



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 2, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Gatesville raises more than 600,000 pounds for Food for Families

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Once again, Gatesville and its surrounding communities answered the call to help feed local families and individuals in need at the 34th annual Food for Families drive on Friday, Nov. 17.

As of Monday, Nov. 27, Gatesville has raised a total of 640,150 pounds of food and monetary donations. This number will continue

to rise after a final count is determined on Nov. 30.

Although it does not surpass last year's record of 839,950 pounds, Gatesville's Care Center Director Deral McWhorter said it is still the second largest food drive number that the community has raised.

"I want our town and surrounding area to know that if a man is at the plate and hits a 500-foot home run and the next time he

hits a 450-foot home run, it may not have been as long or as good as the first one, but it was still a home run," McWhorter said. "I want the people here that contributed so much, so sacrificially, to understand they hit a home run."

All local donations will remain at the Gatesville Care Center to serve the hungry in Coryell County.

PLEASE SEE **FOOD** | A12



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville High School presented a special tribute to Rusty Garrett, including a poster with the total pounds of food raised over his three decades of support.

Rusty Garrett returns to community event

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Renowned KWTX weatherman Rusty Garrett returned for the 34th annual Food for Families food drive following his battle with cancer, which caused him to miss the event in 2022.

Since the start of Gatesville's Food for Families in 1990, Rusty has returned year-after-year to help raise funds for the city's donation site. According to KWTX, he has only missed

the yearly food drive twice in three decades - once when he had the flu, and last year after learning of his cancer diagnosis and preparing for treatment.

"I am so glad to be back this year and to be making up for lost time because I love this community," Rusty said.

The Gatesville community welcomed the local legend back with open arms on Friday, Nov. 17. On the morning of the food drive, sev-

eral Gatesville High School students, band, cheerleaders, and staff hosted a pep rally where they recognized his dedication to Food for Families each year.

"Rusty was extremely appreciative and thanked the Gatesville community for the continued support," Gatesville ISD wrote on their Facebook page.

The school presented him with a poster of the total

PLEASE SEE **GARRETT** | A2

Brown provides community with a local foster closet

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

While serving multiple counties including Bosque, Hamilton, and Bell, the Fostering Arrows Foster Closet has recently made its base location at Trinity Baptist Church in our hometown of Gatesville.

The Fostering Arrows Foster Closet was established by Sarah Brown, director, with the goal to support foster, kinship, and adoptive families by providing any resources

for needs they might have.

Brown and her family began attending Trinity Baptist Church in December 2022, later joining the church in April of this year after moving to Gatesville.

The idea of adopting and fostering children has always been a desire of Brown's from a very early age.

"I've wanted to adopt since I was nine," Brown said.

In 2017, Brown and her husband obtained their license to adopt from foster care, and within a year the couple adopted a newborn.

"I always thought that once I adopted, I would feel fulfilled. But when we adopted, I wanted to do more," Brown said. "I have always wondered what God had for me, and once I first adopted, it was as if God showed me,

PLEASE SEE **CLOSET** | A2

Gatesville police officers recognized for saving sheriff deputy after fentanyl exposure

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Three Gatesville police officers were recognized at Gatesville City Council for their efforts in saving the life of a Coryell County sheriff deputy after he was exposed to fentanyl during a narcotics arrest.

During a regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, Gatesville Police Chief Brad Hunt presented a Life Saving Award to Officer Anthony Martinez and Meritorious Conduct Awards to Officer Michael Suniga and Officer Anna Perrow.

"While under an unresolved threat to their personal safety, in the fact that dangerous fentanyl particles could have still been in the air they were breathing, each officer exhibited great courage," Hunt said.

Martinez, Suniga, and Perrow were assisting Deputy Trent Willingham at a traffic stop and subsequent arrest for drug possession around 4:10 a.m. on Aug. 20. After conducting a field

test for the suspected narcotics, Willingham began to exhibit signs of exposure to fentanyl.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), symptoms of fentanyl exposure include slow breathing or no breathing, drowsiness, unresponsiveness, and constricted or pinpoint pupils.

Martinez quickly retrieved one dose of Narcan from his vehicle and one dose from Willingham's vehicle to administer to Willingham. After his second dose, Willingham began to recover from the exposure and was immediately transferred to the hospital. Narcan, a brand of naloxone, is a medicine that treats a narcotic overdose.

"I'm grateful that we were able to be at the right place at the right time," Martinez said. "Incidents like this are why we, as a department, continue to work with our deputies and why we do our job to the best of our

ability. We help each other when needed and hold each other accountable to obtain the proper training for this ever-evolving profession."

Officers Suniga and Perrow worked together with Martinez to ensure the scene and suspect were secure, despite potential exposure to fentanyl.

"This deputy exhibited the most courage of us all, and his bravery during such a traumatic experience speaks volumes regarding his character," Perrow said. "We are truly grateful this unfortunate situation has a positive ending for all the first responders involved."

Willingham has fully recovered and resumed his duties with the Coryell County Sheriff's Office.

"It was an awful experience and really drives home the dangers of what law enforcement encounters every day," Willingham said. "It makes me angry how

PLEASE SEE **POLICE** | A2



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Police Chief Brad Hunt (middle left) recognizes Officers Anna Perrow (far left), Michael Suniga (middle right), and Anthony Martinez (far right) at City Council.



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ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The foster closet includes items such as diapers, baby bottles, toys, and hygiene items that are ready for foster families to take when they need it.

CLOSET

FROM PAGE A1

this is your purpose.”

Brown began researching the different needs of foster families and came across something that felt demeaning to her. When Child Protective Services (CPS) arrive to transport the children, the workers will hand the child a trash bag to put their belongings in.

As Brown pondered on ways she could help, she decided to have her two oldest children help her fill 10 backpacks with hygiene products, stuffed animals, coloring books, and more to have them delivered to a local CPS office.

On the side, Brown is a photographer as well, so she got creative to get more people involved by offering

free mini sessions if her clients were willing to donate to the cause.

“We ended up with 70 backpacks full, and it ignited something inside me,” Brown said. “So, I thought what else can we do?”

“Foster families that are getting placements in the middle of the night don’t always have the essentials they need,” Brown said. She explained that CPS will give a monthly stipend, but it takes around a month to get it.

“I wanted to open something that is accessible,” Brown said. “I had an idea, so I talked to Brother Sam [Crosby] here at the church, and he said absolutely.”

Originally, the foster closet was opened for families with new placements, but as time passed, she began to realize that the children

would outgrow everything they originally arrived with.

“I thought about it, and I wanted to do it for everyone, foster families and adoptive families,” Brown said. “It’s for any foster family or adoptive family that just has a need; it’s here and free for the taking.”

The actual foster closet itself only includes half of the items, while the larger ones are in the bus barn at the church.

“It is a corner full of bouncers, strollers, high-chairs, cribs, and big stuff that I couldn’t fit in the closet,” Brown said.

When items are donated to the foster closet, Brown and her team of ladies within the church will go through the donations. The items must be sorted by size and gender, as well as

checking the condition.

“Sometimes, if we have extra donations or too much of something, I will deliver it to the Boys and Girls Club, so they can use it,” Brown said.

Brown has yet to buy a single item for her foster closet, as everything comes in through donations from the community.

“Not everyone wants to actually foster or adopt, but there’s so many other ways to help support those families,” Brown said.

Brown will post what the foster closet needs on Facebook, and within a week the closet will be full of donations.

“It’s just neat to be able to meet new people in the community that I can hopefully bring in and do more to help foster families with specific needs,” Brown said.

GARRETT

FROM PAGE A1

pounds that has been raised during his time supporting the drive in Gatesville, which equals to 8,116,369 pounds of food that has served local families and individuals in need.

Deral McWhorter, Director of the Gatesville Care Center and long-time friend of Rusty, said many people who stopped by the Gatesville Fire Station to drop off their donations would also get out of their vehicles to share a word or send a greeting to Rusty.

“Rusty really loves Gatesville, and Gatesville really loves Rusty,” McWhorter said. “He gave all he had to be with us for seven hours, and he told me that he was tired, but that it was a good tired.”

POLICE

FROM PAGE A1

someone with such dangerous chemicals/drugs like fentanyl on them could be so careless. I’m glad it was myself who was exposed and not an innocent civilian or child.”

First responders are more likely to be in contact with fentanyl when responding to overdose calls and while conducting searches, arrests, and traffic stops, according to a DEA fact sheet. Accidentally inhaling airborne powder is what most likely leads to harmful effects.

Willingham emphasizes the importance for first responders to implement safety protection when handling similar cases, such as wearing protective gloves, using a respirator, and always having someone nearby to monitor when test-

ing any substance. “If any abnormal feeling is felt or observed, remember when in doubt, Narcan it out,” he said.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid drug that is estimated to be 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin, per the DEA. It is approved by the Food and Drug Administration as a prescription for severe pain relief under the supervision of a licensed medical professional.

“We are collectively grateful for this recognition given to us by Chief Hunt,” Perrow said. “Our acts are those of what any peace officer during a life-threatening situation would be expected to do. We want to direct our own personal recognition to the Coryell County sheriff deputy who was exposed to fentanyl in this incident.”



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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

A notable life has passed



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

This past week Rosalynn Carter, the former first lady of the United States, passed on. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's in February of this year and was placed in hospice just two days prior to her death. Mrs. Carter was 97 years old, and few lived a life as full of service and devotion as did she.

Rosalynn grew up in her future husband's hometown of Plains, Georgia where she later proclaimed not much ever changed "except occasionally someone would open a diner, but it never lasted very long." She was the child of a dressmaker mother and automobile mechanic father. Tragically, her father was struck down with cancer when Mrs. Carter was a mere 13 years old. From that point

forward, she helped raise her younger siblings and considered her father's death the end of her childhood. She worked to help provide for the family and learned the valuable lesson of hard work and service to others.

The Carters met through Jimmy's sister, Ruth, who was Rosalynn's best friend. Future President Carter was then a midshipman at Annapolis, and when his fu-

ture wife saw a photograph of him in his naval uniform, she believed him to be "the most handsome man I'd ever seen." It wasn't long until the Carters were introduced and soon thereafter, were wed. The marriage lasted 77 years, something which roughly only 1000 living Americans can say.

In speaking about his wife, the former President said, "Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished. She gave me wise guidance and encouragement when I needed it. As long as Rosalynn was in the world, I always knew somebody loved and supported me."

As Jimmy Carter advanced up the political ladder, Rosalynn walked by his side to eventually become first lady, transcending the role from something largely ceremonial to a purposeful role of service to the nation.

Given the nickname of the "Steel Magnolia" by the press, it became a monicker she did not mind, saying that "steel is tough, and magnolia is southern." Early in her career she was

so naturally shy her knees would sometimes knock together when she had to give a speech or meet dignitaries on the political trail. In the White House, Mrs. Carter was the first presidential spouse with her own policy staff and set up offices in the East Wing of the White House.

"Thanks to her mental health advocacy, many people live with better care and less stigma. Because of her early leadership on child immunization, millions of Americans have grown up healthier. And through her decades of work at the Carter Center and with Habitat for Humanity, she spread hope, health, and democracy across the globe," said former President Bill Clinton upon learning of her death.

Former President Trump said of Mrs. Carter, she "earned the admiration and gratitude of a nation. From her days as a US Navy spouse, to her tenure as first lady of the United States, and her later work at the Carter Center and volunteering with Habitat

for Humanity, she leaves behind a legacy of extraordinary accomplishment and national service."

Most remarkable is, upon leaving the White House, the Carters returned to their native home in Plains, Georgia and led lives as ordinary citizens while working to improve the world around them.

Rosalynn Carter was a voice for women when society did not accept women as a force. She worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others both at home and around the globe, and her work was never an attempt to elevate her personal position in life. She had a Christian servant's heart, and nothing was more important to her than being a good wife and mother.

I am hopeful that young women in America will look to the legacy of Mrs. Carter and attempt to emulate her service and determination. She changed the world and never raised her voice, never screamed a message, and never insulted an opponent. She merely went about doing the task at hand with grace and determination.

We certainly have a few politicians who would be well-served to follow her example.

Thought for the day: Don't raise your voice, make your argument better.

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

sam@hcnews.com

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News from Eclipseville



BY CHERI SHEPHERD
City of Gatesville
Eclipse Coordinator

It happened to me again today. I met someone for the first time and told them that I was working to help the City of Gatesville prepare for the eclipse. This initiated a chuckle from my new friend who said, "Oh, I've been hearing about that! I can't imagine all those crazy people traveling all this way to see this thing. I probably won't even leave my house that day."

The meeting we were attending was starting, so I just smiled and nodded and didn't bother to try to explain why people travel to experience an eclipse. As I sat there and pondered her comment, I was a little sad for this person and hoped that she would learn more and decide to see for herself what the excitement is all about.

If you, like my new friend, don't understand what the fuss is about, maybe this quote will interest you:

"And there, along this line, was this thing, this glorious, bewildering thing. It looked like a wreath woven from silvery thread,

and it just hung out there in space, shimmering. That was the sun's outer atmosphere, the solar corona. And pictures just don't do it justice. It's not just a ring or halo around the sun: It's finely textured, like it's made out of strands of silk...And though it looked nothing like our sun, I knew, of course that's what it was...It's like I had left our universe and was standing on some alien world, looking back at creation. And for the first time in my life, I just felt viscerally connected to the universe in all of its immensity. Time stopped, or it just kind of felt nonexistent, and what I beheld

with my eyes - I didn't just see it, it felt like a vision."
David Baron, author of American Eclipse

The emotion of that quote gives me chill bumps, but if you are more practical than poetic, you may appreciate a more scientific description: A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, casting its shadow on our planet. In most cases, only a portion of the sun's disk is obscured, resulting in a partial solar eclipse. However, when the moon's shadow aligns perfectly with Earth, the sun is completely blocked out, creating a total solar eclipse. Total solar eclipses occur somewhere on earth once every 18 months or so. When they do, the path of totality is typically only around a hundred miles wide. Only those in that band will experience the eclipse in its totality, and the closer to the center of that band, the longer totality will last.

If you are lucky enough to be in the path of totality, you will notice the gradual dimming of sunlight as the moon begins to encroach on the sun, signaling the first phase of the eclipse. In Gatesville, this phase will start around 12:19 p.m. You will need eclipse glasses to look at the sun during this phase. As total-

ity approaches at 1:36 p.m., the sun's remaining sliver will disappear behind the moon, and the sky will darken rapidly. The sun's corona, a wispy halo of light, will become visible. It is at this point that it is safe to remove your eclipse glasses. The stars and planets will appear in the darkened sky, and it will look as though there is a 360-degree sunset. A noticeable drop in temperature will occur.

In Gatesville, totality will last for four minutes, 23.9 seconds. Then, a tiny sliver of sunlight will appear, marking the end of totality. The sky will gradually brighten, the stars will fade, and the world will return to its normal state. At 2:59 p.m., the very last of the shadow of the moon will disappear from the face of the sun, and it will be over. For many of us, it will be the first and last time that we experience a total solar eclipse.

I hope that these descriptions, both poetic and practical, have given you a better understanding of what to expect on April 8, 2024, and have generated some excitement about the eclipse. And, if you happen to be my new, skeptical friend, I hope you are reading this.

Folks around town



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Scott Tatum

Say hello to our neighbor, Scott Tatum!

Scott is the owner of Hometown Floors, a local flooring company, and says he enjoys serving his community. He has lived in Gatesville for over 40 years and likes how people can come together when someone is in need.

Scott reads The Gatesville Messenger and he said, "I like to sit back, relax, and enjoy all the paper has to offer. With all the technology in today's world, it's nice to have something simple to look at."

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

Holiday announcement from the City of Gatesville

Submitted by Scott Albert, City Manager

I hope this message finds everyone well as we kick off the holiday season. I want to wish everyone happy holidays and hope you find time to enjoy this season with your family and friends.

During my first month on the job in Gatesville, I was invited to attend a din-

ner at the Coryell County Museum, which was a great opportunity to meet some of our residents. Honestly, I was more interested in meeting people than exploring the museum. I knew the museum was known for the Mitchell Spur Collection, so in my mind, I thought I would walk in and see the walls of spurs. However, I was pleasantly surprised

and walked away from my visit to the museum, thinking that it is an overlooked asset in our county. The museum's board and volunteers have done an outstanding job managing and developing the museum.

Over the past few months, I have been meeting with the museum board to discuss the future of the facility. One phrase that

kept coming up in our conversations was the Board's desire to keep the museum relevant for future generations. To help with this, the city has offered to pay for a consultant to assist in developing a strategic plan that will lead to establishing an engaging facility for future generations. The board has agreed to hire Prycer Consulting to assist

in developing this strategic plan, and the board will meet in January for a retreat to begin working on the plan.

If you have an opportunity during the holidays, please take the time to visit the Coryell County Museum. Again, happy holidays!



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville City Manager Scott Albert



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

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

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

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LEADING BY EXAMPLE



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Leaders of the community gathered to support the Salvation Army's Red Kettle at Walmart on Tuesday, Nov. 28. They had a dollar in hand to donate to assist those in need in Coryell and surrounding counties. Pictured left to right is Billy Vaden, Fire Chief; Cody Lee, Police Detective; Gary Chumley, Mayor; Adam Fitzer, Gatesville Independent School District Police Department; Jeremy Still, Gatesville Fire Department; Brad Hunt, Gatesville Police Chief; and Scott Albert, City Manager.

Ring the bell with the Salvation Army

Submitted by Joyce Talbott

Many people are not aware that every penny stays here to serve those in Coryell County.

I was surprised at Walgreens while making a poster for the Salvation Army when Woosie Morrall approached. She said she had lost her bell ringer

card. She told me how her pastor of Mount Calvary Church was working to get youth signed up.

On Dec. 2, there will be a Salvation Army booth at Christmas on Marshall Street, and the bell will ring at Walmart.

Every volunteer hour makes a huge difference. Even though the Red Kettle

does the work it cannot be there without a volunteer bell-ringer present. Each two-hour shift typically brings in about \$150. If you are a young person, can sing or play music, or are willing to wear a grinch or Santa suit, it will bring more in.

Ninety-four of 156 slots have been filled.

Support for the Care Center's annual food drive is also encouraged, because the Care Center enables the Salvation Army and our community's charities to address other needs.

For more information, or to sign up to be a volunteer, visit <https://signup.com/go/GxatyWD>.

Texas Parks and Wildlife celebrates 100th anniversary, Mother Neff honored as first state park

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 historic 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."

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.

BEGINNER'S GUIDED HIKE

Mother Neff State Park will host a Beginner's Guided Hike on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 1 p.m. The hike will be approximately 0.6 miles long, and all ages are welcome. Be sure to wear tennis shoes, comfy clothes, and bring water for hydration. Registration is required to attend. To register, email saraegibbs@utexas.edu. Arrive 10 to 15 minutes early and check in at the park headquarters located at 1921 Park Road 14 in Moody.

Local opportunities to give back this holiday season

Staff Reports

SENIOR CENTER COLLECTING TOYS

As the season of Christmas is approaching, the Gatesville Senior Center is gearing up for its second annual toy drive.

The Senior Center will accept donations for the toy drive through Wednesday, Dec. 13.

The gifts will be donated to 35 local Head Start students, ages three to five.

Donations should be dropped off at the Gatesville Senior Center located at 208 Lutterloh Avenue.

For more information, contact Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234.

SILVER SANTAS

TAKING DONATIONS

Silver Santas is collecting gifts this holiday season for local seniors who are in need. The organization is partnering with Meals on Wheels to help give each meal recipient a gift for the holidays.

There are various items to be donated, including socks, lotion, toiletries, soft blankets, back scratchers, large print puzzle books, large print playing cards, jigsaw puzzles, small notepads, lip balm, hats, gloves, scarves, packaged snacks, small flashlights, a magnifying glass, colored pencils and coloring books, and coffee or tea mugs.

Monetary donations will be accepted as well through Venmo at Christi-Mooney.

Donations are to be collected by Saturday, Dec. 9. Items should be dropped off at the 1854 Mercantile, the Salty Senorita, or the Feed Mill.

For more information, contact Christi Mooney at 254-223-3699 or Amy Best at 254-223-2277.

LEVITA VFD TO COLLECT TOYS

This year, the Levita Volunteer Fire Department has decided to participate in the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The parade will begin at 9 a.m., and the route is planned to be staged at South Lovers Lane in front of Gatesville High School and will travel westbound to the intersection of Lutterloh Avenue, Main Street, and Hwy 84.

Levita VFD is seeking help from the community to donate to the toy drive that will commence after the parade.

Unwrapped toys, monetary donations, and gift cards will be accepted as donations.

The drop off location for the toy drive will be at the Levita VFD located at 4310 CR 107 in Gatesville.

For more information, contact the Levita VFD at 254-203-0757.

CARE CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Care Center of Gates-

ville is currently in need of volunteers at its facility.

The volunteers will have various responsibilities, including 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, and more.

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

The Care Center is located at 105 N. 7th St. in Gatesville.

CORYELL MUSEUM GUN RAFFLE

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. They are located at 2502 TX-36 BUS.

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

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

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

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

OGLESBY ISD CHEER SOCK DRIVE

The cheerleading team of Oglesby Independent School District will be hosting a holiday sock drive until Friday, Dec. 15.

A box will be placed in the foyer from the front office of Oglesby ISD. For those willing to donate, adult and children sock sizes are accepted.

For more information, contact Oglesby ISD at 254-456-2271.

Oglesby ISD is located at 125 College Ave. in Oglesby.

MOTHER NEFF NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Mother Neff State Park is searching for volunteers regarding its cleanup day on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The cleanup will include picking up brush and excess items at the park to prepare for spring. There will be two time slots to choose from: The first shift will be from 10 a.m. to noon, and the second shift will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

To signup, email saraegibbs@utexas.edu.

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

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Boy Scouts John Austin Hoover, Justin Hoover, Zach Newman, and Nick Brown knocked on doors to solicit donations for the annual Food for Families Drive.

The Country Ramblers played their last performance at their "farewell dance" at the Jonesboro Community Center.

American Legion Post 42 presented Blue Star Awards to the families of J.C. Smith (U.S. Army) and John Dossy (U.S. Navy).

The Gatesville Exchange Club held its annual "One Nation Under God" American Heritage Observance. Gatesville High School students in the Skills USA-VI-CA class sent several boxes filled with food to U.S. soldiers stationed in Iraq.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

Gatesville ISD continued to work on solving the school's overcrowding issues, focusing on ways to reduce building costs.

Coryell Memorial Hospi-

tal, now Coryell Health, was set to open a rural clinic facility in Goldthwaite.

The Coryell County Extension Office held their open house at the Coryell County Courthouse with the co-sponsorship of county 4-H members.

Powell Supply advertised camcorders for \$629 to \$689.

A new craft shop, "Walk By Faith," opened in Fort Gates.

40 YEARS AGO

HEB advertised pecan or pumpkin pies for \$1.99.

Shari King was named Jonesboro ISD's Football Sweetheart.

The American Heart Association held their Turkey Walk at Faunt Le Roy Park.

Dr. Thomas R. Williams announced that he was closing his dental practice in Gatesville.

Members of the Gatesville Rebekah Lodge planned to have a bake sale in front of Thrift Mart Grocery.

50 YEARS AGO

Army veteran Bill Horton, of Gatesville, joined the city's police force, succeeding Johnny Davis.

The Cultural Activities Committee and the Gatesville Garden Club sponsored a holiday bazaar and pilgrimage.

Citing "current divisions within the agency" as "simply too painful to deal with," Carroll Duke resigned as assistant general superintendent of the

Gatesville State School for Boys.

Scott's Furniture in Gatesville advertised recliners starting at \$69.95.

Four Live Oak Baptist Church members were set to leave for the southernmost state in Mexico, Chiapas, to join 150 other Texans in conducting an eight-day revival crusade.

City Council swears in new member, recognizes outgoing member

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Gatesville City Council swore in one new city council member and two re-elected members at a regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at City Hall.

Following a canvass of the votes and declaration of the results from the Nov. 7 election, the oath was administered to the three incoming city council members. The newest member, Aaron Smith, won his race

with 357 votes for Ward 1, Place 1.

"I want to thank the people of Gatesville for the amazing support I received during election time," Smith said. "Also, the warm reception by the council members and community since being elected. My goal during this term is to assist Mayor Chumley and the council in making sensible decisions concerning community interests as well as distributing city funds for

immediate and long-term priorities in respect to our town's infrastructure."

Smith adds that another objective of his term is to boost tourism in the area to bring more funds to local businesses as well as add in new ones.

Council members Meredith Rainer and Greg Casey also won their re-election bids. Rainer was reappointed to Ward 1, Place 3 with 646 votes and Casey was reappointed to Ward 2,

Place 5 with 657 votes.

"I'm so grateful to the community for allowing me to serve the city for another term," Rainer said. "I love our little town and the people here, and I'm just thankful that I can be a part of trying to make it even better."

All three members were sworn in by Kelsey Cole, one of the city's municipal clerks. The swearing-in ceremony took place in front of city council members,

friends, and family.

"I am very honored to continue to serve the people of Gatesville," Casey said. "It's been exciting to watch and be a part of the positive changes and growth opportunities taking place in our community."

The council also recognized outgoing member Claude Williams and thanked him for his service. Williams recently represented Ward 1, Place 1.

Due to the absence of

Mayor Chumley and City Council Member John Westbrook, the city council voted to move the appointment of a new Mayor Pro Tem to the next regular meeting on Dec 12.

Rainer currently serves as Mayor Pro Tem. The purpose of the role is to perform the duties of the mayor in his absence.



COURTESY PHOTO

City clerk Kelsey Cole (far left) swears in re-elected members Meredith Rainer (left) and Greg Casey (middle) and new member Aaron Smith (right).



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Outgoing Council Member Claude Williams (middle) of Ward 1, Place 1 is recognized by City Manager Scott Albert (left) and Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Meredith Rainer (right).

The Walking Poet of Rotan



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

“The tree said to the leaf, get off of me, it's time for you to go. The leaf left the tree. As I was walking on that particular day, a leaf as light as could be slowly drifted to the ground, not knowing where it would land other than in my hand.”

I met Debbie Toliver in the offices of the Double

Mountain Chronicle, the newspaper in Rotan. She

walked there from her home south of town. She walks a lot because she doesn't drive or own a car. Debbie has been writing poetry since 2015 when her sister died.

“She was my only sister, and I'm the baby. When I got home after being born, she put me in her doll buggy and put me by the stove so I could be warm. She used to call me 'my baby.' She wanted a sister so bad. She had three brothers. “The first poem I wrote was about her,” says Debbie. “It's called 'You're Not There.'” I got inspired the night before the funeral. The words just came to me. It was my way of coping

with grief.

“You went away so suddenly. When the sun rises, you're not there. When the sun goes down, you're not there. When the wind blows, you're not there. When the wind ceases, you're not there. When it rains, you're not there.”

Debbie's poems have been published in international poetry anthologies.

“The sun beats down on my already-darkened skin. A pearl of sweat rolls down my face as a butterfly lands next to it and waves its delicate wings back and forth and seems to be showing me that I, too, am beautiful with or without wings.”

She is listed in Who's Who

in American Poetry.

“I shut my eyes to the pain in the world, the cruelty that looms around me. I shut my eyes because I can't bear to see what happens next. I shut my eyes when the person standing in front of me says, 'Stay back. Don't come any closer. I don't know where you've been.'”

Sometimes, she writes about walking.

“I walk, and you just pass me by. I walk in the bitter cold, and you just pass me by. I walk in the smothering heat, and you just pass me by. I have only one request for you. When I lay dead in my casket, just pass me by.”

She writes with pen and paper.

“I'm not a computer person. I'm old school. I love to write. I've written so many poems it's hard to keep up with. I don't know where the inspiration comes from, but when it does, I have to write it down. I can hear it, the words and their rhythm. The words just appear on the paper. Sometimes, the poems come in pieces, and I have to put them together. I think it's a God-given gift, and I want to share it with anybody I come in contact with.”

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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MOUND NEWS

Mound residents spent Thanksgiving with family and friends



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Mr. Noah Truett Hopson was chosen to represent the Gatesville Elementary at the "Food for Families Drive" at the Gatesville Fire Department last week.

The students chosen will be featured on KWTX Channel 10. Noah is the son of Paul and Rachel Hopson, and the great-nephew of Barbara Hopson.

Delecia Reynolds visited last Tuesday with one of her friends, Barbara Hopson.

David and Pam Hopson hosted the Hopson family Thanksgiving dinner Thursday. Those attending were family and friends.

John Paul Stephens and family of Flower Mound had Thanksgiving dinner with

Ray and John Stephens.

Mound Cowboy Church and White Mound Baptist Church have been taking meals to Martha Ann Lawhorn and Jane Wilson for several months.

Mary Jo Whigham of Leon Junction visited with Martha Lawhorn.

The Carothers family hosted a Blessed Thanksgiving Lunch at the home of Bobby and Nelda Carothers... Those in attendance were BJ, Tracy, Skyler, Canyon Carothers and Chyna Hoffman, of Mound, Jason,

Jamie Connor, Camdyn, Caleigh Carothers and Cooper Shackelford of Belton, and Joe and Nancy Carothers of Kempner. They enjoyed a traditional meal of turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings. Afterwards, family photos were taken.

Emma Blakley, of College Station, was home for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Neil and Christy Helms, of Red Oak, were Thanksgiving visitors with Robert, Carolyn, and Emma Blakley.

Emma Blakley went to Baton Rouge for the Texas

A&M and LSU football game.

Jerry and Paula Bomar had all their children home for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Barbara's Notes: HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to Joshua Tatum and Vivian Moore.

City of Gatesville to close sports complex through Jan. 31

Staff Reports

Over the winter break, the City of Gatesville has scheduled MUSCO lighting to be installed at the Gatesville Sports Complex from Monday, Nov. 20, through Sunday, Jan. 31. The complex will remain

closed during this time to allow necessary construction to be completed in time for the spring programs.

The lighting will upgrade poles and light fixtures on the Box, Hyles, and Arnold fields.

For more information, contact the City of Gatesville Parks and Recreation Department at 254-499-1015.

The Gatesville Sports Complex is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.

National Influenza Vaccination Week held from Dec. 4-8

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

As winter approaches, it is important to be aware of influenza season. Flu viruses typically spread between fall and winter. Annually, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention host a National Influenza Vaccination Week, which is held from Dec. 4 through Dec. 8.

The CDC hosts this awareness week to remind everyone who is six months and older that there is still time to get a flu vaccine. Flu vaccines provide protection against the serious flu disease that can cause hospitalization and even death.

The flu is an extremely contagious respiratory illness that is caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and, sometimes, the lungs, which can cause mild to severe illness.

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by small droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can then land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby.

According to the CDC, children are most likely to get sick from the flu, and people 65 and older are least likely to get sick from flu. The percentages

for specific age groups who have obtained the flu are 9.3 percent for children zero to 17 years old, 8.8 percent for adults 18 to 64 years old, and 3.9 percent for adults 65 years and older. This means that children younger than 18 are more than twice as likely to develop a symptomatic flu virus infection than adults 65 and older.

The flu can come with a plethora of symptoms which include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills.
- Cough.
- Sore throat.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headaches.
- Fatigue (tiredness).
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

When it comes time to get the yearly flu shot, most healthcare insurance plans will cover the annual flu shot as preventive care. The vaccine is often available at little to no cost to people who do not have insurance.

Ways to obtain the flu vaccination at little to no cost:

- **Children**
- Most health care

insurance plans cover flu vaccination at no cost to you. Check that your provider takes your child's insurance.

The flu vaccine is also available at no cost to you through CDC's Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. A child must qualify for this program.

Adults

If you have insurance, your flu vaccine will be at no cost to you. Check that your provider takes your insurance.

If the insurance does not cover the flu vaccine or it has a fixed dollar limit or cap for vaccines, there may be options for no cost, or low-cost flu vaccination.

If you don't have insurance, there may be options for no cost or low-cost flu vaccination.

There are many different individuals and places that are available to give the flu vaccine, including a healthcare provider, a local pharmacy, the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) supported health centers, an employer, schools, and community organizations.

For more information on the flu vaccination, visit cdc.gov.

CONNECTIONS COLLABORATIVE



COURTESY PHOTO

Kristin Smith (left), CEO and President of Habitat for Humanity Fort Hood, is pictured speaking with Christa Hitt (right), Gatesville ISD Guidance Counselor, during a Partner Meeting for Coryell Community Connections Collaborative (C4). The organization, a resource coordination group, was established to create a safe space for human service organizations to connect with one another, communicate services, and contribute expertise or recommendations, so that together human service professionals can conquer barriers. Coryell Community Connections Collaborative holds Partner Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Righteous Roots Crisis Center.

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.

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PEARL NEWS

Head on out to pearl...it's THE place to be!



BY **BETSY CLARK**

Pearl News Correspondent

If you're reading this right now, it must be Saturday and time for the Pearl Bluegrass and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore. The Bluegrass goes on all day, but the bookstore hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. So, hurry and drop the paper, grab your keys, and head out the door to go to Pearl. - It's THE place to be!

The week or two before Thanksgiving, Linda Ray made tons of beautiful gift baskets for the Pearl Church of Christ to be distributed among the community, especially to those who might be hurting this time of year. Thanks to Kay Pruett, the Thanksgiving Bunny, the baskets made their ways into many more homes in both Pearl and the surrounding area. What a wonderful team these two ladies are! You can't find anyone else anywhere else who cares about their community, and those in need, more—and they do something about it. What a

blessed place Pearl is due to ladies like Kay and Linda! God bless them!

If you're looking for ways to help out during the Christmas season in your community, please keep in mind The Care Center in Gatesville and the Agape in Evant off of Highway 281. They especially appreciate cash donations, which enable them to help others in need in their areas. You can shop at the Agape Thrift Store as well. 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 from Isaiah 57:15-16. For this is what the High and Exalted One says— He who lives forever, whose

Name is Holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." NIV

Please pray for continued blessings of rain, for 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 activity reported through dispatchers during the period of November 23 - 28. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 23
4:04 a.m., violence was reported in the 7100 block of FM 217.

11:01 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1000 block of Georgetown Road.

3:13 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1300 block of W. Main Street.

4:02 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1400 block of Westview Drive.

Nov. 24
12:26 p.m., harassment was reported in the 300 block of State Hwy. 36 Bypass.

4:23 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1800 block of E. Main Street.

7:25 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

10:55 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2500 block of Jackson Drive.

Nov. 25
12:37 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of E. Leon Street.

12:28 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1300 block of Greenbriar Road.

3:40 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1900 block of Saunders Street.

7:14 p.m., a disturbance

was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

Nov. 26
9:33 a.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of E. Main Street.

4:10 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of Stoneridge Drive.

5:39 p.m., a hit and run accident was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

6:12 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.

Nov. 27
12:41 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of West Main Street.

8:56 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of south 8th Street.

12:19 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 26.

4:19 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of North 8th Street.

Nov. 28
9:37 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 1800 block of East Main Street.

11:36 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.

1:13 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

1:42 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1600 block

of West Main Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Nov. 23
4:04 a.m., deadly conduct was reported in the 7100 block of FM 217.

3:14 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 800 block of Onyx Road.

5:32 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 4300 block of FM 1113.

8:35 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 300 block of Thackston Road.

Nov. 24
12:08 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1600 block of Bald Knob Road.

10:50 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1500 block of CR 140.

12:06 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on East Highway 84 near the county line.

2:18 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 2900 block of Starlight Drive.

Nov. 25
10:56 a.m., shots being fired was reported in the 300 block of Old Georgetown Road.

1:09 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of East Leon Street.

4:16 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 2700 block of Wil-

low Loop.

6:02 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 2900 block of North Hwy. 36.

Nov. 26
3:40 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1900 block of Moccasin Bend Road.

5:54 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on CR 188.

6:50 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1800 block of CR 251.

8:01 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 2200 block of FM 107.

Nov. 27
7:22 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1000 block of FM 1829.

8 a.m., a stolen vehicle was recovered in the 3600 block of North 3rd Street.

3:16 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of Rock Creek.

7:38 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1100 block of Indian Creek.

Nov. 28
2:26 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of Putnam Drive.

2:33 p.m., a threat was reported in the 300 block of Cattle Drive.

4:15 p.m., a threat was reported in the 500 block of East Leon Street.

4:37 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of County Road 330.

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran Nov. 25.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

United Women in Faith met Nov. 14

Submitted by Shirleen Chandler

United Women in Faith met on Nov. 14 in the Banquet Room of the First Methodist Church in Gatesville at 5:30 p.m. Fifteen ladies were present including three new members. Hostesses were Carol Dildine and Linda Shirley.

President Patsy Smart called the meeting to order by leading in the Blessing. Smart thanked the hostesses and read the Purpose.

Mary Beth Rivers read from the Daily Prayer Guide. She and Marilyn Decker mentioned those having birthdays, both internationally and locally. Velve Riddle read from the Response Magazine. Shirleen Chandler led the group in singing "Take Time to Be Holy," and Rivers presented the program.

November is the group's time to think about their money and what offerings they want to give for help-

ing women, children, and youth around the world. Members signed pledge cards and also presented gifts to the World Thanks Offering program to help those less fortunate around the world.

President Smart called the business meeting to order. New business included choosing one of the members to receive a Special Mission Recognition pin for their service to the unit this year. The upcoming

churchwide Thanksgiving luncheon being held after the 10:30 a.m. service Sunday was also discussed. Another item concerned bags to donate to those in shelters or who are homebound. It was decided to bring goodies and meet at 9:30 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 12 to prepare and distribute the bags.

Meeting adjourned with the Benediction.

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301-400 lb.	290-331	301-400 lb.	245-287
401-500 lb.	270-307	401-500 lb.	220-281
501-600 lb.	215-265	501-600 lb.	200-240
601-700 lb.	195-215	600-700 lb.	180-197

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OBITUARIES

Glenda Williamson

Aug. 15, 1936 – Nov. 18, 2023

Glenda Williamson went to her eternal home on Nov. 18, 2023. She was 87.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at 10 a.m., Monday, Nov. 27, at First Baptist Church in Waco, followed by a reception in the church parlor. Burial preceded the service at Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.

Glenda Erle (Coward) Williamson was born in Gatesville to the late Jim Lawrence and Mary Ella (Byrom) Coward on Aug. 15, 1936. Glenda was the youngest of five children. When her oldest sister, Blanche, held Glenda in her arms for the first time, she exclaimed, "This is a little Sugie!" Sugie was the name that stuck with Glenda from that day forward. "Sugie" was descriptive of her sweet spirit and a life filled with love.

Glenda grew up in the Ames community of Coryell County and attended school in Gatesville. She graduated from Gatesville High School in 1954. She played the French horn in the high school band and was named "Band Sweetheart" by her classmates in her senior year. She took piano lessons as a child and continued to learn throughout her life to become an outstanding pianist.

Glenda became a Christian early in life. She was baptized in the Leon River on the "old Byrom Place" (her grandfather's home located near her childhood home and the Hay Valley Baptist Church). Her grandfather, Byrom, donated the land in 1891 on which the Hay Valley Baptist Church was founded. Glenda became the church pianist at Hay Valley at age 12, a position she held until she went to Baylor University. Whenever she returned home to visit, she was asked to be the pianist for that day.

While a student at Baylor, Glenda continued to love and minister to others. She went to New Mexico in the summer of 1959 as a Southern Baptist student missionary to Native American tribes. She conducted Vacation Bible Schools in various parts of New Mexico. She also served two summers as an "Invincible" with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, also conducting Bible Schools for children in various parts of Texas. As a Baylor student, she also worked in the Friday Night Baylor Missions program in Waco. After gradu-

ation, she taught children's Sunday School in churches in Arlington, Denton, McAllen, and Commerce, while raising and teaching her own children life's meaning and values.

Glenda graduated from Baylor in 1958 with a degree in education. She proudly served as an elementary teacher in the public schools of Arlington, Denton, McAllen, and Commerce. In McAllen, she was a Reading Specialist working in her own Reading Lab where she taught English to hundreds of Spanish-speaking children.

Glenda met Jimmy Williamson, of Henderson, Texas, when they were students working in the Bill Daniel Student Center Cafeteria at Baylor University in the fall of 1954. They began dating a year later, a relationship that continued until Jimmy graduated in 1957 and began his teaching career in the Arlington ISD. A week following her graduation from Baylor in March 1958, she began work as a music teacher at Johnson Station Elementary School in the Arlington ISD. Soon they were again dating and enjoying life in Arlington. They married on June 5, 1959, at First Baptist Church in Gatesville, and returned to Arlington to continue as teachers and to start their family. Daughters Shelly and Amy were both born in Arlington.

In July 1990, Jimmy retired from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and they moved to Waco where he joined the Baylor University School of Education faculty. They moved to the city where they first met, and they built a home on the campus they loved. First Baptist Church of Waco became their church home.

Glenda was blessed to travel the world with Jimmy and his Baylor graduate students on study-abroad programs to 21 nations on five continents. Their home on the Baylor campus was always open to students, Baylor friends and faculty. Glenda looked forward to every Baylor Homecoming when many friends in the classes of 1957 and 1958 came by before or after the Homecoming parade or football game.

Glenda was an active member of Baylor University Round Table. She was also a member and previous president of the faculty wives organization at Texas A&M University-Commerce.



Glenda was preceded in death by her parents, Jim Lawrence and Mary Ella Coward; siblings, Byrom Coward, Milton Coward, and Mary Jane Barnard, all formerly of Gatesville, and Blanche Hicks of Chula Vista, California; and her daughter, Amy Williamson, of Waco.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Jimmy Williamson, of Waco; daughter, Shelly, and husband, Charley Wilkison, of Austin; four grandchildren, Justin Michael Ramon, of Austin, Charles Birk Wilkison, of Austin, Claire Elizabeth Wilkison, and her husband, David Tompsett, of China Spring, Katie Jane Wilkison, and her husband, Mason Turpin, of Austin; and many nephews, nieces, and cousins who share the Coward, Byrom, and Williamson family legacies; as well as hundreds of friends found in every place that she lived, worked, and traveled.

The family gratefully acknowledges the love and care provided by the staff at St. Anthony's Care Center and Amedisys Hospice Care in Waco. We are especially grateful to Norma Drake, her devoted Visiting Angel who faithfully loved and met her needs for more than four years.

In honor and remembrance of her life, the family has established the Glenda Williamson Christian Music Scholarship at the First Baptist Church of Waco. Scholarships will be awarded to Baylor students who share their musical talents for the glory of God by performing in the church's choir or orchestra. In lieu of floral remembrances, the family requests donations be made in Glenda's honor to this scholarship fund, the Alzheimer's Association, alz.org, or a charity of your choice.

The family invites you to leave a message or memory on Glenda's "Tribute Wall" at www.WHBfamily.com.

Nancy Davis Clark

Aug. 18, 1960 – Nov. 16, 2023

Nancy Kay (Davis) Clark, age 63, of Gatesville, passed away Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at her home surrounded by her family, having fought a courageous battle with cancer for seven years.

Funeral Services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, at Scotts Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Charles McKamie officiating. Interment followed at Restland Cemetery.

Nancy was born on Aug. 18, 1960, to the late O.K. (Okie) and Bonnie Hamilton Davis, in Gatesville. Anyone that knew Nancy knew how much she adored her parents, and she was proud to be their daughter. She grew up and graduated from Gatesville High School in 1978.

Nancy met the love of her life, Gary Clark, in 2002. They were married on Sept. 23, 2005 and made their home in Gatesville. She always called Gary one of her greatest blessings and truly a God-sent man.

Nancy dedicated 26 years to working in the industrial industry. She served many customers in the Waco area, making many lifetime friends over the years. They weren't just customers to Nancy, she cared for each of them and their children as if they were her own family. She worked as a Regional Account Manager for Partsmaster for

many years and continued currently for Lawson Products all the way up to her final days.

In her earlier years, Nancy loved to ride horses and barrel race. Nancy was a music connoisseur, to say she loved country music would be an understatement. She would travel all over the state to watch all her favorites, especially her love for Tracy Byrd. Nancy was known to many of her friends as the "Event Coordinator." She achieved what she called her "Bucket List Moment" by singing Cherokee Fiddle with Johnny Lee. But of course, anyone who knew her, knows her all-time favorite was her pride and joy, Josh Evetts. She always teased Josh, that she would put him up to George Strait any day.

Nancy was a member of King Baptist Church and loved her church family. She truly loved life, living it to the fullest and never took anything for granted. Her grandchildren brought her so much joy and kept her pushing through all the trials and tribulations she endured over her battle with cancer. She was truly a strong, faithful, beautiful soul, the rock to her family, and will greatly be missed by so many.

She was preceded in death by her parents, O.K. (Okie) and Bonnie Davis.

Nancy is survived by



her husband, Gary Clark; children, Josh Evetts and wife, Riley, of Gatesville, L.D. Clark and wife, Vanessa, of Comanche; sisters, Jeanie Munoz and husband, Cecil, of Oglesby, Molly Oglesby, of Gholson; grandchildren, Jackson Evetts, Keira Clark, Cash Evetts, and Jasper Evetts; nieces and nephews, Anna Ross and husband, Garrett, Jana Munoz, and Andrew Munoz; great niece and nephew, Ava and Parker Ross.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the King Baptist Church; c/o Charles McKamie at 601 CR 135, Gatesville, Texas 76728.

Nancy's family would like to extend their gratitude to her doctors, Dr. Carl Chakmakjian, Dawn Turner, P.A., and all the nurses at Texas Oncology in Waco.

Lee West

Sept. 23, 1959 – Nov. 22, 2023

Lee West, of Oglesby, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, at the age of 64.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel in Gatesville, with Pastor Ridge Adams officiating. Interment followed at Post Oak Cemetery in Oglesby.

Oral Lee West was born on Sept. 23, 1959 in Gatesville to the late James Edward West, Jr. and Leona Marie (Smith) West. He attended school in Oglesby and graduated from Oglesby High School in 1979. Lee began a career as a cabinet maker in 1974 when he went to work for his brother, Thomas. Throughout his career, he worked at Superior Custom Cabinets in Garland, Don and Al's Cabinets in McGregor, West Woodworks in Moody, and finished his lifelong career of 45 years, retiring from Cabinet Specialist in Waxahachie.

Lee was a master craftsman. He created many beautiful pieces of furniture and took great pride in the intricate pieces he

designed. His grandfather clock and coffee table being two of his most treasured. Later in life, Lee discovered that he had a passion and skill for photography. Lee was able to capture nature's details in his photos that others would ordinarily miss. He loved the sunrises and sunsets and always referred to those as God's Masterpieces. Lee not only had a love for music, but he also had an extraordinary gift for being able to name albums, titles, artists, and lyrics of all genres. Lee once said, "Listening to music heals my soul."

Lee loved Jesus and often talked about how he came to learn about His love through a faithful servant, Mrs. Hilton. The impact she made on his life led Lee to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers, James Earl West and Joe Travis West.

Lee will be greatly missed by his surviving brothers and sisters; Donald West and wife, Gladys, of Oglesby; Thomas West, of



Canton; Richard West and wife, Patsy, of Canton; Peggy Finkenbinder, of Moffat; Judy Bodnar and husband, Gary, of McGregor; Betty Dodge, of Moody; Tawana Nance and husband, Tommy, of Troy; and Kathy Popelka, of Temple, and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be directed to the Team Gleason Foundation, 2021 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 120, New Orleans, LA 70122 or The ALS Association, <https://donate.tx.als.org/>

Gary Bass

Sept. 18, 1958 – Nov. 19, 2023

Gary Bass, age 65, of Gatesville, passed away Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023.

Celebration of Life services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Scott's Funeral Home.

Gary was born on Sept. 18, 1958, to the late Sam and Joy Teague Bass of McGregor. He grew up and attended school in McGregor. He worked as a mechanic and later as a machine operator for various local gravel companies. He married the love of his life, Debbie Campbell, on June 30, 1978, and the two made their home in Gatesville.

Gary enjoyed fishing, "grabbin' and gaddin'," setting trotlines, and camping with his brother (Danny) and father-in-law. He also enjoyed watching the Dal-

las Cowboys, as well as Andy Griffith, and Gunsmoke. Gary was always willing to help anyone in need and was just a phone call away. He also took great pride in his little buddy, Christopher, who was better known as Gary's partner-in-crime.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Pam Whaley; and children, Christy and Justin Bass.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Debbie; sisters, Athey Bass, and Misty Bass; brother, Jack Bass; daughter-in-law, Lacey Bass; grandchild, Christopher Bass; numerous nieces and nephews, and his constant fur baby companion, Baby Girl.

In lieu of flowers, Gary's family requests memorials



be made to the American Cancer Society or to the American Heart Association.

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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Christmas on Marshall St. to be held on 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 SCHOOL

Have your pictures made with Santa.

GATESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Various items including spirit wear.

GATESVILLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Eclipse glasses.
Art created by students.

GATESVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Letters to Santa.
Decorating Christmas cookies.
Crafting activities for

children to participate in. Baked goods, hot chocolate, and wassail.

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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.
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 about Christmas on Marshall St., visit www.gatesvilleisd.org.



Gatesville FD presents 2023 Santa Run

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Fire Department will host its annual Santa Run beginning Friday, Dec. 1.

Each evening Santa Claus and his team will leave the fire station promptly at 6 p.m. each evening and will make its rounds to designated areas throughout the community.

The following shows the street names for each date listed:

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

Bluebonnet Street
Bluestem Drive
Canyon Crossing
Churchill Drive
Crown Drive
Empress Drive
Fieldstone Drive
Gateway Circle
Hamilton Estates
Imperial Drive
Jewell Drive
Lark Street
Magnolia Street
Meadow View Lane
Park Lane Apartments
Pembroke Court Apartments
Riata Drive
Royal Drive
South Highway 36 to North Fort Hood
South 34th Street
Sealy Court
Spyglass Circle
Valley Circle
Veazey Drive
Willow Lane
Winston Lane
Woods Drive

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

Alta Mira Street
Ash Street
Austin Street
Birch Street
Bridge Street (east side of 23rd Street)
Brim Street
Centennial Street
Clay Street
Cottonwood Drive
Curry Lane
Dixon Drive
Dove Drive
Elm Street
Elm Lane
Fowler Street
Franklin Street
Gates Drive
Golf Course Road
Grandview Drive
Hillcrest Drive
Kim Street
Lakewood Drive
Liberty Street
Logan Lane
Mulberry Drive
Oak Crest Drive
Oak Lane
Old Waco Road
Pecan Drive
Rio Drive
River Oaks Drive
River Place West
River Ranch Road
River Road
River Ridge
Rocky Branch
South 23rd Street
South Lovers Lane
Sandy Lane
Shady Lane
Surrey Lane
Thompson Street
Virginia Street
Watts Lane
Woodcreek Drive
Woodson Drive
Wren Drive

FRIDAY, DEC. 8

Baize Drive
Barnes Street
Bauman Street
Brown Street
Byrom Court
Carroll Drive
Church Street
Depot Street
Inwood Lane
Jackson Drive
Lowrey Drive
Mary Street
Mears Drive
North 12th Street
North 13th Street
North 14th Street
North 15th Street

North 16th Street
North 18th Street
North 19th Street
North 20th Street
North 22nd Street
North 24th Street
North 25th Street
North 26th Street
North 27th Street
North 28th Street
North 29th Street
North 30th Street
North 31st Street
North Lovers Lane
Northern Avenue
Oak Drive
Osage Road
Powell Drive
Saunders Street (east of Lutterloh Avenue)
St. Louis Street (east of Lutterloh Avenue)
Stillhouse Road
Sun Valley Avenue
Venus Avenue
Waco Street (east of Lutterloh)

Westwood Park
Willow Way

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

Andrews Street
Bridge Street (west of 23rd Street)
College Street
Fenimore Street
Fouts Streets
Leon Street
Live Oak Street
Park Street
Pidcoke Street
Pleasant Street
South 3rd Street
South 5th Street
South 6th Street
South 7th Street
South 8th Street
South 10th Street
South 14th Street
South 19th Street
South 21st Street
South Lutterloh Avenue
South Street
Spindletop Street

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

Airport Road
Avenue B
Avenue C
Avenue D
Avenue E
Baldrige Drive
Chicktown Road
Coryell Health
Creek Cliff Drive
Dodds Creek Drive
Highland Drive
Memorial Drive
Mesa Drive
Myrtle Drive
North 5th Street
North 6th Street
North 7th Street
North 8th Street
North 9th Street
North 10th Street
North 11th Street
North Levita Road
Old Pidcoke Road
South Levita Road
Saunders Street (west of Lutterloh Avenue)
St. Louis Street (west of Lutterloh Avenue)
Tanglewood Drive
Waco Street (west of Lutterloh Avenue)
Wells Park
Westview Drive

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Housing Areas
South Mountain

The Gatesville FD will host a picture with Santa Claus event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10; Sunday, Dec. 17; Friday, Dec. 22; and Saturday, Dec. 23. Be sure to bring a camera.

Santa Claus will return to the North Pole on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 23 to prepare for his journey around the world.

The Gatesville FD is located at 109 South 23rd Street.

For more information, contact the Gatesville FD at 254-865-6416.

Polar Express presented by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will host a Polar Express themed

evening for the community to attend from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 18.

The event will feature various sweets, fun activi-

ties, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa himself.

For more information, contact the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at

254-865-2617.

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is located at 2607 S. TX-36.

GISD Choir presents winter concert Dec. 5

Staff Reports

Since Christmas is fast approaching, the Gatesville Independent School District choir groups will host a winter concert on Tuesday, Dec. 5, for both junior high and high school.

There will be two concerts, which will include Concert A and Concert B.

Concert A will perform at 6 p.m. and will include the sixth-grade choir, the high school varsity mixed choir, the high school women's choir, the junior high and high school Boyz-2Men, and the staff choir.

Concert B will perform at 8 p.m. and will feature the high school varsity

mixed choir, the junior high girls' choir, the junior high advanced choir, the high school junior varsity ladies' choir, and the staff choir.

Tickets will cost four dollars each and include reserved seating. For premium seating, each ticket will cost six dollars

per person. The tickets are sold online only at: <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/cbqg>.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 S. Lovers Lane.



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.

Free Concert at First Methodist Church Dec. 10

Submitted Item

The First Methodist Choir, along with additional community musicians, will perform "A New and

Glorious Morn" on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First Methodist Church.

Admission will be free, and a love offering will

be accepted to benefit the Gatesville Ministerial Alliance economic assistance outreach.

The cantata, written by Lloyd Larson, will be

directed by Charles Ament and accompanied by Rosemary Whittle.

American Legion presents Christmas Bash Dec. 2

Staff Reports

American Legion Post 42 will hold a Christmas Bash on Saturday, Dec. 2, from

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will be free to enter and will have various activities, including games,

crafts, hot chocolate, cookies, pictures with Santa, and a silly sweater contest.

The legion was founded

in 2010.

The American Legion is located at 214 Watts Lane in Gatesville.

Morris Federation to celebrate Christmas Dec. 9

Staff Reports

Morris Federation members will meet at noon on Saturday, Dec. 9, at The Feed Mill for a Dutch treat

Christmas luncheon.

The program will be presented by Nancy Garvin, reading a Christmas story. Members may bring a Christmas gift (stocking

stuffer) to be donated to the Care Center for their Christmas for children ages twelve and under who belong to the Care Center's clients.

The Feed Mill is located at 108 N. 6th Street in Gatesville.

Movie in the park to be held on Dec. 16

Staff Reports

To get into the Christmas spirit, a movie in the park will be showing "Dr.

Seuss' The Grinch" at 6 p.m.

The movie will be played at Faunt Le Roy Park,

which is located at S. 7th St. in Gatesville.

Be sure to dress warmly and bring lawn chairs,

blankets, and snacks.

For more information, contact movieinthepark254@gmail.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

015 FARM & RANCH

Backhoe, Dozer, Maintainer, Dump Truck: brush clearing, roads, driveways, waterlines, pits, demolition, fence row clearing, culverts. Small jobs ok. Ben Roberts, 254-248-4707 or 254-865-5754. 00030498

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 • CMA – PRN

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 • Registration Clerk – Gatesville General Surgery FT
 • Registration Clerk – Waco FT

• CCMA
 • CCMA Float
 • Scribe

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 • Cook Assistant – FT

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

EMS:
 • Paramedic – FT & PRN
 • EMT – PRN

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:
 • RN – PRN all shifts

HOUSEKEEPING:
 • Maintenance – FT

LAB:
 • Medical Laboratory Technician PT
 • Phlebotomist FT
 • Point of Care Assistant FT

MED/ SURG:
 • CNA – FT All Shifts
 • RN or LVN – FT & PRN All shifts

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 • Physical Therapist Assistant PRN

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 • Certified Sterile Processing Technician – FT
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**Job summaries at
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HUNT FENCING: Farm & Ranch Fence, Residential, Corrals, Automatic Solar Gates, Custom Entryways & Gates, Welding Projects. John Hunt, Owner, (254)248-2613 00030497

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville TX 76528, is having an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at storageauctions.com beginning Monday, December 18, 2023 at 11A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Bidding sale will end on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at 11A.M. Units to be sold: MINDY FIREBAUGH, CATHY TESCH, MICHAEL COLE, SAMANTHA JOHNSTON, EDWINA NEWMAN, STEPHANIE WILLIAMS. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools, and misc. items. 00030504

JENNIFER NEWTON, CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT
 P.O. BOX 237, GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528
 ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE, GARRET L. BEACH
 3501 W. WACODR., WACO, TX. 76710
 TO: MICHAEL RAY WALTER
 DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
 UNKNOWN ADDRESS
 UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CORYELL TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ALTA FAYE WALTER, DECEASED, CAUSE NO 23-10885, COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. SHELLEY BEESLEY FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 14TH DAY OF AUGUST 2023, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SAID ALTA FAYE WALTER, DECEASED. SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME ABOVE MENTIONED TIME AND PLACE BY FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER CONTESTING SUCH APPLICATION SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO DO SO. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023.

JENNIFER NEWTON
 CORYELL COUNTY CLERK
 CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS
 BY: A. KORNEGAY 00030505

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM CORYELL COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

ATTENTION CR 108 RESIDENTS: BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 11, 2023, PARTIAL ROAD WILL BE CLOSED APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE FROM HIGHWAY 36 AT THE CREEK CROSSING. ATTENTION CR 260 RESIDENTS: BEGINNING MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 THROUGH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023, THE LOW WATER CROSSING ON CR 260 WILL BE CLOSED. PLEASE MAKE PLANS ACCORDINGLY AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. CHRIS BUSTER, 254-223-0254 00030513

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CEDRIC ANTONIO DUPINS, SR., Deceased, were issued on October, 30, 2023, in cause No. 23-10802, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: LISA DANIELLE VILLALONGO-DUPINS. 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: DANIEL A. CORBIN, Attorney at Law, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541. DATED the 17 day of November, 2023. Respectfully submitted, CORBIN, STAPLER, & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, Texas 76541. Tel: (254) 526-4523 & Fax: (254) 526-6711. By: Emily Spjut. DANIEL A. CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300; JAMES BERRY STAPLER, State Bar No. 24013557; ASHLEY CLAPPER, State Bar No. 240076317; REBECCA WHEELER, State Bar No. 24008266; EMILY SPJUT, State Bar No. 24137204. Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com Attorney for LISA DANIELLE VILLALONGO-DUPINS. 00030506

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of Keith D. Shepard, Deceased, were issued on November 13, 2023, in Cause No. 23-10912, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Marie Jones. 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: Marie Jones, 5795 FM 932, Jonesboro, Texas 76538. DATED the 20 day of November, 2023. Chuck P. Stermer, Attorney for Marie Jones, State Bar No.: 24094964. 619 E. Main St., Gatesville, Texas 76528. Telephone: (254) 865-6003, Facsimile: (254) 323-0070, E-mail: chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com 00030507

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERT W. WILLIAMS, Deceased, were issued on November 22nd, 2023, in cause No. 22-10757, pending in the County Court of CORYELL County, Texas, to: MARK WILLIAMS. 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: MARK WILLIAMS, 2530 Mears Drive, Gatesville, Texas 76528. DATED the 28th day of November, 2023. Jacob Straub, Attorney for PATRICIA JEAN WILLIAMS, State Bar No.: 24067953, 300 N. Reagan Street, Suite E, West, Texas 76691. Telephone: (254) 826-5395, Facsimile: (254) 826-5462, E-mail: jstraub@mmlaw-waco.com 00030510

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 425 SH-36 Bypass N, Gatesville TX 76528, is having an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at storageauctions.com beginning Monday, December 18, 2023 at 11 A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Bidding sale will end on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at 11 A.M. Units to be sold: JAMES TURNER, FREDERICK ANDERSON, KYLE TRAINER, RICKY MCDANIEL. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools, and misc. 00030511

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-TRC109 & 114 THE STATE OF TEXAS: IN THE MATTER OF MARRIAGE OF ALCIA TORRES ARMANDO TORRES GOMEZ Cause No: DC-23-55277 IN THE 440TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS TO: ARMANDO TORRES GOMEZ Defendant - GREETING - NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org." You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock AM on the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable GRANT KINSEY, 440TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Coryell County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gatesville, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 11/20/2023 in the above entitled cause. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit. Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gatesville, Texas, this 27th day of November, 2023. Attorney for Plaintiff or Petitioner, ALLEN D. JR PLACE 109 S. 7TH, GATESVILLE TX 76528 Clerk of the Court: Becky Moore, District Clerk P.O. Box 4, Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas By: ASHLEY LAMB, DEPUTY 00030512

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- ▶ 117 N. Rice St., Hamilton, TX. Rustic Lantern, over 7,000 sq ft, 2 stories w/ 2 staircases, kitchen area, old safe, great commercial property for restaurant, office, or retail. \$549,000
- ▶ 1.469 ac. Lampasas River Place Subdivision, Lampasas River frontage, good tree cover, electricity along property line, Kempner water along front of property, \$125,000
- ▶ 5 ac. 4/2 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'x19' w/ attic lift, \$599,000.
- ▶ 5.078 ac. East of Gatesville, Greenbriar Ranch Estates, Lot No. 4. North Greenbriar Creek, good tree cover, rolling terrain, electricity & water at the road. \$123,500
- ▶ 10.01 ac. East of Evant TX, 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 ac. Lot 41 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX., Good Tree cover, Rolling Terrain, Fiber Optic Internet. \$149,500
- ▶ 11 +/- ac. 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 Ph 2 Rio Escondido, 3180 PR 42111 Evant, TX. Ready to build on w/ house pad, electricity, septic system, water well, Fiber-optic internet, small cabin w/kitchenette, bathroom, covered patio, & RV pad, 1 tank. \$212,500
- ▶ 15 ac. East of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across road, will need to drill water well for water. \$150,000
- ▶ 16.5 ac. Turnersville, open pasture, good views, paved CR 220. electricity across road, check w/ Coryell City Water on availability of water meter. \$206,500
- ▶ 17.85 ac. 296 Cross Timbers Lane, Gatesville, 2 homes, 3/2 brick home, open floor plan, 2nd home 2/2 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 ac. Evant, TX, PR 42107, Hamilton County, Lot 43 Ph 6 Rio Escondido, rolling terrain, good tree cover, season creek. \$265,000.
- ▶ 20.33 ac 3/2 modular home 714 CR 415, Evant, open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, hardwood floors, pantry, free standing wood stove, 10'x 60' front porch, multi-county water, 1 tank, fiber optic internet, small workshop, chicken coop, greenhouse, storage buildings and carport. \$498,000
- ▶ 22.2 Ac. 4/2 Palm Harbor Manufactured Home, 812 Blakley Rd, open floor plan, large master bedroom, his & her closets, 2 living areas, 14'x35' sunroom, laminate floors, ceramic floors in kitchen, laundry room & bathrooms, 8'x40' container w/ 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. \$305,280
- ▶ 33.43 ac. near Coryell City, Coryell County, FM 929 & CR 260 frontage, rolling terrain, good views. \$295,000
- ▶ 38 +/- ac. 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, water meter on property & electric available, 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, good tree cover over 40% of property, remaining balance open pasture, great views. \$649,500.
- ▶ 58.51 ac. 3/2 frame home, 6630 FM 183 Evant, TX, water well, several outbuildings, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, 2 tanks. \$585,000
- ▶ 60.23 ac. 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'x24' barn, cattle pens, 1 tank, approx. 48 ac of coastal. \$1,249,500
- ▶ 74.264 ac. West of Purluma, FM 1241 & CR 181, 1 tank, barn w/cattle pens, good exterior fences, approx. 65 acres good pasture w/coastal & native grasses, \$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'x30' metal barn, electricity, 1 tank, seasonal branch, water well, scattered tree cover, \$650,000
- ▶ 89.862 ac. 3/2 home 1784 CR 610 Hamilton, open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances, pantry, ceramic floors, carpet in bedrooms, Large front porch, 2 carports, 50'x 30' metal building, 8'x 40' storage container, well, 1 tank, great views, good tree cover, rolling terrain. \$975,000
- ▶ 105 ac. South of Pearl, TX, Self Rd. good tree cover, rolling terrain, small branch, 38'x42' barn w/rain harvest system, electricity along property line, will need to drill well for water. \$743,775
- ▶ 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'x 50', 1 barn 50'x 48' & 1 barn 120'x 48', cattle pens, grain storage bin, open pasture w/ native grasses, 24-ac. field. Jonesboro I. S. D., Owners will consider owner financing. \$929,424
- ▶ 179.582 ac. 1.6 miles South of Gatesville, TX FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. \$1,166,250
- ▶ 199.86 ac. 4/2 Manufactured Home, 1805 CR 180 Purluma, fully furnished, 2 tanks, 8'x40' container, storage building w/water storage tank, barn, cattle pens, water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover, paved road frontage. \$1,568,901
- ▶ 210 ac. Carlton, Comanche County, approx. 5000 ft Resley Creek frontage, small cabin, water well, electricity, cattle pens, 2 tanks one approx. 2.4 ac, good tree cover, 48 ac. improved grass, good exterior & interior fences. \$1,450,000

DANCING WITH THE STARS OF CENTRAL TEXAS 2023 WINNERS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Mission Righteous Roots Crisis Resource Center hosted its annual Dancing with the Stars of Central Texas on Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Gatesville Civic Center. Attendees came together to enjoy an evening of food, vibrant dancing, and meaningful fellowship. There were six couples who competed, and two awards were given out, which were the Judge's Choice Award and the People's Choice Award. The Judge's Choice Award went to James and Sherry Feathers, pictured left, and the People's Choice Award went to Andy and Camri James, pictured right. The event also serves as a fundraiser for Mission Righteous Roots Crisis Resource Center, with all tax-deductible donations dedicated to supporting the impactful initiatives of the organization.



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FOOD FOR FAMILIES

FOOD FROM PAGE A1

For those who were not able to donate on Friday, the Gatesville Care Center is still accepting donations through Nov. 30.

"It's really important, because our numbers are growing," said Debbie Blanchard, Co-Director of the Gatesville Care Center. "In September, I think we served 124 families from this community. What we raise during this food drive gets us through until the next food drive."

Gatesville's donation site received generous support from the community. Numerous churches, schools, businesses, and organizations across Gatesville and surrounding areas donated thousands of pounds to

this year's food drive.

Many local groups showed up to help volunteer at Friday's event, including students from Gatesville High School and military members from U.S. Army Fort Cavazos.

Jennifer Penny, student council sponsor and teacher at Gatesville High School, said members of Gatesville's student council volunteered in-between breaks from classes from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday.

"As leaders in the school, they are given an opportunity to give back to the community and set an example for students at the younger campuses," Penny said.

Food For Families is an annual event with sites set up across nine counties. It is sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America, HEB Gro-

cery Company, and KWTX News 10. As the largest one-day food drive in Central Texas, the continued mission of Food for Families is to help feed people in need throughout the region.

As of Friday, Nov. 17, KWTX reported that a total of 2.3 million pounds of food has been collected this year across all the counties participating in Food for Families. All donated food in each county serves the people in the county where it was collected.

"I want our community to know that they did exceedingly well and to be very elated and proud of themselves," McWhorter said. "On behalf of Debbie Blanchard and myself, thanks again to everybody teaming up together to make this a remarkable food drive."



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Our neighbors at Fort Cavazos were ready to lend a helping hand at the Food for Families food drive held at the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

In support of the annual Food for Families food drive, Gatesville High School and Gatesville Junior High School staff competed in a volleyball game. Gatesville Care Center Director Daryl McWhorter refereed the event. Students packed the stands to cheer on their campus' team. Admission into the game was one can of food, which was donated to the food drive.



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Local legend and KWTX weatherman, Rusty Garrett, returns to Gatesville's Food for Families.

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Oglesby and Jonesboro football teams in state semifinals

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Two local varsity football teams, Jonesboro Eagles and Oglesby Tigers, have made it to the state semifinals of the Texas high school football playoffs. On Saturday, Dec. 2, Jonesboro will play in the Class 1A six-man Division I games, and Oglesby will play in the Class 1A six-man Division II games.

This round will determine which teams head to the state championships at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington on Dec. 13.

The Jonesboro Eagles will face the Gordon Longhorns at 1 p.m. at the Kangaroo Stadium in Weatherford on Saturday.

"I am extremely proud of

this group. They are a hard-working bunch," Jonesboro coach Eddie Gallegos said. "We had high expectations coming into the season and are a step closer to reaching them."

The Oglesby Tigers have remained undefeated all season. The team will face Richland Springs at 4 p.m. at Dublin High School on Sat-

urday.

"I am very proud of my team and their accomplishments. It is always great to be playing in December," Oglesby coach Jeb Dixon said. "The support from the school and community has been awesome. This group is a special group, and the sky's the limit for them on and off the field."

Both teams won their last games in the state quarterfinals on Nov. 25. Jonesboro defeated May High School by a score of 86-39, and Oglesby won their game against the Iredell Dragons by a score of 62-16.

According to Jonesboro ISD's official Facebook page, Weatherford ISD has a no cash policy. Tickets can be

purchased for the Jonesboro game online via the Weatherford High School Athletics website.

Tickets for the Oglesby game can be purchased on the Dublin ISD Athletics website or by cash at the gate.



West Allman Kase Cox Charlie Winkler

Gatesville boys hoops off to hot start, will defend Salado tourney title

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

The Gatesville boys basketball team raced to a 4-1 start to their season, matching their record through five games from a season ago.

The Hornets routed Lago Vista in their season opener 75-53 then topped Jarrell 44-43 in the second game of the season. Their third win of the year was a 62-50 win over 3A No. 7 Lorena, and the Hornets picked up their fourth win - and first road win - on Nov. 28 by beating Academy 61-48.

The Hornets lone loss was a buzzer-beating 58-56 road defeat at Lampasas.

West Allman has carried the bulk of the scoring load thus far averaging 22.3 points per game over the first five contests. Allman had 36 in the season opening win over Lago Vista, 21 in the comeback win over Jarrell, 25 in the win over Lorena, and 19 in the victory at Academy. He had a season-low 12 at Lampasas.

His 36-point night against Lago Vista was just six points off of the program's single game scoring record of 42. Against Jarrell, the junior forward scored the final five points of the game, including a runner with 12 seconds left to win the game.

Charlie Winkler has emerged as a scoring threat, averaging 11.8 points per game thus far. He had 24 in the loss to Lampasas and 16

in the win over Academy. The sophomore sharpshooter is shooting 47% (7-15) from behind the three-point line in the last two games. Winkler had nine rebounds in the win over Academy and eight assists in the season-opening win over Lago Vista.

Kase Cox is averaging 9.7 points and 7.4 rebounds per game thus far. The junior forward turned in a double-double in the win over Lorena with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Senior Graceson Stewart turned in a career-high 17 points in the win over Lago Vista and is grabbing six rebounds per game for the Hornets.

Gatesville played their first two games of the year without Rayshon Smith, Amos Phillips, Logan Biggs, and Scout Hall who were members of the Hornets football team.

Since returning, Smith is averaging eight points and four rebounds per game. Phillips had his best game since returning with eight points, four rebounds, and two steals in the win over Academy.

Gatesville began defense of their 2022 Coach Smith Tournament championship in Salado on Nov. 30. They open tournament play against Pflugerville, the team they beat in the title game a year ago. They will follow with pool play games against Austin Royals, Rockdale, and 4A No. 13 Krum.

Gatesville falls to Silsbee in area playoffs, Hornets honored on all-district teams

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

The most successful season in over a decade came to a close on Nov. 17 when Gatesville dropped a 35-10 decision to the Silsbee Tigers in the area round of the Class 4A Division II playoffs.

The Hornets finish their season 7-5 and captured the program's first bi-district championship since 2015 thanks to a 34-31 win over Gonzales in the bi-district round. They finished third in the district standings for the second-straight season behind champion Connally and second-place finisher Madisonville.

When all-district teams were announced on Nov. 22, the list was littered with Hornets with senior Lawson Mooney being named the District's Defensive Most Valuable Player.

It is the second straight selection for Mooney, who was named the Defensive Co-MVP in 2022. His 2023 selection is the third superlative of Mooney's four-year varsity career as he was named District Newcomer of the Year in 2020 to go along with his two Defensive MVP selections. He was also a first-team all-district choice in 2021.

In 2023, Mooney had 161 tackles, including five for a loss, an interception, and forced a fumble. He added a receiving touchdown and a rushing touchdown, and in the Hornets bi-district playoff win he broke a 23-year old school record for career tackles with 519.

Mooney wraps his career in rare company amongst the all-time Hornet greats.

"He is someone that I will talk about my entire career. You're never going to find another Lawson. He is a true competitor. When it's that moment and you need something, he is there. Lawson was never late. He never said 'what' or 'why'. He just did it all the time," said head coach Aaron Hunter. "The kid is walking out of here with like 519 tackles. He's never weighed over 170 pounds in his career and he's just smoking kids."

In addition to Mooney's MVP selection, the Hornets had six players named First Team All-District: Rayshon Smith, Zach Bryant, Tookie Jones, Amos Phillips, Corey Burns, and Sean Aguilar.

Smith, an honorable mention choice as a sophomore, finished the year with 1680 yards rushing and 17 rushing touchdowns. He also had one receiving touchdown. Hunter credits Smith's intangibles - and tangibles - with the leap he made between his sophomore and junior seasons.

"He has grown up so much because he has started to understand what it takes. He never had a moment where

he wavered," he said. "He is the most underrated player in Central Texas, and no one talks about him. He's always run violent. You hit him and you get the blow."

Bryant and Smith led a veteran offensive line that assumed the bulk of the responsibility for establishing Gatesville's new offensive identity. They paved the way for a Hornets rushing attack that averaged over five yards per carry in 2023.

"Zach and Tookie... They grew up so much, both in their own regard. Both guys were banged up all year long. Zach hurt his ankle the week of Silsbee, and you would have never known it. They fought and they were physical. I would watch the two of them on film just smashing people and just think 'ooh that's painful,'" said Hunter.

"I can't talk enough about that whole o-line. Busch was a JV starter last year and filled that fifth spot without hesitating. Gabe Charles managed the offense all year long. Then you add Gabe Pollard who is coming back for us next year. We wouldn't be where we are without those five guys."

Phillips, a sophomore, occupied a unique spot where he was the second-best defensive player on his team and, arguably, the second-best defensive player in the district. He had 152 tackles, including ten for a loss and six sacks. He also led the Hornets in receiving with 192 yards and caught four touchdown passes.

Burns emerged as a force on the defensive line, which was not a surprise to his head coach.

"Corey was probably the most improved player from last year. He's fast, he's strong, and he's so explosive. This year he translated all of his gifts that God gave him to football. Lawson and Amos had gaudy numbers, but Corey was always right behind them. Any time quarterbacks dropped back this year it seemed like Corey and Dutch were in his face," said Hunter.

Rounding out the first team selections was Aguilar. The undersized, hyper-competitive defensive back who broke a nearly three-decade drought when he returned a kickoff for a touchdown against Gonzales.

"By his size and stature, he's not supposed to do what he does. He broke the kickoff return curse. He just works. He battles. And he's so competitive," said Hunter.

Seniors Jacob Newkirk, JT Coffman, Gabe Charles, Logan Busch, Adrian Smith, and Tommy Aaron were second team selections and were joined by juniors Brayden Saunders, Dutch Nielson, and Logan Biggs.

Nine Hornets were named

as honorable mention choices: seniors Nathan Elliott, LJ Hall, Sergio Bucio, Damian Guerrero, Charles Kemnitz, and Colton Taylor, along with juniors Javier Clater and sophomore Kaden Coffman.

In the loss to No. 2 Silsbee, the Hornets fell victim to the Tigers speed. Silsbee scored touchdowns on three of their first five plays and led 21-7 after the first quarter. Gatesville tied the game at 7-7 when Smith scored on a 31-yard touchdown run. Smith finished the game with 146 yards rushing - his tenth 100-yard rushing game of the season.

Gatesville cut the Silsbee lead to 21-10 on a 24-yard field goal from Bucio but they would not get any closer. The Tigers scored once more to make it 28-10 at the half, then added a final score in the fourth quarter.

"Kudos to Silsbee. They had a good game plan and knew we would have trouble running with them," said Hunter. "Our best defense was to keep our offense on the field. We ran the ball effectively, and the touchdown was just Rayshon being Rayshon."

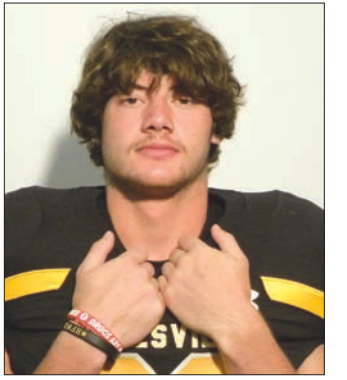
"When you get into that final couple of minutes, you kind of start to realize it's over. So, you want to walk off the field the right way. We had every moment to fold on both sides of the ball and act like we didn't want to be there. I am proud of our kids' fight," Hunter added.

Hunter lauded his senior class while also pointing to the bright future of the program. Smith, Phillips, Nielsen, Biggs, Pollard, and members of a 10-0 district champion junior varsity squad will try and help Gatesville make another leap forward in 2024.

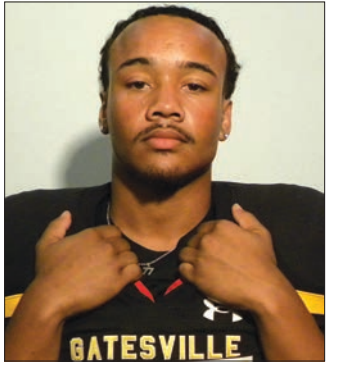
"We've only won a first-round playoff game in eight or nine times in school history. This group and our JV found out that winning is fun. We have to build on that," Hunter said. "I have a lot better taste in my mouth than I did at this time last year. We've done this two years in a row at about the same caliber. So, what do we do next? That's what we are doing now. We have to go outwork, outcoach them, and then outdo them when it comes to doing things right."



Zach Bryant



Corey Burns



Tookie Jones



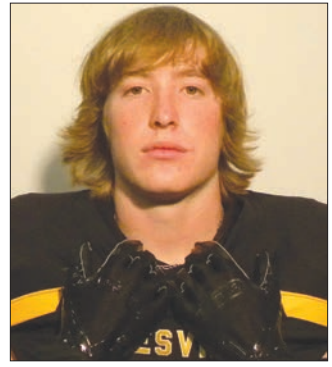
Lawson Mooney



Amos Phillips



Rayshon Smith



Sean Aguilar

Gatesville girls head into tough tournament season with winning record

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Kim Chaffin's Gatesville girls basketball squad picked up their fourth win of the season with a decisive 43-32 win over Whitney on Nov. 28 and will now head to Glen Rose to battle in one of the state's toughest tournaments.

The win over Whitney pushed Gatesville's record to 4-2 through six games and featured contribu-

tions from seven different Lady Hornets on the offensive end. The interior duo of Taylor Coward and Emma Pollard had 12 points apiece.

Guard Taylor Sanderson buried a pair of three-pointers to give her six points in the win, and Yasminn Sanders and Paige Sentillas each chipped in four. Alanda

PLEASE SEE **GIRLS** | B3



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Oglesby Tigers dominate Iredell for quarterfinal championship

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers continued their dominance on the football field, defeating the Iredell Dragons by the score of 62-16, on Nov. 24, for the Regional Quarterfinal Championship. The 12-0 Tigers move on to face the 12-0 Richland Springs Coyotes in the State Semifinals Championship, Saturday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m., in Dublin. The winner of this game will travel to Dallas, to AT&T stadium, to play for the Texas 1A State Champion-

ship on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m.

Offensively for the Tigers vs Dragons:

Passing: Hunter Walters was 3-of-4 for 90 yards and two touchdowns. The longest was a 65-yard strike to Landon Williamson.

Kyler Fossett was 2-of-3 for 11 yards.

Rushing, Kyler Fossett remained unstoppable with 13 carries for 216 yards and five touchdowns. His longest was a 46-yard run to paydirt.

Receiving: Landon Williamson had 3 catches for 91 yards and two touchdowns. The longest was a 65-yard touchdown strike from quarterback Hunter Walters.

Jack Hendricks had one reception for 17 yards and a first down.

Hunter Walters caught a swing pass for three yards.

Alex Castillo was 7-of-8 on points after two touchdowns (PATs) for 14 points.

PLEASE SEE **TIGERS** | B3



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby Lady Tigers volleyball team pictured back row, left to right: Head coach Amanda Martin, Presley Robinson, Andrea Licea Perez, Matti Dixon, Addison Hamilton, Autumn Meyers, Caitlyn Battreal, Maddison Smith, Zarah Wisheart, Coach Kara Helms, and manager Taetym Sanders; kneeling, holding trophy: Jayda Gonzalez.

Oglesby Lady Tigers Volleyball team makes All District for the 2023 season

Submitted by Amanda Martin

MVP of the District - Senior, Middle Blocker, Matti Dixon.

Setter of the Year - Sophomore, Setter, Andrea Licea-Perez.

First Team All-District selections - Senior, Outside Hitter, Addison Hamilton,

Freshman, Middle Blocker, Caitlyn Battreal, Freshman, Defensive Specialist, Presley Robinson, and Freshman, Right Side Hitter, Zarah Wisheart.

Second Team All District - Junior, Libero, Jayda Gonzalez and Freshman, Outside Hitter, Autumn Meyers.

The Oglesby Lady Tigers program has never won a

championship, in any sport, in the history of their program, until this year.

"It was an incredible season and was one we will remember and treasure," said Head coach Amanda Martin. "It was a wonderful season with many firsts for the program."



COURTESY PHOTO

Team Gatesville athletes who recently competed in bowling competition

Team Gatesville closes bowling season with two-day competition

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Team Gatesville, a local Special Olympics team, recently closed its bowling season with an Area 12 Special Olympics Texas Bowling Competition.

The bowling competition was a two-day event that was held on Friday, Nov. 17 and Saturday, Nov. 18. Held yearly at Phantom Warrior Lanes at Fort Cavazos, volunteers attended the event from the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program, three to 16 field artil-

lery regiment, the second brigade combat team first cavalry division, and one to five Calvary Black Knights.

There were 14 delegations present at the competition and 347 students who competed. Five athletes from Team Gatesville placed, including:

Stephen Bush placed with a bronze medal.

Caitlin Clough placed with a gold medal.

Kevin Dolan won fourth place with a ribbon and a pin.

Jon Hannold won fourth place with a ribbon and a

pin. Tristen Tidrick placed with a silver medal.

To become a Team Gatesville athlete, you must be at least six years delay and upper age limit, have an intellectual disability or a comparable global developmental delay, and submit a medical physical form.

For more information, visit sotx.org, Facebook.com/TeamGatesville, or by emailing teamgatesville12@yahoo.com.

GOOD LUCK IN THE SEMIFINALS!

JONESBORO EAGLES FOOTBALL



Jonesboro beat May in the State Quarterfinals, 86-39.

State Semifinals Game:
Jonesboro Eagles
vs
Gordon Longhorns
Saturday, Dec. 2 at 1 p.m.
Weatherford High School

OGLESBY TIGERS FOOTBALL

Oglesby beat Iredell in the State Quarterfinals, 62-16.

State Semifinals Game:
Oglesby Tigers
vs.
Richland Springs Coyotes
Saturday, Dec. 2 at 4 p.m.
Dublin High School



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OGLESBY JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL RESULTS

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

BOYS A TEAM
The Oglesby Junior High Boys A Team played host to the Jonesboro Eagles A team Monday, Nov. 20. The Tigers were too much for the Eagles, as they defeated the Eagles, 39-16. This brings the Tigers' record to 2-0 on the year. Holdyn Goff recorded his first double/double of the year, hitting 21 points, ten rebounds, and added two steals. Evan Williamson - 9 points, 5 rebounds. Mason Marquez - 4 points, 5 rebounds. Couper Wulfkuhle - 3-pointer, 2 rebounds. Caiden Brinkley - 2 points, 2 rebounds. Blayze Fisher - 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal. Liam Ammerman - 3 rebounds, 1 steal. The Tigers travel to Abbott on Monday, Dec. 4 to play the Abbott Junior High Panthers.

BOYS B TEAM
The Oglesby Junior High Boys B Team played their first basketball game of the year Monday, Nov. 20. They defeated the Jonesboro B team by a score of 12-8. Tigers: 33 Aiden Aviles - 4 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals. Jayce Aaron - 4 points, 2

rebounds. AJ Marfa - 2 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals. Brody Martinez - 2 points. Ashton Thompson - 2 rebounds. Ranger Dalton - 1 rebound. Rancher Jeffcoat - 2 rebounds. Jacob De La Torre - 1 rebound. Hunter Insall - 2 rebounds.

GIRLS TEAM
The Oglesby Junior High Girls hosted the Jonesboro Lady Eagles Monday, Nov. 20. The Lady Eagles defeated the Lady Tigers, 30-8. The Lady Tigers played hard all the way, but the Lady Eagles were on point with shooting and rebounds. Lady Tigers: Scarlet Aaron - led scoring with 4 points, 6 rebounds. Adelyn Gomez - 2 points, 1 rebound. Delany Marfa - 2 points, 3 rebounds. Cierra Ingram - 2 rebounds. Ali Christner - 3 rebounds. Aylean Aviles - 2 rebounds. The Lady Tigers travel to Abbott to play the Abbott Lady Panthers on Monday, Dec. 4.

Evant Lady Elks district results announced

Staff Reports

The Lady Elks of Evant Independent School District received its District 16 1A results.

District 16 - 1A
MVP - Ludwika Rodriguez of Evant.
Offensive player of the year - Molly Waldrum of Evant.
Defensive player of the year - Hailey Neri of Evant.
Setter of the Year - Harley Weeks of Evant.
Coach of the Year - Joanna Vaden of Evant.

1st Team All - District
Isabel Gandy of Evant.
Bree Ramirez of Evant.

2nd Team All-District
Jolyce Acosta of Evant.

Academic All - District for Evant
Isabel Gandy
Bella Kolajo
Daisy Morales
Bree Ramirez
Maya Reynolds
Ludwika Rodriguez
Molly Waldrum
Harley Weeks

The Lady Elks ended the season with a record of 29-6 and reached the regional semi-final round of playoffs. Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant.



Taylor Coward



Emma Pollard

GIRLS

FROM PAGE B1

Wimberley had three points while Laura Trejo had two points. After opening the season with a win over McGregor, the Hornets have beaten Belton, Live Oak, and Whitney while dropping games at San Saba and at home against Rogers. Coward and Pollard have emerged as the centerpiece of the Lady Hornets attack, combining to average almost 25 points and 16 rebounds per game. Sanders and Sentillas are each averaging more than two assists per game, and the Lady Hornets are taking better care of the basketball as a unit - a top priority for Chaffin. Gatesville

has committed less than 20 turnovers in three of their games thus far. In the Glen Rose tournament, they will begin in pool play against 3A No. 23 Bushland and the Glen Rose JV. They will play Bushland on Thursday, then Glen Rose on Friday. Should the Hornets finish pool play on top, they will likely face the Glen Rose varsity in the first game of bracket play. The Lady Tigers were state semi-finalists a year ago and are the No. 2 team in the state in Class 4A this season. Gatesville will travel to Jarrell and to Troy for two more rounds of tournament play before opening district on Jan. 5 at Robinson.

GATESVILLE JR HIGH BASKETBALL RESULTS

8A vs. Salado

1	2	3	4	FINAL	
Salado	12	13	6	6	37
Gatesville	5	6	5	11	27

Scoring: Grady Keeton- 8; Draven Henderson- 6; Eli Phillips- 6; Callen Webb- 4; Braxton Brown- 2; Stefan Boyd- 1
Record: 2-1

7A vs. Salado

1	2	3	4	FINAL	
Salado	6	7	11	5	29
Gatesville	12	8	11	6	37

Scoring: Jaxson Franks- 20; Andrew Winkler- 8; Preston Barron- 6; Bennett Eggeling- 3
Record: 3-0

8B vs. Salado

1	2	3	4	FINAL	
Salado	10	7	7	10	34
Gatesville	0	13	3	5	21

Scoring: Paydon Garrett- 6; Brensyn Pope- 5; Isaac Crawford- 5; Memphis Salas- 3; Jaxon Botkin- 2
Record: 0-3

7B vs. Salado

1	2	3	4	FINAL	
Salado	2	13	3	12	30
Gatesville	4	4	5	4	17

Scoring: Zyla Baize- 6; Brayden Warren- 4; Micah Olvera- 3; Zion Nunn- 2; Jennar Velasquez- 2
Record: 1-2

Gatesville High School tennis players named to all-league team

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School tennis team recently had 11 players named to the district 7-4A all-league team.

GIRLS' TENNIS:
Most Valuable Player, Olivia Walker.
First team singles, Kasey Fitzer, Callie Smith, and Olivia Walker.
First team doubles, Kasey Fitzer and Katelyn Sanchez.
Second team doubles, Callie Smith and London Kizer, as well as Finn Rogers and

Ally Nichols.

BOYS' TENNIS:
First team singles, Abraham Almandariz and Jahaziel Martinez.
Honorable mention singles, Jack Armstrong and Asa Hardcastle.
Honorable mention doubles, Abraham Almandariz and Jahaziel Martinez.
Mixed first team, Olivia Walker and Jack Armstrong.
Gatesville High School is located at 205 S. Lovers Lane.

GYS Basketball Skills Day to be held Dec. 3

Staff Reports

Gatesville Youth Sports will prepare for its upcoming season by hosting a skills day and parent meeting on Sunday, Dec. 3. The skills day will be held in both Gatesville Junior High gyms. There will be five different timeslots for each age group. The age groups include: First and second grade boys and girls from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Third and fourth grade girls from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Third and fourth grade boys from 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fifth and sixth grade girls from 4:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fifth and sixth grade boys from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The intent for Gatesville Youth Sports is to provide a good environment for the youth to increase speed, strength, and power that will be useful for all sports. The Gatesville Junior High is located at 307 S. Lovers Lane.

TIGERS

FROM PAGE B2

Total yards: Tyler Fossett had total of 227 yards for the night. Landon Williamson had 160 total yards, including a 69-yard pick six interception for a touchdown. Hunter Walters had 93 total yards. Defensively for the Tigers: Johnny Gomez led all tack-

lers with eight tackles and had one fumble recovery. Jack Hendricks had seven tackles and two fumble recoveries. Tyler Fossett had six tackles. Jaxon Tippit had five tackles, two fumble recoveries, and two forced fumbles. Alex Castillo had five tackles. Joel Gonzales had one tackle.



Special education is like a helping hand for friends who might need some extra support on their learning adventures. In the United States, special education ensures that every child, no matter their unique abilities, gets the special tools and caring guides they

need to learn and shine bright. Imagine a classroom as a big, colorful puzzle, and each piece is a special friend with their own way of learning. Special education teachers are like expert puzzle-solvers. They figure out the best ways to teach and help each

friend succeed, making sure no one feels left out. Whether it's extra time on a test, special lessons, or a friendly helper, special education creates a magical space where everyone's strengths are celebrated. It's like having a superhero team where everyone, no matter their abilities, can be the hero of their own story. So, in the big book of learning, special education is the chapter that shows how amazing and unique each friend truly is!



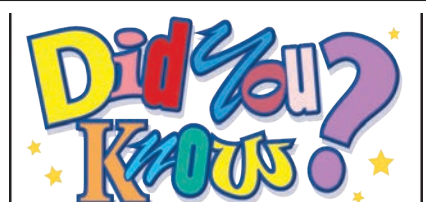
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SCHOOL BUS

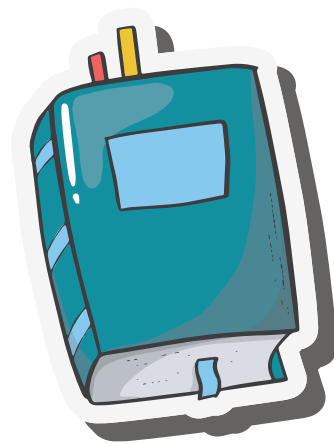
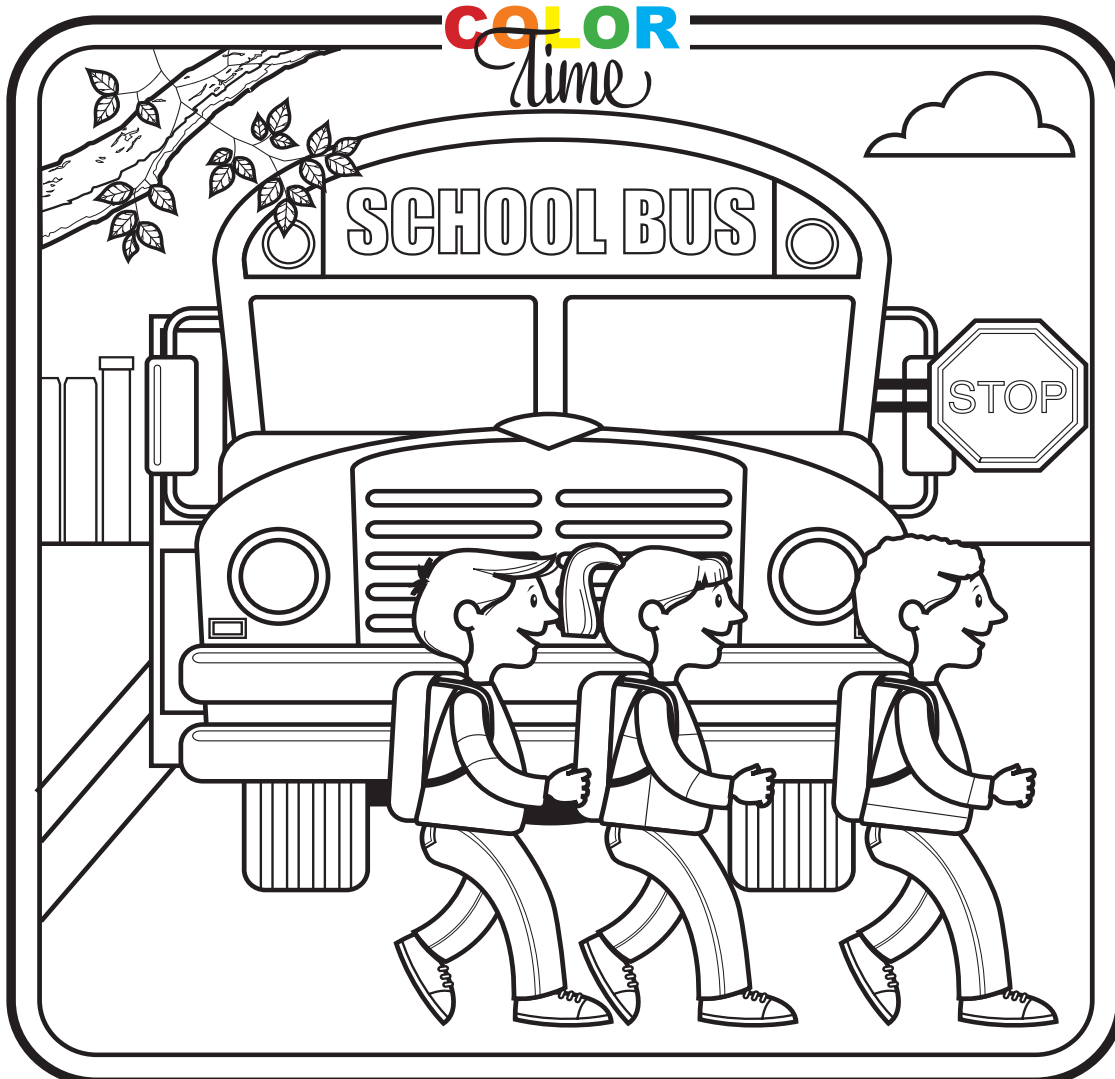


WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AGE THAT MOST CHILDREN BEGIN THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION?

ANSWER: AGE 5



Special education in the United States is rooted in the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EHA), enacted in 1975. It was later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990.



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State takes home SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship against Cal State Bakersfield

Tarleton State University

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. — Tarleton State took down Cal State Bakersfield to win the SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship, 59-40, on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at the JSerra Pavilion.

The Texans (4-2) won their first multiple-team event (MTE) as a Division I program after reaching the Paradise Jam championship game last season. The win marks the second Western Athletic Conference school to win the challenge with Utah Valley winning the inaugural SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship in 2021. The Roadrunners became the first Big West program to reach the SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship.

"I am very proud of our team that they were able to come out to California and play two hard games and come home with a pair of wins," said coach Joseph Jones after the celebration. "It means a lot to us to bring home this championship for coach Gillispie."

Jakorie Smith led all scorers with 17 points while draining a trio of triples to be named the SoCal Challenge Sand Division MVP.

KiAndre Gaddy notched his second double-dou-



Tarleton State took down Cal State Bakersfield to win the SoCal Challenge Sand Division Championship, 59-40, on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at the JSerra Pavilion.

ble of the season with 12 points and 12 rebounds. He was named to the All-Tournament Team for his performance.

Freshman Emmanuel Innocenti notched the first double-double of his career with a team-high 13 rebounds and 11 points.

For the second straight game, Gaddy won the tip after surrendering the first four of the season. Devon Barnes put the Texans on the board with an early layup to give the Texans their first lead of the game. The two teams swapped buckets in the first eight minutes

with the Texans holding a 12-7 lead at the 11:36 mark. Gaddy pulled down two of his six first-half offensive rebounds in the span as well as adding four points.

Bakersfield broke out for a 7-0 run to take its first lead of the contest, 14-12. The Roadrunners wouldn't hold

it for long as Innocenti tied the game at 14 on a mid-range jumper. Smith countered a CSU-B bucket with a jumper of his own to retie the game at 16. Trailing 18-17, Adam Moussa knocked his first three-pointer of the night that lifted the Texan bench in euphoria.

Tarleton closed with nine more points, including Miles Lewis scoring his first points of the challenge. Smith knocked down his second three of the first half to lead the squad with nine first-half points. Gaddy's seven rebounds led all players.

The Purple and White started the second half with a 9-0 run in the first four minutes to take a 38-24 lead to force the Roadrunners to call a timeout. Lue Williams nailed his first three-pointer of the afternoon during the run. CSU-B cut into the Texan lead responding with a 10-0 run of its own fueled by Ugnius Jarusevicius with five.

The Texans showed the crowd at the JSerra Pavilion just how badly they wanted to return to Texas with the victorious skimboard erupting on a 13-2 run to break the game wide open.

Tarleton State held the Roadrunners to just 16 second-half points, to win the Sand Division Championship of the SoCal Challenge, 59-40.

Tarleton 22-for-57 from the floor, and 8-for-21 from three-point range. The Texans won the battle of the boards, 39-27. In the second half, the Texans shot 50 percent (6-for-12) from three-point land.

Tarleton State Football finishes 4th nationally in average attendance across 129 FCS programs

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Football wrapped up a successful season across the board, including hosting the best crowds Memorial Stadium has ever seen.

The Texans finished fourth in the nation in average attendance across 129 Football Championship Subdivision programs, hosting 18,697 fans on average over their five games in

Stephenville this year.

Tarleton State saw over 20,000 fans through the turnstiles three different times this year, setting an all-time record for attendance of 23,042 in the homecoming game vs. Morehead State on Oct. 21. The mark broke the recent record of 22,250 fans on Family Weekend on Sept. 23 vs. Southwest Baptist. The

Texans also set a new home-opening attendance record on Sept. 9 vs. North Alabama by hosting 20,127 fans.

At 18,697 average fans, the Texans only trailed three programs; Jackson State (30,060), Montana (26,269) and Montana State (21,610).

In the United Athletic Conference, the Texans served as the hottest ticket. Eastern Kentucky was second at 11,655 average

fans, followed by North Alabama (9,494), Austin Peay (8,309), Stephen F. Austin (8,100), Abilene Christian (7,090), Central Arkansas (7,048), Utah Tech (5,132) and Southern Utah (4,011).



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texans finished fourth in the nation in average attendance across 129 Football Championship Subdivision programs, hosting 18,697 fans on average over their five games in Stephenville this year.

Back-and-forth Thanksgiving appetizer narrowly goes to Eastern Washington over Tarleton State

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's Hoops for Hunger game the night before Thanksgiving provided the theatrics on Wednesday, Nov. 22, but it was the road team that left Wisdom Gym with the win.

Eastern Washington (4-1) squeaked out a 64-62 victory over Tarleton State (1-3) on Wednesday night in Stephenville, in a back-and-forth game full of runs.

"I'm really proud of our team's effort and fight this evening," head coach Bill Brock said. "We are playing with lots of different combinations due to injuries, but every one of our players are giving outstanding effort. Hopefully we are developing some depth for the future."

The Texans kept this game tight throughout against the Big Sky Conference pre-season favorites, especially down the stretch. Down 60-53 with 2:22 left, Jakoriah Long had two and-one opportunities over the next minute to get Tarleton down by just a point, 60-59.

The Eagles responded with a layup, and had a big defensive stop after the Texans

got the offensive rebound on split free throws. EWU made a layup after that to go up by two possessions, 64-60. Elise Turrubiates nailed a jumper with 17 seconds remaining to keep Tarleton in it, then the Eagles missed both free throws with 13 ticks left to give the Texans a chance. Long, who had only missed two shots the entire night before the last possession, had a great look from distance for the game-winning shot at the buzzer, but it hit back iron.

Long had a career-high 16 points to lead the Texans on 6-of-9 shooting, adding four rebounds and two blocks. Miannah Little earned her first start and poured in a career-high 10 points. Lexi Bull also made her first start and flirted with a double-double, tallying eight points (3-6 FG), nine rebounds and three assists. Karyn Sanford led the bench with eight points (3-5 FG, 2-2 3PT), while Turrubiates (seven points, six rebounds) and Teresa Maggio (seven points, 3-3 FG) were just behind her.

Tarleton opened the night with a food drive ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday,

offering free entry to any fan who brought five canned items to the game. All proceeds on the night are going toward Saint Luke's Food Pantry.

The Purple and White then took the court for the first time in 10 days, and held an early lead a couple of times, last ahead 9-7 with 4:06 to play in the first. The Eagles ended the quarter on a 7-0 run to lead 14-9 after one.

EWU's lead grew as large as 10 midway through the second quarter before Tarleton got back in the game. The Texans went on their own 7-0 run after being down 24-14, featuring four points by Little, a bucket by Vitoria Carvalho, and a free throw by Bull. Tarleton ended the half in style, with Andjela Bigovic nailing a jumper and Long sending a shot out of bounds at the other end to put the Texans down by just a pair at the break, 29-27.

Eastern Washington scored six quick points to start the third quarter, but this time Tarleton immediately responded after a time out with their own six points to get back within two. Down 42-36 with 4:05 left, Tarleton scored six straight to tie the

game for the first time since the first quarter. EWU then closed the frame on a 6-0 spurt to lead 48-42 entering the fourth.

In the final frame, Tarleton opened with a 7-1 run to tie the game again. EWU took momentum from there and went up by seven late, 58-51 with 3:53 left. Then Long and the Texans went to work and barely dropped the home contest at the end.

The Texans out-shot the Eagles 22-of-54 (.407) to 25-of-63 (.397), out-rebounded them 42-33, and led the bench scoring 41-18. EWU only turned it over eight times to Tarleton's 14 giveaways, which proved to be the difference.

Alexis Pettis led EWU with 16 points on 5-of-6 shooting, including 4-of-5 from distance. Jamie Loera tallied



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State's Hoops for Hunger game the night before Thanksgiving provided the theatrics on Wednesday, Nov. 22, but it was the road team that left Wisdom Gym with the win.

15 points and three assists. Milly Knowles recorded a double-double with 10

points on 5-of-8 shooting, 12 rebounds and two steals.

Coryell
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DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
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Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays – Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
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Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville; Sundays – Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50 a.m. & 6 p.m.
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FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
Jeremy Sanders, Pastor; 120 College Ave.; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 am; Wednesdays – supper at 5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth Group 6 p.m., Prayer meeting 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY
Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
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A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.
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KING
Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY
Royse T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK
David Crosby, Interim Pastor; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evening Youth & Children's Bible Study 6 p.m.

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SWEET HOME
511 N. 14th, Gatesville; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday worship 7 p.m.
SPANISH
Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
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Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.
WESTVIEW
Interim Pastor: Eddie Taylor; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
WHITE HALL
Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.
WHITE MOUND
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558. For more info. & location, call 254-865-5908.
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Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. & Wednesday-Friday at 7 a.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
CEDAR RIDGE
Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
EVANT
Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W. Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.,

Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
FORT GATES
4605 St. Hwy. 36 S., Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
GATESVILLE
Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.
LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO
2413 E. Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.
MIDWAY
1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove; Sundays – worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays – Bible Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.
PEARL
6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE
Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.
LUTHERAN
IMMANUEL
David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd., Copperas Cove; Sunday Bible Study 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN
Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
ST. PAUL
Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday School 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.
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2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children & Adult Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:30 p.m.
OGLESBY UNITED
Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.
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Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy. 116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday worship service 10 a.m.; 254-677-6242.
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Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry & C3 Student Ministry.
CORYELL FELLOWSHIP
Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901.
COVER2COVER MINISTRIES
Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wednesdays 6 p.m.

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GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN
Wray Nunn, pastor; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday worship 6:30 p.m.; Gateway Learning Center, 2315 Osage Rd., Gatesville.
HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL
Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th St., Gatesville; 865-6222. Sunday worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC & state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6 p.m.
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LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Peter M. Mafwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.
MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE
William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
6735 FM 183, Pear; Sunday Services 9 a.m.
THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.
PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE
Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826.
MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 514 N. 13th St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesdays Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday service, 7:30 p.m.
PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN
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REFORMED GRACE BIBLE
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HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH
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Hopson, Ford sworn in as trustees of GISD School Board; Ferguson recognized

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

On Monday, Nov. 13, the Gatesville ISD Board of Trustees met and discussed the results of the recent school board election.

The board gave special recognition to Jimmie Ferguson who served on the board from November of 2020 until November of 2023 when he lost his bid for re-election during the recent election.

GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard described Ferguson with the following statement, "During his time on the school board, he helped approve many outstanding projects and initiatives. Despite our budget shortfall, he was always supportive of raises for staff members. For all of this, we are grateful."

During a special meeting of the board on Nov. 16, the summary of precinct election returns was reported

as Charles Ament receiving total votes of 1,328, Jimmie Ferguson receiving 680 votes, Jeff Coward receiving 711 votes, Loyd Hopson receiving 1,182 votes, and Calvin Ford receiving 765 votes.

In addition to canvassing the votes, newly-elected Loyd Hopson and incumbent Calvin Ford were sworn into office with Charles Ament being absent for the swearing-in ceremony. Ament was sworn in at a later date.

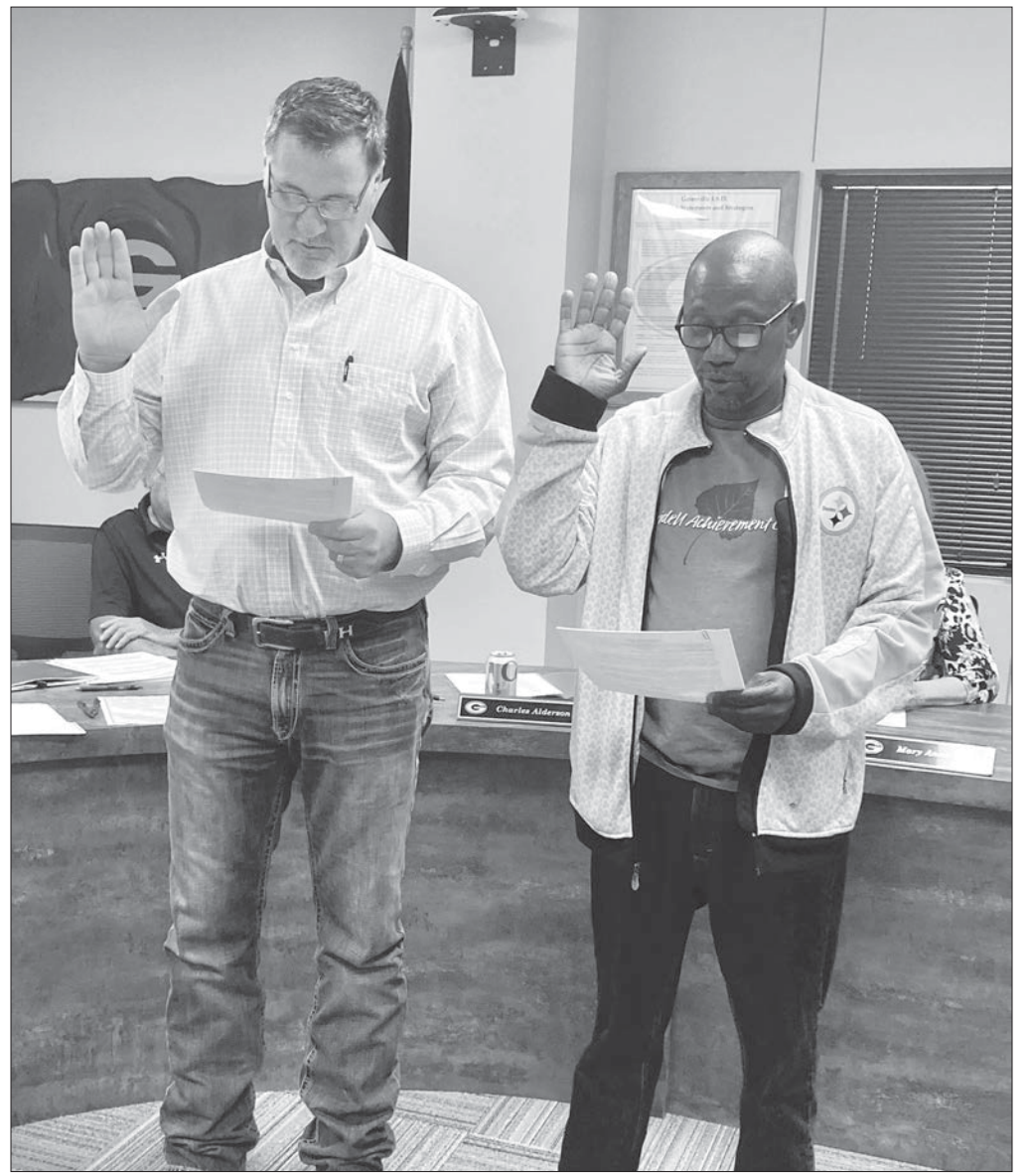
Dr. Pollard commented on the election saying, "We had five really good candidates in our election. I'm looking forward to working with the three who were elected."

Loyd Hopson, the newly elected board member, said "Being elected to the school board is a great honor and a surprise. I feel very blessed to have been elected. I'm very honored and I'm looking forward to

doing my part in the school with teachers, students, and everyone in the community. I'm looking forward to helping our educators and students to achieve their personal best."

The two re-elected school board members issued the following statements. Charles Ament, the current school board president, said, "Gatesville ISD is fortunate to have caring teachers and staff. Under the leadership of Dr. Pollard, students are improving in academics and enjoy extracurricular experiences. This makes for a positive school board that is proud and supportive of our school system."

Calvin Ford remarked, "I'm truly blessed, and it is my hope and prayer that I can continue to be the elected official that everyone wants me to be."



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Loyd Hopson and Calvin Ford being sworn in on Nov. 16 as GISD School Board Trustees.

TOUCHDOWN WINNERS

COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Elementary School recently announced its Touch Down Attendance winners. The students were able to celebrate with a group of high school Hornet football players by playing catch along with other various activities. The football players from left to right include Nathan Elliott, Tookie Jones, Gabe Charles, Zach Bryant, LJ Hall, Cory Burns, Tommy Aaron, Gage Ford, Sean Aguilar, Jacob Newkirk, and Adrian Smith.



City Manager Scott Albert speaks at CRSP November meeting

Submitted by Marsha Lee, contributing writer

Members of Retired School Personnel heard from Gatesville's new City Manager Scott Albert at their November meeting. First, Albert went around the room, asking members what they liked most about Gatesville. Answers included such things as "its small-town atmosphere, it's a city with heart, neighbors helping neighbors, the townspeople work together to support needy causes, its helpful library and staff, the striking Courthouse, the beautiful museum, and the school system." He cited efforts to improve Gatesville that he could see already in progress: enlarging the jail, repairing streets, building on to the schools to promote safety for students and teachers, setting up historical markers around the community to promote local history, and other efforts to "help beautify Gatesville." Some areas definitely need work, such as building up the downtown area. He has stayed busy since he first came onboard in May 2023, and he said that "the city is looking at about \$21 million in capital improvements that will not require the raising of taxes." He added, "During my entire career, I have not raised taxes, and I don't plan to raise taxes here either."

He briefly shared some

information about his more than 30 years in local government. He was enrolled in a class at the University of Texas at Dallas when a speech by Plano City Manager, Tom Muehlenbeck, inspired him to seriously consider local government as a career where you could serve and make a difference in communities and lives. He thought of himself as a "servant at heart" and changed his major from economics and finance to public administration.

He was able to serve as an intern at Plano, working in various training programs within their city budgeting department. The day he graduated with a master's degree in public affairs, he received a job offer from the city of Springtown. After about one-and-a-half to two years there, he moved to Fairview, where he worked for five years. Next, he took a city leadership job in Celina and spent more than four years there. During this period, he developed kidney cancer which changed his life. He backed off his career and took a job with The Economist, doing utility rate and impact fee studies in Texas and Arizona.

Although Albert had never served in the military, he was intrigued when a friend called and asked if he might be interested in embedding with the Marines in Camp Fallujah (Iraq). He decided

to go, thinking it would be a six-to-nine month stay. He was there longer, but one of his major projects was overseeing construction of the Fallujah wastewater treatment plant, an over \$100 million project and the largest one of its kind in Iraq. Mr. Albert continued to work with the U.S. Agency for International Development from 2008 until 2011 on many challenging projects between Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the end of that five-year period, he was ready to return home, and his family wanted him home. He still was grateful for those years because, once again, he realized that he enjoyed making a difference in people's lives.

Upon returning home, he worked in East Texas on the Riverbend Water Resources District, which was about to be shut down. With an abundance of surface water, it was vital for the Dallas-Fort Worth region. He was able to help put the district in order, and the state opted to keep the district operational. From there, Albert moved to Hondo as city manager for three years, after which time he and his wife, Noemi, moved to Gatesville and he assumed the job of city manager here. He stated that he looks forward to his work here and sees much potential and great opportunity for the Gatesville area.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville City Manager Scott Albert pictured with the president of the Coryell Retired School Personnel, Gail Johnson. New City Manager, Scott Albert, speaks to members of CRSP.

EVANT ISD THANKSGIVING LUNCH



COURTESY PHOTO

The week before Thanksgiving, Evant Independent School District held its annual Thanksgiving lunch to get into the holiday spirit. Staff, students, family, and friends gathered on Friday, Nov. 17, with over 125 guests in attendance.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro ISD students participating in the Kindness Rocks Project while painting rocks to be placed around the campus.

Jonesboro ISD participates in the 2023 Kindness Project

Staff Reports

The Kindness Rocks Project is a viral trend where people paint kind and encouraging words on rocks and leave them for others to find. The trend originated in the United States and has spread to other countries.

The Kindness Rock Project began in 2015 when Megan Murphy wrote, "You've got this" on a rock and left it on the beach. After a friend found it and expressed how it helped her, she started leaving more rocks with inspirational messages to help others.

As the trend of painting kindness rocks has spread, it has many derivatives but remains true to its original intention of spreading

kindness. Photos of the painted rocks and hints of where to find them are commonly shared on Facebook groups.

Rocks are painted as a social-emotional learning activity for kids that is not only beneficial for the children and the recipients who find them, but is also a cognitive activity.

Prekindergarten through fifth grade has painted kindness rocks and placed them around the football field, concession stand, and bleachers. As children and adults have found them, they have the option of keeping it, giving it to someone else, or placing it in the Garden of Kindness, which Mr. Marr and her students are in the process

of making.

At the end of each nine-week grading period, the teachers of prekindergarten through fifth grade will each choose three students who have shown the most kindness to visit the library to paint kindness rocks that will be placed around the school or in the Garden of Kindness.

The community is welcome to join the kindness project by painting rocks at home and bringing them to school.

For ideas and more information about the Kindness Rock Project, you can visit thekindnessrocksproject.com.

Jonesboro ISD is located at 14909 E. State Hwy. 36.

FIRE PREVENTION POSTER WINNERS

GATESVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL



COURTESY PHOTO

During Fire Prevention week, Gatesville Primary School held a Fire Prevention poster contest for students to participate in. Pictured are the students who placed in the contest. The front row (left to right) is Kooper Chiaverini, Joselin Gonzalez, and Arianna Guerrero Jaimes. The back row (left to right) is Jack Harper, Nash Prado, and Everleigh Lee.

GATESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Elementary School recently announced the winners of the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department Fire Prevention poster contest. The posters will now advance to the Central Texas Fire-fighter's and Fire Marshal's Association Semi-Annual Convention in May 2024. Pictured in the front row (left to right) is first grader Case Jones, third place; second grader Zade Davis, first place; first grader Augustus Doyle, second place; and first grader Aubree Brugman, first place. In the back row (left to right) is third grader Dean Stanley, third place; third grader Olivia Melton, second place; and third grader Vivianna Silva, first place.



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MERRY Christmas!



Christmas Celebration

CENTRAL TEXAS
HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Offering Hope & Encouragement to Families

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2023

TIME: 6:00pm-8:30pm

WHERE: 708 Hwy. 36 West
Gatesville, TX 76528

Family Event With:

Special Nutcracker Exhibit • Bounce House

Live Christmas Story – with free giveaways to kids

Live Music • Tour of the Hospitality House

Door Prizes donated by local merchants

Refreshments/Free Hot Dogs

Given as an appreciation celebration to the Gatesville community, families, and surrounding areas for their support of CTHH!

254-404-2260 | www.cthhouse.org

Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Car Show collects large toy haul for Hometown Angels organization

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 18, Bare Bones BBQ hosted their third annual "Neighbors Supporting Neighbors" car show.

Bare Bones manager, Chad Hill, said, "We had 128 entries this year. We weren't expecting that many entries. The first year we had this event we had about 48 entries; and then last year we had about 45."

The car show entry fee required participants to donate an unwrapped toy costing a minimum of \$10. In the last two years, the proceeds (toys) gathered at the event have gone to a local organization called "Hometown Angels," which supplies gifts to local underprivileged children who might not receive Christmas gifts during the holiday

season.

"This year, I would say there were at least 20 or 30 car clubs that participated. We even had a car club here from Lubbock. We've had car clubs and motorcycle clubs, and we plan to expand it to more clubs next year," Hill said.

Hill stated that the car show has also received, in addition to toys, many monetary donations. Neighbors Supporting Neighbors will be adopting families in the Jonesboro, Oglesby, and Gatesville communities in which gift cards will be provided to them.

"The first time we did the car show we thought all the toys would remain in Coryell County, but they went everywhere else, and I thought we've got to find something local.

That's when we discovered Hometown Angels. I like the idea that it stays right here. I'm a firm believer in taking care of your own. Our local grown Hometown Angels: They are really making a difference," Hill said.

Hometown Angels began as a dream and collaboration of three Gatesville women over 20 years ago. Lorri McDaniel, Michele Holden, and R'Lue Gribble saw the need to make a difference in the lives of children during the holidays.

For the past 22 years, Ranchers Steak House has graciously allowed Hometown Angels to place a tree in their lobby area with cards attached with the names of children whose parents may be facing difficult times during the holiday season. The card

contains the first name of a child and their "wish list." The names are provided by a reliable source and with the approval of the parents. Gatesville residents choose a card from the tree, purchase the gifts, and return them to Ranchers in time for the holidays.

"Because there are so many kids in our community that their parents lose jobs, and they just can't afford Christmas gifts. So, that's why R'Lue, Michele, and myself decided to step in and help," McDaniel said. "We try to divide it up so that each child gets five gifts - two outfits (of clothing), three toys, and a coat. If they need a coat, we don't count that as a gift, because that is not a gift," she said.

In the past, the three women often used money

out of their own pockets to purchase gifts. The trio also furnished stockings filled with candy, small toys, and Bibles. "We wrap everything, and we deliver the gifts to the families who put the gifts away for Christmas and let Santa Claus bring them," McDaniel said.

Gribble shared her thoughts on their work by saying, "The reason I went in on this journey is because when I was seven years old, if it hadn't been for the Salvation Army, I wouldn't have had a Christmas that year, so I know how it is. I've discovered that Gatesville is a very giving community and are always willing to pitch in and lend a helping hand to those in need."

Former gift recipients have said that they were

surprised to find out about the program and to learn that someone out in their own community was going out of their way to bless local children. Some of the children who benefitted from Hometown Angels are now adults and want the chance to give back to the community. One former recipient quoted from the Bible - "For it is better to give than to receive," Acts 20:35.

A few years ago, one of the three co-founders of Hometown Angels, Michele Holden, summed up her thoughts about their yearly project by saying, "It really makes you feel good, especially when you can really tell the family is appreciative. Sometimes, we walk away with tears in our eyes."

PHOTOS BY JACI VELASQUEZ AND DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

