



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Coryell Health set to receive first safe haven “baby box” in Texas

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Newborn babies are abandoned at unsafe places every year, including dumpsters, bathrooms, and other outdoor facilities. With the Safe Haven law, also known as the Baby Moses law, a person is given an alternative to surrender a baby safely at any fire station, police station, or hospital without facing criminal charges.

Texas expanded the law on Sept. 1 to allow the installation of newborn safety devices or “baby boxes” at designated locations, where someone can surrender a baby anonymously rather than hand it to an employee. Coryell Memorial Hospital was recently approved to receive a baby box at their emergency room, which will make them the first hospital

in Texas to adopt the addition to the law.

“I think it says a lot about our community and our hospital that we might be the first one in the state to adopt this policy,” said Dr. Jeff Bates, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Coryell Health.

Bates’ nonprofit organization, The Lords Work, has been at the forefront of spreading awareness about the Baby Moses law in Texas as well as the approval to place a baby box at Coryell Health. He said his organization has already raised around \$7,000 for its placement.

While the Safe Haven law has saved more than 4,000 babies nationwide, Bates adds that many are unaware that the law exists. In July, a newborn baby was abandoned at a business in Plano. In August, another baby was abandoned for 20 hours in the extreme heat outside of a San Antonio church.

“I don’t think anyone would have done that if they had known the law, which is to take it to the hospital and we will take the baby,” Bates said. “But we need promotion of the fact that there is a Baby Moses law. Maybe people don’t want to hand the baby to a person, but they may be okay with sticking the baby in the box.”

Bates hopes to eventually develop a number that connects people with resources, so they know there are other options besides abandonment.

PLEASE SEE **BOX** | A2



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell Health is set to receive the first Safe Haven “baby box” in Texas. The law, also known as the Baby Moses law, gives a person an alternative to surrender a baby safely at any fire station, police station, or hospital without facing criminal charges. Chief Medical Officer of Coryell Health Dr. Jeff Bates, MD, has been at the forefront of spreading awareness about the Baby Moses law in Texas, as well as the approval to place a baby box at Coryell Health. His non-profit organization, The Lords Work, has already raised around \$7,000 for its placement.

“A sacrifice that Gatesville should never forget...”

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In observance of Fire Prevention Week, which will be held from Oct. 8 until Oct. 14, one Gatesville volunteer firefighter needs to be remembered.

In 1963, when writing the Coryell County Scrapbook, The history of Coryell County, Mildred Mears devoted four pages to the Gatesville Fire Department and its volunteers. She wrote, “Many men have voluntarily given their time, their strength, and sometimes their wearing apparel for the protection of the homes and businesses of Gatesville, because if a man were at church or a party, he didn’t say, ‘Wait

till I change my clothes.’ He went running.”

Mears continued, “Not only have men sacrificed their time, but one man also lost his life, and two others were injured on a fire call.” She was speaking about Edward Aurelius Poston who was killed in the line of duty.

The accident occurred late Wednesday afternoon on Jan. 19, 1944. On the front page of the January 21, 1944, edition of The

Gatesville Messenger, the headlines read, “One Killed, Two Injured as Gatesville Fire Trucks Collide.” Aurelius Poston was only 29 years old when the accident occurred, leaving behind his young wife, his parents, and his siblings.

According to the newspaper account, two Gatesville fire trucks were rushing to a grass fire in the southeastern part of the city but were travelling via different routes. One of the vehicles turned off from Main Street at Lut-

terloh,
and af-
ter travers-
ing one block met

the other truck which was speeding up Leon Street.

Upon seeing each other, the drivers twisted the steering wheels in an effort to avoid a head-on collision, and in so doing,



swerved into each other. The force of the blow propelled three volunteer firemen from their stands on the trucks.

The newspaper account of the accident revealed that, following the collision, all three men were immediately rushed to Memorial Hospital where Poston died from internal injuries before he could be treated.

The other two injured firefighters were Dugan Blackburn and R.L. Homan. It was revealed that Homan had sustained a broken pelvis, while Blackburn suffered from a broken wrist.

“Both men were badly bruised and shaken up.”

At the time of his death, young Poston had only been married for a little over

three years and was working with his father in a farm implement firm in Gatesville.

Since 1873, when the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department was founded, this was the first and only fatality suffered by the department since its inception.

Poston, who was much revered in the Gatesville community, was honored with Gatesville businesses closing down during his funeral service.

At his funeral, all the members of the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department served as honorary pall bearers at his service.

A young man volunteered and ultimately laid down his life for the safety of Gates-

PLEASE SEE **FIRE** | A2

Local exploitation case sheds light on rise in elderly financial abuse

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Reports of elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation have recently been on the rise in Texas. Earlier this year, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) reported that there were more than 50,000 confirmed cases in 2022 alone.

Alisa Powell and Bobbie Ferrell’s story of financial exploitation hits close to home. Powell contacted Spiderman Pest Control when she believed her 89-year-old mom, Ferrell, was experiencing a small rodent infestation.

Powell first noticed the

sign advertised in her mom’s neighborhood. When Powell called, they agreed to do a free estimate to determine if there were rodents in Ferrell’s house. Powell, who was at work while the house was being inspected, asked the pest control service to call her with the estimate.

“I was waiting on my phone to ring for the free estimate and for the opinion of what we had going on here,” Powell said. “Well, my phone never rang.”

When Spiderman Pest Control arrived at Ferrell’s house, they asked her to write a check for \$1,895 before proceeding to spray

the house for insects. Powell said the check was asked to be written directly to David Bullard, who is believed to be the owner of Spiderman Pest Control.

According to court documents, the service should have cost between \$200-\$300.

“If something doesn’t sound right about a service or price, please stop and call your family or a friend you can trust to give you advice,” Ferrell said in an email. “Never act on something that just doesn’t feel right.”

Although Powell asked for the money back, she said the check had already been

cashed. Powell said Bullard proceeded to tell her that the house was overrun with rats and that it would cost more money.

“I feel completely cheated and I feel horrible that my mother has lost \$1,895,” Powell said.

According to the DFPS, financial exploitation of an elderly person is the illegal or misuse of a person’s money or property for personal or financial benefit.

Ferrell’s case was not alone. There were three more confirmed cases in Gatesville that were connected to the pest control business. One included an 87-year-old who was charged \$3,290.80

for a flea extermination, a service that normally costs around \$300.

Bullard was charged with four counts of exploitation of an elderly person. Bullard was arrested in July and released on bond after each arrest.

Bullard appeared to target older adults between the ages of 70 and 90 years old, said Cody Lee, operations commander of Gatesville Police Department.

“To me, they grew up in a time when somebody’s word actually meant something, and you took their word as it was,” Lee said.

As of Wednesday, Spiderman Pest Control’s website

is live and there are still signs advertising the business around the Gatesville area. Lee said in an email that he does not know whether the business is still active.

“If they show up to offer a service, even if you call, do not let them do anything and don’t pay them anything until you understand what their fees and services are,” Powell said.

People can report suspected financial exploitation, abuse, or neglect of older adults to DFPS’ Texas Abuse Hotline at (800) 252-5400.



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BOX
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"You can call an 800 number and talk to people and have a conversation about it," he said.

The climate-controlled box will have a latch on the outside of the hospital that connects to the inside of the emergency room. Once a baby is placed in a box, it is now on the inside of the hospital and can be immediately tended to by medical staff.

"I think that will help some women who may be afraid to turn it over to a real person, because that may be their neighbor or that might be their best friend's mom or dad, so this way they can do it anonymously," said Marcia Streiber, leader of the Baby Moses Project for The Lords Work.

Following the overturn in Roe v Wade laws in Texas last year, Streiber adds that baby abandonment is likely to increase.

"It gives them a safe and reasonable option to surrender their child and know

that that child is going to be well-loved and well cared for," Streiber said.

Barret Pollard worked alongside Bates and his team to get the baby box approved by state representatives and at Coryell Health. As the superintendent for Gatesville Independent School District, he has also helped inform school counselors and social workers about the safe haven law.

While surrendering a baby to a safe haven box or location is viable for those in a crisis with no other option, Pollard said it should only be viewed as a last resort. The best scenario is for the parent to either care for the child or go through the traditional adoption process.

"I believe that a climate-controlled baby box at a medical facility is a smart way to avoid a tragedy," Pollard said. "With the extremely hot temperatures, it would be difficult for a newborn baby dropped off at a fire department to survive. Plus, a designated box keeps the baby safe from traffic and other dangers that might be present at a fire

station. The box may never be used, but if it prevents one baby from being abandoned in an unsafe location it would be worth it."

Babies surrendered to the baby box or hospital will be transferred to Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center in Temple for care and then to Child Protective Services (CPS) where they will be placed for adoption.

Texas was the first state to pass the law in 1999. Since then, over 100 babies have been surrendered to safe haven locations across the state. According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the baby must be 60 days old or younger, unharmed, and safe when brought to a safe haven location.

San Antonio is also raising funds to place baby boxes at select fire stations. The baby box addition to the law is approved in 16 other states.

A safe haven baby box is expected to be installed in the emergency room at Coryell Memorial Hospital before the end of this year.

TDCJ lifts lockdown for some state prisons

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) announced Tuesday that they will begin lifting lockdowns for Texas prisons following a systemwide lockdown.

Texas prisons and jails were put on an immediate statewide lockdown following a rise in drug-related inmate violence. As of Wednesday, at least 21 units have resumed normal operations after the completion of comprehensive searches in the facilities. TDCJ will update the list of units no longer on lockdown each day at noon on their website.

"On Sept. 6, 2023, TDCJ took swift and immediate action to address a rise in dangerous contraband and drug-related homicides by implementing a systemwide lockdown and comprehensive searches," TDCJ announced on their website.

TDCJ issued a lockdown and comprehensive search for all facilities in the state on Sept. 6. According to a statement issued by the agency, there have been 16 inmate homicides this year that are believed to be tied to illegal drugs.

"These incidents have

heightened concerns regarding the safety and security of inmates, staff, and the public," TDCJ Executive Director Bryan Collier said in a news release. "A lockdown is a necessary response to confront the root causes of this crisis, enhance security measures, and ensure the well-being of all individuals within our agency. We are committed to finding the narcotics, but also working with the Office of Inspector General and outside law enforcement to dismantle the networks that are trafficking drugs into our systems."

Amanda Hernandez, spokesperson for TDCJ, said in an email that there have been no homicides in the Gatesville prisons this year.

"There is no time limit for the lockdown," Hernandez said. "As units are searched, they will resume normal operations."

During the lockdown, TDCJ said inmates and staff will be subject to increased searches, and facilities will limit the movement of inmates as well as contact outside of the prisons. Visitations to the facilities have also been canceled.

The agency announced an official roll out of a digital

mail platform, a move to battle the increase of traditional mail soaked in synthetic marijuana and methamphetamines making their way into the prisons. Effective Wednesday for all units, incoming paper mail will now be sent to a digital processing center where it will be scanned and uploaded to a secure tablet for the inmate to view.

TDCJ is using other prevention methods, including tiplines to report suspicious activity and specialized search teams and narcotic dogs to help detect illegal drugs and contraband.

The Texas Tribune reported that this is not the first prison lockdown in the state. In 2008, former Gov. Rick Perry issued a lockdown on 112 prisons after a man on death row called a state senator from a smuggled cell phone.

"The safety of inmates, staff, and the public is our highest priority," TDCJ Inspector General Cris Love said in the release. "Illegal drugs within our facilities will not be tolerated. Individuals found smuggling contraband will be arrested and subject to prosecution."

FIRE
FROM PAGE A1

ville.

The following poem was printed in the newspaper along with the account of his death:

blue,
He's just a common man like you;
No flashed bade adorns his chest
To make him different from the rest.
But when there's fire smoke, flame
Then behold, he's not the same
As you and I who stand

aside
When danger lurks and courage is tried.
He'll die to save a human life,
Perhaps your daughter, son, or wife.
He gets no pay from year to year,
Still, he's proud to be a volunteer.

The Volunteer Fireman
He wears no uniform of



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

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Diedra Wuenschel, DO

Say hello to our neighbor, Diedra Wuenschel!

Diedra Wuenschel, DO, is a board-certified family medicine physician at Coryell Health. She began working at Coryell Health when she moved to Gatesville in 2011. The most fulfilling aspect of her job is being able to provide care for an entire family. "I have enjoyed growing with the families I help take care of," Wuenschel said. She loves that Gatesville always comes together as a community to serve people. Diedra reads The Gatesville Messenger to get positive news, and to see the accomplishments of the students and other community members.

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

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Isn't it time to try something different?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

I spend a considerable amount of thought and time trying to determine the subject matter for a column.

Irrespective of the topic, in today's volatile political climate there is an ever-present risk I will offend some readers or incur their wrath. While I never mind writing something which might ruffle a few feathers if it is well reasoned and serves a valid purpose, on this occasion, I have a disclaimer to put forth. This column is not in support of a specific political party or a specific candidate. It is not intended to attack either or both major political parties. It is not intended to attack a particular class of people. It is intended to be an objective look at where we are and why we need to change our mindset.

How did I get so old? I am 67 and everyday there is some activity or action I undertake, which I notice is significantly more difficult to accomplish than when I was 40. I feel confident the people who work with me would say I am very active, work lots of hours, and am always trying to improve the newspapers and the communities where I live and work. There is a sense of pride I have in my vitality and energy and knowing that while many people my age have retired, I am still capable of handling all the responsibilities which I have on my plate. At the same time, I fully understand in a few years, I will not be able to do my job to

the standards it requires. I have no illusion I would be able to handle my current responsibilities when I am 75. It is simply the natural wear and tear of time called the aging process. We all must face it.

There is nothing wrong with being older, and an individual may have a great many skills and experiences which are valuable to a business, but how much have they diminished through the natural aging process, and more importantly, how much more will they diminish and how fast? It is a reasonable question to ask. I have some valued friends and co-workers which if they see me start to slip, have been advised to let me know so I can step back. My job is to prepare for the next person to take on my responsibilities. Someone younger, with new ideas, and the drive to accomplish great things, my greatest wish is to see continued success after I am gone from the equation.

At what age do we quit the leadership role? I have asked friends and neighbors and no one, not a single person, thought it would be a good idea to hire an 80-year-old to take on a critical task in their business, much less sign a four-year contract for the overall leadership position. The comment I repeatedly heard was, "Too big of a risk and there has to be somebody younger who

could do the job, bring in fresh ideas, and live to see them through".

This does not mean someone who is 80 cannot have a good idea, nor does it diminish their wealth of experience, it simply comes down to the practicality of doing the job. This means having the physical stamina and mental acuity to be at their peak, to be able to handle the stress of the job, and make solid, thoughtful decisions.

I know some wonderful 80-year-olds. They are clear-headed, thoughtful, and experienced and as the saying goes, they get around well for someone their age. Does that mean they are the best choices for a huge job which affects millions of people, I think not. Are there possible exceptions to this general rule? Maybe, but I have serious doubts and concerns.

We have an 80-year-old President and his likely opponent in the general election is currently 77. No matter which candidate is elected, we will have a very old man in the oval office.

If you would not consider a person of such an advanced age to be in control of your business, why would you ever want such an elderly person in the position of holding the most powerful job in the world? Why do we take such a risk? What do we gain from clinging to the elderly holding our highest public offices? Out of 330 million citizens is there no one in their 40's or 50's who is capable?

We have five US Senators over the age of 80 including the Senate Majority leader and a Senator from California who is 90! The House Minority Leader just

announced they are going to seek another term in office at age 83! Where are the young leaders and why do we not embrace them? Where is the energy, the vision, the vitality of the young. Surely, we do not cling to "old politicians" because of their great success and accomplishments. If that was the case, we wouldn't be in the shape we are in.

Where are the fresh ideas? Where is the youthful enthusiasm to accomplish great things? Where is our future? These characteristics are in the hearts and minds of a whole group of our fellow Americans which we seem to dismiss. 68% of Americans are under the age of 60 and only 18% are over the age of 65. These 'young people' see the world differently, communicate differently and have adjusted to the changes in technology and science the world has experienced. Isn't it time to give them some consideration?

Other countries around the world embrace young leadership to invigorate their political landscape and to keep from being stuck in the same political quagmires which have saddled them down for years. Why do we continue to call upon the same old "war horses"?

I wish someone had the answer.

Thought for the day: Only the self-serving keep power and control when they become old. True leaders step aside for the next generation and allow their enthusiasm and new ideas to plant the seeds which grow a mighty forest.

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

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National Night Out Oct. 3

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Police Department has announced that National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the Sports Complex from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. National Night Out is designed to heighten drug and crime awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partners, and send a message to criminals letting them know neighbor-

hoods are organized and fighting back.

This event will be fun for all ages. There will be free food, vehicle and aircraft displays, safety demonstrations, educational materials, fun games, music, local city/county information, free giveaways, and a chance to visit with your local first responders. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs.

For more information, call 254-865-2226.

News from Eclipseville



BY CHERI SHEPHERD

City of Gatesville Special Events Coordinator

You've probably heard some buzz about the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024.

In case you are one of those who are still "in the dark" about this event, here are a few facts that Gatesville residents should know:

The last total eclipse to cross the U.S. was in 2017. It cut a path from Oregon to South Carolina. Prior to that, the last total solar eclipse to cross the United States was in 1979 and the next will be in 2044.

A total eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the view of the sun across a narrow band of the earth. The path of totality for the April 8, 2024 eclipse is approximately 150 miles wide. The closer to the center of this path you get, the longer duration of the eclipse you will see.

Gatesville is right in the center of the path of totality for this eclipse. That means that we will see 4 minutes, 23.9 seconds of totality, making us one of the prime viewing locations in the world. The greatest duration of totality in the U.S. will be near Eagle Pass and will last 4 minutes, 26.8

seconds. By contrast, Austin will see 1 minute, 46 seconds, Dallas will experience 3 minutes, 49.7 seconds. San Antonio, Houston and Bryan/College Station will all be outside of the path.

We expect a large number of visitors not only staying in our hotels, but also staying with friends and relatives in their homes. We also anticipate that there will be heavy traffic on the day of the eclipse as people will drive to be closer to the longest duration of totality. Over the last year, the City of Gatesville has quietly been working on plans for hosting these visitors. With the anticipation of heavier traffic and greater numbers of people on the weekend of the eclipse and on that Monday, Police Chief Brad Hunt and Fire Chief Billy Vaden have been meeting with a group of public safety officials, including DPS, TxDoT, Coryell Health, Ft Cavasos Fire and Police, Game Wardens, GISD Police and more, to create a plan to work together to handle the traffic and any emergency situations.

We've also been communicating with local businesses to help them prepare for the increased demand for goods and services. From HEB and Walmart to our restaurants, gas stations, and boutiques, our businesses are making plans for this event.

Finally, we are working to put our best foot forward by providing a safe and memorable experience for our residents and visitors. On Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, the City of Gatesville and local organizations and community volunteers will host a downtown festival, dubbed "BLOCK (out the sun) PARTY." This will be a free event with entertainment, food and merchandise vendors, fun activities for children and adults, and a free educational presentation by a NASA Ambassador in the City Auditorium. Sunday will feature a time of praise and worship on the square, with activities through the afternoon. On Monday, Gatesville ISD will hold a viewing party in McKamie Stadium, and Friends of the Gatesville Public Library will offer paid parking at the Gatesville Sports Complex/Civic Center. Our NASA Ambassador and his team will be on Box Field with telescopes and a projection camera. Admission to the field is free of charge.

I'll be writing a regular column in the Gatesville Messenger to keep the community informed about these and other plans. Information is also available on www.GatesvilleTxEclipse.com and will be updated on a regular basis.

Gatesville's water bill rate increase explained

SUBMITTED BY SCOTT ALBERT
City Manager

Recently, the city has received calls regarding unusually high-water bills, prompting customers to question whether the city has raised its utility rates. Indeed, the city's utility rates underwent a significant increase in April.

In this message, I aim to explain the reasons behind this rate adjustment.

In 2022, the city engaged New Gen Strategies and Solutions to conduct a study on water and sewer rates. During this study, the consultant identified several issues that prompted the city to consider adjustments to its water and sewer rates. Primarily, these adjustments were made due to the projected insufficiency in the financial performance of the utility fund up to 2027 should the city not modify the water and sewer rates. The necessity for these utility rate adjustments was largely driven by needed capital investments and general inflationary pressures.

The city's prior water rate structure consisted of a flat volumetric charge per 1,000 gallons, which neither aligned with industry standards for rate design in water scarce geographic areas, nor did it encourage conservation. To address this, the city introduced a new tiered volumetric rate structure, which increases the cost of water based on a customer's usage. The tiered system is designed to increase the rate per 1,000 gallons for higher water consumption. For instance, the table below illustrates the contrast between the previous rate structure and the new rate structure for Fiscal Year 2023, based on a three-fourth inch residential water meter:

Volumetric Rates	Previous Flat Rate	New Volumetric Rate for FY 23
0 - 5,000 gallons	\$3 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.31 per 1,000 gallons
5,000 - 15,000 gallons	\$3 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.48 per 1,000 gallons
15,000 - 30,000 gallons	\$3 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.65 per 1,000 gallons
30,000+ gallons	\$3 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.83 per 1,000 gallons

Under this new structure, a customer's utility bill is determined by both the meter size (with larger meters incurring a higher fixed charge) and the volume of water they consume. In alignment with the consultant's recommendations, simultaneous to the adjustment in the rate design structure, the city executed a substantial rate hike in April. The percentage of the increase was proportionally linked to a customer's meter size.

The majority of residential customers with a three-fourth inch meter experienced a 10.39% rise in both water and wastewater rates. Customers with larger water meters saw an even more pronounced increase exceeding the 10.39% benchmark.

The new volumetric rates ensure consumers are billed based on their actual consumption and foster greater equity in utility bills by requiring heavier water users to pay more. This principle reflects that those contributing more to resource depletion, capital costs, operation and maintenance costs should bear a greater share of the associated costs.

To conclude, volumetric water rates encourage conservation and uphold the principles of fairness among the customers.

It's worth noting that the water bills also encompass a charge for trash service, which saw an increase in February from \$13.23 to \$22.01 due to the implementation of a new containerized service.



COURTESY PHOTO

Scott Albert

BOOK CLUB TO BENEFIT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Gatesville Public Library recently collaborated with the Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville to create a "Book Club." The club will be comprised of first and second grade students and will be held twice a week on Monday and Wednesday at 4 p.m. The club, led by librarian Shea Harp, and Boys and Girls Club director, Julie Hudson, will discuss books related to current events that children would be interested in learning about.

Town hall meeting Sept. 21

Submitted by Cheri Shepherd, City of Gatesville Special Events Coordinator

The City of Gatesville will hold a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, Sept. 21 in the old City Hall building at 110 N. 8th St., beginning at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to provide residents with information about what the city is doing to prepare for the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. General Information will

be presented about what to expect from the eclipse and how residents and businesses can prepare.

Police Chief Brad Hunt will talk about how law enforcement and other first responders are planning for traffic and other situations that may arise with a larger-than-normal number of people in town.

Plans will be revealed for a downtown festival on the Saturday and Sunday leading up to the Monday

eclipse, and residents can learn about viewing events for Monday, April 8.

There will be a time for questions and answers, and residents will have the opportunity to sign up as volunteers for the festival.

If you are unable to attend the meeting or want to learn more, information is available at www.GatesvilleTxEclipse.com and will be updated on a regular basis.

T-ville Community Center meeting Oct. 2

Staff Reports

The Turnersville Community Center will hold its quarterly meeting on Monday, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the

Turnersville Community Center and is open to the public.

Following the meeting, a Buffalo Stampede meeting will commence.

The Turnersville Com-

munity Center serves residents of the rural community of Turnersville.

The Turnersville Community Center is located at 8115 FM 182.

Crazy about the Guayabera shirt



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

You've probably seen the guayabera shirt. It's worn untucked and has either two or four pockets, and vertical stripes of pleats front and back.

It's made of cotton, linen, or silk and is popular in warm climates. We certainly qualify for that distinction in Texas this year. When I was a student at Monterrey Tech years ago, I bought my first one. It was made of cotton. Then I bought one of linen that was a little dressier. Then I bought a long-sleeved one with polka dots to wear in cooler weather. It's a neat shirt. Some call it camisa de Yucatan (Yucatan shirt).

The person in Texas who knows about the shirt is Caroline Matthews of San Antonio. She has stores in San Antonio and Houston that sell guayaberas. Her stores are called Dos Carolinas, so named because an earlier partner was named Carol. She makes them for customers all over the western hemisphere.

"It's a Spanish-inspired style," says Caroline. "Everywhere the Spaniards invaded a new world there is an example of the shirt, although they're different in each country."

She grew up in Alpine where her grandfather had a soft drink business.

"My dad's father bought the first Dr. Pepper franchise and took it to Alpine, the first one outside the city of Waco. My other grandfather had a small country store. My family is all about entrepreneurs and that kind of thing, so it's in my blood stream."

After graduating from Texas Tech, she went to work for Sears.

"I was an executive trainee. My first position was in men's shirts. So, it was destined from the very beginning."

She started her shirt business 37 years ago.

"I think I picked the right time. The world is becoming more and more casual, and we do a casual shirt that happens to be a dressy version of casual. So, you can wear a casual shirt and yet look dressed enough to go in any restaurant you want to walk into, or you can wear it on cruises and feel comfortable that you're dressed enough to look good. I think they're becoming more and more popular, and the reason I say that is more and more 18-year-old boys are wanting my shirt. Any man knows that what you're wearing when

you're 18 is what you're wearing when you're 80."

She'll make you a shirt the way you like it.

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She has 40 employees, saying she tries to hire people like herself. She has many repeat customers. Many of them collect her shirts. Some have 50 of them.



COURTESY PHOTO

Guayabera shirt

Notice of Public Meetings for Coryell County Wildfire Protection Plan

Submitted by Natural Resource Solutions, L.C.

Coryell County is developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that addresses issues such as wildfire response, mitigation, community preparedness, and structure protection. Two upcoming public meetings will be held on Sept. 20 and Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Gatesville City Auditorium. We encourage the public to attend and voice their concerns and needs regarding wildfires in Coryell County in order to assist with the development of the CWPP, so the community and local fire authorities are able to respond to wildfire events effectively. The Gatesville City Auditorium is located at 110 N. 8th Street, Gatesville, TX 76528. Please visit www.coryellcountycwpp.com for more information.

Gatesville Chamber of Commerce to hold open meeting Sept. 20

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will hold a meeting open for the community to attend. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce will open its doors to the community to share their mission statement for future events along with expectations for the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce serves the community in many ways, including publicity and public relations for Gatesville, coordination of community activities, newcomers welcome center, library of directories, reports, surveys, maps, tourist, and travel folders.

The meeting will take place at the Cotton Belt Depot building located at 2307 S. State Hwy. 36 in Gatesville.

For more information contact the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.



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Progressive FARMER READER INSIGHTS

American Legion presents golf tournament Sept. 23

Staff Reports

The American Legion Post 42, located in Gatesville, will hold a Four-Person Golf Scramble on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Gatesville Country Club. The tournament is to raise funds for the many local programs the American Legion supports. Registration will begin

at 8 a.m., and tee time will commence shortly after at 9 a.m. The entry fee cost is \$200-per-team, and the deadline to enter is Friday, Sept. 22.

The tournament will include a raffle for a 12-gauge shotgun, many door prizes, and a luncheon. Contests will include closest to the Pin Par 3's and the Longest

Drive with cash prizes.

For more information or to enter, contact the American Legion Post 42 in Gatesville at 254-865-4134 or The Gatesville Country Club at 254-865-6917.

The Gatesville Country Club is located at 1308 Golf Course Road.

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601-700 lb.	205-249	600-700 lb.	200-225

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Coryell County Deed Records returned to clerk's office

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In July of this year, approximately 266 deed record books were collected by a representative of Kofile Technologies in Dallas where they were transported so they could be digitized.

Coryell County Clerk Jennifer Newton said that at the time the books were collected, the digitization would take approximately three to six months to complete. Much to her surprise, the deed books came back earlier than expected.

When asked if the deed records could now be seen online, Newton said that digitization of the deeds was completed and that phase two will now begin with indexing the records.

"As soon as that is complete, they will start phase three, which is when the records will be imported into

our software system and will be available online," Newton said.

The next set of records to be digitized by Kofile will be the Deeds of Trust, which will include Book A through Book 182 in the next few months, according to Newton.

Public comments about the online availability of the county documents have been numerous.

"We have had a lot of feedback from the citizens - all of which so far has been very positive. We also have received a lot of feedback on the implementation of ordering birth, death, and marriage records online, and that has been very positive as well," Newton said.

The digitization of the records from Coryell County Clerk's office will make it easier for those doing re-

search to access certain documents instead of having to travel to the courthouse to search the records books.

Kofile Technologies has the ability to scan mixed size and large format documents. The firm employs a range of scanners to tailor imaging services to the document that requires imaging.

Fragile documents, such as the ones found at the Coryell County Courthouse, are imaged by hand, and not fed through an automated document feeder. Kofile's technicians are trained to hand process fragile documents.

Newton said that progress continues in her office and hopes that the public will have a positive response to their continued effort to make records more available to the public online.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

More county records will be available online in the future at the Coryell County Clerk's Office.

Senior Center to hold Stress Less with Mindfulness program

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Senior Center is partnering with the Texas AgriLife Extension Office to bring the community a Stress Less with Mindfulness program on Monday, Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. The program will be held at the Senior Center located at 208 Lutterloh Ave. in Gatesville.

This program introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness to reduce stress.

Successful stress management has been found to be effective in reducing related symptoms such as worry, depression, and physical tension.

On Monday, Oct. 2 the program will focus on mindful eating. Benefits of the program include:

- Learning about the benefits of mindfulness-based approaches to stress reduction.
- Understanding how to recognize your personal

stressors.

- Experiencing mindful movement, mindful breathing, and other mindfulness skills as ways to relax and manage stress.

To register for the program, contact the Senior Center Director at 254-865-8234 or Donna Schwausch, Coryell County Extension Agent at 254-865-2414 or by email at donna.schwausch@ag.tamu.edu.

PEARL NEWS

The great bikini heist of Pearl



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! The Great Bikini Heist has all of Pearl in an uproar.

Ace Detective David Scott aka Star Reporter and Purveyor of News and Events around Pearl and the surrounding area discovered that the famous Framed Teeny Weeny, Turquoise Greeny, Stringy Bikini has been absconded from its hallowed placement above the Christian Book Section last Saturday during the Sept. 9 Bookstore and Bluegrass event. Mr. Scott brought the missing item to Linda Ray's attention—and she grew faint with despair. Upon questioning, it was revealed that Mrs. Ray had been in the bookstore all during the previous week but had not noticed the missing miscreant until Mr. Scott paid his routine homage to that crazy creation—only to find it wasn't there (I heard the scream all the way in Nacogdoches). Eagle Eye Scott began an immediate search of the area and found no clues to the possible whereabouts of the framed frock. Therefore, it is up to you, dear reader, to keep your eyes peeled for sightings of the miss-

ing merchandise. Should you make contact with this perp, please request that it be returned to the Pearl Cottage Bookstore immediately. Kay Pruett has planned a goodbye celebration to the 100-plus heatwave and wants to wear the stringy thingy on her last hurrah, hail, and farewell, begone with you party on the Cowhouse Creek. Whatever will she do? (No reward has been offered at this time. Stay tuned, though.) Alas, there's no place like Pearl, sigh.

Speaking of the Bookstore and Bluegrass event last Saturday, it was reported that everyone enjoyed a great turnout. Corlisa and Linda said that they got to visit with folks they had not seen in quite a while, and they met many new friends, too. Be sure and let your friends and family know about the next event on Oct. 7. The beginning of fall in Pearl is a beautiful time of year, so go and enjoy the (hopefully) cooler temps and wonderful sights and sounds of this

beloved community. You'll be so glad you did.

In other news ... The Pearl Church of Christ will have their 128th Homecoming and Reunion on Oct. 15. Remember, church begins at 10:30 a.m., and dinner on the grounds will follow. Plaques will be given to the youngest attending, oldest attending, longest attending member, couple married the longest, and for the person who traveled the longest distance. Drive your vintage cars if you have one and join the fellowship, fun, and good preaching in Pearl. Everyone is invited!

The next Pearl Cemetery workday is set for Saturday, Oct. 14, at 9 a.m., weather permitting. If the weather does not cooperate, it will be rescheduled for Oct. 21.

This week's Bible verse comes from Titus 2:11-13, "For the Grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the Glory of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ..." NIV

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 betsycklark47@yahoo.com.

Spurfest, car show and fiddler's old time contest Sept. 16

Staff Reports

The 22nd annual Spurfest will take place on Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Coryell County Museum and in downtown Gatesville. Admission to the museum is free.

The event will offer a variety of games, music, and performances for families.

Hosted by The Coryell County Museum and Historical Center, Spurfest not only provides a day full of entertainment, but also gives locals and out-of-towners the opportunity to connect with Coryell County history and pay homage to the museum's renowned spur collection.

"It's not just for the kids, it's for the adults too. It's important to know the history, what role Coryell County played in the development of Texas, and celebrating that and being able to see it," said Ervin Adams, Board President of the Coryell County Museum.

Games and activities for children can be found in rooms throughout the museum, including pin the tail on the horse, a cactus throw, pictures by the old jail, and a guess-the-number-of-beans contest. However, visitors of all ages can enjoy listening to live dulcimer music, attend a cowboy talk at the chuckwagon, and try samples at a butter churning demonstration. Waco's Karem Cowboys will return to Spurfest with skits and reenactments inspired by the Wild West.

This year's event also brings new performances and artists. Additions include martial arts and medieval sword work on the square as well as a Waxahachie-based poet who calls himself the "Cowboy Lariat."

The Spurfest raffle returns with drawings for a quilt adorned with a spur

motif and two framed art prints of the Coryell County Courthouse by local artist Jon Brown. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$20 at the museum.

"It's one of the big events in Gatesville that draws people from out of town," said Catherine Fulton, board member of the Coryell County Museum.

Visitors can also check out the museum's latest exhibits: a room filled with antique toys and a photo wall of pro football players from Coryell County.

Along with Spurfest, festival goers can attend the 37th annual Cruzin Cruzers Car Show on the courthouse square and the Old Time Fiddlers Contest in the City Auditorium.

The annual Cruzin Cruzers car show will be held downtown on the square in Gatesville. Vendors can check in at 6:30 a.m., and the event will begin shortly after.

The car show will be free to spectators. There will

be various vendors, activities, over 200 cars to look at, and a lunch sold by the Cruzin Cruzers Car Club.

This year the club will have more than 65 award plaques.

The Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association will have its annual Gatesville Old Time Fiddlers Contest at the Gatesville City Auditorium during Spurfest.

The contest will begin at noon, drawing top fiddlers from across the state to compete for prizes. Contestants will compete by age in categories ranging from under 10 years old to 60-plus.

Admission is free, and spectators are welcome to come and go throughout the day.

The Master of the Ceremony will be Wes Westmoreland, President of Texas Old Time Fiddle Association, who is also a four-time world champion fiddler.

The Gatesville City Auditorium is located at 110 N. 8th Street.

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700-800 lb.	210-225
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400-500 lb.	220-265
500-600 lb.	220-245
600-700 lb.	200-240
700-800 lb.	185-215
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	105-116
Low Yielding	80-95
Fats	100-113
Thin & Shelly	65-80
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	105-131
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	1850-2400
Young Fair	1400-1850
Aged Pairs	Split & weighed
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker Replacement Cow	
	1100-1850
Number of Head	
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Central Texas Master Naturalists searching through moth guides to identify moths.

COURTESY PHOTO

Mother Neff State Park to host annual Moth Night

Staff Reports

Mother Neff State Park presents its annual Moth Night on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This event is completely free with no park entrance fee, and the gate will open at 6:45 p.m.

During the event, you can actively participate by finding moths and taking notes. The easiest way is to download the iNaturalist app by visiting www.iNaturalist.org on your smart phone and create a profile before coming to the event. At the event, you take pictures of moths and upload them

to the National Moth Week project on iNaturalist.

National Moth Week is held worldwide celebrating moths. Everyone everywhere can become a Citizen Scientist and contribute scientific data about moths.

National Moth Week was established in 2012 by members of the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, a non-profit organization in Central New Jersey dedicated to local environmental education and conversation.

The idea grew from the popular local moth nights that attracted experienced and novice moth research-

ers of all ages.

According to nationalmothweek.org, "What began as a plan for a statewide moth night evolved into a national week and quickly became an international citizen science project that invited organizations and individuals to register their events for free."

For more information on Moth Night, contact Mother Neff State Park at 254-853-2389 or by visiting <https://txmn.org/centraltexas/central-texas-moth-night>.

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

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Groundwork at the site of the Holiday Inn Express in Gatesville got underway.

More than 200 classic vehicle entries were expected for the 17th Annual Leon River Fun Run in Gatesville's Faunt Le Roy Park.

Roger Barnett's cow gave birth to triplet calves, a rarity.

Jam sessions took place in every room of the Pearl Community Center during the monthly Pearl Bluegrass Music Festival.

LaRon Slay, district executive for the Leon Valley District, spoke at a Cub Scout roundup held at the Gatesville Intermediate School.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

The Wesleyan Circle of

the First United Methodist Church met in the fellowship hall.

Texas House Speaker James (Pete) E. Laney was set to visit Gatesville as guest speaker at a reception in honor of State Rep. Allen Pierce.

The Gatesville Independent School District board of trustees met for presentations from five architectural firms regarding the construction of a new high school campus.

Undercover Blues showed at the Last Drive-In Picture Show.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Ayers, son of William Ayers (of Gatesville), reported for duty aboard the guided missile cruiser USS

California.

40 YEARS AGO (1983)

Tentative completion of restoration work at the Old Cotton Belt Railroad Depot was expected within 30 days.

The Gatesville Hornets football team lost 7-19 to Waco High.

Coryell County's jail won Texas Commission on Jail Standards certification for the fifth consecutive time.

Cujo and Star Trek were showing at the Drive-In in Gatesville.

Becky Moore, 14, was picked as "Pepiteer of the Week" at the Hornet-Waco football game.

50 YEARS AGO

Coryell Memorial Hospital's application for a certificate of need to build a new hospital was set to be considered by the health subcommittee of the Central Texas Council of Governments.

Cotton ginning hit full stride over Coryell County, where the harvest continued to exceed mid-summer expectations.

Earl Carpenter, of Gatesville, was named as a new patrolman on Gatesville's police force.

Celia Powell, of Gatesville, was selected to be on the Texas Christian University's 1973-1974 Campus Alumni Board.

M.A.T.E.S. and National Guard retiree's gathering slated Sept. 16

Submitted item

The seventh annual M.A.T.E.S. and National Guard retirees' gathering will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16. The gathering will start at 10 a.m. and will continue to 4 p.m. at

the Mountain Community Center in Gatesville located at the end of Barton Lane.

Everyone attending is asked to bring a potluck meal and everyone will eat at noon. All spouses are

invited to attend. Paper goods, cups, and plasticware will be provided.

For more information, contact Gene Martin at 254-865-7163 or Ronald Kirkpatrick at 254-624-4442.

Coryell Health to host Medicare seminar Oct. 3

Staff Reports

Coryell Health will host a seminar to explain Medicare benefits on Tuesday, Oct. 3. The seminar will be held at the Gatesville Civic Center at 11:30 a.m.

The seminar will include a free lunch, Medicare ba-

sics, and facts from the Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas. When choosing healthcare coverage, understanding the hidden costs and who directs your care makes a difference in your care and out of pocket costs.

To attend the seminar, you will need to register online at www.coryell-health.org/medicare101 or by calling (254) 248-6380.

The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.

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 ten 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 welcome, 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.



Cover2Cover Ministries presents fundraiser Sept. 23

Staff Reports

Cover2Cover Ministries will hold a church auction and fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 23. The event will begin at 11 a.m. and will be located at 405 S. Hwy. 36, suite 5 in Gates-

ville. There will be live music, food, and fun for all ages to attend.

There will be raffle tickets sold for \$10 each to win a \$500 Walmart gift card, as well as various auction items.

A hamburger meal will be available with chips, a drink, and dessert for \$10 a plate.

For more information, contact Cover2Cover Ministries at 254-392-9472.

CCRP to hold fish fry Sept. 16

Staff Reports

The Coryell County Republican Party will hold a community fish fry on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Gatesville Civic Center.

The fish fry will feature guest speaker, Steve Munisteri. Munisteri was formerly elected three times as the Republic Party of Texas State Chairman, a former senior advisor to Senators Paul and Cornyn,

and the Republican National Committee Chair Priebus, a deputy assistant to President Trump, who is currently the senior advisor to Governor Abbott.

This is a night of celebration, food, and fellowship, as the CCRP prepares for the upcoming election season. There will be elected officials speaking on current topics concerning the district.

Tickets are to be purchased by visiting CoryellGOP.org.

The mission of the CCRP is to advance conservative principles in public policy and to elect Republican public officials at the local, state, and federal levels.

The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

Proposition Number 1 (HJR 126)

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 64)

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

Proposition Number 3 (HJR 132)

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

Proposition Number 4 (HJR 2- Second Special Session)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption**

from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

Proposition Number 5 (HJR 3)

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

Proposition Number 6 (SJR 75)

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

Proposition Number 7 (SJR 93)

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment

would require PUC to allocate money from the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

Proposition Number 8 (HJR 125)

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

Proposition Number 9 (HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

Proposition Number 10 (SJR 87)

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

Proposition Number 11 (SJR 32)

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the

legislature with regard to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

Proposition Number 12 (HJR 134)

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

Proposition Number 13 (HJR 107)

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

Proposition Number 14 (SJR 74)

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

OBITUARIES

Dannie Snider

January 13, 1937 - September 11, 2023

Dannie Snider, age 86, of Turnersville, passed away on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, at her home, surrounded by her family.



Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Jon Crosby officiating. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Turnersville Cemetery.

Dannie Faye Snider was born Jan. 13, 1937, to the late Tucker and Irene Kemp Tharp in Turnersville. She grew up and attended school in Turnersville, graduating high school in 1955. She married J. H. Snider on Nov. 23, 1957, and the two made their home in Turnersville. They had three children and farmed and ranched for many years in Coryell County.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Robbie Jay Snider; sister, Charlene Hill; and niece, Sandra Mitchell.

Dannie is survived by her husband of 65 years, J. H. Snider; son, Mark Snider and wife, Barbara; daugh-

ter, Cindy Young and husband, Jerry; grandchildren, Natasha Dahl and husband, Miles, Chris Mullens and wife, Allison, Erica Mullens and husband, Cody; and great-grandchildren, Bailor Dahl, Brynn Dahl, and Paisley Ellington; and several nieces and nephews.

The Snider family would like to give special thanks to Sunset Hospice and Pastor Jon Crosby and to all who visited and helped care for Dannie.

In lieu of flowers, Dannie's family requests that memorials be made to the Turnersville Community Center, P.O. Box 701, Gatesville, TX 76528.

David Murrell Dilley

April 25, 1951 - August 21, 2023

David Murrell Dilley, age 72, of Glasgow, Kentucky, passed away Monday, August 21, 2023, at his residence. He was the son of the late Henry Leon and Mildred Smith Dilley. David retired from the United States Army having served in Vietnam and Desert Storm. David loved his country and his family dearly. He was proud to have served his country.



He is survived by his wife, Deborah Dellis Dilley; one son, Jamey Dilley; one daughter, Trina Dilley; two step sons: Kenneth and Jerrod Vanover; eight grandchildren, Kolby Lee, Connor and Chase Bernhardt, Macey, Kaiden, and Gracey Dilley, Lisa and Jackson Vanover; three brothers; Freddie Dilley (Phyllis), Danny Dilley (Carole), Johnny Dilley (Barbara); one brother-in-law, Jim Dellis (Darla); one sister-in-law; Sarah Haglund (Marty); several nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in

death by his first wife, Shirley Cross Dilley, and one brother, Jerry Dilley.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, September 16, at Hatcher & Saddler Funeral Home with burial in the Lick Branch Cemetery. Military honors will be provided by DAV Chapter 20. The visitation will be after 4 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers donations can be made to DAV Chapter 20 in c/o Curtis Littrell, 107 Yancey Blvd. Horse Cave, KY 42749.

MOUND NEWS

Barbara celebrated her 63rd birthday



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Barbara Hopson was honored for her 63rd birthday on Saturday with a surprise birthday party at the home of Barbara Hopson.

It was hosted by her sister and her great-niece, Margaret Hopson, and Danijo Wood. Those attending were most of her many cousins and a few friends.

Danijo Wood was honored on her ninth birthday with a party Saturday at Urban Air in Waco given by her grandmother, Margaret Hopson. Those attending were family and friends.

Emma Blakley, of College Station, was home for the weekend and attended the Gatesville High School Homecoming on Friday evening.

Delecia Reynolds was a Wednesday lunch guest of Barbara Hopson.

Sue Jones visited in Waco Tuesday morning with her aunt, Sugie Williamson. Jimmy Williamson of

Waco and Shelly Wilkerson, of Austin, visited Friday afternoon with Don and Sue Jones.

Elli, Jenson, and Molli Kinnear showed their rabbits at the Belton Rabbit Show on Sept. 8.

Elli won first place with her Polish, and Jenson won second with his Velveteen lop.

Molli won third place with her Polish.

Samuel Shepherd also showed at the Belton Rabbit Show and won second place with his Polish.

The Coryell County 4-H Ambassador Team met Sunday evening to plan their annual 4-H Color Run and fourth grade Ag Day field trip. The group enjoyed planning, swimming, and eating together. The county ambassadors help promote, plan, and implement county 4-H events each year. A big thank you to the Hopson family for hosting!

Gatesville High School

Varsity Volleyball team were guests of Anna McPherson at a get-together bash at the home of David and Pam Hopson on Monday (Labor Day). It was hosted by Anna's parents and sisters Mark, Kelli, Kinsley, and Allie McPherson.

Several people from Mound attended the annual 2023 Gatesville High School Homecoming, including the Pep Rally, Homecoming Parade, Homecoming game against McGregor, Alumni Banquet, and class reunions. This year's King and Queen were LJ Hall and Laura Trejo.

Several people from Mound attended the A Sami Show Arts and Crafts at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton over the weekend.

Barbara's notes: Jaryn Poynter will celebrate his birthday on Sept. 16.

Please keep the Hopson family in your prayers.

Don't miss your opportunity to purchase tickets for the Spurfest raffle

Staff reports

The Coryell County Museum and Historical Center is selling raffle tickets for a Spur motif quilt and two courthouse prints. The spur motif quilt was created by Grace Dallimore

and the matted and framed pointillism prints of the courthouse were created by local artist, Jon Brown.

Tickets will be sold for \$20 (three chances to win) and can be purchased from museum board members or at the museum's gift shop.

The drawing for the quilt and courthouse prints will be held during Spurfest on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the museum.

For more information, contact Catherine Fulton at 254-223-0014.

LET IT RAIN PRAYER MEETING



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Community members gathered Sept. 9 on the Coryell County Courthouse lawn to pray for rain. Local churches provided live music while those attending formed into small prayer circles.

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- CNA-PRN All Shifts
- CMA - PRN

Business Office:

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- 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
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- EMT - PRN



Emergency Department:

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LAB:

- MLT - PRN
- Phlebotomist Weekend Shift

Med/ Surg:

- CNA - FT All Shifts
- \$4,000 SIGN ON BONUS
- RN or LVN - PRN All shifts
- RN - FT Dayshift
- \$10,000 SIGN ON BONUS

Radiology:

- CT/X-Ray Tech - PRN; TDH MRT & ARRT w/1 yr. exp. in CT/X-Ray
- Cath Lab Tech - FT, exp. preferred
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Dialysis Center:

- RN Charge Nurse - FT Mon, Wed & Fri, 4:45am-8:00pm
- Home Dialysis RN

Surgery:

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- Surgery Housekeeper - FT
- Certified Central Sterilization Technician - FT
- Circulating RN
- PACU RN - FT
- Cath Lab RN - FT

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045
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00030323

060
GARAGE SALE

DOLLAR SALE! Tues., 09/19 - 09/23. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030338

Yard Sale-furniture, household goods, blankets, lamps, tools, appliances. Men & women's clothes, shoes, jackets, hats-all excellent condition/Everything must go! Friday & Saturday, September 16th & 17th-8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, September 18th-9 a.m.-12 p.m. 302 River Place West-Gatesville. 00030365

099
PUBLIC NOTICES

Request for Qualifications - The Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) is requesting qualifications for in-home non-skilled Homemaker and Personal Assistance and Caregiver Respite services for Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba counties. Other request for qualifications are for Emergency Response Services (ERS), Durable Medical Equipment (DME), and demand response Transportation (DRT) for Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba counties. The qualifications will serve the period 10/1/23 through 09/30/24. Small businesses, DBEs, MBEs, women-owned businesses and HUBs within CTCOG region are encouraged to submit. Request for qualification packets may be obtained by phone 254-770-2333 or electronic copies by emailing Raquel Canava at raquel.canava@ctcog.org. All submissions must be physically received at CTCOG's office, via email or USPS (PO Box 729; Belton, TX 76513) no later than 5:00 p.m. CT on September 22, 2023. Submissions received after the specified date and time will not be considered. CTCOG reserves the right to reject any and all applications received. 00030353

The City of Gatesville will hold a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, September 21st in the old City Hall building at 110 N. 8th Street, beginning at 5:30pm. The purpose of this meeting is to provide residents with information about what the City is doing to prepare for the solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024. General information will be presented about what to expect from the eclipse and how residents and businesses can prepare. Police Chief Brad Hunt will talk about how law enforcement and other first responders are planning for traffic and other situations that may arise with a larger than normal number of people in town. Plans will be revealed for a downtown festival on the Saturday and Sunday leading up to the Monday eclipse and residents can learn about viewing events for Monday, April 8. There will be a time for questions and answers and residents will have the opportunity to sign up as volunteers for the festival.

If you are unable to attend the meeting or want to learn more, information is available at www.GatesvilleTxEclipse.com and will be updated on a regular basis.
00030361

099
PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF UNIT AUCTION

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

Cavanaugh, Karen	C14
Cooper-Cormier, Lisa	K07
Gibson, Traci-Ann	J15
Hildebrandt, Mary	A17
Johnson, Dixie	J11
Powell, Ashley	D05
Smith, Katelynne	A10
Springer, Stormy	D04
Turner, Shane	D16
Vasseur, Robert	J13

The auction will be held at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, September 16, 2023 (weather permitting), at Gatesville Storage, 2215 E. Main St., Gatesville, Texas.

Terms: Cash
00030357


Notice of Application for a Sand and Gravel Permit

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has applied to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for a General Permit pursuant to Texas Parks and Wildlife Code chapter 86 to remove 1,350 cubic yards of sedimentary material within the Leon River in Coryell County. The purpose is to remove approximately 1,350 cubic yards of flood-deposited silt from the Leon River along the southern boundary of Mother Neff State Park. The location is 0.02 miles upstream of State Hwy 236. Notice is being published and mailed pursuant to Title 31 Texas Administrative Code section 69.105(b).
00030359

070
LAND & LOTS

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Job skills set for workshop Sept. 20

Staff Reports

Hidden Gem Family Center will host a free job skills workshop for the community to attend on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. There will be two more workshops held on Wednesday, Sept. 27 and Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The workshop will provide you with skills needed to obtain a job such as basic

resume writing skills, interview skills, and job readiness. Guests attending the workshop will be able to work with individuals or in small groups.

Be sure to RSVP by contacting the Hidden Gem Family Center at 254-206-3003 or Jenny Featherston at 254-216-3160.

Hidden Gem Family Center is a faith-based non-

profit organization with the mission to focus on families, victims of crime, and those who are in dire need of assistance through intervention, advocacy, empowerment, and social change with opportunities for wholeness, improvement, and self-sufficiency.

Hidden Gem Family Center is located at 115 S. 7th St. in Gatesville.

FENCE GETS FRESH COAT



COURTESY PHOTO
On Saturday, Sept. 9, the fence along the entrance of the Civic Center located at Freedom Park was freshly painted. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints partnered with Keep Gatesville Beautiful to give this fence a fresh new look.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Sept. 6 - Sept. 12. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sept. 6
3:39 a.m., a criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.
9:14 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
4:47 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
5:20 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of N. 27th Street.

Sept. 7
12:23 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 3300 block of E. Main Street.
11:33 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
1:25 p.m., a hit & run was reported in the 100 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.
7:35 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 1100 block of Westview Drive.

Sept. 8
8:27 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 200 block of State School Road.
3:05 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.
3:41 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
9:35 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.

Sept. 9
11:21 a.m., a hit & run was reported in the 3200 block of FM 929.
6:38 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 10000 block of E. Highway 84.
7:54 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
11:40 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1900 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.

Sept. 10
4:27 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 5000 block of S. State Highway 36.
2:20 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
2:24 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 200 block of N. Lovers Lane.
11:22 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1900 block of Saint Louis Street.

Sept. 11
7:05 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of S. Lovers Lane.
9:11 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of Pidcoke Street.
9:17 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1000 block of E. Main Street.
9:18 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 100 block of FM 116.

Sept. 12
6:35 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 600 block of E. Main Street.
11:06 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1500 block of E. Leon Street.
8:07 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 600 block of Park Street.
9:04 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of Sandy Lane.

Sept. 6
10:49 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2000 block of FM 580.
2:17 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2800 block of Big Valley Road.
2:41 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1900 block of County Road 1783.
6:24 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1113.
6:55 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1500 block of Quail Point Drive.
12:16 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 3100 block of N. FM 116.
4:37 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 8000 block of E. Highway 84 West Bound.

Sept. 9
1:30 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 116 near Cowhouse Creek.
11:42 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 2600 block of Snow Road.
12:44 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on County Road 232.
6:40 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 10000 block of E. Highway 84.

Sept. 10
9:30 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 3500 block of County Road 322.
2:52 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of Indian Creek Road.
4:59 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 600 block of County Road 113.
11 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Putnam.

Sept. 11
2:13 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1300 block of County Road 137.
6:12 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Highway 36 and County Road 215.
8:21 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on E. Highway 84 West Bound.
9:40 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of County Road 332.

Sept. 12
12:56 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Hollis Lane.
2:43 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2000 block of FM 580.
3:58 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the FM 107 area.
5:04 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported at FM 116 and Cow House Creek.

17th Annual Fall Chill Car Show held Sept. 30

Staff Reports

The Evant Municipal Development District presents its 17th Annual Fall Chill Car Show on Saturday, Sept. 30. The car show will begin at 9 a.m. and will be located on the Evant square.

The Evant Volunteer Fire Department will host a barbeque fundraiser during the car show for the community to enjoy.

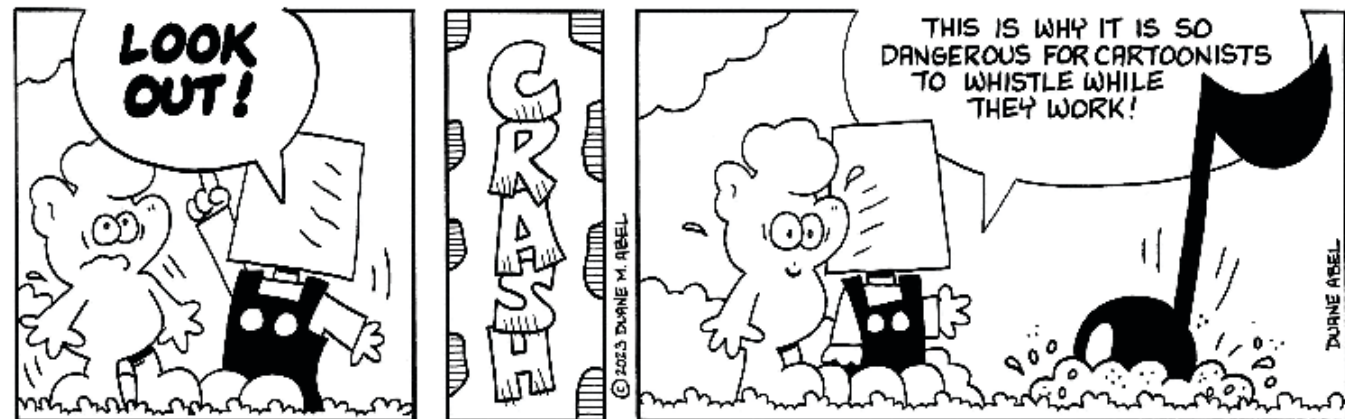
Participants of the car

show will receive free breakfast tacos, one ticket for lunch, and one free T-shirt.

There will be live music at Evant Municipal Park the evening before Friday, Sept. 29 with performances by Clayton Landua, Buzz Hicks, and Dirt and the Fat Boys.

For more information or to enter the car show contact Natalie Hall at 254-248-4012.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran Sept. 9.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County 4-H Ambassador team held their second annual free Color Run followed by a short presentation about common 4-H projects, club informational booths, a hotdog meal and more.



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DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
The Roamin' Chariots car club recently held a car show on the historic courthouse square with about 20 cars on display for the public. The car show was described as a "Cruise In" as a precursor to the Cruzin Cruzers annual car show that will be held on the square during Spurfest on Saturday, Sept. 16.

EXCHANGE AND LIONS CLUB GOLF SCRAMBLE



PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT AND LAUREN HEBRANK
The Gatesville Exchange Club and the Gatesville Lions Club held its 23rd annual golf scramble on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Gatesville Country Club. Players were able to form their own teams of four, and prizes were awarded at the end of the day.



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Hornets fall thanks to late McGregor comeback

CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Gatesville dropped a 21-17 decision to McGregor on Sept. 8 thanks to a furious fourth quarter comeback by the Bulldogs.

Joseph Arnold rumbled to a touchdown on fourth-and-goal with just over a minute to play to complete the Bulldogs rally. The Hornets two-minute offense was able to get into McGregor territory, but a last second throw from Jacob Newkirk to Rayshon Smith fell incomplete in the end zone.

The Hornets - 27-20 winners over the Bulldogs in 2022 - took a 7-0 lead early in the game when LJ Hall sprinted nine yards for his first touchdown of the season. Hall ran for 52 yards on eight carries for a score. Through three games the senior led the Hornets with 270 yards rushing.

Hall's backfield mate Rayshon Smith also ran

roughshod over the Bulldog defense to the tune of 111 yards on 20 carries. Smith had a long of 21 yards and also caught one pass for 17 yards. The duo of Hall and Smith combined to an average of 5.8 yards per carry.

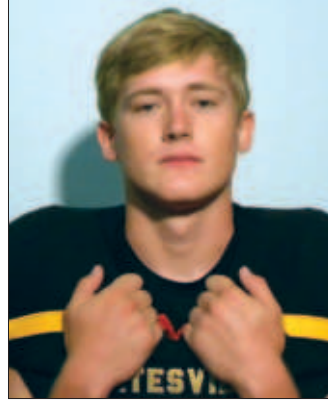
Gatesville extended the lead to 10-0 on a Sergio Bucio field goal in the second quarter. McGregor threatened to put points on the board in the third quarter, but Lawson Mooney blocked a field goal to thwart the threat.

The Bulldogs finally got on the scoreboard when Bubba Zacharias hooked up with Jacob Singer for a 70-yard touchdown catch. Gatesville responded when Amos Phillips punched in a four-yard touchdown to give Gatesville a 17-7 lead with 7:56 to play.

The Bulldogs cut the lead to 17-14 on a four-yard scoring run of their own when Sebastian Torres found the



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Amos Phillips



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Dutch Nielsen



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Lawson Mooney



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Rayshon Smith

end zone. They recovered the ensuing inside kick and Arnold scored eight plays later for the final 21-17 score.

In addition to his four-yard scoring run, Phillips had three catches for 16 yards. The sophomore linebacker and fullback has five catches for 46 yards in his last two games. Adrian Smith also had one catch for eight yards.

Despite a second straight last-minute defeat, the Hornets defense continued to dominate against the run. They gave up just 62 yards on the ground to the Bulldogs and are allowing only 68 rushing yards per game.

Defensively, Mooney led the Hornets with 13 tackles - including eight solo tackles. He also broke up a pass to go along with the blocked field goal. Dutch Nielsen

picked up a pair of sacks, and Zaviar Clater had a sack of his own. Clater, Nielsen, Phillips, and Tommy Aaron had six tackles apiece. Corey Burns had five tackles.

The Hornets faced Mexia in what they hoped would be a bounce-back game on Friday. Last season the Hornets throttled the Black Cats on the road 43-14. They led 43-0 through three quarters. Mexia came into the game

with an 0-3 record after starting the season against one of the more brutal schedules in the state. They lost to 4A Division II No. 7 Connally 64-13 in their season-opener, then lost 70-6 to 3A Division I No. 1 Franklin in Week Two. Last, week they lost 69-27 to 4A Division I No. 3 China Spring.

Gatesville sweeps Lampasas for third consecutive straight-set win

CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Gatesville capped a perfect seven-day stretch of volleyball with a sweep of Lampasas on Sept. 12.

Since losing to Lake Belton on Sept. 1, the Hornets have ripped off three straight wins over Brownwood, Waco Meyer, and the Lady Badgers and have won each in three-straight sets. After an uneven start to the season, head coach Janey Weber can see her young squad starting to come together.

"It has been fun to watch this team develop throughout the first part of the season. Our younger guys are starting to get more comfortable, and the connection between teammates is getting to where it needs to be in order to be successful," Weber said. "What makes coaching so fun is seeing how much your team wants it. They want to be successful, and you see them work

hard every day to improve."

After falling below .500 for the second time this season, after the loss at Lake Belton, the Lady Hornets seem to be improving quickly and demonstrably. They dispatched Brownwood on Sept. 5, 25-22, 25-19, 25-14 and were primed for a bi-district playoff rematch with Georgetown Gateway on Sept. 8 before finding out that the Gators had inadvertently scheduled two-games on the same night.

Gateway has a first-year head coach, and Gatesville Athletic Director Rickey Phillips explained that sometimes scheduling conflicts can happen when a coaching change occurs. So the Lady Hornets were left looking for an opponent. Weber sent the opening to the local chapter officials, and Waco Meyer stepped in. They visited Gatesville on Sept. 8 and were dealt a 25-11, 25-18, 25-13 defeat.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Barrett Boyd



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Emma Pollard



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Laura Trejo



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Taylor Sanderson

Weber attributes the three-game win streak in part to improved timing and effort.

"Our hitters and setters are really starting to find that connection, which is pretty fun to watch," she said. "Our defense has been working their tails off. They are running the net and getting to the right spot which sets us up to be more successful offensively."

Integral in the connection between hitters like Emma Pollard, Barrett Boyd, Laura Trejo, and Anna McPherson has been the emergence of Taylor Sanderson at the setter position.

"Taylor is really starting to come alive as the setter. She is not only putting the ball where we need her to, but she is also reading the other team's blockers and setting our hitters up to be

successful," Weber said.

The improving dynamic between Sanderson and her hitters was on display in the win over Lampasas as Pollard, McPherson, and Boyd took assists from Sanderson and pummeled holes in the floor.

The first set was a back-and-forth affair until the Lady Hornets were able to extend midway through the set. A kill from McPherson,

another from Boyd, a pair of aces from Trejo, and a Lady Badger error helped turned a 16-11 lead into a 21-11 lead as the Lady Hornets eventually finished off a 25-14 first set win.

In the second set, Gatesville trailed by as many as four points multiple times throughout the frame,

PLEASE SEE **SWEEP** | B2

Lady Elks defeat Oglesby Tigers and Richland

Staff Reports

The Evant Independent School District Lady Elks volleyball team defeated Oglesby ISD on Saturday, Sept. 9, 19-25, 19-25, 25-16, 25-23.

The stats include:

Harley Weeks - 2 aces, 12 digs, 24 assists, 6 kills. Hailey Neri - 3 aces, 5 digs, 6 kills. Molly Waldrum - 3 aces, 1 dig, 9 kills, 4 blocks. Bree Ramirez - 1 ace, 11 digs, 6 assists, 4 kills.

Luwi Rodriguez - 16 digs, 2 assists, 7 kills. Izzy Grandy - 1 ace, 11 digs, 1 assist, 8 kills. Jolyce Acosta - 14 digs.

On Tuesday, Sept. 12th the Lady Elks defeated Richland Springs ISD, 25-18, 23-25, 25-16, 25-17.

The stats include:

Harley Weeks - 3 aces, 20 digs, 34 assists (match record), 5 kills. Hailey Neri - 1 ace, 15 digs, 1 assist. Molly Waldrum - 2 aces, 7 digs, 11 kills, 1 block.

Bree Ramirez - 3 aces, 6 digs, 6 assists, 6 kills. Luwi Rodriguez - 1 ace, 20 digs, 2 assists, 20 kills (match record). Izzy Grandy - 1 ace, 13 digs, 2 assists, 10 kills. Jolyce Acosta - 12 digs.

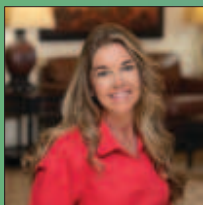
The next volleyball match will be on Saturday, Sept. 16th against Rochelle ISD at Evant ISD at 10 a.m.

GATESVILLE TENNIS



COURTESY PHOTO BY JENNIFER SMITH
The Gatesville Varsity Tennis team lost at Stephenville, 11-8, in the district 7-4A season opener. The loss ended Gatesville High School's 12 match district win streak that dated back to the 2020 season.

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SWEEP
FROM PAGE B1

including a 20-16 deficit. They battled back with four straight points to tie the game 20-20, thanks to three straight aces from Pollard. Lampasas led again 24-23 and had a chance to take the set, but a kill from Boyd tied the game at 24-24. Another set point - this one at 25-24 - was thwarted by a point from Pollard. Pollard struck again to give Gatesville a 28-27 lead, and McPherson wrapped up the set with a kill of her own to help the



Lady Hornets prevail 29-27 in the second set. "In game two we gave away a lot of points and had a lot of missed serves. Overall, it wasn't the cleanest game of volleyball, but the girls fought back and worked for the win," said Weber. The final set featured another run that extended a close game. Tied at 10-10, Gatesville ripped off seven straight points during Boyd's service rotation. The senior outside hitter had four aces during the run and eventually capped the sweep with a final kill for the 25-13 win.

Gatesville traveled to Burnet on Sept. 15 and will host Marble Falls on Sept. 19 before opening district on Sept. 22 at Robinson. Weber said there are still things to clean up before league play starts. "As a team, our communication level still needs to improve, and we need to be smarter on the line when serving, but like I said, these girls want it," she said. "I see them push and grind each day in order to help Gatesville volleyball be successful."

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

 GATESVILLE HORNETS Lawson Mooney 8 solo tackles, 5 assists, 1 pass broken up and 1 blocked field goal	 JONESBORO EAGLES Demarcus Acoff 162 rushing yds, 2 solo tackles, 1 assist, 3 TDs
 EVANT ELKS Unavailable	 OGLESBY TIGERS Cash Lee 58 receiving yds, 6 solo tackles, 1 TD

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Future Hornets



PHOTOS BY GLADYS WHITENBURG AND ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH

The Little Hornets Volleyball Clinic was held September 11 at the Gatesville High School gym. Coaching staff and high school athletes were on hand to teach first through sixth graders some volleyball skills, then they were treated to ice cream floats. The clinic was free of charge to over 80 participants and each one received a t-shirt.



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Football contest results, week 3

1. Gatesville vs. McGregor
 2. Oglesby vs. Covington
 3. Jonesboro vs. St. Stephen's Episcopal
 4. Evant vs. Cherokee
 5. Copperas Cove vs. Manor
 6. Baylor University vs. Utah
- Tie Breaker: #1, 38 points
 First place for the week of September 8 and 9 was tied between David White, C.W. Vernon, and Rancher Jeffcoat. All three entries correctly picked the Oglesby, Jonesboro, Evant, and Baylor games, and placement was determined by the tiebreaker. White came closest to the tiebreaker score of 21-17 points with 42-7 for a total of 49 points, earning him first place for the second consecutive week and \$20. Vernon predicted a tiebreaker score of 52 points, giving him second place and \$10, and Jeffcoat predicted a score of 35-22 for a total of 55 points. Jeffcoat placed third this week for a prize of \$5.

Oglesby Tigers defeat Covington

TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High B Team opened up the 2023 football season, Thursday, Sept 7, with a 28-0 win over the Covington Owls. Brody Martinez, #21, led all rushers with 4 carries for 89 yards, including a 45-yard touchdown run and scored 1 PAT. Liam Ammerman, #9, had 4 carries for 78 yards with 2 touchdown runs of 48 yards, 10 yards, and 1 PAT. James Bankhead, #42, had 1 carry for 25 yards and 1 PAT. Rancher Jeffcoat, #7, scored 1 PAT. Quarterback Hunter Insall, #5, was 1 for 2 passing with 3-yard touchdown pass to #8 Javoni Gonzales.

Defensively for B Team Tigers:

#42 James Bankhead 1 solo tackle, 3 assists. #13 AJ Marfa - 2 solo tackles, 2 assists. #21 Brody Martinez - 2 solo, 1 assist, 1 sac for 5-yard loss. #8 Javoni Gonzales - 2 solo, 1 assist, 1 sac for 5-yard loss.

#5 Hunter Insall - 2 solo tackles, 3 assists, 1 sac for 5-yard loss. #9 Liam Ammerman - 2 solo tackles, 3 assists, 1 sac for 6-yard loss. #88 Asian Aviles - 1 assist. #7 Rancher Jeffcoat - 1

solo tackle.

The Tiger B team was on the road this week, Sept. 14th at Gustine.

The Oglesby Junior High A team defeated the Covington Owls at home in the season Opener, 32-0, Sept. 7.

The Tigers dominated the Owls on both sides of the ball, allowing only two first downs all night long on defense.

#32 Holdyn Goff started off the scoring with a 50-yard touchdown run. The PAT was good making the score 7-0 Tigers. Goff added another score on a 28-yard touchdown run and got his third touchdown on a 40-yard pass reception from #10 quarterback, Evan Williamson. Goff played one play at quarterback and hit #45 Caden Brinkley for a 15-yard pass and a first down. Goff ended the night with 134 total yards and three touchdowns. Mason Marquez, #44, had a great night, running the ball and led in rushing yards with 85 total yards. Marquez also scored a PAT. Marquez scored on his first play from scrimmage on a 60-yard touchdown run, breaking tackles as he bullied his way in the

end zone. He scored his second touchdown on a 25-yard run. Caden Brinkley, #45, caught a pass for 15 yards and a first down from Holdyn Goff. Evan Williamson, #10, was one for one on passing with a 40-yard touchdown pass to #32 Holdyn Goff. Couper Wulfkuhle, #2, got one point on a PAT run.

Defensively for the Tigers:

#44 Mason Marquez lead all tacklers with seven solo tackles and 4 assists and one knockdown pass for a total of 11 tackles. #32 Holdyn Goff - 4 solo tackles, one assist, one sac for 5-yard loss for a total of six tackles.

#10 Evan Williamson - two solo tackles, one assist for a total of three tackles. #33 Jayce Aaron - one solo tackle, and two assists for a total of three tackles. #82 Ranger Dalton - two solo tackles, two assists, and one sack for a 12-yard loss for a total of six tackles. #45 Caden Brinkley - one solo tackle, three assists for a total of four tackles. #20 Logan Ewing - one solo tackle.

The A-Team Tigers hosted the Jonesboro Eagles Sept. 14.

Cruzin Cruzers




Car Show

Saturday, Sept. 16

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------------------------------------	-------------------------

FOOTBALL CONTEST

• 2023 •

1st PLACE
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2nd PLACE
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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. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 11. _____

TieBreaker: 1 Score _____


Name: _____

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No Photocopies please!



#1 Fan

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2. Evant vs. Rochelle

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8. Tarleton vs. Southwest Baptist

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11. Moody vs. Valley Mills

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans outscore Lions 35-3 to win home opener

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Now that's how a home opener is done. The Tarleton State University football team couldn't be stopped in the second half for the second straight game, outscoring North Alabama 35-3 in the final 30 minutes to win 52-31 at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The Texans (2-0, 1-0 UAC) won the first ever United Athletic Conference game, dropping the Lions (1-2, 0-1 UAC) for the second time in as many seasons. On Purple Out, the Purple and White scored 52 points for the second straight game, this time in front of 20,127 fans, a new Tarleton State home opener attendance record.

Victor Gabalis and Keylan Johnson connected on four touchdowns, as Johnson tied the program record for touchdowns scored. He had six receptions for 219 yards, finishing with the fifth most receiving yards in a single game in team history.

The Texans are 2-0 for the first time in their NCAA Division I era, beginning the year with a pair of wins for the first time since 2019. They've scored 104 points over the first two contests, their most points in a two-game stretch since Nov. 2-9, 2019, which also marked the last time the Texans had consecutive games with 50-plus points scored.

Based on the team stats, one might think the score would be flipped. North

Alabama ran 109 plays to Tarleton's 55, they out-gained the Texans 565-477 in total yardage, and owned the time of possession advantage of 36 minutes to Tarleton's 24. But Tarleton State was much more efficient. They averaged 8.7 yards per play to UNA's 5.2 and had 23.2 yards per completion to the Lions' 9.5

The Texans also forced five fumbles and three turnovers, including a 50-yard interception return for a touchdown by Robert Rios to seal the game.

Saturday started with a kickoff delay of about 40 minutes due to lightning in the area, the second straight time Tarleton's game has been delayed this season for the same reason. But that didn't deter Texan fans, who turned out in the droves to pack Memorial Stadium to start the 2023 home campaign.

It was all North Alabama to start Saturday, however. UNA began with a 64-yard drive, but the Texans forced the turnover to hold off the scoring threat, as Blake Smith forced a fumble, re-



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
The Texans (2-0, 1-0 UAC) won the first ever United Athletic Conference game, dropping the Lions (1-2, 0-1 UAC) for the second time in as many seasons.

covered by A.J. Sargent. The Lions scored touchdowns on their next two drives to make it 14-0 UNA in the first quarter. The Texans responded with a Derrel Kelley III 12-yard touchdown rush to cut the deficit in half, then Gabalis found Johnson for his first of four touchdowns just before the first quarter expired to tie the game 14-14 at the break.

North Alabama then traded their two touchdowns in to go back up 14 late in the first half. With two minutes left, Adrian Guzman nailed a 25-yard field goal to make

it 28-17 at halftime. From there, it was all Texans. Gabalis found Johnson from 64 yards out to make it 28-24, then after a UNA field goal, the two hooked up again from 55 yards out this time to tie the game 31-31 with eight minutes to go in the third.

Texan running back Kayvon Britten gave the Texans their first lead with an 8-yard scoring rush with 4:17 to play in the third. Early in the fourth, Johnson caught his fourth touchdown from Gabalis to make it 45-31, then Rios' pick-six capped off the 52-31 final.

Gabalis completed 13-of-22 passes for 301 yards, four touchdowns, and an interception. His 22 pass attempts compared to UNA's 64 on the game, including Lion starting quarterback Noah Walters, who went 36-of-63 for 342 yards, zero touchdowns and a pick.

Britten finished with 64 yards on 13 carries and a score, while Kelley had 56 yards on 11 attempts with a touchdown. Gabalis also rushed for 41 yards.

Defensively, three Texans finished with double-digit tackles. D.J. Harris had 12 tackles, a forced fumble, a

sack and a quarterback hurry. Qua'Shawn Washington had 11 tackles, two tackles for loss and a quarterback hurry. Patrick Jones recorded 10 tackles and a pass breakup.

Smith ended up with two forced fumbles, to go with nine tackles. The Texans had four fumble recoveries on the night, one each by Washington, Kyle Taylor, Sargent and Jed Whitney.

The 2-0 Texans now turn their attention to Texas Tech. Tarleton will face the Red Raiders in Lubbock on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m.

Texans place 3 in top-25 in first tournament of season

Tarleton State University

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Tarleton State University had three of their five-man lineup place in the top-25 of the first final leaderboard of 2023-24 on Sept. 6-7.

Newcomer junior Carson Gallaher went 67-68 over his final two rounds to finish even-par at the Ram Masters Invitational in Fort Collins, Colorado to pace the Texans. He shot 75-67-68 overall at Fort Collins Country Club, taking tied-ninth in his first tournament for the Purple and White.

Tarleton sophomores Max Bengtsson and Cristobal Sepulveda weren't far behind, with Bengtsson finishing tied-18 at +3 (72-71-70) and Sepulveda tied-25th at +6 (70-74-72). Senior Bladen



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Tarleton State University had three of their five-man lineup place in the top-25 of the first final leaderboard of 2023-24 on Sept. 6-7.

Samaniago shot +18 (75-74-79) for tied-61st, and junior Alvaro Huidobro turned

in at +25 (76-78-81) for tied-69th. The Texans took eighth as

a team at +27 (867). "It wasn't the week we were looking for, but there

were a lot of positives to build off of at the same time," head coach Chance Cain said. "Round one is what really hurt us, but we played better each round after. Also having three players in the top-25 is a good sign for things moving forward.

"It was awesome to see Carson grind it out in the first round and then come into form the remaining 36 holes to earn a top-10 off the bat," Cain added. "Max and Cris were steady all week as well, and I can already tell their experience from last season is paying dividends."

Gallaher had the tied-second most birdies among the 75-man field at 14, just two behind the leader. Sepulveda led the entire field in pars at 40 across 54

holes, along with posting the tied-sixth fewest bogeys.

Sepulveda led the Purple and White through the first round at even-par (70), taking 14 pars in the opening 18 holes. Gallaher ended the day with a -3 (67) in Round 2, sinking five birdies compared to just two bogeys. He then finished it off with a -2 (68) on Thursday to place in the top-10.

Long Beach State won the tournament at -15 (825), with Colorado State's Connor Jones taking medalist honors at -13 (64-65-68).

The Texans will next compete at the Graeme McDowell Invitational for the second straight year on Sept. 24-26. The tournament, hosted by UAB, will be held at Limestone Springs Golf Course in Oneonta, Alabama.

Tarleton State University edged by Arkansas-Pine Bluff

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University's Women's soccer dropped a 1-0 decision at Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Pumphrey Soccer Complex.

The Lions improve to 4-3-1 with the victory.

Emma Barnes made her first collegiate start in goal and recorded two saves.

Rylee Low was credited with two of the Texans' four shots on goal, with both of her shots landing on net.

In the 14th minute, the Lions took a 1-0 lead with a goal by Brisha Musungu assisted by Iyanah Hicks.

Tarleton State held UAPB

scoreless in the final 30 minutes of the second half and headed into halftime trailing, 1-0.

The Texans took control in the second half preventing the Lions from taking a shot and firing four of their own.

With six minutes remaining, Jaycie Bass fired a shot on goal, but the UAPB goalkeeper got a hand on it as it went out of play drawing a corner kick. Mila Bettinelli took a shot off the corner but was unable to find the back of the net. The Texans were unable to push one in the back of the net and fell to the Lions, 1-0.

The Lions evened the series after the Texans 6-0 win

in Stephenville last season for Tarleton's first home win as a program.

The Texans out-shot the Lions, 7-5, including 4-3 on goal. Tarleton also held a 7-1 advantage in corner kicks.

Tarleton will close its non-conference schedule on Saturday, Sept. 16 against Prairie View A&M at the Tarleton Soccer Complex at 7 p.m.

Tarleton State University's Women's soccer dropped a 1-0 decision at Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Pumphrey Soccer Complex.

COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY



EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby

Free and reduced-price school meals available to qualifying families

Submitted by Emily Coward, GISD Child Nutrition Specialist

Gatesville Independent School District announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the following current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site and the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

Starting on Aug. 7, Gatesville ISD will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available online at www.gatesvilleisd.org.

CRITERIA FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL BENEFITS

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

Income

1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels.

Categorical (Automatic) Eligibility

2. Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

Program Participant

3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster.

4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start.

Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must complete an application for free and reduced-price meals and return it to. Those individuals filling out the application

will need to provide the following information:

1. Names of all household members.

2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member.

3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number."

4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct.

Categorical or Program Eligibility

Gatesville ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. Gatesville ISD will notify the households of these children so that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a let-

ter and feels it should have should contact Emily Coward at 254-865-7251, Option 5, or ecoward@gatesvilleisd.org. Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact Emily Coward at 254-865-7251, Option 5, or ecoward@gatesvilleisd.org.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information provided by households on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Emily Coward, Child Nutrition Specialist, will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss

the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Dr. Barrett Pollard, Superintendent, at 254-865-7251 or 311 S. Lovers Lane, Gatesville, TX 76528.

Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the current income eligibility guidelines.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Gatesville ISD Primary Campus announced today it will operate the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program and

School Breakfast Program for the 2023-2024 school year. Schools qualifying to operate CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

For additional information please contact:

Gatesville ISD
Attention: Emily Coward
Child Nutrition Specialist
311 S. Lovers Lane, Gatesville, TX 76528
254-865-7251, Option 5
ecoward@gatesvilleisd.org

Gatesville High School presents Fall Fling Dance

Staff Reports

Gatesville High School will host a semi-formal Fall Fling Dance on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., located in the Gatesville High School Cafeteria.

To enter the dance, students will need to go through door numbers 29 and 32, which are near the entrance of the Gatesville High School cafeteria and

courtyard. There will be plenty of snacks and drinks provided.

This dance is open to all ninth through 12th-grade students. Tickets are \$20 each and will be sold during the lunch hours of Wednesday, Oct. 18 through Friday, Oct. 27. Tickets will be sold early for \$15 from Tuesday, Sept. 19 through Thursday, Sept. 21.

Students must be in good standing with grades, behavior, attendance, and cannot owe any fines or holds.

Fall Fling is a school event, and students are required to comply with the general GHS dress code, in addition to the requirements listed below.

If students feel their attire is questionable, they are encouraged to discuss (or

show) their evening wear to administration before the event.

Students who are non-compliant with the dress code guidelines will be given the opportunity to comply. If they refuse, they will not be permitted to attend the dance and will not receive a refund.

Female Dress Code: Ladies can wear semi-formal/formal

gowns or pant suits.

- Strapless gowns and spaghetti straps will be allowed.

- All attire should be modestly cut, no plunging or low-cut necklines.

- No visible midriff or revealing side cutouts.

- All attire should be of modest length, not above the mid-thigh length.

- No slits more than

five inches above the knee.

Male Dress Code: Men can wear semi-formal/formal attire, which includes a suit, slacks, or nice jeans.

For more information contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281. Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.



National Clean Up Day is like a super exciting day when everyone becomes a superhero for the Earth! It's like a big, special day when we all join hands to make our world shiny and clean. Imagine playing a fun game where we pick up litter and garbage from parks, streets, and beaches. We wear cool gloves and carry magic trash bags to collect all the yucky stuff.



But wait, there's more! We don't just pick up trash, we also learn about recycling and sorting things into different bins, just like sorting puzzle pieces. It's like a treasure hunt for doing good deeds!

You'll see grown-ups and kids working together, giggling and laughing while they make the planet happy. And guess what? When we clean up, animals like squirrels

and birds, and even fish in the oceans, do a happy dance!

National Clean Up Day teaches us how to take care of our home and make it a wonderful place for everyone. So put on your superhero cape (or just comfy clothes), grab a garbage picker, and let's make the world the best playground ever on this awesome day!

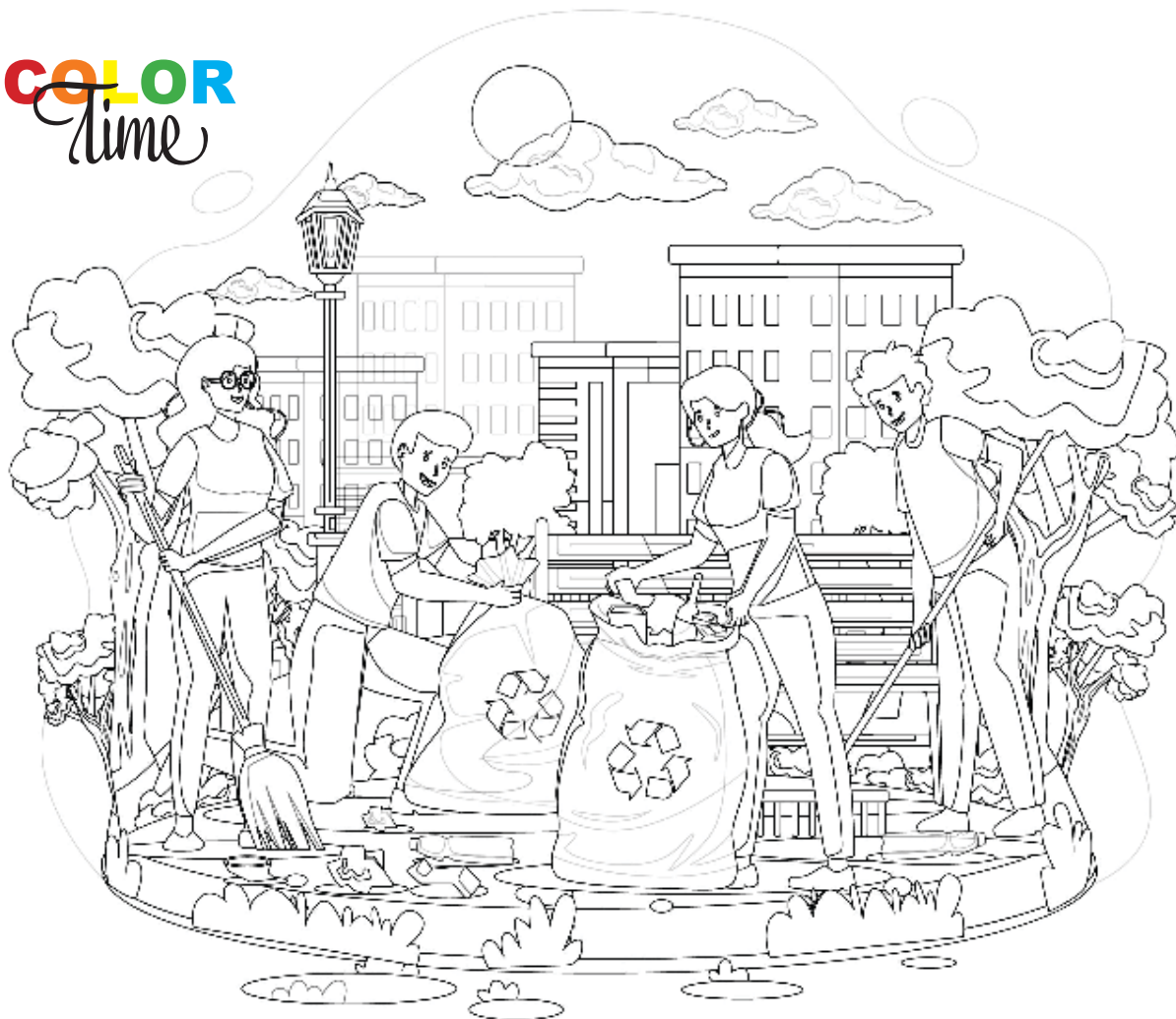


What's the Difference?

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



Answers: 1. Woman wearing necklace 2. Extra trash on floor 3. Missing person on right 4. Man wearing sunglasses



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COURTESY PHOTO

Presley Davila, a fifth-grade teacher at Gatesville Intermediate School, is shown holding a copy of her new children's book "The Worm with the Perm."

Intermediate teacher publishes children's book

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Presley Davila, a fifth-grade reading language arts teacher at Gatesville Intermediate School, recently published her second self-published book titled "The Worm with the Perm."

Davila, who has published one other book in 2021, "The Day My T-Rex and Llama Moved In," said that most of her story ideas "have come immediately." She revealed it took about a year to get the rhyming and smaller details just right.

Davila sent both of her books as manuscripts to countless publishing companies.

"As most aspiring authors know, your chances of getting published are about 1%," she said.

According to Davila, the reality of publishing can be quite discouraging.

"With access to low-to-no-cost direct publishing ser-

vices, like the one I used to self-publish, these dreams are reachable for just about everyone," she said.

An Amazon review of her latest book stated that, "The Worm with the Perm" is a rhyming children's story about an earthworm with an unusual perm. Looking for a place in the world, Werdna leaves her home and meets several creatures who help her realize her unique value."

At the beginning of the school year at Gatesville Intermediate, Davila set up a separate spot in her classroom's library for her self-published books. She would hear the students ask, "Can I read that when you're done with it?"

Several of her students have read her books multiple times, which gives Davila great pleasure to know that her books are inspiring students to read.

Jonesboro ISD to hold Color Run

Staff Reports

The Jonesboro Independent School District Booster Club will host a Color Run on Saturday, Sept. 30. The one-and-a-half-mile color run will begin at approximately 8 a.m. at Jonesboro ISD.

The entry fee will cost \$25 per person and an additional \$20 per extra person. If registration is completed by Friday, Sept. 15 you will be guaranteed a free T-shirt.

The Jonesboro Athletic Booster Club is seeking business and personal sponsorships for the inaugural color run. Sponsors will be featured on a commemorative inaugural race day T-shirt, as well as promoted on the Jonesboro Athletic Booster Club Facebook page as contributing supporters of Jonesboro ISD athletes.

Donations will go directly to help student athletes at Jonesboro ISD for items such as uniforms, specialty equipment, protective gear, and much more that the student athletes could benefit from physically, mentally, and emotionally.

For more information on sponsorships contact Betsy Spitzer at (254) 913-3353 or by email at BetsySpitzer@gmail.com.

JISD Homecoming Festival Sept. 20

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District will hold a Homecoming Festival on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at the Jonesboro ISD campus.

The festival will provide live music, games, beverages, raffle prizes, and food such as the Nipa Truck.

There will be a pie bake-off, and all entries are to be submitted by 6 p.m. in the Jonesboro ISD cafeteria. The cost to enter is \$10, and the winner will be announced at the Friday night homecoming football game.

For more information contact Jonesboro ISD at 254-463-2111.

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville High School class of 1963 celebrated its 60th reunion at Ranchers Steak House & Grill on Sept. 8. Pictured are, front row, left to right: Marilyn Atterbury, Carol Copeland, Kylene Morse, Patsy Hollingsworth, Dollie Isbell, Nina Lee, Connie Payne, and Ronnie Smith; middle row: Frances Wise, Nancy Ashcraft, Martha Farmer, Gwen Watson, Gladys Jones, Janis Bell, Mecca Kenney, Linda Jones, and Virginia Parrish; back row: Ashley Lovell, Phil Ziegler, Gwen Murry, Bill Nesbitt, Sharon Herring, Harolynn Sims, Rodney Powell, Linda Shaw, Tom Yows, Marcia Cockrell, and Earl Landry.

FNBC rewards educators of the week

Staff Reports

The First National Bank of Central Texas has honored two local teachers who dedicate themselves to educating the youth each day at Gatesville Independent School District.

During the third football

game on Friday, Sept. 8, Kay McCracken, and Lexi Brown both received a \$500 check as well as a trophy.

The First National Bank of Central Texas and Gatesville ISD welcome the community to submit the names of local educators who have made a differ-

ence in your life or in the lives of others.

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

Gatesville ISD is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.



COURTESY PHOTOS

GHS Educators of the Week are Kay McCracken (left) and Lexi Brown, both holding their \$500 and trophy.

Gatesville Homecoming 2023

Homecoming was celebrated last week with many festivities including dress up days at each of the campuses, high school reunions, pep rallies and parade in lieu of a bonfire.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY GLADYS WHITENBURG

Homecoming photos include the Gatesville High School pep rally, Gatesville ISD walking pep rally to each of the campuses, and the homecoming parade.

Gatesville Homecoming 2023

Homecoming was celebrated last week with many festivities including dress up days at each of the campuses, high school reunions, pep rallies and parade in lieu of a bonfire.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY SE'VETTE EARLY AND GLADYS WHITENBURG

Homecoming photos include the Gatesville ISD walking pep rally to each of the campuses, the homecoming parade and the Gatesville High School band at Friday night's homecoming game.