



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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County focuses on safety concerns on Straws Mill Road

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Coryell County Commissioners Court talked about the need to resolve safety concerns at the low water crossing at Straws Mill Road over the Leon River.

Commissioner Ryan Basham said he recently visited the area "and there is a safety issue - there's about 2 feet until (the road) drops off - it's a definite issue. (Between) 131 and 220 cars go down that road (regularly). I didn't have any idea that many cars went down that road."

Basham has talked with County Road and Bridge Administrator Justin Latham about ways to take care of the problem, such as moving the road or putting up a guardrail or berm.

"We need something - there's nothing there right now," he said, adding that right of way could be acquired to change the dangerous road pattern.

Commissioner Kyle Matthews noted that something could be done soon as a temporary fix. The road is on a list of projects the county plans to work on once it receives grant money.

"You drive along the county road and all of a sudden it's washed out," said Commissioner Scott Weddle. "There are three options - ignore it, do something about it or shut it down. I too was surprised by the traffic count."

Basham said he would like to keep the road open, with safety concerns addressed.

"From what I understand of the situation right now, it's a safety concern," said County Judge Roger Miller. "The 2, 3 or 4 feet of erosion is what we see. We haven't gotten underneath it to see (how bad the erosion is). The only way we'd know is when it caves



COURTESY PHOTO BY RYAN BASHAM

County leaders are looking to resolve safety issues at a low-water crossing on Straws Mill Road.

PLEASE SEE ROAD | A2

Coryell County Courthouse to celebrate 125th anniversary

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Coryell County Historical Commission, in conjunction with Coryell County Judge Roger Miller and the Coryell County Commissioners, are currently making plans for the 125th anniversary of the Coryell County Courthouse which was completed on July 18, 1898.

Festivities will be held on the south side lawn of the courthouse starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 22.

The schedule will include the posting of the colors by an area horseback color guard, the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance by Casey Curry, the National Anthem sung by Charles Ament, the Texas Pledge of Allegiance by Casey Curry, followed by the Texas anthem sung by Dr. Steve Norris. Felicia Inman will then offer an opening prayer.

A welcome will be offered by Coryell County Historical Commission president, Danny Corbett followed by Coryell County Judge Roger Miller who will share the history of the construction of the courthouse.

Festivities planned will include speakers, live music, and old-fashioned games for children and adults alike.

In addition, there will be a rededication ceremony of the Texas State Historical Marker that was originally installed on the north side of the structure but will be relocated to the south side of the building which was the original main entrance of the building.

Larry Weiss, of Harris Creek, recently restored the original marker and brought it back to its original condition just in time for the 125th anniversary celebration.

The Coryell County Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

During the 125th anniversary celebration, non-guided tours will be given of the historic structure which was restored in the late 1980's.

Those planning to attend the celebration are encouraged to bring lawn chairs for seating on the courthouse lawn. Several food trucks will be on hand to provide refreshments and a courthouse birthday cake will be provided by the Coryell County Historical Commission.



City faces \$16.4 million price tag for Stillhouse wastewater plant

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Improvements needed at the city of Gatesville's Stillhouse Wastewater Treatment Plant will cost significantly more than expected, and city leaders are hoping the state steps up and pays a substantial portion of the costs based on services they receive at state prisons in the area.

During the July 11 meeting of the Gatesville City Council, City Manager Scott Albert said the city received three bids for work at the plant, ranging from \$13.9 million to \$17.8 million. Walker Partners of Waco, acting as the city's engineer, recommended the city accept the middle bid for the project, which is \$14,443,000, from Matous Construction.

A memo to the council stated, "Although JM Pipeline was the lowest bid, Walker Partners (WP) will recommend that the city select Matous Construction because they were the highest ranked bidder based on WP evaluations using the selection criteria and ranking assessment."

The council could take action on the bid at its Aug. 22 meeting, the memo stated.

"Obviously this project is significantly more than what we were expecting," Albert said.

In addition to the \$14.4 million in construction costs, there will also be engineering costs of \$1.98 million, bringing the total anticipated costs to \$16,425,606.

The city has funds of \$7,723,107 from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) earmarked for the project.

A memo to the council noted that city representatives talked with TWDB officials "to determine potential additional funding sources through TWDB." These funds could become available in the summer of 2024 or December 2024.

Albert said city staff are recommending the project be di-

PLEASE SEE WWTP | A2

City leaders voice differing views on proposed park

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Differing opinions were presented by Gatesville city staff on whether the city should proceed with plans for a new park near the Gatesville Fitness Center, leading the Gatesville City Council to delay taking action on the proposal at its July 11 meeting.

Rene Ochoa, director of planning and community development for the city, and Seth Phillips, director of parks and recreation, both recommended the city proceed with plans for the park. Meanwhile, City Manager Scott Albert expressed reservations about the park plan and said he is concerned the

park would be an extra financial liability for the city.

In October 2018 severe flooding significantly damaged Faunt Le Roy Park, drenching the area with 9 inches of rain and causing substantial erosion. The city issued a disaster declaration and sought help from the Texas Department of Emergency Management in assessing the damage, and then from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding to repair damage.

In 2020, LJA Engineering did an in-depth damage assessment, determining the cost to repair the eroded Leon River bank at

Faunt Le Roy Park would be more than \$1.3 million. The city chose not to accept FEMA's fixed cost offer to repair Faunt Le Roy Park, and instead chose to designate the funds to a park project elsewhere in the city.

After six sites were studied, the city in 2022 decided to move forward with plans for a 4.9 acre park across from the fitness center. The federal government would provide just over \$1 million for the park, with the city providing a local 25% match of \$340,181.

Delays in final approval from FEMA for the project have stalled development of the park, leading former city manager Bill Parry

to ask U.S. Rep. John Carter to solicit a response from FEMA on Gatesville's behalf. Carter said he learned from FEMA that the city park project remains under "technical review."

Phillips said if the park is built it will be "in a very visible location that is a highly trafficked area adjacent to a neighborhood." He said trees at the location will create a barrier between the park and the neighborhood.

The play surface would be covered by rubberized mulch that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and play-

PLEASE SEE PARK | A2



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ROAD

FROM PAGE A1

in.
“We need to make a recommendation to Mr. Latham in the direction we want to take, if it’s a long-term replacement. Is it feasible to keep it open with some reasonable guarantee of safety?”

Basham said the tin horn at the crossing is “rusted out - it’s been in bad shape for years.”

Weddle said the commissioners court needs Latham to give an assessment of what is needed to make the crossing safe.

“The crossing itself has been worrisome for some time,” Basham said.

Steve Manning, president of Natural Resource Solutions (NRS), a consultant for the county, said the commissioners court had authorized NRS “to look at that. I hope whatever you’re thinking about in terms of right of way is in terms of a new bridge.”

That could be the long-term solution, but commissioners stressed the need for a more immediate fix.

“A temporary fix could include putting some reflectors in to mark the immediate approach of the road,” said Commissioner Keith Taylor.

“It’s a weird angle - it’s a one-car bridge for sure,” Weddle said. He added that he would like for Latham to provide a cost estimate along with a strong assessment of what should be done at the crossing.

“If we decide to close that down, public hearings may be involved as we identify the most prudent course of action,” Miller said.

Commissioners Basham and Weddle said they will talk to Latham so that additional information can be presented to the commissioners court.

Another area of Straws Mill Road that is in the Gatesville city limits is also under consideration for rehabilitation, Manning has noted.

The county is anticipating the possibility of receiving more than \$100 million in funds that would be administered through the Texas General Land Office to help with major construction work, which must be completed within an 18-month timeframe to meet grant requirements.



COURTESY PHOTO BY RYAN BASHAM

The Coryell County Commissioners Court is considering options to address safety concerns at a low-water crossing on Straws Mill Road. Among the possibilities are putting in a guardrail, placing reflectors at the site and even closing the road. County leaders have said erosion of the Leon River crossing has been a major concern, and they are looking at both short-term and long-term solutions to the problem.

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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MESSENGER

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

General Manager
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

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

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PARK

FROM PAGE A1

ground equipment would be geared toward children of all physical abilities, Phillips said.

Councilwoman Barbara Burrow asked why there has been a delay, and asked if park plans had been approved.

“Yes - I have no idea why it is taking so long,” Ochoa said. “It’s already gone on five years.”

“A little political capital was used to get a response - I worry about that,” Burrow said. She also expressed concerns that costs to build the park would increase because of the delay.

“If the cost goes above \$1.3 million, we’ll have to look at cutting amenities,” Phillips said.

Councilman John Westbrook asked about the future considerations for Faunt Le Roy Park, “do we just take care of it as we can?”

Phillips said he has a “big concern about it. It’s a big park of our history. If we don’t do anything, it will erode away. I do believe we need a mitigation plan.”

Mayor Pro Tem Meredith Rainer asked about grant opportunities.

“There are no TPWD (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) funds available for a parks master plan, but a parks master plan is required before we’re eligible for their grants,” Phillips said.

Asked about staff recommendations for the proposed new park, Ochoa said “there are a couple differences of opinion.”

While Ochoa and Phillips supported moving forward with park plans, Albert said he has concerns about the costs involved.

“I’m looking from the outside,” Albert said. “I know Rene and Seth have put a lot of

time into it. I look at it more as a financial burden. It’s an extra burden for parks and rec to maintain when we have a laundry list of other things we need to maintain.

“But I support staff - there’s nothing wrong with me having a different opinion. It’s part of being a healthy organization, being able to have a dialogue on differences of opinion.

“If this is a project the Council wants to approve, you’ll get my support 110%.”

Burrow asked if the city was “locked in” to the park plan, and what would happen to the FEMA grant money if the city chose to pursue a different course.

“You have spent some money on the design,” Albert said.

Ochoa noted that \$49,550 had been spent on engineering and design.

“Do y’all have a ballpark idea (on the cost) of a parks master plan?” asked Councilman Westbrook.

Albert said the typical cost would range from \$100,000 to \$200,000, and Ochoa said LJA had expressed a willingness to do a parks master plan for less.

“If you want to move forward on a parks master plan, we need to determine a firm,” Albert said.

“Am I being an optimist? Can we build a new park and move forward with a parks plan?” Rainer asked.

Asked what the \$1.3 million would have done at Faunt Le Roy Park, Phillips said it would have repaired erosion to the state of the riverbank before flooding occurred.

“I think we need to reach out and ask (FEMA) what if we did change course. What would the impact be?” Albert said.

The Council decided to table the item for further consideration and revisit the issue at the July 25 Council meeting.

WWTP

FROM PAGE A1

divided into two phases and will meet with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to determine if this is a viable approach.

“We will identify what we can do for \$8 million (in the first phase),” Albert said. “Phase 2 depends on the prison system - the state coming forward and paying their share of the cost.”

“Once we’ve identified what can be cut, we’ll set up a meeting with TCEQ and make sure they agree.”

Mayor Pro Tem Meredith Rainer asked, “is there a backup plan if the state doesn’t come through?”

Albert said, “there are a lot of irons in the fire” (related to city capital improvement projects) and added “I’m not comfortable with what phase 2 will look like - \$7 million is a lot. You could fund it if you are willing to increase your rates. That’s an option. We could look at funding the debt ourselves.”

“I hope the state steps up,” Rainer said.

“They’ve gone years - decades - without addressing issues,” Albert said. “I don’t think we should make a knee jerk reaction on the second phase. We need to stand our ground and expect the state to pay their share. In my mind, plan B - the residents picking up the cost - doesn’t exist.”

Councilman Greg Casey asked, “Are we biting off more than we can chew?” on the various capital improvement projects.

“I’m pretty comfortable with the CIP (capital improvement projects) outside the wastewater treatment plant,” Albert said. “We’ve got to do something about Stillhouse and we’ll figure it out, but we also need to do something about water production.”

During a presentation to the council on June 20, Mike Clough with Walker Partners said the Stillhouse plant is “reaching the end of its useful life.”

He added that work at the plant, when completed, should meet the city’s needs for at least 20 years.

Folks around town



ALEX MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Shea Harp

Say hello to our neighbor, Shea Harp!

Shea is the Librarian at the Gatesville Public Library. The best part of her job is being able to work alongside patrons each day. She has lived in Gatesville for 19 years and enjoys the diversity of the population and community connections. Shea reads *The Gatesville Messenger* each week to read about what events are coming up throughout the community.

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



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Angela Cases, a former Lions Club district governor, talked about the positive impact the club has on the Gatesville community.

Focusing on leadership, volunteer opportunities

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Former Lions Club District Gov. Angela Cases talked about the impact of volunteers in the community and thanked the Gatesville Lions Club for its strong volunteer spirit during a recent presentation to the club at the Junction on 36 restaurant.

"It's amazing how you guys continue to do a little bit more and a little bit more and a little bit more," Cases said. "You are an example for other clubs with the number of things you're involved in. If you do a lot of small things, it adds up to a really big impact."

"Y'all are so engaged in your community - that's wonderful. Y'all are the boots on the ground. It's incredible how you identify needs and get things done."

Cases said she travels frequently and often listens to TED (technology, entertainment, and design) talks and learned a statistic about how people who volunteer for others get a 70% return on their investment. "You gain something for yourself when you volunteer to help somebody else."

She also spoke on the nature of leadership, which she said is sometimes allow-

"Y'all are so engaged in your community - that's wonderful. Y'all are the boots on the ground. It's incredible how you identify needs and get things done."

ANGELA CASES

Former Lions Club district governor

ing others to take charge of an initiative.

"Sometimes leadership is just being able to help someone else, walking beside them and letting them know they have your support," Cases said. "A lot of people aren't looking for a handout, they're looking for a hand up, and that's something Lions can provide."

"Each of you as individuals, because of what you do, are all leaders in your community. It gives you an opportunity to think about tomorrow, and what we can do next."

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Follow the rules and don't make a wake



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

One of the great things about the United States is we are a country of individuals. By the very nature of our Constitution, we are guaranteed the freedom to be allowed to live our lives and express ourselves, even if we choose to do so in a way that is "different" than our neighbors. Of course, individual rights must be balanced with the rights of others.

We have the individual right to play music in the middle of the night. Yet the exercise of that right must be balanced against the rights of my neighbor who is trying to sleep at 2 a.m. and does not want to hear a stereo cranked up to the point of shaking him out of bed. This balancing act is what creates a world where people can still be individuals, but society can still function effectively. It is the social contract. It requires a little give and take sometimes, but isn't that the way it ought to be? Shouldn't we try and be respectful of the wishes of others and shouldn't they "bend" a little sometimes to accommodate the "other guy?" Sounds a little like the "golden rule" doesn't it?

Just this past week I volunteered to help with the organizational part of the big 4th of July parade. I got to my post early in the morning, and as parade participants arrived, helped direct them to their proper location in the parade line. The organizers of the parade had given each entry specific instructions of where to

park their cars, the time for entries to arrive, and the directions for lining up. After years of experience, there is a plan in place which assures the best flow of traffic and eliminates difficulties and confusion.

This was not some every day, small-town parade. It had over 100 entries and the parade took an hour and fifteen minutes to pass. Crowds were overflowing and full of enthusiasm. The floats were designed and constructed masterfully. The whole town looks forward to the parade and cooperates to make it come off without issues.

Irrespective of the planning, the instructions and all the hours spent on organization, there are always a few people who believe they do not have to follow the rules. Mind you, there were not many, but there were a few folks who had not read the instructions they had been provided. They simply showed up, drove into the parking lot, and wanted to go about "lining up" as they wished. When instructed they had to go through the

same procedures as everyone else, they became a little indignant.

I tried to be as nice and civil as I could be when I instructed the few "rule-breakers" they had to take their vehicle or float into a different gate. I explained if the guidelines were not followed, traffic would gridlock and the parade would come to a halt. In response, I got, "but I know where I am supposed to go," or "nobody told me where I needed to go."

The offenders I refer to did finally adhere to the same guidelines as everyone else. All they did by complaining and trying to circumvent the instructions everyone else was happily following, was get themselves upset and waste everyone's time.

Were these few violators a major problem or did they prevent the parade from happening? Of course not. The matter goes to a larger issue; the mindset of some who believe they are exempt from adhering to normal everyday social rules. It is those simple rules which allow the world to function. It is respect for others.

It would seem there are those who either feel privileged and above adhering to rules, or they simply do not care about others than themselves. My guess is these same folks who sometimes park in a handicap space because they are in a hurry despite the fact they are not disabled. Or they go through

the express line at the grocery store with more than the allotted items because the line was shorter, never minding how they back up the line behind them. Neither one of these incidents are major crimes, but they are reflective of an attitude which is all too prevalent.

My old "lake" friend told me a human should never be a "wake maker." Never be the person driving a big boat, who leaves the dock area at full throttle. That man is looking forward and sees the smooth water, the beauty of the day, and is excited to have fun. He never looks behind him and sees the problem he creates by generating a huge wake. His failure to follow the "no wake" instructions does not affect him or the operation of his boat, but what he leaves behind sends boats slamming up against the dock and causes problems for others.

The world is not all about any one of us. It is about the shared experiences which make up the event we call life. It is ok to be an individual, to have your own views and to live life as you choose, but sometimes the social contract asks for you to remember your neighbors and think of others besides yourself. Is it that hard?

Thought for the day: Rules are for the obedience of fools and the guidance of wise men.

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

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County gets update on pursuit of grants

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Coryell County Commissioners Court got an update on several grants the county is pursuing, including notification that one grant has been approved.

The news came during the July 11 meeting of the court. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) has approved a \$300,000 Resilient Communities Program (RCP) grant that the county will use to update land use and subdivisions regulations.

"There is a potential we could have an RFP (request for proposal) for the court to review by the end of July," said County Judge Roger Miller.

"The main issue we need an answer on is if we want a grant administrator to bundle all that or if we want to do it ourselves," said County Attorney Brandon Belt. "We presented a plan to the GLO to do the administration of the grant in house. We will revise the old floodplain ordinance and master plan - the comprehensive plan with land use study."

"There will be a lot of things under building codes of all the different statutes which authorize the county to address things, kind of like a zoning ordinance. We've got a workshop topic for the future. The good thing is we have some funding to address it."

The county received a response from the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) regarding the county's hazard mitigation plan, and Reed said edits will be made to address new FEMA guidelines. We will go to TDEM (the Texas Department of Emergency Management) and then FEMA and the county attorney will also review.

The county will reprocure some items on its Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Plan (CDBG-MIT) to follow proper procedures.

On a procedural issue related to the RCP grant, an apology letter from the county was sufficient to resolve the matter, rather than reprocurring items.

Commissioner Scott Weddle asked the difference between the way the procedural items had to be resolved.

"One is \$100,000 (the RCP) and one is \$3.4 million (the CDBG-MIT grant)," Belt said.

Regarding anticipated grant money of several million dollars through the GLO for road construction projects, Miller said the amount of money available appears to be increasing.

Miller said Coryell County has 22 road projects outlined and ready to submit once that grant portal opens.

Manning said the county has worked with ACF on Army Corps of Engineers related projects and he has spoken with ACF about the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Coryell County was among about 300 which the U.S. Forest Service did not award grant funding to for the de-

velopment of a CWPP.

Manning said ACF would develop the plan for the county at no additional cost. That way the county could apply for other Forest Service funds to implement the plan.

"I would propose the county have ACF build the plan and submit it when the portal opens instead of waiting a year," Manning said.

"The ACF would be willing to fund the building of that plan at no cost to the county?" Miller asked.

"That is correct," Manning said. "The advantage is we jump ahead a year (in seeking additional grant funding for wildfire protection). Either way, the county will have a fire plan."

"That's very advantageous to the county," Miller said.

"I think that's a good course of action," said Commissioner Ryan Basham.

Belt noted that there were 400 applications requesting more than \$525 million in fire protection grants nationally, and only 100 of those applications were approved in the most recent funding cycle.

Manning said the participation of volunteer fire departments throughout the county "is critical" in the process to get funds for wildfire protection. He said having the plan in place will allow the county to be ready "so we can apply for the big money."

Pocket Change to perform July 21

Submitted article

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame will host the regional Bluegrass band "Pocket Change" which will headline the 7 p.m. Friday, July 21 free concert at the Gatesville City Auditorium located at 110 N. 8th Street in Gatesville.

This is a new band with a long heritage. Although the current lineup has been together for just a month, the musicians have been playing together and with various others under different names and configurations for many years.

The band from Cleburne features Roger Starnes (twelve-time State of Texas Banjo Champion) who started playing banjo at seven years old. Mandolin player Melody Hendrix also serves as President of the Biloxi River Bluegrass As-

sociation. They are joined by Wayne Phillips on dobro and Laurie McPherson on guitar. Sitting in with the band for the concert is Riley Gilbreath (another former Texas State Banjo Champion) on bass.

The band has continued its long tradition of touring Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri providing good, traditional down-home music to appreciative audiences. In addition to Bluegrass music, the band plays Southern Gospel and old-time country.

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame continues its series of free concerts on the third Friday of each month. The show time is from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. All are invited to the free show to enjoy "Pocket Change" and the Hall of Fame House Band with other local favorites.



COURTESY PHOTO

The band Pocket Change will perform at the Gatesville City Auditorium on July 21.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mission Gatesville operates the Brown Bag Ministry at 301 N. Lutterloh Ave. every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mission Gatesville continues with new location

Staff reports

Mission Gatesville has secured a building located at 301 N. Lutterloh in Gatesville in order to conduct their Brown Bag Ministry and serve as storage.

The building was once known as Bauman's Grocery, Sam's Cafe, and 9-Ball Cafe. Standing on the corner of Waco Street and Lutterloh Avenue, the building has been used as storage for a few decades and many individuals have found refuge inside of it when needed.

The building was recently cleaned out, and the city of Gatesville has discussed Mission Gatesville's next steps. Mission Gatesville is working on tearing down the old front part of the building, as it is beyond repair. The back half is newer and will remain as is.

Mission Gatesville will conduct Brown Bag Ministry

out of this building located at 301 N. Lutterloh Avenue and store other food and items from ministries and organizations. The Brown Bag Ministry will continue passing out food on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., but that is subject to change once the building situation has been sorted out.

The brown bags are free with non-perishable food items inside. Only one brown bag per person.

Mission Gatesville will need funds to complete the demolition and repair the building that will remain. Support and donations are welcomed. Mission Gatesville is seeking churches and individuals to help fi-

nancially support this long-term endeavor. To donate visit www.missiongatesville.org or by contacting Mission Gatesville directly to donate with cash or check.

Mission Gatesville was founded in March 2023 due to various individuals feeling the call to further help those in need of food in Gatesville. Their goal is to feed people at least once a week and to continue expanding those offerings once a proper building is established.

For more information contact Mission Gatesville at 254-206-6021.

"Meet the Hornets" set for August 4

The annual "Meet the Hornets" program will be held Friday, August 4 at Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium.

During the program, mem-

bers of all GHS sports teams will be recognized and band, cheer and dance will perform. There will be an ice cream social and meet-and-greet with members of the

Gatesville ISD athletic staff.

Plans are still being finalized for a "Downtown Pep Rally" to be held one evening in the fall. The community-wide pep rally will be held in

the Gatesville's downtown area including the Coryell County Courthouse lawn. More details will be released at a later date.

Morgan family fundraiser to be held July 15

Staff Reports

There will be a fundraiser on Saturday, July 15 in front of Vintage Royalty Boutique to support the Morgan family. The fundraiser will be held from 9:30 a.m. until everything is sold out.

The fundraiser will include lots of raffles, a bake sale, and a barbe-

cue sandwich plate with chips and a drink for seven dollars.

On Tuesday, June 20, Austin Morgan was in a motorcycle accident that caused his back to break in two places. He must take off eight to twelve weeks of work to heal. He is the sole provider for his family of four girls.

PEARL NEWS

The next Pearl Cottage Bookstore event is August 5



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

The community of Pearl extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Phyllis Adams Barnes who passed away on June 29 in Temple, Texas.

Mrs. Barnes, the daughter of Maurine and Lloyd Adams, was raised in Pearl and graduated from Evant School. Her services were held at Pearl Baptist Church with burial at the Pearl Cemetery on July 8. Mrs. Barnes will be dearly missed.

The Pearl Church of Christ enjoyed a wonderful two-day Revival service this past weekend. Everyone enjoyed the sermons, the food (especially the ice cream supper), and the fellowship. Someone who shall remain nameless, but her initials are LR, thought her ice cream was going to be a total flop; however, I have received rave reviews and think she should repeat the makings for the same three freezers next year as this is an annual event! Actually, this church, which had its beginning in 1895, and has always had summer revivals since its inception. Many of the members came from the Ft. Hood area as a result of the displacement of the families during the establishment of Ft. Hood. Most of these folks came from Eliga and Stampede. Most of us know the descendants of these families today: the Graham, Gartman, Thomas, White, and Wilkinon families have remained in the Pearl area and attend church there today.

Early revivals at the Pearl Church of Christ were held under cedar arbors. In 1904, the Pearl Church of Christ Tabernacle was built and became the permanent home of the Pearl Church of Christ summer revivals. Even today, the tabernacle is a vital part of the annual VBS held in the first part of every summer. We honor our early leaders for the work

they did to establish the church and the tabernacle, and we thank God for allowing the fruits of their labor to be used for the spreading of the Gospel to this very day.

The next Pearl Bluegrass and Pearl Cottage Bookstore event will be held August 5. Everyone is invited to attend, and you don't have to worry about the heat as the rooms in the Pearl Community Center and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore are air conditioned! So, beat the heat, and come on out to Pearl to enjoy some wonderful live music, fun shopping, good food, and friendly folks! Bring friends!

In September, the annual Atchley Fish Fry and Labor Day Auction benefiting His Kids takes place on September 3 at the Pearl Church of Christ. Just a little teaser as to one of the items in the auction—a Grandfather Clock! Everyone is always invited to this event, and everyone is always invited to this wonderful church! Their service time is 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning.

This week's Bible verse comes from Hebrews 10:24, 25— And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. NIV

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



**Hours: Friday 7am-2pm and 5pm-8pm
Saturday 8am-2pm and 5pm-8pm
Sunday 8am-1pm**

Facebook: [otowncafetx](https://www.facebook.com/otowncafetx)
254-456-3030
106 Main St., Oglesby, TX 76561

77th Hampton Reunion is set for July 14-16

The descendants of Eli Michael "Yack" and Sarah Roberta "Bertie" Purvis Hampton will hold their 77th reunion at the historic Pearl Community Center on July 14th-16th.

The Hampton Reunion began when youngest sibling, Steve "Sonny" W Hampton returned from World War II, and the Hamptons have maintained the tradition since. The Hamptons lost Sonny this last year and will pay homage to him at this reunion.

For more information, please visit the family's web page, www.hamptonsofpearl.com. All friends and family are welcome to attend.

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WADE BLAKE | HYDE MEDIA GROUP

The nightly Mutton Bustin' is a large crowd-pleaser for the Gatesville Riding Club annual rodeo.



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A bronc rider refusing to be bucked at a past Gatesville Riding Club rodeo.

Gatesville Riding Club Rodeo to be held July 27-29

Staff Reports

The 86th annual Gatesville Riding Club Rodeo will be Thursday, July 27 through Saturday, July 29. The rodeo starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$7 for kids ages 6-12. Kids ages 5 and under get in free.

Each night of the rodeo Mutton Bustin' will be included, which will start at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. It will be limited to 20 riders per night and there will be a \$30 entry fee. There will also be a Calf Scramble, which does not require pre-registration.

To register for Junior Barrels, call 254-493-8954 on Monday, July 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Once again, the rodeo will have its "Bubble Balls and Bulls" event for the spectators to enjoy.

Thursday will be "Military Appreciation Night" with admission fees of \$10 per adults and \$5 for kids ages 6-12. Military ID is required for discount admission.

Friday will have a "Back the Blue" theme, and those attending are encouraged to wear blue to support law enforcement officers. On Saturday, the rodeo will feature an appearance by the Fort Cavazos 1st Cavalry Horse Platoon.

Gates to the rodeo will open at 6 p.m. The arena is located on Veterans Memorial Drive in Gatesville.

Senior Center presents smartphone Q&A July 17

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Senior Center will have a smartphone

question-and-answer for senior citizens on Monday, July 17. The event is scheduled for

9:30 a.m. Members of the Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville will be in attendance to demon-

strate how to use a smartphone properly. The question-and-answer event is open for the com-

munity to attend. The Senior Center is located at 208 N. Lutterloh Ave. in Gatesville. For more

information contact 254-865-8234.

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86th Annual Gatesville Riding Club

RODEO

July 27-29 ★ 7:30 P.M.
Gatesville Riding Arena

Tickets: Adults \$12 | Kids 6-12 \$7 | Kids 5 & under free

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday: Military Appreciation Night
\$10 Adults / \$5 Kids 6-12 (with military ID)

Friday: Back the Blue
Wear blue to support our law enforcement officers

Saturday: Ft. Hood 1st Cavalry Horse Platoon

EVERY NIGHT

Mutton Bustin' - Limited to 20 riders/night, \$30 entry Thurs. & Fri. at 7:00 P.M. and Saturday at 6:30 P.M.

Calf Scramble - Does not require pre-registration

Bubble Balls and Bulls

Jr. Barrels - Call on Monday, July 24 from 7-9pm to register, (254) 493-8954

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Courthouse artifacts located at the Coryell Museum

In the days leading up to the 125th anniversary celebration of the Coryell County Courthouse, those interested might want to

drop by the Coryell Museum and visit the "Courthouse Exhibit."

The exhibit includes many historical photographs of

the courthouse along with several artifacts including an original ornamental ball that was located on top of the courthouse, a rail from

the courtroom of the original county courthouse, an electric light fixture with textured lavender stained glass which surrounded the

courthouse in the 1930s – and even a metal spittoon that was located in a hallway of the courthouse.

The Coryell Museum is

open from Wednesday until Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The museum is located at 718 E. Main St. in Gatesville.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

An exhibit at Coryell Museum includes many historical photographs of the courthouse along with several artifacts from the current and past Coryell County courthouses.

Cone with a cop set for Aug. 2

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Police Department is partnering with Studebakers Pizza on Wednesday, Aug. 2 for a free ice cream event. The event will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Studebakers Pizza.

The event will be open for the public to enjoy. All children will receive free ice

cream, a kiddo identification card, and a chance to talk with our local police officers.

Studebakers Pizza is located at 2701 E. Main St. in Gatesville. For more information on the event contact the Gatesville Police Department at 254-865-2226.

Whatever happened to....

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Cindy Long and her husband, Nelton Long of Gatesville were considered regular performers at the Pearl Bluegrass Music Festival.

Gatesville attorney Janet Prueitt had been included in the National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals which was for individuals who had reached a level of success in their field.

Claudia Martinez was the grand prize winner of a small Mustang muscle car replica during a drawing held by the Gatesville Sonic Drive In.

Texas First Bank held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new building located in the 2400 block of South Business Hwy. 36.

Caroline Lovelace of Two's Company had expanded her services to include interior decorating. She had extended her interior decorating services to retail businesses as well.

40 YEARS AGO (1983)

Wyllis Ament, a 45-year-old Gatesville native, had been appointed to a city council post formerly held by Gary Davis. Ament was scheduled to take the oath of office as a councilman.

Norris Waddill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Waddill of Gatesville, was announced as the author of a new book titled "Production Logging Interpretation Techniques."

Karen Parr, formerly of Gatesville, was listed on the dean's honor roll at Texas University. She was listed as being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pettijohn.

Richard D. (Dick) Gellasch had been named a consumer loan officer at the National Bank of Gatesville. He was married to the former Phyllis Caldwell of Gatesville.

The Harvey Sims family of Fort Gates had grown a huge Armenian cucumber in their garden. The cucumber was 54 inches long and 16 inches in circumference and weighed 18 pounds.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

Roland Russell of Gatesville was busy helping his dad, Robert, feed, and care for a flock of emus near their home. The birds were a commercial venture dubbed Heart of Texas Exotics.

Brandon Belt and Will Coward of Gatesville received the state's highest FFA award as both were awarded the Lone Star FFA Degree. Both were 1993 graduates of GHS and planned to attend Tarleton.

Curtis and Thelma Davis were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner at the Stage Coach Inn. Curtis Davis and the former Thelma Collins were married July 9, 1943, at the home of Rev. Bruce Weaver in Waco.

Gregg Lewis of Gatesville had qualified for the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas state bowling competition. Lewis was the nine-year-old son of Kevin and Donna Lewis.

The Turnersville Youth Organization had scheduled their second annual hamburger meal to raise money to assist the organization in building and maintaining the Turnersville Park.

50 YEARS AGO (1973)

Cindy Criss, age 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.K. Criss of Gatesville, had received the President's Award for Physical Fitness. She was the only student in the high school's P-E classes who qualified.

A remodeling project was underway at Bill Goodrich's variety store on the east side of the downtown square. The remodeling gave the firm 900 additional square feet of floor space.

Gatesville High School student Dean Edwards had received the second-place award at East Texas State University's summer drum major and majorette camp.

Janell Ferguson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Necessary of Gatesville, had received her 10-year certificate and diamond pin from Gulf Oil Corporation in Houston.

Linda Ament had announced that she was planning to open the Highland Beauty Salon which was to be located adjacent to Dr. Charles Wilson's Chiropractic Clinic in the Westview Addition.

Central Texas Roots Gardening Club recently founded, meeting held monthly

Let's keep growing

Submitted article

Celia Sellers recently founded Central Texas Roots Gardening Club in May 2023. The idea came from a lifelong passion of gardening and realizing the desire of many local gardeners for in-person educational-fun meetups.

The group meets monthly on the second Saturday at 11 a.m. The first few meetings were a huge success. With daily interest continu-

ing in the club, the group feels it will continue to grow momentum.

Meetings have included educational speakers, Dutch treat meals, sharing of seeds- plants-ideas, door prizes, refreshments. Future meetups are being planned for some fun outings, tours, and volunteer opportunities. Meetups are free and everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring friends and family who have a passion for gardening. Those who would like more information or would like to join, please call Celia 254-206-6355. The next meeting will be held at The Junction on



COURTESY PHOTO

Central Texas Gardening Club meetings held second Saturday each month.

Aug. 12 at 11 a.m. Join their Facebook page - "Central Texas Roots" for updates and informa-

tion on future meetups and events. Message Celia Schultz-Sellers on Facebook with any questions.

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Coryell County records to become digitized

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Coryell County Clerk's office recently collaborated with Kofile Technologies in Dallas to have records from the clerk's office digitized.

Deed record books from A-Z and books 1 to 240 were recently collected by a Kofile representative and transported to Dallas for the process of digitizing them so that, in the future, they could be viewed online through the county clerk's website.

"The digitizing process will take approximately three to six months," according to Coryell County Clerk, Jennifer Newton.

According to Newton, the deed records will be digitized first followed by the Deeds of Trust which will include Book A through Book 182.

"Streamlining and accessibility to records are a top priority for the County Clerk's office and this is an

enormous step in that direction," Newton said.

"Several improvements that have recently been put into place is the online accessibility of land records, birth indices, death indices, and marriage indices; we also recently launched an application to request vital records online - all of this information can be found on the county clerk's new website at www.coryellcountyclerk.com," she said.

In total, the books recent-

ly removed for digitization include 265 record books.

Archival digitization includes capture and processing (custom image enhancement and cleanup) and optimization for access.

Kofile Technologies has

the ability to scan mixed sized and large format documents. The firm employs a range of scanners to tailor imaging services to the document that requires imaging. All of the scanners employ page detection to

adjust for varying sizes of paper. Fragile documents are imaged by hand and not fed through an automated document feeder. Kofile's technicians are trained to handle and process fragile documents.

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran July 8.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A representative from Kofile Technologies recently visited the Coryell County Clerk's Office and removed approximately 265 deed record books.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of July 5 - July 11. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People 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

July 5
10:38 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 400 block of E. Main Street.
1:32 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 100 block of N. 28th Street.
5:01 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
5:25 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1100 block of Golf Course Road.

July 6
6:00 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
12:57 p.m., an accident was reported in the 200 block of State School Road.
4:10 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of S. 8th Street.
11:01 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.

July 7
6:26 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Bridge Street.
11:05 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 500 block of Grandview Drive.
4:58 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1800 block of CR 249.
11:06 p.m., an accident was reported in the 100

block of Gateway Circle.

July 8
5:08 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2900 block of Old Osage Road.
7:00 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of E. Main Street.
8:53 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1600 block of Waco Street.
11:48 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

July 9
2:22 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of E. Leon Street.
9:39 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of S. 5th Street.
6:40 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 500 block of Pidcocke Street.
11:12 p.m., an accident was reported in the 9000 block of N. Hwy. 36.

July 10
2:17 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2100 block of Waco Street.
6:53 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 400 block of N. 14th Street.
12:29 p.m., an accident was reported in the 100 block of N. 9th Street.
8:47 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1100 block of Westview Drive.

July 11

6:00 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 400 block of N. 14th Street.
10:26 a.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 4700 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
12:26 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 400 block of State School Road.
9:45 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 100 block of Elm Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

July 5
7:36 a.m., fraud was reported in the 200 block of CR 332.
3:06 p.m., a grass fire was reported on Blakely Road off FM 1690.
7:16 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 200 block of CR 344.
9:55 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of CR 318.

July 6
8:46 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 5600 block of FM 1783.
11:15 a.m., criminal tres-

pass was reported in the 300 block of CR 274.
12:20 p.m., harassment was reported in the 2700 block of Pine Circle.
7:17 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2600 block of Horseshoe Bend.

July 7
10:27 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2600 block of Twin Hills Road.
3:26 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 400 block of CR 3384.
5:06 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W. Hwy. 84 and CR 90.
10:23 p.m., a threat was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

July 8
6:55 a.m., the theft of a firearm was reported in the 1400 block of Woodville Drive.
9:50 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4100 block of Hwy. 36.
3:34 p.m., the burglary of a habitation was reported in the 300 block of Cedar Ridge.
4:31 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 300

block of FM 107.

July 9
10:00 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported on Boone Avenue.
3:22 p.m., road rage was reported on Hwy. 36 in the Flat area.
9:15 p.m., a dog bite was reported in the 800 block of Bluestem Drive.
10:29 p.m., an out-of-control child was reported in the 6700 block of Owl Creek Park Road.

July 10
3:02 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported at Restland Cemetery.
8:54 a.m., stolen property was reported on FM 215.
7:39 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1800 block of CR 265.
9:01 p.m., forgery was reported in the 4700 block of Slater Road.

July 11
4:23 a.m., a prowler was

reported in the 1100 block of Lutheran Church Road.
8:39 a.m., a stolen vehicle was recovered in the 2800 block of E. Veteran's Memorial Loop.
10:13 a.m., a scam was reported in the 1200 block of Limestone Lane.
6:33 p.m., the burglary of a habitation was reported in the 300 block of Cedar Ridge Road.

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301-400 lb.	250-295	301-400 lb.	230-243
401-500 lb.	235-271	401-500 lb.	210-265
501-600 lb.	200-268	501-600 lb.	210-240
601-700 lb.	195-245	600-700 lb.	190-220

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300-400 lb.	260-310
400-500 lb.	240-280
500-600 lb.	220-255
600-700 lb.	210-245
700-800 lb.	185-215

No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	240-285
300-400 lb.	230-265
400-500 lb.	215-260
500-600 lb.	200-240
600-700 lb.	185-220
700-800 lb.	170-205

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MOUND NEWS

Summer travels and family time for Mound residents



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Kyle and Holly Pullen took their daughter, Ruby Caroline, to South Jordan, Utah to attend the Ruby Buckle Barrel Race while the Pullen twins, Truett and Jacklyn, spent a week in Mound with David and Pam Hopson and visited with other relatives and cousins.

Ruby met her Aunt Sara Jo Poynter in Waco and met her sisters. Ruby, Truett and Jacklyn spent another week to attend (VBS) at White Mound Baptist Church while here.

Mr. Thomas Allen Belt attended District 8 County 4H Camp in Palestine, July 7 thru 9 representing Coryell County 4H. Thirteen attended from our County. At Camp they played water games, attended fun workshops, swam, danced, and had a great time. Any 4H member is welcome to attend. Next year's camp will be July 5-7, 2024.

Chad and Sara Poynter

went to Colorado last week with some friends. While there they enjoyed white water rafting, seeing the wildlife, and went to an amusement park that was at the very top of the mountains. It was a breath of fresh air to have some cooler temps.

Chris and Jennifer Miller took Caymbri and Slayton Fisher to Thackersville, Oklahoma. They enjoyed two days in the sun and pool.

Delecia Reynolds had lunch in Gatesville with her children and grandchildren Ronilyn Rogers, Alex, Erica, Travis, Noah, and Grace on the 4th of July.

Mrs. Beth Haines of Gatesville and Pam Hopson visited Saturday afternoon in Nemo with Tammy Roe.

Danijo Wood spent the day Tuesday in Gatesville with Cecil and Morgan Woodson. They all attended the 4th of July fireworks show at McKamie Stadium.

Mrs. Pam Hopson was honored with a birthday picnic and pool party last Thursday. It was given by her children and grandchildren at the home of David and Pam Hopson.

Christine and Rebekah Stephens of Flower Mound spent last week with their grandparents, Ray and John

Stephens.

Martha Lawhorn visited one day last week in Gatesville with Doris Hoff.

Scott, Kelby and Sterlin Shults, Case and Kristen Jones gave Don and Sue Jones a surprise 50th wedding anniversary Saturday at Mound Cowboy Church.

Jennifer and Claira Cochran of Anson spent several days with the Jones and Shults family.

Neil Helms of Red Oak spent the weekend with Robert and Carolyn Blakley.

Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch Tuesday and Friday in Gatesville.

Donna's interests are everywhere



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Donna Atkins spends half her time in Big Spring and the other half in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She maintains residences in both cities.

She grew up in Big Spring and bought the house in Idaho to be near her daughter and her family. Donna has had a chemical sales busi-

ness for 31 years, selling to schools, hospitals, and businesses by phone or face-to-face.

She and her husband Richard, a retired insurance executive, have six booths at an antique mall in Lubbock and spend a lot of their time going to garage and estate sales in Texas, Idaho, and other states. They built a house in Colorado and turned it into a bed and breakfast. Her current project is restoring an old family jeep. Do you get the idea that this is one busy woman?

Donna's work history includes jobs at Webb Air Force Base, Gamco (a school supply business), the VA hospital and a travel agency. She managed a Big Spring radio station for a number of years and worked as a stewardess for American Airlines. That occurred

when she was 19, the youngest flight attendant the airline had ever hired. She had never been on an airplane before she got the job. She worked for a year and a half then the airline went on strike. So, she decided to get married, even though the airline strike was over, and she was offered a special run, flying between Acapulco and Mexico City. She says it was tempting.

She leaned a lot during her stint as a stewardess.

"I was a shy teenager, and the airline had a psychology class on how to deal with the public. It gave me a lot of confidence," she said. "There were lots of rules. You couldn't wear jewelry, couldn't be married, had to be a certain weight, and

have certain measurements. I worked in first class, so I had to know everybody's name and call them by name three times. It was a long time ago. It was a lot classier than it is these days."

In her spare time Donna has done some interesting things. She was in the Mrs. Texas pageant twice, coming in 3rd the first time and as runner-up the second time. She was the queen of Big Spring's Railroad Centennial in 1981.

Donna is an accomplished artist, producing paintings and other items in different media.

"My aunt was an artist and as a child I watched her paint. It looked like fun," she said.

For years she painted glass

Christmas tree ornaments for dozens of friends and family, each one different. When postage to mail them became costly she started making personalized Christmas cards. She starts making her Christmas items in October.

Her home in Coeur d'Alene looks like a blooming flower park. She has several hundred plants, flowers, and trees that she is contently encouraging.

"I water them, fertilize them, play music for them and I talk to them, telling them how pretty they are. I also tell them if they're not blooming, they're out here," she said.

It must work because they're all healthy and bloom in season.

RECIPE

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

Chicken Scaloppini with Peppers

BY JEANETTE SHEPHERD

Ingredients

1 lemon
1 green bell pepper
4 boneless chicken breasts
1 red bell pepper
2 T. flour
1 yellow bell pepper
¼ tsp. salt
1/3 c. white wine
1/8 tsp. black pepper
½ c. chicken stock
4 tsp. olive oil
2 tsp. cornstarch
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 T. finely chopped parsley

Directions

Halve the lemon and slice one half, squeeze 1 tablespoon of juice from the other half. Cut chicken breasts in half crosswise and pound gently to flatten them. Sprinkle over the chicken with flour, salt, and pepper. Heat oil and garlic in skillet over medium heat until oil is hot. Discard garlic. Add a single layer of chicken pieces to skillet, sauté about 1 minute on each side or until golden brown. Put cooked chicken on a platter and cover to keep warm. Add the peppers, wine, and lemon juice to skillet and cook, cover for about 5 minutes or until peppers are tender. Stir together the stock and cornstarch, then stir this mixture with the peppers. Bring to a boil and add parsley. Add the chicken pieces and cook until heated through.

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YARD OF THE MONTH FOR JULY



COURTESY PHOTO

Keep Gatesville Beautiful has chosen the yard of Jean Ann Shirey at 203 North 10th Street as the July Yard of the Month. Jeanne loves butterflies, and plants lots of flowers and bushes that attract them. She cares for her yard herself with occasional help from her son Jonathon. While KGB was visiting her yard there was buzzing and humming with all kinds of pollinators, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. She has Phlox, Zinnia, Greys Mistflower, Sunflowers, Roses, Four O'Clocks, Trumpet Vine, Rose of Sharon, Canas, Lantanas, Cocks Comb, and many other flowers that bloom in other seasons. Jeanne has written and published a book called Granny's Garden and another called Plum Delight, both available on Amazon and soon to be sold locally at the 1854 Mercantile. You may also find her videos on YouTube.



Turnersville Baptist Church VBS set for Saturday, July 29

Staff Reports

Turnersville Baptist Church will hold their Vacation Bible School on Saturday, July 29 for one day only. The VBS will commence at 9 a.m. and will continue through 3 p.m.

The theme for this year will be Twists and Turns, and children ages four

through fifth grade are welcome to attend.

There will be lots of music, crafts, Bible time, snacks, fun, recreation, missions, and a pool party.

For more information on VBS contact Turnersville Baptist Church at 254-986-2471.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Business Directory

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Scottish workers leave their mark on the Coryell County Courthouse

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

While Wesley Clark Dodson was given credit as being the architect who drew up the plans for Coryell County's third courthouse, he did not work alone, but as a team with 45-year-old Tom Lovell who was the contractor and builder.

Lovell is given credit for constructing several courthouses and public buildings throughout Central Texas.

Lovell, a native of Scotland, would employ several Scottish stonemasons to help with the construction of the Coryell County Courthouse. Some of these Scottish natives were believed to have come to Texas several years prior to work on the

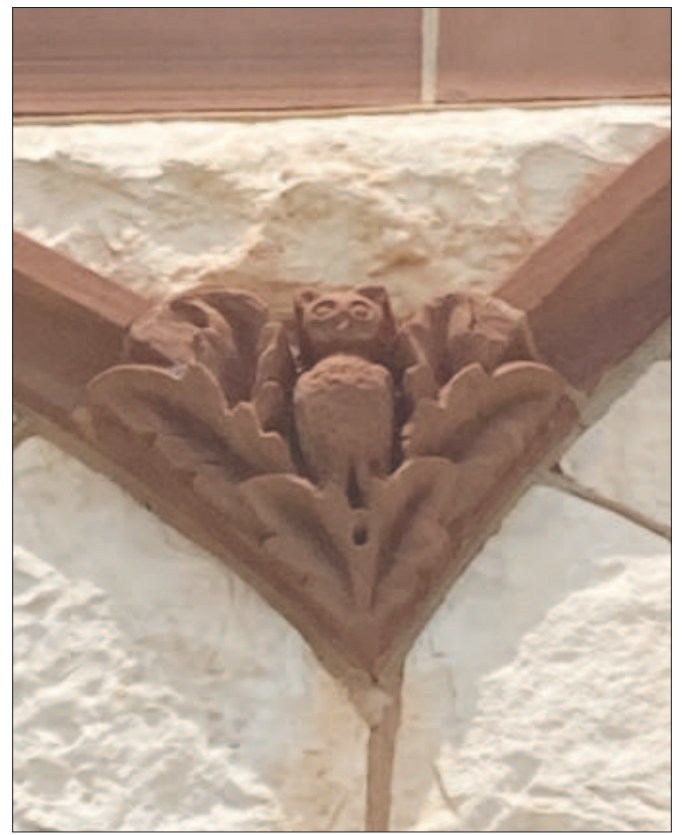
Texas state capitol building in Austin.

As legend has it, during the construction of the state capitol, the contractors faced a labor shortage and many of the granite stone cutters went on strike. It was then that stone cutters from Aberdeen, Scotland were brought to the United States to complete the building. The laborers from Aberdeen had a great deal of experience and had developed methods of quarrying granite.

The Scots began work on the state capitol in the spring of 1886. It was reported that eighty-six answered the call and were transported to Texas. Upon their arrival, the climate proved difficult. The men were unprepared for working in the humid 90-degree heat. Despite their unfamiliar working environment, several of the stone masons remained in Texas following the construction of the capitol and continued to work on other Texas buildings including courthouses and other official buildings due to their expertise in their profession.

In Coryell County, the Scottish natives would work in the quarries about four miles north of Gatesville where the workers would shape each stone to specific instructions, number the stones, then transport them by horse-drawn wagons to the building site. The numbers on the stones were used to show where the blocks belonged in the construction of the building.

A few stories survive about the Scottish stone masons who lived and worked in Gatesville for over a year. After long and stressful hours of work, it was reported that the merry Scotsmen would take to the streets of Gatesville and serenade the locals filling the evening air with bagpipe music - often



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

One of the Scottish stone masons left his builder's mark in the shape of an owl located on the east side of the building.

dressed in their native attire. Old-timers would later recall the evenings of pleasant bagpipe music surrounding the courthouse square.

A photo of a Scotsman in his native attire is located at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. The caption on the photo reads "Gatesville people were pleasantly surprised to see 'Mr. Douglas,' a kilt-clad Scottish stone mason strolling about town playing his bagpipes after his work was done." Whether the person in the photo is actually Mr. Douglas is unknown, but very likely one of the stone masons who worked on the courthouse.

In 1966, Frank Tolbert wrote that an interesting relic was located in the Buckhorn Saloon on the town's square. It was "a set of bagpipes left over from the

levels of the stone masons from Scotland who worked on the courthouse."

One of the Scottish workers was responsible for leaving his own builder's mark on the courthouse depicting a small owl carved in the red sandstone on the east side of the building which is still recognizable to this day - 125 years later.

The 125th anniversary of the completion of the courthouse will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 22, on the south lawn. There will also be a rededication of the historical marker following the opening ceremonies. Live music, games, and tours of the courthouse will be given.



COURTESY OF CORYELL MUSEUM

Photo of a Scottish bagpiper which hangs in the "Courthouse Exhibit" at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. It is assumed that this was one of the stone masons who worked on the courthouse.

A Happy Independence Day

Shout Out to Gary and R'Lue Gribble for providing refreshments for our residents and their families at Hillside's annual July 4th celebration. Everyone had fun and enjoyed the fireworks show.



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Volleyball camp offers chance to boost skills

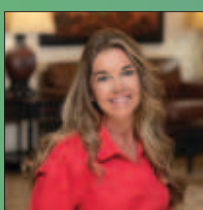


ALEX MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Girls entering grades 1-9 had a chance to improve their volleyball knowledge and skills during a Gatesville ISD camp led by coach Janey Weber July 10-12.



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Dazzlers prepare for fall campaign



Under the direction of Helen Gonzales, the Gatesville High School Dazzlers recently worked on drills to prepare for the upcoming fall football season.

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Area Fishing Report

Lake Belton
GOOD. Water lightly stained; 85-87 degrees; 14.02 feet below pool. A reliable morning white bass topwater bite has been taking place from 6:30 a.m. to as late as 8:30 a.m. The more cloud cover, the longer the bite. As the surface water approaches its annual high temperature, the surface action is becoming more widespread. The MAL Mini which imitates young shad has been my best producer for those who can throw this light bait on a long spinning rod with 12-pound braid or lighter; otherwise, using a weighted MAL Mini rig or MAL Heavy is a strong second choice. Once fish leave the surface, side-imaging and Garmin LiveScope help reveal where the fish have gone. Either casting to them or down rigging through them is effective, with down rigging having a significant edge due to the amount of ground quickly covered. Using #12 or #13 Pet Spoons on the down riggers has been very effective. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are excellent. Large numbers of blue catfish under 10-pounds can be found along old river channels in 15-30 feet of water. Drifting with fresh cut shad has worked best. Channel catfish have been excellent using punch bait around gravel beds and timber. Flatheads have been slow but can be found around large rock piles using live bait. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

Lake Waco
GREAT. Water stained; 85 degrees; 8.03 feet below pool. Crappie are good in 4-18 feet of water using minnows.

Catching more fish on brush than open water and timber. Report by Zach Minnix, Jig N' Jerk Guide Service.

Stillhouse Hollow
GOOD. Water lightly stained; 85 degrees; 14.58 feet below pool. Morning fishing is definitely more productive than afternoons or evenings for white bass. Fish are in 45 feet of water relating to breaklines. Finding fish with sonar and downrigging for them has been extremely effective. This both helps find fish and indicates their willingness to chase lures. If the fish willingly chase downrigger lures, then spot-locking atop them and working MAL Heavy Lures or MAL Dense Lures vertically from bottom, upwards through the fish is effective, as is working MAL Heavy or MAL Dense horizontally using a saw-tooth-style retrieve. Quality largemouth bass fishing continues with dark, naturally colored soft plastics fished on the outside edge of the hydrilla now standing in 20 feet of water both early morning and just before and after sunset. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Lake Whitney
GREAT. Water lightly stained; 85 degrees; 4.90 feet below pool. Crappie are good in 10-25 feet of water. Finding numbers stacked up on brush along drops on the main creek channels and main lake points using Snacky lures FS200 in the color snappy flash tipped with minnows on a crappie magnet Eye-hole jig in 1/16th ounce paired with a 10 foot bucks ultimate rods from B'n'M Fishing.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



No cost summer meals for kids through July

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District continues to provide summer meals at no cost for children ages 18 or younger, and enrolled students who are up to 21 years of age with disabilities. The program will run

through Friday, July 28.

The following are locations where breakfast and lunch will be served:

GATESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, located at 2537 E. Main Street will provide meals Monday through Friday. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.,

lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and the sit-down meals will be served in the cafeteria. Adults will cost \$2.50 for breakfast and \$4.25 for lunch.

TRINITY DAY CARE CENTER, located at 1506 W. Main Street in Gatesville will pro-

vide meals Tuesday through Thursday. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

THE GATESVILLE CITY POOL, located at 300 S. 8 Street will provide meals Tuesday through Thursday. Lunch will be served from

12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL will provide meals Monday through Thursday at the High School football field concession stand. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Adults will

cost \$2.50 for breakfast and \$4.50 for lunch.

To find a meal location near you text "FOOD" to 304-304 or visit SummerFood.org.

CARE Closet

Gatesville Junior High presents care closet

Staff Reports

Gatesville Junior High School has recently announced the opening of a care closet for all junior high students. The junior high will open the care closet on Thursday, August 10 which will offer various items including clothing, personal, and hygiene products.

Donations for the care closet began on Monday, July 10 and will continue throughout the school year, as this will be a year-round service. Applications to donate can be found in the GJH front office.

Donations can be made in cash and will

be applied towards purchasing items or donations of new or gently used bags can be made and will be used to pack items. Donations of gently used clothing items such as shirts, sweatpants, joggers, underwear, socks, pajamas, or belts, and hygiene products including toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, body wash, skin care, Q-tips, pads, and tampons can also be made. All clothing sizes must be for boys and girls of the ages 12 to 15 years old.

Be sure to drop off donations at GJH located at 307 S. Lovers Ln.

To register for the care closet contact GJHS at 254-865-8271.

American Legion Post 42 presents Tools for Schools

Staff Reports

The American Legion Post 42 of Gatesville invites the community to participate in a Poker Run called Tools for Schools on Saturday, July 22. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. at the American Legion, the Poker Run will begin shortly after. There will be a \$20 buy-in fee.

Tools for Schools is a charity event to raise money for children to get backpacks for the upcoming school year.

Poker Run is like the original poker game, except with

a creative twist. Instead of sitting down at a poker table, riders will ride motorcycles between checkpoints. Depending on the version of poker there are usually between five to seven checkpoints.

Regardless, once riders arrive at the first checkpoint, everyone gets a card from a deck of playing cards. Then, everyone rides to the next checkpoint. Once all riders have arrived at the second checkpoint, everyone gets a second playing card. After that, the whole process repeats until all riders have

reached the final checkpoint. At that point, everyone shows their cards, and whoever has the best hand wins.

According to the Guinness Book of Records, the largest poker run happened in 2013 in the American city of Fort Collins, where 1,494 participants raised \$13,000 for the Realities for Children fund.

The American Legion Post 42 of Gatesville is located at 214 Watts Lane. For more information contact 254-865-4134.

4-H summer awards party July 19

Staff Reports

Coryell County 4-H will hold their summer awards party on Wednesday, July 19. The awards presentation will be held at Raby Park located on South 8 Street in

Gatesville, and will begin at 7 p.m.

A swimming party will take place shortly after the awards presentation from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Gatesville City Pool located at 300 South 8 Street in Gatesville.

All 4-H friends and family members should have reserved their spot online by Wednesday, July 12.

For more information contact Coryell County AgriLife Extension Office at 254-865-2414.

Jones named to LETU 2023 President's List

Staff Reports

LeTourneau University recently announced Allaira Jones of Gatesville with a major in Criminal Justice, to the 2023 Spring President's List. The President's List recognizes students who have achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the semester

to receive this honor.

"As the comprehensive Christian polytechnic institution in the country, LeTourneau University attracts students who are among our nation's best," Dr. Steven D. Mason, President of LETU said. "I'm especially impressed with these honor roll

students, and I expect them to have a significant impact on our future."

LeTourneau University offers more than 140 undergraduate and graduate degree programs online and at LETU's residential campus in Longview, Texas.

Extraco Bank to collect school supplies through August 4

Staff Reports

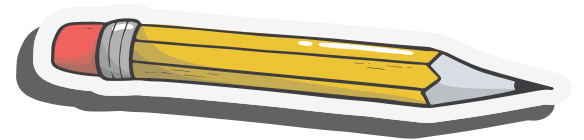
Extraco is committed to building people, businesses, and communities and one of the ways it is doing so is by collecting school supplies during the summer months to support students starting school in the fall.

School supplies will be collected at the Gatesville branch location until Friday, August 4. Extraco will have boxes inside their lobby to drop off any supplies.

The following school supplies are to be collected:

- Backpacks
- Supply Boxes
- Binders
- Markers
- No. 2 Pencils
- Pens (Blue or Black ink)
- Highlighters
- Wide Rule Notebook Paper
- Folder with Brads
- Glue
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Notecards
- Crayons

Extraco is located at 800 E. Main Street in Gatesville. For more information call 254-774-5500.



GISD Choir bake sale to be held July 22

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Independent School District Choir boosters will hold a bake sale on Saturday, July 22 to support their travel funds for their trip to California.

The bake sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. held at Vintage Royalty. There will be plenty of baked goods including cookies, cupcakes, brownies, and cakes.

The Coffee Saloon will be in atten-

dance as well and will be donating 15% of their proceeds back to the GISD Choir Boosters.

For more information visit gisd-choir@gatesvilleisd.org

Evant ISD taking donations for golf, tennis teams

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District is currently taking donations to aid the school in providing supplies for the new upcoming golf and tennis teams.

The golf team will be taking donations of any kind to support its upcoming season, and donations can include equipment, supplies, or funds. The tennis team needs spare rackets, balls, etc. for the upcoming season.

As of right now, Evant ISD is home to football, track and field, basketball, volleyball, and cheer teams.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane. For more information concerning donations contact 254-471-3160.

GAME ON

The cake is a lie

If you like original puzzles with an insane narrator, the Portal series is for you



BY JENNIFER HARRISON

My opinions on computer gaming and some of my favorite games. I've been playing games on the home computer since the days of the Trash 80. I love indie, open-world, unique, puzzle, and resource games. The cake is a lie.

The game "Portal" has been around since 2007. So long that you've probably seen the memes, even if you've never played the game - a red circle with a Christmas tree halfway through it, a blue circle with the other half of the Christmas tree.

It was based on a 2005 puzzle platform game, "Narbacular Drop," designed by Nuclear Monkey Software, a group of students from DigiPen Institute of Technology. Valve saw their work and immediately hired the group.

It's a great game that uses a simple device -the portal maker - to solve problems. At first, you're simply getting around a corner with a carefully placed portal, or putting a portal where you want an object to drop. Eventually you'll be asked to solve more complex problems, like increasing the velocity of your fall by adding a portal to your drop, so that when you finally hit the springboard you're launched into the next area. That's all I'll say about game play, because if you've never played it, you should.

I'm not embarrassed to admit that I didn't know about "Portal" until its sequel came out. I played the sequel first because I apparently don't care about conti-

nuity. Then I played through the original game, which has been updated with higher resolution textures.

One of the utterly charming things about the original "Portal" game is the apparently sociopathic artificial intelligence that's running the game. You're trapped in a testing arena with a computer that's constantly testing your limits and isn't too concerned about your safety. Every once in a while, GLaDOS (the artificial intelligence) will taunt you with your incompetence, your lack of suitability for this task, even promise you cake, only to reward you with yet more testing.

Eventually you will complete the testing, defeat GLaDOS, and escape from the lab, only to be dragged back to the lab in a brief cutscene at the end of the game and put into suspended animation.

PORTAL 2

"Portal 2" was released in 2011. This sequel keeps the same ingenious puzzle con-

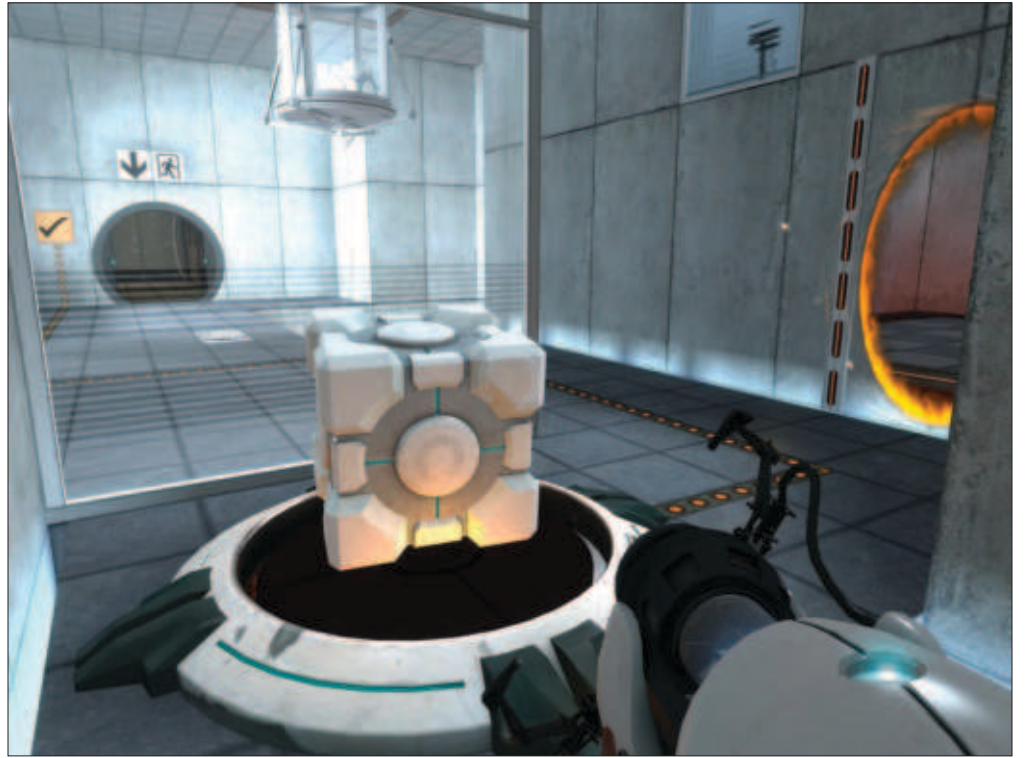
struction as the first game, but combines it with better graphics and smoother gameplay. And no mention of cake. Game designer Erik Wolpaw was wanting something new and avoided referring to cake in Portal 2 (except for one subtle reference.) "If you thought you were sick of the memes, I was sick of it way ahead of you."

The look and feel of "Portal 2" was inspired by photo galleries of abandoned architecture, industrial buildings that have fallen into disuse, and old buildings from the Soviet Space program.

In "Portal 2," you're awakened from a long slumber by Wheatley, just in time for the facility to be demolished. Wheatley, voiced by Stephen Merchant, is a personality core, originally used to control GLaDOS. Wheatley guides you through the old testing chambers while trying to help you escape, and accidentally revives GLaDOS.

"Portal 2" uses the portal gun that we all know and love from the first game. As you progress, you'll encounter more experimental materials from the Aperture Science facility, like gels that allow you to bounce higher or go faster, lasers (Thermal Discouragement Beams) that can be used to activate switches, tractor beams (Excursion Funnels) and Hard Light Bridges. These can be combined with the portals to solve the increasingly more difficult puzzles.

Through short audio recordings made by Cave Johnson (voiced by the actor J.K. Simmons) we learn that



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Screenshot of Portal.

Aperture Science Laboratory has fallen on hard times. Johnson's experiments on moon dust have made him fatally ill, and his final act is to put the brain of his assistant, Caroline, into a computer, creating GLaDOS.

"Portal 2" isn't more difficult than "Portal 1." If there's a difference, the play time is a little longer - it's more cinematic. It looks better, includes some really impressive renderings, and there's more 'story.' Stephen Merchant makes the character of Wheatley really unlikeable. Some of his performances were improv, which keeps it spontaneous and funny. J.K. Simmons as the voice of Cave Johnson was perfectly cast, and his

performance made it a better game.

It's also playable as a 2-player cooperative mode, with participation required from both players to solve the puzzles.

I won't spoil the ending of the game for you, but it's challenging, the ending is satisfying, and Wheatley gets what's coming to him. "Portal 2" has won several awards, including Ultimate Game of the Year at the 2011 Golden Joystick Awards, and six BAFTA video game award categories, including Best Game, Best Story, and Best Design.

"Portal" and its sequel, "Portal 2" were built using the Half-Life engine. Originally this was done because

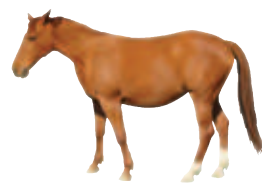
of a lack of art resources; eventually Valve tied in Portal and Portal 2 to the Half-Life game universe. "Portal" happens between "Half Life" and "Half Life 2". Portal characters have appeared in other games, including "Lego Dimensions," "Dota 2," "Cyberpunk 2077," "Rocket League," "Minecraft," and more.

Available on SteamOS for PC and Macintosh.

CORYELL KIDS

Horses are magnificent and gentle creatures that have been our companions for a very long time. They have strong and powerful bodies, covered in soft fur or hair. Horses are known for their long, flowing manes and tails. They have hooves instead of feet, which help them run fast and jump high. People ride horses for fun or use them to pull carts or carry things. Horses are really good at understanding humans and can become our friends. They communicate with us through sounds like neighs and body movements. Taking care of a horse requires love, patience, and responsibility, but it can also be a wonderful and rewarding experience to have a horse as a friend.

National



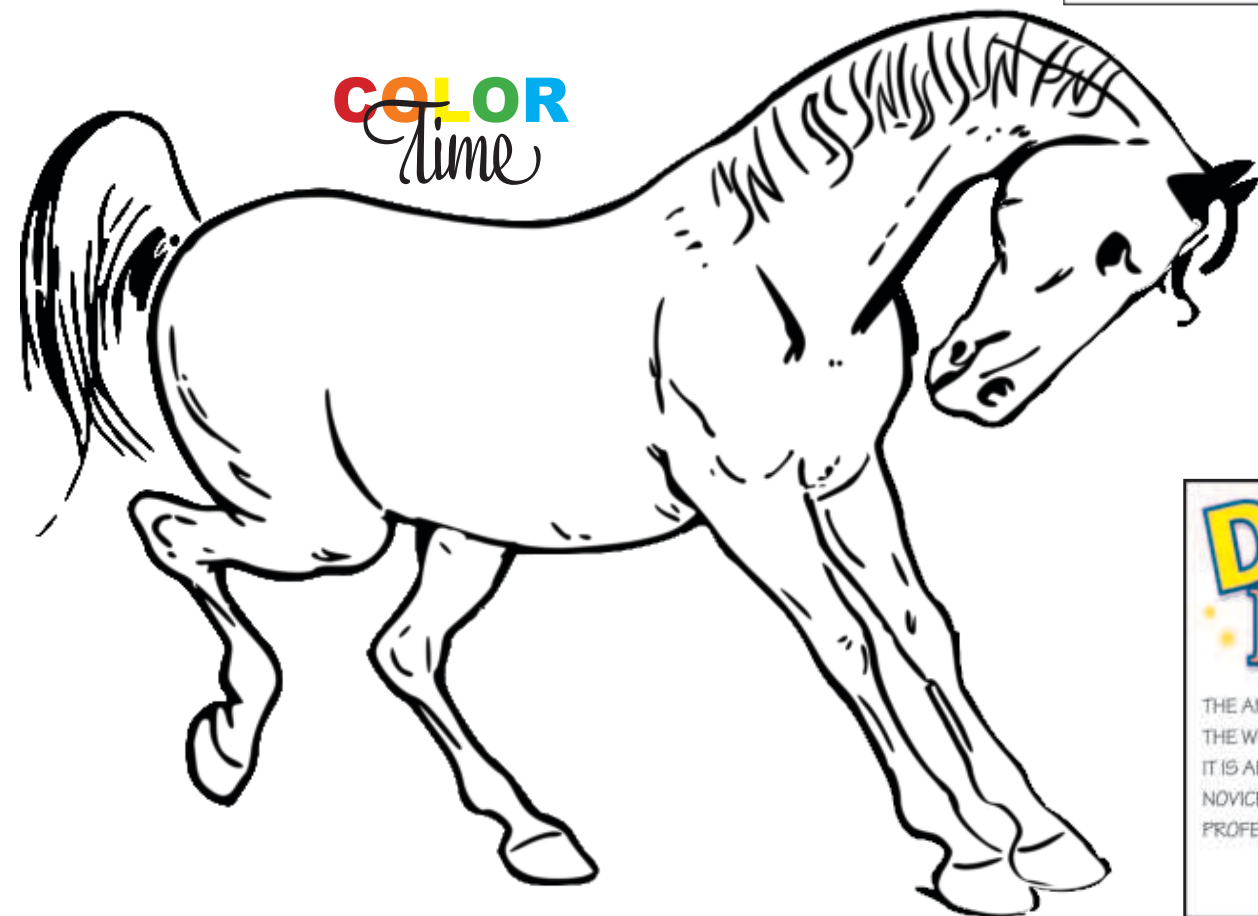
New Word
EQUINE
relating to horses

What's the Difference?

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



Answers: 1. Missing stump right side 2. Black horse has white on chest 3. Brown horse has longer mane 4. No hole in tree on left



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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton's 2023 volleyball schedule announced

Texans begin season with annual Texan Invitational Tournament

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE, Texas - Tarleton State Volleyball is getting set for success with the announcement of their schedule for the 2023 season.

On Monday, Tarleton State announced their campaign that begins on Aug. 25 in Stephenville at the annual Texan Invitational Tournament.

This season, the Texans will play 16 conference games, eight of those set to take place on the Tarleton campus in Wisdom Volleyball Gym. In addition to conference play, the Texans will compete in four tournaments to kick off the season and will travel to Prairie View A&M for some pre-conference action. The 2023 schedule has the Texans in a pattern set to play at home for two games then on the road for two for the duration of the season.

Tarleton State Volleyball will start off the season at home on Aug. 25 at the Texan Invitational Tournament. The Texans will then travel to San Antonio, Texas, for two days of tournament play at the UTSA

Tournament on Sept. 1-2.

The following weekend, Sept. 8-9, the Texans will hit the road for a two-day tournament at UAB in Birmingham, Alabama. On Sept. 12 the Texans will play their lone non-conference match that is not included in a tournament, as they'll travel to Prairie View A&M to take on the Panthers at 6 p.m. CT. Tarleton will play in their final tournament back in Stephenville, beginning Sept. 15 at the Dr. Pam Littleton Classic.

Tarleton will begin conference play on Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. CT at home in Wisdom Volleyball Gym against Utah Valley. On Sept. 23 the Texans will remain at home to take on the Seattle U Redhawks for a midday battle at 1 p.m. CT.

Following their long stretch at home, the Texans will head to the west coast to face the Lancers at California Baptist on Sept. 28 at 9 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION

This season, the Texans will play 16 conference games, eight of those set to take place on the Tarleton campus in Wisdom Volleyball Gym. In addition to conference play, the Texans will compete in four tournaments to kick off the season and will travel to Prairie View A&M for some pre-conference action.

CT. Next, the Texans will make their way to Arizona and go head-to-head with Grand Canyon on Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. CT.

On Oct. 5, Tarleton will resume home play at 6 p.m. CT against Utah Tech. The Texans will remain at home Oct. 7 to take on Southern Utah at 1 p.m. CT.

Stephen F. Austin will host the Texans Oct. 12 at 6 p.m.

CT, then Tarleton will head to Arlington to play UTA at noon CT on Oct. 14.

Tarleton will host UTRGV Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. CT and will continue their run in Wisdom Volleyball Gym against Abilene Christian on Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. CT.

On Oct. 26, the Texans will hit the road to take on Seattle U at 8 p.m. CT before heading south to play Utah

Valley at 2 p.m. CT on Oct. 28.

The Texans and the GCU Lopes will meet again, this time in Stephenville, on Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. CT. Tarleton will host California Baptist for their final home game of the season on Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. CT.

Tarleton State's final two regular season matches will be at UTRGV (Nov. 9 at 6:30

p.m. CT) and at ACU (Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. CT) ahead of the 2023 WAC Volleyball Tournament.

The full schedule is below and can be found <https://tarletonsports.com/sports/womens-volleyball/schedule>. Full tournament schedules will be announced at a later date.

Smith makes first addition to staff, tabs R.D. Spiels as pitching coach

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE, Texas - Tarleton State baseball head coach Fuller Smith has made the first addition to his staff, announcing today the hiring of R.D. Spiels as assistant coach, overseeing the pitching. Spiels comes to Stephenville after serving as an assistant coach at Illinois State the past two seasons.

"I am extremely happy to add someone of R.D.'s caliber to this coaching staff," said Smith. "R.D. has extensive experience guiding and teaching young men at this level of college baseball and has been nothing short of successful everywhere he has been. I cannot wait to get to work with him."

"My wife and I are honored that Fuller Smith and the Tarleton State administration extended this opportunity to us," Spiels said. "We are excited to get back to the Western Athletic Conference and to Texas where my coaching career began. I look forward to working with this coaching staff and the student-athletes at Tarleton State."

Spiels has an extensive resume as a collegiate baseball coach. He spent the previous two seasons with the Redbirds and prior to that has had stints as an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION

R.D. Spiels has an extensive resume as a collegiate baseball coach. He spent the previous two seasons with the Redbirds and prior to that has had stints as an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Northern Colorado and Grayson College.

Northern Colorado and Grayson College.

Spiels enjoyed a seven-year professional playing stint as a pitcher, throwing in the San Francisco Giants, San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners organizations. He also enjoyed a three-year stint as a starting pitcher for the Nebraska Cornhuskers where he made a start in the College World Series in 2001, Nebraska's first ever appearance.

Spiels spent the 2022 and 2023 seasons at Illinois State as an assistant coach. He guided starting pitcher Jared

Hart to an MVC best 2.45 ERA this past season. He also coached starting pitcher Derek Salata as he held an 88 strikeout to 27 walks ratio and a 4.08 ERA in 2023. Two different pitchers were named honorable mention All-MVC in 2022.

From 2019-2021 Spiels spent time at Little Rock as the Trojans pitching coach.

2021 saw the Trojans finish with a 4.79 ERA and hold opponents to a .256 batting average. Spiels coached Hayden Arnold to the 2021 Sun Belt Pitcher of the Year award as he held a league-

best 1.54 ERA while Aaron Barkley, a reliever, picked up first team All-SBC honors.

2020 was shaping up to be an impressive season for the Trojans on the mound as they were on pace to break a number of program records before the season was canceled due to covid-19.

In Spiels' first season in Little Rock, the pitching staff finished with a 4.92 ERA, good for third in the Sun Belt. The Trojans held the lowest in conference ERA in the Sun Belt. Two Little Rock pitchers won SBC pitcher of the week honors that season.

Under Spiels' tutelage, Chandler Fidel earned first team All-Sun Belt Conference honors, ranking fifth in the SBC in ERA (3.65) and third in strikeouts (101), leading the league in innings pitched (101.0). He was one of two Trojan pitchers selected in the 2019 MLB Draft, being selected in the 23rd round by the Cleveland Indians and being joined by McKinley Moore (14th round - Chicago White Sox).

Spiels spent seven seasons at Northern Colorado. He joined the staff in 2011 as an assistant coach and was promoted to associate head coach in 2015. Spiels helped the Bears to the 2013 Great West Conference title before helping UNC transition to Division 1 and the WAC.

The Bears team ERA was lowered by nearly two runs a game from 2011 to 2013 and was improved every season from 2014 to 2018.

Spiels coached the WAC Pitcher of the Year in 2015 as Jensen Park took home the award. Nick Tanner in 2016 and Troy Watson, a 15th-round MLB draft pick in 2018 both earned first team All-WAC honors. Northern Colorado's pitching staff routinely ranked among the top half in the WAC during Spiels' tenure.

Spiels has some Texas experience to his name as he spent 2009-2011 at Grayson

College in Denison, Texas. While at Denison, he helped four players to MLB Draft selections and improved the team ERA from 7.77 in 2009 to 3.85 in 2011. The Vikings advanced to the NJCAA World Series in 2022.

Spiels began his coaching career at his alma mater, the University of Nebraska in 2008.

Spiels was a three-year starter for Nebraska and held a 21-6 career record, which at the time ranked eighth all time for wins. He held a 3.14 ERA in 2000 on a staff that had the lowest ERA in the nation. Spiels was Nebraska's starting pitcher for the team's first appearance in the College World Series in 2001.

He spent seven seasons pitching professionally in the San Francisco Giants, San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners organizations. Spiels pitched for both the Portland Beavers and Fresno Grizzlies of the Triple A Pacific Coast League in 2005, as well as spending time at both the Double A and Independent levels.

He is married to the former Jennifer Benson, who was a first team All-American in soccer at Nebraska and was a member of the U.S. National Team. The couple welcomed their first son, Sam, in May of 2019.

Three Tarleton State women's golfers tabbed WGCA All-American Scholars

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE, Texas - Three members of the Tarleton State Women's Golf team were selected to the WGCA All-American Scholar Team as announced by the WGCA on Thursday.

The prestigious honor was bestowed upon Rebeca

Fernandez, Mathilde Brogens and Sofia Rodriguez.

Both Fernandez and Rodriguez are back-to-back recipients of the honor earning the recognition for the 2021-22 season as well.

In order to qualify for this recognition from WGCA, each student-athlete had to record a cumulative GPA of

at least 3.50, maintain amateur status while remaining on team's roster through the duration of the season and participate in at least 50 percent of the team's matches throughout the year.

The WGCA honored 1,401 women's collegiate golfers across 378 programs who met all of the qualifications.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARLETON SPORTS INFORMATION

Pictured from left are Rebeca Fernandez, Mathilde Brogens and Sofia Rodriguez.

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Gatesville Public Library kids take field trip to Fire Department



BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

As part of the summer reading program at the Gatesville Public Library, field trips have been taking place teaching the children about the community.

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Their field trips have included trips to the Coryell Museum and Historical Center, the Gatesville Police Department, and the Coryell County Courthouse.

Their most recent visit included a trip to the Gatesville Fire Department where Deputy Fire Chief Robert Featherston and several

other firefighters provided the children with a tour of the facility. They were able to climb in and explore the workings of the fire trucks and were also shown how to use the fire hoses.

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Boys and Girls Club hosts "Night at the Museum"

The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville recently collaborated with the Coryell Museum and Historical Center to present a home-town version of the 2006 movie "Night at the Museum."

The event was a sold-out success. Included in the program was a tour of the museum, dinner, and a performance put on by Gatesville's youth. Members of the Boys and Girls Club put on live action skits throughout the museum por-

traying historical figures of Coryell County.

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT



Braxten Bell portrayed a soda jerk in the Soda Shop/Drug Store.



Brent Hudson entertained during dinner and he played a Justice of the Peace at the Model T exhibit.



Gavin Williams played a military soldier during the presentation.



Haven Wiley as the only female sheriff of Coryell County, Mrs. W.W. (Willie Birdie) Hollingsworth in 1934.



Jadan Moore posted up in Spur Room and played the part of Mr. Lloyd Mitchell.



Rose Van Calcar was in the schoolroom playing the part of an early day teacher.



Will Coward

Gatesville Banking Center President

The First National Bank of Central Texas is thrilled to introduce Will Coward as the president of our new Gatesville Banking Center. Will is a fourth generation Gatesville resident who has over 20 years of banking experience. He and his wife Becky have two children, Kyle and Jenna. Welcome to the 1st Family Will!

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