981 until 2001 in Martin County, Florida. Through her own personal and family history of struggles with mental illness, losing students to suicide, and supporting colleagues and friends who were struggling, Jensey grew into an outspoken advocate for people with mental illness. Far ahead of her time, she created and supported a student group at South Fork High School in the 80s called Suicide Is Not The Answer (SINTA). Through SINTA she facilitated training students to support peers in crisis and link them to help, knowing

that adolescents were more likely to tell someone their age they are thinking of suicide than telling adults. Her passion for destigmatizing mental illness and normalizing talking about mental health led to her eventually achieving her master's degree in counseling at Liberty University in the 90s and a lifelong belief that it's important to be open and unashamed about mental health struggles.

Jensey became a born-again Christian in the early 70s and remained devoted in her faith and belief in the teachings of Christ. One of the greatest things she taught her children was to see people as Christ would. She never looked down on people and took into her home and heart people that felt they were not seen or cared for within the communities they lived. They became part of her family and were well-loved. While devoted to her faith and the Bible, Jensey was also a great appreciator of literature, music, and art. She especially loved Shakespeare, Chaucer, William Blake, Milton's Paradise Lost, and Cervantes' Don Quixote. Past students commented that they never thought they could ever understand or appreciate literature such as Shakespeare but somehow, she made them not only understand the work but also feel like it was 'theirs.'

Jensey spent her final years in Gatesville, where she was part of a close community of friends who shared coffee and life together, especially at a restaurant called Andy's, which became the center of their life together. She spent her final years with strong friends who supported each other as they aged into their golden years. Jensey was especially close with Scottie: A devoted caregiver who became her best friend, and who provided the loving care and support that helped fill Jensey's final years with comfort and love.

Jensey is survived by her friend and caregiver, Scottiemarie Pearson; children, Stephen Christopher Shacoski, Tim Shacoski, and Suzanne "Sunny" Shacoski; daughters-in-law, Julie Cole Shacoski and Kim Rockburn; four grandchildren, Gabrielle, Alexandria, Steve, and Anabelle Shacoski; and a first cousin Marianne Mann Meredith, who was always a sister to her. Jensey was a lifelong lover of animals who were always family in her house. She particularly had an affinity for cats, who were constant companions. She most certainly is now surrounded by all her pets that went before her.

## VIRGINIA BARNARD

Oct. 29, 1936 - May 22, 2023



Virginia Barnard, age 86, passed away on Monday, May 22, 2023, surrounded by her family.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2023, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with Dr. Danny Crosby officiating.

Virginia Anne Barnard was born on October 29, 1936, to the late Floyd and Lunar Virginia Chandler in Hillsboro. She grew up and attended school in Blum, graduating high school in 1954. After graduation, she attended cosmetology school in Waco. She married Edward Barnard on December 11, 1955. Together, they made their home in Gatesville.

Virginia was a homemaker and loved to cross stitch and crochet, making baby

blankets for many of her family members. She loved to bake, especially kolaches. She was a member of Live Oak Baptist Church and was a member of the choir. In her later years, she and her husband, Edward, enjoyed spending time at the Gatesville Senior Center, oftentimes playing 42 or 84 dominoes. She and Edward were also avid travelers, visiting almost every state park in Texas. Virginia never met a stranger and loved spending time visiting with anyone that she met.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edward; and daughter, Cathy Bailey.

Virginia is survived by her daughters, Vickie Shaeffer and husband, Leslie; Deanna Pauley and husband, Mark; brother, Floyd Chandler; grandchildren, Jessica Greene, Bill Shaeffer, Colette Pauley, Cassandra Brenny, and Stephen Pauley; great-grandchildren, Benjamin Farmer, Stephen Farmer, Lydia Brenny, Derek Brenny II, Wesley Brenny; and lifelong friend, Cathryn Cooper and husband, J.B.

The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff at Hillside Medical Lodge for the excellent care and unwavering love provided to Virginia during her stay.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Live Oak Baptist Church, 113 FM 107, Gatesville, Texas 76528.

## GILBERT PAYNE

Aug. 13, 1935 - May 18, 2023



Gilbert Dale Payne went home to be a fisherman for the Lord on the 18th of May, 2023 surrounded by his family at Texoma Medical Center in Sherman, Texas. He was 87. Gilbert was born in Valley Mills on August 13, 1935, to Charlie Arthur Payne and Louisa Laura (Brandon) Payne. He attended school in Jonesboro.

Gilbert married Vera Faye (Whaley) Payne on October 9, 1954. He was a resident of Caddo, OK. He is survived by his children Faye and Billy Boydston of Caddo, OK and Sue Keefer of Durant, OK; grandchildren Chris and Lori Boydston of Tahlequah, OK, Mark and Melissa Boydston of Durant, OK, Wesly and Jessica Keefer of Waxahachie, TX,

and Craig Keefer of Austin, TX; great-grandchildren include Mackenzie, Colby, Miley, John, Ashtyn, Sawyer, Noah, and Saydee. He is also survived by his brother, Jimmy and Connie Payne of Hamilton, TX; sisters, Billie Jo Suggs of Tyler, TX, Louise (Tooter) and Jerry Poole of Jonesboro, TX, and Peggy and Bill Johnson of Runaway Bay, TX and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Vera, parents, Charlie and Lula Payne, brothers, Charles Stifflemire, Gene Payne, Donald (Duck) Payne, and sister, Mamie Smythe.

He was a member of Blue River Fellowship Church in Caddo. He loved talking to all the little kids at church and showing them how he could pull his thumb off. They were always amazed, and he would show them how to do it.

A Celebration of Gilbert's life was held at Riley Funeral Home in Hamilton on Thursday, May 25, with burial following at Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Gilbert's memory with donations to the Evergreen Cemetery, 402 West Main, Hamilton, TX 76531, or the Building Fund of Blue River Fellowship Church, P.O. Box 481, Caddo, OK 74729.

## Families can visit range cemeteries on Fort Cavazos during Memorial Day weekend

Memorial Day weekend visits for families who have relatives buried in cemeteries within the Fort Cavazos (Fort Hood) live-fire training areas will be May 28 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Families may visit the cemeteries between these hours without area access clearance.

No vehicle pass is required for the cemetery visits unless accessing the installation through vehicle control points (gates). Non-DOD identification card holders must obtain a pass from the visitors center located on T.J. Mills Blvd. prior to coming on post.

Range operations will

have guides available to assist families and monitor cemetery visits to ensure that all visitors are clear of the live-fire training areas by 7 p.m.

Signs will be posted along roads giving directions to the cemeteries. Roads that may be used are: East Range Road, Hubbard Road, West

Range Road, and Owl Creek Road.

For more information, contact Mike Smith at the range control operations office, (254) 553-1943 and (254) 291-2363 or email michael.j.smith447.civ@army.mil.

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# Award-winning Ricochet to headline at Shivaree festival on June 3

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Multi-award-winning group Ricochet, whose distinctive musician style includes intricate harmonies and popular vocals, will be the featured performer in the 49th annual Shivaree event to be held Saturday, June 3 at Texas Station.

Ricochet has performed thousands of shows and continues to perform all over North America. The group has played the National Anthem at NASCAR Sprint Cup events, major sporting events, and the PBR and PRCA Professional Rodeo events to name a few.

Ricochet has headlined two USO Tours: Operation Season's Greetings 2000 to Japan and Korea, and Operation Season's Greetings 2001, which took the group to Spain, Sicily, Ger-

many, Macedonia, Turkey, and Portugal to perform for the men and women of our armed services.

The group has earned multiple awards over the years, which include Top New Vocal Group from the Academy of Country Music, Group of the Year from the Radio and Records Reader's Poll, Top new Country Artist from Billboard Magazine, Most Valuable Performer from Radio and Records, and Favorite New Group or Duo from Country Weekly Golden Pick Award. They were also nominated Top Vocal Group by the Academy of Country Music.

"I'm super excited about Ricochet's upcoming performance at the Shivaree," Tiffany Turner, director of the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce said. "I know we'll have a great crowd there to

welcome them to this 49th annual Shivaree."

Also performing on Saturday will be special guest Landon Heights, who will take the stage at 8 p.m. Heights is a rising country music artist from Temple. In the fall of 2020, Heights released his first Texas country radio single, "Homecoming Queen," which led to an opportunity to share the stage with artists such as The Bellamy Brothers, Cory Morrow, and Brandon Rhyder.

Performing at 6 p.m. on stage will be the Not So Jazz Band - Jazz Band. This group is made up primarily of 8th grade and a few 9th grade students from Meridian who are making a big statement through their music. The young group plays music such as the song "Smooth" by Carlos Santana

and hits from the group Chicago. The group has made great strides at multiple band competitions, which include record-breaking scores.

Also performing will be a local father/daughter duo Mike Dickie and his daughter Bailey Shea Dickie, who will take the stage Saturday afternoon. Mike Dickie started performing in front of live audiences in the 1990s. He taught his daughter how to play the guitar when she was 15 years old. The two started playing together at different music venues in Central Texas about 10 years ago and have



COURTESY PHOTO

Award-winning band, Ricochet to headline at Shivaree

a growing list of listeners.

Tickets to the performances may be purchased online at eventbright.com. Performance times may change so please visit the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce

Facebook page or contact the chamber by calling 254-865-2617 for more information.

## Exchange Club presents 27th annual Fire Ant Tour

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Exchange Club will hold their annual Fire Ant Tour on Saturday, June 10, at the Gatesville Civic Center located at 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. On-site registration and packet pickup will be from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. on the morning of the race at the Gatesville Civic Center.

There will be two race options, the Fire Ant 100K Bicycle Tour will cost \$40 and the Fire Ant 100K Bicycle Virtual Tour will cost \$45. Both races are from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A virtual ride option has been added for people who live far away who want to support the cause. Virtual riders will be sent their

shirts and finishers medal in the mail one week after the event.

Photographers will be stationed all around the grounds of the event to take pictures. All the photos will be free without purchase.

The Coffee Saloon will be at the event from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., and Taco Damian's will serve breakfast

tacos for \$2 dollars per taco and breakfast burritos for \$6 per burrito.

Free food will be offered at the end of the ride as well as a swag bag, which will include a free pass to the local fitness center or pool to gain access to a hot shower.

The ride will begin at approximately 8 a.m. All riders will be required to wear

helmets and safety gear. E-bikes are welcome. SAG stations will be placed at each 10-mile interval, and at the start and finish areas. Portapotties will be available at each SAG station, and SAG wagons will drive on each route throughout the ride to assist riders if necessary.

All proceeds will go towards local scholarships

for Gatesville Independent School District seniors and many other community service projects.

For any additional information visit [https://gatesclubexpress.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=744960&module\\_id=96763](https://gatesclubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=744960&module_id=96763).

## Disabled American Veterans set to present inaugural car show

Staff Reports

Local Disabled American Veterans Chapter 74 will

hold its first-ever car show on Saturday, June 17. The car show will be held at the Gatesville Chamber of

Commerce, located at 2507 South TX-36 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pre-registration ended on

Friday, May 26. The entry fee will be due on the day of the car show and will be \$20 per vehicle.

There will be a raffle at the event. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

The Disabled American

Veterans was founded in 1920 by Robert S. Marx, a former Cincinnati, Ohio judge.

## Oglesby Lions Club to hold Memorial Day Ceremony

Staff Reports

The Oglesby Lions Club is scheduled to hold a Memo-

rial Day ceremony on Monday, May 29. The ceremony will be held at the Oglesby Community Center and will

commence at 9 a.m.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, began during the American

Civil War when citizens placed flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle. After World War I,

it came to be observed in honor of those who passed away in all U.S. wars, and its name changed to Memorial

Day.

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

## Coryell Museum is currently hosting a bakeless bake sale

Staff Reports

A bakeless bake sale is currently underway at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. In these busy days, there's just not

enough time in the day for cooking. So, the museum will be hosting a bakeless bake sale. Those interested in helping the museum are encouraged to donate the price of a pie, cookies, or

something else nice.

Donations can be made by stopping by the museum at 718 E. Main Street or by mailing a donation to the Coryell Museum, P.O. Box 24, Gatesville, TX 76528.

## First Baptist Church of Flat to host fish fry fundraiser

Staff Reports

The First Baptist Church of Flat, located at 9775 TX-36, will hold a fish fry fundraiser on Saturday, May

27, in support of its youth summer camp. The fundraiser will be from 5-7 p.m.

The menu will include fried fish, fries, pinto beans, potato salad, and

peach and blackberry cobbler. Each plate will cost \$15, with the choice to dine-in or use the drive-through. For more information call 254-487-2362.

## Coryell City, Osage VFD present BBQ luncheon fundraiser

Staff Reports

The Coryell City, Osage Volunteer Fire Department will hold a barbecue luncheon Saturday, May 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The luncheon will be held at the Coryell City, Osage Volun-

teer Fire Department located at 301 CR 255 in Coryell City.

The combo plate will include brisket, sausage, dessert, sides, and a drink for \$15. Takeout orders will begin at 10 a.m. To order a plate call 254-248-1177 or

254-230-8758.

There will be a drawing for a pellet grill. Tickets will cost \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets. For more information the Coryell City, Osage Volunteer Fire Department can be reached by calling 254-248-1177.

## Live Oak Baptist Church to host pool party June 7

Staff Reports

Live Oak Baptist Church will host a pool party at the Gatesville City Pool, lo-

cated at 300 S. 8th Street, on Wednesday, June 7. The party will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This is a family event with

plenty of snacks, fellowship, and swimming.

For more information contact Live Oak Baptist Church at 254-865-5681.

## Purmela Homecoming is May 27

Submitted Item

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

mela 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.

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# Mitchells celebrate their golden anniversary on May 26



COURTESY PHOTOS

David Mitchell and Katy Wilhelm Mitchell on their wedding day May 26, 1973.

**D**avid Mitchell and Katy Wilhelm Mitchell of Gatesville celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, May 26.

They were united in marriage on May 26, 1973 at the Jonesboro Baptist Church.

The couple has two sons. Justin and his wife Keri have two daughters, Anna and Laura. Travis and his wife Cori have three sons, Timothy, Titus, and William.

Their 50th anniversary will be celebrated by going on a Columbia and Snake Rivers Cruise in Oregon.



COURTESY PHOTOS

David Mitchell and Katy Wilhelm Mitchell will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a Columbia and Snake Rivers Cruise.

## CORYELL MUSEUM

### Dean Meeks and Drew Meeks Paige Adventures

BY JANN DWORSKY  
Contributing Writer

Dean Meeks lived on Levita Road in Gatesville, and he was a husband, father, dairyman, cattle rancher, football player, paratrooper, pilot, storyteller, writer, and sailor. He took a small sailboat from England to Africa and journaled his trip. Drew Meeks Paige, his daughter, published a book in 2018, taken from her father's journal about his trip to England to buy a sailboat. I recently read it and I couldn't put it down. The title is *Odyssey of a "Texas Sailor"* by Drew Meeks Paige with John H. Clark. It is for sale in the Coryell Museum Gift Shop.

Dean Meeks was an excellent storyteller and kept a journal in Big Chief tablets and spiral notebooks during his sailboat voyage. He managed to return with his journal, even after many harrowing adventures on

his sailboat.

In his journal he writes, "What seemed like a relatively easy voyage, studied by a warm fireplace on rainy afternoons in Coryell County, becomes more complicated as I go along. I seem to remember the English Channel being light blue, calm, and sunny on the National Geographic maps at home. Over here on the local charts, I am surprised to find that it is filled with sand bars, mud flats, wrecked ships, the heaviest sea traffic in the world, and the nastiest weather you can imagine."

However, Dean Meeks was adventurous even as a young boy. He writes, "One Saturday morning, in the fall of the year after heavy rains had pushed the roaring creek out of its banks, I proceeded to teach my friend, C.F., the fine art of roping and riding logs down

the rampage to an old iron bridge at the bottom of our place, a distance of about three miles." They went back up and the second time they came down the creek, C.F.'s mother was standing in the middle of the bridge and said, "Get in the car." She looked very angry, but Dean had no idea why.

Dean Meeks was adventurous as a young man, and he was a high school and college football player. He even played football while stationed in Germany.

When Drew Meeks, Dean's daughter, graduated from high school in 1980, she went to college, but did not like it very much. A friend of hers suggested she join the Air Force and he took her to Dallas to the recruiting station. She took the test, and they told her she qualified to be trained as an aircraft electrician (probably because of all the farm work

she had done.) She signed up and went home and told her parents. Her dad took it just fine, but her mother did not take it very well.

She had apparently gotten some adventurous blood from her father. The recruiters asked her if she wanted to go state-side or overseas and she said overseas. She was hoping to go to Japan but was stationed in England. She was an Air Force electrician for 4 years active duty and then she got into the reserves. She went on several trips on the KC 135, which is a big refueler. Those are the airplanes that let down a fuel hose, it attaches to the nose of another aircraft which is then refueled. This is an exacting maneuver for any aircraft crew.

Dean Meeks loved flying and unlike most of the ranchers in Coryell County he had an airplane. He

parked it in the front yard of their house. Dean took his girls with him when he flew. Drew's mother would take the kids by car over to Gatesville Airport and they would ride with their dad. Dean did loops in the air with the girls after installing homemade seat belts in the airplane. He had been a paratrooper so for him staying in the airplane was an improvement.

When he was by himself, Dean would land and take off on Levita Road, in his airplane! Drew said she or her sister would ride one of their horses to the top of the hill on Levita Road and if cars were coming, they would flag them down and tell them that an airplane was coming. What kind of confusion did this cause among the drivers? So, Drew said that growing up like that, it came as no big surprise when she was grown

and stationed in Mendenhall, England, in 1985, that he said he had bought a sailboat. She thought he was invincible and could do whatever he set his mind to do.

Coryell Museum and Historical Center is open 10-4 Wednesday through Saturday. We have an unusual gift shop with books by Coryell citizens on many different subjects. Come by and visit with us, tour the museum, reserve the historic Gilbreath Room or Coryell Room for your special occasion. We recently had the entire second-grade class come see the museum, two classes at a time. We enjoyed them and they seemed delightfully interested in the 50 exhibits we had to show them.

To reserve one of our rooms or schedule a guided tour call 865-5007.

## Whatever happened to....

### 20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Tara Clary and Erika Moreno were named the top honorees for the Class of 2003 at Evant High School.

A 1969 Chevrolet half-ton stepside pickup owned by Terry Gray of Gatesville took top honors at the Super Chevy Show held in Ennis.

Jacob R. Aguilar-Probasco, a 2001 graduate of Gatesville High School, was serving aboard the USS La Salle

near Syria. He had joined the U.S. Navy on March 26, 2001.

Bessie Smith Galaway celebrated her 92nd birthday at the home of her daughter, Donella McKee. Galaway was born in Pearl and lived in Gatesville.

Jenna Mooney, a Gatesville High School graduating senior, was honored with a graduation party at the home of Fred and Lisa Dachschofsky.

**30 YEARS AGO (1993)**  
Deanna Gay Fry, a member of the 1993 graduating class, was honored with a Mexican Fiesta and swim-

ming party at the "Bar C" Ranch in Levita.

Ruby Fisher was honored on her 85th birthday with a celebration held at the Mountain Community Center.

Cheryl Mapston was awarded for her years of service to the Coryell County Extension Service where she had been employed since 1985.

Marshall T. Culpepper, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Culpepper, had enlisted for guaranteed training at the United States Navy's Personnel School.

Curtis Lipsey, a longtime

employee of the city of Gatesville, was honored with a retirement party. Lipsey, age 81, had worked for the city since 1979.

**40 YEARS AGO (1983)**  
New District Attorney Phil Zeigler was confirmed by the Texas Senate for his appointment by Gov. Mark White. Zeigler took the oath from 52nd District Court Judge Bob Cummings.

Raby Alford of Gatesville received a Certificate of Merit award for his outstanding performance as a field enumerator with the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Billy Massingill, who was head baseball coach at Salado High School, was named Coach of the Year by the Texas Baseball Umpires As-

sociation.

Dr. Sybil Armes and her husband, Dr. Woodson Armes, received the Texas Baptist Elder Statesman Award at the 25th annual celebration held at Independence.

Graduating seniors Paula Barton, Lisa Thompson, Wendell Byrom, Ricky Helms, Bobby Shults, Tom Springstun, and Wayne Wallace were honored with a patio party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Edwards.

**50 YEARS AGO (1973)**  
Robert M. (Bob) Scott, a Dallas attorney, was joining the law practice in the firm of Floyd Zeigler located on South 7th Street.

Debbie Herring was named the new assistant to the librarian at Gatesville Public

Library. She was succeeding Mrs. Albert Rosser who held that position.

Gatesville was receiving television exposure when the city was featured on an episode of the Hill Country Reporter program.

J.K. Hamilton, a highway patrolman stationed in Gatesville, brought back four trophies from Austin where he competed in the 15th Annual DPS Defensive Revolver matches.

The county commissioners court were in the process of employing an architect to remodel Coryell County's 40-year-old jail building. The county had been granted \$15,769 for the project.

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300-400 lb.	240-290
400-500 lb.	220-275
500-600 lb.	210-255
600-700 lb.	185-225
700-800 lb.	180-210
<b>No. 1 Heifers</b>	
under 300 lb.	210-275
300-400 lb.	210-255
400-500 lb.	195-235
500-600 lb.	185-220
600-700 lb.	165-195
700-800 lb.	150-180

<b>Slaughter Cows</b>	
High Yielding	92-107
Low Yielding	75-85
Fats	85-94
Thin & Shelly	45-65

<b>Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)</b>	
Yield Grade 1&2	100-128

<b>Cow &amp; Calf Pairs</b>	
Young Choice	1750-2400
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<b>#1 Type Steers</b>		<b>#1 Type Heifers</b>	
200-300 lb.	No test	200-300 lb.	No test
301-400 lb.	190-275	301-400 lb.	165-237
401-500 lb.	190-263	401-500 lb.	160-239
501-600 lb.	185-239	501-600 lb.	155-212
601-700 lb.	175-223	600-700 lb.	160-175

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## Offices set to close for Memorial Day

### Staff Reports

Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who have died while serving in the military for the United States of America. Formally known as Decoration Day, it's a federal holiday observed yearly on the last Monday of May.

The history of Memorial Day dates to the American Civil War. It started as an event to honor soldiers who had died during the war. It is said to be inspired by the way people in the southern states honored the dead. The original national celebration of Decoration Day took place on May 30, 1868. Businesses and governmental offices across Cory-

ell County will join the rest of the nation on Monday, May 29, in celebrating Memorial Day.

Closings in the immediate area include:

### GOVERNMENT

The City of Gatesville, City of Oglesby, City of Evant, Farm Service Agency, and Coryell County Courthouse will be closed on Monday.

### SCHOOLS

All local schools have finished the school year. The Boys and Girls Club will be closed.

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Extraco Bank, Cadence, Educator's Credit Union, First National Bank of Gatesville, First National Bank of Evant, and the First National Bank of Oglesby will be closed on

Monday.

### POST OFFICES

All local post offices will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

### LIBRARY

The Gatesville Public Library will be closed on Monday.

### SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Multi-Services Center will be closed on Monday.

### MUSEUM

The Coryell County Museum and Historical Center will be closed on Monday.

### NEWSPAPER

The Gatesville Messenger will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day and will re-open on Tuesday, May 30.



# 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 February 16, 1951, edition of The Gatesville Messenger:

**First Marriage in Coryell County**  
Some two years or more

ago I wrote a story in Memory Lane about the folks that lived down on Coryell Creek and in that story I mentioned that J.M. Davidson was the first man married in Coryell County. That statement shore brought on more talk. It weren't but a short time after the Messenger come out that Miss Zelma Scott of Gatesville, who at that time was writing a history of Coryell County and who had been a faithful reader of my column, marched into my office and put the matter up as to where I had got my information about the first marriage in Coryell County. Course I had to tell her that, like the Old Timer, I just heard it; so she marched me over to the courthouse and we went into the county clerk's office and got down the first marriage record book and behold, what should we find but the stated fact that W.J.

(Uncle Billie) Sprewin and his lady love had gone before the Honorable Thomas Cawfield, our very first Justice of the Peace, and were united in the holy bonds of matrimony in April, 1854.

The very next month, J.M. Davidson and his lady appeared before the same Justice of the Peace and were united in holy matrimony. So, there was just a matter of 30 days' difference in these events, but Miss Zelma figured that it was better to keep the record straight, and as it might be. J.M. Davidson and Uncle Billie Sprewin, like most of our pioneers, lived to be extra old men and it has been my good fortune to know them both. I don't remember how old Uncle Billie was when he passed on, but I did notice quite a few years ago that the children of J.M. Davidson gave him a birthday party on his 96th birthday. While I don't think there is any of the Sprewins left, J.M. Davidson has left a goodly number of his children and grandchildren who still live in Coryell County.

While Miss Zelma and I were looking over that old marriage record, she suggested that inasmuch as I knew or knew of the folks that married in Coryell County, maybe so our latter day residents would like to read about our early day marriages. I told her that it was a subject I would be afraid to tackle, for all the early day folks were plain folks who believed in keeping your mouth

shut. They were also all kin-folks, and if you happened to leave out Grandpaw and Grandmaw, there would be hell among the yearlings. I ain't never got up enough

courage to write about these weddings, knowing full well that some of the wimmin folks drove their ducks to a lousy market and I couldn't say too much about them.



Coryell County Marriage License

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

## SUDOKU

Last week's puzzle solution

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

# The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of May 17 - 23. 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 17**  
1:37 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block N. 30th Street.  
12:20 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of Bridge Street.  
4:06 p.m., an accident was reported in the 900 block E. Main Street.  
9:23 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of S. State Hwy. 36.  
**May 18**  
7:18 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.  
2:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Hillcrest Drive.  
2:45 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.  
4:35 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1600 block of Saunders Street.  
**May 19**  
11:00 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of Golf Course Road.  
12:17 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.  
6:39 p.m., animal cruelty

was reported in the 100 block of Avenue E.  
7:02 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 3400 block of Crown Drive.  
**May 20**  
11:39 a.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 1100 block of W. Main Street.  
12:45 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of S. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.  
9:29 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.  
10:41 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 200 block of E. Leon Street.  
**May 21**  
4:00 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of N. 14th Street.  
2:02 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of State School Road.  
4:19 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 3400 block of Royal Drive.  
10:32 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of Pidcocke Street.  
**May 22**  
9:03 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 200 block of S. Lovers Lane.

12:56 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.  
3:50 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1600 block of Saunders Street.  
6:12 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of E. Leon Street.  
**May 23**  
1:43 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1900 block of E. Main Street.  
1:58 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 300 block of N. Lovers Lane.  
5:58 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the 100 block of S. Lovers Lane.  
8:00 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of FM 116.

### CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**May 17**  
9:41 a.m., animal neglect was reported in the 100 block of Tom Sawyer.  
3:31 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1800 block of Clovis Drive.  
8:30 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 700 block of Topaz Street.

9:25 p.m., a kidnapping was reported on southbound Hwy. 36.  
**May 18**  
7:54 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1241 and CR 92.  
11:53 a.m., damaged property was reported in the 900 block of Bluestem.  
4:09 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 3000 block of CR 274.  
7:45 p.m., the burglary of a habitation was reported in the 1300 block of Straws Mill Road.  
**May 19**  
4:22 a.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 116 near Bald Knob Road.  
1:34 p.m., an explosion was reported in the 500 block of CR 322.  
5:12 p.m., a stolen vehicle was recovered in the 1300 block of Rhett Road.  
7:34 p.m., deadly conduct was reported in the 1300 block of Duncan Road.  
**May 20**  
2:09 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 1000 block of Straws Mill Road.  
2:00 p.m., a scam was reported in the 3300 block of Old Fort Gates Road.

7:28 p.m., missing livestock was reported in the 7900 block of CR 137.  
11:16 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 300 block of FM 1783.  
**May 21**  
1:00 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on CR 339.  
4:24 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 300 block of CR 274.  
4:25 p.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported in the 12000 block of E. Hwy. 84.  
8:56 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported on Snow Road.  
**May 22**  
7:44 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on CR 339.  
9:19 a.m., a theft was re-

ported in the 1100 block of CR 269.  
9:29 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 4300 block of FM 930.  
11:41 a.m., a dog bite was reported in the 11000 block of FM 116.  
**May 23**  
12:07 p.m., an animal bite was reported in the 900 block of Bluestem.  
1:27 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Oglesby/Neff Park Road.  
5:10 p.m., an explosion was reported on FM 107 and FM 1829.  
8:10 p.m., an animal complaint was reported on Boone Avenue.

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## MOUND NEWS

# Summer brings the school year to an end for many Mound kids



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Little Miss Olivia Lois Long graduated from Trinity Baptist Preschool on Sunday May 21. Olivia will be starting her very first year in Kindergarten for the 2023-24 school year at the Gatesville Primary. Olivia is the daughter of Zach and Amanda Long, granddaughter of Nelton and Cindy Long, and David and Pam Hopson. Her great-grandmother is Beth Haines.

Little Mr. Noah Truett Hopson will be starting his first year in first grade at Gatesville Elementary School for the 2023-24 school year. Noah is the son of Paul and Rachel Hopson, grandson of DeElva Grubb, David and Pam Hopson and great-nephew of Barbara Hopson.

Miss Emily Rose Cupps will be starting her first year in first grade at Academy Elementary School in Temple for the 2023-24 school year. Emily is the daughter of Angie Cupps, granddaughter of Margaret Hopson and great-niece of Barbara Hopson.

Miss Allie Faith McPherson will be starting her first year in seventh grade at the Gatesville Junior High School for the 2023-24 school year. Allie is the daughter of Mark and Kelli

McPherson, granddaughter of Janet McPherson and David and Pam Hopson, and great-granddaughter of Beth Haines.

Several people of Mound attended the Gatesville ISD Choir's Showstoppers 2023 Friday evening in Gatesville.

Miss Kinsley Elizabeth McPherson was honored for her sweet 16th birthday with a party Saturday afternoon at the home of her grandparents, David and Pam Hopson. It was given by her parents and sisters, Mark, Kelli, Anna and Allie McPherson.

Miss Anna Grace McPherson will be starting her first year as a freshman at Gatesville High School for 2023-24 school year. Anna will also attend her freshman orientation in August. Anna is the

daughter of Mark and Kelli McPherson, granddaughter of Janet McPherson and David and Pam Hopson, and her great-granddaughter of Beth Haines.

Kathi Taylor spent the day in Waco Saturday with Lisa (Echart) Raburn of Ennis. They went shopping at the Magnolia Market. Lisa grew up in Mound.

Kay Branham visited on Monday afternoon with Sue Jones and Sterlin Shults.

Amanda, Blayze, Caymbri and Cora Fisher, Helen and Debbie Piller, Claudia Brown, Ronnie and Kay Fisher and Jennifer Miller attended the Oglesby Baccalaureate at First Baptist Church in Oglesby Sunday for Brodie Fisher.

Carolyn Blakley has started her physical therapy this

week to get her walking again and has been doing really good.

Robert and Carolyn Blakley went to College Station to see their daughter, Emma Blakley and to order her Aggie ring Monday.

Those who had birthdays in the month of May were Beckham Sanders, Randy Cole, Miles Wallace, Amy Veazey, Lynda Brim, Tristan Hopson, Cindy Long, Brent Wolff, Kelly Dunivan, Bryce Cole, Gloria Shaffer, Janet Ortega, Kinsley McPherson, Stormy Crum, Jamie Veazey, Holli Williams, Kim Dahl, David Hopson, Patti Pruett, Romie Gonzalez, Meredith Cox, Denise Kleshick, Rhonda Wheeler, Suzy Cox, Kathy Cole and Caegan Michaels.

Barbara's Notes: Happy Memorial Day, everybody.

## PEARL NEWS

# Kids of Pearl are buzzing with excitement for summer activities



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Pearl extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Cynthia Smith Neatherlin. Mrs. Neatherlin was born in Pearl to Oscar and Anna Smith and attended school in Pearl and Evant. Her services were held on May 20 at Ater Cemetery Pavilion. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Trent Ray, along with 31 other GHS high school athletes, was honored during the Gatesville ISD May meeting as an Academic All-State scholar-athlete by the Texas High School Coaches Association. GISD Athletic Director Ricky Phillips said that factors considered in the selection process included class rank, grade-point average, and performance on the ACT/SAT. Trent represented GHS track and field in the discus and shot put. He will be attending Angelo State University this fall. Best wishes to Trent!

A lot of kiddos are excited this weekend about a number of things such as school is out (finally!), swimming pools are opening, and Pearl Church of Christ is beginning its annual week-long

VBS on Monday at 9 a.m. This year's theme is "Character is Everything." Camo T-shirts, provided to each of those in attendance, have the theme printed on the front of the shirt, and the back of the shirt states that this year's VBS motto is in honor of 1st Sargent Major Roy Harris! Brother Roy has been an inspirational part of the Pearl VBS for many years. He is a lover of Jesus, a teacher, a role model, encourager, leader, and a man of impeccable character. Brother Harris and his adorable wife Debbie always bring their children, grandchildren, and other children from their church in Copperas Cove. But, please, keep the Harris's in your prayers as Roy deals with illness and difficult treatments. The VBS

crew is counting on seeing Roy's family again this week to show them some love! So come one and all to Pearl from 9 a.m. to noon to Pearl Church of Christ for another great Vacation Bible School! Everyone is welcome! It's gonna be fun!

On the front porch of the Pearl Cottage Bookstore are 25 Bibles free for the taking. Actually, all Bibles and Christian books in the cottage are free! Among the ones on the front porch are several large print versions. Feel free to stop by and pick up a Bible!

The next Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day and Pearl Bluegrass event will be June 3. Remaining dates for these events for 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!

This week's Bible verse comes from Romans 15:5,6 — "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." 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 betsyclarck47@yahoo.com.

# Robert Summers thinks big



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Robert Summers of Glen Rose is one of the most accomplished artists in America. He sculpted larger than life-size figures of Tom Landry, John Wayne, and other prominent personalities. His work is all over the U.S. and in other countries. He worked on a complete oil-drilling scene in Artesia, New Mexico that has equipment and workers.

He created the largest bronze sculpture arrangement in the United States. It's in downtown Dallas near the convention center. In 1992 he read about the planned project in a newspaper.

"It said they wanted 70 longhorns and 3 cowboys in a trail drive scene," he said. "I thought that has got to be a mistake. They probably meant 7 longhorns. Then it mentioned it again, 70 longhorns. I thought they had made the same mistake twice. Then at the end of the article it said they were looking forward to seeing 70 longhorns. I thought I'd better call someone."

One hundred artists from around the world competed for the job. It narrowed

down to two sculptors, both Texans. Robert was chosen to do it. He went to Dallas to talk to the movers and shakers behind the project.

"I could envision a hill with longhorns winding down it and crossing a creek. I knew the project would take a number of years to complete. These longhorns are 6 and half feet at the shoulder and weigh 3,000 pounds apiece. I did 3 original mounted cowboys and 10 original steers. They had to be designed in such a way they could be interchangeable to some degree to accommodate the remaining 60. But they're all different. It took two and a half years to complete the first pieces that we could install. We were enlarging from the

model to the finished size, so it was done in different stages. Then once you get to a certain point, things start happening a little faster."

The work is internationally known and is the most photographed landmark in Dallas.

"They created a park especially for it," Robert said. "For the creek they came to my house, which has a creek behind it, took some photos and re-created my creek in the scene. I can go do downtown Dallas and feel right at home looking at my creek."

Robert also did a trail-driving scene in Waco. I first met him in 1974 when he was already an established artist. He did a series of small sculptures for the Texas Ranger Museum titled

"One Riot, One Ranger." I bought one and it's one of our most prized art pieces. I saw Robert a few years later as his fame was growing, and he offered to buy it back at the price I paid for it. I turned down the offer. Robert has done art all his life.

"I got in trouble constantly at school. In math class I'd be sitting there drawing airplanes or horses or cattle and the teacher would come by and take my drawings, wad them up, throw them in the trash and tell me to get my math assignment done. Years later he saw that teacher who told Robert he wished he had saved those drawings."

# Gatesville Youth Tackle, 6U Flag Football signup set for June 6

## Staff Reports

Gatesville Youth Tackle Football is scheduled to hold signups on Tuesday,

June 6 at the Methodist Church parking lot located at 2600 East Main Street in Gatesville. The signups will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The registration fee will cost \$130 for tackle football and the cost for flag football will be \$60.

For flag football the age

division will be 6U and for tackle football the age divisions will include 8U, 10U, and 12U.

All coaches are USA Youth

Tackle Football certified. For more information visit [www.usafootball.com](http://www.usafootball.com).

Early signups are available at [ball.com. For more information contact Kent Ford, league president, at 254-338-4534.](http://www.gatesvilletacklefoot-</a></p>
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**060 GARAGE SALE**

Weekly Feature: FABRIC Tues, 05/30-Sat, 06/03. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030133

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**060 GARAGE SALE**

GARAGE SALE! 201 Reno Rd., Gatesville. June 1&2, 8a.m.-4:30p.m./ June 3, 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Furniture, kids clothes & toys, tool chest, and misc. 00030132

**074 HOUSES FOR RENT**

FOR RENT: 1 Bedroom, private bathroom, plus common areas in my home. No alcohol or drugs allowed on premises. Background check required. 254-931-2523 for details. 00030107

**099 PUBLIC NOTICES**

Application has been made With The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for A Private Club Registration Permit by Ed's Bar Non Profit Corp dba Dove Nest Motorsports Club Of Central Texas to be located at 2225 CR 342, Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas. Officers of said Corporation are Toan Leung - Pres, Nhi Lieu - VP and Stephanie Arredondo - Sec/Trea. 00030127

**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](http://www.storageauctions.com) beginning 05/29/2023 @ 11am ending 06/07/2023 @ 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. 00030129

No. 23-10819

**IN THE ESTATE OF**

PAUL ALAN DESHA A/K/A PAUL DESHA, DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Paul Alan Desha a/k/a Paul Desha, Deceased, were issued on April 12, 2023, in Cause No. 23-10819, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: Joshua Warren Desha.

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.

BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER, & WHITAKER, P.C. c/o: STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE, Attorney at Law 15 North Main Street, Temple, Texas 76501

DATED the 18th day of May, 2023.

BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER, & WHITAKER, P.C. STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE, Attorney for Applicant State Bar No.: 24045552 15 N. Main Street, Temple, Texas 76501

Telephone: (254) 743-7311, Facsimile: (254) 774-9353 E-mail: [stephenbrischke@bc-swlaw.com](mailto:stephenbrischke@bc-swlaw.com) 00030131

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# CLASSIFIEDS

099  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS:** City of Gatesville (Owner) is requesting Competitive Sealed Proposals for Stillhouse Branch Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Improvements from qualified contractors to be received until 3:00 p.m. on June 20, 2023, in its offices located at City of Gatesville City Hall, 803 E. Main Street, Gatesville, TX 76528. Sealed competitive proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud shortly thereafter at same location. Proposals are invited for furnishing all labor, equipment, and materials necessary for construction of the following: 2-01590 - City of Gatesville - Stillhouse Branch Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements: Stillhouse Branch WWTF consists of Upgrade of Stillhouse Branch WWTF to 2.7 MGDAA and improvements to influent pumping, aeration, RAS pumping, chlorine contact basins and effluent pumping. Project will be awarded to proposal providing best value to Owner based on a number of factors including cost, experience of contract, and prior work performance. A pre-submittal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time on May 22, 2023 at City of Gatesville Stillhouse Water Treatment Facility, 402 Stillhouse Road, Gatesville, TX 76528. Representatives of Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the Project. Offerers are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference. Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bid (IFB), Request for Proposals (RFP), or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State of Texas, nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees, are or will be a party to this IFB, RFP, RFQ, or any resulting contract. The Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements apply to Contractors and Subcontractors performing on federally funded or assisted contracts in excess of \$2,000 for the construction, alteration or repair (including painting) of a treatment works project under the CWSRF. For additional information on Davis-Bacon wage rate, please consult TWDB Guidance No. DB-156. Any contract(s) awarded under this Invitation for Bids is/are subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of Section 608 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, which includes EPA-approved fair share goals toward procurement of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) businesses. EPA rules require that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to M/WBEs through demonstration of the six affirmative steps. For more details of the DBE Program and the current, applicable fair share goals, please visit <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/dbe>. Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Department of Labor regulations at 41 CFR Part 60-4, relating to Construction Contractors—Affirmative Action Requirements, which include the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 and Executive Order No. 13672, in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the Contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance. This contract is subject to the federal requirements of Subpart C of 2 CFR Part 180 and Part 1532 regarding Debarment and Suspension. The Contractor will comply with the assurances provided with the bid that leads to a contract. Proposals must be submitted on forms provided in Proposal Documents and accompanied by a Proposal Security in the penal sum of not less than five percent (5%) of base proposal amount, payable without recourse to Owner. Proposal Security may be in either form of a cashier's check or Offerer's Bond from a security company approved to conduct business in State of Texas as a guarantee that offerer will enter into a contract and execute a 100% payment bond within fifteen (15) days after issuance of a notice of award to that Offerer. Proposals not accompanied by such Security or received after designated proposal time will not be considered. Refer to other proposal requirements described in Document 00 21 13 - Instructions to Offerers. Copies of Proposal Documents (Project Manual and Drawings) are on file and may be examined at office of Engineer. Copies of the Proposal Documents can be obtained electronically online from CivCast ([www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com)). All questions must be submitted electronically through CivCast's Question and Answer feature. For more information, contact Amy Jo Moreno at (254) 714-1402 or [amoreno@walkerpartners.com](mailto:amoreno@walkerpartners.com). Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive informalities and irregularities. 00030133

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** On May 23, 2023, the Gatesville City Council, acting as the Building Standards Commission conducted a meeting regarding the code violations of the structures located at 506 1/2 S. 6th Street legally known as Original Town, Gatesville, Block 97, Lot 10 N.E. Corner and 506 North Lutterloh Avenue, Gatesville, Block 3, Lot 3. The Commission voted unanimously to order the owners to repair the structures by December 4, 2023. A complete copy of the order and the minutes of the meeting may be obtained during regular business hours from the City Secretary's office, 803 E. Main Street, Gatesville TX 76528. Wendy Cole, City Secretary 00030138

099  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**

099  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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**REAL ESTATE**

102  
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- ▶ 2/1 brick home, 560 W Hwy. 84, Evant, TX. Recently painted, updated shower, garage/workshop, fenced in backyard, utility shed-boat shed. \$169,500
- ▶ 10.01 acres east of Evant, TX. Lot 8 Phase 5 Rio Escondido Subdivision, good tree cover, rolling terrain, great views to build a home, gated subdivision. \$119,900
- ▶ 10.01 acres north of Evant, TX. Lot 85 Phase 4 Rio Escondido, rolling terrain, good tree cover, good views. \$115,000
- ▶ 10.01 acres, Lot 20 Phase 4 Rio Escondido north of Evant, TX. Good tree cover, great views. \$150,000
- ▶ 10.01 acres east of Evant, TX in Coryell County on CR 160. Lot 39, Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision. Rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$150,000
- ▶ 10.01 acres, Lot 48 in Phase 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Dry Branch along back of the property, nice home site overlooking the branch. \$185,000
- ▶ 10.01 acres, Lot 28 Phase 4 Rio Escondido, north of Evant, TX. Good tree cover, great views. \$200,000
- ▶ 11 +/- acres, Arnett, TX in Coryell County. Good tree cover, nice home site, will need to be fenced on the east boundary. MCWSC may be available. \$179,500
- ▶ 11.64 acres, 3/2 home south of Evant, TX in Coryell County. Nice porch, large master bedroom and bath, barn, workshop, seasonal creek, Hwy. 281 frontage. \$850,000
- ▶ 17.85 acres, 296 Cross Timbers Lane, Gatesville. 2 homes, main home 3 Br 2 Ba brick home, open floor plan, second home 2 Br 2 Ba single wide mobile home, 2 covered parking spaces, good tree cover, rolling terrain, storage building, excellent fences, 1 stock pond. \$749,500
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 38 +/- acres, south of Pearl, TX, Coryell County, FM 183 frontage. Rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, nice views, great home site. \$372,400
- ▶ 41.0457 acres Hamilton, TX, CR 404 in Hamilton County. Rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, approx. 25 acres farmland, 2 stock tanks, & good fences. \$449,000
- ▶ 47.332 acres 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.
- ▶ 58.51 acres, 3 Br 2 Ba frame home, 6630 FM 183 Evant, TX. Water well, several outbuildings, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover & 2 stock tanks. \$585,000
- ▶ 80.23 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. \$1,249,500
- ▶ 82.43 acres west of Evant, TX, Mills County. Open pasture, scattered mesquite tree cover, native grasses, 1 stock tank, fenced on 3 sides. \$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
- ▶ 106 +/- acres, CR 180, Purlmela, TX, Coryell & Hamilton County. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, 1 tank, paved road frontage, electricity is across the road. \$832,100
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 199.86 acres, 4 BR 2 Ba Manufactured Home, 1856 sq. ft., 1805 CR 180 Purlmela, TX in Coryell County, front porch, fully furnished, 2 stock tanks, 8 ft. x 40 ft storage container, storage building with water storage tank, barn, cattle pens, water well 560 ft deep, rolling terrain, good tree cover and paved road frontage. \$1,568,901

## Recipe

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

## Company Egg and Bacon Casserole

BY ELIZABETH BROWN

- 12 eggs
- 1 qt. milk
- 4 c. cubed day-old bread
- 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 T. dried onion flake
- 1 tsp. yellow mustard
- 1 lb. bacon, cooked, drained, and crumbled

Beat eggs lightly, add milk, bread, cheese, onion flakes, and mustard and stir well. Chill overnight. Preheat oven to 350. Spray 13 x 9 pan with Pam. Pour egg mixture into pan. Bake for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and stir. Sprinkle with crumbled bacon. Bake 25 minutes longer. Cut into squares. Serves 12.



COURTESY PHOTO

Egg and bacon casserole

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## LETTER

### Gatesville High School coaches deserve a big hand!

Our sports coaches and all concerned with our athletes at Gatesville High School deserve a big "hand" and thanks from us all! I attended every presentation at school this past week. The awards and presentations were fantastic as every student in every sport was introduced by name as they lined up in front of the audience in the gym. Many were recognized for their accomplishments.

When I heard a football student named Kimmitz, I thought that sounded familiar; then later on this lady came up to me and asked if I remembered her. I said "yes, you are familiar, but at my age, I don't always recall every name." She said I'm Barbara Kimmitz and you taught me in fourth grade the first year you came to teach here. Of course, I remembered her then, and I said I thought I remembered the name when your football son was announced. So, folks - how about that?

Last Tuesday night (a week ago), many of the graduating seniors chose a teacher or coach that influenced their lives. This was so thoughtful of each one presented

as each student wrote their own speech of course! It so happens that a few students chose their parent that were teachers and coaches. To me, this showed a true appreciation and careful planning of what they truly believed and appreciated in a parent as well as a teacher at school for them. I thought "okay, you are ready to graduate and continue on as a grown up now."

I'll brag on all the students, but I was especially proud of Slone Early who honored his mom, Se'Vette, and because he also spoke about his father, Sam, who has been a great influence in his life and who has supported and helped him also. Yeah, he's ready for A&M and his career!

Seniors, this was a new presentation that I really enjoyed, and you all wrote some very thoughtful and carefully planned speeches. Also, each student presented a pretty blue gift sack to each teacher they honored, and to top it off, Slone presented his mom and dad and his Nana a beautiful long stemmed yellow rose. I almost cried!

All of senior week (as I call it) required a lot of planning and work by our great GHS staff! Thanks to all!

Sandra Tatum  
Flat, Texas



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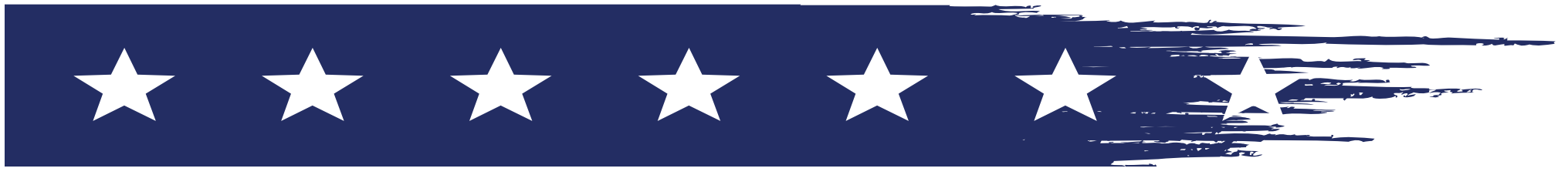
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# Remembering Our Military

## The history of Memorial Day



**T**hough many are quick to refer to Memorial Day as the unofficial beginning of summer, the day is much more than that. Initially known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a day to remember those military members who died in service of our country.

The origins of Memorial Day remain a topic of debate. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y. as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. However, the roots of Memorial Day likely run much deeper, as researchers at Duke University note that during the Civil War organized women's groups in the south had begun to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers.

Memorial Day as we know it today can likely be traced to Charleston, S.C., where teachers, missionaries and some members of the press gathered on May 1, 1865 to honor fallen soldiers. During the Civil War, captured Union soldiers were held at the Charleston Race Course and hundreds died during captivity. Upon their deaths, soldiers were buried in unmarked graves. When the Civil War ended, the May Day gathering was organized as a memorial to all the men who had died during captivity. The burial ground was landscaped, and those freed as a result of the Civil War played an integral role in the event at the Charleston Race Course.

While the event in Charleston might have been the first Memorial Day-type celebration in the southern United States, General John A. Logan is often cited as inspiring similar events in the north. The commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans' organization for men who served in the Civil War, General Logan issued a proclamation just five days after the Charleston event that called for Decoration Day to be observed annually across the country. Logan preferred the event not be held on the anniversary of any particular battle, and thus the day was observed for the first time on May 30. Celebrating the day in May also was significant to event organizers because May is a month when flowers are in bloom, making it easier for observers of the holiday to place flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers.

In 1868, events were held at more than 180 cemeteries in 27 states, and those figures nearly doubled in 1869. By 1890, every northern state officially recognized Decoration Day as a state holiday. But southern states honored their dead on a different day until after World War I, when the holiday was changed to recognize Americans who died in any war and not just the Civil War. Nearly every state now celebrates Memorial Day, a name for the holiday first used in 1882, on the last Monday in May.

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## Spectacular season comes to close



GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville High School baseball coach Chase Smith talks to the Hornets during a pause in the playoff game against China Spring on May 18 at Lake Belton High School.

## Hornets advanced to third round of baseball playoffs for third time

BY CHRIS ALLMAN  
Sports Correspondent

Gatesville baseball wrapped their deepest playoff run in more than a decade with a 6-3 loss to China Spring in the regional quarter-finals on May 18 at Lake Belton High School.

Emergency starter Aydan Necessary gutted through 4.1 innings allowing just one earned run and the Hornets led 3-1 into the fifth inning before the Cougars scored five times over the last three innings to advance to the regional semi-finals.

Gatesville - the No. 4 seed out of District 23-4A - was making their first regional quarter-final appearance since 2010 and just the third program history. They beat 24-4A champion Marble Falls to claim the bi-district title then topped Giddings for the area championship setting up a third matchup of the season with the district rival Cougars.

While the upstart Hornets (18-16) were riding a wave of playoff momentum, China Spring has been rolling for the last 12 months. The Cougars (31-3-1) went undefeated en route to the 23-4A title this season after advancing to the state semi-finals in 2022. Their 10 district wins were a part of a 25-game winning streak they brought to Belton.

A coin-flip victory for the Hornets meant that the matchup would be a one-game, winner-take-all matchup as opposed to a three-game series and would allow them to take their chances with ace Bralen Veazey on the mound.

Unfortunately, Gatesville's best laid plans went awry early in the week as both Veazey and No. 2 starter Grant Erwin went down with injuries.

"Yeah it was a rollercoaster of a week with us shutting Veazey down then finding out Grant couldn't go either the day of the game. I asked Aydan how he felt around lunch and he said 'Good.' I said 'Ok, you are getting the start tonight' and he said 'OK.' Just two words calm and cool and that was it," said head coach Chase Smith. "He has had that 'ready whenever you need me' attitude since he was able to come back to play so his answer wasn't too much of a surprise to me."

"I told him to be ready to throw a lot of breaking balls and that was the game plan. Keep them off balance with the slider and the curveball that look a little different and sneak in a fastball every now and then," Smith said. "It was the total opposite of what they had been planning for all week and it helped Aydan be effective out there."

Necessary loaded the bases in the top of the first inning but escaped thanks to a nifty 5-2-3 double play to end the inning. With one out, Bradey James scooped up Brennan Daniel's ground ball, fired to Lawson Mooney at home play for one out and Mooney rifled a



Aydan Necessary

throw to Ben Mabry at first base to get Daniel and end the inning.

"We played really good defense down the stretch (seven errors in final 13 games) and that was something I had really been emphasizing the importance of to the guys. We spent a lot of time in practice on defense and those guys played great down the stretch defensively," said Smith.

In the bottom of the first, Mooney jumped on Jaden Honey's second pitch and drilled a double to left field. He moved up on Banner Allman's single to center field then scored when Allman stole second and the errant throw bounced into centerfield. Mooney went 2-3 in the game, was hit by a pitch, scored a run, and stole a base.

"Lawson is the ultimate competitor at everything he does. He wants to win and will put everything on the line to give his team the best chance to win," said Smith. "In baseball that's pouncing on balls in the dirt at catcher, to going all out running the bases, and even standing in there and taking one square in the back from a pitcher throwing 90."

Later in the inning, James singled to center field then Veazey followed with a single that scored Allman and gave the Hornets a 2-0 lead.

The early offensive burst had the standing room only and decidedly pro-Hornet crowd in a frenzy.

"I have never seen a Gatesville Hornet baseball game with so many fans in the stands. We truly felt like the whole town was behind us," said Smith.

China Spring got a run back to make it 2-1 when JC Hughes doubled home Mason Kirk but Gatesville responded in the bottom of



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Banner Allman takes the mound for the Hornets. The senior was also a powerful weapon for Gatesville at bat, with 21 runs batted in and a pair of home runs on the season.

the third inning.

After Veazey and Mabry smacked back-to-back two out singles, Necessary singled to left to score Veazey and make it 3-1.

"Another big thing for us was situational hitting and approach on offense. Coach Allman stayed on those guys in the cages about what approach we were looking for and every time we hit on the field there was some situation where we were trying to move runners up or score them," Smith said. "The guys started to understand the importance of those things and understand they would produce runs if we did them."

China Spring tied the game at 3-3 in the top of the fifth inning. After Mason Kirk tripled and scored on Dean Hannah's sacrifice fly to make it 3-2 the Cougars used a hit-by-pitch and two walks to tie the game at 3-3.

In the top of the sixth inning China Spring added three more runs on just two hits. Kirk singled with one out then stole second and scored when Hughes singled to left giving the Cougars a 4-3 lead. Their final two runs came thanks to four walks and made it 6-3.

While the Cougars are one step closer to a

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# HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

second straight state tournament berth, the Hornets are left to celebrate one of the most successful runs in playoff history and contemplate more in the near future.

"Finishing strong and playing our best when it mattered were something we talked about a lot throughout the season. We had struggled toward the back end of the season the previous two years and I really wanted these guys to keep pushing themselves to get better and finish strong this year," said Smith. "After the game, I told them not to hang their heads. To be proud of all they accomplished but not satisfied,"

The Hornets run to the regional quarters felt a bit unexpected to most but also one-year late to people close to the program. The Hornets expected to contend for a district title in 2022 before integral pieces like Veazey, Mooney, Necessary, and Allman were lost for the season before the first pitch was thrown.

Smith said he believes a tough 2022 season coupled with a brutal stretch of games against elite opponents this year prepared his team for their playoff success.

"I do believe there is something to learning to win. The guys have to be put in those close games against really good competition to understand how to control their emotions and believe they are capable of having success in those moments. I think it was a culmination of all the hard work they have put in this year and in the past, and how much they all had each other's backs and the town getting behind us that helped us have success towards the end of the season."

The Hornets' biggest losses in 2024 will be the offensive production of Mabry (.310 BA, 17 RBI), Allman (.286 BA, 2 HR, 26 runs, 21 RBI) and Kason Herbelin (.405 OBP, 19 runs) as well as the leadership that Smith deemed as the most underrated aspect of his 2023 squad.

"Our captains - William Crozier, Jacob Ybarra, and Mason - really the glue that kept us together all year. Any time we were going through a little valley or a teammate was struggling they helped us get through it. It is going to be extremely difficult to replace those guys but I feel like the program as a whole is becoming more disciplined and those guys set the tone on what the expectations are for the program," said Smith. "Their legacy will live on and I think some of these



GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the regional quarterfinal contest before China Spring battled back to claim a 6-3 win.

younger guys will do their best to fill in the void they leave by graduating."

Gatesville will return five of the nine starters from the China Spring game in 2024 including Veazey, Mooney, Ibarra, James, and Justin Johnson. In addition, outfielder Sean Aguilar will return. Aguilar hit .316 through ten games before being lost for the season with an injury.

Veazey went 8-1 as a starter, set a single-season strikeout record of 125, and hit a remarkable .556 in the playoffs. Mooney batted .303 and set a single season record for stolen bases with 27 and James, a freshman, hit safely in five of Gatesville's six playoff games and led the Hornets with a .311 average on the season.

"Bradey is a hitter and it doesn't matter who is out there, he is going to hit. I used to play some softball with his Dad and before games he would bring Bradey out there and toss

him softballs and Bradey would crush line drives with an adult bat at five-years old," said Smith. "Everybody that knew him knew he was going to be able to hit when he got older. I am super excited to have him in the middle of the lineup for us the next three years."

The returning Hornets will also welcome newcomers from a 16-8 junior varsity in 2024. It's a mix that has Smith ready for January.

"I want our guys to understand we belong in those types of games and to start expecting to be there every year. I think their confidence has grown so much along with their skill level. You could feel it towards the end of the year and the first couple series in the playoffs they were expecting to play well and good things to happen," he said. "I'm so excited for the future of Hornet baseball."

## GHS Sports Roundup

### Sports Camps

\* **Girls Basketball** (1st-9th graders, 2023-2024 school year) will be held Tuesday-Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$40. Drop-off and pickup is at the GHS Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium. You may sign up in person the first day of camp or click here to pre-register online.

For more information, contact GHS head coach Kim Chaffin at kchaffin@gatesvilleisd.org.

\* **Football** (1st-6th graders, 2023-2024 school year) will be held Tuesday-Thursday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$40. Drop-off and pickup is at the GHS Henry Marris Field House.

You may sign up on the first day of camp.

**Golf:** GHS had five golfers named to the District 23-4A all-league team based upon their Top 10 finishes at the two-round district tournament. The honorees include: Kasen Bankhead, Cooper Boyd, Gage Ford, Max Healer and Avery Streetman.

**Softball:** GHS had seven players named to the District 23-4A all-league team. Kinlee Gardner and Madison Hester were first team selections, Kallie Featherston and Raylee Glover were named to the second team, and Grace Carothers, Kagen Hunt and Lauren Stuard received honorable mention.

## Gatesville Victory Bowl All-Star participants

Seven members of the Gatesville High School graduating Class of 2023 are scheduled to participate in Fellowship of Christian Athletes All-Star games in four sports from June 1-3.

**Boys Basketball:** Banner Allman, Tyler Shea and Carter Williams will participate in the FCA Victory Bowl All-Star Game on June 1 at Fairfield High School.

**Softball:** Lauren Stuard will participate in the FCA Victory Bowl All-Star Game on June 2 at UMHB in Belton.

**Football:** Stephen Bomar and Mason Mooney will participate in the FCA Victory Bowl All-Star Game on June 3 at Waco ISD Stadium.

**Volleyball:** Lola Barron will participate in the FCA Victory Bowl All-Star Game at Waco University High School

## Zebra mussels infest area lake

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has designated Hords Creek Lake in Coleman County as "infested" with invasive zebra mussels, signifying that an established, reproducing population is present in the lake.

"Unfortunately, zebra mussels have now spread to 35 Texas lakes, but there are far more lakes in Texas that still haven't been invaded and are at risk," said Brian Van Zee with TPWD.

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## Coryell 4-H scholarships



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured, from left, are 4-H scholarship recipients Thiele Alvarado, Hadleigh Ament, and Jack Bussey.

# Three Coryell youths named Texas 4-H Foundation scholars

BY BECKY COWARD  
Contributing Writer

Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation recently announced awards of just under \$2.7 million in scholarships to 227 youth. The scholarships will be presented at Texas 4-H Roundup in Bryan/College Station, June 5-8.

Texas 4-H Roundup, the pinnacle event for all of Texas 4-H, will host around 1,300 senior level, or high school age, youths to compete in approximately 50 diverse competitions throughout the week. Thirty-one youths will be attending representing our Coryell County 4-H program. The scholarship ceremonies will be held Wednesday and Thursday nights at Reed Arena on the campus of Texas A&M University. Receiving scholarships from Coryell County are Thiele Alvarado, Hadleigh Ament, and Jack Bussey.

Alvarado's scholarship is in the amount of \$20,000 and is funded through the Houston Livestock Show. As a 12-year member of 4-H, he served in numerous leadership roles as a Cattle Drive Club Officer, County Ambassador, District 8 Vice-Chairman, and as a Texas 4-H Youth Livestock Ambassador. Probably most well-known for his outstanding lamb and goat show career, Alvarado was also named Reserve Champion at the 2022 Texas 4-H Roundup Talent Show. He will major in Animal Science starting in the fall at Texas Tech University and plans to pursue a career as both an animal and human chiropractor. He is the son of David and Bridgette Alvarado.

Hadleigh Ament will receive a \$5,000 scholarship funded by Ag Worker's Insurance and Texas County Agriculture Agents Association. She has also been in 4-H since third grade and was active in her diverse project areas. She served as Coryell City Club Officer, County Ambassador, and as a Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador lead-

ing youth throughout her 4-H career. Ament will be attending Temple College in the fall where she will study to become a radiology technician. She is the daughter of Chris Ament and Gina Ament.

Jack Bussey will be receiving a \$20,000 scholarship funded by the San Antonio Livestock Exposition. As an eight-year 4-H member, Bussey assumed leadership positions in his local clubs, as a County Ambassador, and was a youth leader at the International GLOBE service-learning project in Costa Rica. Bussey has been an active member and teen leader, especially in his wildlife and natural resources projects. He will be attending Sul Ross State University majoring in wildlife with career plans to become a game warden. He is the son of Jason and Erica Bussey.

The Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship is just one of many awarded to outstanding young leaders. 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime. 4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. The mission of Texas 4-H is to provide meaningful opportunities for all youth to have fun, learn, explore, and discover.

While participating in 4-H, young people make new friends, develop new skills, become leaders, and form positive attitudes helping them to be capable, responsible, and compassionate members of society. Texas 4-H, as part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, also stands to, through the application of science-based knowledge, create high-quality, relevant continuing education that encourages lasting and effective change.

For more information about the Coryell County 4-H program, please visit [coryell.agrilife.org](http://coryell.agrilife.org) online.

## Project Graduation donation



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Independent School District Superintendent Barrett Pollard accepted a \$100 donation from the Gatesville Lions Club on May 17 to help fund Project Graduation, a fun event for graduates that will be held at Urban Air in Killeen. In the background is club President Charles Talbott.

## First Baptist Church to hold 2023 VBS

The First Baptist Church of Gatesville will hold its annual Vacation Bible School on Sunday, June 4 to Thursday, June 8. The school will be deep sea-themed and is open to pre-K through sixth grade.

Vacation Bible School will begin each of those days at 5:30 p.m. and will continue through 8 p.m. There will be a family program on Thursday, June 8 at 6 p.m. for all families to attend. Bus services will be avail-

able for pick-up and drop-off.

First Baptist Church of Gatesville is located at 912 East Main Street.

For more information, call the First Baptist Church of Gatesville at 254-865-2014.

## Live Oak slates Baptist Church VBS

Live Oak Baptist Church, located at 113 FM 107, will hold a Vacation Bible School from Sunday, June 11 to Wednesday, June 14. Vacation Bible school will begin

each day at 5:30 p.m. and will end around 7:30 p.m.

Children in fourth through sixth grade may attend.

This year's theme is G.L.O.W. for God. The acro-

nym stands for grow, learn, obey, and witness.

For more information, Live Oak Baptist Church can be contacted at 254-865-5681.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jim Klechik, Worshipful Master; Slone Early; Lindsey Cummings; and Buddy Wheat, Past Master.

# Early, Cummings awarded Lamar Award of Excellence

Jim Klechik, Worshipful Master and Buddy Wheat, Past Master awarded Slone Early and Lindsey Cummings the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M. "Mirabeau B. Lamar Award of Excellence." The award, which included a scholarship, was named in honor of Mira-

beau B. Lamar, the second president of the Republic of Texas.

Each student was taken into the lodge room for a ceremony. They were awarded a medal and a \$1,500 scholarship.

## Pearl Church of Christ set VBS May 29

Pearl Church of Christ is scheduled to hold its Vacation Bible School from Monday, May 29 to Friday, June 2. Their VBS will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue through noon.

This year's theme will be "Character is Everything." Children of all ages are wel-

come to attend.

Pearl Church of Christ, located at 6790 FM 183, was first organized in October 1895. The members bought three acres of land and built a sanctuary in 1890. A tabernacle, still in use today, was erected in 1904 to house 10-day to two-week sum-

mer revival meetings that included services from sunrise to the late evening. The church supports community outreach programs and continues to serve its membership, as it has for more than 100 years.

Pearl Church of Christ can be reached at 254-865-9282.

# CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON!



## GHS BASEBALL REGIONAL QUARTERFINALISTS

Gatesville High faced China Spring last Thursday for a one-game, winner-take-all playoff game and unfortunately fell 6-3 to end the season. This was the third time in school history for the Hornets to reach the third round of the postseason. What a year!

*Way to go, Hornet Baseball!*

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

**MOUNTAIN**  
Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.  
**OSAGE**  
Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
**PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH**  
2082 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m.  
**PECAN GROVE**  
6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
**PIDCOKE**  
Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.  
**PLEASANT VALLEY**  
Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
**PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL**  
One mile north of Evant, Hwy. 281; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
**SWEET HOME**  
511 N. 14th, Gatesville; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday worship 7 p.m.  
**SPANISH**  
Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.  
**TRINITY**  
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor; 1506 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday - activities for adults, youth, & children 6:30 p.m.; 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.  
**TURNERSVILLE**  
Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.  
**WESTVIEW**  
Interim Pastor: Eddie Taylor; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
**WHITE HALL**  
Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.  
**WHITE MOUND**  
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.  
**MOUND COWBOY CHURCH**  
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558. For more info. & location, call 254-865-5908.  
**CATHOLIC OUR LADY OF LOURDES**  
Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. & Wednesday-Friday at 7 p.m.  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST CEDAR RIDGE**  
Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
**EVANT**  
Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W. Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.  
**FORT GATES**  
4605 St. Hwy. 36 S.,

Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.  
**GATESVILLE**  
Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.  
**LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO**  
2413 E. Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.  
**MIDWAY**  
1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove; Sundays - worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays - Bible Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.  
**PEARL**  
6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.  
**CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE**  
Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
**LUTHERAN IMMANUEL**  
David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd., Copperas Cove; Sunday Bible Study 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.  
**ST. JOHN**  
Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.  
**ST. PAUL**  
Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday School 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.  
**METHODIST BETHEL UNITED**  
2 miles north of Irel & on FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays.  
**EVANT**  
235 US-281, Evant; Dennis Dutton, Pastor; Sunday worship 10 a.m.  
**FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE**  
2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children & Adult Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:30 p.m.  
**OGLESBY UNITED**  
Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.  
**PIDCOKE**  
Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy. 116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday worship service 10 a.m.; 254-677-6242.  
**MORMON CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
206 S. 26th St., Gatesville; Sacrament services Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.  
**NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday services 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7 p.m.  
**CORYELL COMMUNITY**  
Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry & C3 Student Ministry.  
**CORYELL FELLOWSHIP**  
Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901.  
**COVER2COVER MINISTRIES**  
Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wednesdays 6 p.m. 407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5, Gatesville.  
**GATESVILLE REVIVAL**

Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.; 2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-9472.  
**GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN**  
Wray Nunn, pastor; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday worship 6:30 p.m.; Gateway Learning Center, 2315 Osage Rd., Gatesville.  
**GRACE BIBLE**  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday services 10:45 a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.  
**HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL**  
Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th St., Gatesville; 865-6222. Sunday worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC & state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6 p.m.  
**JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**  
Sundays, 8:30-9 a.m. aqui se reune La Iglesia de Cristo, in the 2400 Block of E. Main St., Gatesville.  
**LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
Peter M. Mafwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.  
**MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE**  
William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.  
**PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP**  
6735 FM 183, Pear; Sunday Services 9 a.m.  
**THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT**  
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.  
**PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE**  
Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826.  
**MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
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.  
**PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN**  
Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

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**WESLEYAN CORYELL VALLEY**  
4995 FM 929; Saturdays 5 p.m., Bible study Sundays 5 p.m.  
**INTER-DENOMINATIONAL BOOTS-N-SADDLE COWBOY CHURCH**  
Max Gunn, pastor; 254-216-1537; 10 miles west of Gatesville on HWY 84; Sundays 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; Youth Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.  
**HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH**  
Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise & Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-4076.

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# Local CRSP chapter awards two scholarships



**BY MARSHA LEE**  
Contributing writer

Each year the local chapter of Coryell Retired School Personnel (CRSP) offers scholarships to two deserving seniors who are planning to enter college in the fall after graduation and pursue a career in education. This year's recipients are Gracie Penrod and Alexander Scott.

Penrod has participated in varsity soccer, cross country, and track. She received recognition in Academic All-State for cross country, was a second-team All-District selection in soccer, and was a soccer team captain. She has been a member of the Student Council (executive board treasurer), FCA, broadcasting club, and she was elected treasurer of her senior class. She also received the HFND Spanish II Award. In community service projects, she has worked with several clubs and organizations at the Gatesville Care Center and with Dancing with the Stars. She has acquired work experience as a lifeguard/lifeguard manager and as a Fit Kids instructor at the fitness center. She wrote on her scholarship application that throughout high school, she has been involved in various activities and organizations, but "the Junior Ambassador program has had the biggest impact on me. The

program allowed me to gain invaluable experience and develop leadership skills that will benefit me in all areas of my life. I have even had the opportunity to serve as the program's secretary and now as its president. The Junior Ambassador program has truly set me up for success, and I am eager to apply these skills to college and beyond."

She admits that it has taken her some time to figure out her major, but she explained, "I am now certain that Early Education is the path for me. I have always loved working with children, and my experience in PALS has further cemented my passion for education. I am convinced it is the right path for me, and I am thrilled to be attending Texas Tech University this fall to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher." Then she added, "I am excited to see where this path takes me, and who knows... I could be teaching 3rd grade at Gatesville Elementary in four years!"

Alex Scott has played varsity tennis and was named to first team All-District in both singles and doubles all four years in high school. He was a regional tennis qualifier last year and a state qualifier in doubles with Ty Warren this year. This was the first time in 73 years that Gatesville High has sent more than team to compete

at the State level. Alex also enjoys helping to coach the summer tennis camps at the school and interacts well with both the younger children as well as the older students. He volunteers in the Gatesville community and visits Hillside Medical Lodge every night to check on his grandmother and to help with other residents at the facility. He has greatly enjoyed participating in the PALS program the last few years at GHS and has become very attached to his classroom "kids" in third grade at Gatesville Elementary. Alex is a member of Coryell Community Church.

Scott plans to continue his schooling at Baylor University this fall. In his scholarship application, he wrote, "In the future, I hope to make a difference in the lives of students. I feel that there is a lack of teachers and that teachers do not get enough recognition and credit for everything they do for their students and for what they go through on a regular basis. I want to be there for those kids who are having a hard time and be the light at the end of the tunnel for them."

CRSP President Gail Johnson presents scholarships to Gracie Penrod and Alexander Scott. COURTESY PHOTO

## Gatesville Church of Christ presents VBS June 4-7

**Staff Reports**

Gatesville Church of Christ, located at 2417 E. Main Street, is scheduled to hold its Vacation Bible School from Sunday, June 4 to Wednesday, June 7

from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pre-K through fifth grade is welcome to attend the VBS. On each day of the VBS, registration and a light dinner will begin at 5 p.m.

This year's theme will be "Stellar, Shine Jesus' Light."

For more information on the VBS, contact Gatesville Church of Christ at 254-865-2438.

## Floyd named to honor roll

**Submitted Item**

Parker Floyd, a Gatesville High School graduate, has been named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll for the 2023 spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee

at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2023 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and the College of Humanities and

Fine Arts.

To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT-Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credits and achieve a 3.2 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors, high honors, or highest honors.

**National Sunscreen Day**  
May 27, 2023

**Can you spot the 4 differences between these two pictures?**

**Check your answer below.**

1. The dog is facing the other way.
2. The drink is lemonade instead of grape juice.
3. The man's shorts pattern.
4. The umbrella is facing the other way.

**National Sunscreen Day**

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

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

Sun	Hat	Aloe
Tan	Glasses	UV Rays
Lotion	Umbrella	
Shade	Burn	

**Did You Know?**

Sunburn is a type of injury that happens when your skin gets too much sun. When you spend time in the sun without protection, the UV rays can damage your skin, causing it to turn red, feel hot and painful.

It's important to protect your skin from the sun because sunburns can be dangerous. They can make you feel sick, give you a headache, and make it hard to sleep or even move comfortably. In extreme cases, sunburns can cause blisters, swelling, and fever.

But even more importantly, too much exposure to the sun can increase your risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is a serious disease that can be hard to treat, so it's best to do everything you can to protect your skin now.

That's why it's important to always wear sunscreen, a hat, and protective clothing when you're spending time outside in the sun. And if you do get a sunburn, it's important to take care of it by staying out of the sun, drinking plenty of water, and using aloe vera or other soothing creams to help your skin heal.

**ALOE**

Aloe vera gel is a sticky, gooey substance that comes from the aloe vera plant. The aloe vera plant is a type of cactus that has long, spiky leaves filled with a clear gel-like substance.

When you cut open one of these leaves, you can scoop out the gel inside and use it for different purposes. A lot of people use aloe vera gel to help soothe sunburns or other types of skin irritation, because it can help to cool and moisturize the skin.

It's important to remember, though, that you should always ask a grown-up for help before using any kind of plant or natural remedy, just to make sure it's safe and appropriate for you to use.

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# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION  
Dylan Delvecchio started on the mound for Tarleton and threw 5.0 innings allowing three runs (one earned) on four hits. He struck out three and walked one. He left the game with the game in a 3-3 tie heading into the sixth inning.

## Texans fall to Bearkats, 12-3

TSU Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State University's baseball team could not overcome a seven run seventh inning from the Sam Houston Bearkats on May 19 at the Tarleton Baseball Complex, falling 12-3.

Tarleton (25-26, 9-18 WAC) allowed six home runs to the Bearkats (33-21, 22-7 WAC) with four coming in the seventh inning alone.

Dylan Delvecchio started on the mound for Tarleton and threw 5.0 innings allowing three runs (one earned) on four hits. He struck out three and walked one.

Things unraveled for the Texans following Delvecchio's exit. He left with a 3-3 tie heading into the sixth inning.

Sam Houston scored two in the sixth and seven in the seventh to take the 12-3 lead that ultimately was the final.

Matt Haley (L, 0-2) was tagged with the loss as he threw an inning, allowing three runs. Grant Garza al-

lowed six runs, all in the seventh inning. Peyton Hutson threw the final 2.1 innings without allowing a hit or run.

Trace Morrison added two hits to lead Tarleton. Carter Dobrinski hit a solo home run in the second inning to tie the game at one.

With SHSU leading 3-2 in the fifth, Alec Williams was able to score from first on a failed pickoff by the Bearkat catcher. The ball got all the way to the corner of the fence in right field.

Steven Beard (W, 7-3) picked up the win for the Kats, tossing 5.0 innings allowing three runs on five hits. Three Bearkat relievers combined to shut the Texans out for the final four innings.

## Texans eliminated in national softball playoffs

TSU Sports Information

FORT COLLINS, Colo. - With just one loss to spare on May 19 in the National Invitational Softball Championship double-elimination tournament, the Texans pounded UC-Davis in the morning to keep their season alive for another game. In the afternoon bill, South Dakota State proved too much for the second time in as many days, ending Tarleton's run at the NISC.

### TARLETON 10, UC-DAVIS 4

The Aggies struck first in the bottom of the third.

In the top of the fourth, the Texans got on the board on a solo shot by Jordan Dickerson, her third straight game with a homer. In the top of the sixth the Texans took the lead with a three-spot. Tristyn Trull and Dickerson both reached on a walk, then Morgan Medford followed with a double to center to score the two. MacKenzie Peterson made it 4-1 with an RBI single to score Medford.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION  
Tarleton State University's Katy Schaefer, a junior infielder from Sweeny, strokes a ball during Friday's softball action in Fort Collins, Colorado.

After UC-Davis got one back in the bottom of the sixth, Texans busted the doors off in the top of the seventh, scoring six runs on six hits. Kelci Hill got

it started with a single to left, then Kayla Wallace launched one over the center field wall scoring two to put the Texans up 6-2. Trull and Katy Schaefer kept the

rally going with singles, and after Dickerson walked to load the bases, Medford singled up the middle to score two. Brittany Coe capped off the inning with a two RBI

double to left center, making it 10-2 Texans, leading to the 10-4 victory.

The TSU offense was led by Hill and Medford, both collecting three hits each.

Seven other Texans each collected one hit in the game. Grace Garcia and Tristan Bridges combined for four strikeouts, walking three in the game.

### SOUTH DAKOTA STATE 11, TARLETON 1 (5)

The Texans late-inning offensive power in the first game failed to carry over to the second game on the day.

Following a scoreless first inning, the Jackrabbits tacked on eight runs in the second to put Tarleton's season on the brink. In the bottom of the second, Schaefer scored the Texans' lone run on a solo shot just inside the left-field foul pole.

Through the next three innings, the Jackrabbits added three more runs to run-rule the purple and white.

The Texans finished their season 31-29, posting a 30-plus win season for the second year in a row. The Texans just completed their third year of the reclassification to NCAA Division I.

## Highly sought-after guard signs to play basketball with Texans

Tarleton Sports Information

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State University won the recruiting battle for one of the top young players coming out of Canada, announcing the signing of guard Bubu Benjamin on May 19.

Benjamin (6-7, 210) had interest from several Power Five conference programs, including Wisconsin, Arizona State and Minnesota, plus had offers in hand from the likes of Montana State, Santa Clara and Howard. Yet, he chose Tarleton to play his collegiate career.

"I'm extremely excited about being able to add Bubu to our program, he is an outstanding prospect, student and person," head coach Billy Gillispie said. "His aspirations as a player and student are congruent with the expectations we have as a program. He strives to be the absolute



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION  
Bubu Benjamin, one of the top young players coming out of Canada, has signed to play with Tarleton State University's men's basketball team. The 6-7 player is from Alberta, Canada, where he played at the Edge School for Athletes in his hometown of Medicine Hat.

best at everything he does. He has great size, skill, and determination that will allow

him to be a top-level player very early in his career. At 6-7, he can play almost any posi-

tion offensively and guard almost anyone.

"He has had great success as one of the best players in Canada and has been recruited at the highest level," Gillispie added. "He will be something to see for the Texan faithful and he will be a key component as we work toward being a yearly NCAA Tournament qualifier as our program moves forward. My staff did a great job recruiting Bubus and he adds to an unbelievable class of Texans this spring. We can't wait to get started."

Benjamin is from Alberta, Canada, where he played his prep career at the Edge School for Athletes. Before transferring to the Edge School in 2020, Benjamin was named the Most Valuable Player for the McCoy Colts in his hometown of Medicine Hat.

"What really made me choose Tarleton was the

coaching staff and the campus," Benjamin said. "The cohesion and chemistry of all the coaches and the welcoming environment felt all around campus is what ultimately was the deciding factor."

He represented his home country at the U18 Americas Championship where he averaged 6.5 points, 3.8 rebounds and 1.5 assists in six games. Benjamin and his Canadian team earned bronze after going 4-2 with wins against Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Puerto Rico.

"We're excited for Bubus to join Coach Gillispie and his staff at Tarleton, it's an unbelievable fit and opportunity," said the Edge School's director and head coach, Eddie Richardson. "Bubu has intensity, a high motor, a high work ethic and tremendous skill. He's one of the most skilled players in all of

Canada. He can shoot the ball, score and has the ability to defend at a high level, I think people will recognize it right away. We're so happy for him and proud of him."

Six weeks ago, Benjamin shined at the 2023 Biosteel All-Canadian Game, exclusively featuring the top-24 senior male and female high school basketball players across Canada. In the event, he recorded 15 points, five rebounds and three assists.

Just a few weeks before the 2023 Biosteel All-Canadian Game, Benjamin participated in Phoenix's 2023 Grind Session All-Star, an international elite prep basketball circuit. He tallied 17 points and six rebounds in the special event.

Benjamin posted a 4.0 GPA at the Edge School. He is still deciding what he will study at Tarleton State University.



# OISD valedictorian, salutatorian recognized



COURTESY PHOTO

Laci Luckie, Oglesby ISD valedictorian

## Luckie ranked first at OHS

*Staff Reports*

Oglesby Independent School District has named Lacie Luckie the valedictorian of the graduating Class of 2023.

Luckie was a member of the Beta Club, Track, Future Farmers of America, Golf, Volleyball, and Basketball.

Her favorite memory of Oglesby ISD was when the volleyball team beat Aquilla on their senior night.

She plans to attend Texas A&M University, majoring in communications.

## Gomez rated second at OHS

*Staff Reports*

Aiden Gomez has been named the Oglesby Independent School District salutatorian for the Class of 2023.

Gomez was a member of Future Farmers of America, the Beta Club, Basketball, the Student Advisory, Track, Cross Country, and was the mascot.

His favorite memory of Oglesby ISD was on senior skip day when his friend Tanner dropped his drink in the mall.

He plans to attend Texas A&M University in the fall, majoring in animal science, with plans to go on to veterinary school upon graduation with his bachelor's degree.



COURTESY PHOTO

Aiden Gomez, Oglesby ISD salutatorian

# Leon River Dutch Oven Gang comes to the rescue of historic church

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

The locally known "Leon River Dutch Oven Gang" recently provided some down-home cooking to benefit the ongoing restoration process of the historic Eagle Springs Baptist Church located in

southeastern Coryell County.

The gang served pulled pork, potatoes, baked beans, peach cobbler, and dump cake - all served on-location in genuine old-time Dutch ovens.

Prior to lunch being served, Dr. Eric Moffett of Coryell Community Church delivered a message to those assembled in the old church. Moffett spoke about the importance of recognizing historic locations as

found in the Bible.

The church, badly in need of repair, was built in 1878 in the community of Eagle Springs and continued to be a house of worship until the late 1940's. Governor Pat M. Neff, a native of Coryell

County, attended the church as a child and into his adulthood. The Neff family was very instrumental in the founding of the church and Governor Neff always considered the small frame building to be his "church

home."

For those wishing to contribute to the restoration fund, donations can be sent to the Historic Eagle Springs Baptist Church Association, c/o P.O. Box 90, Gatesville, TX 76528.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Leon River Dutch Oven Gang comes to the rescue of historic Eagle Springs church

**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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1507 W Main St, Gatesville, TX 76528 Bldg #2  
(254) 865-2166 | CoryellHealth.org

**MISSION: DEEP SEA**

**CALLING ALL S.E.A. AGENTS JOIN US FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH - THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH**

**5:30 - 8:00PM DINNER PROVIDED**

**REGISTER HERE**

**FAMILY PROGRAM THURSDAY @ 6PM**

**GRADES: PREK - 6TH GRADE**

**Bus Service Available!**

*First Baptist Church of Gatesville*  
912 E MAIN ST GATESVILLE, TX 76528  
254-865-2014





DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat speaks to GHS graduates Trent Ray, Alex Scott, Thiele Alvarado and Gracie Penrod before the Baccalaureate ceremony.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GHS graduates and their families attend the Class of 2023 Baccalaureate services at the Gatesville High School auditorium.

## GHS Class of 2023 attend Baccalaureate Services

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Baccalaureate Services were held on Sunday, May 21, at the Gatesville High School auditorium for the Class of 2023. The service was sponsored by the Gatesville Ministerial Association. Those addressing the senior class were Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat of The Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Lynn Parks of Eastwood Baptist Church, Rev. Greg Demmitt of Cornerstone Church, and Rev. Stephen Schmidt of First Methodist Church. Rev.

Schmidt provided a message entitled "A Future with Hope" to the graduating seniors.

GHS Varsity Choir soloists Anna Phillips and Katie Hopson performed songs for the seniors entitled "There is a God," and "I Hope You Dance." The seniors also heard special music by the GHS Varsity Mixed Choir directed by Cherith Wells.

Piano music for the processional and recessional was played by pianist Charles Ament.



COURTESY PHOTO

Evant High School senior Jana Wall

## Evant ISD's Jana Wall finishes in top 10 at UIL state contest

Staff Writer

Evant High School senior Jana Wall finished in the top 10 in the state in the Informative Speaking category when she recently competed in the University Interscholastic League's State Academic Contest in Austin.

Informative Speaking

generally centers around talking about people, events, processes, places, or things. Informing an audience about one of these subjects without being persuasive is a difficult task that needs to be completed to be informative.

Evant Independent School District can be reached by calling 254-471-5536.

**GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**VBS**  
**STELLAR**  
**SHINE JESUS' LIGHT**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4 through WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7**  
**PRE-K through 5TH GRADE**

**5-7:30 PM**  
Light meal and registration start at 5:00

**JOIN US!**  
**2417 E MAIN ST + 254-865-2438**

## Jonesboro school announces speed and strength training dates

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District has recently announced its 2023 speed and strength training dates. Speed and strength training is free to all incoming seventh- through twelfth-grade athletes.

- WEEK ONE:** Wednesday, May 31 to Thursday, June 1.
- WEEK TWO:** Monday, June 5 to Thursday, June 8.
- WEEK THREE:** Monday, June 12 to Thursday, June 15.
- WEEK FOUR:** Monday, June 19 to Thursday, June 22.
- WEEK FIVE (two days only):** Monday, June 26 and Thursday, June 29.
- WEEK SIX:** Monday, July 10 to Thursday, July 13.
- WEEK SEVEN:** Monday, July 24 to Thursday, July 27.

High school girls, and junior high school boys and girls will begin their training each day at 8 a.m. and will finish at 11 a.m. The high school boys will start at 5 p.m. and finish at 7 p.m.

Be sure to wear the proper workout attire and shoes, and also bring a water bottle, and a towel if needed.

Jonesboro Independent School District is located at 14909 E. State Hwy. 36 in Jonesboro and can be reached by calling 254-463-2111.

## Jonesboro ISD to hold summer camp May 31

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District is scheduled to hold a baseball and softball summer camp from Wednesday, May 31 to Thursday, June 1. The camp will be held at the Jonesboro baseball and softball fields.

The camp will cost \$40 per student. Third through fifth graders will meet

from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and sixth through ninth graders will meet from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Players need to bring a water bottle, a pair of cleats, a bat, a helmet, a glove, and catcher's gear if you are a catcher.

For more information contact Jonesboro Independent School District by calling 254-463-2111.

## SNHU announces Winter 2023 Dean's List

Staff Reports

When Southern New Hampshire University recently announced its Winter 2023 Dean's List, Robert Hunter and Derick Scott of Gatesville were among the students selected.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term, or paired eight-week

terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University is a private, nonprofit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 165,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire.