



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 3, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Coryell County approves \$50,000 contribution for HOP service

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Thousands of Central Texas citizens rely on the Hill Country Transit District, also called the HOP, for means of transportation. Due to a steady decline in funding, Hill Country Transit District has requested that rural counties in the district begin committing local funds for its services.

Coryell County Commissioners approved an annual interlocal

agreement that includes a contribution of \$50,000 toward HOP services in Coryell County at Commissioners Court on Nov. 28. Beginning in 2024, this will be the first year the county will pay out-of-pocket funds for the program.

“For us to remain solvent, the transit district came up with a way to have an internal formula for what each county would need to pay to maintain the same service levels or close to the same service levels for what they have pro-

vided historically,” said County Judge Roger Miller, who is also on the Board of Directors for the Hill Country Transit District.

The agreement was originally voted down during Commissioners Court on Nov. 14 due to a request for more information about ridership numbers in the county. According to the district’s rural division report presented by Commissioner Kyle Matthews at the next meeting on Nov. 28, there were a total of 1,434 HOP rides in

Coryell County over a three-month period from July 1 through Sept. 30.

The majority of the trips were for medical and shopping needs, per the report.

“I was impressed with the numbers somewhat,” Matthews said.

Along with the \$50,000 contribution, the county receives \$197,197 from federal and state funds as well as a \$30,595 Medicaid contribution for non-emergency medical trips. Due to a considerable amount

of ridership to Bell County for shopping and medical needs, Miller said Bell County is also contributing \$23,516 toward public transportation in Coryell County. The total budget for public transportation is approximately \$301,309.

“We have around a 300,000 budget for rural transportation in Coryell County, and it’s costing our taxpayers 50,000 to get that

PLEASE SEE **HOP** | A4

Returning to her roots



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Larry Weiss, Gretchen Neff Watson, and superintendent Melissa Chadwick, prepare to unveil the historical marker and the National Register of Historic Places plaque.

Celebrating 100 years at the MNSP

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Gretchen Neff Watson, a native of Houston, recently returned to her roots in Coryell County to attend the 100-year celebration at Mother Neff State Park and the re-dedication of the park’s historical marker. In addition, the park was recently honored by being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

At the dedication and unveiling ceremony for the historical markers, Governor Neff’s great-granddaughter said, “I think that both Mother Neff and my great-grandfather, Pat Neff, would be so pleased and so very proud by all the care and effort of those who have continued the legacy.”

Watson continued, “Just thinking about the generations that can benefit from those early day stories and what we can do to carry that forward. I think that would make them feel very special. I hope, as a community, we can carry this forward. The park is just beautiful.”

During the re-dedication ceremony, Melissa Chadwick, superintendent of Mother Neff State Park, said, “Today, we are celebrating 100 years of the Texas State Park system. The plaque from the National Register of Historic Places was presented to us by the Coryell County Historical Com-

mission, and it’s a great honor to showcase this and display what Mother Neff State Park is deserving of.”

Chadwick continued, “Mother Neff is the oldest state park in the park system. The original park consisted of six acres, which was donated in 1921 by Isabella Eleanor Neff, the mother of Governor Pat M. Neff who served as governor of Texas from 1921 until 1925. In 1925, during Governor Neff’s tenure, he created the Texas State Parks Board with the desire of creating a state parks system.”

Speaking on behalf of the Mother Neff State Park Association was Charlotte Weiss who grew up and was raised in the area. “This is a beloved state park. Every time we talk about Mother Neff State Park we refer to it as ‘beloved.’ Isabella Neff (Mother Neff) first referred to it as a ‘wild area’ because of the Indians, but to her, it had to be a true love story for them to stay here and develop this beautiful land for everyone to enjoy. Isabella had the foresight to lay aside the six acres and, had it not been for her, we would not be here today. This truly is a beloved state park,” she said.

Also speaking at the ceremony was State Park Director Rodney Franklin. “What a special day. What a special event.

PLEASE SEE **ROOTS** | A12

Coming home after 78 years

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Seventy-eight years ago, Staff Sergeant Robert Green Rudd, then 34 years old, sacrificed his life defending his country during World War II at the Battle of the Bulge. The location of his burial has remained a mystery for many years.

His remains, only recently identified, will be coming home to Coryell County after years of being classified as an “unknown soldier” buried in a grave at the Ardenes American Cemetery in Belgium.

Robert Green Rudd will be laid to rest beside his parents on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Bethel Cemetery near Gatesville. Services will begin at 2 p.m. Former military members are invited to attend the services to honor Staff Sergeant Rudd.

Rudd was born on Aug. 27, 1910, in Kentucky, to John

PLEASE SEE **HOME** | A2

City moving forward annex

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Gatesville City Council approved the annexation of 135 acres of land that border Old Pidcoke Road and FM 116 into Gatesville city limits during a special meeting on Nov. 30.

Since Old Pidcoke Road is a county road, the city requested permission from Coryell County to annex the portion of the road that borders the 135-acre property. County Commissioners approved the annexation during Commissioners Court on Nov. 14.

“Furthermore, the annexation will encompass the adjacent right-of-way of Old Pidcoke Road,” City Manager Scott Albert said in an email. “However, it is essential to clarify that it won’t cover the entirety of Old Pidcoke Road. Instead, it pertains solely to the section of the road running adjacent to the property being annexed.”

Albert notes that individuals residing along the annexed section of Old Pidcoke Road will now be required to obtain permission from the city rather than the county for any new access points onto the road.

“This change is applicable solely to property owners along the section of Old Pidcoke Road being annexed into the city,” he said.

The 135 acres will be zoned as agricultural and suburban homes sites. Albert said the property owner intends to develop only 12 acres of the 135-acre plot to create four 3-acre residential homesites. However, no other development plans are known for the remaining 123 acres.

According to the city council public meeting agenda, the annexation request was initiated by Krista Moreland to provide their family access to water and sewer services for a portion of their property.



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Laerdal holds groundbreaking ceremony for Gatesville expansion

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Laerdal Medical's Texas office celebrated the upcoming expansion of its Gatesville facility at an official groundbreaking ceremony on Dec. 5.

A rendering of the new building was unveiled at the ceremony, which will be located next to the current building at 226 FM 116. Attendees included several executives and employees from Laerdal's North American and international offices, RQI Partners, and Gatesville city officials.

"We are truly appreciative of the investment that an international company is making in our community," Mayor Gary Chumley said. "The long-term effects of what this is going to bring to our community are going to be unbelievable."

The company creates medical devices and resources to help save lives, including patient simulators and training programs that are used worldwide in hospitals, universities, and military bases. The new building will become a global hub for the RQI platform, a CPR training program that equips healthcare workers to administer high-quality CPR to patients. The platform is utilized by healthcare

organizations across the U.S., including Gatesville's Coryell Memorial Hospital.

"We have a mission, which is to help save lives," said Victor Carrillo, Laerdal Medical's manufacturing director in Gatesville. "With this mission, our corporate office has a goal for us of reaching and helping save 1 million lives per year by the year 2030."

The products built in Gatesville are shipped to facilities around the world. Several surrounding facilities utilize Laerdal's medical systems, including local hospitals and nursing schools, Fort Cavazos, and Central Texas colleges and universities.

The company has a long history in the Gatesville community. Founded as Medical Plastics Laboratory by Gatesville doctors in the 1950s, it was acquired in 2000 by Norway-based company Laerdal.

"For 23 years, the commitment to lead this company and this community for jobs for the citizens of Gatesville and beyond has been held true, and this expansion just shows the impact of bringing jobs to this area," said Rosie Patterson, vice president of sales for Laerdal's North American offices.

The new building is designed by



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

From Left to Right: Russell Griffin, Senior Vice President of Programs and Marketing at RQI Partners, Scott Albert, Gatesville City Manager, Dan Cleary, Vice President of Finance at RQI Partners, Victor Carrillo, Laerdal Medical Site Director in Gatesville, Gary Chumley, Mayor of Gatesville, Rosie Patterson, Laerdal Medical Vice President of Sales North America, Brian Eigel, CEO of RQI Partners, Torbjorn Gjerdevik, Laerdal Medical Vice President of Supply Chain and Manufacturing, Richard Morgan, K4 Construction Project Manager and Architect, Keith Helpert, K4 Construction President.

the local construction firm K4 Construction based in Waco. It is scheduled to be completed between October and December of 2024.

"This is expansion that you don't typically see often in small com-

munities," City Manager Scott Albert said. "It has been a long-term partnership since it was Medical Plastics, and Laerdal took over in 2000. That partnership continues until this day, and it means ad-

ditional jobs for our community and growth. Without that strong partnership over the decades this wouldn't be happening today."

HOME

FROM PAGE A1

B. Rudd and Emma J. Rudd. When Robert was a small child, the family moved from Kentucky to Gatesville where Robert attended school up to the eighth grade.

In 1941, at the age of 31, he married Coryell County resident, Pearl Fisher. Little did they realize that their marriage would be short-lived. The following year Rudd entered the U.S. Army in Dallas on April 12, 1942.

In the early fall of 1944, Rudd was assigned to serve with Company C, 28th Infantry Regiment 2D Infantry Division during World War II. During an attack on the enemy forces along Germany's west border, Rudd's Infantry Division became concentrated around Elsenborn, Belgium. Toward the end of January 1945, Rudd's battalions secured ground near Wirtzfeld and moved on to the towns of Rocherath-Krinkelt where they encountered fierce battles. It was sometime during the fighting on Rocherath that Staff Sergeant

Robert Rudd was killed. Due to major restrictions in the area, his body was not immediately recovered.

Seven sets of human remains were later discovered by Belgian residents in the Elsenbichel Forrest. Of the remains, all were identified except for one which was at that time given the coding title of X-3144.

In 1946, the American Graves Registration Command became in charge of recovering and identifying remains in the European Theatre. During the following years, family requests were made to compare the remains of an unknown to that of Rudd.

In 1949, X-3144 was declared unidentifiable and interred at the Ardennes American Cemetery.

It wasn't until 2017 that researchers made suggestions that the unidentifiable remains marked in grave X-3144 might be associated with Sgt. Rudd from the 99th Infantry Division.

On June 23, 2021, the remains of X-3144 were disinterred and transferred to the DPAA Laboratory at Outfitt Air Force Base,

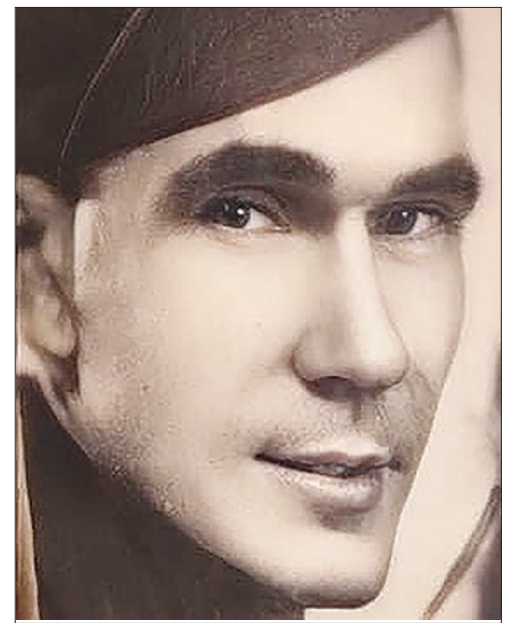
Nebraska for forensic analysis.

It was then determined that Sgt. Robert G. Rudd, who had been killed at the Battle of the Bulge, had been located and identified through the use of dental, anthropological, and DNA analysis.

Rudd's name had been placed on the "Walls of the Missing" at the Netherlands American Cemetery. Now, a rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate that he has been accounted for.

Although first listed as Missing in Action, his family mourned his passing, including his brothers William "Lonnie" Rudd, Luther Rudd, Lucian Rudd, Ollie Rudd, and Hagar Rudd, along with his sisters Myrtle Rudd Painter, Addie Rudd Fisher, Eula Mae Rudd Scott, and Lillie Rudd Marshall.

Today, many years following his death, Rudd is survived by many nieces, nephews, and many other relatives who honor his legacy and his heroism and who will be present when his remains are buried at Bethel Cemetery this Saturday.



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert Green Rudd

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

What to do with two matching coats?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

Timing is everything. The very start of life depends on the timing of the egg and fertilization. If an egg is not ovulated or does not get fertilized at precisely the right time, no pregnancy results. For farmers, the timing of rainfall has everything to do with whether a crop grows and creates a bountiful harvest. In sports, there are all sorts of penalties and failures for not meeting the deadline of the pitch count, 24-second clock, or the final buzzer. If the timing is off, there is failure.

With the coming of cooler weather, it is the time of the year to get jackets and coats out of the back closet. I have a London Fog golf jacket that I am particularly fond of. It fits me well, and the material is of the weight that I can wear the coat most days during the winter, and it keeps me warm. It is

not bulky nor cumbersome, and I feel comfortable in it. It has a look which never goes out of style and is of a color which goes with almost anything.

As I have grown old, I recognize that I get comfortable with a particular item and do not really care to try a "new" or different product to replace something I already enjoy. If you are particularly satisfied with a product, why explore a new product which you may or may not like? Unless the new product offers a feature, which is truly a revelation and will thus make a significant improvement in my life, I will stick with what I am accustomed to.

A few weeks ago, when the weather broke, and the first fall "nipp" was in the air, I started wearing my favorite jacket. It might have been a little early, but we all know how that fall is: need a jacket in the morning and only need to wear a t-shirt by late afternoon.

Somehow, I managed to misplace my jacket. I could not find it in my car, office, or at home. I traced steps back to places I had visited where I might have taken off the jacket and forgotten to put it back on, but my search was to no avail. It was frustrating, and I was angry with myself for losing my jacket like a first-grade schoolboy. To prevent myself from being "coatless," I jumped on the internet and ordered the exact same jacket as a replacement. After all, I knew I liked everything about the coat, the weather was going to continue to get cooler, and I needed a replacement. There was no sense in waiting any longer.

When the package arrived a day or two later, I unwrapped the jacket and cut off the tags and immediately wore it the next day to work. It was cool that morning, and the jacket felt comfortable, in some ways like an old friend. It was reassuring, I had gotten a replacement and I had taken care of myself, something which I frequently fail to do appropriately.

Wouldn't you know it, two days later I found the first jack-

et. While I felt a tiny bit of satisfaction that I had recovered the lost item, there was a sense of despair when I realized I now had two exactly similar jackets. I had removed the tags and worn the new jacket so I could not return it. Suddenly, I felt foolish and a little forlorn. I had spent money I did not need to spend, and what the heck was I going to do with two of the same jackets?

Upon reflection, the episode has caused me to laugh at myself for losing the coat in the first place. One friend, upon learning of my plight, joked that perhaps I had one jacket for each of my personalities. The staff at the newspaper got a good laugh out of my antics.

I know perfectly well that if I had waited two weeks to order the replacement jacket, I would have never found the first one. Was it karma that I had to order a new jacket to find the first one?

I have taken the "newer" jacket and hidden it in my closet. When the "old" jacket gets worn, or rips, or I misplace it again, I will already have a replacement in hand. Think of the time and trouble I will save. After all, timing is everything.

Thought for the day: The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese!

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

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Mother Neff State Park to host First Day Hike of 2024

Staff Reports

To kick-off the new year of 2024, Mother Neff State Park will host its annual First Day Hike on Monday, January 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The program is free, but park entrance fees will apply at the cost of two dollars per person for the ages of 13 and older, and children 12 and under

are free.

Be sure to bring water, wear sensible shoes, and dress for the weather.

Once you have completed the hike, stop by the Visitor's Center to share your experience and to receive a memento for participating.

Reservations can be made by visiting <https://tpwd.texas.gov/> or by calling Mother Neff State Park at 512-389-

8900.

Mother Neff State Park was the first official Texas State Park. The land was donated by Isabella Neff in 1916.

For further information, contact Mother Neff State Park at 254-853-2389.

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

Breakfast with Santa on 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@gatesvillex.com.

For more information, visit www.visitgatesvillex.com.

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

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran Dec. 2.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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400-500 lb.	245-290
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600-700 lb.	195-235
700-800 lb.	175-215

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Candice Vazquez

COURTESY PHOTO

Say hello to our neighbor, Candice Vazquez!

Candice is part owner of Charlie's Wags & Whiskers, a local adoption and rescue center. She said that the best part about her job is being able to give back to the community and making a difference with any animal that is in their care. She has lived in Gatesville since she was 16 years old and retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) after serving 20 years, then later opened the center in Sept. 2023. "The community has been amazing with the outpouring of love for our needs and the animals," Vazquez said.

Candice reads The Gatesville Messenger and said, "I love the up-to-date information, especially on things that aren't always breaking news."

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

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DEADLINES:

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

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

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

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

Senior Center in need of donations for Head Start Toy Drive

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Since Christmas is approaching, the Gatesville Senior Center has started accepting donations for its second annual toy drive.

The toy drive is held each year for students of the local Head Start.

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for low-income families designed to meet the needs of children between the ages of three and five, including children with disabilities.

Dietary Supervisor Camilla Edge said, "We know it's harder for single household and low-income families, and Head Start is also our sister company, so we are just trying to help those kids out."

There will be 35 students in total who will receive gifts from the toy drive including 17 girls and 15 boys.

"We try to make the toys equal when sorting through them," Edge said. "If we have a bigger toy, we make sure to match them up the same."

Anything for a boy or girl can be donated, such as baby dolls, basketballs, toy trucks, stuffed animals, and books, as well as monetary donations.

The Senior Center will have a box in front of its building for donations to be placed inside.

To date, only 10 toys have been donated out of the Senior Center's goal of 70 toys total.

"Last year the seniors made the toy drive happen and it was a success," Edge said. The congregation of the Senior Center will buy and donate gifts as well as give monetary donations to assist with the toy drive.

"We are hoping that will we get people on the outside to come in and bring toys, because our seniors do help us a lot and they're on a fixed income too," Edge said.

The hope is to give each child two gifts a piece.

"Last year we got a lot of feedback, and it really helped the parents out," Edge said. "We just know that those kids will not get a lot of gifts and we want to make their Christmas a good one."

Head Start will hold its Christmas party for its students on Friday, Dec. 15, where they will receive the gifts.

"The kids will get their gifts at the Christmas party and take them home to open from Santa," Edge said.

"It really makes a difference to some of these kids' lives," Edge said. "We want to let them have the same joy as other households."

The toy drive began on Friday, Dec. 1 and will stop accepting donations on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

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

The Gatesville Senior Center is located at 208 Lutterloh Avenue.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Senior Center Toy Drive

Meals on Wheels is looking for drivers

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Meals on Wheels is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals to local, homebound elderly folks. Meals on Wheels is a federally funded program for older adults who are homebound, unable to prepare a meal, don't drive, and have no one to cook for them.

The Meals on Wheels program provides home-delivered, nutritious meals that provide seniors in the community with support, which allows them to remain living in their own homes. This typically involves delivering a nutritious meal, a friendly visit, or a quick safety check.

The volunteers are expected to deliver a meal while generally checking in with the clients to make sure they are doing well through a friendly greeting or

small talk.

Gatesville needs volunteer drivers Monday through Friday with meals picked up at the Senior Center. Drivers are needed for four different routes. There are four different routes in Gatesville, and each Wednesday a route to Hamilton is taken. Anywhere from 10 to 14 clients are seen each day per route.

At the end of last year, the Meals on Wheels program stopped reimbursing volunteers for their mileage driven. Vehicles need to be provided by the volunteers as well.

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

The Gatesville Senior Center is located at 208 North Lutterloh Ave. in Gatesville.

Silver Santas collecting donations

Staff Reports

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.

Meals on Wheels is a federally funded program that provides seniors in the community with support that allows them to remain living in their own homes.

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 Seniorita, or the Feed Mill.

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

Gatesville Fire Department Santa Run

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Fire Department continues its annual Santa Run. Santa Claus and his team will leave the fire station promptly at 6 p.m. and will make their rounds to designated areas throughout the community on the listed below.

Santa Claus will be present at the fire station 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 for a photo opportunity. The Gatesville FD is located at 109 South 23rd Street.

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

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

HOP

FROM PAGE A1

worth," Miller said.

Gatesville Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph said HOP services are often utilized by the center's clients involved in their Meals on Wheels program, which provides older adults with home-delivered meals who are homebound and cannot drive.

"I do think the HOP transit is very beneficial for our clients," Rudolph said. "I know a lot of our Meals on Wheels clients take them back and forth to doctor's appointments, to the grocery store, even to come up here for special activities and events."

In 2024, Miller said they will monitor the number of requests for rides and trips that are unfulfilled to determine if the county needs to increase or decrease the level of services being provided.

"That will let us measure if we are really providing our citizens with the public transportation that they are wanting," he said.

The HOP provides on-demand services in Coryell County that include five buses and three bus drivers, plus one driver shared with Hamilton County. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"There is no other provider that can take

these people to where they want to go. It is so costly for the rural areas just because of the fact that we have to travel so far to pick up one or two clients that live out in the rural areas throughout county," said Tony Austin, director of rural operations for Hill Country Transit District.

Hill Country Transit District has provided rural transportation services to nine counties since the 1960s, serving Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, Mason, Llano, Rural Bell, and San Saba counties. Since then, they have incorporated two urban transits in Killeen and Temple.

Austin said the decline in funding started in 2018 following a loss of contract with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for Medicaid trips. While federal COVID-19 relief funding helped cover services until 2022, the loss of those funds determined that the counties would need to contribute locally to maintain services.

"What we noticed before COVID-19 is there was a possibility that we are going to have to ask counties to start providing local funding to be able to continue the services," Austin said. "The counties have never had to pay into the service since the conception of it in the late 60s."

Currently, rural fares have been temporarily suspended as a way to encourage rider-



COURTESY PHOTO

HOP Buses outside of the Gatesville Senior Center.

ship following a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. Austin adds that the district lost about 70 percent of their ridership throughout the region. While the district is looking at raising fares again, he said he doesn't know when or how much it will cost.

"Right now, we're at a little plateau of not increasing our ridership but we are not losing any of our ridership either," he said.

However, Austin adds that there are plans

to transition the HOP to a microtransit service that utilizes a phone app that allows riders to order a ride and monitor when it will arrive and take them to their desired destination. The district will begin a pilot program with Fort Cavazos starting early next year.

"Hopefully it gets a little bit better and a little more accurate for our clients," Austin said.

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Tiger Cubs from Cub Scout Pack 272 paid a visit to the Gatesville Police Department where they were shown police equipment and were told about police procedures.

The Texas Department of Transportation had a crew working on State School Road, cleaning out ditches to allow for better drainage of rainwater.

The Gatesville Lady Hornets beat Comanche 68-48 in their season opener.

Students at Gatesville Christian Academy were

given a lesson in how to correctly fold the U.S. flag by members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 42.

The Jonesboro Community Center hosted a dance. The Westernaires provided the music.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

Employees from Mates were among many individuals and groups to donate toys and other items during the Gatesville Care Center's Christmas Drive.

Construction was completed on the West Leon Street river bridge.

Administrators in the Gatesville ISD served breakfast to the staff's teachers.

The Gatesville Fire Department prepared to host its annual New Year's Eve dance at the Coryell Activities Complex.

Children from First Baptist Academy sang Christmas carols to members of the Gatesville Lion's Club.

40 YEARS AGO

Sam Martin was designat-

ed as the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department's 1983 Fireman of the Year.

Gatesville's Rebekah Lodge held a bake sale in front of the Thrift Mart Grocery.

County Extension Agent Jimmy Vanstony issued a call for entries in the Coryell County Pecan Show. The county's pecan crop that year was shaping up as "real good."

The Jonesboro girls basketball team raced past Star, 50-10, in a pre-season scrimmage.

A new 4-H club was started

in Pearl.

50 YEARS AGO

The Cultural Activities Committee and the Gatesville Garden Club arranged a Christmas pilgrimage visiting six local homes. The event also included a bazaar at the National Bank Civic Room and a tour of the public library.

Bob Drake, of Oklahoma City, was named the new superintendent of the Gatesville State School for Boys.

Jonesboro School faced a tax suit.

Lamar Youngblood, Austin architect hired to draw plans for remodeling the Coryell County jail, recommended to the commissioner's court that a brand new jail be built instead.

Rev. G. Harold Shirley, then pastor of the Oglesby Baptist Church, received the Master of Religious Education degree at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Local author publishes children's book about the loss of a pet

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

After Chyanne Brake's Doberman, Lizzie, went viral on TikTok this year, she wanted to write a children's book detailing the adventures of Lizzie and her brother, Axel.

While Brake was writing the book, Lizzie suddenly died from complications with megaesophagus, a disorder that makes it difficult for dogs to digest food. Following her family's own loss of Lizzie, she decided to write a story that helps kids understand what it means to lose a pet.

"Once she went viral, we wanted to do a children's book with her and Axel and do book tours and go to schools," Brake said. "As I was writing that story she passed away, and then I didn't want to have a fun story if she can't come do the tours with us, so we decided take that whole situation and turn it into a book to help kids."

Titled "Lizzie and Axel: Forever Friends," the story chronicles Axel and Lizzie's final adventure as Axel helps Lizzie cross the Rainbow Bridge. The story helps children understand the journey of the Rainbow Bridge and to find comfort in the unbreakable bond they share with their pets.

"It shows Axel coming home alone, but understanding she's still there in spirit," Brake said. She said kids have always been her favorite age group, which is why she wanted to gear the story toward young readers.

"I think it's a hard subject to talk about," Brake said. "A lot of parents just don't know how to bring it up or how to discuss it, so I think having a story you can reference can really help bridge the communication gap."

Brake said she always wanted to open up her own business and thought publishing a book was a great opportunity. After videos of Lizzie's facial expressions received millions of views on TikTok, it inspired Brake to write her first book about her two dogs. Brake self-published the book, built her own website, and is shipping the books out of her own house.

In the future, Brake said she would like to write a second book that shows Lizzie sending them their dog, Sterling, who they recently adopted as a companion for Axel following the loss of his sister.

"They say that the dog who has passed always sends you your next dog to look after you," she said.

Lizzie, Axel, and Sterling were rescued from Second Chance Farm in Granbury, a rescue that gives abused or disabled animals a second chance at finding a home.

"Lizzie and Axle: Forever Friends" can be purchased online at sassy-sentiments.com.



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville resident, Chyanne Brake, published her first book that teaches children how to understand the journey of losing a pet

Care Center needs volunteers

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Care Center of Gatesville is currently in need of volunteers at its facility.

The volunteers will have simple responsibilities, including unpacking daily donations, marking items with the correct labeling, placing the donations in designated areas, as well as sorting through food,

clothing, toys, movies, books, and more.

The Care Center was established in 1987 and continues to serve the local community each week with its generous services.

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

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

Victorious Life Church seeking donations

Staff Reports

The Victorious Life Church is requesting donations of gently used or new items for individuals who are currently without a home or living among the streets.

The items donated will be distributed to people through Gatesville and Waco areas.

Examples of items needed:

Coats and jackets
Socks and undergarments

Blankets
Sleeping bags
Shoes
Warm clothing

The donations are to be dropped off at Rancher's Steakhouse located at 107 Hwy. 36 Bypass N. in Gatesville.

For more information or to have items picked up, contact Rita Lee at 325-304-3834.

Movie in the park

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.

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MOUND NEWS

Three Mound residents head to State game



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News
CorrespondentBY JHDFG S SKDFJG
Staff Writer

Mrs. McKenzie Lois Hopson David was honored with a baby shower on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the home of her parents, Frank and Susie Hopson. The hostesses were Gloria Davidson, Misti Necessary, Tracy

Sage, Nelda Carothers, Debbie Evans, Aspen Watts, Margaret Hopson, and Summer McClellan.

Emma Blakley was honored on her 21st birthday with lunch on Saturday afternoon in College Station. Those attending were Carolyn Blakley and Jerry and Brenda Helms.

Carolyn Blakley and Brenda Helms went to Waxahachie to see Neil and Christy Helms and did some shopping.

Three of our Mound residents, Jackson Tippit, Dylan Hooker, and Ashton Hooker stamped their way to the AT&T Stadium to the Texas 1A D2 State Championship game set for Dec. 13. Dylan and Ashton are seniors at Oglesby ISD, and Jackson in a junior.

David, Frank, and Pat Hopson attended a surprise 70th birthday party for Mrs. Lesia Wilson at the Fort Gates annex in Gatesville. It was hosted by Lesia Wilson's children, Amy Veazey, Landi Hill, and Dana Whittenburg.

Coryell Museum and Historical Center presents a gun raffle

Staff Reports

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

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

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

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

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

The museum may elect a re-draw until a qualified winner takes possession. Guns Unlimited is located at 2502 TX-36 BUS in Gatesville.

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

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

RECIPE

Cream Cheese Blueberry Pie

This recipe appeared in the "Methodist Best" cookbook in 2008. The Gatesville Messenger plans to run a series of recipes from that cookbook.

If your church has a cookbook or if you would like to submit your own recipe of a favorite dish for possible publication, please email it to: editor@gatesvillemessenger.com.

Cream Cheese Blueberry Pie
Jeanette Shepherd

Ingredients:

4 oz. softened cream cheese
2/3 c. sugar
½ c. confectioners' sugar
½ c. water
½ c. heavy whipping cream, whipped

¼ c. cornstarch
1 9-inch pastry shell
3 c. frozen or fresh blueberries

¼ c. lemon juice

Directions:

In small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Fold

in whipped cream. Spread into pastry shell. In large saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch, water, and lemon juice until smooth. Stir in blueberries. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Cool. Spread over cream cheese layer. Refrigerate until serving.

OBITUARIES

Betty Jean Mayhew

June 9, 1945 - Dec. 4, 2023



Betty Mayhew, age 78, of the South Mountain community, passed away on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, in Temple. Betty's family appreciates the kindness of the Baylor Scott & White staff, however, they are absolutely certain that she was p***ed (upset) to die in the hospital and not at home.

Private family graveside services will be held at Jonesboro Cemetery.

Betty Jean Mayhew was born on June 9, 1945 in Flat to the late Euna C. and Genia B. Seward Wilkins. She went to school in Flat and graduated from Gatesville High School. She married Billy Mayhew on August 15, 1963. She attended Central Texas College and studied accounting.

She worked alongside her husband at Mayhew Machine Shop and was the silent force behind all of his business ventures. Her personality matched her red hair. She was spunky and a little mean, most likely because

her children made her that way. She would go toe-to-toe with anyone that she thought wronged her family. She loved to laugh and play jokes and was the master of April fool jokes.

She enjoyed scaring her grandson with Halloween masks and visiting with her granddaughter about boys. Betty loved fishing at the lake or on the Cowhouse Creek. Most of all, she loved her family, coffee, Blue Bell vanilla ice cream, and Marlboro reds, short, in the box, but not necessarily in that order. She was a fan of Elvis and Tom Jones.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Billy Mayhew in 2014; sisters, Pat Baker, Mary Wilkins, JoAnn Mitchell; and a brother, William Wilkins.

Betty is survived by her son, David Mayhew and wife, Marci; daughter, Suzanne Mayhew; grandchildren, Jake Mayhew and wife, Morgan, Marleigh Mayhew; and her great granddaughter, that she was especially proud of, Storie Mayhew. She is also survived by her brothers, Robert Wilkins, Steve Wilkins; and sisters, Lillie Bright and Jenny Lindley.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you honor Betty's memory with a bowl of Blue Bell vanilla ice cream, a cup of coffee, and maybe even a Marlboro red.

Patsy Nell Wright Jetton

Sept. 27, 1936 - Nov. 12, 2023



Patsy Nell Wright Jetton departed this life on Nov. 12, 2023 in Weatherford surrounded by her loved ones.

She was born on Sept. 27, 1936, to the late Archie S. and Etta Mae Wright. She was born on the land where the Army took their later land at Antelope.

She is survived by her son,

Jerry and his wife, Kelly; granddaughter, Jaree; three sisters; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and many friends.

Patsy was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Maxine Hale, and niece, Patricia Hale.

Patsy lived a long life, full of wonderful family members and much love. She was a hairdresser by trade. She loved to look beautiful and had many decorations in her house, her collections she most loved were rabbits and roosters. Her hobby was going to horse races.

Patsy's celebration of life will be on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 1 p.m., at the Pidcoke Baptist Church.

Beverly Logan

July 29, 1940 - Nov. 30, 2023



Beverly Logan, of Gatesville, passed away Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at the age of 83.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the First Methodist Church in Gatesville, with Pastor Stephen Schmidt officiating. Interment followed at 2 p.m. at King Cemetery.

Beverly Ann Washburn Logan was born on July 29, 1940, to John and Genoa Cook Washburn in Gatesville. She participated in the Bluebirds program and was a Gatesville High School cheerleader. She received the Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow Award, competed in shorthand at the State level, and excelled in sewing and typing. She graduated third in her class from GHS in 1958, recognized as receiving the highest grades of any senior her senior year.

She married Curtis Dean Logan the same year, and they moved to Fort Worth, where she worked for the engineers at the Texas Highway Department. Two years later, she began working for the Internal Revenue Service in Austin, while Curtis pursued his accounting degree at the University of Texas.

They moved to Waco in 1962, where she attended Baylor University. During her time there, she gave birth to their daughter, Natalie. She also graduated in 1966 Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Latin and Math. She taught those subjects at Gatesville High School for 16 years and also coached the tennis team.

While teaching she attended the University of Texas for three summers, earning a Master of Arts in Latin in

1973. After retiring from her career in education, she dedicated herself to supporting Curtis in his career.

Beverly was a clever woman who enjoyed laughing with family and friends. She was a member of the First Methodist Church and trusted Jesus Christ as her Savior. She maintained her hobbies of sewing and tennis for many years and was devoted to botany and the soaps.

An avid reader of Smithsonian, Biblical Archeology, and Architectural Digest magazines, she had a gift for interior design and fashion. She liked to travel, flying to Europe with her daughter in the 80's, and later riding across the country with her husband in the passenger seat of their RV.

She took great joy in caring for her four granddaughters and many neighborhood cats, as well as working as a volunteer at the Coryell County Museum. Beverly was known as a great listener, spending hours on the phone with her family. Though she met great medical challenges in her later years, she maintained her sense of humor and positive outlook. She managed a lot and didn't ask for much. She was one tough cookie.

Beverly was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Lynn Washburn; infant nephew, Jonathan Washburn and niece, Monique Hawkins.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Curtis; daughter, Natalie Clawson and husband, John; sister, Eloise Smith and husband, Lewis; grandchildren, Charis Clawson and husband, Matthew Meador, Joy Clawson and husband, Brett Johnson, Sarah Clawson, and Lena Clawson; nephews, Eric Washburn, Patrick Washburn, Aaron Smith, and Jeremy Smith; and a grouchy cat named Ebony.

In lieu of flowers, Beverly's family requests memorials be made to the First Methodist Church Beverly Washburn Logan Facilities Maintenance Fund, 2600 E. Main St, Gatesville, TX 76528.

Tommy Smith

April 15, 1943 - Dec. 3, 2023



Thomas Winston (Tommy) Smith, 80, of Hico, passed away on Dec. 3, 2023 at his home after a short illness. He was born April 15, 1943 in Lampasas County to Jesse James (Jim) Smith and Gladys Murrah Smith, of Pearl.

Tommy attended public schools in Pearl and Evant, graduating from Evant High School in 1961. After high school, he married his high school sweetheart, Patsy Jean Comer, and they moved to Dallas where he was employed by Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Southland Corporation, Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, and Hershey Foods Corporation. In 1978, he moved to Granbury where he founded the Tommy's convenience store chain, which he sold in 1993. In the ensuing years, he was a home builder and land developer primarily in Hood and

Somervell counties. In 2002, Tommy married Joan Ruth Tubbs.

At various times of his life, Tommy enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, coin collecting, and watching the Texas Rangers, Dallas Mavericks, and Dallas Cowboys. He loved spending time with family and friends and was an avid and skilled woodworker after his retirement in 2004.

Tommy is preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Gladys Smith, his brother, James Wendell Smith, and his sister, Faye Blakley. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and his children, Kellie Smith Kellner and husband, Mike, of Argyle, and Jim Ed Smith and wife, Christine, of North Richland Hills, and his stepchildren, Wesley Bennett and wife, Summer, of Godley, Stephanie Fisher, of Ruidoso, NM, and Edith Jones and husband, Johnathan, of Munford, Alabama. Tommy is also survived by 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Tommy's life will be held on Jan. 6, 2024. Riley Funeral Home in Hamilton is in charge of the arrangements.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

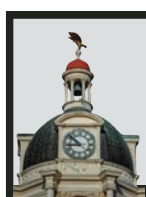
Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with a death certificate or by the facility handling the body. You must provide the contact information for verification when submitting the obituary.

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



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PEARL NEWS

The Pleasure and Profit Club record from 1931



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Let's check in with the ladies of The Pleasure and Profit Club from their earliest December record ever recorded - Dec. 10, 1931. "The club met with Mrs. Alice Oney Oney. We embroidered several different pieces of embroidery. The house was called to order by the president.

After the reading of the minutes and the roll call (noting the absence of two or three), the club decided not to meet anymore until after Christmas. We were then invited to the dining room where we were served delicious pecan pie, cake, and cocoa. We then adjourned to meet with Selma Lacy on Jan. 7, 1932." It was then noted that Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. Finally, the members for 1932 were listed as Eula Mae Cox, Ora Mae Oney, Coma Jones, Bessie Smith, Brit Edmondson, Myra Myrtle Shook, Mae

Franks, Ida Shook, Nannie Grace McGuire, Lottie Oney, Mildred Manning, Louise Nabors, Ona Jones, Henrie Elam, Nollie Robinson, and Odell Reynolds. How many names do you recognize all these decades later? Wouldn't they be pleased to know that their legacy carries on to this very day in the ladies (and gentlemen) of Pearl who work so diligently at the various churches, the cemetery, and the Pearl Community Center? Copies of this book are for sale at the Pearl Cottage Bookstore for \$15.00—such a treasure! Speaking of the Pearl Cot-

tage Bookstore, it will be open again on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., along with the Pearl Bluegrass event. That's right - 2024! Everyone is welcome to attend.

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 Luke 19:10—For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." 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

Nostalgic Noel: A journey back to Christmas in the 60s

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Gatesville Messenger

Ah, Christmas in the 60s! It was a time when the world was a whirlwind of change, but the holiday spirit remained as timeless as ever. I was a child of the 60s, and the memories of Christmas from that time are still so vivid. Let's take a jolly jaunt down memory lane, shall we?

Animated Christmas Specials: The Heart of the Holidays

The 1960s is when television reached a tipping point in this country, and by the mid-60s, most homes had one. Nothing heralded the arrival of the festive season quite like the animated Christmas specials on TV. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was the crown jewel of them all.

Who could forget the lovable Peanuts gang? Snoopy, with his doghouse decked out in festive flair; Lucy, offering 5-cent psychiatric advice to anyone who'd listen; Schroeder, lost in his Beethoven ren-

ditions; Linus, philosophizing life with his trusty blanket, and Charlie Brown, finding the true meaning of Christmas in the most unassuming of trees. These characters weren't just cartoons; they were old friends visiting for the holidays.

Then there was "Frosty the Snowman," narrated by the imitable Jimmy Durante. I confess tears were shed every time Frosty melted, a reminder of the fleeting nature of holiday magic. And let's not forget "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." To this very day, it really isn't Christmas until I hear Burl Ives sing the title song and "A Holly Jolly Christmas." These shows weren't just entertainment; they were a cherished tradition.

The Aluminum Christmas Tree: A Shiny Symbol of the Era

Another great memory is our aluminum Christmas tree when I was little. While they may seem ridiculous in 2023, aluminum Christmas trees were all the rage in the early-to-mid 60s. EVERYONE had them. And when you had that rotating color wheel to put under that

aluminum tree, it created quite a colorful light show! I would sit for what seemed like hours watching that tree change colors. You must remember this was the '60s, and the TVs with their four channels quit broadcasting at midnight, so we had to entertain ourselves any way we could! LOL!

Family Gatherings: The Heartbeat of the Holidays

Christmas was also a time for family. And I always looked forward to seeing family that we usually only saw on holidays. I was the youngest kid in the family, so my siblings and cousins were quite a bit older than me. But I had a second cousin who was a year younger than me, so I always looked forward to the holidays when Freddy would be around. Our holiday antics are the stuff of family legend. From sneaking extra cookies to staging impromptu Christmas plays, our youthful energy was a gift in itself. I'm sure our older siblings and cousins might see it differently, but this is my article, so...

A Feast for the Ages

Christmas also meant food and lots of it! Ours was a family of great cooks, and sometimes, looking back, I think they must have all been trying to outdo one another, because there was more food than any ten families could eat, and it was ALL good! Turkey, ham, roast; potatoes in at least five different variations, from mashed to au gratin; okra, green beans, corn, and all sorts of peas and beans. And the dessert tables (notice I said tables, plural) would have made Julia Childs envious!

Random Reminiscences: The Fabric of Festive Fun

Christmas in the 60s had its own unique flavor. The holiday tunes on vinyl records, the tinsel that seemed to find its way into every nook and cranny, the excitement of leafing through the Sears catalog, dreaming of Santa's bounty ... these are the threads that weave the tapestry of my Christmas memories.

There was also the thrill of Christmas Eve, trying to stay awake

to catch a glimpse of Santa, only to fall asleep and wake up to the magic of Christmas morning. The joy of unwrapping presents, the laughter echoing through the house, and the sense of togetherness made it all the more special.

So, there you have it, a peek into my treasure trove of Christmas memories from the 60s. It was a time of simplicity, joy, and family. These memories, tinged with nostalgia, remind us that while times may change, the essence of Christmas remains the same - a time of love, laughter, and the magic of togetherness.

As we deck the halls this year, let's remember the Christmases of yesteryear and carry forward the spirit of those bygone holidays. After all, Christmas is not just a day; it's a feeling, and in the 60s, we felt it in spades. Merry Christmas, everyone, and may your holidays be as bright and joyful as an aluminum Christmas tree under a rotating color wheel!

Oglesby ISD in need of gift-wrapping donations

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District is in need of gift-wrapping supplies for its Tiger Angel Tree.

The following items will be accepted:

- Wrapping paper
- Gift boxes
- Tissue paper
- Gift bags

Donations are to be dropped off in the front office of Oglesby ISD.

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

Turnersville Cemetery meeting slated Dec. 12

Staff Reports

The Turnersville Cemetery Association will conduct its fourth quarterly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 12. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Turnersville Community Center.

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

ers, farmers, merchants, physicians, teachers, ministers, and military veterans among them.

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

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

Holiday sock drive underway

Staff Reports

The cheerleading team of Oglesby Independent School District will be hosting a holiday sock drive from Monday, Nov. 27, to Friday, Dec. 15.

A box will be placed in the foyer by 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.

The DISPATCH

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 29

1:28 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 36.

3:58 p.m., a hit and run was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 36.

5:49 p.m., family violence was reported in the 400 block of Coryell City Road.

Nov. 30

6:33 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 300 block of South Lovers Lane.

7:51 a.m., a hit & run was reported in the 2200 block of East Main Street.

1:51 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of South Lovers Lane.

6:12 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 600 block of South 14th Street.

Dec. 1

1:59 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1700 block of Saunders Street.

2:02 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1700 block of Straws Mill Road.

4:02 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Trails Private Drive.

4:59 p.m., criminal trespass was

reported in the 2200 block of East Main Street.

Dec. 2

8:33 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1800 block of East Main Street.

12:39 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 36.

2:30 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1700 block of East Main Street.

9:49 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.

Dec. 3

9:17 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of North 8th Street.

3:04 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2100 block of East Main Street.

4:03 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

7:48 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of North Lutterloh Avenue.

Dec. 4

9:15 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of South 6th Street.

2:32 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.

4:45 p.m., a reckless driver was

reported in the 5000 block of East Highway 84.

6:20 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of Business Highway 36.

Dec. 5

10:31 a.m., a gas leak/fire was reported in the 500 block of State School Road.

3:16 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Curry Drive.

4:03 p.m., a theft was reported in the 400 block of North State Highway 36 Bypass.

6:40 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2100 block of Waco Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Nov. 29

8:06 a.m., a welfare concern was reported on East Bound Highway 84 toward Evant.

8:24 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on South Highway 36 outside of Flat.

9:18 a.m., animal cruelty was reported on County Road 132.

9:18 a.m., a minor accident was reported on Hay Valley Road and Highway 36.

3:06 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2900 block of County Road 1337.

Nov. 30

7:16 a.m., a minor accident was reported near Perryman Creek and FM 116.

10:31 a.m., a theft was reported in the 4900 block of FM 116.

3:52 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 580.

3:57 p.m., suspicious activity was reported on County Road 142.

Dec. 1

10:19 a.m., a threat was reported in the 800 block of Greystone Drive.

2 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 1700 block of Straws Mill Road.

2:21 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of Cattle Drive.

8:12 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

Dec. 2

7:13 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 1500 block of Harmon Road.

8:37 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on Westbound Highway 84.

2:15 p.m., stalking was reported in the 800 block of Greystone Drive.

2:55 p.m., a dog bite was reported in the 4500 block of County Road 107.

Dec. 3

9:31 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1200 block of Straws Mill Road.

3:33 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1000 block of Lutheran Church Road.

6:22 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of East FM 931.

Dec. 4

8:14 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1800 block of FM 580.

8:29 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 4200 block of County Road 220.

12:16 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1100 block of Straws Mill Road.

1:30 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Westbound Highway 36.

Dec. 5

7:02 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 3400 block of County Road 318.

9:54 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 1000 block of Cas-sen Road.

11:06 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1300 block of County Road 338.

8:13 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2900 block of Poplar Drive.

Christmas is on display in Eldorado



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

There must be a million items in Jo Parker's Christmas display located in a downtown building in Eldorado. These include figures, nutcrackers, lighted houses, manger scenes, Christmas art on the walls, holiday items on tables and shelves, and a model train that runs around the Christmas tree. She calls it the Polar Express.

"This is actually a dream come true," she says. "I taught music in Eldorado schools for 44 years, and when I got ready to retire, my son, Shay, told me I needed something to do. He got this building for me, and now I can continue to share the joys of Christmas."

The building's door has Christmas decorations painted on it along with the words "Welcome to the Joys of Christmas." The display is not put away after Christmas. It stays up and is open every weekday all year long. People can go in and see the display in high summer. During Christmas time, Jo dresses up like Mrs. Claus,

and her husband, Bob, dons a Santa jacket, jeans, boots, and a black cowboy hat and calls himself the Texas Santa. He has a beard and looks the part. He tells kids he's a Santa scout looking for a place to feed the reindeer. He and Jo sit in big chairs near the entrance to welcome visitors.

A back wall of the building has an impressive collection of nutcrackers in different sizes. Some play music from The Nutcracker Ballet.

"I have 576 right now. Many of these are gifts from my students. One is from a student who's in Germany with the Army, and he sent me a nutcracker from over there. I've found a few in estate sales. I started collecting

these in 2000. I have several things all through the display that play various musical selections. Music is kind of my life."

She teaches piano, and plans are to have a piano in the building. She is not sure just how many Santas and snowmen she has. Some are hand-carved antiques.

"I have lots and lots of angels. My nativities are probably my favorite. I have over 200 of those. This all started with my mom when I was growing up. She made her own decorations and figures, and I have some of them on display. I made some, too."

Every square inch of space is used for the display. Shay says they might need to put

an addition on the building. He says everywhere a family member goes they pick up items to add to the collection.

"My mom used to have Christmas displays in her classrooms, and every year she would add new ones. There were boxes and boxes of them that we went through to set this up. It took a gooseneck trailer to haul the items to this building. School kids and other groups have field trips to come see this collection."

Jo retired in July of last year. It took from July to December to set up the display. There is no admission charge, and nothing is for sale.

Susan Merritt addresses the Morris Federation

BY MARSHA LEE

Contributing Writer

The Morris Federation met on Nov. 11, for a program entitled "The Art of Making Lace." It was presented by Susan Merritt of Aquilla, Texas. She said that she has been making lace for thirty years, mostly just because she enjoys it. She added that she is not a fast lace maker, and if she took into account the cost of materials used on a project as well as the amount of time she spent on the project, the price charged would probably seem "outrageous."

She became interested in lace making back in the 1990s, when T-shirts with Battenburg lace on the tops were popular. At that time, she lived in Dallas, where there was a mall nearby that had several specialty shops, and it required that vendors sell only items that were at least 75 percent handmade.

Sue became interested in lacemaking, and a lady who worked there started teaching her "tatting." Then, she taught Sue "Bobbinlace." She enrolled in several classes during the year and learned new styles of lacemaking.

There are different kinds of lace, which are often characterized by the region from which they originate, such as Chantilly lace (a city in northern France) or Val lace (also originat-

ing in France). Sue liked Italian lace, but her personal preference became "Buckspoint," a style from England, which was usually used on the edges of bridal veils. She brought several samples of various laces along with some items, such as pillows, on which the laces have been used.

Basically there are four ways to make lace: (1) Bobbin lace uses bobbins, pins, and fine threads to create some of the most beautiful types of lace; (2) Crochet, while not technically lace, it is possible to crochet in such a way that the fabric created is very much like lace; (3) Needle lace or needlepoint lace is a type of lace created with a needle and used in hand embroidery; and (4) Tatting creates a lace from a shuttle that is quite durable, made from loops and knots. As well as wedding dresses, the different types of lace have many uses. Just a few include bridal wear, eveningwear, casualwear, curtains, tablecloths, trims for bedding and pillowcases, and clergy items. One can use lace for an entire garment, as an insertion, a border, or an appliqued detail.

Merritt also explained and demonstrated making lace and tatting.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sue Merritt, of Aquilla, recently presented a program to the Morris Federation about the art of making lace.

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Our philosophy of serving our customers is simple: **Ease your day. And your mind.**



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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER WELCOMES QWIK PACK & SHIP



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Qwik Pack & Ship as one of its newest members with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Qwik Pack & Ship is a go-to resource for packing, shipping, printing, and business service needs of the residents and businesses within the community.

RIBBON CUTTING HELD AT REHABLIVING



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon cutting for RehabLiving. The facility includes a newly-built therapy wing and a rehabilitation wing, and has 16 private rooms with direct occupational, physical, and speech therapy access. The RehabLiving therapy wing is under the same roof as the hospital and medical clinic, providing peace of mind for families of patients who come after a hospital stay.

CHARLIE'S WAGS & WHISKERS JOINS CHAMBER



COURTESY PHOTO

Charlie's Wags N Whiskers was recently added as a new member to the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The center was established in August and encompasses an adoption and animal rescue center, a doggy daycare, offers boarding, a dog park, and a boutique for the animals named the Paw Bar Boutique. The facility is a 501 C non-profit organization, which means it is nontax deductible and runs entirely on donations alone.

HELPING HANDS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Helping Hands Housekeeping, as they are one of the newest members of the organization. Helping Hands Housekeeping serves Gatesville as well as surrounding counties.



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

Ring the bell with the Salvation Army this holiday season

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.

There are still opportunities to volunteer as a Salvation Army bell will-ringer this holiday season.

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>.



Polar Express event coming to Gatesville Visitors Depot

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will host a Polar Express themed evening for the community at the Visitors Depot on Monday, Dec. 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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 Visitors Depot is located at 2607 S. TX-36.

CLASSIFIEDS

018 **PETS**

FREE TO A GOOD HOME!
Australian Shepherd/boxer,
male, 4-months old, possibly
good stock dog with learning.
Call Bill or Shirley Burt at
254-248-1863. 00030509

Free abandoned puppies: Two
blue healer and two pyrenees.
Contact 254-654-0356. 00030528

037 **HELP WANTED**

Johnson Roofing is currently
hiring Experienced Commer-
cial Roofers, Experienced
Metal Framers Immediately.
\$500 Hiring Bonus after 1st
week of employment! Top
Pay and Benefits! Email resu-
mé lf Fuller@jroof.com 00030503

045 **SERVICES**

NOLTE'S CONSTRUCTION



Roads • Tanks • Driveways,
Septic Systems • Land Clearing
Building Pads • Trenching
254-432-1705
CELL 254-216-2938

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, lo-
cated at 1611 E. Main St.,
Gatesville TX 76528, is hav-
ing an online auction. The
property is being sold to sat-
isfy 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 JOHN-
STON, EDWINA NEWMAN,
STEPHANIE WILLIAMS.
Inventory: Household goods,
clothing, tools, and misc.
items. 00030504

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the
Texas Property Code, Ideal
Self Storage-Gatesville, lo-
cated 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 storage-
auctions.com beginning
Monday, December 18, 2023
at 11 A.M. Seller reserves the
right to withdraw any prop-
erty from the sale upon pay-
ment 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

**PUBLIC NOTICE FROM
CORYELL COUNTY ROAD
& BRIDGE DEPT., ATTEN-
TION CR 108 RESIDENTS:
BEGINNING WEDNES-
DAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023
THROUGH DECEMBER
11, 2023, PARTIAL ROAD
WILL BE CLOSED APPROX-
IMATELY 1 MILE
FROM HIGHWAY 36 AT
THE CREEK CROSSING.
ATTENTION CR 260 RESI-
DENTS: BEGINNING MON-
DAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023
THROUGH WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 27, 2023,
THE LOW WATER CROSS-
ING ON CR 260 WILL BE
CLOSED. PLEASE MAKE
PLANS ACCORDINGLY
AND THANK YOU FOR
YOUR COOPERATION.
CHRIS BUSTER, 254-223-
0254 00030513**

No. 23-10897
IN THE ESTATE OF LINDA
FAYE GRAHAM A/K/A
LINDA F. GRAHAM, DE-
CEASED
IN THE COUNTY COURT
OF

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamen-
tary for the Estate of Linda
Faye Graham a/k/a Linda F.
Graham, Deceased, were
issued on October 25, 2023,
in Cause No. 23-10897,
pending in the County Court
of Coryell County, Texas,
to: Charles L. Graham. All
persons having claims against
this Estate which is currently
being administered are re-
quired to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
BAIRD, CREWS, SCHIL-
LER, & WHITAKER, P.C.
c/o: STEPHEN T.
BRISCHKE, Attorney at Law
15 North Main Street, Tem-
ple, Texas 76501
DATED the 6th day of De-
cember, 2023.
BAIRD, CREWS, SCHIL-
LER, & WHITAKER, P.C.
STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE,
Attorney for Applicant
State Bar No.: 24045552
15 N. Main Street, Temple,
Texas 76501
Telephone: (254) 743-7311
Facsimile: (254) 774-9353
E-mail: stephenbrischke@bc-
swlaw.com 00030529

099 **PUBLIC NOTICES**

JENNIFER NEWTON,

CLERK OF THE COUNTY
COURT; P.O. BOX 237
GATESVILLE, TEXAS
76528. ATTORNEY OR
PERSON FILING CAUSE,
GARRET L. BEACH, 3501
W. WACO DR, WACO, TX
76710. TO: MICHAEL RAY
WALTER, DECEDENT'S
UNKNOWN HEIRS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
UNKNOWN STATE
THE STATE OF TEXAS:
TO ALL PERSONS INTER-
ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF
ALTA FAYE WALTER, DE-
CEASED, CAUSE NO 23-
10885, COUNTY COURT
OF CORYELL COUNTY,
TEXAS. SHELLEY BEES-
LEY FILED IN THE COUN-
TY 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 MON-
DAY NEXT AFTER THE
EXPIRATION OF TEN
DAYS FROM DATE POST-
ING THIS CITATION, THE
SAME BEING THE 11TH
DAY OF DECEMBER 2023,
AT THE COUNTY COURT-
HOUSE IN GATESVILLE,
TEXAS. TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN SAID ES-
TATE 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 CON-
TESTING SUCH APPLI-
CATION SHOULD THEY
DESIRE TO DO SO. GIVEN
UNDER THE HAND AND
THE SEAL OF THE COUN-
TY COURT OF CORYELL
COUNTY IN GATESVILLE,
TEXAS THE 29TH DAY OF
NOVEMBER 2023.
JENNIFER NEWTON, CO-
RYELL COUNTY CLERK,
CORYELL COUNTY, TEX-
AS
BY: A. KORNEGAY 00030523

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Stanley Todd
Callaway, Deceased, were
issued on 10-31-23, in Cause
No. 23-10902, pending in the
County Court-at-Law of Cory-
ell County, Texas, to: Bil-
lie Jo Callaway. All persons
having claims against this
Estate which is currently
being administered are re-
quired to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
c/o: Dori Ray Mystic, At-
torney at Law, 907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522.
DATED the 1st day of Dec.,
2023. Dori Ray Mystic, At-
torney for Billie Jo Callaway.
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas
Cove, TX 76522. Telephone:
(254) 547-6000, Facsimile:
(254) 547-4157, E-mail:
doriraymistic@hotmail.com
00030526

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of David Quen-
tin Twigg, Deceased, were
issued on 11-22-23, in cause
No. 23-10916, pending in the
County Court-at-Law of Cory-
ell County, Texas, to: Quin-
ten Alex Twigg. All persons
having claims against this
Estate which is currently
being administered are re-
quired to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
c/o: Dori Ray Mystic, At-
torney at Law, 907 S. Main St.,
Copperas Cove, TX 76522.
DATED the 1st day of Dec.,
2023. Dori Ray Mystic, At-
torney for Quinten Alex Twigg.
State Bar No.: 04091800. 907
S. Main St., Copperas Cove,
TX 76522. Telephone: (254)
547-6000, Facsimile: (254)
547-4157
E-mail: doriraymistic@hot-
mail.com 00030527

099 **PUBLIC NOTICES**

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The City Council of the City of Gatesville, in
the Regular Meeting held on November 14, 2023 did pass and ap-
prove on the third and final reading the following ordinance: ORDI-
NANCE NUMBER 2023-06: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF
GATESVILLE, TEXAS, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-
23 BUDGET OF THE CITY OF GATESVILLE TO ALLOW FOR
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND
EXPENDITURES OF SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND
DOLLARS (\$730,000); AND ALLOWING FOR ADJUSTMENTS
TO THE AIRPORT FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
(\$117,000); DECLARING A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE; PROVID-
ING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR AN OPEN
MEETINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE. The City Council of the City of Gatesville, in a Special Meet-
ing held on November 30, 2023 did pass and approve on the third
and final reading the following ordinance: ORDINANCE NUMBER
2023-08: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GATESVILLE,
TEXAS ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE
CITY OF GATESVILLE, TEXAS, 135.03 ACRES SITUATED IN
THE WILLIAM SUGGETT SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 912, CO-
RYELL COUNTY, TEXAS, AS WELL AS BY OPERATION OF
STATE LAW, THE PORTION OF THE ABUTTING COUNTY
ROAD, OLD PIDCOKE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ON
EITHER SIDE; THEREOF; EXTENDING THE BOUNDARY LIM-
ITS OF THE CITY SO TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE CITY'S LIM-
ITS SAID ANNEXED PROPERTY AND ABUTTING COUNTY
ROAD, OLD PIDCOKE RD; GRANTING ALL INHABITANTS
AND OWNERS OF THE ANNEXED PROPERTY ALL OF THE
RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF OTHER CITIZENS; BINDING
THE INHABITANTS OF THE ANNEXED PROPERTY BY ALL
THE ACTS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CITY;
ADOPTING A SERVICE PLAN FOR THE ANNEXED PROP-
ERTY; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A
SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
DATE. Complete text of these ordinances are available for inspection
during regular business hours, at City Hall, 803 E. Main Street. Wendy
Cole, City Secretary 00030524

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Norma V. Crawford,
Deceased, were issued on 11-1-23, in Cause No. 23-10901,
pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Tex-
as, to: Desiree J. Crawford. All persons having claims against
this Estate which is currently being administered are re-
quired to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the
manner prescribed by law. c/o: Dori Ray Mystic, Attorney at
Law; 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522. DATED the
1st day of Dec., 2023. Dori Ray Mystic, Attorney for Desiree
J. Crawford. State Bar No.: 04091800. 907 S. Main St., Cop-
peras Cove, TX 76522. Telephone: (254) 547-6000, Facsimile:
(254) 547-4157, E-mail: doriraymistic@hotmail.com 00030525

099 **PUBLIC NOTICES**

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TO THE AIRPORT FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
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THE WILLIAM SUGGETT SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 912, CO-
RYELL COUNTY, TEXAS, AS WELL AS BY OPERATION OF
STATE LAW, THE PORTION OF THE ABUTTING COUNTY
ROAD, OLD PIDCOKE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ON
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ITS OF THE CITY SO TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE CITY'S LIM-
ITS SAID ANNEXED PROPERTY AND ABUTTING COUNTY
ROAD, OLD PIDCOKE RD; GRANTING ALL INHABITANTS
AND OWNERS OF THE ANNEXED PROPERTY ALL OF THE
RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF OTHER CITIZENS; BINDING
THE INHABITANTS OF THE ANNEXED PROPERTY BY ALL
THE ACTS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CITY;
ADOPTING A SERVICE PLAN FOR THE ANNEXED PROP-
ERTY; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A
SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
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manner prescribed by law. c/o: Dori Ray Mystic, Attorney at
Law; 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522. DATED the
1st day of Dec., 2023. Dori Ray Mystic, Attorney for Desiree
J. Crawford. State Bar No.: 04091800. 907 S. Main St., Cop-
peras Cove, TX 76522. Telephone: (254) 547-6000, Facsimile:
(254) 547-4157, E-mail: doriraymistic@hotmail.com 00030525

NOW HIRING



- Occupational Therapist – FT
- RN – FT & PRN; All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
- LVN – FT & PRN; All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
- CNA/NA – FT All Shifts

- CMA/CNA – FT All Shifts
CNA Class starts 01/04/2023:
Apply today for Paid Certified
Nurse Aide class with on-the-job
training!

****FULL TIME SIGN ON BONUS MAY BE AVAILABLE WITH
ONE YEAR COMMITMENT FOR SPECIFIC AREA'S LVNS,
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- ▶ 5 ac. 4/2 brick home, 1960 CR 158 Evant, fireplace, open floor plan, recently re-modeled 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 Purlmela, 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 Purlmela, 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
- ▶ 179.562 ac. 1.6 miles South of Gatesville, TX FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. \$1,166,255
- ▶ 199.86 ac. 4/2 Manufactured Home, 1805



Country Music

COURTESY PHOTO

Gent Mountain Grassburs set to perform

Submitted item

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame is proud to welcome the Gent Mountain Grassburs to the Gatesville City Auditorium stage on Friday, Dec. 15, for a free concert, which will begin at 7 p.m. The Gent Mountain Grassburs are a Bluegrass band from East Texas, comprised of three brothers who enjoy playing, singing, and visiting with the audience. Over the last four years, they have performed at venues across the country. They

entertain audiences with their high energy and sibling harmony. The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame seeks to provide good, wholesome music with a family-oriented flavor at our free concerts held at The Gatesville City Auditorium Stage located at 110 N 8th St. in Gatesville on the third Friday each month. The doors open at 6:45 p.m., and the show with the Country Sounds Band will kick off the festivities at 7 p.m. Free parking will be available across the street at the library.

2nd annual gifting table by Spur Nutrition



Staff Reports

Spur Nutrition is providing the community with its second annual gift table. The items donated are either new or close to new, and the table includes women's and children's clothing, toys, baby items, games, and books, which are completely

free to the community. Donations that are most needed at the moment include adult items such as body washes and hygiene products. The last day to donate or to pick up a gift will be Sunday, Dec. 31. Spur Nutrition is located at 103 S. 7th Street in Gatesville.



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MOTHER NEFF STATE PARK DEDICATION CEREMONY

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

ROOTS

FROM PAGE A1

What a special park. We're celebrating 100 years of state parks, and this is really special to have this honor at Mother Neff State Park—the park that really started the legacy of outdoor recreation in Texas.”

Franklin continued, “We are able to see

further today because we're standing on the shoulders of giants that came before us, and Governor Pat Neff certainly had a vision for a Texas that was dotted with state parks across the Texas landscape, and its truly an honor for me, the staff, and the volunteers that take care of this place for generations yet to come.”

Coryell County Judge Roger Miller was also in attendance at the ceremony. Miller com-

mented, “What a tremendous honor it is to be able to attend the ceremony of a century, and what I think is more important is the legacy of the Neff family, which established the Genesis of the Texas State Park System, which is arguably the most extensive state park system in the nation.”

Miller continued, “It's also a tremendous honor to have Governor Neff's great-granddaughter, Gretchen Neff Watson, here with

us today and to see the support of the community to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the park system as well as the birthplace of the state park system.”

Gretchen Neff Watson summed up her visit to the park by saying, “I am so proud that the Neff family's legacy continues to grow in Coryell County and in the great State of Texas.”



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gretchen Neff Watson, great-granddaughter of Governor Pat Neff, attended the 100-year celebration at Mother Neff State Park with her son, Alex Watson, and her grandson, Case Watson



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mother Neff State Park superintendent Melissa Chadwick poses with Gretchen Neff Watson after the unveiling of the historical marker.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left to right, Alex Watson, Gretchen Neff Watson, Case Watson, Mike Pixler of the CCC Legacy Chapter, State Park Director Rodney Franklin, and MNSP Superintendent Melissa Chadwick.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The recently restored historical marker at Mother Neff State Park, which has been moved next to the visitor's center.

Members of the Coryell County Historical Commission joined by county judge, Roger Miller. From left, David Scott, Janis Barnhill, Danny Corbett, Tiffany Butler, Judge Roger Miller, and Gretchen Neff Watson.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER





TOM NORRELL | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Oglesby players pose while celebrating a trip to the state football championship game.

Oglesby advances to state championship

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers made their mark on Saturday, Dec. 2 in Dublin, by defeating the 13-0 Richland Springs Coyotes, 62-48 in the state semifinal game.

The Tigers advanced to their first ever state football championship. Great play calling by the coaches and stellar play on both defense and offense propelled the Tigers into the state championship game. The 13-0 Tigers will play the 14-0 Benjamin Mustangs for the 1A Division II State Championship on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at the AT&T Dallas Cow-

boys Stadium. Tickets can be purchased online, or you can contact Oglesby ISD for more information.

Offensively for the Tigers Saturday night, work horse Tyler Fossett had his usual outstanding game, with 23 carries for 284 yards rushing, 32 yards passing, three kickoff returns for 158 yards, a total of 442 total yards for the night, and seven touchdowns for 42 points. Edward Aviles, Jr., made his return to the game from injuries, to rack up 91 yards on four carries, including his longest 56-yard touchdown run, two pass receptions for six yards, for

a total of 97 yards on the night. Quarterback Hunter Walters was 2-of-4 passing for 82 yards and one touchdown, three receptions for nine yards, for a total of 91 yards. Landon Williamson had one reception on a quick pass that he ran 79 yards for a touchdown. Because of his breakaway speed, the Coyotes soon realized they had no one that could catch him to the end zone. Johnny Gomez had two carries for eight yards. Jack Hendricks, one catch for three yards. Alex Castillo was 4-of-9 on PATS for eight points.

Defensively for the Tigers, Jack Hendricks, had his best

game of the year racking up 16 tackles and one fumble recovery. Johnny Gomez also had a stellar performance on defense, grabbing 13 tackles. Landon Williamson had 12 tackles, one fumble recovery, and one forced fumble for an outstanding night on defense. Jaxon Tippit had seven tackles, one fumble recovery. Edward Aviles Jr., seven tackles. Tyler Fossett, seven tackles. Alex Castillo, five tackles. Joel Gonzales had three tackles. Hunter Walters, one tackle.

This was the Tigers' best defensive performance of the year.

Gatesville hoops continue solid start, take third in Salado tourney



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Clockwise from top left: Amos Phillips, Kase Cox, Rayshon Smith, and West Allman led Gatesville to a third place finish.

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

A 4-1, third place showing in the Coach Smith Tournament in Salado has the Gatesville boys' basketball team off to an 8-2 start as they prepare for another round of tournament play this weekend in Cameron.

The Hornets, champions of the Coach Smith Tournament a year ago, beat Pflugerville, Austin Royals, Rockdale, and Bandera and fell to 4A No. 12 Krum.

In the tournament opener, the Hornets topped 5A Pflugerville 65-62 in a rematch of last year's tournament championship game. Gatesville trailed 17-8 after one quarter but charged back to take a 29-26 halftime lead then held on in a back-and-forth second half to secure the win.

The Hornets shot 21-of-30 from the foul line in the win, led by West Allman's 10-for-14 effort. Allman had 18 points and eight rebounds in the win. Kase Cox had 17 points, while Charlie Winkler knocked down four three-pointers on his way to a 15-point night.

The 69-33 rout of Austin Royals was over by halftime as the Hornets led 24-8 after the first quarter and 41-17 at the half. Allman led the scoring with 22 points, while Cox added 16. Amos Phillips had his best game since joining the team from football with 10 points and five rebounds. Graceson Stewart had seven rebounds, and Winkler added two more three-pointers in the win.

Rayshon Smith turned in his best game of the season so far with 18 points and seven rebounds in a 69-39 win over Rockdale. Smith was a perfect 3-for-3 from beyond the three-point line and took the Hornets only charge of the game. It was one of eight Smith took in the tournament giving him 10 through eight games played. Last season, Smith set a school-record with 48 charges taken in 36 games.

Allman had 16 points in the win, while Cox chipped in 10. Phillips turned in an 8-point, six-rebound game and Winkler led with four assists.

In a 74-43 loss to No. 12 Krum, anything that could go wrong for the Hornets did. They shot just 29% from the field, missed all nine of their three-point attempts, and hit just 15-of-28 foul shots. On the contrary, Krum knocked down 11 of their 26 three-point attempts.

Cox shined for Gatesville in the loss with 13 points and four rebounds while Smith was the only other Hornets in double digits with 11 points.

In the third-place game, the Hornets bounced back with a 56-42 win over a solid Bandera squad. Cox starred again in the win by picking up a 14-point, 13-rebound double double. Allman led in scoring with 17 points and had nine rebounds, while Stewart collected nine rebounds of his own.

Gatesville outrebounded Bandera 57-35, and the Bulldogs shot an astounding 3-for-32 from the three-point line in the loss.

Through 10 games, Allman leads the Hornets with 19.2 points per game and 7.2 rebounds per game. Cox is averaging 11.7 points and 5.9 rebounds, while Smith is the leading assist man at two per game.

The Hornets are holding their opponents to an average of 50.2 points per game and forcing just under 20 turnovers per game.

Gatesville was off on Dec. 5 and travels to the Cameron Yoe Tournament in Cameron Dec. 7-9. They will face Hempstead in the opener, the Aussie Travelers in game two, then play Lake Belton in their final game of pool play.



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

From left: Taylor Coward, Emma Pollard, Taylor Sanderson contributed to the Gatesville success in the Glen Rose tournament.

Gatesville girls finish fourth in Glen Rose, top McGregor in close road game

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

The Gatesville girls' basketball team upped their record to 6-4 with a 41-38 road win over McGregor on Dec. 5, three days after a fourth place showing at the Lions Club Tournament in Glen Rose.

In Glen Rose, Gatesville opened pool play with a 41-39 win over 3A No. 23 Bushland. The Lady Hornets opened up a 33-27 lead heading into the fourth quarter, then held off a Bushland rally to pick up the win.

Gatesville led 40-34 late before Bushland cut the lead to 40-39, but Taylor Coward knocked down a free throw with 8 seconds left to give the Lady Hornets a 41-39 lead. Bushland had two point-blank attempts to tie the game as time ran out, but both shots were swatted away by Emma Pollard.

The blocks were the last highlight of a monster night for the sophomore Pollard. She scored 19 points, had 14 re-

bounds, and blocked eight shots. Coward had nine points and six rebounds in the win.

Game two was a 48-20 win over the Glen Rose JV that was highlighted by the three-point sharpshooting of Taylor Sanderson. The sophomore guard buried five three-pointers in the first half on her way to 15 points in the game.

The Lady Hornets turned a 9-8 deficit into a 29-11 halftime lead thanks to a 21-2 run covering the second quarter. Pollard had 13 points and eight rebounds, while Coward snagged eight rebounds of her own.

The pool play win meant a bracket draw that resembled San Antonio in March. The Lady Hornets fell to 4A No. 2 Glen Rose in the first game of bracket play, then lost to 3A No. 7 Rains in the third-place game.

In the loss to Glen Rose, the Lady Hornets committed 33 turnovers. Coward led in scoring and rebounding in the

game with five points and five boards. The Hornets struggled with Rains' pressure in the third-place game loss but did have the rebounding advantage 28-27.

The Lady Hornets never trailed in their win over McGregor as they took down the Lady Bulldogs for the second time this season.

The 6-4 start to the season is the best start to a Gatesville girls' season since the 2019-2020 season. In 2020, Gatesville won eight games and then four in 2021. Last season, Kim Chaffin's first as head coach, Gatesville was 7-9 heading into the Christmas break before injuries decimated their backcourt and derailed their season, and the Lady Hornets finished 8-21.

Gatesville travels to Jarrell for another round of tournament play Dec. 7-9 and then hosts the Lady Cougars on Dec. 12 in what will be their first home game in 22 days.



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In this section
Christmas on Marshall Street
Page B8



PHOTOS BY GLADYS WHITTENBURG

The Gatesville High School Wrestling team competed in various matches over the weekend. In girls wrestling, Gatesville High School defeated Killeen Independent School District 5-2 and lost to Georgetown ISD 5-2. Hannah Aguilar was 2-0, with a 10-second pin. In boys wrestling, Gatesville High School tied with Georgetown ISD 5-5 and lost to Killeen ISD 5-4. Cameron Baker, Zavier Clater, and Joseph Whitfield were 2-0.

Gatesville High School cheerleaders receive Academic All-District

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School cheerleading team recently received the announcement that seven students on the team made Academic All-District. The following students received Academic

All-District: Paisley Wells, Natalie Fast, Anna Phillips, Jahaziel Martinez, Addison Martinez, Madisan Heimback, Mary Trejo. For more information on the Gatesville High School cheerleading team, contact hredford@gatesvilleisd.org.

Oglesby JH Ladies fall to Abbott

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Lady Tigers fell to the Abbott Lady Panthers by the score of 34-7. In Abbott, the Lady Tigers were never able to get their offense on tract for the evening. They did, however, have bright spots throughout the evening on defense. Delaney

Marfa, high point for the girls with five points and four rebounds, and Cierra Ingram scored only other points, dropping in two points. Makenzie Wright had two rebounds and two steals. Adelyn Gomez had one steal. Scarlet Aaron had two rebounds and one steal. The Oglesby Lady Tigers will host the Waco Vanguard girls on Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.

Oglesby JH hoops defeat Abbott

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Tiger A Team defeated the Abbott Panthers A Team by a score of 34 to 32. The Tigers started out cold in the first quarter but came to life in the second quarter. Number 23, Holdyn Goff, was high point for the Tigers, scoring 21 points, 12 rebounds for a double/double, one steal, and one assist. Number 11,

Evan Williamson, had 11 points, four rebounds, one assist, and one steal. Number 15, Caiden Brinkley, had two rebounds, one steal, and one assist. Number 13, Blayze Fisher, had one assist, one steal, and three rebounds. The Tigers remain undefeated at 3-0 and will host Vanguard on Monday, Dec. 11.

The Oglesby Tigers junior high boys' basketball B team beat Abbott junior high boys

B team by the score of 13 to 11 in Abbott Texas. AJ Marfa was the top scorer for the Tigers with seven points, four rebounds, and one blocked shot. Brody Martinez had four points, two rebounds, and two steals, rounding out the scoring for the Tigers. Ashton Thompson dropped in two points, two rebounds, and one steal. The B team Tigers record is now 2-0.

Martinez to represent Jonesboro ISD at Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District has made an announcement that Varsity Cheerleader Michella Martinez will represent the school and Varsity Spirit in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii from Monday, Dec. 4 through Saturday, Dec. 9.

Varsity Spirit is a global leader in the cheerleading world with dance team and band apparel, camps and competitions, and a division of varsity brands.

Cheerleaders and dancers who are invited to perform in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade are part of a select group of All-Americans identified at Varsity Spirit summer camps across the country. All-Americans are based on superior cheerleading or dance skills as well as leadership skills at camps operated by the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA), the Universal Dance Association (UDA), the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA), the National Dance Alliance (NDA), the United Spirit Association (USA), or the Urban Cheerleading Experience (UCE).

Jonesboro High School attended the UCA at home this past June where Martinez was selected as an All-American. Only the top 12 percent of cheerleaders and dancers from Varsity Spirit camps earn the chance to participate in a performance of this caliber.

"We are thrilled that these excellent athletes will have the chance to perform and experience our Special Events in Honolulu, Hi," President of Varsity Spirit Bill Seely said. "We are honored to provide them a one-of-a-kind opportunity, where they will meet and connect with cheerleaders and dancers from across the country and create memorable ex-

periences in the beautiful island of Oahu."

Martinez will perform with the Varsity Spirit All-Americans in the parade before thousands of fans lining the streets of Waikiki Beach. This trip marks the 82nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The parade's theme is remembering the past and celebrating our future, where veterans and their families will be honored as well as recognizing that once bitter enemies can become loyal friends and allies.

The Varsity Spirit All-American program is celebrating over 30 years of honoring camp standouts.

Varsity Spirit is Memphis-based and is the driving force behind cheerleading's dynamic transformation into the high-energy, athletic activity it is today. Focused on safety, entertainment, and leadership, Varsity Spirit's employees have been dedicated to serving its brands since 1974.



Martinez

CONGRATULATIONS, JONESBORO!



Jonesboro lost to the Gordon Longhorns in the state semifinals, 54-8.

Congratulations on a great season, Jonesboro!

GOOD LUCK, OGLESBY!

Oglesby beat Richland Springs in the state semifinals, 62-48

State Finals Game:

Oglesby Tigers

vs.

Benjamin Mustangs

Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m.

Benjamin High School



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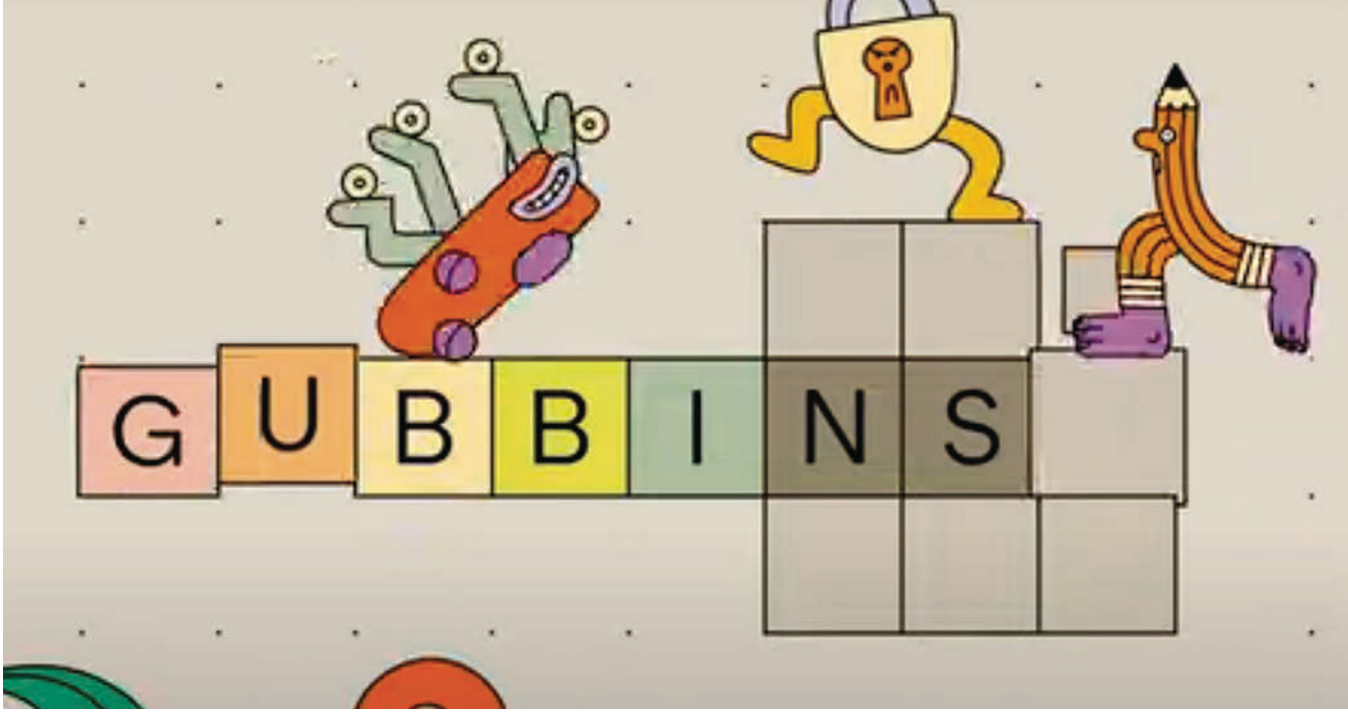
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Gubbins

It's a word game!



BY JENNIFER HARRISON

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

I've followed Hank Green on YouTube for years, so when he recommended a word game the other day, I got my phone out and installed it immediately.

Gubbins is a word game that could be called 'Scrabble-adjacent.' Words can be built vertically or horizontally with a random selection of letter tiles. Unlike Scrabble, when a word is found, it can be selected and removed. Gubbins are "weird little pals" who either help you or hinder your puzzle solving. Rainbows with six eyes, mushrooms with eyes and legs, lightning bolts with muscular arms, trumpets with four legs and arms, all done in a retro style that looks like a combination of Peter Max posters and cartoon characters from the Beatles' Yellow Submarine. When your game is over, you can make postcards with the words you've used that day in the puzzles, plus cute little stickers and backgrounds.

Created by Studio Folly, Gubbins began as a small game that Darcy

Smith and his partner, Jess Shipard, created together. In a post on Reddit, Smith says he was working with game developers back in 2020, but when the pandemic hit, opportunities dried up. Shipard suggested, "Why don't we try and make something small?"

Shipard is a graphic designer, so already had that design sensibility, and Smith had the digital skills, so after the success of Scrabble and Words with Friends, they decided that a word game would be a good project to collaborate on.

Their focus was simple - create a game that's fun for non-gamers, no time-sensitive dexterity inputs, and a concentration on quality rather than making a large game. At that time there was very little innovation in word games, so it seemed like the perfect project.

In 2021, Wordle came out and was very popular, and its success confirmed that there was still plenty of appetite for a word game. But designing and developing a game can be highly stressful, and they ran out of money several times. Much of their funding came from games production and development grants from VicScreen, the primary games funding body in the state of Victoria, Australia. More was made available from Screen

Australia, the country-wide games funding body.

But money was still tight, and it was difficult to convince game publishers to take risks on new games, especially ones without a lot of funding.

Then Hank Green came along. After Smith posted a Tik Tok video about Gubbins (mainly to test out his new microphone), Hank Green contacted him and wanted to know more about the game. He offered to purchase 10 percent of Gubbins, and in exchange 10 percent of the profits would go toward reducing child and maternal death in Sierra Leone via Partners in Health. Smith and Shipard were thrilled with the offer and took him up on it immediately. It gave them the funds to get the game up on the App Store.

Gubbins is super simple to play and addictive. Players can play one free game a day. There are in-game purchases, but no advertising. For only \$5.99, you can play as many times as you want, without limits.

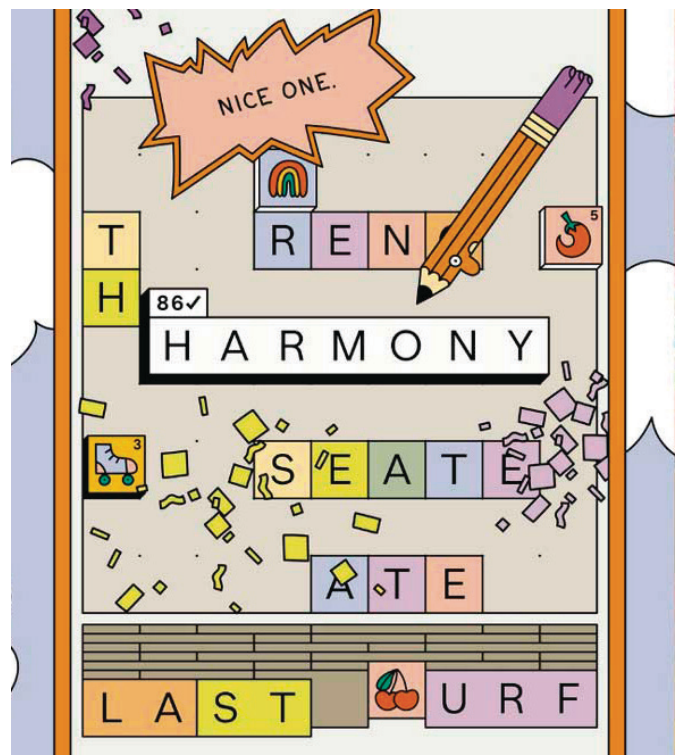
If you like Wordle and other online word games, you'll love Gubbins. Download "Gubbins - A Word Game" on your phone's App store today.

12-POINT BUCK



COURTESY PHOTO

Allison Heiner poses with her 12-point buck she shot on her grandparents' ranch in southeastern Coryell County. Allison, daughter of Duane and Shannon Heiner, of Oglesby, is a junior at McGregor High School. She is a granddaughter of Clarence and Donna Heiner.



Gubbins game play

CORYELL Kids

National Pastry Day

December 9



Hey little chefs! Today, we're diving into the world of baking with a super simple and scrumptious recipe for Chocolate Chip Muffins. But before we put on our chef hats and

aprons, here's a special tip: always ask a grown-up for their help and permission in the kitchen. Cooking can be a fantastic adventure, but it's important to have a grown-up helper by your

side to make sure everything goes safely. So, grab your favorite mixing bowl and let's get ready to create some delightful, chocolatey muffins together!

EASY CHOCOLATE CHIP MUFFINS

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- A pinch of salt
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips

Instructions:

Preheat the Oven

Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C). Ask an adult for help if needed.

Prepare the Muffin Tin

Place paper liners in a muffin tin or lightly grease the cups with a little butter.

Mix Dry Ingredients

In a big bowl, mix the flour, sugar, baking powder, and a pinch of salt. Stir them together with a spoon.

Combine Wet Ingredients

In another bowl, mix the melted butter, milk, egg, and vanilla extract. Stir until it's all mixed up.

Combine Wet and Dry

Pour the wet ingredients into the bowl with the dry ingredients. Stir until just combined. Be careful not to overmix.

Add Chocolate Chips

Gently fold in the chocolate chips. Save a few to sprinkle on top!

Fill the Muffin Cups

Spoon the batter into the muffin cups, filling each about 2/3 full.

Bake

Ask an adult to help you put the muffin tin in the preheated oven. Bake for about 15-18 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Cool and Enjoy

Let the muffins cool in the tin for a few minutes, then transfer them to a wire rack. Once they're cool, you're ready to enjoy your homemade chocolate chip muffins! Yum!

Remember to clean up your cooking space with the help of an adult. Happy baking!



Pastries

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

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. dough | 2. pastry | 3. bake | 4. scone |
| 5. cream | 6. eclair | 7. macaron | 8. kolache |
| 9. strudel | 10. danish | | |

A pastry is like a yummy hug made of dough, butter, and magic. It can be sweet or savory, and it comes in lots of tasty shapes and sizes. Think of croissants, cookies, or even pies - they're

all part of the pastry family! So, next time you bite into something deliciously flaky or sweet, you might just be enjoying a delightful pastry creation!



tart

open pastry containing a filling



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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Smith stuns UTRGV at buzzer as Texans win WAC home opener

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Jakorie Smith beat the buzzer from behind the arc to give the Texans a thrilling 77-75 win over the UTRGV Vaqueros on Saturday afternoon in Wisdom Gym.

Fans were on their feet when Smith's shot heard round the 'Ville dropped through the twine in Tarleton's first game-winning buzzer beat as a D1 program. The Texans (6-2 overall, 2-0 WAC) became the first team in the conference to notch two wins this season and the first time in to start Western Athletic Conference play, 2-0. UTRGV (2-7, 0-2) sat stunned after going the length of the court for a lay-up to take a 75-74 lead with 4.1 ticks remaining.

With 4.1 seconds remaining, coach Joseph Jones was pleading for a timeout almost reaching half court trying to get any of the referees' attention. Thankfully, he didn't. Devon Barnes drove the backcourt and found Smith to his left about five feet from the three-point line. Cool and collected, Smith elevated over a Vaquero and the ball left his hands with 1.6 seconds on the clock. Wisdom Gym seemed to move in slow motion for the next few moments before his ball swished through the twine and the red lights illuminated on the board signifying the Texans had won. Pandemonium ensued with the Purple and White surrounding Smith in front of the broadcast table. After a debate, 0.1 seconds was put on the clock, but UTRGV was unable to catch the inbound pass, and Texan



COURTESY PHOTO

Jakorie Smith beat the buzzer from behind the arc to give the Texans a thrilling 77-75 win over the UTRGV Vaqueros on Saturday afternoon in Wisdom Gym.

nation erupted!

"It felt great!" said Smith after the game. "I shoot shots like that all the time, it felt like it was going in... It was a heavyweight fight, they'd throw a knockout punch then we'd throw one. It just happened that I threw the last one."

"We pride ourselves on never giving up, and fighting until the end, and the guys did a great job of doing that tonight," said Jones after the buzzer beater.

Smith, KiAndre Gaddy, Emmanuel Innocenti, Lue Williams and Devon Barnes became the first starting five to each score in double-figures in a single game in Tarleton's Division I era.

Gaddy posted his third double-double of the season

and almost the first triple-double in Texan history. The senior ended the night with 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven blocks. His seven blocks ties for third most all-time in program history, behind Vincent Bridgewater and Bobby Davis who each recorded eight in 2003 and 2005, respectively.

Despite just having two points in the first half, Smith rallied for 15 in the second session including the game-winner. He was a perfect four-for-four from the line and led the team with three steals.

Innocenti tied his Texan career high with 11 points while shooting 50% from the floor. Williams added 11 to go with five boards and two blocks. Barnes rounded out the starters with 10 points and a

team-high five assists.

In a half that saw nine lead changes, Innocenti made noise in the first minute for the Texans capitalizing with a dunk following Smith's steal on an errant Vaqueros pass. UTRGV responded with an 8-2 run to take the lead for the first time in the game. Just before the under-16 media break, Gaddy picked a Vaqueros' pocket and took it coast-to-coast to bring the Texans within a bucket.

Trailing 17-12, Innocenti sparked a 6-0 Texan run scoring four points in less than a minute to give the Texans the lead for the first time since the opening bucket. After a UTRGV response made basket, the Texans rattled off another six-straight points to take a 24-19 lead, on a 12-2

burst.

The Vaqueros used a 6-0 run of their own followed by a pair of threes to take a 36-32 lead with just over two minutes to play in the half. With a minute remaining, Lue Williams hit the Texans' first three of the half to tie the game at 37. The Vaqueros made a three in rebuttal on the next possession to take a 40-37 lead into the break. The halftime lead marks the first time UTRGV has led on the road this season.

The second half kept illustrating how back-and-forth the game truly was. In total the game featured 26 lead changes and 17 ties. Innocenti came out of the half hot, sinking a three across from the Texans bench to tie the game for the eighth time

at 40. Foul trouble became an issue for the Texans in the second half. With six minutes to play, Gaddy picked up his fourth foul. He joined Benjamin, Williams and Innocenti with four fouls already, who were forced to take time off the floor.

Smith sunk a pair of free throws at the 4:08 mark to give all five Texan starters double-digit scoring totals for the first time in Tarleton's D1 era.

With 2:04 remaining, UTRGV held its biggest lead of the half, 73-68. The Texans responded with a Gaddy lay-up and a pair of made free throws by Smith to cut the deficit to one, with 1:12 remaining. After a crucial stop, Jakorie Smith drove the lane with 31 ticks on the clock to put the Texans up, 74-73. On the ensuing possession, the Vaqueros held the ball at the top of the key waiting to make their move. With 10 seconds remaining Hasan Abdul-Hakim made a charge toward the basket where he found the bottom of the net to give the Vaqueros a 75-74 advantage with 4.15 seconds remaining.

Then, Smith turned the game into one of the best games of all time in Wisdom Gym, hitting the Texans' first game-winning three-pointer at the buzzer in the D1 era.

The Texans won the turnover battle, 17-14 and the battle of the boards, 37-33. Tarleton shot 45.2 percent from the floor (28-for-62) and only missed five from the charity stripe (18-for-23).

Texans dominate 3rd quarter to win WAC road opener at Vaqueros

Tarleton State University

EDINBURG — Tarleton State made a double-digit comeback on Saturday, Dec. 2, outrebounding University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 48-32 to win its Western Athletic Conference road opener.

The Texans (2-4, 1-1 WAC) snapped a four-game skid with a 72-66 victory over the Vaqueros (0-7, 0-2 WAC) at UTRGV Fieldhouse in Edinburg.

After trailing 34-25 at the break, Tarleton State came out firing in the third, making 8-of-13 (.615) from the field, 3-of-5 (.600) from distance and 7-of-8 (.875) from the free throw line. They doubled up the Vaqueros in the third 26-13.

"I'm so proud of our team's effort today and their work ethic in the second half to overcome a nine-point half-time deficit," head coach Bill

Brock said. "I'm very thankful we finished the week 1-1 in conference play."

Tarleton freshman Faith Acker followed up her impressive collegiate debut on Wednesday with a team-high 20 points on 8-of-14 shooting and eight rebounds. Through two games, the true freshman is averaging 18.0 points and 7.5 rebounds.

Elise Turrubiates scored 12 of her 14 points in the fourth quarter, shooting 6-of-10 on the day, adding eight rebounds. Teresa Da Silva powered the bench with 14 points, seven rebounds and three assists. Tyler Jackson added 10 points, six rebounds and two assists.

The Texans have now evened the all-time series against UTRGV 4-4, including a 2-2 mark in Edinburg.

There were four lead changes and four ties in this one, but it was the Vaqueros in

control most of the first half. The Texans held a 6-5 lead and didn't lead again until the third, although the deficit was marginal throughout. The Vaqueros led 17-14 after the first, then quickly built a nine-point lead, 23-14 with 7:41 to play in the second. The Texans held UTRGV to just 11-of-34 (.324) shooting in the first half, but went without a three-pointer in the first 20 minutes, trailing by nine at the break, 34-25.

The Vaqueros led by as many as 10 before the Texans went to work. They went on a 6-0 spurt to cut it to four, then later went on a 14-2 run to jump ahead by five 49-44 with 1:17 left. Da Silva scored eight points in the run. Tarleton led 51-47 after three.

Turrubiates began her takeover of the fourth early and gave the Texans their largest lead of the day at nine, 58-49 with 8:01 remaining. UTRGV



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State made a double-digit comeback on Saturday, Dec. 2, outrebounding University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 48-32 to win its Western Athletic Conference road opener.

never got closer than four back, finishing on a 1-of-7 (.143) clip from distance in the final frame.

The Texans outshot their opponent for the third straight game, 25-of-56 (.446) to 21-of-67 (.313).

Coincidentally, Acker became the first Texan freshman to score 20 points since

former Texan Iyana Dorsey, who played for the orange and white across the way Saturday, closed her first season in Stephenville in 2020-21 with back-to-back 20-plus point games.

UTRGV's Dorsey scored a game-high 25 points (6-18 FG, 1-9 3PT, 12-12 FT). Arianna Sturdivant tallied 12 points

(4-8 3PT) and four rebounds, and Ashton McCorry had a bench-high 12 points and four rebounds.

Todd Whitten 1 of 20 finalists for national coach of the year honors

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State football head coach Todd Whitten has led the Texans to four straight winning seasons at the NCAA Division I level through their reclassification period, and his team capped it off with their best year yet, an 8-3 overall record and 4-2 conference mark, good for second place in the United Athletic Conference.

For his efforts, Whitten has been named one of 20

finalists for the 2023 Eddie Robinson Award, which is given annually to the national coach of the year in Division I FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) college football.

"Todd Whitten is an exceptional coach and this is a tremendous honor to be named a finalist for the national coach of the year, which he rightfully deserves," Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Lonnie Reisman said.

"There is no other coach in the country who could have led this program to this

amount of success through reclassification. He has been and remains one of the best head coaches in the nation."

This year alone, Whitten's group finished in the top-20 in scoring offense and total offense, despite not having a single senior starter on that side of the ball. Defensively, his group was dynamic, finishing in the top-25 in yards per play, sacks and defensive touchdowns.

The award, first presented in 1987 and in its 37th season, is named for legendary

Grambling State coach Eddie Robinson.

All 13 FCS leagues, comprised from 15 conferences overall, are represented by a Robinson Award finalist. The winner, to be selected by a national voting panel, will be announced on Dec. 7 and honored at the FCS National Awards Banquet on Jan. 6 in Frisco, Texas — the eve of the FCS championship game.

Besides Whitten, the other finalists for this year's award are Mark Ferrante (Villanova), Greg Gattuso (UAlbany),

Bobby Hauck (Montana), Clay Hendrix (Furman), Tre Lamb (Gardner-Webb), Tim Murphy (Harvard), Bob Nielson (South Dakota), Trei Oliver (North Carolina Central), Tim Rebowe (Nicholls), Danny Rocco (VMI), Jimmy Rogers (South Dakota State), Pete Rossomando (Lamar), Jerry Schmitt (Duchesne), Larry Scott (Howard), Willie Simmons (Florida A&M), Todd Stepsis (Drake), John Troxell (Lafayette), Scotty Walden (Austin Peay), Chris Wilkerson (Eastern Illinois).

Past recipients of the Eddie Robinson Award include Mark Duffner, Erk Russell, Chris Ault, Jim Tressel, Houston Nutt, Andy Talley, Paul Johnson, Joe Glenn, Mike Ayers, Jerry Kill, Jerry Moore, K.C. Keeler, Deion Sanders, John Stiegelmeier and two-time recipients Mickey Matthews, Sean McDonnell and Craig Bohl.

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School 10 a.m., Sunday
worship 11 a.m.
PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
2082 FM 1690, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.
PECAN GROVE
6545 FM 107, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PIDCOKE
Donald McConaughay,
pastor; 11125 FM 116,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday service
11 a.m.
PLEASANT VALLEY
Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301,
Jonesboro; Sunday school
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.
PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL
One mile north of Evant,
Hwy. 281; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.
PURMELA BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor: Brenden Hough;
875 FM 932, Purmela, TX
76566; Sunday School 10
a.m., Sunday Worship 11
a.m.
SWEET HOME
511 N. 14th, Gatesville;
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.;
Wednesday worship 7 p.m.
SPANISH
Ezequiel Casas, pastor;
113 Zeazy Dr., Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.,
Wednesday Prayer Meeting
6 p.m.
TRINITY
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor;
1506 W. Main, Gatesville;
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday worship 8:15 a.m.
and 11 a.m. Wednesday -
activities for adults, youth,
& children 6:30 p.m.; 254-
865-8495 or Pre-school:
254-248-0041.
TURNERSVILLE
Jon Crosby, Pastor;
8120 FM 182, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.,
Wednesday night Bible
study, 6 p.m.
WESTVIEW
Interim Pastor: Eddie
Taylor; 1102 W. Main St.,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.
WHITE HALL
Mike Barron, pastor; 2040
CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday
school 10 a.m.; Sunday
worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-
3200.
WHITE MOUND
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday
School 10 a.m., Sunday
worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR
320; mailing address: P.O.
Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday
worship 9 a.m., Sunday
school 9:30 a.m. Men's
breakfast every third Satur-
day 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.
CATHOLIC
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty;
1108 W. Main, Gatesville;
Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.
(English) & 12 p.m. (Spanish
Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15
p.m. & Wednesday-Friday
at 7 a.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
CEDAR RIDGE
Deral McWhorter, minister;
104 Cedar Ridge,
Gatesville; Sunday worship
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
EVANT
Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W.
Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.,

Sunday worship 10:20 a.m.
& 12:30 p.m., Wednesday
Bible Study 7 p.m.
FORT GATES
4605 St. Hwy. 36 S.,
Gatesville; Sunday worship
10:30 a.m.
GATESVILLE
Justin Hall, minister; 2417
E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday
Bible class 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday service 10:30 a.m.;
Wednesday Bible classes
6:30 p.m.
LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO
2413 E. Main, Gatesville;
clases y servicios en
Español, 10-11:30 a.m.,
Solamente en domingos.
MIDWAY
1955 CR 3640, Copperas
Cove; Sundays - worship
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30
a.m. Wednesdays - Bible
Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce
512-734-5390 or Steve
254-865-3559.
PEARL
6790 FM 183; Sunday
worship 10:30 a.m.
CHURCH OF GOD
CORNERSTONE
Greg Demmitt, pastor;
338 State School Rd.,
Gatesville; Sunday worship
11 a.m.
LUTHERAN
IMMANUEL
David Reedy, International
Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran
Church Rd., Copperas
Cove; Sunday Bible Study
9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship
10:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN
Rev. Christopher Richman,
PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell
City; Sunday worship 9
a.m., Sunday School 10:15
a.m.
ST. PAUL
Rev. John Heckmann,
pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114,
The Grove; Sunday School
9 a.m., Sunday worship
10:15 a.m.
METHODIST
BETHEL UNITED
2 miles north of Irel & on
FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th
Sundays.
EVANT
235 US-281, Evant; Dennis
Dutton, Pastor; Sunday
worship 10 a.m.
FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE
2600 E. Main St.; Stephen
Schmidt, pastor; Sunday
worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30
a.m., Sunday School at
9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY
WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m.
\$3; youth, Children & Adult
Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA
meets Monday, Wednesday
& Friday at 6:30 p.m.
OGLESBY UNITED
Kent Berry, pastor; 109
College St.; Sunday worship
9 a.m.
PIDCOKE
Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy.
116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday
worship service 10 a.m.;
254-677-6242.
MORMON
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
206 S. 26th St., Gatesville;
Sacrament services
Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday
School 10 a.m
NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN LIFE
Frank Rosenstern, pastor;
Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday
services 10:30 a.m.;
Thursday services, 7 p.m.
CORYELL COMMUNITY
Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115
N. Levita Rd., Gatesville,
248-0849, Sunday worship
9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday services 6
p.m.; Adult Bible Study,
Children's Ministry & C3
Student Ministry.
CORYELL FELLOWSHIP
Doran Belknap III, Pastor;
Sunday service 11 a.m.,
8205 FM 182, Turnersville;
254-218-5901.
COVER2COVER MINISTRIES
Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker,
Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6
p.m., Wednesdays 6 p.m.

407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5,
Gatesville.
GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER
Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday
school 10 a.m., Sunday
services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.,
Thursdays 7 p.m.; 2518
Bridge St.; 254-392-9472.
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.
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se reune La Iglesia de
Cristo, in the 2400 Block of
E. Main St., Gatesville.
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, Pearl; Sun-
day 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
Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat,
pastor; 1110 E. Main,
Gatesville; Sunday School
9:45 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.
REFORMED GRACE BIBLE
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday services 10:45
a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84,
Gatesville.
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Max Gunn, pastor; 254-
216-1537; 10 miles west
of Gatesville on HWY
84; Sundays 10:30 a.m.;
Wednesdays 7 p.m.; Youth
Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.
HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH
Monty & Tammy VanHorn,
pastors; 1608 W. Main
St., Gatesville; Sunday
Praise & Worship 11 am,
Wednesday Bible Study
Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-4076.

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Pictured on the right is Gatesville High School Dazzler Captain, Jaynee Green, leading her team through the Salado Christmas Parade. Annually, the Dazzlers attend the Christmas Parade in Salado to perform routines with different dance groups across Texas.

COURTESY PHOTO

GHS Happenings



COURTESY PHOTO BY LIZ SHOAF

Life Skills students from Kassie Withrow's class show off their hand-made crafts they have prepared for Christmas on Marshall Street.

Kassie Withrow's class takes the idea of preparing for the real world to the next level. On any given day, you will find them working off-site, volunteering for local and Waco-based organizations, preparing meals, doing laundry, and tackling paperwork. "They are not only learning to make great coffee (this is a VERY IMPORTANT life skill), but also recently learned how

to juggle the demands of work and keeping your life together, with the added pressure of an approaching holiday and additional projects," says Gatesville High School principal Liz Shoaf. "The team decided they would showcase their artistic and crafty side at Christmas on Marshall Street, and I am excited to say, they knocked it out of the park."



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of the ACE program at Evant Independent School District had the chance to visit Dutchman's Hidden Valley located in Hamilton on Wednesday, Nov. 15. The students were able to learn about sales careers, cooking, and marketing, along with baking peanut butter cookies and old-fashioned candy.

Evant ISD to host Elementary Christmas Program

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District will host a Christmas Program for elementary students on Thursday, Dec. 14. The program will be held in the gym at 6 p.m. Elementary students will

share traditional Christmas songs with friends, family, staff, and the community.

The program will have cookies and hot chocolate as well.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant.

Gatesville Primary to host Ugly Sweater Christmas Concert

Staff Reports

Gatesville Primary School will present the community with an Ugly Sweater Christmas Concert on Thursday, Dec. 14.

The concert will be held in the Gatesville High School auditorium and admission will be free.

Students are to perform during the following times: - Mrs. Hoover's class, Mrs. Smith's class, and Mrs. Ayres' class will perform at 6 p.m.

- Mrs. Pruitt's class, Mrs. Floyd's class, and Mrs. Turner's class will perform at 6:45 p.m.

- Mrs. Jenkins' class, Mrs. Colson's class, and Mrs. Emigh's class will perform at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Gatesville Primary School at 254-865-7264.

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

MCC Foundation scholarship applications open

Staff Reports

The McLennan Community College Foundation opened its annual scholarship on Friday, Dec. 1. Applications must be submitted by Monday, Jan. 15.

The MCC Foundation is allowed to award approximately 400 scholarships

each year. The scholarships are funded from permanent endowment funds or through annual contributions.

To apply or for more information, scan the QR code.

McLennan Community College can be reached by contacting 254-299-8000.



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CORYELL COUNTY 4-H

50 youth compete in County 4-H food contests

BY BECKY COWARD
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development

Even though school was closed for the Thanksgiving break on Monday, Nov. 22, the Gatesville Intermediate School Cafeteria had plenty of activity, with 50 4-H youth competing in the Coryell County 4-H Food Show and Food Challenge event. The Junior (ages 3rd-5th grade) Food Challenge contest had the most team entries with seven teams competing, while the Intermediate (ages 6th-8th grade) division had six entries. There were three entries in the food show.

In the Food Challenge contest, teams of three-to-four students received a list of ingredients and had 40 minutes to create a dish. The teams then presented their dish to judges and were scored on preparation, serving size, food safety concerns, nutritional

value, and general nutrition knowledge. This allowed teams to develop teamwork skills, as well as tested their creativity and knowledge of food preparation.

In the Food Show contest, individual members chose a recipe from the contest categories and then prepared and presented it to a panel of judges. Contestants were also interviewed by a panel of judges, explaining how they prepared it, the nutrients and ingredients in their dish, personal dietary needs, healthy substitutions, and a complete cost analysis. They took a multiple-choice quiz about food and nutrition facts and properly demonstrated a kitchen skill they have learned in their food and nutrition 4-H project.

A big thank you goes out to the 4-H volunteer leaders who coached the teams. The first and second place winners at the county-wide

event will represent Coryell County at the District 8 4-H Food Challenge, and the Food Show will be held in Belton on Dec. 8. Complete results from both contests are listed as follows:

FOOD CHALLENGE

Junior Division-
1st place Team- Dino Nuggies: Gracie Klecka, Lyla Nichols, and Hadley Hopson

2nd place Team- Impossible Impasta: Madilyn Smith, Olivia Hendrix, Caroline Langenstrass, and Jayde Muegge

3rd place Team- Cooking Cajuns: Taylor Webb, Ava Rodriguez, and Preston Barron

4th place Team- The Witch Cooks: Bobbi Tubbs, Emily Wolff, Anna Belle Walls, and Hannah Ashley

Also participating were: Golden Chefs: Bryson Stevens, Maddox McAndrew, Ryan Rutherford, and Prudence Jackson; Fighting

Chefs: Mary Mitchell, Jo Langenstrass, and Landri Stevens; Cooking Cowgirls: Emma Pruet, Ava Shaw, and Piper Beck

Intermediate Division-
1st place Team- Sauce Sisters: Kinsley McPherson, Anna McPherson, Makaylie Williams, and Kayla Mabry

2nd place Team- Cactus Crew: Willow Holland, Zak Huckabee, and Jacob Ellerbe

3rd place Team- Cowgirl Cookers: Lexi Miller, Callie Smith, Jaelee Thornton, and Emily Webb

4th place Team- Cooking Chaos: Annabelle Lea, Lucas Appelman, Rogan Smith, and Colin Rainer

Also participating were: Ain't Got Muffin on Us: Hunter Beaty, Peyton Williamson, and Leonela Rodriguez and Sweet & Sour: Madison Manning, Madison Cohn, and Emma Treadway

Senior Division- 1st place



COURTESY PHOTO

Food Show Winners, pictured left to right: Cayleigh Coursey, Mary Mitchell, and Charles Yarbrough.

Healthy Dessert- Cayleigh Coursey
Junior Division- 1st place
Appetizer- Mary Mitchell
Clover Kid- 1st place
Healthy Dessert- Charles

Yarbrough
Food Show Winners- Cayleigh Coursey, Mary Mitchell, and Charles Yarbrough

4-H News

BY BECKY COWARD
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development

Fall 4-H contests are in full swing as our county teams have done an outstanding job of dedicating their time in pursuing their passions in their 4-H projects. As our members learn, grow, and compete together, they continue to build on their project knowledge and success. Recent results from District 8 4-H contests are proof that hard work and ambitious attitudes yield success. Congratulations to the following teams on their recent accomplishments!

STATE QUALIFYING SENIOR QUIZ BOWL TEAMS

Livestock- 1st place: Jeret Burks (high individual), Cayleigh Coursey, Lane Kinsey, and Breeze Buckner

Livestock- 2nd place: Clayton Gregory, Kinsley, McPherson, Ryli Bryson, and Clancy Archie

Horse-2nd place: Irena Murphy, Mia Conley, Isabella Lind-Mercado, Dallas Clough

JUNIOR QUIZ BOWL TEAMS

Livestock- 2nd place: Thomas Belt, Lilly Kinsey (high individual), and Kace Laster

Livestock 4th place: Mary Mitchell, Hagen Milam, and Pete Wallace

Horse-1st place: Marcy Conley, Allie McPherson, Ava Hagen, and Keira Lind

Horse- 3rd place: Samantha Hadley, Addison Price, Remleigh Buttery, and Tyson Jackson

Quiz bowl contests are set up like a game show where participants are asked facts about their contest category. It's a great way to expand your knowledge in your 4-H project.

LEADERS 4 LIFE TEAMS

Seniors- 5th place: Lilly Nielsen, Riley Higginbotham, Eli Knobloch, and Caleb Mannix

Juniors-2nd place: Thomas Belt, Mary Mitchell, Lilly Kinsey, Lillie Mann, and Callie Smith

The Leaders 4 Life contest has members enact a business meeting with an agenda and problems to solve by exercising certain motions from Robert's Rules of Order.

With the approaching holiday season, a season of thanksgiving and giving, it's enjoyable to take time to reflect upon the past year. Scrolling through my camera roll on my phone usually helps remind me of all the wonderful blessings encountered and fun memories made. It's also always very rewarding to see the growth that took place in our 4-H club members throughout the year. It makes my heart happy to see their leadership skills evolve, fear of public speak-

ing subside, and just the overall learning that takes place in a year's time. 4-H has so many tremendous opportunities for youth to grow, and those opportunities would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteer adult leaders. It takes a special someone who is willing to make others a priority and sees the value of how much 4-H offers our youth, someone who is willing to give of their time and talents to share their knowledge. My faith is renewed each year as I am so thankful for adult volunteers who help make our 4-H program a success by continuing to give unselfishly. "There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." May your season of thanksgiving remind you and yours of all the blessings we have and ways to bless others by the sharing of our time and talents to help others!

Our teams are continuing in the winning tradition and learning valuable lifelong skills. For more information about joining 4-H, please contact us at the county office at 254-865-2414 or check out our 4-H membership guide found at Coryell. agrilife.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

First place Senior Livestock Quiz Bowl Team, pictured left to right, are Coach Becky Coward, Lane Kinsey, Breeze Buckner, Cayleigh Coursey, and Jeret Burks.



COURTESY PHOTO

First place Junior Horse Quiz Bowl Team, pictured left to right, are Marcy Conley, Allie McPherson, Ava Hagen, and Keira Lind.

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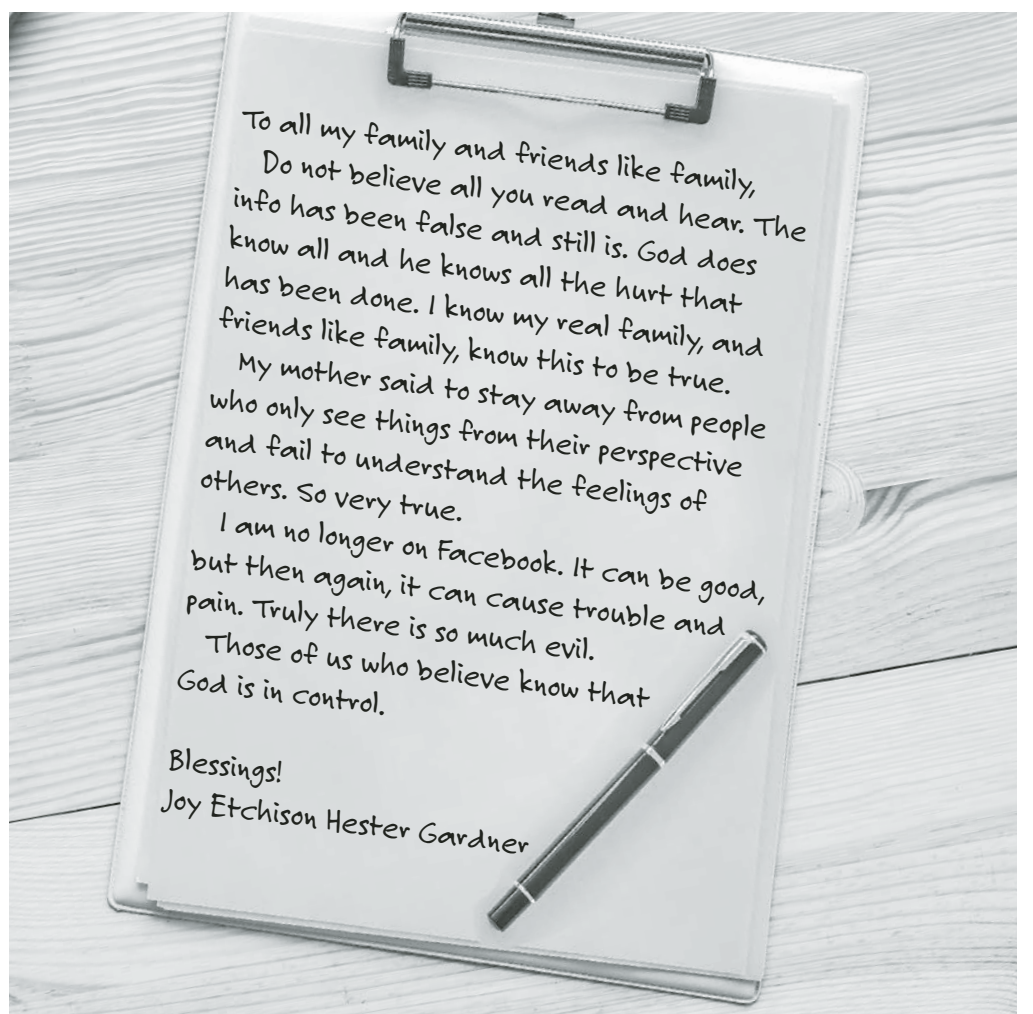



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Christmas on Marshall Street

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH AND DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Independent School District held its Christmas on Marshall Street event on Dec. 2. Each campus was on hand, as well as local organizations, to offer lots of fun activities for children as well as food and shopping opportunities. Among the activities were photos with Santa, arts and crafts, Christmas cookie decorating, a Christmas petting zoo and the "Deck the Paws" dog costume parade. Fresh wreaths and poinsettias, baked goods, hornet gear, and much more was available for purchase.

