



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Aug. 26, 2023

\$1.00

SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 121, No. 40, ISSN No. 0894-4954



Volunteers with the Gatesville Fire Department work to put out a wildfire on State School Road Tuesday afternoon.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Grass fire breaks out on State School Road, the second wildfire in Coryell County

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Fire Department battled two wildfires in Coryell County this week.

Gatesville fire and police crews responded to a grass fire that started on Tuesday around 1 p.m. at the 400 block of State School Road.

Brad Hunt, Gatesville Police Department's Chief of Police, said that the fire started in a hay field east of Cornerstone Church. As of Wednesday morning, the fire is 95% contained, but the fire department is still monitoring some hot spots in the area.

"There are some brush piles and hay bales back behind the church that are still a concern," he said.

Gatesville Fire Department's Fire Chief Billy Vaden said the origin of the fire was caused by a hay cutter, most likely from workers on the property located behind the church.

The fire burned about 60 acres and came within feet

of at least one house. No homes or buildings were affected. Law enforcement evacuated about 30 homes in the area near the fire.

Code Red Emergency Notifications were sent out to residents in the area to warn about evacuations and when they could return home.

"The citizens were great as well to understand the situation and do what we asked them to do," Hunt said.

Authorities closed off both directions of State School Road to contain the fire. If it had crossed State School Road, Hunt said the fire could have gone west toward Stillhouse Road, home of Coryell County's Wastewater Treatment Plant and animal shelter.

"It could have been a whole lot worse," he said.

Several first responders arrived at the peak of the fire to help with evacuations, including the Coryell County

PLEASE SEE FIRE | A2

Mike Fisher included in exhibit at Coryell Museum

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Coryell County Museum and Historical Center recently announced a new display located in the foyer of the museum. The new display is titled "Beyond Friday Night Lights" and recognizes prominent, professional football players from Coryell County.

Coryell Museum's exhibit coordinators, Rhonda Mohler and Sherry Hopson, were responsible for creating the new football exhibit, which features fifteen professional football players who once called Coryell County home. One of the players featured in the exhibit is Gatesville native Mike Fisher. Fisher was born in Gatesville in 1958 and graduated from Gatesville High School in 1977, ending a high school career that saw him earn 16 varsity letters and win several All-District honors, including a first-team All-State football berth in his senior year.

Following his high school graduation, he received a scholarship to play football for Grant Teaff's Baylor Bears and run track for Clyde Hart's BU cinder team.

"I went to Baylor in 1977. Cotton Davidson was my coach. Cotton gave me a graduation gift. He gave me and Lovetta McDonald a party at his home because we were All-State - she was All-State in basketball and I was All-State as a running back," Fisher said.

"I just played football for fun in college and ran track and had fun and graduated in four years. So, I was happy with that, and I used my de-

gree to go out and do what I wanted to do," he said.

After enjoying considerable success at Baylor for four years, he turned professional.

Fisher played in the National Football League with the St. Louis Cardinals and the Los Angeles Raiders, then spent some time in the United States Football League, playing with the Denver Gold, Washington Federals, and Atlanta Renegades.

In 1985, Fisher returned to his hometown of Gatesville and became the newest addition to the Gatesville Hornet coaching staff to fill a vacancy in the junior high ranks.

"I was asked to come here [to Gatesville Junior High] for one year and do a little seventh-grade coaching. The next thing I knew, I was here and then I went back to Baylor to get my teacher's certificate," Fisher said.

PLEASE SEE FISHER | A2



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mike Fisher views the new football display at the Coryell Museum, which includes a picture and biographical information about his career.

Webb begins 2023-24 school year at Oglesby ISD

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Shane Webb, who recently served as assistant superintendent of academics at GUSD, was recently named the superintendent of the Oglesby Independent School

District and officially assumed his new position on July 3.

Growing up in Duncanville, Webb played college baseball for the University of Louisiana at Monroe

where he received his undergraduate degree. Webb later earned his graduate degree from the University of North Texas.

Webb served as a para-professional for four years

at Duncanville ISD before becoming a teacher and a coach, earning the Above and Beyond Coaches award. He later served at Midlothian ISD for two years before coming to Gatesville

ISD in 2010 as a secondary special education teacher.

In 2011, he was named assistant principal at Gatesville High School, eventually becoming principal in 2014.

Webb's goals for Oglesby

ISD are ambitious and numerous. He plans to build on the previous successes, focus on safety and security, focus on student learn-

PLEASE SEE WEBB | A2



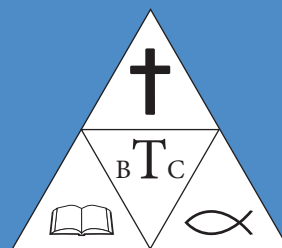
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"The family of Trinity Baptist Church exists to love God and people, teach God's Word, and to help all mankind to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in absolute obedience."

FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

Sheriff's Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens and the Gatesville ISD Police Department.

"I can't talk enough about

how great the response was between the law enforcement agencies that helped us and the fire departments that came," Hunt said.

Gatesville ISD put out an alert Tuesday that they planned to keep students who normally ride the bus

into that area until the fire is contained.

The Cornerstone fire follows the Rocky J fire along FM-116 and CR 147, another wildfire in Coryell County that has burned around 150 acres. The Gatesville Fire Department responded to

the fire on Sunday morning. Vaden said the fire is 70% contained as of Wednesday morning.

According to the Coryell County Sheriff's Office, the fire reignited on Tuesday afternoon and began spreading west. They urge the public

to avoid any unnecessary travel to this area. Vaden said The Texas A&M Forest Services are currently on the ground monitoring the fire.

Following a record heat wave in Central Texas, Coryell County has been under a heat advisory and elevated

wildfire threat. In July, Coryell County Judge Roger Miller issued a burn ban that prohibits outdoor burning activities.

"Everybody needs to be extremely careful right now," Vaden said.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Fire and emergency crews from Gatesville and surrounding areas worked together to put out a wildfire on State School Road. The fire was contained just feet from homes and other structures.



COURTESY PHOTO BY JAMES BROWN

Fire blazed across property on CR 147 last weekend. Emergency and fire crews worked to get the wildfire contained, which reignited again a couple days later.

Annual Exchange and Lions Club golf scramble Sept. 9

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Exchange Club and Lions Club will host its 23rd annual golf scramble on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Gatesville Country Club. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., and there will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

Players will be able to form their own teams of four, or there will be a sign-up area with a team

list to choose from. It will cost \$200 per team, which is \$50 per team member. The cost includes the cart, food and green fees.

There will be various other contests, such as door prizes, the longest drive and closest-to-the-pin. A \$5,000 Hole-in-One contest will be held as well as three other Hole-in-One prizes that are sponsored by First National Bank.

The team prizes will in-

clude first place for \$500, fourth place for \$400, and eighth place for \$200.

To sign up for the golf scramble, contact Alan Mathis at 254-289-1651 or Linda Klontz at 937-206-6218, or by visiting the Gatesville Country Club, which is located at 1212 Golf Course Rd. The Gatesville Country Club can be reached at 254-865-6917.

Local educators recognized

Staff Reports

The First National Bank of Central Texas is to honor local teachers who dedicate themselves to educating the youth each day.

During each Gatesville High School varsity football home game, Gatesville Independent School District will take a moment to

recognize two educators who have gone above and beyond to make a positive impact on the lives of students.

Gatesville ISD will present each educator of the week with a \$500 check as a token of appreciation.

The First National Bank of Central Texas and

Gatesville ISD welcome the community to submit the names of local educators who have made a difference in your life or in the lives of others.

To make a nomination visit the link www.fnbc.bank/educator-of-the-week/.

FISHER

FROM PAGE A1

He would continue coaching at the junior high school until 1987.

Fisher recently visited the Coryell Museum in Gates-

ville to see his photo and biographical information that is displayed in the new football exhibit.

Looking at the exhibit, Fisher smiled and said, "This is very nice."

Fisher retired in 2018

and now lives in Fate, Texas with his wife, Lynne. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Today, Fisher serves as a basketball referee, substitute teacher, plays golf and enjoys dancing.

WEBB

FROM PAGE A1

ing, build CTE programs, and build positive culture developing relationships with students, staff, and the community of Oglesby.

With approximately 206 students currently enrolled at OISD, Webb stated, "We have had a great start to the new school year. We have laid the groundwork of having high expectations for our students and they are rising to them."

Speaking about the OISD faculty and staff, Webb said "We have a dedicated and student-centered staff."

"I am fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as the superintendent at Oglesby ISD," he said.

Webb concluded by saying, "We are looking forward

to an exciting year. We want to be the best school district

we can be."



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Oglesby ISD Superintendent Shane Webb

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Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Diana Barnett

Say hello to our neighbor, Diana Barnett!

Diana is a Texas Realtor for Cowboy Real Estate and has been in the business for over 14 years. She enjoys her job because it allows her to visit neighborhoods, ranches, and many properties that carry history. "The character and beauty of Gatesville's landscape has always enchanted me," Barnett said. She loves that Gatesville is a community where you will never be alone through celebration or tragedy. Barnett reads The Gatesville Messenger each week for the positive news and to stay up to date with county and city events.

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

Bore pit to be installed by B-Corp Utilities

Submitted by Scott Albert, City Manager

On September 5th, B-Corp Utilities will commence the installation of a bore pit at the Northeast corner of Lovers Lane and Business Hwy 36, which is adjacent to the school administration building. While B-Corp will maintain access to Lovers Lane, the north and south travel lanes will be narrowed to 11-feet-wide each. This adjustment will provide the necessary space for B-Corp Utilities to install the bore pit and replace the water line beneath Business Hwy 36.

We request that the community remain vigilant while traversing the intersection of Lovers Lane and Business Hwy 36 to ensure the safety of all. B-Corp Utility workers will be operating within a confined area to accommodate the convenience of the community, allowing traffic to flow smoothly through Lovers Lane. However, should B-Corp determine that the safety of their staff is compromised at any point, they will take the precautionary step of closing Lovers Lane at Business Hwy 36 and establishing a detour for traffic.

We anticipate the bore pit work will be completed within two to four weeks. If you have any inquiries regarding traffic patterns and construction on Lovers Lane, please do not hesitate to contact Kaycee Springer at B-Corp Utilities at 254-248-0712.

Dr. Pollard gives back-to-school update to GISD Board

Staff reports

The Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees met on Monday, August 21. GISD Superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard, provided a brief back-to-school update to board members.

Pollard reported that as of August 16, student enrollment was at 2,679 - ending last year with 2,642.

Despite the City's demolition of the Rotunda building, the installation of fiber under roads near the school, and the Lovers Lane water and sewer pipe project, Pollard reported that the arrival and dismissal procedures have been smooth.

"We really appreciate the City and their contractors working with us to avoid disruptions during the peak arrival and dismissal times," he said.

Pollard stated that the students and staff have been working hard not only with day-to-day academics, but also the many extra-curricular activities that are being offered during the fall.

"We have paid very close attention to the heat, and our staff have been very diligent in making sure the students get plenty of water breaks. We have altered practice times to avoid some of the hottest temperatures. Our lower campuses avoid afternoon recess as a precaution on days that are especially hot," Pollard said.

Overall, Pollard said that the start of the 2023-24 school year has been very smooth.



COURTESY PHOTO

GISD Superintendant
Dr. Barrett Pollard

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

What happened to the days when men carried pocketknives?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

Our culture changes every minute of every day. Sometimes the change is glacier slow, and it takes us a while to notice it. Occasionally the changes are very sudden and unexpected. But make no mistake, our society grows or digresses every day. I guess whether those changes are good or bad depends on your point of view.

In the mid to late 1960s the change was quick and occasionally shocking. The Beatles erupted on the music scene and almost overnight boys grew their hair to a length which previously would have been outlandish. Clothing styles changed to where bellbottom pants, "love beads" and sandals became a norm among the youth. Formality seemed to fly out the window. These changes shocked a great many people and sparked discussions around the family dinner table about decorum and societal norms.

I remember working at a department store when I was 16 and having the store manager send a young female employee home because she wore sandals to work! I can still hear him explaining to the staff how a girl's "bare naked feet being displayed in public" was simply an image which the store did not want to project. The action of the manager seems rather shocking now, doesn't it? It wasn't at the time.

The 60s was a time when women went from wearing hats and gloves in church,

to wearing slacks. Some young women even had the temerity to not wear a bra when in public! Men stopped wearing hats with their suits, suspenders gave way to belts, and some even stopped wearing undershirts. All these acts were significant changes in our cultural norms.

One of the changes which evolved over the last 50 years is many men have stopped carrying pocketknives. This is not to say no men still carry a pocketknife, but I believe the number has dropped precipitously since I was a child.

There are probably practical reasons for the change. Our society was much more rural 50 or 60 years ago, and having a pocketknife in the front pocket of your pants was necessary for a couple hundred reasons. It might be to cut the string on a box wrapped with twine, or the opening of an envelope. It could be used in an emergency when a screwdriver was not available, or when a splinter needed to be removed from a thumb. It could cut off the end of a cigar so when lit, it would

"draw" better. It would cut the insulation off an electric wire that needed to be spliced, or even remove the skin off an apple. It had hundreds of purposes.

For my granddad, the major use of a pocketknife was to whittle on a piece of wood. No, he did not carve anything specific nor was he an artist. He simply carried a small piece of wood in his pocket and when he sat under the shade tree after dinner, he would "whittle" shavings while he enjoyed after dinner conversations or the setting of the sun. Whittling allowed him to keep his hands busy while his brain and heart could relax. He taught me to whittle, and I still enjoy it today. Sometimes I think most of what I know I learned under that shade tree listening to my grandfather's thoughts, while we whittled.

I have a pocketknife my dad bought for me on my tenth birthday. It is in my tacklebox, so it is available if I need it when fishing. My mother gave me an ivory handled pocketknife which is the one I utilize when I whittle. I keep the edge razor sharp and over the course of my life there is no telling how many trees I have turned into shavings using that one single knife.

Not many men carry a pocketknife these days. A fella cannot carry one into a school, governmental building, or on an airplane. The world has changed, and I understand the reasons why restrictions are in place.

They are reasonable and appropriate. It is an evolution in our society. It is a new "norm." Is that part of the reason why men do not carry pocketknives, or is it simply a tool which is no longer necessary? Does it needlessly take up space in our pocket and is it rarely used? Who knows the reason, it just happened.

Before I leave this world, there will be many more cultural shifts. Not sure I will welcome them all.

I do hope it is always the norm to open the door for a lady, to address elders as "sir or ma'am," and to shake hands with a man when you see him.

I hope looking a man in the eye when conducting business is always important, and keeping your word has meaning and purpose.

No matter what the rest of the world does, I will keep whittling and using my pocketknife. It may be a relic by the time it gets passed down to one of the grandchildren; maybe to the point where someone will have to explain what the utensil was used for.

I hope the important parts of our culture never change, but I fear they will, and it saddens me.

Thought for the day: Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.

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

sam@hcnews.com

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Offices to close for Labor Day holiday

Staff Reports

Businesses and governmental offices across Coryell County will join the rest of the nation on Monday, September 4, celebrating Labor Day.

Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and became a federal holiday in 1894.

The holiday has also become synonymous with the end of summer.

Closings in the immediate area include:

GOVERNMENT

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

SCHOOLS

No local schools will hold

classes and administrations offices will be closed on Monday. The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville will be closed on Monday.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Extraco Bank, Cadence, Educators Credit Union, The First National Bank of Gatesville, The First National Bank of Evant, and The First National Bank of Oglesby will be closed on Monday.

POST OFFICES

All local post offices will be closed on Monday.

LIBRARY

The Gatesville Public Library will be closed on Monday.

NEWSPAPER

The Gatesville Messenger will be closed on Monday.

Coryell County man arrested for animal cruelty

Press Release - Coryell County Sheriff's Office

A Coryell County man was jailed Thursday, August 17, facing 14 counts of Cruelty to Livestock Animals.

Colton Hale, 34, is charged with abandoning 14 horses after a property owner called the Coryell County Sheriff's Office to report that the horses' owners had not been seen since May 2 and she could not afford to care for the horses. The property owner who initially called the Sheriff's Office on the evening of August 3, said three of the horses had died and she did not want any additional deaths, but she could not afford to feed the animals and the horses' owners were not replying to her attempts at contact.

The CCSO Livestock Deputy met with the property owner on the morning of August 4 to look at the horses. At the property near Topsey, the deputy observed "several round bale feeders on the property that were empty," as well as "three troughs filled with water and no grass anywhere on the property." There also was no hay observed. Walking through the property,

the deputy observed a large brown horse carcass on the north side of the house. The property owner also advised the deputy there were two other horse carcasses in the northwest pasture.

The 11 surviving horses were in "bad shape," with bones seen protruding from their heads, ribs, and hips.

Based on the exigent circumstances of the horses' living conditions and body conditions, the inability to contact the animals' owners and the property owner's inability to properly care for the horses, the property owner released the horses to the Sheriff's Office for safekeeping.

The 11 surviving horses were removed from the property and taken into Sheriff's Office custody on August 5.

The deputy attempted multiple times to contact the owners of the horses with no success.

On August 8, a local veterinarian examined the 11 surviving horses and assigned each a Body Condition Score (BCS). The BCS System is a scale ranging from 1-9 out of 9 with the average or ideal horse weight as a 5 out of 9. Thinner horses score low-

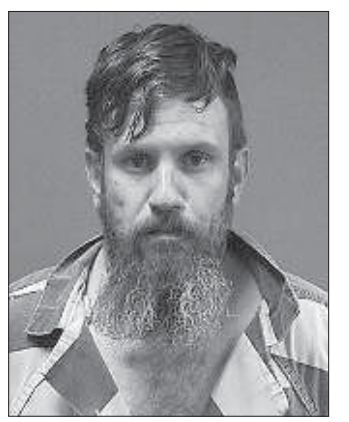
er while fatter horses score higher than 5. The veterinarian found the horses to be "very thin, exhibiting signs of malnourishment." He further stated that he would consider two of the horses to be emaciated and scored each of them a 1/9.

Based off the deputy's observations and the veterinarian's assessment, which established Probable Cause, the Coryell County Sheriff's Office issued 14 arrest warrants for Hale alleging Cruelty to Livestock Animals (Abandonment - Failure to provide necessary food, water, or care). Each charge is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 1 year in county jail and/or a fine up to \$4,000.

Hale was taken into custody Thursday in Gatesville and jailed on bonds totaling \$35,000. He was released on bond from the Coryell County Jail on Saturday, August 19.

The investigation into this matter is ongoing, and additional arrests are anticipated.

"These horses were in a terrible situation, and I am happy they have been removed and are receiving the care and attention they de-



COURTESY PHOTO

Colton Hale

serve," Coryell County Sheriff Scott A. Williams said. "Sometimes the ideas of neglect or cruelty to animals can be subjective, but this is an apparent case of cruelty through abandonment when the owners made the decision to stop providing even basic care for these horses. We have zero-tolerance for cruelty to animals, whether they be livestock or pets, in Coryell County, and I think this situation illustrates that. Our only hope is that these animals continue to improve and can live out their lives in loving, caring homes."

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| Best Bank Teller (Include Bank Name) | Best Massage Therapist |
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| Best Chiropractor | Best Real Estate Agent |
| Best Dentist | Best Teacher/Educator |
| Best Doctor | Best Veterinarian |
| Best Financial/Advisor | Best Waitstaff (Entire Staff) |
| Best Hair Stylist | |



Readers choice:
The Best of Gatesville is a consumer promotion sponsored by the Gatesville Messenger. Ballots will be published until Aug. 26 for you the reader to cast your vote, telling us what you think are the "Best of" in Gatesville.

Contest Rules:
1. One entry per person. Entries must be on original newspaper ballots, no machine copies will be counted. Ballots must be at least 50% completed. Name, address and phone number must be filled in to be counted. Multiple ballots that appear to be from the same person will not be counted.
2. Final decisions on ballots, categories and winning entries will be made by the Gatesville Messenger.
3. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. (A random drawing of entries will determine the \$50 winner.)

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| Best Accounting Service | Best Fitness Facility | Best Mattress Store | Best Veterinary Clinic |
| Best Antique Store | Best Flooring Company | Best Meat Store | Best Wedding/Event Venue |
| Best Apartments | Best Florist | Best Medical Clinic | |
| Best Auto Paint & Body | Best Furniture Store | Best Music Lessons | |
| Best Auto Repair Shop | Best Grocery Store | Best New Car Dealership | |
| Best Bank | Best Gun Dealer | Best Nursing Home | |
| Best Barber Shop | Best Hair Salon | Best Oil Change | |
| Best Bed and Breakfast | Best Hardware/Building Store | Best Pest Control | |
| Best Boutique/Retail Store | Best Home Decor | Best Pet Grooming | |
| Best Car Wash/Detail | Best Home Health Agency | Best Pharmacy | |
| Best Carpet Cleaning Service | Best Retirement/Assistant Living | Best Physical Therapy | |
| Best Computer Repair | Best Insurance Agency | Best Place of Worship | |
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**Hurry, entries must be received by 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 31, 2023**

Coryell County 4-H to host Color Run Kickoff Sept. 9

Staff Reports

The community is invited to learn more about 4-H at the Coryell County 4-H Color Run annual kickoff event to be held Saturday, Sept. 9. The event will take place at the Gatesville Civic Center located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., and booths will open at 9 a.m.

This year the Ambassador team is hosting its second annual color run for families to participate together. This

free event will feature the color run at 8 a.m., followed by 4-H club informational booths. Each club in the county will set up tables for families to browse through and inquire about 4-H opportunities in the club and county.

The Ambassador Team will offer a short presentation about common 4-H projects and answer questions from their 4-H experiences.

The event will conclude with a free hotdog meal.

Bryson's Sno-Dizzle will be set up onsite. The first 50 people to register will receive a free small snow cone.

For more information and to register for the event, visit the Coryell County AgriLife website at <https://coryell.agrilife.org>. The registration link is found under the Upcoming Events and Registration tab.

For further questions contact Becky Coward, Coryell County 4-H Agent at 254-865-2414.



Pictured above from left to right: Lawson Mooney, Aaron Hunter, Adrian Smith, Gabe Charles, LJ Hall, Sean Aguilar, and Georg Cleverley.

Benefit fundraiser for Lyndsie Bergman set for Aug. 26

Staff Reports

There will be a benefit fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 26 for Lyndsie Bergman to help the family with medical expenses. The fundraiser will take place at Vintage Royalty Boutique and will begin

at 8 a.m. and will continue until everything is sold out.

The fundraiser will include various baked goods including pies, cookies, and cupcakes. There will be raffle tickets along with auction items and more.

For more information or to donate to the cause contact Karen at 254-223-0608, Kaylie at 254-223-3101, or Candice at 254-223-2801.

Vintage Royalty Boutique is located at 2401 TX-36 suite 100 in Gatesville.

Football team special guests at Exchange Club weekly meeting

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Exchange Club held its weekly meeting on Thursday, Aug. 17. The meeting began at 7 a.m., followed by reciting the pledges and an opening prayer by Lauren Morrell. Special guests included

Aaron Hunter, head football coach, along with five captains of the Gatesville High School football team. The team visited the Exchange Club to give insight into themselves and strategies for the upcoming season.

Team members in attendance included LJ Hall, Adrian Smith, Gabe Charles, Sean Aguilar, and Lawson Mooney.

The Gatesville Exchange Club meets every Thursday at Junction on Route 36 for breakfast at 7 a.m.

The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of August 17 - 22. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Aug. 17
9:06 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.

3:37 p.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.

4:24 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1000 block of Mountain Road.

8:24 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2000 block of E. Main Street.

Aug. 18
6:03 a.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of Hamilton Drive.

7:35 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 2000 block of Business Hwy 36.

12:12 a.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of Cedar Ridge Rd.

3:26 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 11000 block of S. State Highway 36.

Aug. 19
12:13 a.m., suspicious ac-

tivity was reported in the 3000 block of S. State Highway 36.

1:11 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 8000 block of FM 2412.

1:20 p.m., a hit & run was reported in the 2000 block of S. State Highway 36.

1:25 p.m., a missing person was reported in the 2000 block of S. State Highway 36.

Aug. 20
2:23 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 900 block of E. Leon Street.

4:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1900 block of E. Main Street.

4:30 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 5000 block of S. State Highway 36.

8:37 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 2000 block of Ransom Road.

Aug. 21
1:24 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 5000 block of FM 107.

6:59 a.m., a hit and run was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.

3:28 p.m., suspicious ac-

tivity was reported in the 2000 block of S. State Highway 36.

9:55 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of S. 14th Street.

Aug. 22
5:22 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2000 block of S. State Highway 36.

9:13 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of Elm St.

10:06 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 800 block of Old Osage Road.

4:58 p.m., a fight was reported in the 7000 block of S. State Highway 36.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Aug. 17
8:22 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported recovered in the 700 block of S. 53rd St.

10:27 a.m., a missing person was reported in the 100 block of Western Ridge Road.

12:15 p.m., a major ac-

cident was reported in the 11,000 block of N. Highway 36.

7:01 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 200 block of Pine Circle.

Aug. 18
6:39 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 900 block of Greenbriar Road.

10:29 a.m., a theft was reported in the 3000 block of Greenbriar Road.

12:03 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1400 block of S Hwy 36.

8:28 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported recovered on FM 107 and FM 1829.

Aug. 19
12:35 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 800 block of CR 127.

11:50 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 2000 block of W. Highway 84.

12:12 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 2000 block of Pine Circle.

3:07 p.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported in the 700 block of FM 116.

Aug. 20
1:31 a.m., a disturbance/noise complaint was reported in the 4000 block of FM 1113.

2:38 p.m., lost property was reported in the 100 block of River Ridge Road.

6:31 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 3000 block of FM 116.

7:59 p.m., a missing child was reported on FM 310.

Aug. 21
8:32 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on TX Highway 236 and CR 341.

9:51 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of CR 159.

1:57 p.m., a grass fire was

reported in the 15000 block of FM 107.

7:36 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1600 block of CR 245.

Aug. 22
9:15 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Elm Street.

10:10 a.m., a grass fire was reported in the 800 block of Old Osage Road.

10:38 a.m., vandalism was reported in the 1100 block of FM 1829.

5 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 7000 block of S. Highway 36.

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Coryell County

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Elder Hugh Montgomery, pastor; 4555 FM 1690, Gatesville; Worship 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
CALVARY
Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 & FM 116; Sunday Bible study 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
CANAAN
Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
COLD SPRINGS
Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
EASTWOOD
Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST EVANT
Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' & youth Bible study 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST FLAT
9775 TX-36, Gatesville; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays - Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE
912 E. Main St.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
Jeremy Sanders, Pastor; 120 College Ave.; Sunday School 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesdays - supper at 5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth Group 6 p.m., Prayer meeting 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY
Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
HARMONY
A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.
HAY VALLEY
3110 Hay Valley Road; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. AWANA children's ministry Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible Study for men & women on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
JONESBORO
Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.
KING
Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY
Royse T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK
David Crosby, Interim Pastor; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evening Youth & Children's Bible Study 6 p.m.
MOUNTAIN
Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor;

6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.
OSAGE
Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
2082 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m.
PECAN GROVE
6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PIDCOKE
Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.
PLEASANT VALLEY
Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL
One mile north of Evant, Hwy. 281; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PURMELA BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor: Brenden Hough; 875 FM 932, Purmela, TX 76566; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
SWEET HOME
511 N. 14th, Gatesville; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday worship 7 p.m.
SPANISH
Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Zeazy Dr., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
TRINITY
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor; 1506 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday - activities for adults, youth, & children 6:30 p.m.; 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.
TURNERSVILLE
Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.
WESTVIEW
Interim Pastor: Eddie Taylor; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
WHITE HALL
Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.
WHITE MOUND
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558. For more info. & location, call 254-865-5908.
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Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. & Wednesday-Friday at 7 a.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST CEDAR RIDGE
Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
EVANT
Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W. Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
FORT GATES
4605 St. Hwy. 36 S., Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
GATESVILLE
Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.
LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO
2413 E. Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.
MIDWAY
1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove; Sundays - worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays - Bible Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.
PEARL
6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE
Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.
LUTHERAN IMMANUEL
David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd., Copperas Cove; Sunday Bible Study 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN
Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
ST. PAUL
Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday School 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.
METHODIST BETHLEHEM UNITED
2 miles north of Irel & on FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays.
EVANT
235 US-281, Evant; Dennis Dutton, Pastor; Sunday worship 10 a.m.
FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE
2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children & Adult Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:30 p.m.
OGLESBY UNITED
Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.
PIDCOKE
Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy. 116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday worship service 10 a.m.; 254-677-6242.
MORMON CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
206 S. 26th St., Gatesville; Sacrament services Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN LIFE
Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday services 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7 p.m.
CORYELL COMMUNITY
Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry & C3 Student Ministry.
CORYELL FELLOWSHIP
Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901.
COVER2COVER MINISTRIES
Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wednesdays 6 p.m. 407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5, Gatesville.

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Form 50-876

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §26.06(b-2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$	0.37328	per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$	0.35328	per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$	0.51327	per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for CORYELL COUNTY from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that CORYELL COUNTY may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that CORYELL COUNTY is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON 09/12/2023 09:00 AM at Coryell County Commissioners Court, 800 E. Main St., Gatesville.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, CORYELL COUNTY is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Coryell County Commissioners Court of CORYELL COUNTY at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: Commissioners Ryan Basham, Kyle Matthews, Keith Taylor, Scott Weddle

AGAINST the proposal: County Judge Roger Miller

PRESENT and not voting: _____

ABSENT: _____
Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by CORYELL COUNTY last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by CORYELL COUNTY this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.39994	\$0.37328	6.66% decrease
Average homestead taxable value	\$166,172	\$187,212	12.66% increase
Tax on average homestead	\$664	\$698	5.12% increase
Total tax levy on all properties	\$13,003,798	\$14,344,334	10.3% increase

(Include the following text if these no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate adjustments apply for the taxing unit)

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

State Criminal Justice Mandate (counties)

The _____ County Auditor certifies that _____ County has spent \$ _____ in the previous 12 months for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. _____ County Sheriff has provided _____ information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for the reimbursement of such costs.

This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by _____ /\$100.

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures (counties)

The CORYELL COUNTY spent \$ 457,745 from July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 on indigent health care compensation procedures at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance.

For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$ 136,421.

This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.00369 /\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures (counties)

The CORYELL COUNTY spent \$ 567,962 from July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure, and to fund the operations of a public defender's office under Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedure, less the amount of any state grants received. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$ 53,034.

This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.00069 /\$100.

Eligible County Hospital Expenditures (cities and counties)

The _____ spent \$ _____ from July 1 _____ to June 30 _____ on expenditures to maintain and operate an eligible county hospital.

For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's eligible county hospital expenditures is \$ _____.

This increased the no-new revenue maintenance and operations rate by _____ /\$100.

(If the tax assessor for the taxing unit maintains an internet website)

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for CORYELL COUNTY at (254) 248-3152 or tac@corryelltax.com, or visit https://www.coryellcountytx.com/property/calculation.

OBITUARIES

Floyd Coplen

August 16, 1949 - August 18, 2023



Floyd Coplen, age 74, of Gatesville, passed away on Friday, August 18, 2023.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Thursday, August 24, 2023, at McGregor Cemetery with Pastor Albert Fuentes officiating.

Floyd Edward Coplen was born August 16, 1949, to the late Otto and Doris Ashby Coplen in Fort Worth. He attended school in McGregor, graduating from McGregor High School in 1967. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1969 to 1973, serving in Vietnam. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he served as past Commander of V.F.W. Post 8230. He retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 2010. In his spare time, Floyd enjoyed karaoke and

playing poker with friends. He was preceded in death by his former wife, Patty Coplen, and daughter Holly Dienst.

He is survived by his wife, Ernestine Fincher Coplen; daughter, Angela Coplen; sons, Charles Coplen, and Shorty Fincher; brother, Vernon Lee Coplen; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Shannon Utley

March 27, 1962 - August 17, 2023



Shannon Utley, age 61, of Gatesville, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, August 17, 2023.

Memorial services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, September 1, at Scott's Funeral Home with Pastor Chris Barrera officiating.

Shannon Kay Utley was born on March 27, 1962, to the late Bill and Esther Argo Brown in Bay City, Texas. She grew up in West Columbia, raised her children in Arkansas, and returned to her home in Texas. She was a caretaker for others whose smile brought joy and comfort to all who needed her. She ensured her children, grandchildren, siblings, and gaggle of nieces and nephews always knew they had a soft place to land. Shannon was always ready with an open heart to speak Jesus over every situation that presented itself. She brought the same love, faith, and compassion into her professional life as a Certified Nursing Assistant by ensuring her residents were

treated with respect and grace.

She was welcomed to Heaven by her parents; three brothers, Richard, Bobby, and Tommy; and four sisters, Sandra, Ginger, Jean, and Lou Bell.

Shannon is survived by her husband, Kenneth, of ten years; her children, Amberly, Randy, Tiffany, Stephanie, and Johnathan; brothers, Melvin, David, and Phillip; and sisters Dee Ann, Patti Ray, Wanda, and Vickie; 21 grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Turnersville Cemetery Assn. meeting slated Sept. 5

Staff Reports

The Turnersville Cemetery Association will conduct its third quarterly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 5. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Turnersville Community Center.

The Turnersville Community Center serves residents of the rural community of Turnersville (originally Buchanan Springs). Those interred at the cemetery include many past residents, with ranchers, farmers, mer-

chants, physicians, teachers, ministers, and military veterans among them.

A cemetery association was formed in 1900 but disbanded in the 1930s. The Turnersville Cemetery Association reorganized in 1953 and continues to care for the burial ground. Today, the cemetery is one of the few remaining vestiges of the Turnersville community.

The community center is located at 8115 FM 182 in Turnersville.

CCGS to hold program on Pioneer Genealogy Website

Staff Reports

The Coryell County Genealogical Society will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m., at the Gatesville Public Library. The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

A program on the pioneer genealogy website created by Cyndi Ingle will be presented by Caroline Windham.

Long before there were subscription genealogical websites, such as Ancestry.com, the genealogical presence on the internet was dominated by free websites. Cyndi's List was one of the first; and it was a forerunner of all internet search engines.

The unique concept of list-

ing all genealogy research sites at a single, convenient internet site was a popular introduction to using the World Wide Web for genealogical research 25 years ago. Today, the website has links to nearly 320,000 research possibilities, and it is still free.

Genealogists have traveled from courthouse to courthouse in search of their ancestors for centuries. Using internet technology changed genealogical research dramatically.

The Coryell County Genealogical Society is hoping many will attend the informative trip into internet history.

Karen Dick family in need of donations

Staff Reports

Karen Dick, a local of Gatesville needs donations for her family during her hospital stay, as medical expenses are not covered by insurance.

Dick experienced a heart attack in the early morning on Monday, Aug. 14 and will have to undergo bypass surgery, along with a long road of recovery ahead of her.

Dick is currently hospitalized in the Intensive Care

Unit at Providence in Waco. Susan Mitcham, Dick's daughter, will be at her bedside through her recovery and has organized a fundraiser on GoFundMe for donations.

To donate to the family

visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/p7abne?utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet-first-launch&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville resident Karen Dick holding a bouquet of flowers.

MOUND NEWS

Jacklyn Pullen competes in rodeo



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Miss Jacklyn Pearl Pullen, of Rock Wall, great-niece of Barbara Hopson, competed in a rodeo in Commerce, Texas on Friday night. Jacklyn is a break-away roper and caught her first calf in the rodeo Friday evening. Jacklyn is the daughter of Kyle and Holly Pullen.

The Hay Valley 4H Club had their program planning meeting for the 2023-24 school year at the home of

David and Pam Hopson. Robert and Carolyn Blakley attended the Coryell County Youth Fair fundraiser Saturday evening in Gatesville.

On Sunday, Robert and Carolyn Blakley moved their daughter, Emma Blakley, back to College Station to start her senior year.

Pam Duncan visited Sunday afternoon with Martha Lawhorn.

Kathi Taylor has returned home from Los Angeles, CA, where she attended a memorial service and visited friends from where she used to live.

Elli Kinnear started Acro Class at Dynamic Dance Company on Wednesday, Aug. 9.

Jenson Kinnear started

MMA at Dynamic Dance Company on Thursday, Aug. 10.

Those who had birthdays this month were Blayze Fisher, Gaylene Smith, Santanna Bay, Neil Fisher, Chris Miller, Emily Hanua, Marty Foster, Bobby McHargue, Sherry Nichols, Hian Davidson, Kathy Zacha, Frank Jaworski, Miranda Allison, Nancy Botkins, Brian McCorkle, Kyle McClellan, Jana Latham, Rena Mitchell, Sissy Leonard, Robert Fowler, Grayson Petty, Jaci Watts, Lois Fulton, Liz McCorkle, Elizabeth Schoenewolf, Shilah Heavin, Jozie Wolff, Julia Dixon, and Jonathan Schoenewolf.

PEARL NEWS

Fundraiser for 'His Kids' still underway



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Happy 29th birthday, Linda Ray! (August 26, 2023.) The bid items and sheets are out at the Pearl Church of Christ for the Annual Atchley Fish Fry and Silent Auction happening on Sept. 3.

Linda has worked very hard the past few weeks in getting things ready, and she says to tell everyone to feel free to drop by to peruse the plethora of auction items and make those generous bids! All proceeds benefit "His Kids" in Lampasas, a Christian youth organization started by Richard Williams, aka Big R, over thirty years ago.

Big R passed away several years ago, but many of the original "His Kids" make sure that this ministry is alive and well today. Big R strived to share the love of Jesus wherever he went, and he especially wanted all children to know that God loves them! There is so much anyone at Pearl Church of Christ could tell you about Richard Williams, a DPS trooper and a giant of man with a heart as big as he was. Big R always tried to meet not only their spiritual needs, but also their physical needs, such as food, clothing - even music lessons, etc. Even now when the kids meet, they have a meal and a Bible Study. The monies also ensure that the kids can go to a Christian Camp every summer. Big R would be so happy to know that "His Kids" continues and hopefully will for many more years to come!

The next Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Bluegrass event is Sept. 9. The Pearl Church of Christ will have their 128th Homecoming

and Reunion. Church begins at 10:30 a.m., and dinner on the ground will follow. Everyone is invited to all these Pearl events!

Linda Ray got a strange phone call this week. Apparently, Mrs. McDonald (we'll call her MM, as discretion is required when speaking of the terrible two-piece) wanted to know if she still had the bikini at the bookstore. Now, remember how hot it has been and will be in the foreseeable future, and remember the description of the teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini. The only people that we know that can fit into the atrocious attire would be MM, MR, and KP (you know who you are!). Come to think of it, Linda said she heard a huge thud when MM asked about the scandalous suit. Could that have been Mr. MM as he hit the floor when he overheard that question? Could it be that he is wondering who will gain possession of those terrible togs? There could be a big bruha-ha brewing in Pearl over the taboo attire. Let me know if you should happen to see a very tiny lady running around in a teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini! I can't wait to see what happens next!

This week's Bible verse comes from 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." AKJV

Please pray for rain and cooler weather, our country, and our schools!

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.

Donations needed for Christmas at the Meadows

Staff Reports

RehabLiving at the Meadows wants to make Christmas special for their residents this year by participating in a Christmas project that will involve various Christmas lights to be donated.

The project will consist

of filling the entire courtyard with lots of Christmas lights and outdoor decorations for residents, families, and staff to enjoy throughout the season.

Items to be donated include electric and solar outdoor string or stake lights, standing yard décor, inflatables, wreaths, indoor

décor, Christmas trees, ornaments, garland with or without lights, and indoor Christmas village pieces with accessories.

RehabLiving at the Meadows would appreciate all donations to be in good working condition with all parts accessible.

Donations are to be

dropped off by Wednesday, Nov. 15 at the RehabLiving at the Meadows facility. For more information contact 254-404-2500.

The RehabLiving at the Meadows is located at 110 Chicktown Road in Gatesville.

Pidcoke Methodist Church to hold annual yard sale

Submitted Item

Pidcoke Methodist Church of Gatesville is having its annual community-wide yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sale covers an acre of church grounds with various appliances, furniture,

electronics, clothing, housewares, and much more.

A church spokesperson said that the church has been holding this yard sale for over 10 years. It is the major fundraiser for community outreach programs. The church supports food

banks in Gatesville and two other surrounding towns. Pidcoke Methodist Church also supports the Methodist Children's Home and other projects that target community and individual needs.

Vendors are always wel-

come, and there is no charge for setup. Anyone with questions can contact Pidcoke Methodist Church by email at pidcokeadmin@gmail.com.

Pidcoke Methodist Church is located at 11230 FM 116.

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION
 Sale Every Saturday • Cattle at Noon
Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023
 Jody & Robin Thomas (254)223-2958

No. 1 Steers	
Under 300 lb.	265-325
300-400 lb.	265-325
400-500 lb.	260-310
500-600 lb.	240-290
600-700 lb.	225-255
700-800 lb.	210-245
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	250-310
300-400 lb.	250-290
400-500 lb.	235-265
500-600 lb.	220-260
600-700 lb.	200-255
700-800 lb.	185-210
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	105-117
Low Yielding	85-95
Fats	100-115
Thin & Shelly	65-80
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	105-132
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	1850-2400
Young Fair	1400-1850
Aged Pairs	Split & weighed
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	1100-1950
Number of Head	561

Hwy. 36, Gatesville (254) 865-9121
www.coryellcommission.com

Righteous Roots to hold Women's Life Recovery Class

Staff Reports

Righteous Roots is be-

ginning its Women's Life Recovery Class on Monday, Aug. 28, which will begin

at 6:30 p.m., with weekly meetings to follow every Monday.

real estate auction WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS worldwide real estate auction JLL

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 5.45+/-ac of commercial land located just off I-10. The parcel is highly visible off of I-10 with approx. 50,000 cars passing each day. Located just an hour from Houston. Well and septic onsite.

Bid Online Only Sept 18 - 20 at auctionnetwork.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

032
MISCELLANEOUS

HEAD START
TAKING APPLICATIONS!! (No Transportation Provided)
Gatesville Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Head Start is a pre-school offering excellent educational opportunities along with medical, dental, developmental, and nutritional benefits at no cost. The Head Start approach of individualized care and guidance is well suited to helping children with disabilities. Children between the ages of 3 and 5 may be eligible. There is *no charge* for participation in Head Start. Pick up your application now at the Head Start Center at 1105 Saunders Street. For more information, call your local center at 254-865-5433, or Hill Country Community Action Association at 325/372-5167.

HEAD START
ESTA ACEPTANDO APLICACIONES!! (Ningun Transporte Proporcionado)
Gatesville Head Start esta aceptando aplicaciones para el año 2023-2024. Head Start es una escuela para niños de edad 3-5 años que califican. Head Start ofrece oportunidades excelentes para educación y también beneficios de médico, dental, desarrollo, y de alimento. Head Start ofrece mucha ayuda para niños y familias. *No cuesta nada* para que su niño atienda el programa de Head Start. Puede usted recoger ahora una aplicación para solicitar un puesto en Head Start. Para más información llame a la Head Start, 1105 Saunders Street, # del telefono: 254-865-5433, or Hill Country Community Action at 325/372-5167.

037
HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING | **Coryell HEALTH**

Assisted/Independent Living:
• CNA – FT, Night shift
*\$4,000 SIGN ON BONUS
• CNA-PRN all Shifts
• CMA - PRN

Business Office:
• Patient Account Specialist - FT

Home Health:
• RN – FT
• PCA-PRN – for Gatesville, Copperas Cove, and Hamilton

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

Medical Clinic:
• LVN – FT
• Certified Medical Assistant/CCMA – FT
• LVN, RN, or CMA – General Surgery Clinic
• CMA Pain Management
• Audiologist - FT

Culinary:
• Chef - Cook Assistant – FT
• Executive Chef

EMS:
• Paramedic – FT/PRN
*\$8,000 SIGN ON BONUS
• EMT – PRN

Emergency Department:
• RN – FT & PRN

LAB:
• MLT – PRN
• Phlebotomist Weekend Shift

Med/ Surg:
• CNA – FT All Shifts
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• RN Charge Nurse – FT Mon, Wed & Fri, 4:45am-8:00pm
• Home Dialysis RN

Surgery:
• Operating Room Scrub Technician – FT
• Surgery Housekeeper – FT
• Certified Central Sterilization Technician – FT
• Circulating RN
• PACU RN - FT
• Cath Lab RN - FT

***SIGN ON BONUSES W/1-YEAR COMMITMENT**
OTHER STIPULATIONS MAY APPLY. ASK FOR DETAILS.

BENEFITS OFFERED:
• Competitive compensation • Paid Vacation & Sick Leave
Matching 457B investments • Tuition Reimbursement
Health, Dental, Life and supplemental Insurances. EOE.

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Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org

032
MISCELLANEOUS

NOW HIRING

• MDS Coordinator – FT
• Treatment Nurse – FT
• Occupational Therapist – PRN
• RN – FT & PRN; All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
• LVN – FT & PRN; All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing

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099
PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY
COURT BRANCH
MILWAUKEE COUNTY

In RE the Paternity of: S.R.G.

State of Wisconsin,
Case No. 2019PA1183PJ

Case Code: 40502

Petitioner, -vs- Angelica E. Garcia Respondent-Mother,
-and- Eugene H. Guenzler, Respondent-Father

NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO MODIFY CUSTODY

To: Angelica Garcia (n/k/a Reimer)
53317 Drum Song Trail, Unit 1
Fort Hood, Texas 76544

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned will bring the following motion on for hearing before the Family Court Commissioner or his or her designee at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or Via Zoom on 10/25/2023 at 8:15 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

The Respondent-Father, Eugene H. Guenzler, by his Attorneys Halling & Cayo, S.C. by Sherre K. Chevalier, hereby moves the Court, pursuant to Wis. Stat. 767.451 for the following orders:

1. An order awarding the Respondent-Father sole custody as to school and education decisions.

2. For such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable under the facts and circumstances of this case.

The reasons for this motion are more fully set forth in the Affidavit of Eugene H. Guenzler, filed contemporaneously.

Date: June 8, 2023

SHERRE K. CHEVALIER
State Bar No.1115508
Halling & Cayo, S.C.
320 East Buffalo Street, #700
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Telephone: (414) 271-3400
00030309

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville TX 76528, is having an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at storageauctions.com beginning Monday, September 11, 2023 at 11A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Bidding sale will end on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 11A.M. Units to be sold: CHRISTOPHER WHITE, RICKI ELLISON, MACEO BRANCH, JENNIFER GARZA, EDRIK GUTERREZ, VERONICA PORTER, JACKIE KEEFER. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools and misc.

00030311

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON

RECORDS ARCHIVE FEE PLAN

Pursuant to Local Government Code 118.025, Coryell County hereby gives notice that a public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on August 22, 2023, in the Coryell County Commissioners' Courtroom, 801 E. Leon Street, Gatesville, Texas, to receive public input on the Records Archive Fee Plan, a written plan for funding the preservation and restoration of the County Clerk's records archive in Coryell County. At the hearing, interested persons are entitled to speak and present evidence for or against the Records Archive Fee Plan.

00030280

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

6x10 Storage Unit Auction to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale will be held at 4604 S. Hwy. 36 in Gatesville, unit #91. Bidding will open September 5, 2023 at 10 a.m. Cleaning deposit required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at anytime before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder.

Property includes contents of space of the following tenant : Rebecca Hokanson. Miscellaneous items, dog pen, holiday decor.

00030310

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on the proposed budget for Coryell County Fiscal Year 2024 will be held on September 12, 2023 in the County Commissioners Court, 800 E. Main, Suite A, Gatesville, Texas at 9:00 AM. A copy of the proposed budget will be on display in the County Clerks office in Gatesville and online at www.coryellcounty.org beginning August 16, 2023. Additionally, public comments may be submitted electronically by emailing coryellbudget24@gmail.com. 00030312

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

No.23-10865
IN THE ESTATE OF
EDITH INEZ ARNOLD A/
K/A EDITH
INEZ FREEMAN ARNOLD,
DECEASED
IN THE COUNTY COURT
OF
CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Edith Inez Freeman Arnold, Deceased, were issued on August 9, 2023, in Cause No. 23-10865, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: John Wesley Arnold.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER, WHITAKER, P.C.
c/o: STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE
Attorney at Law
15 North Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501
DATED the 17th day of August, 2023.

BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER & WHITAKER, P.C.
STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE
Attorney for Applicant
State Bar No.: 24045552
15 N. Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501
Telephone: (254) 742-7311
Facsimile: (254) 774-9353
E-mail: stephenbrischke@bcswlaw.com
00030313

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

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE
DORI RAY MISTIC
P.O. BOX 246
COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
UNKNOWN STATE
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CORYELL
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF DETRA TRINIECE JACKSON, DECEASED, CAUSE NO 23-10858, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. EDWARD WILLIAM ANDERSON FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 2ND DAY OF JUNE, 2023, AN APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION SAID DETRA TRINIECE JACKSON, DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 28TH OF AUGUST, 2023, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME ABOVE MENTIONED TIME AND PLACE BY FILING A WRITTEN CONTESTING SUCH APPLICATION SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO DO SO. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 15th day of August, 2023.

JENNIFER NEWTON
CORYELL COUNTY CLERK
CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: VICKI LEE
00030316

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Solution for the puzzle that ran Aug. 19.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame recently welcomed to the stage the "Tri-Rivers Duo." The group, comprised of Richard Ray and Talon Keeney, entertained a large audience with Rock 'n' Roll Classics and gospel music. The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame holds programs on the third Friday of each month at the Gatesville City Auditorium located at 110 N. 8th Street.



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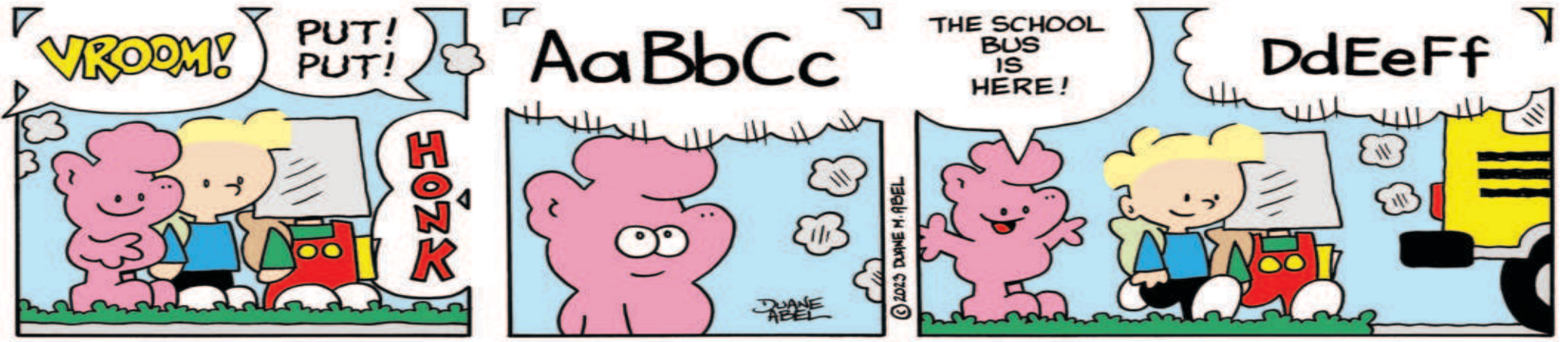
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Photo courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Dove Season to open Sept. 1

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Dove hunting in central Texas is a highly anticipated event by hunters. When September arrives, dove hunters will be found in the fields with a shotgun in hand ready to hunt some birds. Dove season is one of the most anticipated since it is the first season to open and kicks off for the other hunting seasons to come.

Dove season begins on Friday, Sept. 1, and ends on Sunday, Oct. 29. It starts up again on Dec. 15, 2023, and

ends on Jan. 14, 2024.

In Coryell County, the daily limit is 15 white-winged, mourning, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, to include no more than two white-tipped. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. Legal shooting hours are from one half-hour before sunrise to sunset.

There are seven species of doves and pigeons indigenous to Texas, of which only three (mourning dove, white-winged dove, and white-tipped dove) are cur-

rently hunted. Two species (red-billed pigeon and band-tailed pigeon) are currently listed as legal game birds by federal and state regulations but are not hunted in Texas due to limited numbers and distribution.

All migratory game bird hunters must have a valid hunting license.

For more information about dove season, those interested can visit the website for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department at <https://tpwd.texas.gov>.

Alpacas in North Texas



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

“We get a lot of shock and awe at how peaceful and serene this little spot is.”

Russell Foster changed out of his three-piece suit and put on his overalls. He and his wife both took retirement packages from their high-paying international jobs to settle down on a 23-acre farm near Aubrey in Denton County.

“We had this place and decided to do something with it,” says Russell. “We bought a couple of alpacas, and my wife wanted a little bit of lavender. I went down to a wholesaler and came back with 3000 lavender plants. The man who sold them to me said ‘you’re going to have the largest lavender farm in north Texas.’”

Russell’s place has lavender, pumpkins and Christmas trees. You can also do

alpaca yoga.

“You’re outdoors, you hear the birds sing. You’ve got a lot of nature all around you and as you’re in one of your yoga poses you may open your eyes and see an alpaca two inches away from your face staring at you. They don’t climb on you like goat yoga. They just look at you.”

The place is called TX-TURE farm.

“The goal here is to give people old-fashioned experiences that they may have never had before, such as the cutting of the Christmas trees.”

I asked Russell why he chose to have alpacas on his place.

“Things just happen, and

we roll with it, and it just ends up being a good thing. We chose alpacas because they are cute. They’re kind of the cosmetics for the property. Besides that, we fell in love with them.”

After the June bloom of the lavender, summer is a quiet time at the farm. Things pick up in the fall. That’s pumpkin season.

“I’m a hobby blacksmith, so we have the North Texas Blacksmith Association come here and we support veterans. On Veterans Day, November 11, we open the farm to people who want to try their hand at forging. Proceeds go to various veterans’ groups, including the Wounded Warrior Project.”

Christmas is a busy time. “We run the Paca Express, our little train that goes out to the Christmas trees, and the alpacas will be running around looking like reindeer.”

Although the farm has been open only two years, people are finding out about it.

“They get caught up in their daily lives as I used to, commuting to work, all that stress. What if you could come out for a weekend, take a picnic basket, sit in a grassy spot, and have alpacas all around you. That’s real peace.”

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Hornets return with revamped offense, sights set on playoff success

Gatesville Football schedule



8/25	Taylor	@7:30 p.m.
9/1	at Glen Rose	@7 p.m.
9/8	McGregor	@7:30 p.m.
9/15	Mexia	@7:30 p.m.
9/22	at Godley	@7 p.m.
9/29	Mineral Wells	@7 p.m.
10/6	at Conally	@7 p.m.
10/13	Salado	@7 p.m.
10/20	at Madisonville	@7 p.m.
10/27	Robinson	@7 p.m.
11/3	Open	

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Figuratively speaking, the personnel losses facing the Gatesville Hornets football team loom large as they head into the 2023 season.

Literally speaking, the returners loom even larger.

As they embark on a new season with a revamped offense, the Hornets will follow the lead - figuratively and literally - of their big boys up front.

Returning offensive line starters Tookie Jones, Zach Bryant, Gabriel Pollard, and Gabe Charles, along with first-year starter Logan Busch will lead the way for second-year running backs Rayshon Smith, LJ Hall and newcomer Zaviar Clater in the Hornets new run-oriented offense.

Defensively, an experienced secondary - led by all-state safety Lawson Mooney, Sean Aguilar, Colton Taylor, and Adrian Smith - and an underrated line will anchor the defense.

For second-year head coach Aaron Hunter, the hope is that it all adds up to Gatesville's first playoff win since 2012. Last sea-

son, a 7-3 regular season ended with a surprising 24-14 bi-district round loss to Smithville on a frigid night in Hutto.

The loss to Smithville was not the impetus for the Hornets offensive shift. But with an expectation of a future of playoff football, Hunter decided the personnel and timing were right to adopt an all-weather, "win-in-November" offense that embodies his blue-collar hometown.

"This offense fits Gatesville, Texas. It's the best thing we have done," Hunter said. "This is how Gatesville will be successful."

One year ago, the Hornets spread attack averaged over 370 yards and 28.5 points per game. They scored 43 in a win at Mexia, 56 in a win over Godley, 49 in defeating Salado, and 49 in a win over Robinson. Collectively and individually, it was their best offensive season in

years.

In his sophomore season, Smith rushed for 1,092 yards and scored 11 touchdowns while Hall added 292 yards and five touchdowns. In the win over Godley, Smith ran for 268 yards and scored 5 touchdowns while Hall shined in a 27-20 win over McGregor scoring a pair of touchdowns.

Also returning is quarterback Jacob Newkirk, who threw for 2,155 yards and 21 touchdowns en route to a First Team All-District selection in his first season as a starter.

"Man, I love Jacob to death," Hunter said. "Jacob got thrown into the fire last year."

A change in offensive philosophy might seem unnecessary but makes more than perfect sense when you consider not just who the Hornets have coming back but also realize who they lost.

While the bulk of their rushing yards returns, most of their receiving production does not. Gone are wide receivers Trevor Smith and Tyler Shea, and all-state tight end Kyle Shafer - a trio combined for 1,543 receiving yards and 18 receiving touchdowns in 2022.

"I don't know if we'll ever get a better receiving corp than what we had last year. It is so hard for us to roll out that kind of crew year after year after year," Hunter said.

While a change in philosophy and a crew of fresh faces at receiver might also appear to mean Newkirk won't be slinging it around this year, that also couldn't be further from the truth. This isn't a "three yards and a cloud of dust" offense.

"You know it's just going to be different. Hitting

the fullback in the flat for 20 yards, that's going to be the throw now instead of catching and reading a line-backer and running an RPO (run pass option)," Hunter added. "I think it's going to be really good. I think it will shock some people. Obviously, it's not going to be perfect, but I think it fits us."

After taking almost every snap in the shotgun in 2022, Newkirk will be under center and using a snap count in more than a decade, the Hornets will regularly utilize traditional fullbacks and tight ends. Hunter said that Dutch Nielsen and Amos Phillips have both seen time at fullback and brothers JT Coffman and Kaden Coffman have stood out at the tight end spot during fall camp.

With the introduction of a new system, Hunter and offensive coordinator Jacob Hunter have stressed the importance of execution, limiting turnovers, and being penalty-free. Said Hunter, "a first and 15 will kill you in this offense."

In their first scrimmage of the pre-season against Caldwell and Academy, the offense delivered as well as could be expected.

Rayshon Smith scored a pair of rushing touchdowns - including a 24-yard, tackle-breaking run against Caldwell. He averaged nine yards per carry in the scrimmage while Hall averaged 5 yards per carry. Clater picked up more than four yards when he carried the ball.

Newkirk threw for three touchdowns in the scrimmage with all three passing touchdowns coming on bootlegs and landing in the

hands of wide-open receivers.

In 68 plays of total offense, there were only two fumbled snaps and two false starts. Conversely, the Hornets snap count forced the defense to jump offsides three times.

Nielsen will also be featured on the defensive line along with Charles Kemnitz, Corey Burns, Nathan Elliott, and Tookie Jones - who will play both ways at times.

The versatile, hard-hitting sophomore Phillips, who is arguably the best pure athlete across the Gatesville athletic program, will also be tasked with playing line-backer - another position group decimated by graduation.

Last season's linebacking crew featured Ashtyn Cullley (three-year letterman), Thiele Alvarado (three-year letterman) and Mason Mooney (two-year letterman) meaning the Hornets will start fresh at the three linebacker positions.

"Amos is a natural at everything. He's also one of our best receivers and has probably the best hands on the team right now," said Hunter. "He has a knack for the ball and he's not at all scared to tackle."

Speaking of not "not at all scared to tackle", the Hornets defense will feature Lawson Mooney for one more year. A TSWA/Blue Bell all-state selection in



Gatesville Head Coach Aaron Hunter

COURTESY PHOTO OF CHRIS ALLMAN

2022, the Gatesville safety is receiving recognition as one of the state's best players ahead of his final season.

Mooney has been named to the prestigious Dave Campbell's Texas Football Class 4A Preseason All State Team along with being recognized on the Waco Tribune-Herald's Preseason Super Centex team.

"That's a big deal," said head coach Aaron Hunter of Mooney's DCTF selection. "For somebody in Gatesville, Texas to be in that list. Yeah. It's a big deal. That's awesome. And it's well deserved."

Last season Mooney had a remarkable 161 tackles including six for a loss. He also had a pair of interceptions, four pass breakups, and a quarterback sack on the defensive side. He scored a receiving touchdown in the Hornets season opening win over Taylor.

There is no official record for "opponents who needed help off the field" but Mooney is likely in conten-

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2023 FALL SPORTS PREVIEW – GATESVILLE ★ EVANT ★ JONESBORO ★ OGLESBY

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FROM PAGE B1

tion to be the all-time leader there as well with Aguilar giving him a run for his money.

Aguilar had 94 tackles, five interceptions and four pass break-ups in his junior season in 2022. Perhaps his best outing was in the win

over Salado when he had a game-sealing interception and also delivered a bone-crushing blow to an Eagles receiver inside the ten-yard line.

Taylor picked up 42 tackles and recovered two fumbles in ten varsity games last season while Smith is a bit of a Swiss-army knife for Hunter to use on both sides

of the ball.

Defensively, he had a pair of interception returns for touchdowns and also caught 22 passes for 190 yards and a touchdown on offense. As the Hornets primary kickoff return man, he averaged 27 yards per kick return including a 71-yard return against Connally.

Mooney, Aguilar, Charles,

Adrian Smith, Hall, Nielsen, and Logan Biggs will captain the Hornets this season as they face another stout schedule.

In Week Two they will travel to Glen Rose to face a Tigers team coming off of a state semi-finals run and in week five they will travel to Godley bent on some measure of revenge. The Wild-

cats started the 2022 season 2-5 including their 56-42 loss to the Hornets. From there they won five straight games and advanced to the regional semi-finals before losing to Monahans.

District 6-4A play begins at Connally this season and the Cougars are likely favored to repeat as champions. The Hornets will also travel to Madisonville to face a seasoned, athletic Mustang team that dealt the Hornets a 38-19 loss last year.

Salado – in their second year under Tom Westerberg – will be much improved and will visit Gatesville in Week 8. Robinson, under new head coach Chris Lancaster, come to Gatesville to wrap the regular season in Week Ten.

They will open the season on August 25 at home against Taylor. Last season, the Hornets defeated the Ducks 22-21 on the road in the season opener.



COURTESY PHOTO OF CHRIS ALLMAN

Gatesville Hornets Offensive line and running backs - L to R - Gabe Pollard, Zach Bryant, LJ Hall, Gabe Charles, Rayshon Smith, Tookie Jones, Xavier Clater, and Logan Busch.



COURTESY PHOTO OF CHRIS ALLMAN

Gatesville Hornets linemen and QB - L to R - Gabe Pollard, Zach Bryant, Jacob Newkirk (8), Gabe Charles, Tookie Jones, and Logan Busch.



COURTESY PHOTO OF CHRIS ALLMAN

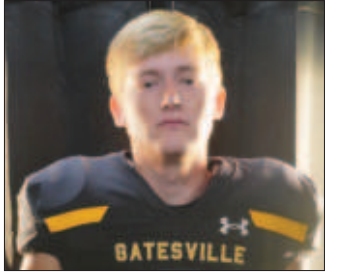
Gatesville Hornets Defensive line L-R Tookie Jones, Dutch Nielsen, Charles Kemnitz, Corey Burns, and Nathan Elliott.

HORNET CAPTAINS

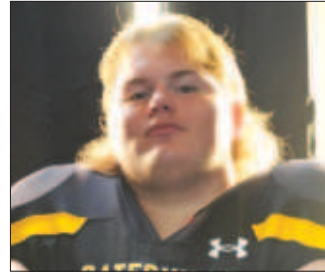
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS ALLMAN



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Dutch Nielsen



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Jonesboro Eagles football team

COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro Football looks forward to an exciting season

Staff Reports

None thinks practice is fun when the temperature is in triple digits, but despite the heat, Coach Eddie Gallegos believes his team has been working hard and is focused on having a successful season.

during the 2023 season, Coach Gallegos was quick to point out how important it is to maintain focus on the task at hand and working to get better every day. "Kids today have lots of distractions. The older kids set the tone on a team, and we are fortunate

to have some solid leadership," he added.

Seniors Jacob Cisneros and Demarcus Acoff were singled out by their coach as players to watch as the season unfolds.

Jonesboro has its season opener on Aug. 25 against Coolidge.

coming back on offense and five on defense and a lot of young kids who got varsity snaps last year," Gallegos said.

With a veteran team, there is optimism for victories to come in bunches.

When asked about the challenges his team faces

Last year's Jonesboro Eagles had an impressive 12-2 record which included a 4-0 District record, followed by a trip to the state playoffs with their season ending in a narrow 44-43 defeat to Irion County.

"We have five starters

Jonesboro Football schedule

8/10 Covington @6 p.m.	9/22 SFCS @7 p.m.
8/17 at Abbott @6 p.m.	9/29 at AHCS @7 p.m.
8/25 Coolidge @7 p.m.	10/6 at Lometa @7:30 p.m.
8/31 at Westbrook @6 p.m.	10/13 Santa Anna @7 p.m.
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Jonesboro Volleyball starts a legacy

Staff Reports

There is excitement in the air as the Jonesboro Eagles have started their first season of UIL Varsity Volleyball competition.

New Head Coach Amanda LeCroy and her assistant and husband, Cody LeCroy, are enthused about their team and the prospects for creating a successful program.

"The girls are just learning the game, but it is an exciting time because it is an opportunity to teach from scratch and watch the players grow and develop," she said. "The players are really excited, and we are looking forward to experiencing our first win. We will be setting the standards for teams which follow and that is fun for the coaching staff and the players."

Head Coach LeCroy coached basketball and track last year at Evant, and previously spent five years in the collegiate coaching ranks. Besides assisting with women's volleyball, Cody will also be coaching varsity basketball at Jonesboro. He previously coached for eight years at the collegiate level, and then two years at Coleman.

Coach LeCroy remarked, "We have 21 girls out for the team, and I am very pleased with that number. We have some height, and the girls are very athletic. A bigger percentage of the team are underclassmen, which is good, because they will have four years to play. Hard for a senior to come out and learn a new sport, knowing they only have one year to play."

Coach LeCroy believes her team is making steady progress.

"For having never picked up a ball, they are picking up the sport quickly. Having a lot of freshmen will be good for our future. We do not have many seniors, but the ones we have are leading the way," she said. "The girls are buying into the drills and buying into the program we are trying to establish. There will be a lot of growth this season, which will transfer to an even better team next year."

Upcoming Volleyball Games:

9/8 Morgan TBA	10/10 Gholson @5 p.m.
9/22 at Gholson @4:30 p.m.	10/13 at Aquilla @4:30 p.m.
9/26 Aquilla @5 p.m.	10/17 Oglesby @5 p.m.
9/29 at Oglesby @4:30 p.m.	10/21 at Evant @10 a.m.
10/3 Bye Week	10/24 at Abbott @5 p.m.
10/6 Abbott @4:30 p.m.	

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Gatesville volleyball team looks to 2023

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

The questions and the narratives surrounding the Gatesville Volleyball team as they head into the 2023 season are ones that could also be asked and applied to several Hornet and Lady Hornet programs over the next nine months.

How do you replace a stellar senior class, replicate the previous season's success, and re-build for another playoff run?

For Janey Weber and the Lady Hornet Volleyball team - fresh off of a 20th consecutive playoff berth and Regional Quarterfinal appearance - the answer is that they don't necessarily re-build. They re-load.

In 2022, they finished the year 24-20 and endured an uneven regular season before peaking in the second half of district. After a 2-3

record in the first half of district, they went 4-1 in the second half. They dealt district champ Salado their only league loss then topped Robinson in a tiebreaker to secure the district's No. 3 seed.

The late-season charge continued in the playoffs as they took down Georgetown Gateway in five games in bi-district, swept Caldwell in the area round, then lost a five-set heartbreaker to Lago Vista in the regional-quarterfinals. It was Gatesville's deepest playoff run

since a similar third round appearance in 2012 and was led largely by seniors Kayleigh Haywood, Lola Barron, Charlee Barron, Chloe Matthews, and Rachel Garrett.

"We struggled and struggled and then at the end, I think our kids just decided they weren't going to lose. They were just ready to go," said Weber. "We got more cohesive, but I think it was that (Salado) game that really flipped it for everybody. That kind of showed them we can be pretty good whenever we go put everything together and go play."

Arguably, no program at Gatesville High School has had more sustained success over the last two decades than the Lady Hornets volleyball team. Former head coach and current Athletic Director Rickey Phillips led the Lady Hornets to 17 straight berths before handing the reins to Weber,

whose teams advanced to the bi-district round in her first two seasons.

Weber more than contributed to Gatesville's success as a star on three of Phillips best teams from 2008 to 2010. The Lady Hornets advanced to the third round of the playoffs in 2009 and to the regional tournament in 2010 - a season in which she tallied 317 kills and 92 aces and was named to the All-State team.

Now in her fourth season as head coach, Weber has high hopes for a 21st straight playoff appearance despite returning just three healthy starters. She draws from recent experience when it comes to the re-loading process. In 2022, they were faced with replacing Tasha Thoms and were also without Haywood for a large stretch of the season.

"It's exciting to see who's going to fill the shoes of

Gatesville Volleyball schedule

8/4	Killeen High, Troy, West	@10 a.m.
8/5	Alumni Game	@11 a.m.
8/7	Waco University	@6 p.m.
8/10-12	Jason Landers Invitational	TBA
8/15	Belton	@6 p.m.
8/17-19	Gatesville Invitational	TBA
8/22	at Academy	@6 p.m.
8/24-26	Academy Tournament	TBA
8/29	at Fairfield	TBA
9/1	at Lake Belton	@5:30 p.m.
9/5	Brownwood	@6 p.m.
9/8	Georgetown Gateway	@5:30 p.m.
9/12	Lampasas	@6 p.m.
9/14-16	West Tournament	TBA
9/15	at Burnet	@5:30 p.m.
9/19	Marble Falls	@6 p.m.
9/22	at Robinson	@5:30 p.m.
9/26	China Spring	@7 p.m.
9/29	at Connally	@5:30 p.m.
10/3	at Salado	@6:30 p.m.
10/6	La Vega	@5:30 p.m.
10/10	Robinson	@7 p.m.
10/13	at China Spring	@5:30 p.m.
10/17	Connally	@7 p.m.
10/20	Salado	@5:30 p.m.
10/24	at Le Vega	@7 p.m.
10/30-31	Bi-District Playoffs	TBA
11/2-4	Area Playoffs	TBA
11/6-7	Regional Quarterfinals	TBA
11/10-11	UIL Region III Tournament at Bryan	TBA
11/15-18	UIL Class 4A State Tournament at Garland	TBA



Gatesville Volleyball team during team introduction.

COURTESY PHOTO BY SEVETTE EARLY

those previous years' kids that you lost. We had quite a few kids who stepped up, just jumped at those roles (last year)," Weber said. "You lose people every year. It happens every year. You kind of get used to it, but you say 'okay who wants to be the bread and butter?' That go-to person."

Fortunately for Weber, she will build around an experienced and decorated group of returning players.

Sophomore Emma Pollard was named the District 23-4A Newcomer of the Year in 2022 and returns to handle the middle for the Lady Hornets. Senior outside hitter Barret Boyd was an honorable mention all-district selection last season as was junior Tamiah Miller, who

will miss the 2023 season due to injury. Senior outside hitter Laura Trejo rounds out the group of returners.

Weber also expressed enthusiasm for her potential varsity newcomers but was intent on keeping those names close to her vest.

"There are a few. I won't give names but there are a few," she said.

Practices officially began on July 31 and Weber said she felt like her roster would start to take shape near the end of the first week in time for their first scrimmage of the season against Killeen, Troy, and West on Aug. 4.

Their regular season opens at home against Waco University on Aug. 7 and

PLEASE SEE VOLLEY | B5



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A SPORTS SPECIAL REPORT – GATESVILLE ★ EVANT ★ JONESBORO ★ OGLESBY

VOLLEY

FROM PAGE B4

begins a daunting non-district slate. The Lady Hornets will travel to Austin for the always-difficult Jason Landers Invitational in Austin on Aug. 10 and other non-district opponents this season include Belton, Lake Belton, Fairfield, and a Georgetown Gateway team surely intent on exacting some measure of revenge.

"I try and make a very competitive schedule. And to me I think it helps, it helps show us as coaches and players our flaws and what we need to work on. I want to see that kind of fight in them," Weber said.

The fight Weber is looking for will be necessary as the 23-4A will be another doozy.

"Some of the teams in our district may have lost

a couple of people but they're all still going to be very, very competitive," Weber said. "Our district is going to be really, really tough."

Robinson and China Spring lost in the bi-district round in 2022 while Salado advanced to the regional tournament. The Lady Eagles fell in four games to state semi-finalist Huffman Hargrave and are the likely favorites in the district again in 2023.

Weber's team may gel immediately or make another late season charge. But it's not a matter of if but when.

"Sometimes it's in spring and sometimes it's in August. But sometimes it might be district or play-offs. But I think they get it too. They're like, 'okay, we got shoes to fill. Right. We just have to go work,'" Weber added.



Oglesby Football team

COURTESY PHOTO

A good team looking to be the best

Staff Reports

By nearly all measures, the Oglesby varsity football team had a successful 2022. The Tigers finished 11-1, were undefeated in District, and went to state only to lose to Oakwood in the state playoffs, 38-32.

The upcoming season is highly anticipated by Tiger fans with five returning starters on each side of the ball, and only one senior gone from last year's team, the sky could be the limit to their success.

Coach Jeb Dixon seems to believe there are good things in store for his team

if they can keep their focus. "Getting everyone on the same page. Sometimes with this new generation, it can be difficult to think of the team before individual wants," he said. "Kids have lots of other options on how to spend their time. We have good kids and as long as they stay focused and com-

mitted, we will be fine."

With the prohibitive heat during practice adding to the usual apprehensions of a coach starting the season, some might become distracted, but the experienced Oglesby coach seems to be confident and assured.

"This is going to be a fun year, with lots of experienced players. It is probably deeper in talent than we have ever been," he said.

Coach Dixon heaped a significant amount of praise on sophomore Jack Hendrix.

"Jack came in last year as a freshman and was the leading tackler as the youngest guy on the varsity. With last year under his belt, there is

no telling what he can accomplish this year," Dixon said. "It is going to be fun to watch."

When asked the biggest challenge for his team, Coach Dixon replied, "We play a very competitive schedule, and we always look forward to our district opponent Calvert. Historically they have been very good, and they are always tough."

Oglesby plays away at Penelope on Aug. 25 and finishes the season with a district game at home against Buckholts on Nov. 3.

Oglesby Volleyball schedule

8/4	Holy Trinity
8/8	Waco Liberty
8/10	Tournament at Covington
8/12	Tournament at Covington
8/15	at Bynum
8/18	Meridian
8/22	Waco Harmony
8/24	Tournament at Moody
8/26	Tournament at Moody
8/29	Waco Rapoport
9/1	Mount Calm
9/5	at Waco Liberty
9/9	Evant
9/12	at Dawson
9/15	Kopperl
9/19	at Centex Chargers
9/22	at Aquilla
9/26	at Evant
9/29	Jonesboro
10/3	at Abbott
10/6	Gholson
10/10	Aquilla
10/13	Bye Week
10/17	Jonesboro
10/20	Abbott
10/24	at Gholson

Oglesby Football schedule

8/11	at Coolidge	@3 p.m.	9/22	at MCH	@7 p.m.
8/18	Gholson	@6 p.m.	9/29	May	at 7 p.m.
8/25	at Penelope	@6 p.m.	10/6	Bronte	@6:30 p.m.
9/1	Walnut Springs	@7 p.m.	10/13	TBA	
9/8	at Covington	@7 p.m.	10/27	at Calvert	@7 p.m.
9/15	Fredericksburg Heritage	@7 p.m.	11/3	Buckholts	@7 p.m.

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Dazzlers rise to the challenge

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville High School is home to a dance team known as the Dazzlers and is under the guidance of Director Helen Gonzales. Gonzales began her journey with the Dazzlers 10 years ago and has continued to transform the team in many ways such as style, choreography, and music selection.

When the Dazzlers were first established the team was known as the Stingettes. "From what I have been told by former team members, the name change occurred in the 1996 to 1997 school year when the team was re-established after a couple of years of nonexistence," Gonzales said. That is when the formerly-known Stingettes took on the new name as Dazzlers and adjusted their style from a traditional drill team to a modern-day dance team.

When Gonzales began her reign as the director, she that knew her goal would be to bring the team back to its traditional ways. "In my fourth season we got new uniforms and went back to wearing skirts with hats and boots on the football field," Gonzales said.

Gonzales teaches the Dazzlers very early on that wearing the uniform is a personal time and energy investment as well as a privilege that carries a great deal of responsibility. "Our uniform is a great source of pride for every member of the team," Gonzales said.

"There is no preset number, so team size varies from year to year," Gonzales said. There are currently 14 members on the team this year, which makes this the largest team the

Dazzlers have had. This year there are four officers on the team including the captain, Jaynee Green. Green expressed how being a Dazzler holds a special place in her heart. She has been a Dazzler for four years and has served as captain for two years.

"I have so much pride in my team, my leadership position, and my officers," Green said. "I have learned how to step out of my comfort zone in communicating and building relationships with others, confidence, learning to be involved in school and community activities, and I have also developed many skills in leadership."

The process to become a Dazzler entails a two-week training period that is hosted by current members hoping to gain an officer position. Tryouts are held annually in the spring, during the end of the school year with judges from different areas.

Once the team is selected, season preparations will begin. On Thursday, July 6 and Friday, July 7 the Dazzlers began their season with an Encore Team Camp held at the high school. The team worked hard during two days of intense workouts that included stretching, conditioning, dance and kick technique, team bonding activities, and

four dances. Encore has been a key part in halftime performances for the Dazzlers each year since Gonzales has been with the team. "I select music and they choreograph custom dances specifically for us," Gonzales said.

"Encore specializes in officer leadership and dance training, and they have some of the finest choreographers and teachers in the dance and drill team industry, and I am very proud to say that our team style on the field is a direct result of the incredible choreographers that Encore has connected me with through the years," Gonzales said.

In total, during this past summer the Dazzlers have learned and prepared 13 dances in various styles to perform through the upcoming season. "We strive to clean and perfect every member's performance of a dance so that when we have a public appearance, we present a dance that can be enjoyed and appreciated by our audience," Gonzales said.

This past year, the Dazzlers organization has made a change to their halftime performances. Instead of performing a single feature dance during halftime, the Dazzlers began marching with the Hornet Band and became a dance auxiliary within their University Interscholastic League (UIL) show. "This added a great deal more time investment and performance responsibility to the team," Gonzales said. "The girls rose to the challenge, and we enjoyed the experience of performing with the band all the way to the UIL State Marching Band competition last year."

The Dazzlers are now in

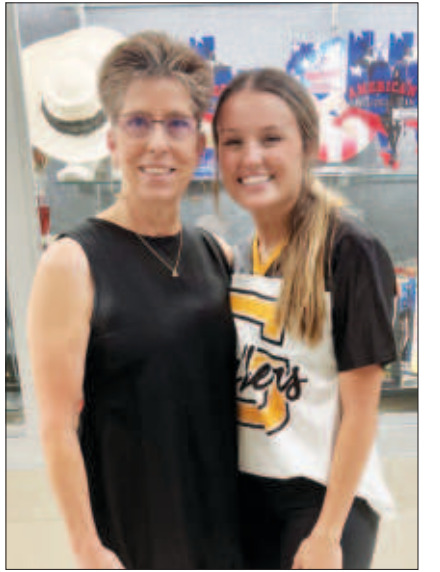
band and participate in all their marching practices in addition to the team practice schedule.

"We will perform at all high school and junior high pep rallies and all Hornet football games this fall," Gonzales said. A typical football season practice schedule includes morning marching practice and a Monday night marching rehearsal on the football field. Dazzler practices are held three days a week along with "run-through" practices before football games.

When football season concludes, the Dazzlers will perform at the Christmas parades in Gatesville and Salado. During the spring, the team will

travel and compete with surrounding high school dance teams in several competitions. After the February competition season, the Dazzlers immediately begin the tryout process to choose a team for the next year.

"I strive to make this a confidence- and character-building organization where responsibility for themselves and to their team is a character trait learned quickly and becomes second nature," Gonzales said. "I expect a great deal from every member of the team, and we get to create high school memories they carry with them for a lifetime."



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Gatesville Dazzler Director Helen Gonzales (left), standing with Dazzler Captain Jaynee Green.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Gatesville Dazzler members - back row, L to R - Audrey Blanco, Kameryn Mooney, Brie Allen, Chloe Corp, Bailey Wolff, Faith McDanel, Brook Reavis, Maygen Glennon, and Joselin De Los Santos; front row L to R - officers Coral Bryant, Second Lieutenant; Romi Bomar, First Lieutenant; Jaynee Green, Captain; and Laura Trejo, Second Lieutenant.



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A SPORTS SPECIAL REPORT – GATESVILLE ★ EVANT ★ JONESBORO ★ OGLESBY

Gatesville High School Marching Band tunes up for the new school year

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Jose Sanchez, who is in his eighth year of Director of Bands at Gatesville Independent School District, is also celebrating his 15th year of band directing in the Central Texas area.

This school year, with approximately 100 students participating in band, Sanchez said that he has several goals for the upcoming year. "We want our students to give their best performance for every performance. The students have set their own goals for this year, and they are posted throughout the band hall," he said.

With the beginning of the new school year, Sanchez was asked about his expectations for the new students entering the band program. Sanchez replied, "We expect our current students to welcome new friends into the band with open arms and help them get up to speed with our procedures and expectations of operations."

"We ask that new members simply try their best and approach each and every day with a positive attitude. This process and approach continues to set students up for a successful and rewarding first year of marching band," he said.

Sanchez said that his band students learn a great deal of "real life skills" in marching band.

"We always emphasize the importance of being present and engaged, not for the sake of the directors, but for the other members of the band," he said.

Once the school year begins, band students attend rehearsal for about 40 minutes before their first period class in addition to one rehearsal on Monday evening

from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. The music chosen each year is selected directly after the end of the previous marching season. "We listen to hours of music and talk through the strengths and weaknesses of the anticipated members of the band as well as what we want to convey to our audience," Sanchez said.

"We work side by side with our music arranger, choreographer, and drill designer in order to best highlight the important facets of the marching band and music. This approach allows us to highlight soloists, melodic lines, Color Guard, and the Dazzlers," he said.

A current sophomore band student, Levi Webb, who plays the sousaphone, commented, "They've taught me how to work hard in uncomfortable situations."

During the band contests completed last year, the band earned the right to advance to the Finals. They began their competitive UIL season by earning a "Superior" rating at the UIL Regional contest. This awarded rating allowed them to continue to the Area level. "From then on, any further progression felt like an award considering not everyone continues to the further levels including Area Finals and ultimately the UIL State Marching Contest," Sanchez said.

"If everything goes as planned, this will be the band's 10th consecutive year of a Superior rating at

UIL," he said. About working at Gatesville ISD, Sanchez relayed, "Gatesville is a very special place. We have started to develop the direction of the marching band as well as achieve lots of success through the entire program 6th through 12th grade." "The support from the community and the administration has been fantastic which has made all the difference in the world," Sanchez said.



COURTESY PHOTO BY HITT PHOTOGRAPHY

Gatesville High School Band director and co-directors - L to R - director of the Dazzlers Helen Gonzales, assistant band director Johanna Reynolds, assistant band director Michael Hamilton, band director Jose Sanchez, color guard coordinator Jeannie Collins, assistant director Corbin Myers, and color guard assistant Jennifer Blanchard.



COURTESY PHOTO BY HITT PHOTOGRAPHY

Gatesville High School Marching Band

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Mooney racks up preseason honors ahead of senior season

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

For three years, it has taken voters until the end of the season to comprehend precisely what Lawson Mooney does on the football field.

But, ahead of his final season, the Gatesville safety is finally receiving recognition as one of the state's best players before a down has been played.

Lawson Mooney (5) along with secondary mates Colton Taylor (20), Adrian Smith (24) and Sean Aguilar (1).

Mooney has been named to the prestigious Dave Campbell's Texas Football Class 4A Preseason All State Team along with being recognized on the Waco Tribune-Herald's Preseason Super Centex team.

"That's a big deal," said

head coach Aaron Hunter of Mooney's DCTF selection. "For somebody in Gatesville, Texas to be in that list. Yeah. It's a big deal. That's awesome. And it's well deserved."

After his freshman season in 2020, he was named the District 6-4A Newcomer of the Year and was a First Team All-District selection. In 2021, he added another First Team All-District selection in 6-4A.

Then, in 2022, he was named the District 11-4A Defensive Co-Player Of The Year, Second Team Waco Tribune Herald Super Cen-

tex, and was a TSWA/Blue Bell All-State Honorable Mention choice in helping lead Gatesville to their first winning season in five years.

Last season Mooney had a remarkable 161 tackles including six for a loss he also had a pair of interceptions, four pass breakups, and a quarterback sack on the defensive side. He scored a receiving touchdown in the Hornets season opening win over Taylor.

There is no official record for "opponents who needed help off the field" but Mooney is likely in contention to be the all-time leader there as well.

"You never have to tell him 'giddy up'," Hunter said. "He sets energy of our team. He has one speed and I'm not going to be the one to tell him to slow down."

The Hornets will see four other DCTF honorees on their schedule this season.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN

Secondary teammates - L to R - Senior Colton Taylor, Senior Lawson Mooney, Senior Adrian Smith, and Senior Sean Aguilar

A pair of Glen Rose Tigers - wide receiver Camden Raymond and defensive lineman Keltyn Raymond - were on the list as was Godley wider receiver Landon Thig-

pen and Connally's ultimate utility player Kobe Black.

Mooney is one of four returners in the Hornet secondary along with Colton Taylor, Adrian Smith, and

the equally-destructive Sean Aguilar.

The Hornets opened their season on August 25 at home against the Taylor Ducks.

Lady Hornets take third in Gatesville Invitational, wrap tournament season in Academy

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

The Gatesville volleyball team is competing in their final tournament of the season having won four of their last six games.

The Lady Hornets ran up a 4-1 mark to take third place in the Gatesville Invitational August 17-19 before falling to Academy on Aug. 22. A quick turnaround has them back in Academy this weekend participating in the Bees

annual invitational tournament.

In the Gatesville Invitational, the Lady Hornets won their first three pool play games. They opened the tournament with straight set wins over Lampasas (25-

10, 25-20) and Waco High (25-19, 25-12) and a three-set win over McGregor (22-25, 28-26, 25-18).

The win over the Lady Bulldogs had a significant amount of energy - especially for a Thursday afternoon tournament game. It showed head coach Janey Weber a glimpse of some of the grit they'll need for district play.

"We did not start out playing the way we should against McGregor, however I was very proud of the way the girls fought back to win," Weber said. "We were down

about 7-8 points, and they showed a lot of resilience coming back and fighting."

After losing the first set, the Lady Hornets staved off three match points in the second set.

Down 24-23, McGregor served for the match and an errant return sent the ball into the net where freshman setter Anna McPherson deftly scooped it off the floor and over to sophomore outside hitter Emma Pollard, who landed a winner into the middle of the unsus-

PLEASE SEE **THIRD** | B10

PRICER RECOGNIZED



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville High School volleyball department recognized veteran official Lynn Pricer at a recent home game. Pricer, a member of the Central Texas Volleyball Chapter, was recently honored by the Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO) for 50 years of service. Gatesville High School head volleyball coach Janey Weber is shown presenting Pricer with a couple of gifts from the Hornet varsity volleyball team.



McPherson



Pollard



Sanderson



Trejo

Evant ISD volleyball competes in Meridian tournament

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District competed in a tournament at Meridian Independent School District on Thursday, August 10 and Saturday, Aug. 12.

The Evant Elks defeated Aquila ISD 24-26, 25-23, 15-5.

Harley Weeks: Aces, 3; Kills, 1; Assists, 10; Digs, 4. Hailey Neri: Kills, 1; Assists, 2; Digs, 9.

Molly Waldrum: Aces, 1; Kills, 6; Digs, 5; Blocks, 1.

Bree Ramirez: Aces, 3; Kills, 4; Assists, 2; Digs, 7.

Luwi Rodriguez: Kills, 3; Digs, 8.

Izzy Gandy: Aces, 1; Kills, 2; Assists, 1; Digs, 9.

Evant ISD defeated Meridian ISD 25-21, 13-25, 15-8.

Harley Weeks: Aces, 3; Kills, 1; Assists, 11; Digs, 4.

Hailey Neri: Aces, 1; Kills, 1; Digs, 8.

Molly Waldrum: Aces, 3; Kills, 7; Digs, 4; Blocks, 1.

Bree Ramirez: Aces, 1; Kills, 4; Digs, 6.

Luwi Rodriguez: Kills, 2; Assists, 1; Digs, 8.

Izzy Grandy: Aces, 3; Kills, 1; Digs, 5.

Evant ISD defeated Three Way ISD 25-4, 25-18.

Harley Weeks: Aces, 5; Kills, 5; Assists, 6; Digs, 1.

Hailey Neri: Kills, 1; Digs, 5.

Molly Waldrum: Aces, 1; Kills, 5; Digs, 1; Blocks, 1.

Bree Ramirez: Aces, 1; Kills, 1; Assists, 1.

Luwi Rodriguez: Assists, 2; Digs, 5.

Izzy Grandy: Aces, 1.

Maya Reynolds: Assists, 3.

Bella Kolajo: Kills, 1.

Daisy Morales: Digs, 1.

Evant ISD defeated Zephyr ISD 25-11, 25-19.

Harley Weeks: Aces, 1;

Kills, 2; Assists, 17; Digs, 6.

Hailey Neri: Kills, 3; Digs, 7.

Molly Waldrum: Aces, 7; Kills, 7; Assists, 1; Digs, 6.

Bree Ramirez: Kills, 7; Assists, 2; Digs, 3.

Luwi Rodriguez: Digs, 5.

Izzy Grandy: Kills, 2; Digs, 3.

Defeated Zephyr 25-17, 23-25, 15-9.

Harley Weeks: Aces, 6; Kills, 4; Assists, 18; Digs, 10.

Hailey Neri: Aces, 2; Kills, 3; Digs, 5.

Molly Waldrum: Kills, 7; Digs, 4.

Bree Ramirez: Aces, 3; Kills, 1; Assists, 1; Digs, 4.

Luwi Rodriguez: Kills, 6; Assists, 2; Digs, 8.

Izzy Grandy: Aces, 1; Kills, 9; Assists, 1; Digs, 5.

In the Tournament Championship, Evant ISD defeated Valor Prep ISD 26-24, 25-13.

Harley Weeks: Aces, 2;

Kills, 3; Assists, 7; Digs, 5.

Hailey Neri: Aces, 1; Kills, 1; Digs, 8.

Molly Waldrum: Aces, 3; Kills, 2; Digs, 3; Blocks, 1.

Bree Ramirez: Kills, 5; Assists, 2; Digs, 6.

Luwi Rodriguez: Kills, 3; Digs, 5.

Izzy Grandy: Kills, 4; Digs, 11.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane. For further information, contact 254-471-5536.



COURTESY PHOTO

Evant ISD volleyball team shown after participating in the meridian tournament on Saturday, Aug. 12.

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Tarleton State University Women's Soccer team powered past Texas A&M-Commerce for a 2-0 victory Sunday, Aug. 20.

Tarleton Women's Soccer secures first win of the season against Texas A&M-Commerce

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - The Tarleton State University Women's Soccer team powered past Texas A&M-Commerce for a 2-0 victory Sunday, Aug. 20 at the Tarleton Soccer Complex.

With the win, the Texans (1-0-1) remain unbeaten thus far in the 2023 campaign. The Lions (0-1-1) suffered their first loss of the season courtesy of Tarleton State.

Sydney Rouillard scored her first goal of the season in the 25th minute off a corner kick from Adriana Alonso-Gomez via a header from Avery Harr, both of whom were credited with

assists.

Jenaya Brown notched her first goal knocking in a deflection off a goalkeeper save in the 57th minute.

For the second straight game, Mikayla Kendall was very impressive in between the posts with four saves and recorded her first shut-out of the young season.

After a quiet first 20 minutes of action with the Lions tallying the only shot on goal, the Texans broke through to give Tarleton the

lead. The Texans got on the board at nearly the same against the Lions as in the previous match against the Warhawks.

In the 25th minute, Alonso-Gomez took a corner kick from the top left of the goal. After a header from Harr, Rouillard was able to fire a strike off the pass into the middle of the goal just above the goalkeeper to give the Texans a 1-0 advantage.

In the second half,

Tarleton State held TAMUC to just one shot in goal. Tarleton added an insurance goal in the 57th minute of play. After Harr fired a shot that deflected off the goal to the top of the box, Brown was there to put it in the back of the net for the Texans' second goal of the afternoon.

Trailing 2-0, a Lions assistant coach was issued a yellow card, taking the wind out the team's sails as the Texans coasted to the 2-0

victory.

Tarleton led Texas A&M-Commerce in all statistical categories. The Texas held a 12-10 advantage in shots, 5-4 in shots on goal, 4-3 in saves and 11-2 in corner kicks.

Tarleton's first road match of the year will be the Sunday, Aug. 27 match against the Cougars in Houston. The match is set for 1 p.m.

Harr scores 1st goal of Texans' season in opener draw against ULM

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE, Texas - The Tarleton State University Women's Soccer team drew, 1-1, against ULM in its season opener on Thursday, Aug. 17 at the Tarleton Soccer Complex.

For the second straight season, the Texans tied in its opener to begin, 0-0-1. ULM also opens, 0-0-1.

Avery Harr knocked in the first goal of the year in the 24th minute after a deflection from an Adriana Alonso-Gomez corner kick. All five of her shots landed on goal giving her the new program record for shots on goal in a game.

Mikayla Kendall also broke her previous record of eight saves in a game notching 10 against the Warhawks.

In the first 15 minutes of the first half both teams held the other to very little offensive attacks with the ball occupying the middle of the pitch, heavily. After a Warhawks shot and Kendall save in the first minute of the contest, the next shot of the game didn't come until the 18th minute with a Warhawk shot off target. The two teams combined for just two shots in the first 22 minutes of play.

In the 23rd minute, the Texans had an incredible scoring chance. Jenaya



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Avery Harr, right, knocked in the first goal of the year.

Brown started the action with a shot that was blocked that deflected back out to Harr. Harr fired from five feet out to the bottom left where Mickaela Leal made a diving save but was unable to corral the ball. Jaycie Bass gathered the loose ball and rattled the post on her at-

tempt to break the tie. Macy Hellwig got the fourth shot off for the Texans in a span of 10 seconds, but it was wide right.

Just two minutes later, Alonso-Gomez started the next scoring chance for Tarleton State with a corner kick. Her ball fell into the

box where it was deflected by a Warhawk to their goalkeeper. After a ricochet off her gloves, Harr was a few feet out to hammer in the first goal of the Texans' second season.

ULM controlled the ball in their offensive attacking zone for three consecu-

tive minutes starting in the 38th. The Warhawks tried to punch through with a responding goal, but Kendall was there to make three impressive saves and keep the Texans in front heading into the half.

Tarleton State came out of the half on a mission for

an insurance goal. In the first four minutes after the break, Harr and Rylee Low recorded a shot within 40 seconds of one another. Goalie substitute Alexa Castro made two goal-saving saves to keep the Tarleton lead at 1-0.

The Warhawks attack in the 57th minute was fought off by the Texan defense on four shots, three corner kicks and a save by Kendall. Kendall sent the ball of the ULM attack zone after the save to end the threat.

Neither team was able to get any threatening attacks with just four shots on goal in the next 30 minutes of action.

In the 89th minute, ULM broke the tie with a goal off a free kick from the left corner of the box. Lucia Lubato scored the tying goal assisted by Mara Grutkamp.

In the final five seconds of the match, Tarleton's freshman speedster and Stephenville native, Victoria Cameron, streaked down the crowd-side of the field in a one-one breakaway. With a second on the clock she fired a shot from the right-side about 18 feet out just over the crossbar as the horn sounded.

The Warhawks outshot the Texans 23-12 with an 11-6 advantage in shots on goal. Tarleton State notched 10 saves to ULM's five.

THIRD
FROM PAGE B8

pecting defense to tie the game at 24-24.

McGregor won the next point to take a 25-24 lead but was unable to execute a return of Pollard's serve, leading to a 25-25 tie. The Lady Hornets' serve to take the lead was long meaning they faced another match point down 26-25.

This time it was senior Barrett Boyd who responded as she dropped a winner just over the arms of the McGregor defense to tie the game at 26-26. From there, the Lady Hornets rode the serve of sophomore Taylor Sanderson to consecutive winners to force a third set.

In the third set, Gatesville trailed 9-8 but a block from Boyd and Addison Taylor tied the game 9-9. An unforced McGregor error gave the Lady Hornets a 10-9 lead they would never relinquish capped by a Laura Trejo winner to close the match.

In the tournament semifinal the Lady Hornets fell to 3A No. 6 Troy 18-25, 26-24, 19-25 but bounced back and throttled Lampasas again 25-15, 25-20 in the third-place game.

"We started off a little slow on Thursday, but by Saturday our team really started to come together. We played with a lot more

enthusiasm, confidence, and a lot of fight," Weber said.

Against Troy they were down 15-9 early in the second set but tied the game three times late - first at 20-20, then at 23-23 and again at 24-24. Back-to-back aces from McPherson gave then a 26-24 win in the second set.

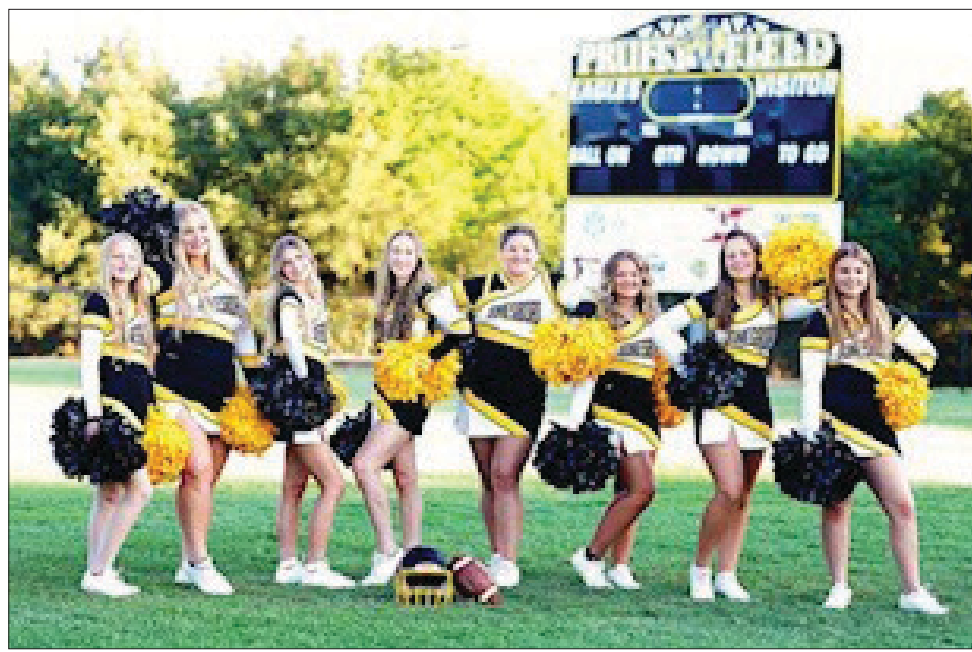
"I thought the girls competed really well against Troy. We had a few mental mistakes, but overall we did a lot of good things," Weber said. "Troy is a great team and they know how to pick out your weaknesses."

The three-set loss to Academy (9-25, 20-25, 23-25) was Gatesville's 17th game since Aug. 17 - par for the course in high school volleyball where the grind starts quickly.

"We have played a lot of games in the first two weeks, and I definitely feel like we are continuing to get better each day which is what you want to see. I don't expect nor want us to be at our peak right now," Weber said.

Following the Academy Tournament, Gatesville will play road games at Fairfield (August 29) and Lake Belton (Sept. 1) before returning home to face Brownwood on Sept. 5. On Sept. 8, they will face Georgetown Gateway in a rematch of last season's bi-district playoff game.

JONESBORO CHEERLEADERS



Jonesboro Cheerleaders, pictured left to right, are Kylee Gould, Jaycie Brown, Tenley Scott, Gracie Dick-Calhoun, Michella Martinez, Sierra Chapman, Peyton Williamson, & Addie Rueter. Not pictured: Adalya Andrade.

Tailgate and Celebrate set for Sept. 8

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Independent School District Education Foundation will host a Tailgate and Celebrate event on Friday, Sept. 8 at Gatesville High School. The pre-game event will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

To set up a booth, busi-

ness vendors will cost \$30, and business food vendors will cost \$50. All spots will be first-come, first-serve.

For more information or to reserve a booth, contact the Gatesville ISD Education Foundation by email at educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org.

The Gatesville ISD Edu-

cation Foundation was formed in 2012 to support innovative classroom teaching, inspire learning in new directions and maximize academic opportunities for Gatesville ISD students.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

Flag football, volleyball registration ends Aug. 31

Staff Reports

Gatesville Parks and Recreation registration for youth flag football and volleyball will close on Thursday, Aug. 31. Cost is \$50 per participant. To register visit www.teamsideline.com/GatesvilleTX.

Flag football divisions will include five years old and kindergarten, first and second grade, third and fourth grade, and fifth and sixth grade. Skills day will be Saturday, Sept. 2, and the draft will be during the week of Wednesday, Sept. 6.

The flag football season will begin on Monday, Oct. 2 with a game each Monday or Tuesday.

Youth volleyball divisions will include third and fourth grade, along with fifth and sixth grade. There will be a draft during the week of Wednesday, Sept. 6.

The volleyball season will commence on Saturday, Oct. 7 with a game each week on Saturday.

For more information contact 254-499-1015 or email mbailey@gatesvilletx.com.

FOOTBALL CONTEST

2023

1st PLACE
\$20

2nd PLACE
\$10

3rd PLACE
\$5

Winners can pick up their checks at The Gatesville Messenger office.

OFFICIAL RULES

There are 6 games listed in advertisements on this page. To enter, pick the winner and write the name of that team in the appropriate blank on the official entry form.

Deliver the form to: The Gatesville Messenger, 116 S. 6th Street, Gatesville, TX 76528, by **12:00 PM FRIDAY**.

(Limit one entry per person). Entries will be tabulated weekly and the results published in the next issue of The Gatesville Messenger. The first place winner each week will receive \$20, the second place winner \$10 and the third place winner \$5. The tie breaker will be used to determine placings. In case of a tie, the money will be divided equally. To pick the tie breaker, predict the total number of points in the selected game and enter in the appropriate space on the official entry form. All entries become the property of The Gatesville Messenger. Please write clearly and be sure to enter your pick in the correct blank.

GATESVILLE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Deadline for entries 12 p.m. Friday!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

TieBreaker: 1 Score _____

Name: _____

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No Photocopies please!

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EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby

GISD presents homecoming festival

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District will hold its annual homecoming bonfire festival on Thursday, Sept. 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The festival will be held on 27th Street and at the Gatesville High

School cross country trail.

The theme for this year's homecoming bonfire festival is "Through the Decades." There will be activities at the event as well as games, food trucks, live music, and more.

The Gatesville High School Marching Band,

Dazzlers, cheerleaders, and the graduating class of 2024 will make their way to the bonfire, with the tradition of lighting the bonfire to occur shortly after.

For more information regarding this event, contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281.

Gatesville Elementary provides habits of good attendance

Staff Reports

Gatesville Elementary School has provided habits for students to partake in to have good attendance.

According to attendanceworks.com, "Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves." If you start building good habits early on, eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help students succeed in further education.

Good habits for good attendance:

- Set a regular bed-

time and morning routine.

- Lay out clothes and pack backpack the night before.

- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.

- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.

- Develop backup plans to get to school if something comes up.

- Try to schedule non-Covid-19-related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.

- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, counselors, and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and relaxed about learning.

- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

For more information visit www.attendanceworks.org.

Gatesville Elementary School is located at 2537 East Main Street.

EISD to hold ACE program after school

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District has brought back ACE for another year of after school programs. The official first day of activities was on Tuesday, Aug. 15. The ACE program

will be held each Tuesday through Friday from 4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

The ACE program welcomes all students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Evant ISD's focus is educational enrichment and as-

sisting students with homework and tutoring while participating in activities.

For further information contact Jaime Hanson by email at jhanson@evantisd.org.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Independent School District Education Foundation applied for a grant from H-E-B to receive school supplies for students. Earlier this week, a large pallet of school supplies arrived at Gatesville ISD and the supplies were distributed to each campus. Pictured above on the left is a member of the Education Foundation, Mason Matthews and Van Collins, Gatesville Primary Principal.

Oglesby ISD presents end-of-course results

Staff Reports

On Wednesday, Aug. 16, Oglesby Independent School District provided a website for families to get State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) results for students who recently completed third grade through eighth grade.

The STAAR end-of-course assessment results are now available, along with re-

sources designed to help ensure your child is on track for graduation. Information will be provided, such as your students' end-of-course results, how they answered questions, and tools to find personalized resources to support learning at home.

Three simple steps to access end-of-course results:

1. Visit TexasAssessment.gov.

2. Obtain your student's unique access code from the school district.

3. Log in with your student's unique access code.

To obtain your student's unique access code, call the Oglesby ISD front office at 254-456-2271. For more information, visit TexasAssessment.gov.



Dogs

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

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. poodle | 2. beagle | 3. hound | 4. terrier |
| 5. shepherd | 6. canine | 7. collar | 8. husky |
| 9. leash | 10. labrador | | |

Dogs have been our furry friends for a very long time! Thousands of years ago, when people were living in caves, they started noticing that wild wolves were coming closer to their homes.

These wolves

were smart and helpful, so people started to befriend them.

Gradually, through a process called domestication, wolves became more like the dogs we know today. People trained them to help with hunting, guarding, and even pulling sleds!

As time went on, people realized that dogs could also be great companions. They became part of families, and different breeds were developed for different jobs and purposes.

Nowadays, dogs are loved all around the world. They come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Some dogs help the police, others assist people with disabilities, and many are simply beloved pets. Dogs are loyal, playful, and loving. They bring so much joy to our lives, and we're lucky to have them as our best friends!



Did You Know?

DOGS SWEAT THROUGH THEIR PAWS AND PANT TO KEEP COOL

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ANSWER: DOG



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GISD Staff Spotlight recognizes Davidson and Sheets

The Gatesville ISD Board of Trustees recognized Sonia Davidson and Si Sheets during the Staff Spotlight portion of the Aug. 21 board meeting.

SONIA DAVIDSON
Sonia Davidson is a Gatesville alum and the second product of GISD's Grow-Your-Own program. Sonia has diligently completed her college coursework, while also working at GISD. She is now an inclusion and attendance recovery teacher at GHS.

GHS Principal Liz Shoaf had the following to say

about Sonia: "We are so lucky to have Sonia teaching at GHS. Her unwavering passion for teaching and genuine love for her students greatly enhance our campus. Her diligent work ethic, coupled with her dedication to providing the best learning experience, allowed her to build great relationships with her fellow teachers and students. Her collaborative spirit and approachable demeanor make her an invaluable member of our campus and school district."

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Sonia's

exceptional rapport with her students and her proactive involvement contribute to our campus, creating an atmosphere that is both nurturing and engaging. During the 2022-23 school year, Sonia played a key role in developing goal setting and tracking plans that helped our credit recovery students meet and often surpass course expectations."

SI SHEETS
Si Sheets is a 2021 graduate of GHS. Mr. Sheets was hired as a para-professional in the high school life skills classroom at the beginning

of the 2022-2023 school year. Si has proven himself to be hard-working, dependable, and an upstanding young, male role model for his students. Mr. Sheets was recently accepted into GISD's Grow-Your-Own program. He will be attending Temple College this fall to work toward his goal of becoming a teacher for GISD.

GHS Principal Liz Shoaf had the following to say about Si: "Si is an exceptional member of our High School team who consistently goes above and beyond for our students. With his endless

patience, calm demeanor and deep understanding of their diverse needs, Si creates a learning environment where every student feels valued and supported. His willingness to jump in whenever needed, without hesitation or complaints, speaks volumes about his selflessness and dedication to our school and students. His ability to adapt and respond to various situations with willingness and enthusiasm makes him invaluable to our campus and district."

Si's dedication extends beyond the classroom.

He assists with the boys' basketball teams and has brainstormed ways to pair our student body's love for basketball with attendance improvement initiatives and challenges."

The parents of Si's students are also very pleased with his impact on their children. Brandon and Kari Belt expressed their gratitude for Si's work with their son Charles. The Belt family attended the school board meeting and voiced their praise of Si and the children he works with.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Sonia Davidson recently received the Staff Spotlight recognition. Pictured with her are, from left, GHS Principal, Liz Shoaf, and pictured right GISD superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GHS Principal Liz Shoaf, GISD superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard, and the Brandon Belt family congratulated Si Sheets during the Staff Spotlight recognition.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$.006463 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROPOSED TAX RATE:	\$0.006463 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE:	\$0.006463 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE:	\$0.006738 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for MIDDLE TRINITY GCD from the same properties in both 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 7, 2023 AT 1:00 PM (C.T) at Middle Trinity GCD office, 930 N Wolfe Nursery Rd, Stephenville, TX 76401.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Middle Trinity GCD at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

(List of names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more we absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal:

- RODNEY STEPHENS
- FRED PARKER
- JERRY HINSHAW
- SHANE TUCKER
- FRANK VOLLEMAN
- ROBERT PAYNE

- BARBARA DOMEL
- CHARLES FERGUSON
- JOE ATLEBAUMER
- BUTCH RONNE
- WB MAPLES
- KENNETH BULLINGTON

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0073	\$0.006463	decrease of -0.00837, or -11.46%
Average homestead taxable value	\$183,228	\$217,014	increase of 33,786, or 18.43%
Tax on average homestead	\$13.38	\$14.03	increase of 0.65, or 1.98%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$944,059	\$964,163	increase of 20,104, or 2.13%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT at 254-965-6705 or, or visit. for more information.

Gatesville High School class of 1973 reunion

Submitted Item

The Gatesville High School class of 1973 will celebrate its 50-year graduation on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The celebration will be held at Windmill Hill, located at 1808 Bridge Street in Gatesville. Donations are welcomed

for catered meals and can be sent to Donna Beeman Medford located at 304 Grandview Drive in Gatesville. The classes of 1972 and 1974 are welcome to attend. RSVP to Paula Peevy Safarik at 512-940-1247 or Marla Jacobs Kelsey at 817-915-8691.

GISD provides GEAR UP program

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville Independent School District is coming up on its sixth year of establishment of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP).

GEAR UP is a College and Career Readiness grant that was awarded to the Education Service Centers (ESC) Region 12 in 2018 by the United States Department of Education.

The Gatesville ISD GEAR UP cohort consists of students that are currently in 12th grade. Students do not have to join; the only qualification is that they are in the 2024 graduation cohort.

"GEAR UP is a great resource to help students prepare for life after high school," Sarah Coker, Site Facilitator said.

Twelfth grade students are encouraged to stop by the GEAR UP office to get assistance with post-secondary plans, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion, scholarship applications, and college admissions.

GEAR UP works with schools to support teachers, counselors, and school leaders to give them the tools they need to do their best. The program funds workshops and training for teachers as well as working with schools to develop and

maintain a college-going culture in their schools.

GEAR UP provides services such as academic advising, life skills training such as study skills and personal finance, summer enrichment camps, career exploration, college tours, and help understanding the process for applying for college and financial aid. The program works with students to help them understand how to prepare, apply, and pay for college.

GEAR UP offers services, information, and activities designed specifically for family members, so that they can become more involved in their student's education and in helping them succeed.

"Our goal is to see that all of our students graduate high school on time and pursue the goals they have set," said Coker.

Sarah Coker is the site facilitator for Gatesville High School and can be reached by email at scoker@gatesvilleisd.org. The GEAR UP department can be reached at 254-457-8131.

