



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Deral McWhorter stands with boxes of food filled to the top, a week before Food for Families.

Care Center participates in annual Food for Families community food drive

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Food for Families takes place in Gatesville at the Volunteer Fire Department and is an annual event that the community always looks forward to each year.

Care Center Director Deral McWhorter has been the heart and soul behind Food for Families each year.

"There's so much need out there," McWhorter said. "The needy that are food deficient need to be

fed, and I am extremely excited to see our community be excited for this event."

When the Care Center opened its doors in 1987, just a year later McWhorter moved to Gatesville and began volunteering in 1988.

"As I started doing more, I was made the Director of the Care Center in January 2000, and I have been here for 23 years," McWhorter said.

In 2022, the total

amount of pounds raised for Food for Families throughout Texas was 3.2 million pounds, and Coryell County raised close to a third of that total. The goal for this year is to surpass the poundage from this last year, which was 839,950 pounds.

"We are a self-driven community," McWhorter said. "Because the community is so bent on setting our own record, I want to win it for them."

The first year Gatesville

hosted Food for Families, the town raised a little over 6,000 pounds, and it has grown ever since. "Every year we set our own record, and now that is impressive to me," McWhorter said.

Within only a 10-year span, Coryell County has donated even more each year. The community raised 330,339 pounds in 2013, 342,955 pounds in 2014, 399,652 in 2015,

PLEASE SEE **FOOD** | A2



COURTESY PHOTO

Give thanks this season with a community meal at King Baptist Church.

Local church blesses community with annual Thanksgiving feast

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

King Baptist Church has a long history of serving the community. One of the ways the church blesses its neighbors is through providing an annual Thanksgiving meal where everyone is invited.

The feast takes place every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year, it will take place on Saturday, Nov. 25 at 6 p.m.

"Our goal spiritually is to welcome everybody and to help everybody," said Charles McKamie, the pastor of King Baptist Church. "This is the physical expression of the spiritual aspiration that we have which is anybody can come and eat."

King Baptist Church traces its roots to 1875 when the Baptist congregation was first organized. The church was founded by a few Coryell County families, some of which still live in the area today. Although the current sanctuary was built in 1975, the church has continued to serve Gatesville and surrounding communities for 148 years.

While McKamie doesn't know how long King Baptist Church has served a Thanksgiving meal, he said

the church hosted the gathering when he first joined in 1990.

"I suspect it's been going on a long time," he said.

McKamie said the meal reflects the church's mission to open its doors to everyone in the community.

"You can bring whoever you want, and we take anybody who comes," he said. "That's the way this works too."

McKamie adds that there will be a substantial amount of food, including plenty of ham and turkey. However, guests are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert. It varies from year to year how many people attend the meal, but they always prepare for a large group.

"It's a get together in some ways for the church, but we frequently have people we've never seen before, and that's not a problem," he said.

King Baptist Church is located at 6730 FM 1783 near Gatesville.

"We're carrying on a tradition that began long before any of us who are alive now were here in a sense, but it is also an expression of who we are in 2023," McKamie said.

Send a gift of joy to children overseas this holiday season

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Every year, local churches partner with Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, to collect gifts for children in need around the world.

For 15 years, Coryell Community Church has served as one of the drop-off locations for the project. Community members transform empty shoeboxes into gifts by filling them with various items such as toys, school supplies, personal

care items, and more.

"It's all rooted in a desire to help others and to fulfill the great commission of Jesus, which is to take the Gospel and to take the love of Christ to the ends of the earth," said Dr. Eric Moffett, lead pastor of Coryell Community Church. "This is a fantastic opportunity for families, in a very simple and accessible way, to prepare a gift for a child somewhere in the world who would probably go without

something for Christmas."

Moffett said individuals can use a shoebox from home or purchase one designated for Operation Christmas Child. Avoid including items such as food, candy, liquids, dangerous, or damaged items.

According to a press release distributed by Samaritan's Purse, more than 4,500 locations across the globe are collecting shoe-

PLEASE SEE **GIFT** | A3



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell Community Church is a drop-off location for Operation Christmas Child.



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Gatesville

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FOOD

FROM PAGE A1

405,263 in 2016, 406,178 pounds in 2017, 422,516 pounds in 2018, 461,278 pounds in 2019, 507,774 pounds in 2020, 617,368 pounds in 2021, and 839,950 pounds in 2022.

"We get everything, and I mean we get everything," McWhorter said. "With the amount of food that is generated by Gatesville and the surrounding areas, the food feeds these people all year long, and we never have to hold out our hand again through the year for that need to be met."

The Care Center officially started receiving donations for Food for Families on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

"Money goes better for us than actual food, because we can buy what we need when we need it," McWhorter said. The Care Center will visit the Central Texas Food Bank, where they can receive free or low-cost items to fill their inventory.

"People have learned to give money instead of bulk food, although the food is appreciated," McWhorter said. "But the food is also work extensive, because every item of food has to be looked at for a date and a dent."

The Care Center, volunteers, students, and the KWTX crew will be at the fire station from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. sorting through and counting every pound of food that is donated.

On the day of Food for Families, McWhorter will have students from various programs to aide in checking for dents and dates, such as Junior Ambassadors, Student Council, cheerleaders, Dazzlers, a 4-H group, military personnel, and athletic groups.

"Generally speaking, all the food that is gathered from the school cam-

pus are to be picked up by maintenance crews of the schools," McWhorter said. "The food will come strictly to the Care Center, and the rest of the food goes to the fire station."

There have been discussions about changes for this year's Food for Families event and on how the food will be sorted and transported to the fire station. "This year we will have one class from each campus look at all the dents and dates, so that way it will already be looked at before it is brought in here," McWhorter said.

"I love my job because I never come to work. I have fun doing this," McWhorter said. "It is fun working with a community that is so supportive of this, and I love that."

After years of participating in Food for Families, the community is closer than ever to reaching 1 million pounds in donations.

"I want to win it for everybody, because I love this given town and I don't want the town to be disappointed," McWhorter said. "It is important for our town to know that the needs of the hungry are being met by this event."

The Care Center will pass out Thanksgiving bags this year to the community, which will be filled with different foods.

"The community that supports us so well is not able to see the impact that we are able to see when our clients come in and express their gratitude, and it is neat knowing that we don't have to hold our hands out all the time," Debbie Blanchard, Co-Director said.

"I am proud of this community, and I enjoy what I do," McWhorter said.



Mother Neff State Park, with inset of Isabella Neff, Mother of the State Park system (COURTESY PHOTO).

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Texas Parks and Wildlife celebrates 100th anniversary, honoring Mother Neff

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

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

On Saturday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. there will be an unveiling ceremony of the original historical marker, which was first dedicated in the park location on the Leon River in 1968 by the Coryell County Historical Commission. Due to constant flooding of the park, officials were granted permission

by the Texas Historical Commission in Austin to move the marker to higher ground to be placed at the park's new visitor's center, which opened to the public in 2015.

Accompanying the original marker will be a new plaque, which was first issued in 1992, stating that the park had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mother Neff State Park becomes one of only four sites in Coryell County to be honored with the recognition of being on the National Register of Historic Places.

The history of the National Register of Historic

Places began in 1966 when the United States government passed the National Historic Preservation Act, which created the National Register of Historic Places. Upon its inception, the U.S. National Park Service became the lead agency for the Register. The Register has continued to grow through two reorganizations: one in the 1970s and one in 1980s. Then, in 1978, the Register was completely transferred away from the National Park Service but was again transmitted to the National Park Service in 1981.

The National Register was developed to recognize his-

toric places and sites across the United States and to recognize their importance by placing them on the register. Mother Neff State Park qualified for this honor in many different categories.

About the 100th anniversary of the park, Mother Neff State Park superintendent Melissa Chadwick said, "It has been a very exciting time for Texas State Parks, and being able to share the story of Mother Neff's legacy of where it all began has been an honor. We have seen so many new visitors this year and are excited to see what the future holds."

PLEASE SEE NEFF | A3

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

How do you steal a truck by accident?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

Those that know me understand that I may be a little ADHD. It is hard for me to sit still and even harder to keep my mind focused on a single thing. When I get in bed at night my mind races through the limitless lists of things to do and jumps back and forth from thinking about a topic for a column, remembering to take my shirts to the cleaners, meeting with a customer, or sitting down with an employee.

My staff knows that at any given time I may have three or four "to do lists" on my desk, and it is not the least bit unusual for me to be in the middle of talking to someone and stop to

written down a thought that happened to pop into my brain.

I enjoy driving because it is a time when I am free of interruptions, and my mind can race from item to item

without distractions. Some years ago, there was an occasion where letting my mind race almost got me into trouble.

I was in the ranching business. On this day, I was delivering a mare to another ranch, but wanting to multitask, I thought I would drop my shirts off at the cleaners as I passed through town. It was the middle of our busy season, and as I left the ranch in my white Ford dually, my mind was thinking about what I needed to do after I got the mare delivered. I needed more feed for the grain bin, had to get back and move mares and babies from one pasture to another, medicate some sick animals, and instruct interns on some odd jobs I wanted done. All these thoughts were racing through my mind as I pulled into the cleaners.

I parked my truck like always, leaving the keys in the ignition. Upon grabbing up my shirts out of the back seat, I bounded into

the dry cleaner's. The woman who worked there was a friendly, outgoing lady, and she suggested that while I was in the store, I pick up shirts that I had left the week prior.

Waiting for the clerk to get my clean shirts off the rack, the door chime rang, and a middle-aged woman walked through the door. I tipped my hat and said hello, and she fell in line behind me. The clerk brought me the laundered shirts, I paid her, and then shot out the door. I walked up to "my truck," swung open the back door, and hung my shirts before jumping into the driver's seat. I turned the key in the ignition and started to drive away.

I had not driven more than a couple of hundred feet, and I noticed a woman's purse in the driver's seat. My first thought was, which one of the interns had left their purse in my truck? Then I noticed the radio was on a station I did not listen to. Oh, my! I had

jumped into a white dually parked in front of the cleaners, but it was not mine!

I immediately stopped and backed up, pulled into a spot next to where my truck was parked, and sheepishly walked back into the cleaners. The two ladies were looking at me as I walked through the door, and they had huge smiles on their faces. The clerk shouted, "We were just getting ready to call the Sheriff!" and then giggled. The owner of the truck looked at me and said, "You know, if you borrow a truck, you are supposed to return it full of fuel?"

Both women cracked up as I tried to explain my misdeed, which I chalked up to

having too many things on my mind. Thankfully, the rightful owner of the truck was a gracious, big-hearted woman, and she accepted my apologies with good humor and understanding. Though a little embarrassed, there was no harm and no foul.

The best part is I still have a clean criminal record with no mention of auto theft.

Thought for the day: Doing nothing is very hard to do. How the heck do you know when you are finished?

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

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NEFF

FROM PAGE A1

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

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

The young couple arrived in Belton on Jan. 2, 1855. After leaving her luxuriant lifestyle in Virginia, Isabella was not impressed with the frontier life and the new surroundings she found herself in. In a letter to a relative, she wrote about her first impressions of Texas: "I cannot say that I am much pleased with Texas. I hope to be better pleased when we have become settled at a house of our own. I think this is a very pretty country, but, like all new countries, has many inconveniences - everything is scarce and high, and nothing but bread and meat to eat, and cornbread at that."

Three months after their arrival in Belton, Noah

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

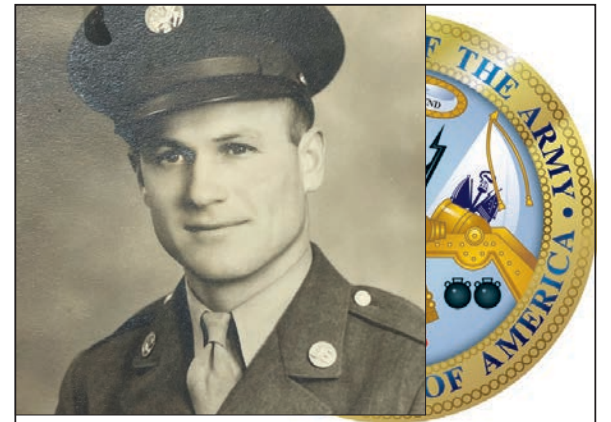
At the time of Mother Neff's passing, there was not an official state park system in existence, but with the continued perseverance of Governor Neff, who served two terms as governor, the Legislature established the Texas State Parks Board in 1923 - now celebrating 100 years.

In an interview this year with the Texas Trailblazers,

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

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

When asked what she hopes for the park in the future, Chadwick said, "To make sure that the story of Mother Neff continues to be passed down to future generations of stewards as well as connecting visitors to the beautiful and diverse resources the park has, including the Civilian Conservation Corp structures, three uniquely distinct habitats, and sharing the legacy of Isabella 'Mother' Neff."



Ralph Etchison
US Army WWII
June 1942-Nov. 1945
705 Tank Destroyer Battalion Leader and
Rifle Expert Jan. 1944



Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Mason Matthews

Say hello to our neighbor, Mason Matthews!

Mason is a Loan Officer at the First National Bank of Gatesville and has served there for almost four years. His favorite part about his job is working for a locally-owned bank and serving the customers in the community where he grew up. "It is always fulfilling when I am able to serve someone and help them with their financial goals," Matthews said. He has lived in Gatesville his whole life and loves the closeness of the community.

"I like the Whatever Happened To... segment of The Gatesville Messenger," Matthews said. "I love history and seeing a lookback of 20, 30, 40, and 50 years ago is very interesting."

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

GIFT

FROM PAGE A1

boxes during National Collection Week, which takes place Nov. 13-Nov. 20. Once the shoeboxes are brought to the drop-off location, volunteers will transfer them to a larger collection center for international shipping.

"Children around the world need to know that God loves them and there is hope," Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse, said in a press release. "A simple shoebox gift opens the door to share about the true hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ."

Coryell Community

Church serves as one of the main drop-off locations in the Gatesville area. Other locations in Central Texas include Copperas Cove, Killeen, Temple, Belton, and Waco.

The last day to drop off shoebox gifts is Nov. 20. Visit samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child to find additional drop-off

locations and for a list of gift ideas for shoeboxes.

"If you and your family want to make an impact and a difference in a child's life who you may never meet on this side of heaven, this is a fantastic opportunity," Moffett said.

Coryell Community Church is located at 115 N Levita Road in Gatesville.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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DEADLINES:

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

will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertisements. All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and newspaper format as determined by management.

The Gatesville Messenger is not responsible for copy omission, typographical error or any unintentional error other than to publish a correction.

Cover2Cover Ministries provides community with a second annual Thanksgiving meal

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Since Cover2Cover Ministries opened its doors in Oct. 2017, the church has been committed to helping those within the community.

In 2022, the church held its first community Thanksgiving meal, which served around 200 plates throughout Gatesville.

Rev. Brandy Spiker is the pastor at Cover2Cover Min-

istries, and she expressed how the church would like to serve even more people this year.

"Hosting a Thanksgiving meal for the community is important to help spread the love of Christ," Spiker said.

Spiker serves the community through her Christian beliefs.

"The idea for the meal came about because Jesus

fed 5,000 people with two loaves and five fishes," Spiker said.

Many dishes are prepared, including traditional Thanksgiving entrees, along with turkey, dressing, sides, desserts, and beverages.

Spiker, along with a handful of ladies from the church, will prepare the food, as well as individuals from surrounding churches in the community.

"There are people who may not have money to have a meal," Spiker said. "It is important to be able to provide for them."

The dinner will feature live music, as well as participation in fellowship.

The community Thanksgiving meal will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 22 and will commence at 5:30 p.m.

For those who would like a meal to go, be sure to or-

der in advance by contacting Spiker at 254-392-9472.

Cover2Cover Ministries' service times are every Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Each Wednesday a Bible study is held at 6 p.m.

"We provide prayer and encouragement to anyone in need no matter what their past is," Spiker said. "We are more concerned about their future and welcome anyone to join and

participate in all church activities," Spiker said.

Cover2Cover Ministries is located at 405 SH 36 in Gatesville.

For further information, contact Pastor Brandy Spiker at 254-392-9472.

Cover2Cover Ministries will also provide a community Christmas meal on Christmas Eve with more information to come.

ROAMIN' CHARIOTS CAR CLUB MEET



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Roamin' Chariots Car Club recently held their second Saturday of the month cruise-in on Saturday, Nov. 11. Various vintage vehicles were parked on the east side of the courthouse square for the public to view. Roamin' Chariots wanted to remind the public that the Neighbors Supporting Neighbors car show will be held at Bare Bones on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Native American Heritage Month celebrated in Nov.

Staff Reports

What started as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the contributions of the first Americans that made establishment of the United States, has resulted in an entire month being designated to Native Americans.

One of the first acts to establish an American Indian Day was in the early 1900s, when Dr. Aurthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans." For three consecutive years afterward, they adopted such a day.

In 1915, the annual

Congress of the American Indian Association meeting was held in Lawrence, KS, which approved a plan regarding American Indian Day. President Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day.

When American Indian Day was established, it contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before the proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode on horseback from state to state seeking approval for

a day to honor Indians. On Dec. 14, 1914, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House.

Within a year, the first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September as well.

On Aug. 3, 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

For more information, visit nativeamericanheritagemonth.org.

Gatesville Citizen of the Year 2023 nominations

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce has recently announced that nominations are open for the 2023 Gatesville Citizen of the Year award.

The Citizen of the Year award has been given to

an outstanding citizen of Gatesville since 1959. Every adult within the community is eligible to nominate one or more people who have made contributions to the town over a significant period.

Nominees who function within the guidelines or

requirements of their paid positions will not be considered.

Only one nomination per individual shall be considered regardless of the number of letters or signatures received nominating that individual. The person who is making the nomination

should be available to assist with the presentation of the award.

The 2023 Citizen of the Year Award will be presented at the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Banquet, which will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20.

Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, Jan. 3 to the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce office in the Cotton Belt Depot Visitors Center. Nomination forms can be found by visiting <https://www.gatesville-chamber.com/vote>.

The Gatesville Chamber

of Commerce is located at 2307 S. Hwy. 36.

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

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Marine Corps Pvt Thad J. Van Horn from Jonesboro graduated from the light armored vehicle repairman course.

The Gatesville High

School Class of 1953 had its 50-year reunion.

Max Murry had the grand champion entry at the Coryell County Hay Show.

The old iron bridge that spanned Hog Creek

on County Road 225 was moved to the Coryell Activities Complex after plans to move it to Raby Park fell through.

The Turnersville Volunteer Fire Department hosted

their annual barbecue.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

The Gatesville Police Department hired two new officers: Patrolmen David Miller and Ernest Spratling.

The Fort Gates Volunteer Fire Department held a benefit chili supper.

The Gatesville-area Girl Scout leaders put out a call to recruit more girls as numbers dwindled.

The Lions' golf tournament helped raise over \$1,300 for the "Tree of Life" fund at Coryell Memorial Hospital.

Jeanne Jester, of Hamilton, qualified to attend the 72nd National 4-H Congress in Chicago, Illinois.

Let's Grow Learning Center held a Harvest Festival barbecue dinner to raise funds for new playground equipment.

My Fair Lady offered a bring-a-friend hair cut special. If you paid \$10 for a haircut and shampoo, your friend's haircut was free.

Gatesville Hornets' football team was headed to the play-offs.

The Gatesville Hornette basketball team was prepared for their upcoming pre-season practice scrimmages with Lampasas and Florence.

Oglesby United Methodist Church was set to host a Harvest and Song Festival.

50 YEARS AGO

Gatesville's city mail

carriers received four new U.S. Postal Service Jeeps. Postmaster Hal Anderson hoped accompanying new procedures would make city carriers' jobs less burdensome and wearisome.

Tracy Smith, a 13-year-old from Mound, killed his first deer.

Most Gatesville gasoline service stations prepared to close for a day in response to President Nixon's call for voluntary closings as a measure to combat the nation's energy crisis.

Goodyear advertised tires between \$15.55 and \$19.99.

The Hornet Band Boosters Club earned \$800 during the fall by operating a concession booth and also by selling homemade footballs.

A deal designed to help you get the job done right.

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Progressive FARMER READER INSIGHTS

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THE HIDDEN GEM HARVEST FESTIVAL A GREAT SUCCESS. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED AT THE EVENT AND THOSE WHO SPONSORED THE EVENT WITH PRIZES.

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CB FEET LOT	LAUREN MORRELL
CORYELL COUNTY 4-H JUNIOR AMBASSADORS	LILA'S SWEET & SASSY CREATIONS
CORVELL FEED & SUPPLY	LORETTA ELLEDGE
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DIANA BARNETT	STUDEBAKERS PIZZA
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GATESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT	THE PARROTT
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HANNAH READETT	TIFFANY AND MASON MATTHEWS
HEB	VINTAGE ROYALTY

THANK YOU TO ALL THE INDIVIDUALS WHO CAME OUT TO SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE.



Thanksgiving holiday office closures

Staff Reports

Businesses and governmental offices across Coryell County will join the rest of the nation in celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday.

In 1789, George Washington set aside a National Day of Thanks.

Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for a federal Thanksgiving holiday in 1861, writing that the country's gifts from God "should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledge as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people."

Closings in the immediate area include:

GOVERNMENT

The City of Gatesville, City of Oglesby, City of Evant, and the Coryell County Courthouse will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.

The Farm Service Agency will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23.

SCHOOLS

The Independent School Districts of Gatesville and Evant will be closed from Monday, Nov. 20 to Friday, Nov. 24, as will the Gatesville ISD Administration Office. Jonesboro ISD and the Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville will be closed from Wednesday, Nov. 22 to Friday, Nov. 24. Oglesby ISD will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Extraco Bank, Cadence Bank, and Educators Credit Union will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23. The First National Bank of Gatesville, Evant, and Oglesby will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and will be open until 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 24.

POST OFFICES

All local post offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23.

LIBRARY

The Gatesville Public Library will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.

SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Multi-Service Center will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.

MUSEUM

The Coryell County Museum and Historical Center will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.

NEWSPAPER

The Gatesville Messenger will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.

GATESVILLE ISD HONORS OUR VETERANS



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Left photo: Members of the 395th Engineering Battalion presented the colors at the Veterans Day program held at Gatesville High School. Above photo: Gatesville mayor, Gary Chumley, pictured left, is shown with Gatesville High School principal Liz Shoaf and Brigadier General Bill Ryan.

Texans approve Proposition 6 to fund critical water projects

Submitted item

Texas voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 6 on the Nov. 7 constitutional amendments ballot to create the Texas Water Fund and authorize a \$1 billion appropriation to upgrade Texas' water infrastructure and fund new water supply projects. These funds, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), may be used to develop innovative water supply projects that create new water sources in the state, transfer money to certain

existing TWDB financial assistance programs, and fund a statewide water public awareness program.

As Texas' population continues to grow, the Texas Water Fund will help communities across the state implement cost-effective water supply and wastewater projects through loans and grants. By providing low-cost, flexible financing options, the funding provides economic opportunity for communities to overcome cost hurdles.

"It's really encouraging that state leaders recognize the importance of funding

water supplies and infrastructure and, furthermore, that Texas voters also support these critical initiatives," said TWDB Executive Administrator Jeff Walker.

Of the \$1 billion appropriated to the Texas Water Fund, the TWDB must allocate at least \$250 million to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund. This new fund is designed to implement innovative water supply strategies, such as marine and brackish water desalination, oil and gas produced water treatment projects, and aquifer storage and recovery projects.

Through this fund, the TWDB is directed to finance projects that will lead to 7 million acre-feet of new water supplies by December 31, 2033.

A portion of the fund must also prioritize water infrastructure projects in rural areas with a population of less than 150,000 as well as water conservation strategies and water loss mitigation projects.

The TWDB will soon begin seeking public input on implementing the Texas Water Fund legislation. Subscribe to our "General Information" and "Financial

Assistance" email lists to receive the latest information on how you can participate.

The TWDB is the state agency charged with collecting and disseminating water-related data, assisting with regional water and flood planning, and preparing the state water and flood plans. The TWDB administers cost-effective financial assistance programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood mitigation, and agricultural water conservation projects.

Eat with Santa



Breakfast with Santa to be held Dec. 16

Staff Reports

The community of Gatesville will have the chance to have breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 16. The breakfast will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gatesville Civic Center.

Each ticket will include breakfast, a photo with Santa, items from Santa's

souvenirs, music, and entertainment.

To purchase tickets, contact Morgan Smart at 254-499-0102 or by email at msmart@gatesvilletx.com.

For more information, visit www.visitgatesvilletx.com.

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

The Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

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MOUND NEWS

Memorial service honoring Rex Carroll Hopson was held Nov. 11



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Mr. Rex Carroll Hopson died Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023. A memorial service was held Saturday afternoon, Nov. 11, at White Mound Baptist Church. Interment of ashes were buried at Mound Cemetery.

Mr. Hopson was born and lived in the Mound Community. Rex was one of the twin brothers of the late (James) Truett Hopson of Mound. Mr. Hopson will be

truly be missed in our community.

Mrs. Neva Ann (Hopson) Groat of Concord, CA, Gloria Shaffer of Clayton, CA,

and Celeste Polensky and her son, Kyle, of Beaverton, Oregon spent the weekend in Mound with David, Pam, Frank and Susie Hopson. While here, they visited with other relatives. They all attended Rex Hopson's memorial service Saturday afternoon at White Mound Baptist Church.

John Stephens and Donna Schultz visited Wednesday in College Station with Jean Rose. While there, they celebrated Jean Rose's 90th birthday with a dinner.

Little Mr. Benjamin Travis Hopson was honored on his fourth birthday with a pizza party Monday evening at the home of his grandparents, David and Pam Hopson. The party was given by his parents and brother and sister, Paul,

Rachel, Noah and Emma Hopson.

Bruce and Suzy Cox went to Buena Vista, CO the last weekend in October to their nephew, Travis Martin, and Sarah Jolly's wedding. They visited with lots of immediate and extended family while there. The wedding was outdoors with Mount Princeton in the background, but six inches of snow moved the wedding indoors. The Coxes drove back to Texas the following day.

Cody, Jennifer and Clair Cochran of Anson stayed with Don and Sue Jones this week. Cody preached at the Mound Cowboy Church revival.

Bruce and Suzy Cox, The Cochrans, Scott, Kelby and Sterlin Shults and Kristen

Jones had Sunday lunch with Don and Sue Jones.

Carolyn Blakley attended The Cadence Bank customer appreciation party Friday evening in Gatesville.

Emma Blakley of College Station was home for the weekend.

Kinsley and Allie McPherson and Thomas Belt all competed in the district 8 4-H livestock and horse quiz bowl contest in Belton Thursday. Coryell County 4-H had seven teams compete with all three senior teams advancing to state. Senior Livestock teams placed first and second. The Senior Horse team placed second. Junior Livestock placed second. The Junior horse teams placed first and third. We are proud of all of the kids who

competed and represented Coryell County. Kinsley and Thomas were on livestock teams and Allie was on a horse team.

Those who had birthdays in this month were Jennifer Miller, Lyndi Poynter, Billy Argabright, Jimmy Argabright, Johnathan Watts, Sidnee Rivas, Kay Fisher, Cindy Crum, Kimberly Gossett, Don Jones, Dennis Harris, Coy Carothers, Diane Heavin, Skye August, Emily Cupps, Canyon Carothers, Caleigh Carothers, Elizabeth Harris, Nelda Carothers, Jr Quiriz, Polly West, Brenda Helms, Kari Hopson, Susan Nase, Will Mann, Lesia Wilson and Samuel Belt.

Barbara's Notes: HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYBODY!

EXCHANGE CLUB HOSTS ANNUAL BREAKFAST FOR VETERANS



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Gatesville's Exchange Club cooked and served breakfast for several veterans and their families in honor of Veterans Day. The annual breakfast took place on Nov. 10 in the culinary arts classroom at Gatesville High School. Culinary arts students decorated and prepared desserts for the event.

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran Nov. 11.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured is the President of Keep Gatesville Beautiful Shelly Herring. She cleared the branches around the pathway to the home's entrance.

Keep Gatesville Beautiful tends to home

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Last week, on Wednesday, Nov. 8, volunteers with the local organization Keep Gatesville Beautiful held a cleanup day to tend to a home on Saunders Street in Gatesville.

The volunteers included the City of Gatesville's Councilwoman Barbara Burrows, Marie-Therese Dominguez with the Gatesville Garden Club, President of Keep Gatesville Beautiful Shelly Herring, Celeste Drake with Keep Gatesville Beautiful, and Cleve Drake.

Many tasks were com-

pleted, including clearing brush, picking up litter and rocks, trimming the grass, removing and clearing branches, and raking leaves.

Keep Gatesville Beautiful is a community-driven, non-profit organization that works to improve the community's environmental awareness. From improvement projects to educational presentations, Keep Gatesville Beautiful is 100 percent volunteer run.

For more information, or to volunteer, visit keepgatesvillebeautiful.com.

Coryell Museum & Historical Center is selling tickets for a gun raffle fundraiser Dec. 20

Staff Reports

The Coryell County Museum and Historical Center is holding a gun raffle, with a drawing to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the museum gift shop. Tickets will cost \$10 each or three tickets for \$25.

The gun raffle is for a Radical RF 15 223/5.56 with a scope.

The firearm prize must be claimed and picked up at Guns Unlimited in Gatesville by Wednesday,

Jan. 3. If the firearm is not claimed, it will become property of the museum to dispose of its discretion.

The museum may elect a re-draw until a qualified winner takes possession.

Guns Unlimited is located at 2502 TX-36 BUS in Gatesville.

The Coryell County Museum and Historical Center is located at 718 E. Main St. in Gatesville.

For more information, contact Ray Ashby at 254-679-9314.

Hemmeline Cemetery Association elects 2023 officers

Staff Reports

The Hemmeline Cemetery Association recently held its annual meeting on Sunday, Nov. 2, with 13 people in attendance.

Malcom Mallett, Trustee, was re-elected as vice-president. Dale Smith, Justin Hitt, and Billy Bartlett were reelected as trustees.

Each position is for a two-year term.

Contributions for upkeep on memorials may be emailed to Hemmeline Cemetery Association, in care of Sheila Necessary, secretary and treasurer, to 1050 FM 1783, Gatesville, Texas 76528.

In 1985, members of the German Baptist Bethel Church (now Bethel Heights Baptist Church) established the graveyard as the German Baptist Cemetery.

A.T. Voss deeded two acres of land to the deacons of the church to be used as a cemetery. The property was located approximately one mile east of the former church site and was located across the road from the Hemmeline School, which was named for a family living nearby. The small community, originally settled by German immigrants, is now known as the Plainview/Bethel Heights Community. The early organiza-

tional records of the cemetery were handwritten in German and designated one acre to be divided into family plots of eight graves to be sold for one dollar, with the second acre to be used by the community. Minutes in 1915 show that cemetery officials decided that the cemetery would be open to persons of any nationality or skin color, with preference given to members of the church congregation and their families.

Although no records exist showing an official name change, obituaries show that the cemetery came to be known as Hemmeline Cemetery during the early 1900's. American involvement in World Wars I and II may have contributed to the permanent name change. Many people and institutions dropped German references or German-sounding names at that time to avoid hostility.

The church also changed its name from German Bethel Baptist Church to Bethel Heights Baptist Church in 1940. The German Bethel Baptist Church (Bethel Heights Baptist Church) continued to administer the cemetery until 1974 when a cemetery association organized.

Care Center in need of volunteers

Staff Reports

The Care Center of Gatesville is currently in need of volunteers for unpacking daily donations, marking items with correct labeling, placing the donations in the correct areas, as well as sorting through food, clothing, toys, movies, books, etc.

The Care Center was established in 1987 and continues to serve the locals of Gatesville each week with its generous services.

To become a volunteer, contact the Care Center at 254-865-6736.

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries can be submitted to The Gatesville Messenger online at www.gatesvill messenger.com/obituaries. Advance payment is required.

Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with a death certificate or by the facility handling the body. You must provide the contact information for verification when submitting the obituary.

The Gatesville Messenger deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. Tuesday for the Saturday paper. Deadlines are subject to change during holidays.

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Wiggins

Nov. 22, 1940 - Nov. 9, 2023



Barbara Wiggins, age 82, of Gatesville, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, surrounded by her family.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11, at Scott's Funeral Home with Pastor Gene Talbot officiating. Interment followed at Restland Cemetery.

Barbara Ann Wiggins was born Nov. 22, 1940, in Wall, Texas to the late Vernon Bisby and Ora Irene Sluder Collins. She was one of nine children. She married the love of her life, Bill Wiggins, on Aug. 1, 1959, and the two had three children together. In 1981, she attained her High School Equivalency Certificate from the Adult Education Co-op. She attended Central Texas College for a degree in Vocational Nursing, and, in 1988, graduated and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse.

She was an extremely active woman, being involved in many different activities, including youth activities with her church, the Girl Scouts of America, and the American Red Cross. She was a family woman who was an excellent cook who always enjoyed sharing meals with others. She was also a Fire Belle and was heavily involved in the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department. Barbara was a member of Live Oak Baptist Church for most of her life, and later a member of the Coryell Community Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bill, of 51 years; seven siblings; and several nieces and nephews.

Barbara is survived by her children, Billye Rhudy and husband, Sam, Paula Adkins and husband, Dale, Paul Wiggins and wife, Shannon; grandsons, Ben Rhudy, Jordan Rhudy and wife, Aly, Kaleb Hitt and wife, Whisper, Brady Wiggins and wife, Lauren; great-grandchildren, Jaxin and Brooklyn Wiggins; sister, Wanda Shelton; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Barbara's family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude for the grace and care provided to their mother by the staff of Rehab Living at the Meadows and Bluebonnet Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, Barbara's family requests memorials be made to the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department, 109 S. 23rd St. Gatesville, Texas 76528.

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION

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700-800 lb.	190-230
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under 300 lb.	250-320
300-400 lb.	250-315
400-500 lb.	240-270
500-600 lb.	210-245
600-700 lb.	195-225
700-800 lb.	175-210
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	95-110
Low Yielding	70-85
Fats	90-100
Thin & Shelly	45-65
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	100-122
Cow & Calf Pairs	
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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

PEARL NEWS

December 2 is the last Bluegrass, Cottage Bookstore Day of 2023



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

The last Pearl Bluegrass and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day of 2023 will be Dec. 2. Hard to believe, isn't it?

The ladies of the Pearl Cottage Bookstore wish to thank everyone for their love and support through-

out this past year, and they look forward to a wonderful 2024!

There are over 6,000 books, hard and paperback, plus various and sundry other items of interest. Most items are in the "buy what you want, pay what you want" category. The bookstore is a charity house, so all monies collected go toward the local charities that the bookstore helps to support. The Pearl Cottage Bookstore is the friendliest shop in Central Texas (quite possibly even in all of Texas), and you will enjoy your experience there. You may

enter feeling glum, but I guarantee you'll leave with a smile in your heart. Remember, the new store hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you're looking for ways to help out during the Christmas season in your community, please keep in mind that The Care Center in Gatesville is collecting food for "Food for Families." Just drop off your non-perishable food items there, or even just leave a cash/check donation. Also, check out the Evant School Angel Tree donations. Just go by the Evant School office to make your donations.

There are several people in the Pearl area in need of prayer due to illness right now. Please just pray for the health of our Pearl people. The Lord knows who they are, and there's power in prayer.

Around this time of year, you'll see Manger scenes pop up in various locations around the Pearl and surrounding areas. Let's see how many we can display in Pearl. What a great reminder that Jesus IS the reason for the season!

This week's Bible verse comes John 16:33—"I have told you these things, so

that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Please pray for continued blessing of rain, our veterans and service men and women, our country, our schools, and Israel.

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

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of recent activity reported through dispatchers during the period of November 8 - November 10. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 8
 9:37 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400 block of N. 16th Street.
 2:38 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Spindletop Street.
 8:30 p.m., an accident was reported in the 300 block of Valley View Drive.
 9:35 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Baize Drive.
 10:07 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the

1300 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.
Nov. 9
 9:10 a.m., a threat was reported in the 300 block of S. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.
 9:17 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Oak Drive.
 11:33 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
 12:57 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
 3:26 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the

100 block of CR 385.
Nov. 10
 12:10 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of St. Louis Street.
 10:29 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 10000 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
 12:04 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
 12:47 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1100 block of W. Main Street.
 8:20 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the

800 block of CR 102.
CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Nov. 8
 12:14 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1600 block of CR 245.
 1:30 p.m., a dog bite was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
 2:53 p.m., a theft was reported in the 3600 block of Churchill Drive.
 3:24 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1300 block of CR 311.

4:07 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 113 near Topsey.
Nov. 9
 6:44 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1829 at Hwy. 84.
 10:00 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 4000 block of FM 107.
 11:33 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Tom Sawyer.
 11:48 a.m., stolen property was reported in the 900 block of Glass Road.
 3:40 p.m., a domestic dis-

turbance was reported in the 100 block of CR 385.
Nov. 10
 7:38 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 100 block of FM 1996.
 10:45 a.m., criminal trespass was reported on Bratton Lane.
 12:19 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Hwy. 36 and The Grove Road.
 3:58 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.

GOOD LUCK HORNETS, EAGLES & TIGERS!

Gatesville Football:
 Gatesville won against Gonzales 34-31.

They will play Silsbee at A&M Consolidated High School in College Station Friday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the area playoffs.



Jonesboro Football:
 Jonesboro won against Robert Lee 54-0.

They will play Chester Thursday, November 16 at Bryan Allen Academy.

Oglesby Football:
 Oglesby won against Walnut Springs 60-14.

They will play Oakwood Thursday, November 16 in Coolidge at 7 p.m.



This page is sponsored by The Gatesville Messenger and these businesses.

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 Coryell County Judge

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TEXAS RAMPS PROJECT VOLUNTEERS BUILD RAMP FOR VETERAN WHO FOUGHT IN TWO WARS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texas Ramps Project had a call to build a wheelchair ramp for a client in his 90's, who is a veteran of two wars. As a former councilman of the City of Oglesby, he tries to stay active in veteran organizations and church. He is now isolated, due to not being able to drive. This man lives alone, so the Texas Ramps Project is in the process of getting Meals on Wheels delivered to his home each week.

Central Texas Travel Club to meet Nov. 21

Staff Reports

The Central Texas Travel Club will have its November meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at Johnny's Steaks and Barbeque in Salado. A gathering with socialization will begin at 11 a.m. with the meeting beginning shortly after at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in travel, with no dues, or membership requirements.

Discussions will include upcoming trips to places such as Hawaii, the Ark in Kentucky, a European riverboat, and many short-day trips.

For more information, contact the Central Texas Travel Club on Facebook or by email at centraltexas-travelclub@outlook.com.

Johnny's Steaks and Barbeque is located at 301 Thomas Arnold Road in Salado.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers

Staff Reports

Meals on Wheels is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals to local, homebound, elderly folks. Meals on Wheels is a federally-funded program that provides meals to older adults who are homebound, unable to prepare a meal, don't

drive, and have no one to cook for them.

Gatesville needs volunteer drivers Monday through Friday with meals picked up at the Senior Center.

To volunteer, contact the Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234.

Dewey and Aja Young have a lot to be thankful for



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Little over twenty years ago, Dewey Young was a supervisor for some McDonald's restaurants in Kerrville. The manager of one of them was a girl named Aja (pronounced Asia).

They were attracted to each other, dated, and got married. "She saw me and just couldn't resist," says Dewey. Aja says it was the

other way around. For her, marriage to Dewey was a big leap, because he had four young children from a previous marriage. "Every-

body I talked to thought I was crazy," says Aja. "He's older than I am." They've been married nineteen years. "She told me she loved my kids and would like to have some of her own," said Dewey. They produced four daughters, bringing the total number of children to eight.

Dewey had a jewelry repair business in Dallas for twenty years. He grew up in the jewelry business in Brady. They thought it best to raise the eight youngsters in Brady, so they moved into a rent house Dewey owned. One afternoon there was an electrical fire and the house burned. "We lost everything, but we didn't lose any of us," says

Dewey. "We're lucky the fire happened while nobody was home."

The residents of Brady were responsive to the needs of the family. "Every time I looked up someone was bringing food or clothing, furniture, just all kinds of things we needed," says Aja. Heather Miles, who owns a hotel in Brady, gave them free rooms for sixty days and took the family to Disneyland.

Soon after the fire, Dewey was in his truck with his daughters, and they were in tears. Dewey told them not to cry. "I told them to think of the positive things, that they were going to get new clothes and toys, a new bed. They quit crying, and

my little seven-year-old said 'dad, I don't have to clean my bedroom.'"

The fire was in March of this year. In June, Dewey was in a terrible car wreck. "A sixteen-year-old girl was coming in the opposite direction and pulled right out in front of me, and I swerved to avoid a head-on, but she knocked me into a truck that was coming on to the highway."

When Aja got the call that her husband and two daughters and one of their best friends had been in a wreck she immediately went to the accident scene near Comanche. "My thoughts were just a jumble. I couldn't imagine all this happening within

a three-month period. I wasn't going to ask what's next because I was afraid some other horrible thing would happen." They were blessed again, because they all walked away from the accident.

Again, the people of Brady poured out their hearts. Dewey had grown up there and people knew his family, but Aja was new. She was from out of town and rode racehorses. But the people of Brady accepted her like they had known her all her life. She proudly calls Brady home. Both Dewey and Aja came from families that had five children.

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Princess Day

NOVEMBER 18



COLOR Time



Princesses come in all shapes, sizes, and personalities, just like the colors of a magical rainbow! Imagine a world filled with princesses, each with her own unique charm. There's the adventurous princess who loves exploring enchanted forests, discovering hidden treasures, and befriending magical creatures like talking animals and playful fairies.

Then, there's the kind-hearted princess who spreads love and joy to everyone in her kingdom. She cares for animals, tends to beautiful gardens, and shares smiles with her subjects. Another princess might be a clever and wise leader, making important decisions to ensure her kingdom thrives.

Some princesses are brave warriors, wielding swords and bows to protect their kingdoms from dragons and evil sorcerers. These fearless royals show that strength comes from the heart, not just muscles. And don't forget the creative princess who uses her imagination to turn ordinary days into extraordinary adventures, whether through storytelling, art, or magical inventions.

No matter the type, all princesses teach us important lessons about kindness, courage, and the power of believing in ourselves. So, which princess would you like to be today? The possibilities are as endless as the stars in the night sky!

Princesses

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

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

Word Bank

- 1. royalty
- 2. tara
- 3. gown
- 4. princess
- 5. mystique
- 6. brave
- 7. warrior
- 8. castle
- 9. magical
- 10. kingdom

Did You Know?

some real-life princesses have unique hobbies or talents that might surprise you? For example, Princess Mako of Japan is not only a member of the royal family but also a skilled calligrapher. She has a passion for writing beautiful characters with a brush and ink. It's like she adds a touch of magic to her words!



SPORTS

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby

Gatesville captures first Bi-District title since 2015

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Clear some room on the shelf. The Hornets are bringing a gold football back to Gatesville.

The Hornets captured their first playoff win in eight seasons on Nov. 10 thanks to a stirring 34-31 win over Gonzales in the bi-district round of the Class 4A Division II playoffs. They faced No. 2 ranked Silsbee on Nov. 17 in College Station in their first area round playoff game since 2015.

The cold, wet game time conditions on Friday in Hutto were reminiscent of Gatesville's 2022 playoff game - a 24-14 upset loss to Smithville in the same stadium. In that loss the

Hornets (7-4) found themselves down 24-0 before mounting a comeback that came up short.

Against Gonzales (6-4), a quick 14-0 deficit could have allowed a certain "here-we-go-again" vibe to permeate the visiting sideline. Instead, head coach Aaron Hunter simply reminded his team of who they are and what they do.

"I just told them that we had been there before this season. Look at the Taylor game, or Glen Rose, or Connally. That is what is awesome about this team. Our kids are never down and out. They are a bunch of kids who always get told they can't, and they just fight," Hunter said. "I just told them 'keep doing what



CHRIS ALLMAN |
THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Sean Aguilar



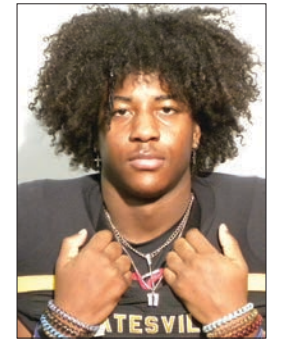
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Rayshon Smith

we do.'

What they do is run the football, and on their first offensive play after falling down 14-0, junior Rayshon Smith broke free for a 63-yard touchdown run to cut the lead to 14-7. Smith evaded seven would-be

tacklers on his way to the end zone.

"What a dude he has been. He has grown up tremendously," said Hunter.

The Hornets were able to force an Apaches punt on their next possession, and Sean Aguilar scooped up

the low line drive kick at his own 48-yard line, took advantage of a pancake block from Adrian Smith, and raced down to the two-yard line. From there, Smith would punch in his second score of the night to make it 14-14.

After Gonzales took a 17-14 lead via a field goal, Aguilar provided more special teams fireworks as he fielded a pooch kick at Gatesville 25-yard line, picked up a block from

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | A12

Gatesville girls basketball looking for bounce back season

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

On paper, there are plenty of reasons to believe that the 2023-24 season will be bounce-back year for the Gatesville girls basketball team.

Second-year head coach Kim Chaffin's squad returns to floor with a solid group of upper classmen, a largely healthy roster, talented young guards, and familiar faces on the bench.

But even if the data suggested otherwise, Chaffin's enthusiasm and energy when talking about her team and her program is enough to have a person searching for state tournament tickets in November.

"Every day we take a gold ball out to practice. None of my team have gotten to have their own trophy, and everyone has to touch it before we go in," said Chaffin. "It signifies that 'you're gonna touch this for now until you get your own'. Every team in our district brings a whole lot of heat. So will we, though. I really believe that we can be as good as anybody."

Chaffin's credentials more than back up her con-

fidence. She led Muleshoe to a bi-district title in 2021 and was the head coach in Pampa in 2015 when the Harvesters won their first playoff game in school history. She knows how to build a program - starting with effort, then drilling down into the details.

"We are trying to instill in the girls to first go hard and then we will sharpen the execution," Chaffin said. "We will stop practice for the smallest things. At first, kids were asking 'why is this such a big deal.' It's a big deal because it is."

Last season, the Lady Hornets were decimated by injury as they acclimated to a new system and new culture. The Lady Hornets played near .500 basketball until injuries took out their entire back court and forced a frustrating finish to the season. Her largely-healthy squad figures to be much-improved in 2023.

"(Last year) I felt like when we started to roll a little bit, then we lost all three of our ball handlers. That's the quarterback of your program. So now we are basically starting over.

By the time district rolled around, we were just now getting focused on what we needed to be doing," said Chaffin. "The newness and having to shift everyone around is really difficult. The kids tried to fight through that, but it's just growing pains."

Success in year two will depend largely on experience in the paint and a quick learning curve in the back court.

Seniors Taylor Coward and Alanda Wimberley, along with sophomore Emma Pollard give the Lady Hornets a trio of scorers in the post. Through the first two games of the season, the trio has averaged 33 points and 19 rebounds per game. Chaffin wasn't lacking for enthusiasm when discussing her bigs.

"Taylor is a big senior presence. She's been our leading scorer and she can score from a lot of different angles. Alanda Wimberley has come out of nowhere. Last year, she would battle people, but this year she has become a scoring threat. She complements anyone she plays with,"

said Chaffin.

Pollard, who is making the transition from volleyball to basketball, along with Laura Trejo and Taylor Sanderson, scored 11 points in a season-opening win over McGregor, then turned in a 17-point, seven rebound game in a loss to San Saba.

"(Emma has) got great hands and can catch a ball anywhere. She looks a lot more confident so far this year. When she gets into a rhythm, she is almost unstoppable. It's about to click for her. When it happens, there will be no turning back," Chaffin said.

Trejo will be counted on to provide Gatesville basketball with the same she provided Gatesville volleyball - a little bit of everything.

"If there could be a walking billboard for what we are trying to do, it would be Laura. She picks up everything quickly and can play well with anyone. She is a leader and the kind of kid that everyone wants to play with. There are not a lot of kids who work as hard as her," Chaffin said.

Guards Paige Sentillas, Yasmin Saunders, and Jalynn Pickens will guide the offense this season.

"Paige hasn't been a point guard ever. We asked her to step into that role, and she is absolutely owning it. Jalynn will guard whoever we ask her to. She is small, but she doesn't play small," said Chaffin.

An underrated and perhaps unnoticed addition to the roster is the return of former head coach Tommy Fadal as an assistant. Fadal, who Chaffin said specializes in post play, was the head coach of the Lady Hornets from 1987-2004.

Chaffin said that, on the court, the goal will be to limit turnovers and to prepare for another difficult district slate that will feature two games against defending state champion La Vega.

Chaffin said that her schedule is built with district in mind and in trying to expose her team to the style of play they will see in district as much as possible. They will travel to the always-difficult Glen Rose tournament and will

also see tournament action in Jarrell and Troy.

After taking down McGregor in their season-opener, Gatesville fell 57-50 to press-heavy San Saba. The Lady Hornets out-rebounded the Lady Armadillos and outscored them in the paint but allowed 31 points off of turnovers.

"We know what to expect. The more we play teams like that the more prepared we will be for district," she said. "There has got to be a mindset shift in that we are not going to schedule people who we can just go beat. We are going to schedule competition and teams that are going to be up in our faces. If we don't turn the ball over, we are going to be a lot better."

After a home game against Belton on Nov. 14, they will travel to Troy on Nov. 17. A home game against Rogers on Nov. 20 will take them into the Thanksgiving break. District play begins on Jan. 5 at Robinson.

Tigers remain undefeated

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers Football Team defeated the Walnut Springs Hornets, 60-14, in Bi-District action in Valley Mills, Friday, Nov. 10. The win keeps the Tigers' undefeated season in place and sets up a showdown with the Oakwood Panthers for a second year in row for the Area Championship.

The Tigers will try to avenge last year's loss to the Panthers. The game was played in Coolidge on Nov. 16, and results were not available at press time.

Tiger running back Kyler Fossett played on a different level, trashing his way through the Hornet defense, relatively untouched, scoring five touchdowns on five carries, and throwing a 50-yard touchdown strike to teammate Landon

Williamson. Fossett ended the night with 302 total yards. Quarterback Hunter Walters was perfect on the night with one 47-yard touchdown pass to Jack Hendricks. Edward Aviles, Jr. carried the ball once for a 69-yard touchdown scamper as the speedy back zig zagged his way through the Hornet secondary for the score.

Kicker Alex Castillo added six PATs for 12 points for the night.

Defensively for the Tigers:

Edward Aviles, Jr. led all tacklers with 12 tackles.

Landon Williamson had 12 tackles.

Kyler Fossett had eight tackles and one fumble recovery.

Jakson Tippit had seven tackles and one forced

fumble.

Alex Castillo and Jack Hendricks had five tackles each.

Hunter Walters had one tackle and a stripped ball on kickoff.

Joel Gonzales had two tackles.

Overall Scoring:

Kyler Fossett had five touchdowns for 30 points.

Alex Castillo had six PATs for 12 points.

Edward Aviles, Jr. had one touchdown for six points.

Landon Williamson had one touchdown for six points.

Jack Hendricks had one touchdown for six points.

Team total: eight touchdowns and six PA kicks for total of 60 total team points.

Lady Tigers junior high season begins

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby junior high Lady Tigers opened the 2023 basketball season with a hard-fought game against the Live Oak Lady Falcons.

The Lady Tigers dropped the contest, 17-24. The game was back-and-forth all night, but in the end,

the Lady Falcons managed to preserve the victory. Delany Marfa led the Lady Tigers with 13 points, two rebounds and one steal. Cierra Ingram had four points, two rebounds, and one steal. Scarlet Aaron grabbed two rebounds, and had a steal. Ali Chrisner had one rebound and one

steal. Aylean Aviles had one rebound. MaKenzie Wright had one rebound and three steals. Brylee Griffin, Adelyn Gomez, and Skyler Dickson all got playing time for the Lady Tigers. The Lady Tigers Junior High team will host Jonesboro Nov. 20, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Tigers dominate the Falcons in first basketball game of the season

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby junior high Tigers boys basketball team hosted the Live Oak Falcons Nov. 13. The Tigers dominated the Falcons,

41-5, for the first game of the 2023 season. Holdyn Goff led the charge for the Tigers, scoring 18 points, six rebounds, six steals, and two assists.

Evan Williamson was

the next man up, with 15 points, three rebounds, and four steals. Blayze Fisher chipped in four points and four steals. Ma-

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HORNETS

FROM PAGE A11

Kamren Hendrix at the 40-yard line, then went untouched the rest of the way for a 75-yard kickoff return touchdown and a 21-17 lead.

According to Hunter and the best records available, the kickoff return touchdown is believed to be Gatesville's first return for a touchdown since 1997.

"Those two returns were so huge. That is what won the game," said Hunter.

Gatesville upped their lead to 28-17 on their final possession before the half when Newkirk hit Amos Phillips with an eight-yard scoring strike in the corner of the end zone. Newkirk's pass was thrown where only Phillips could make the catch, and the sophomore phenom hauled it in with one-hand before dragging both feet for the score.

Newkirk, a senior, threw 30 passes in frigid, windy conditions in 2022. On Friday, he threw just five passes and completed two - both for touchdowns. He also helped guide the Hornets to a turnover-free game.

"Even his incomplete balls were on the money," Hunter said. "In those conditions, he did exactly what we needed him to do. For us not to have a fumbled snap or exchange is credit to him."

Gonzales took a 31-28 lead, but the Hornets bounced back again and retook the lead 34-31 when Newkirk found Phillips again for an 11-yard touchdown. That scoring drive was kept alive when Newkirk scampered nine yards on a fake punt on 4th-and-4.

"We have kind of done that all year. I don't know if our kids panic at all," Hunter said. "We have not played our best early, but

our kids just fight."

On their final drive of the night, the Apaches marched to the Gatesville 44-yard line and faced 4th-and-4 with just over two-minutes to go, but the option attempt was thwarted by Corey Burns and a host of Hornets.

Burns blew past his defender and forced Gonzales's Cole Duty to pitch the ball to Rocky Gallegos, who met a wall of defenders and was dropped for a loss.

"It actually should have been a false start because their tackle jumped. And when they didn't call it, he reset, and Corey just triggered basically unblocked. Then Tommy (Aaron), Javier (Clater), Colton (Taylor) Amos, and Lawson (Mooney) were all over it. But Corey Burns set the tone on that play," Hunter said.

After taking over on downs, Smith ran twice for seven yards. Then Newkirk picked up a first down on a quarterback sneak. Two snaps later, the Hornets were officially Bi-District Champions.

The Hornets ran just 38 plays of offense and tallied 221 yards on the night. Smith had 186 yards rushing on 22 carries - good for 8.5 yards per carry. Through 11 games he has 1534 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns. He's gaining 6.3 yards each time he touches the ball.

Gonzales gained 349 yards in the game with 339 coming via the rush and just ten coming from passing yards. The defensive effort epitomized the bend-but-don't-break theme of their season.

Phillips had a staggering 27 tackles in the loss. He had 14 solo tackles and two for a loss. His stat line was so impressive it caused the Gatesville staff to check their work when compiling game stats.

"Coach (Austin) Cole

came to me Saturday and said "Coach, you may want to double check this. I have Amos with 27 tackles.", Hunter said. "Give Coach (Jose) Aguirre credit for how Amos has grown. He is locked in and seeing what he is supposed to see."

Tommy Aaron and Corey Burns had 18 and 17 tackles, respectively, with each picking up a tackle for a loss. Javier Clater (11) and Aguilar (10) each had double digit tackles. Dutch Nielsen had nine tackles including a pair of sacks and another tackle for a loss.

Mooney, a four-year letterman, had 20 tackles in the win including two for a loss and one sack. His first tackle of the night made him Gatesville's all-time leading tackler breaking the record set by Pedro Quintero in the early 2000's.

No player has experienced the evolution of this Gatesville program more than Mooney.

He was a freshman standout on the Hornets team that broke a 14-game losing streak by defeating Hillsboro in 2020 - which happened to be Hunter's first season as defensive coordinator under former head coach Luke Howard. Their four seasons together is perhaps the reason that the pair shared a particularly emphatic embrace in the postgame.

"He has been through it. His freshman year the COVID year, losing to Carthage in 2021, then losing a (playoff) game we should have won last year. He's battled injuries and illness. It's been full circle for him. When you look back on this year, people are going to remember (number) 5," Hunter said.

"After the game, two or three of the Gonzales coaches came and found him and told he was a great football player," he said. "He just hugged me and said 'we did it.'"

With their playoff drought snapped, Gatesville will now have a chance to make an even bigger splash if they can upset the state's second-ranked team in Silsbee.

The Tigers beat Sealy 35-22 in their first-round game and boast an 11-0 record this season. They advanced to the regional semifinals in 2022 and are the overwhelming favorite to win Region III.

It all adds up to a sizable disadvantage, but Hunter and his team aren't packing up for the winter quite yet.

"This senior class has a little chip on their shoulder. I told them that there are going to be a lot of naysayers. But I also told them, 'You are the team that finally flipped the narrative. You have a gold football in your trophy case.'" he said.

"I take the approach of being realistic and not fake. You are playing a really good team with really good players. But because of our offense and how we play defense, you have a chance. It's not going to be easy, but there is a chance to go beat a really good team."

TIGERS

FROM PAGE A11

son Marquez had two points, one assist, and one steal.

Caiden Brinkley had two points and three rebounds. Liam Ammerman had two steals and Couper Wulfkuhle had two rebounds.

The Tigers host the Jonesboro Eagles A & B teams Nov. 20 at 4:30 p.m.

JR HIGH FOOTBALL RESULTS

8A vs. Lorena

	1	2	3	4	Final
Gatesville	8	0	8	11	27
Lorena	0	0	8	0	8

Leading Rushers: Grady Keeton- 11 for 101, 2 TD; Braxton Brown- 6 for 20; Draven Henderson - 4 for 10; Austyn Pickle- 1 for 4 (TD)

Offensive Line standouts: Isaac Crawford, Zak Rodriguez, Stephen Walker, Jaxon Botkin

Leading Passers: Grady Keeton - 3/5, 34 yards; Eli Phillips- 1/1 for 27 yards

Leading Receivers: Draven Henderson- 3 for 34; Grady Keeton 1 for 27

Leading Tacklers/Defensive players: Eli Phillips- 7 tackles; Grady Keeton - 12 tackles; Stephen Walker- 6 tackles, 1 sack; Memphis Salas- 4 tackles, 2 TFL, 1 pressure Passer; Austyn Pickle- 4 tackles, 1 INT; Callen Webb- INT; Braxton Brown- 3 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 recovered fumble, 1 pressure passer; Jaycob Webb- 3 tackles, 1 pressure passer; Isaac Crawford- 3 tackles, 1 TFL

Special Teams- Leo Leon- 3/3 on extra points and made a 25-yard field goal. **Season Record: 8-1**

7A vs. Lorena

	1	2	3	4	Final
Gatesville	0	0	0	6	6
Lorena	0	8	0	8	16

Leading Rushers: Jaxon Franks- 16 for 40
Offensive Line/ TE standouts: Copen Hartley, William Rodriguez, Brayden Warren, Andrew Winkler

Leading Passer: Sebastian Hubik- 4/6, 63 yards, TD; Preston Barron- 2/4 for 23 yards

Leading Receivers: Theo Williams- 2 catches for 30; Jaxon Franks- 4 for 46, TD

Leading Tacklers/Defensive players: Jaxon Franks- 4 tackles, 1 forced fumble; Sebastian Hubik- 4 tackles; Max Jacobs- 5 tackles; Theo Williams- 3 tackles.

Season Record: 1-7-1

8B vs. Lorena

	1	2	3	4	Final
Gatesville	0	0	0	6	6
Lorena	0	6	0	8	14

Leading Rushers: Brensyn Pope- 4 for 78, TD
Offensive Line/ TE standouts: Blake Perry, Hayden Kirby

Leading Tacklers/Defensive players: Kegan Redford- 6 tackles; Cash Heath- 5 tackles; Brensyn Pope- 3 tackles, 1 INT; Blake Perry- 5 tackles; Hunter Loy- INT; Austyn Savage- INT; Eduardo Arias- 4 tackles. **Season Record: 4-5**

7B vs. Stephenville

	1	2	3	4	Final
Gatesville	0	6	6	0	12
Stephenville	0	0	0	2	2

Leading Rushers: Damian Millan- 15 for 82; Micah Olvera- 5 for 81, 2 TD

Offensive Line/ TE standouts: Callen Streetman, Jackson Gauden; Jason Gibson

Leading Tacklers/Defensive players: Isaac Stafford- 2 tackles, 1 TFL; Chaysen Melton- 6 tackles, 1 TFL; Zachary Polyquin- 4 tackles; Logan Juarez- 4 tackles, 1 TFL; Damian Millan- 4 tackles; 1 TFL; Jackson Gauden- recovered fumble.

Leading Receiver: Zion Nunn- 28-yard reception from Micah Olvera. **Season Record: 6-2-1**

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans unanswered in 4th to knock off rival Wildcats *Best Division 1 season with four-game winning streak*

Tarleton State University

ABILENE -- The 2023 Texan Football season ended on Saturday, Nov. 11 in the only fitting way possible - with a win.

The Texans won their fourth straight to end the season and cemented their best NCAA Division I season at 8-3 by scoring 17 straight points in the fourth quarter to knock off rival Abilene Christian on the road 31-30 on Saturday afternoon at Wildcat Stadium.

The Texans (8-3, 4-2 UAC) beat ACU (5-5, 3-3 UAC) for the first time since 2013, and it couldn't have come at a better time. Tarleton State now finishes with the third best winning percentage among all reclassifying schools since 2004 at .610, only short of North Dakota State (.750, 2005-08) and Central Arkansas (.630, 2006-09). The Texans also became just the fourth reclassifying team to post eight or more wins in a season (North Dakota State twice in 2006-07, Central Arkansas twice in 2006 and 2008, North Dakota in 2011). With one week to go for

everybody else, the Texans are in third in the United Athletic Conference, with a chance to move into second by season's end. Austin Peay won the UAC at 5-0, and Central Arkansas is second at 4-1. If the Bears lose to Austin Peay, Tarleton State owns the tiebreaker, and the Texans could finish second, as long as Eastern Kentucky loses to Stephen F. Austin.

Kavyon Britten capped off an incredible first year at Tarleton State with a hat trick and the go-ahead score, finishing with three touchdowns and 176 yards on 22 carries, averaging 8.0 yards per carry. That boosted Britten to 1,150 rushing yards and 16 rushing touchdowns, both marks the most at Tarleton State in several years. His 16 rushing touchdowns are the most since Xavier Turner had 22 in 2018, while his rushing yards mark the most since Daniel McCants had 1,457 in 2019.

The Texans had to mount a major comeback in the fourth quarter to take this one. On the first play of the final frame, ACU scored a 2-yard rushing touchdown

to go up 30-14. The Texans then scored on three straight drives to take the lead. First, Guzman finished a 75-yard drive off with a 29-yard field goal. Then the Texan defense forced a three-and-out, and the Texan offense immediately capitalized, with Victor Gabalis throwing a 67-yard pass to Benjamin Omayebu, who took it all the way to the 1-yard line. Britten cashed in from there to make it a 30-24 deficit.

On ACU's next possession, the Texan defense stepped up again. Josh Griffis sacked ACU QB Maverick McIvor at the 24-yard line, and Robert Rios jumped on the ball to put Tarleton State in prime position to take the lead. The Texans only needed one play to do so, Britten again, who scampered around the right side from 17 yards out.

For a third straight time, Tarleton State shut down ACU immediately, another three-and-out to get the ball back with 5:44 left. The Texans bled the rest of the clock out by gaining five first downs, winning the game by a point.

Omayebu had 10 catches for a season-high 163 yards,



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The 2023 Texan Football season ended on Saturday, Nov. 11 in the only fitting way possible - with a win.

accounting for most of Gabalis' attack, who completed 15-of-26 for 258 yards. Gabalis threw a pair of picks but added an 18-yard rushing touchdown in the first quarter.

The Texans outgained the Wildcats 498-346, averaging 7.9 yards per play to ACU's 5.2.

Britten opened the game with a touchdown just over 100 seconds in, with Tarleton marching down 65 yards and the Texan running

back scoring from a yard out. ACU answered on their first offensive possession, with Jordan Vaughan rushing in a three-yard score.

Towards the end of the first quarter, Gabalis shifted his way into a big opening and showed off the wheels, scoring his 18-yard rushing touchdown. That marked back-to-back games with a rushing touchdown for the Texan quarterback.

ACU proceeded to score 23 unanswered, winning

the second quarter 16-0 and scoring a touchdown to open the fourth. ACU missed an extra point with a few minutes to play in the second quarter, which proved to be a costly missed.

Tarleton State's football season is now concluded. The Texans will gear up for their 2024 campaign, which will be their first year they can compete for the playoffs and national championships.

Smith scores a career-high 34 in Texans rout of FIU *Gaddy notches first career double-double*

Tarleton State University

MIAMI, Florida — Tarleton State gave the Western Athletic Conference its win of the CUSA x WAC Battle in dominating fashion, 82-65, over the Florida International Panthers at the Ocean Bank Convocation Center on Thursday, Nov. 9.

The Texans (1-1) notched their first win of the season and handed the Panthers (0-2) their second straight loss in their home opener.

"It was a really nice win for us, especially being in an opponent's gym which makes it all the more special," said coach Gillispie after the victory. "We're a patchwork team with only seven scholarship players right now, but the guys that played gave it all they had. We're excited about Saturday night at 7, when we get to open our home season at Wisdom Gym in front of our fantastic fans. It should be a fun and exciting night."

Jakorie Smith stood out for the Texans setting a new career-high scoring total with

34 points in addition to leading the team with six steals and logged eight boards and a pair of assists. Smith shot a game-best six-for-10 from beyond the arc.

"I'm proud of them [his teammates], 34 points didn't win the game, the team won the game," said Smith after the game.

For the seventh straight game, a Texan scored in double-digits off the bench. This time, it was KiAndre Gaddy who logged his first double-double as a Texan with 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Four Texans logged double-figure scoring totals rounded out by Devon Barnes (14) and Lue Williams (11). Williams led the team dishing out five assists as a part of the team's 15.

The Texans came out hot in the first half never allowing the Panthers to take a lead. Tarleton State opened the game with a 7-2 run in the first 1:57 of play, with last game's leading scorer Barnes accounting for five of the seven points. Then,

the Smith show commenced. Smith scored the next 15 Texan points to put the Texans in front, 22-9 and forcing an FIU timeout with 12:47 on the clock.

The Panthers showed they weren't giving up in their home opener, cutting the gap to 24-17 in just a two-minute span. Back-to-back buckets by Smith and Gaddy gave the Texans a 28-17 lead at the midpoint of the first half. The pesky Panthers cut the Texans' lead to 32-26 after a trio of layups and a three-pointer. Smith scored his 20th point of the half at the 5:43 mark escalating the lead to 36-27.

A 4-0 run by Gaddy on a pair of buckets upped the Texan advantage to 40-27. FIU clawed back in the final four minutes of the half to inch the Tarleton lead to 42-38, before Williams narrowly beat the buzzer on a hook shot with the buzzer sounding when the ball hit the floor.

FIU didn't go down without a fight coming out of half-



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State gave the Western Athletic Conference its win of the CUSA x WAC Battle in dominating fashion, 82-65, over the Florida International Panthers at the Ocean Bank Convocation Center on Thursday, Nov. 9.

time. The Panthers swapped buckets with the Texans and cut their deficit to four twice before the under-16 media timeout where the Texans held a seven-point advantage, 52-45.

Leading 60-50, Smith knocked down a pair of threes in a minute-and-a-half span to break his career high and increase his total on the night to 28. But he wasn't

done just yet. He scored six straight Texan points increasing the lead to 74-55 after a pair of made free throws with 5:37 remaining.

The Texans were able to prevent any Panther attempt of a comeback and took their biggest lead of the night, a 21-point advantage after a Barnes' layup with 2:19 remaining. Gaddy ended the night with a dunk in front of the Texan bench to give the

squad its first win of the season, 82-65.

The Texans won the battle of the boards, 47-25. Tarleton State shot 31-of-60 from the floor, a 51.7% rate and eight-for-19 from deep, 42.1%.

Tarleton scored 46 of its 82 points in the paint and held FIU to 30. The Texans forced 21 Panther turnovers and scored 24 points in the following possession.

Texans give Red Raiders everything they can handle

Tarleton State University

LUBBOCK — Womens Basketball Head coach Bill Brock preached to his team ahead of the Friday, Nov. 10 contest that they needed to compete heading into Lubbock to take on Texas Tech, and compete they did, as Tarleton State gave the Red Raiders everything they could handle.

Playing their road opener at United Supermarkets Arena in Lubbock, the Texans were within arm's reach of the Red Raiders throughout, falling 70-63. This was the closest Tarleton State (1-1) has been to knocking off a Power Five conference team, against a

Texas Tech (2-0) team that made it to the third round of the Womens National Invitational Tournament a season ago and pounded fellow Western Athletic Conference program UTRGV 95-53 in this year's season opener.

"I'm very proud of our team's effort this evening," Brock said. "We challenged them to play hard and compete in our first road game of the season. We controlled our turnovers much better in the second half and that led to a better offensive output in the last 20 minutes. Hopefully we will start quicker in the game on Sunday against New Mexico."

Both teams played similarly in each half, a defensive fest in the first 20 minutes followed by an offensive explosion in the second half.

The teams combined for 30 turnovers in the first half, and combined to shoot just 16-of-51 (.314) from the field, 5-of-22 (.227) from the three-point line. Texas Tech held a 26-15 lead at halftime. This half followed Tarleton scoring 106 points in the season opener, its most points in nine years, and Texas Tech scoring 95 points, 67 in the first half alone, 37 in the second quarter, also in its season opener.

Friday's second half was the complete opposite of the first, with just 11 combined

turnovers and a combined 30-of-50 (.600) clip from the field, 10-of-18 (.556) from distance. After Texas Tech took its largest lead of the game at 15 points midway through the third, Tarleton maintained its composure to keep it fairly close entering the final frame, 50-38. Down 14 with 7:13 to play, the Texans went on an 8-0 run to cut their deficit to six, thanks to a jumper by Lexi Bull, a three-ball on a contested shot by Jakoriah Long, then a beautiful find by Bull to Miannah Little for an and-one sequence. The Red Raiders made their free throws down the stretch to come out with the victory.

Both teams made 23 field goals, with Tarleton owning the advantage from distance at 9-of-22 (.409) to 6-of-18 (.333). Texas Tech got to the stripe 15 more times, making 18-of-24 (.750) free throws to Tarleton's 8-of-9 (.889). Otherwise this was an evenly-matched game, with both teams identical in points off of turnovers (13 each), nearly identical in turnovers (21-20), identical in fast break points (five each), nearly identical in second chance points (7-5), and close in rebounds (32-26).

Long had a team-high 13 points off the bench on 4-of-8 shooting, plus 4-of-4 from the free throw line. Teresa Da Silva joined her in double fig-

ures with 11 points (3-6 3PT), three rebounds and three steals. Elise Turrubiates had eight points (2-2 3PT) and five rebounds. Andjela Bigovic tallied seven points, three rebounds and three blocks.

Texas Tech was led by Jordy Merritt, who poured in 18 points on 6-of-10 shooting, adding three rebounds. Bailey Maupin (16 points, 6-12 FG, four rebounds, three assists, two steals) and Jasmine Shavers (11 points, six rebounds, two steals) joined her in double figures. Kilah Freelon finished with nine points and eight boards.

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- Cath Lab Tech – FT

SURGERY:

- Certified Scrub Technician – FT
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045 SERVICES

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We buy junk cars for scrap with or without title! 254-721-6592. 00030468

R&M FENCING & DOZING: barbed wire, custom pipe, entryways, corrals, barns, fence row clearing, metal buildings, residential & game fencing, solar gate openers, dozer work. Free estimates. Larry Riddle, 254-248-2205; Joyce McAdams, 254-248-4318.

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- Physical Therapist Assistant PRN

RADIOLOGY:

- CT/X-Ray Tech – PRN; TDH MRT & ARRT w/1 yr. exp. in CT/X-Ray
- Cath Lab Tech – FT

SURGERY:

- Certified Scrub Technician – FT
- Certified Sterile Processing Technician – FT
- Cath Lab RN – FT

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060 GARAGE SALE

Sat., 11/18 we will have CHRISTMAS TREES ON THE FRONT PORCH! 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030461

Sat., 11/18, Tues., 11/21 & Wed., 11/22 DOLLAR SALE! The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030462

The shop will be closed Thurs., 11/23 - Sat., 11/25! Happy Thanksgiving! The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030463

3-FAMILY YARD SALE: Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon!
334 State School Road
00030486

GARAGE SALE! Saturday only, 11-18-23. 7 a.m. to noon at 217 Fairway Drive. Books and videos only.
00030487

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.



099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harley Eugene Franklin, Deceased, were issued on November 8, 2023 in Cause No. 23-10913, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: TALMAGE DEWAYNE DEVER.

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

THOMAS E. WHITE, ATTORNEY
P.O. Box 184
Hamilton, Texas 76531

Your ad should be here.....

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

No. 23-10910
IN THE ESTATE OF LOUIS DWAIN TURNER, DECEASED
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Louis Dwain Turner, Deceased, were issued on October 25, 2023, in Cause No. 23-10910, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: Glenice Jan Turner. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER, & WHITAKER, P.C.
c/o: STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE
Attorney at Law
15 North Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501
DATED the 14th day of November, 2023.
BAIRD, CREWS, SCHILLER, & WHITAKER, P.C.
STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE
Attorney for Applicant
State Bar No.: 24045552
15 N. Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501
Telephone: (254) 743-7311
Facsimile: (254) 774-9353
E-mail: stephenbrischke@bcslaw.com
00030488

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Elaine L. Cook, Deceased, were issued on 9-26-23, in Cause No. Connie Lynn Oliver and Scott W. Cook. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
DATED the 26 day of October, 2023.
Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Connie Lynn Oliver and Scott W. Cook
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
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For complete listings, go to www.burksrealestate.com
- 1.469 acres, Lampasas River Place Subdivision, Lampasas River frontage, good tree cover, electricity along north property line, Kempner water line runs along the front of the property. \$125,000
 - 5 ac. 4 Br, 2 Ba brick home, 1960 CR 158 Evant, fireplace, open floor plan, recently remodeled kitchen, breakfast bar, pantry, second living area, office, ceramic tile floors, large front porch, fiber optic internet service & Multi-County Water, 2 car carport, storage that is 24 ft x 19 ft with attic lift, \$599,000.
 - 5.078 ac. east of Gatesville, Greenbriar Ranch Estates, Lot No. 4. North Greenbriar Creek runs through property, good tree cover, rolling terrain, electricity & water at the road. \$123,500
 - 10.01 acres east of Evant, Tx in Coryell County on CR 160. Lot 39, Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision. Rolling terrain, good tree cover, OWNER FINANCING, TERMS, 15% DOWN, 7.5% INTEREST, & CAN DO 10-15- OR 20-YEAR NOTE. \$139,900
 - 10.01 acres, Lot 41 in Phase 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX., Good Tree cover, Rolling Terrain, Fiber Optic Internet. \$149,500
 - 11 +/- acres, Arnett, TX Coryell County, good tree cover, nice home site, will need to be fenced. MCWSC may be available. \$179,500
 - 11.01 ac. Lot 5 Phase 2 Rio Escondido, 3180 PR 42111, Evant, Coryell County. Ready to build on, house pad in place, electricity, septic system, water well, Fiber-optic internet, small cabin w/kitchenette, bathroom, covered patio, & RV pad, 1 tank. \$212,500
 - 16.5 ac. Turnersville, open pasture, good views, paved CR 220. Electricity across road, check with Coryell City Water on availability of water meter. \$206,500
 - 17.85 ac. 296 Cross Timbers Lane Gatesville, 2 homes, 3 Br, 2 Ba brick home, open floor plan, 2nd home 2 Br 2 Ba single wide, good tree cover, rolling terrain, storage building, excellent fences, 1 stock pond. \$749,500
 - 18.1 ac. south of Evant, near Adamsville, Lampasas County, Hwy 281 & CR 2830. water well, electricity, carport, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$260,000
 - 20 ac. Evant, TX, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Lot 23 Ph 1, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric available, Fiber Optic Internet. \$215,000
 - 20.02 acres, Evant, TX PR 42107, Hamilton County, Lot 43 Phase 6 Rio Escondido, rolling terrain, good tree cover, season creek. \$265,000.
 - 20.33 acres, 3 BR, 2 Ba modular home, 714 CR 415, Evant. Open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, hardwood floors, pantry, free standing wood stove, 10 ft. x 60 ft front porch, multi-county water, 1 tank, fiber optic internet, small workshop, chicken coop, greenhouse, storage buildings and carport. \$498,000
 - 22.2 Ac., 4 Br, 2 Ba Manufactured Home by Palm Harbor, 812 Blakley Rd, open floor plan, large master bedroom, his & her closets, 2 living areas, 14 ft x 35 ft sun-room, laminate wood floors, ceramic floors in kitchen, laundry room & bathrooms, 8 ft x 40 ft container with lean-to for a carport, outbuildings, water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$649,500
 - 30.528 ac. east of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, Electricity across the road, you will need to drill a water well \$365,000.
 - 33.43 acres, near Coryell City, Coryell County, FM 929 & CR 260 frontage, rolling terrain, good views. \$295,000
 - 38 +/- acres, south of Pearl, TX, Coryell County, FM 183 frontage, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, nice views, great home site. \$372,400
 - 39.378 ac west of Gatesville, Hwy 36 frontage, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain. Good fences, electric & water meter on property, Jonesboro ISD. \$395,000
 - 41.0457 ac. Hamilton, CR 404, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, approx. 25 acres farmland, 2 tanks, & good fences. \$449,000
 - 47.332 ac. south of Ireland, TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, good fencing on 3 sides, southside will need to be fenced. \$395,000
 - 50.24 Ac. 3/2.5 home, 2171 CR 419 Evant, rolling terrain, 40% good tree cover, remaining balance open pasture, great views. \$649,500.
 - 58.51 Ac. 3 Br 2 Ba frame home, 6630 FM 183, Evant, TX, water well, several outbuildings, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, 2 tanks. \$585,000
 - 60.23 Acres CR 238 near Turnersville, TX, 1 stock tank, good fences, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain. \$361,380.
 - 68.9 Ac, 3/2.5 rock home, 101 Mac Dr., Gatesville, approx. 2900 ft Leon River frontage, ceramic tile floors, carpet in bedrooms, vaulted ceiling, rock fireplace, granite countertops, breakfast bar, garden tub, metal building 45 ft x 24 ft, barn, cattle pens, 1 tank, approx. 48 acres of coastal. \$1,249,500
 - 74.264 ac. west of Purluma, FM 1241, 1 tank, barn with cattle pens, good exterior fencing, approx. 65 acres good grazing pasture with coastal & native grasses, frontage on FM 1241 & CR 181. \$508,709
 - 82.43 ac. west of Evant, Mills County. Open pasture, scattered mesquite tree cover, native grasses, 1 tank, fenced on 3 sides. \$560,524
 - 88.007 ac, Hamilton CR 614 36 ft. Travel Trailer, 25 ft. x 30 ft. metal barn, Electricity, 1 tank, seasonal branch, water well, scattered tree cover. \$650,000
 - 89.862 Ac 3 Br 2 Ba home 1784 CR 610 Hamilton, open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances, pantry, ceramic tile floors, carpet in bedrooms. Large front porch, 2 carports, 50 ft x 30 ft metal building, 8 ft x 40 storage container, well, 1 tank, great views, good tree cover, rolling terrain. \$975,000
 - 106 Ac, CR 180 Purluma, Coryell & Hamilton County, good tree cover, rolling terrain, 1 tank, paved road frontage, electricity across road. \$832,100
 - 154.904 ac, Turnersville, paved CR 226 Coryell County, brick home in need of repair, water well, 1 tank, 1 barn 100 ft. x 50 ft, 1 barn 50 ft. x 48 ft & 1 barn 120 ft. x 48 ft., cattle pens, grain storage bin, open pasture with native grasses, 24-ac. field. Jonesboro I. S. D., Owners will consider owner financing. \$929,424
 - 179.562 ac 1.6 miles south of Gatesville, TX FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. \$1,166,255
 - 199.86 ac. 4/2 Manufactures Home, 1856 sq. ft., 1805 CR 180 Purluma, Coryell County, fully furnished, 2 tanks, 8 ft. x 40 ft container, storage building with water storage tank, barn, cattle pens, water well 560 ft deep, rolling terrain, good tree cover, paved road frontage. \$1,568,901
 - 210 ac, Carlton, Comanche County, approx. 5000 ft Alexey Creek frontage, small cabin, water well, electricity, cattle pens, 2 tanks one approx. 2.4 acres, 120 ft change in elevation & good tree cover, 48 acres of improved grass, good exterior & interior fencing. \$1,450,000

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FIRST GRADE HEROES



COURTESY PHOTO

Mrs. McLaughlin's first grade class at Gatesville Elementary School won the hallway heroes competition last week. The class showed great hallway behavior and earned a day to be superheroes. Pictured is Mrs. McLaughlin's first grade class in their superhero capes while standing in poses.

Christmas on Marshall Street set for Dec. 2

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District will present Christmas on Marshall St. on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will be held on the corner of Marshall St. and Hornet Way.

The event will feature food, crafts, jewelry, Santa, activities for children, homemade items, gifts, Avon, tumblers, hornet gear, and more.

Each campus will provide fundraising booths in addition to outdoor Christmas vendors. There will be various school clubs and organizations as well as local nonprofits.

List of activities to be held at each campus:

Gatesville Primary
Have your pictures made with Santa

Gatesville Elementary
Various items including spirit wear
Gatesville Intermediate School

Eclipse glasses
Art created by students
Gatesville Junior High
Letters to Santa
Decorating Christmas cookies

Crafting activities for children to participate in
Baked goods, hot chocolate, and wassail

Gatesville High
Christmas petting zoo
Cookies in a jar
3D printed pocket pets
Handmade Christmas wooden items
Fresh wreaths and poinsettias

Inflatables
Christmas gifts
Free children's games
Community Vendors
Jams and jellies

Handcrafted jewelry
Handmade soaps
Textiles
Christmas baked goods
Custom tumblers
Free children's games
Gift shop for children
Free Christmas games
Food vendors
Christmas choirs and dancers

Mr. and Mrs. Claus
There will also be a Deck the Paws Dog Costume Parade during the event at noon. Admission is free to the public. Prizes will go to first, second, and third place.

Be sure to reserve a spot with Tiffany Hoops-Turner by contacting her at 921-321-7646 or by email at tifannhoops@yahoo.com.

For more information, visit www.gatesvilleisd.org.



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GHS THEATRE PRESENTS RADIUM GIRLS



COURTESY PHOTO

Last weekend, the Gatesville High School theatre team presented Radium Girls, which was under the production of teacher Amanda Cummings. The Radium Girls is based on a 20th century historical event where female factory workers have contracted radiation poisoning from painting watch dials with a radium laced paint. The students will now begin preparing for the One Act Play competition.

GHS BROADCASTING CLASS GETS FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville High School students from the broadcasting class visited the Care Center this past week. The students were privileged to film an onsite segment with Deral McWhorter, Care Center Director for a campus news assignment. The segment was focused on the importance of charity and how it impacts the Care Center and locals within the community. While interviewing McWhorter, KWTX was present to speak with the class. The students were able to learn a plethora of tips, tricks, and trades of reporting, while Summer Erwin, broadcasting class teacher, was also about to join. The story was featured on KWTX for the community to view.

GISD CHOIR PARTICIPATES IN PRESTIGIOUS CHOIRS



COURTESY PHOTO

Twenty-six Gatesville ISD Choir students participated in two prestigious choirs last weekend. After a rigorous audition back in September, Gatesville High School placed a record 11 students in the TMEA Region 8 SSC All-Region Choir. They spent Saturday at Marble Falls High School working under the direction of Dr. Joey Martin from Texas State University, then performed a stellar concert consisting of four All State pieces. The GHS students are Anna Phillips, Katie Hopson, Ranyan Garraway, Paisley Wells, Nahdiah Appleton, Nevin Benning, Memphis Wells, Rylan VanHorn, Eli Alvarez, Roman Wallace & Devyn Ayala. In addition, Gatesville High School and Junior High choirs placed 15 eighth and ninth grade students into the Central Texas Honor Choir. This was the inaugural performance of this newly-formed group, which Mrs. Wells & Dr. Klingler helped create, organize, and direct. There were 100 students from 12 different Central Texas schools. The GISD students were: (Junior High) Aspyn Austin, Amor Mejia, Sophia Salinas, Callie Smith, Lillie Mann, Anna Gutierrez, Francisca Gutierrez, Joey Lonzetta, Eli Tyson, Caleb Hobday, Jesse Garcia, and (High School) Charles McLeod, Jana Armour, Payton Steel, and Daniel Burton.

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Carolyn Blakey
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