



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Dec. 16, 2023

\$1.00



SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 4, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Suspect sought in assault of older woman

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Gatesville police continue their investigation into the assault of an elderly woman after preliminary forensic tests results indicated the incident was a result of a crime. Gatesville Police

Department's Criminal Investigation Unit is working with the Texas Rangers and other law enforcement partners to follow leads in the case.

In a statement issued on Wednesday afternoon,

Gatesville police confirmed that the scene involved a home intrusion. They believe the woman, who lives alone, might have been assaulted in her home sometime between noon on Saturday, Dec. 9 and 6 p.m.

on Sunday, Dec. 10. As of Wednesday, the woman is still receiving treatment at a regional hospital.

Police say the woman has been unable to speak to investigators. As of press time, there is no known

suspect or motive.

The woman's injuries warranted further tests to determine if they were caused by a medical issue or crime, according to Gatesville PD's original statement on Dec. 11. Police Chief

Brad Hunt said the results suggest those injuries are consistent with there being a crime committed rather than a medical problem.

When The Messenger PLEASE SEE **ASSAULT** | A2

Santa Claus makes visits



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Santa Claus recently paid a visit to the Gatesville Fire Department to greet children and adults as well. Santa also took a ride on a decorated firetruck with flashing lights to visit various neighborhoods in Gatesville to wave to the children.

Dedicating her life to law enforcement for 40 years

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Over the course of a lifetime, workers often change professions several times. That is not the case with Officer Carol Brown, as this year she celebrated her 40th year in the field of law enforcement.

Both of Brown's parents were in law enforcement. "My mother actually started out at the Nolanville Police Department as a dispatcher. She ended up at Bell County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Constable with the Constables office in Killeen. She was the first female deputy

in Bell County," Brown said.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Brown said, "I started in law enforcement straight out of high school as a dispatcher for Harker Heights Police Department." She would later move to Copperas Cove as a dispatcher. She then moved to the position of Jailer before being sent to the Police Academy by Copperas Cove.

"I left Cove after 14 years to take a position as a police officer for Waco Independent School District.

PLEASE SEE **BROWN** | A2

City agrees to assessment of Faunt Le Roy park repairs

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Gatesville City Council voted to move forward on an agreement with engineering and consulting firm, Frees and Nichols, to perform an initial assessment of a damaged Leon River embankment in Faunt Le Roy Park.

The aim of the assessment is to aid the city in their decision on whether to proceed with repairing the park's eroded riverbank, which received significant flood damage in 2018. The road that leads to the damaged section of the park is still closed for safety reasons.

"I believe Faunt Le Roy

Park and Raby Park are great assets," City Manager Scott Albert said. "I can't think of too many communities who would not give what you guys have in those two parks. Obviously, there is a lot of work that needs to be done in both of those parks, but when you look at the potential and start to visualize what the impact is for this community - there's a lot of history there."

In 2020, another engineering firm, LJA Engineering, conducted a damage assessment of the embankment, which estimated embankment repairs cost to be

more than \$1.3 million. Although the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided the city with funds based on LJA's assessment, the council has yet to decide on whether the city should utilize those funds for building a new park or repairing Faunt Le Roy Park.

City leaders have voiced concerns in previous meetings about moving forward with improvements due to concerns about how embankment repairs would stand against future flood events, a detail the LJA's report did not fully address. The aim of the

assessment is to help the city determine if the repairs will withstand future flooding, if additional work is needed to ensure long-term stability of the embankment, or if they should abandon the park.

The assessment includes monitoring the historic movement of the river to help predict future erosion and damage and where embankment repairs should start and stop.

"I'd like to see us save the park," Council Member Greg Casey said. "If there's a way to build some firm

PLEASE SEE **PARK** | A2



Officer Carol Brown

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



Raising up disciples of Christ through love, service & example

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am

2600 E. Main, Gatesville, TX
(254) 865-2520
www.fumcgatesville.org

Gatesville
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Love. Service. Example.



Since 2018, a damaged riverbank at Faunt Le Roy Park has needed repairs.

KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

PARK
FROM PAGE A1

some firm structures around it to protect it from erosion and keep it from encroaching in on the park, that would be great.”

The Frees and Nichols project costs \$49,000, which Albert said will be funded through the city’s general capital improvement fund. The assessment will take approximately six months to complete.

“This has been ongoing since 2018,” Mayor Gary Chumley said. “People that I’ve spoken to, I’ve never had but one of them say, ‘walk away from it.’ They’ve always said, ‘you need to save the park.’”

Casey adds that he has also had people approach him about repairing the park.

“If there is a way for us to move forward, I would like to see that happen,” Casey said.

The period to utilize FEMA funds is normally around three years. Since the funds were granted to the city in 2020, Albert said FEMA extended the deadline until Dec. 20. The city will request another FEMA extension for the duration of the assessment.

ASSAULT

FROM PAGE A1

asked if any DNA evidence was discovered at the scene, Hunt said they are not able to release details due to potential negative effects on the investigation.

“We are looking into the

circumstances that led to this incident,” he said.

Gatesville police responded to the incident on Sunday, Dec. 10 around 6:10 p.m. at a residence on the 200 block of Mulberry Street after receiving a call from the woman’s family friend who found the woman in an “incoherent

state” after stopping by the woman’s house to check on her. Gatesville police stated in a media release that the woman was found inside her home in “apparent medical distress.”

Gatesville police officers treated the incident as a crime scene. The release states that the woman was

unable to explain the circumstances that led to her medical issue, but the nature of the issue suggested the possibility that a crime had occurred. Police say the identity of the woman will not be released.

Hunt adds that investigators are in close contact with the victim’s family and

keeping them updated on the investigation.

Anyone with information about the case is urged to contact Gatesville PD’s Criminal Investigations Division at 254-865-2226. Callers can submit tips anonymously to Centex Crime Stoppers at 254-865-8477 or online at

centexcrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers a cash reward for information leading to an arrest.

Visit www.gatesvillemessenger.com for current developments on this story.

BROWN

FROM PAGE A1

After five years, I decided I needed to get closer to home to help with my two small children, so I went to the Coryell County Sheriff’s Office where I worked as a deputy for nearly 15 years before retiring and moving to the Gatesville Police Department as a School Resource Officer,” Brown said.

“I began working with GISD as an SRO in September of 2020. The school transitioned over to their own police department last year in 2020, and I changed over in October of 2022,” she said. “I feel that having an officer at the Primary or Elementary setting is fruitful to both the officer and the students. You, as an officer, have a chance to show the children that police officers are still the good guys and can be trusted,”

she said.

This year marks Brown’s second year as a school police officer with the district working at the Gatesville Primary School.

GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard said about her: “Carol Brown has been the perfect school police officer for the primary campus. She has a great rapport with our youngest students. The students really look up to Officer Brown, and the staff appreciates her pres-

ence. I hope she stays with us for years to come.”

The principal at Gatesville Primary, Van Collins, stated that “Officer Brown has been a huge asset to our community and school district during her career. Her professionalism at the Gatesville Primary campus helps keep our students safe each and every day. We are lucky to have her expertise and knowledge to turn to whenever necessary.”

In the course of her 40-

year career in law enforcement, Brown said that she had a few pointers for those interested in that line of work. “The best advice that I can give to someone that’s interested in law enforcement is to remember the way this job is. As with all other first responder positions, it’s nights, weekends, and holidays. This job is not filled with constant awards and medals. You do the job knowing you are doing the best.”

Describing her job as an officer at Gatesville Primary, Brown said, “Most days here are filled with high fives and endless hugs ... and the hugs are healing on BOTH sides.”

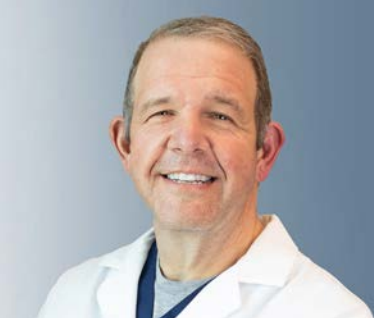
From the Neck Up, WE’VE GOT YOUR BACK

**STAY LOCAL FOR YOUR EAR,
NOSE & THROAT NEEDS**

Coryell Health is committed to providing high-quality, comprehensive ENT care for all ages.


DR. HOLLAND TREATS:

- ALLERGIES
- DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING
- EAR INFECTIONS
- FACIAL OR NECK MASS
- HEARING LOSS
- HOARSENESS & VOICE DISORDERS
- SNORING
- SLEEP APNEA
- TONSIL PROBLEMS
- ADENOID PROBLEMS



- THYROID PROBLEMS
- SINUS INFECTIONS/NASAL OBSTRUCTION

DR. BRINDLEY SPECIALIZES IN:



- CUSTOM HEARING PROTECTION
- DIAGNOSTIC HEARING EVALUATION
- TREATMENT FOR TINNITUS (RINGING IN THE EARS)
- HEARING AID FITTINGS

NEW BRANCH!

NOW OPEN!

We’re thrilled to announce that our new Gatesville branch located at **2501 TX-36 Bus** is now open!

We look forward to continuing to serve the Gatesville community!



**Senior Vice President,
Commercial Banker**



**Bank Officer,
Branch Manager**



**SCAN QR TO
STAY UPDATED!**

or visit extracobanks.com/gatesville

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS
(254) 865-2166 | CoryellHealth.org





Member FDIC.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Aim small, miss small



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

The fall and early wintertime bring back wonderful memories of years gone by. Times spent walking through a field with a good quail dog, wing-shooting ducks from a blind, and being camouflaged sitting against a tree waiting for a Tom turkey were hours spent in the great outdoors enjoying the thrill of the hunt.

Seems like I learned to shoot at an early age, with most of my instruction coming from my grandfather. I remember well the first time we were bird hunting, and a large covey of quail rose, beating their wings in rapid ascent, scattering in a thousand directions. The sound of the birds breaking from

the brush overwhelmed my heart with excitement. The gun rose to my shoulder, while my eyes took in the chaotic scene. The trigger was pulled, and then pulled again and again, and no birds fell from the sky. Turning to my grandfather, I could mutter nothing other than, "how did I miss?" There had been as many as

15 to 20 birds in the covey, and when they rose the sky seemed to be literally full of quail. How could I miss all those birds? We had practiced with a clay target thrower and been proud of the progress I had made. My taste buds were salivating thinking of fried quail in the skillet, and yet I had not dropped a single bird. Granddad had dropped two.

Granddad's face did not change expression. He simply said, "aim small, miss small." The blank look on my face revealed confusion as I tried to interpret what the heck his statement meant. Speaking rhetorically, he elaborated. "Did you look at the covey or did you aim at a particular bird? If you do not focus on one bird at a time, you will miss all of them. Try to focus your eye to aim at a specific part of the bird. Imagine your target is the bird's eye. If you focus on that specifically, you will hit your target, then you can move to the next bird and do the same thing. You

will find you will get a lot of "doubles" when you aim small."

It took me a bit to let Granddad's wise words settle into my brain. As we walked, I had a pep talk with myself, and the next time the dog stopped on point alerting us a covey was near, I was ready. When the covey rose, I focused on a single quail in the group, dropped the bird, and then swung to aim at another. I missed the second shot, but the results proved the coaching I had received was meaningful. I had focused on the smallest part of the bird and got a positive result.

Texas politics got me to thinking about "aim small, miss small." One of the reasons why our government keeps getting bigger and bigger is because our politicians do not "aim small, miss small." They focus on grandiose accomplishments, rather than simply doing the job for which they were elected. It seems like most politicians

feel like they must do more than their predecessor so they have accomplishments they can recite when they run for reelection, or more often, when they seek a higher office. This "ambition" leads officeholders to expand their office into even more and bigger government.

I am not sure how much I care if a county commissioner or justice of the peace has an opinion on abortion, on school vouchers, or the border. Understand these are all issues that need to be discussed and debated among the electorate, but none of these issues fall under the duties of those office holders. If our office holders would simply invest their

time into performing the job for which they were elected, and doing it as well as they can, we would all be better off. Our government would be more effective also. A man or woman of officeholder who takes care of the business at hand instead of spending much of their time wooing voters for their next campaign will get my vote. They should get yours too.

Thought for the day: Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems, and then campaign against them.

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

Sponsored by

Front Porch Realty
bringing you home



Business & office closures for Christmas holiday

Staff Reports

In observance of Christmas, many local businesses and governmental offices will be closed in honor of the annual holiday.

Closings in the immediate area include:

GOVERNMENT

The City of Gatesville and the Coryell County Courthouse will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26. The City of Oglesby will be closed from Friday, Dec. 22 through Monday, Dec. 25. The City of Evant will be closed on Friday, Dec. 22; Monday, Dec. 25; and Tuesday, Dec. 26. The Farm Service Agency will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25.

SCHOOLS

Gatesville Independent School District will be closed from Monday, Dec. 18 to Wednesday, Jan. 3. Jonesboro ISD will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 21 to Friday, Jan. 12. Oglesby ISD will be closed from Monday, Dec. 18 to Monday, Jan. 1. Evant ISD will be closed from Friday, Dec. 22 to Friday, Jan. 5. The Boys and Girls Club

of Gatesville will be closed from Friday, Dec. 22 to Monday, Jan. 1.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Extraco Bank, Cadence, Educator's Credit Union, The First National Bank of Gatesville, Evant, and Oglesby will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25.

POST OFFICES

The post offices of Gatesville, Flat, Jonesboro, Oglesby, Evant, Mound, and Purlmela will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25.

LIBRARY

The Gatesville Public Library will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 23; Monday, Dec. 25; and Tuesday, Dec. 26.

SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Senior and Multi-Service Center will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 21 to Monday, Dec. 25.

MUSEUM

The Gatesville Museum and Historical Center will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25.

NEWSPAPER

The Gatesville Messenger will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25.

Gatesville Winter Wonderland to be held Dec. 16, will include toy drive

Staff Reports

The 2023 Gatesville Winter Wonderland Walkthrough and Toy Drive will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In the walkthrough, there will be numerous decorated Christmas trees,

inflatables, and many Christmas decorations, along with a train ride attraction which will cost one dollar per rider.

Pictures can be made with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch, Krampus, and more.

The admission price

for the Winter Wonderland is a new, unwrapped toy. Monetary donations will also be accepted. All toys and proceeds will be donated to families of Coryell County through the Hidden Gem Family Center.

The Winter Wonderland

Walkthrough and the Halloween Candy Maze were ideas first conceived by Sharon Meyers and her husband, John, to benefit children in the community.

The Winter Wonderland Walkthrough will take place at 1518 Golf Course Road in Gatesville.

Sponsorships available for a shelter pet

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Police Department recently announced the opening of sponsorships for its animals at the Gatesville Animal Shelter during Christmas.

There are various shelter pets ready to be sponsored for the holiday season at the Gatesville Animal Shelter.

Items to be donated include toys, treats, dry or wet canned food, vet care items, or spay/neuter vouchers.

The items are to be dropped off at the Gatesville Police Department, which is located at 200 N. 8th St., or at Coryell Veterinary Clinic, which is located at 1300 N. SH 36 in Gatesville.

For more information, contact the Gatesville

Police Department at 254-865-2226.

Folks around town



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gay McCarty

Say hello to our neighbor, Gay McCarty!

Gay has served as the Administrative Assistant at the Coryell County Sheriff's Office for over 20 years and is thankful for her coworkers. She has lived in Gatesville for many years and enjoys the small and friendly community the town has to offer.

Gay likes to read The Gatesville Messenger each week to see if she can spot her grandson highlighted in the sports section.

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

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran Dec. 9.

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

Puzzle by websdoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com



A better way to send your message



Advertise with us

254•865•5212



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

General Manager
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

DEADLINES:

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

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

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

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

Local Salvation Army rings in the Christmas spirit with its annual Red Kettle campaign

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Being a Salvation Army bell ringer is more than just spreading holiday cheer - it is also about contributing to a broader cause, and its volunteers are essential in bringing light to the annual Red Kettle Campaign.

The Gatesville Unit of the Salvation Army plays a crucial role in assisting low-income families and filling the gap in financial assistance within our community.

The donations serve those in the community by aiding in utility assistance, prescription drug assistance, temporary lodging, and gas or transportation.

The Texas Division Service Extension Department is the Salvation Army's parent organization and is in Dallas. It operates independently and is well-funded, giving people the option to donate to this organization or directly to local units like the Gatesville Unit of the Salvation Army.

Gatesville is expected to establish its own Emergency Assistance Fund, emphasizing the need for local responsibility in providing aid to those in need. Our local Salvation Army collaborates with charitable organizations such as Coryell Community Church, Trinity Baptist Church, and the Ministerial Alliance.

It is ensured that the funds are distributed fairly and are used to address the most pressing needs. All donations that are made locally will remain within the

community and will not be sent to the Salvation Army Texas Division Service Extension Department in Dallas and vice versa.

"We all as a community make the red kettle campaign a success because we are doing it for our community," Salvation Army Representative Joyce Talbott said. "All the funds that go in the buckets stay here in our community to help the needy."

To date, out of 156 volunteer spots, 149 spots have been filled along with 312 volunteer hours total.

The Salvation Army has had volunteers from various organizations including cheerleaders, basketball players, members of the Boys & Girls Club, National Honor Society students, 4-H kids, Special Olympics members, churches, a miniature Santa, and even the Grinch.

Talbott explained, "Our goal is to involve as much of our community as possible."

"By taking up the role of being a bell ringer, volunteers foster a direct, positive impact within the communities," Talbott said. "It's a small action that sows seeds of change, triggering a ripple effect of kindness that resounds throughout the community, contributing to the collective well-being."

In the past, the Gatesville Unit of the Salvation Army shut down, and its absence was deeply felt by the local, low-income families.

"The need for financial assistance is great, and existing charitable organizations struggle to meet the demands they are presented, so the Salvation Army gives another avenue to fill the gap," Talbott said. "Volunteers ring bells to attract donors, but, more importantly, spread goodwill as they raise funds to provide support services to those in need."

Local businesses and individuals are encouraged to consider monthly or yearly donations to the Gatesville Unit. A monthly, yearly, or a one-time giving option is available and can be facilitated by going through the quick response (QR) code or by arranging it through Treasurer Tom Creek.

Treasurer Tom Creek and his staff at a local bank donate their time each morning to unravel and press out the bills that are collected from the Red Kettle.

The Gatesville Unit of the Salvation Army is in the process of establishing online giving. There are posters providing a QR code located near the red kettle at Walmart.

"Online giving is becoming more prevalent, and it is important for people to know that when they donate online to the parent organization, the funds may not necessarily reach their local Salvation Army units," Talbott said.

The Gatesville Unit of the Salvation Army is adapting to this trend by establishing online donation options,



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro Independent School District's cheerleading team volunteered their time as bellringers for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign. Pictured (left to right) Michella Martinez, Peyton Williamson, Adalyne Andrade, Gracie Calhoun-Dick, Tenley Scott, Addie Rueter, and Sierra Chapman.

which will make it easier for people to donate to their local unit specifically.

The Salvation Army Service Units are managed by Service Extension Representatives that are run by volunteers and are broken down into six regions, including local advisory councils.

The Gatesville Unit's Advisory Council includes Chairmen Eric Moffett, Treasurer Tom Creek, Intake Coordinator Annette Cole, Red Kettle Coordinator Jeremy Stills, Region 2 Service Extension Representative Nimchie Alce,

and Past Chairman Richard Shook.

"In a nutshell, being a Salvation Army bell ringer goes beyond simply wearing a red apron and ringing a bell," Talbott said. "It embodies the spirit of giving, compassion, and community-building while cultivating personal growth and empathetic understanding."

"In a world that seems a bit grinchy, the Salvation Army bell ringer in Gatesville serves as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that the holiday spirit can thaw even the coldest hearts,"

Talbott said.

To volunteer by ringing the bell at the red kettle, visit <https://signup.com/go/GxatyWD>. Time slots include Monday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign usually runs from the day after Thanksgiving through Dec. 23. The last day to volunteer will be on Saturday, Dec. 23.

For more information, visit salvationarmyusa.org.

Matthews seeks re-election for county commissioner

Staff Reports

Kyle Matthews has authorized The Gatesville Messenger to announce his candidacy for re-election for the office of Coryell County Commissioner, Precinct 1, in the upcoming Primary election to be held on March 5, 2024. Matthews released the following statement:

Representing Conservative values, I have been married to my wife, Julie, for 28 years and raised our two children in Gatesville. As your commissioner, being fiscally responsible and only supporting budgetary items to provide security, safety, and services to taxpayers has been my number one priority. I am honored to sit on the executive board of the Central Texas Council of Government and work with the water supply corporations and districts in rural parts of the county to secure aid for backup power sources. Annually, I help promote and facilitate the Senior Expo and have assisted several county school districts in security planning, drills, and safety

to keep children safe. I have created and maintained the cost records for each of the county buildings and secured out-of-county beds to assist with jail overcrowding to regain compliance with the state jail commission. Securing competitive salaries for law enforcement has been one of my ongoing goals. Working with a planning committee, architect, and engineers to demo four of the county's oldest and least efficient buildings, and working with the architect and engineers to get the jail expansion approved with the jail commission has been one of the biggest challenges, but I have and will continue to work for what is best for taxpayers. I have worked with the treasurer, auditor, and court to eliminate wasteful spending, and with the Department of Public Safety to secure a Sergeant and 10 troopers at little cost to taxpayers. Operating with the Road and Bridge department on creating a division to review, analyze, and plan, before developers cre-



COURTESY PHOTO

Kyle Matthews

ate new subdivisions is something I helped initiate to help ensure taxpayers are not held responsible for charges the developers should be paying such as roads, septic, water, fire, and police coverage. I am an active member of Trinity Baptist Church and member of Texas Farm Bureau, Legacy Outfitters, the Coryell County Youth Fair, and Exchange Club. I am a staunch conservative Republican and would be honored to have your vote.

Chamber seeks Citizen of the Year nominations

Staff Reports

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

The Citizen of the Year award has been given to an outstanding citizen of Gatesville since 1959. Every adult within the community is eligible to nominate one or more people who have made contributions to the town over a significant period. Nominees who func-

tion within the guidelines or requirements of their paid positions will not be considered.

Only one nomination per individual shall be considered regardless of the number of letters or signatures received nominating that individual. The person who is making the nomination should be available to assist with the presentation of the award.

The 2023 Citizen of the Year Award will be presented at the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Ban-

quet, which will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20.

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

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is located at 2307 S. Hwy. 36.

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

Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville to host Christmas Concert Dec. 21

Staff Reports

The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville will hold a Christmas concert on Thursday, Dec. 21 at the Gatesville City Auditorium.

The concert will begin at

6 p.m., and the public is welcome to attend.

Members of the Boys and Girls Club have been practicing for the concert to perform various acts such as singing groups, a play, dance routines, and tumbling.

For more information, contact the Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville at 254-865-8347.

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

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

Jonesboro Eagle football player Matt Massingill was recovering after collapsing on the sidelines of their regional playoff game with Calvert. He had been transported by helicopter to Scott & White.

The Food for Families Drive netted more than 140,000 pounds for the Gatesville Care Center.

The Gatesville High School Theatre Department and the Gatesville Civic Theatre Association wrapped up their last performance of "The Best

Christmas Pageant Ever."

The Gatesville Exchange Club's Students of the month were Adelina Valenzuela and Brian Worthington.

Michaela Marisa Moreno, the then 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Moreno, of Gatesville, was selected to participate in the "Distinguished Youth of Texas Scholarship and Recognition Program" held in Austin.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

Se'Vette Tatum graduated from Sam Houston State University where she

received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education with a minor in English.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Bruce W. Kaase, son of Ute Kaase, of Gatesville, was assigned to Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

Members of Gatesville's Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 74 presented a check donation to the Gatesville Senior Center.

Laura Denise Featherston graduated from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville where she received a Bachelor of Science

degree in psychology.

Norma M. Elmore, of Gatesville, was named to the Dean's List at Temple Junior College.

40 YEARS AGO

The McKown Bridge Co. of Round Rock was building a \$397,620 bridge across the Leon River near the Ater community.

Leaird's Department Store advertised men's Members Only jackets.

Cub Scout Pack 272 held its annual pack pinewood derby at the Scout House in Raby Park.

New guidelines for the is-

suance of building permits in Gatesville were in the process of being formulated.

50 YEARS AGO

A hearing was scheduled in the 52nd District Court in Gatesville on an application for a temporary injunction against the Jonesboro school district's assessing and collecting taxes.

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce and the Gatesville Jaycees gave the Gatesville State School for Boys \$600 in gift certificates to distribute to boys

who would otherwise have received no Christmas gifts.

"Joe Kidd," starring Clint Eastwood, was playing at the Town and Country Drive-In.

Powell Supply Company advertised Goodyear tires for as low as \$17.50.

Donna McCoury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bridges, of Gatesville, received her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Howard Payne College.

New E-Cigarette Law designed to protect youth will begin in January

Staff Reports

As of Jan. 1, 2024, it will be a crime in Texas to market, advertise, sell, or cause to be sold an e-cigarette product in certain containers that are designed to appeal to minors, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminded retailers in a press release.

"It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to minors — these products are dangerous and most contain nicotine, heavy metals and cancer-causing materials — yet these products are intentionally designed to attract minors," Hegar said. "Texas has taken action to deal with this kind of deceptive marketing, and I greatly appreciate the partnership with retailers across this state to help us protect one of our most vital resources: our children."

House Bill 4758 says a person commits a Class B misdemeanor that can lead to civil and criminal penal-

ties if they market, advertise, sell, or cause to be sold an e-cigarette product and the product's container meets any of the following criteria:

- depicts a cartoon-like fictional character that mimics a character primarily aimed at entertaining minors;
- imitates or mimics trademarks or trade dress of products that are or have been primarily marketed to minors;
- includes a symbol that is primarily used to market products to minors;
- includes an image of a celebrity; or
- includes an image that resembles a food product, including candy or juice.

A violation can result in a Class B misdemeanor conviction punishable by up to 180 days in jail, a fine up to \$2,000, or both. E-cigarette retailers also can face civil penalties up to \$3,000 and

a permit suspension or revocation for repeat violations.

More than 2.1 million high school and middle school students who participated in the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey said they use e-cigarette products, which were the most popular tobacco product among youth users for the 10th year in a row.

The Comptroller's Tobacco Enforcement Program helps prevent children from obtaining cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products. This vital public health mission requires constant vigilance and continuous effort on the part of parents, business owners, government officials, and all concerned Texans. The Comptroller's office and partnering agencies perform inspections for signage and employee compliance concerning the sale, possession and use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and



COURTESY PHOTO OF KENZO TRIBOUILLARD—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Electronic cigarette useage is on the rise in youth.

tobacco products. Violations of tobacco control laws can be reported anonymously by calling

the Texas E-Cigarette and Tobacco Hotline at 800-345-8647 or by emailing tobacco.enforcement@cpa.

texas.gov.



COURTESY PHOTO

H-E-B Gatesville Manager Diego Zamora (middle) holds HireAbility Employer of the Year award presented by the Texas Workforce Commission.

HEB Gatesville receives TWC award at state conference

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Gatesville's H-E-B was one of three local companies recognized by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) at the 26th annual Texas Workforce Conference in Houston from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

H-E-B Gatesville was presented with the HireAbility Employer of the Year award, which honors the store's efforts to create an inclusive work environment by providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

"At H-E-Bs across Texas, we strongly believe in creating an inclusive and supportive work environment, where everyone can thrive and reach their full potential," Gatesville H-E-B Top Store Leader Diego Zamora said in an email. "Here, locally, we work closely with our Texas Workforce Commission to connect folks with great talent to jobs with great opportunities."

The award was presented to H-E-B Gatesville in partnership with Workforce Solutions of Central Texas. According to a TWC press release, H-E-B Gatesville, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, and TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Service collaborated with Gatesville ISD to provide work experience for special education students by serving as a worksite as

well as offering mentors and coaches for individuals with disabilities.

"This award is a testament to H-E-B's values and demonstrates how we strive to ensure that each and every person counts," Zamora said.

The theme for the 2023 Texas Workforce Conference was "many paths, one mission," which recognized employers across the state for their innovation, hard work, and investment into the Texas workforce system. Other Central Texas businesses were honored with awards at the conference, including Akima Support Operations and Baylor

Scott & White Temple. "On behalf of the Store Leadership Team from the local Gatesville H-E-B, we would like to thank the Workforce Solutions of Central Texas for considering us for this award," Zamora said. "Additionally, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our amazing partners, locally and corporately, who make H-E-B such a special place to work. Without their passion and dedication, none of this would be possible. We are truly honored."

Cover2Cover Ministries to hold Christmas meal Dec. 23

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Cover2Cover Ministries will host its second annual free Christmas meal for the community on Saturday, Dec. 23. The meal will begin at 5:30 p.m., and food

will be served until 7 p.m. All children will receive a Christmas gift to unwrap. The meal will feature live music, with possible karaoke. For further information,

contact Reverend Brandy Spiker at 254-392-9472. Cover2Cover Ministries is located at 405 SH 36 in Gatesville.

Gatesville Care Center is in need of 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 locals of the 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.

JOHNSON VETERINARY SERVICES

Gerald D. Johnson, DVM
254-784-5151
LIVESTOCK & EQUINE
Mobile Veterinary Services

TPA MEMBER 2023

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Clifton Livestock

3199 Hwy. 6, Clifton, Texas
254-675-7717
HAULING AVAILABLE ANY DAY:
JARED HUNT 254 223 2486

SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON

12-13-23 SALE			
Weigh Bulls	95-111	Cow Calf Pairs	1400-1975
Weigh Cows	60-100	Bred Cows	950-1625
		Replacement Bulls	2560-2700
#1 Type Steers		#1 Type Heifers	
200-300 lb.	No Test	200-300 lb.	No Test
301-400 lb.	280-321	301-400 lb.	250-285
401-500 lb.	250-291	401-500 lb.	220-277
501-600 lb.	220-283	501-600 lb.	195-218
601-700 lb.	195-267	600-700 lb.	185-211

ANDY'S SALE BARN CAFE
WEDNESDAYS @ 11 AM – BUFFET • BURGERS • SANDWICHES

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION

Sale Every Saturday • Cattle at Noon
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023
Jody & Robin Thomas (254)223-2958

No. 1 Steers	
Under 300 lb.	275-350
300-400 lb.	285-345
400-500 lb.	265-315
500-600 lb.	235-290
600-700 lb.	220-255
700-800 lb.	210-245
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	265-320
300-400 lb.	265-315
400-500 lb.	245-285
500-600 lb.	215-245
600-700 lb.	195-235
700-800 lb.	175-210
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	90-104
Low Yielding	70-80
Fats	85-92
Thin & Shelly	50-65
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	100-124
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	1850-2500
Young Fair	1500-1850
Aged Pairs	Split & weighed
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	900-2100
Number of Head 869	
Dec. 16th is the Last Sale of the Year! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!	
Hwy. 36, Gatesville • (254) 865-9121 www.coryellcommission.com	

MERIDIAN LIVESTOCK

39TH ANNUAL YEAR END SPECIAL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023
AT 12:30 P.M.

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR REGULAR SALE

- **9 Braford Heifers** - 3-4 months bred to LBW Angus bull, NICE!
- **3 Registered Angus Cows** - one calf on ground, 3-4 year olds, gentle, bred to Angus.
- **6 Black White Face and BMF Heifers** - open, 900 lbs., ready for bulls. These are a FANCY set!
- **10 Hereford Cows** - 5-7 year olds, long bred to Angus.
- **12 Black Heifers** - 5-7 months bred to Angus.
- **20 Pairs, Black and BWF** - 3-6 year olds, sorted in uniform groups.

- **80 Bred Cows** - mostly black and BWF, medium to long bred, 3-6 year olds, sorted in uniform groups.
- **70-80 Angus Cows** - running ages, bred to Angus bulls, sorted in uniform groups.
- **5 Tiger Stripe Cows** - long bred to Angus.
- **4 Registered Angus Bulls** - (3 have papers) 2 are 3 year olds, 2 are 2 year olds.
- **1 Pure Bred Brangus Bull** - 2 year old, very gentle.

SALE EVERY MONDAY AT 12:30PM
We will receive cattle on Sundays from 9 am to 8 pm.
Mike Domel 254/749-2240 Matthew Domel 254/749-3253
Highway 6 Meridian, Texas www.mlslivestock.com

More consignments coming.

OBITUARIES

David Dean Luevano

Nov. 27, 1956 – Nov. 15, 2023

David Dean Luevano passed away on Nov. 15 in Travis County, Texas. His funeral was held on Mon-

day, Dec. 4, at 11:30 a.m. in Manor, Texas at the Travis County Wells School Road Cemetery.

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.



World War II soldier laid to rest in Coryell County after seven decades

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Seventy-eight years ago, when Gatesville native Robert Green Rudd was killed during the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, it was not believed that his body would ever be located, identified, or returned to his native Texas. Since his death in 1945, the advancement of forensic research has allowed DNA testing to answer many unsolved mysteries and to identify unknown remains.

After seven decades, Staff Sergeant Robert Rudd was identified through the use of dental, anthropological, and DNA analysis.

On April 12, 1942, Rudd enlisted in the U.S. Army. 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 Elsenbuchel Forest. Of the remains, all were identified except for one, which was at that time given the cod-

ing 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.

Last week, his body was returned to Texas after being buried as an "unknown soldier" at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium for 78 years. His niece, Jane Olivier, described the minute that the plane carrying his remains touched down at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. She said that the airport came to a standstill when the plane began to taxi toward the terminal. She said that jets of

water on either side of the runway created an arch for the plane to pass beneath in honor of a soldier who gave his life for his country so many years before. When the remains of fallen soldiers are returned home, it is customary for two fire trucks to create the arch as a sign of respect and gratitude.

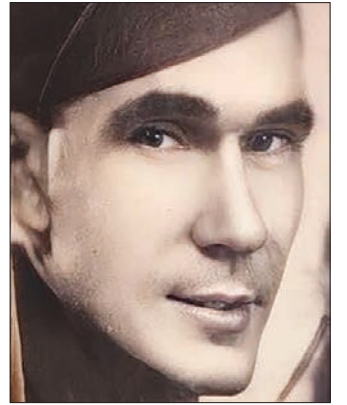
"It was the most serene moment watching the plane taxi to the gate, and I will never forget that the pilots came to us to pay their respects. It was amazing," Olivier said.

Fort Cavazos granted special permission to open the closed Bethel Cemetery for Rudd's burial. The graveside funeral was conducted with full military honors. "I am so thankful that they could bring him here where

his parents are buried, and that the military would open this cemetery again for his burial," Olivier said.

Olivier was one of five surviving family members in attendance at the service to honor her uncle. Several dozen veterans were also present at the service who paid their respects to Sgt. Rudd and his family. Teri Olivier, daughter of Jane Olivier, said, "When we drove up, there were so many more people here than were even in the procession, and it was incredibly moving."

Chaplain Maj. Matt Burden with the 1st Cavalry Division presided over the ceremony and stated, "After his death, his family was presented with the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his heroism as he gave his life for his country, the



COURTESY PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Robert Green Rudd

ultimate price any soldier has to give."

Following the service, one attendee walked up to Sgt. Rudd's casket and uttered two words that were in the hearts of all who were there, "Welcome Home."



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Family members, the nieces and great-nieces of Sgt. Rudd, attended the historic ceremony and included from left to right, Stacy Baldwin, Cindy Willford, Jane Olivier, and Teri Olivier.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Army Staff Sgt. Kyle Peavler presents the flag that draped St. Rudd's casket to his great-niece, Teri Olivier, during the ceremony.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

An honor guard from the 1st Cavalry Division carry the casket containing the remains of Staff Sgt. Robert Rudd to his final resting place at Bethel Cemetery near Gatesville.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The honor guard from the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery fold the American flag which was draped over the casket of Staff Sgt. Robert Rudd who was killed in 1945 during World War II and was finally laid to rest last Saturday.

Subscribe to The Gatesville Messenger.
Call 254-865-5212 ext. 300 or email circulation@gatesvillemessenger.com

PEARL NEWS

Pearl's Bookstore Day was reportedly enjoyed by all



BY BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

Kay and Corlisa report that the Saturday, Dec. 2, Bookstore Day was enjoyed by all. They express their appreciation to all the customers, a.k.a. friends, who dropped by to shop and visit.

The next bookstore day will be Jan. 6, 2024, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. (the new winter hours). All purchases are mostly by donation—take what you want, pay what you want, and all proceeds go to local charities. The community of Pearl is so very blessed to have these dedicated wonder workers. They put their hearts and souls into this charity house/bookstore. So, the next time there is a first Saturday Bluegrass event (second Saturday in

September) at the Pearl Community Center be sure and drop by the Pearl Cottage Bookstore during that day of music, music, and more music. You'll be so glad you did!
Speaking of The Pearl Community Center, the next quarterly board meeting will be Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.
There are several people in the Pearl area in need of prayer due to illness right now. Please pray for the

health of our Pearl people. The Lord knows who they are, and there's power in prayer!
This week's Bible verse comes from Isaiah 9:6—For to us a child is born, and to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. NIV
Please pray for continued blessings of rain, for our veterans and service men and women, our country,

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

The DISPATCH

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



CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dec. 6
4:43 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Woods Drive.
6:33 a.m., a hit & run was reported in the 1200 block of East Main Street.
10:44 a.m., a theft was reported in the 700 block of North State Highway 36 Bypass.
6:11 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of East Main Street.
Dec. 7
11:54 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 700 block of County Road 334.
2:49 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1400 block of East Main Street.
3:33 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Curry Drive.
7:32 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
Dec. 8
7:07 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3300 block of East Main Street.
6:48 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
8:05 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.
10:13 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.
Dec. 9

1:54 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 400 block of Valley View Drive.
2:40 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of Stoneridge Drive.
7:16 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 3300 block of East Main Street.
7:44 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1500 block of Mills Street.

Dec. 10
12:13 a.m., a prowler was reported in the 1400 block of Pleasant Street.
12:59 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.
4:21 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of Stoneridge Drive.
8:34 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
Dec. 11
1:46 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4300 block of South State Highway 36.
11:59 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1700 block of Old Georgetown Road.
12:54 p.m., an assault was reported in the 1500 block of East Main Street.
3:17 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of Waco Street.
Dec. 12
2:15 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of North Lovers Lane.
7:16 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
8:04 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of South Luterloh Avenue.
9:57 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.



CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dec. 6
8:19 a.m., burglary of a building was reported in the 4700 block of South Highway 36.
9:16 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on Highway 84 Eastbound.
12:45 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 100 block of County Road 327.
2:53 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on South Highway 36 in Flat.
Dec. 7
3:08 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 1500 block of Quail Meadows.
10:45 a.m., fraud was reported in the 200 block of Liberty Street.
3:46 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 4500 block of East Highway 84.
7:37 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported on West Bound Highway 84.
Dec. 8
1:15 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 11700 block of FM 116.
1:47 p.m., burglary of a habitation was reported in the 200 block of County Road 274.
2:57 p.m., a theft was reported in the 880 block of Onyx Road.
9:39 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 2700 block of FM 107.
Dec. 9
11:11 a.m., stolen prop-

erty was reported in the 4100 block of FM 929.
1:39 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1000 block of Lutheran Church Road.
6:38 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 500 block of Cromeans Road.
8:26 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of Slater Road.
Dec. 10
2 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on County Road 188 at the Leon River Bridge.
4:45 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 2500 block of FM 1783.
7:30 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 2800 block of Old Fort Gates Road.
8:22 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 400 block of South 7th Street.

Dec. 11
9:32 a.m., shots fired were reported in the 500 block of Cactus Lane.
9:34 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on West Brooks Drive.
11:57 a.m., suspicious persons were reported on Old Georgetown Road.
3:29 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 3500 block of County Road 265.
Dec. 12
11:52 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 500 block of Winters Road.
2:21 p.m., animal neglect was reported in the 900 block of Kubitz Road.
2:53 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 3500 block of FM 2955.
5:56 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.

Victorious Life Church seeking donations for individuals in need

Staff Reports

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

Polar Express event set for Monday night

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will host a Polar Express themed evening for the community to attend from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., on Monday, Dec. 18. The event will feature various sweets, fun activi-

ties, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa himself.
For more information, contact the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.
The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is located at 2607 S. TX-36.

Movie in the park to be held on Dec. 16

Staff Reports

To get into the Christmas spirit, a movie in the park will be showing Dr. Seuss' The Grinch, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. 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.

WE BUY OIL, GAS, & MINERAL RIGHTS

Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI)
Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation.

CALL TODAY: **806.620.1422**

LOBO MINERALS, LLC
PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408-1800
LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS

See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame. Guided Tour of Manhattan.

August 2-12, 2024 \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy
Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets.

Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

Free Brochure: Call or Text 507-217-1326

Shops • Garages • Houses • Agriculture • Commercial

405-595-0770

Gober Post Frame Buildings

30'x40'x10'...\$20,400
30'x40'x12'...\$22,600
30'x50'x10'...\$24,600
30'x50'x12'...\$26,700

With 4" Concrete. Fully Insulated.
1-Commercial Overhead Door.
1 Entry Door. #1 29 Ga. 40yr. Painted Metal. Built on your level site.
Additional Sizes Available. Mileage or Higher Concrete Prices May Apply.

Protect Your Home and Property!!
Make Sure Your Contractor is Following the Law.
Ask For General Liability and Works Comp. Insurance

www.goberconstruction.com

Local • Honest • Community

Subscribe Today
254-865-5212

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

BASTROP DENTURE AND IMPLANT CENTER

NOW OFFERING "Standard Dental Implants" for \$995

Walk-ins Welcome

CHECK OUR WEBSITE
bastropdentureandimplant.com

For Information And Prices

FREE Consultation **Call For Appointment**

Gregory Kon D.D.S. • Orville Sadler, C.D.T.

301 Hwy. 71 West, Suite 102 • Bastrop, Texas 78602
Toll Free 1-866-584-6900 • Local 512-303-6900

Hours M-F 7am-3pm

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT HOSPITALITY HOUSE

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Central Texas Hospitality House recently hosted its annual Christmas Celebration with an open house. The celebration included various family activities along with a nutcracker exhibit, a bounce house, door prizes, and refreshments. The "Tri-Rivers Duo," comprised of Richard Ray and Talon Keeney, provided Christmas music for the visitors to enjoy.



Pictured top, left: Mary Alice Wise welcomed visitors at the door of the Central Texas Hospitality House. Top, right: The Tri-Rivers Duo, comprised of Richard Ray and Talon Keeney, provided Christmas music to the celebration. Bottom, left: an exhibit of nutcrackers were on display. Bottom, right, from left: Judy Dreyer, Marsha Creek, and DeDe Grubb served punch, cookies, and other refreshments to the visitors.

A Song About A Tumbleweed Christmas Tree



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Songwriter Andy Wilkinson of Lubbock produced a Christmas CD sometime back. One song on it was titled "The Tumbleweed Christmas Tree." Part of the lyrics goes like this:

"Daddy put it on the dinette table, mama made the newsprint angels, ornaments of tin foil scraps and buttons on a string, took us all night to decorate it. When we got done, I have to say that it was the prettiest tumbleweed I've ever seen." Andy said the idea for the song came from something his grandmother did. "She and her friends in the Eastern Star made Christmas trees out of tumbleweeds one year. I thought that was kind of

interesting, that the weed might be a good symbol for being so poor that you couldn't afford a regular Christmas tree and had to make do with a tumbleweed." Andy had read a national story about the oil activity in No Trees, so he decided to set his song there. "What better place to not have a Christmas tree than No Trees." It just so happened that a producer on NBC's Today Show read that same article and was looking for an unusual Christmas feature. So, she tried to call someone in No Trees. The only

number listed was the Post Office. "The post mistress, Milsy King, answered the phone, and this woman producer told her what she was doing. Milsy happened to have a copy of my Christmas CD and told the NBC woman that if she wanted to do something about Christmas in No Trees, she needed to call this fellow, and she told her about me." The film crew came down and met Andy at the post office in No Trees. "I walked in, and there was the tumbleweed tree I had described in my song. It had a newsprint

angel, ornaments of tin foil scraps, buttons on a string. I was so moved by it I told Milsy that I was honored that she had done the tree. She said her mother-in-law always makes their newsprint angels and went on to describe the decorations. So, all that stuff I made up was really happening." Andy said his appearance on the Today Show was fascinating and full of coincidences. His song is played a lot around Christmas. "It's not like it bought me a new house or anything; in fact, it barely bought me a tank of gas. But it is a song that people know and like."

Serving All Of Central Texas Area

FERGUSON ROOFING

Locally Owned Company

Free Estimates
Call 254-466-5128

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

O & J SUPERIOR PLUMBING

RMP M41774

CAMERA LOCATOR
RPZ Backflow

Jeff Tesar
Office: (254) 404-2242

ADOPT LOCAL GATESVILLE ANIMAL SHELTER

WE NEED A HOME! CALL 254-865-2226 FOR INFO.

We'll Buy Your Gold & Silver

Coins, Jewelry, Etc. for Cash!

GOLD & SILVER PRICES

GOLD (XAU/USD 12/13/23).....\$2027.20
SILVER (XAG/USD 12/13/23).....\$23.77

Robert L. Berry, 512-810-1002
DBA Christian Brothers Ltd., An Ebay Store

Serving the Gatesville & Goldthwaite areas
716 E. Leon St., Gatesville, TX 76528 | Mon.-Fri., 9-5 & Sat., 9-1

NEED EXTRA CASH !!! ???

I BUY RVs & MOBILE HOMES

Travel Trailers • 5th Wheels
Goosenecks • Bumper Pulls

In Any Area!!! Any Condition!!!
Old/New !!! Dirty or Clean !!!

I PAY CASH 956-466-7001
No Title - No Problem - We Can Apply For One
ANR Enterprises

TO SUBSCRIBE: Call 254-865-5212

MOUND NEWS

Carothers family help celebrate 59th anniversary



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Bobby and Nelda Carothers celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 16, with a dinner given by their children and their families.

Three Mound residents (Jakson Tippit, Dylan and Ashton Hooker) stamped their way to AT&T Stadium to the Texas 1A D2 State Championship game on Wednesday. Dylan and Ashton are seniors at Oglesby ISD, and Jakson is a junior.

About 85 people attended the Coryell County 4-H Christmas party Friday evening at the Gatesville Civic Center. Attendees enjoyed making ornaments, decorating gingerbread men, making cards, playing games, and dancing. The event was led by the County

4-H Ambassador Team.

Harry and Lois Fulton are competing in the Ultimate Calf Roping in Las Vegas, December 11-12. Harry is in the #15 tiedown, and Lois is in the Breakaway roping.

Keron Jackson, of Dallas, spent Saturday night at the home of Don and Sue Jones.

Keron sang at Mound Cowboy Church and White Mound Baptist Church Sunday morning.

Mound Cowboy Church had their annual Christmas party Sunday evening. There were 70 people in attendance.

Several people from Mound attended the Annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade. This year's theme was Toys, Toys, Toys!

A Special Market Day and Toy Drive was held at the Gatesville Civic Center Saturday.

Several people from Mound attended the First Methodist Church in Gatesville Sunday evening for a free concert.

Barbara's Notes: Happy Birthday to Sarah Turner.

Have breakfast with Santa Claus 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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASS VISITS HILLSIDE



COURTESY PHOTO

The Family and Community Service class from Gatesville High School recently made a visit to Hillside Medical Lodge to spend time with the residents. The class handed out homemade blankets to the seniors and performed a last-minute dance for the staff and residents to enjoy.

Library to present Teen Night Dec. 21

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Public Library will hold a teen night on Thursday, Dec. 21 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The event is for ages 14 through 17 years old.

Teens of the community will have the chance to make Christmas cards and ornaments for the holiday season.

Each month, the Gatesville Public Library will explore a new theme such as photography, geocaching, leatherwork, beading, paracord crafts, sign language, origami, and cooking.

For more information, contact the Gatesville Public Library at 254-865-5367.

The Gatesville Public Library is located at 111 N. 8th Street.

Second annual gifting table provided 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.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The gifting table located at Spur Nutrition has various items including clothes, toys, and baby items.

Central Texas Travel Club to meet Dec. 19

Staff Reports

The December meeting of the Central Texas Travel Club will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Johnny's Steaks and Bar-Be-Que in Salado. There will be a gathering at 11 a.m., and the meeting will follow at 11:30 a.m.

The club will discuss upcoming trips including Fredericksburg, Kentucky (Ark and Creation Museum), Big Bend, San

Antonio, and Hawaii among others.

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

Johnny's Steaks and Bar-Be-Que is located at 301 Thomas Arnold Road in Salado.

For more information, contact the Central Texas Travel Club by email at centraltexastravelclub@outlook.com.

Coryell Museum and Historical Center presents 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 at its discretion.

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

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

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

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

MARTIN FAMILY HOME CHOSEN AS YARD OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

COURTESY PHOTO

Keep Gatesville Beautiful chose the home of the Martin family at 1604 Golf Course Road as their December Yard of the Month. Gatesville has many yards and homes decorated for Christmas this year, and the Martins' home stood out, looking both beautiful and festive day and night. Their cheerful front porch decorations contrast nicely with the home's exterior colors, and the brightly lit nativity set in the yard brings in the sacred aspect of Christmas. The Martins remodeled this attractive ranch style home themselves and moved in during 2020. Chad Martin, a builder by trade, maintains the yard. Laci Martin, a teacher, created the beautiful Christmas display. Pictured left to right is Kace, Chad, Laci, and Mackinlee Martin.



Business Directory

C.T.L.S
Cen-Tex Linestriping
Licensed & Insured
John Capella
254.216.3684

- Handicapped
- Fire lanes
- Parking and no parking lanes
- Business curb appeal
- Churches
- Residential and commercial

email: ctls1939@gmail.com

Advanced Tech Roofing & Restorations

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL ALL TYPES OF ROOFING

Cody Smith
254-226-7257
codysmith7728@yahoo.com
Licensed & Insured
Free Inspection with Estimate

GOSSETT TRANSMISSION SERVICE
P.O. Box 291 • 1900 Main St.
Gatesville, TX 76528

JIM GOSSETT
RAY GOSSETT **254-865-5791**

Billy Latham
Sales

WHITT Building Supplies

Office (254) 865-2190
Cell: (254) 223-2272
billy@wbsupplies.com

1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, Texas 76528

R & M Fencing & Dozing

FREE ESTIMATES

Fence Row Clearing
Barbed Wire
Custom Pipe Fencing
Entryways & Corrals
Barns & Metal Buildings
Residential Fencing
Game Fencing
Dozer Work Available

LARRY RIDDLE
254-248-2205

JOYCE MCADAMS
254-248-4318

HAMILTON SEPTIC CO.
INSTALLATION & PUMPING
979-220-7588

5B DOZING & CONSTRUCTION
FARM & RANCH

DOZER WORK
LAND CLEARING
STOCK TANKS

CONSTRUCTION
METAL BUILDINGS
WELDING & MORE

TC BROOKSHIRE, OWNER
(254) 223-1817 / (254) 216-9572

MID-TEX PLUMBING

Residential & Commercial
Master Lic. No. M-42617

Tyler Powell
254-223-3551

Zach Hodges
254-383-6267

120 Reno Rd.
Gatesville, TX 76528

midtexplumbing@gmail.com

WHITT Building Supplies

Brandon Latham
Owner / President

1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, Texas 76528

mobile: 254-223-1723
Office: 254-865-2190

GRIBS CONSTRUCTION
State Certified Installer of Septic Systems

BACKHOE & DIRT WORK
GRAVEL • ASPHALT
ROADS • DRIVES

Owner--Gary Gribble

2000 VIOLET LANE
GATESVILLE, TX 76528 **254-248-4171**

FERGUSON ROOFING

Serving Central Texas

Locally Owned Company
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
Free Estimates.....**254-466-5128**

SELMAN RANCH CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Ranch Roads | Lakes | Ponds
Wildlife Sensitive Clearing
Bentonite Liners | Bentonite Cutoff Walls

254-386-7727
Brad Selman www.selmanranchconstruction.com

PROGRESSIVE Shawn Camp Insurance, Inc.

Home • Auto • Motorcycle • Boat/Personal Watercraft

Call Amy or Shawn today for a price quote and insure your peace of mind.

2707 E. HWY. 190
COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522
SHAWNCAMPINSURANCE@HOTMAIL.COM

Tel 254-865-2002
Fax 254-547-5778

Bailey Shea Dickie
Advertising Sales

Ph: 254.865.5212
advertising@gatesvillemessenger.com
116 S. 6th Street
Gatesville, TX 76528

O & J SUPERIOR PLUMBING

CAMERA LOCATOR
RPZ Backflow

Jeff Tesar
Office: (254) 404-2242

LONE STAR AUTOMOTIVE
KBJ Enterprises, LLC

254-206-3300

HASSLE-FREE VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
4701 S. STATE HWY. 36 GATESVILLE, TX 76528

WHITT Building Supplies

Chris Winkler
SALES

1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, Texas 76528

254.865.2190 Office
254.444.9040 Cell
254.865.9137 Fax
chris.winkler@whittbuildingsupplies.com

DIXON ROOFING

FREE ESTIMATES
Insurance Claims Specialist
254.248.4053 P.O. Box 67, Gatesville, TX

Residential & Commercial

DIRECTORY DISPLAY RATES
3 Months: \$26/week

GHS alumni competes to be the World's Strongest Man

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Former 2014 Gatesville High School graduate Chase McGhee recently competed in The Official Strongman Games World Finals.

The Official Strongman Games is a festival of strength that brings together hundreds of the top Strongman and Strongwoman athletes from over 30 countries. The athletes compete for the world's strongest title across multiple divisions.

While attending high school, McGhee broke regional, state, and national powerlifting records during his senior year, as well as ending his powerlifting career as a state champion.

During the weekend of Friday, Dec. 1 through Sunday, Dec. 3, many of the strongest men from around the world traveled to Charleston, West Virginia to compete in the Official Strongman Games World Finals in hopes to become the world's strongest man.

"I have always been a fan of strength, and powerlifting was the first sport I was able to actually compete in strength-wise, so the passion was always there since I can remember," McGhee said. "I have pictures of me picking up semi-heavy things all the way back to when I was two, but powerlifting started for me in high school."

Following graduation, McGhee attended the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) on a full academic scholarship and graduated with honors receiving a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

He continued powerlifting with different organizations where he continued to break state and national records.

He later became bored with the same repetitive lifts, so he began training

and competing in local strongman competitions, where he made his mark and fell in love with the sport.

"I first got interested in strongman much later in my strength career," McGhee said. He had been powerlifting for nearly 11 years and began searching for something more challenging and unique.

"I went to a gym with some atlas stones and tried to pick one up but couldn't budge it, and I thought, woah that's hard, I'm going to figure that out," McGhee said.

McGhee admitted that staying strong and in shape for his sport requires consistency, which means his training includes lifting four to five times a week, anywhere from two to three hours a session depending on the type of implement.

"The base of my training consists of a form of overhead press, an upper back day, legs, movement days, and deadlift days," McGhee said.

"To be totally honest, nothing about the sport of strongman or any competitive sport is safe or healthy," McGhee said. "Health comes with being active and strong, but the sport has the potential to be incredibly dangerous at any moment."

After years of training, on Aug. 20, McGhee competed in the Official Strongman Games Southwest Regional, where he won the chance to compete in the Worlds Official Strongman Games.

With hopes of placing in the top three, McGhee walked away with the gold.

"The feeling was something I had never really felt before, because this was at the time the heaviest and hardest show I had ever done," McGhee said. "It was really hard juggling time

since I am a husband and a father. I had to make sure that I put both my wife and baby first and then pour anything else I had left into training."

"To come out on top meant that all the sacrifices my family made for me weren't wasted," McGhee said.

When the time came to travel to West Virginia to compete in the world finals, McGhee went prepared and ready to compete.

The Official Strongman Games World Finals is arranged for three days of competition. During the first and second day, the athletes will compete, and when day three arrives, only the top 10 will stay.

"Day one was an overhead press medley that consisted of a wagon wheel barbell press at 265 pounds, a one arm circus dumbbell press at 171 pounds, an anchor yoke press of 302 pounds, and a block press at 245 pounds," McGhee said. "The goal was to press them all in order the fastest."

"The next event was a 670-pound timber frame carry into a dinnie stone carry, while one stone weighed 265 pounds and the other weighed 215 pounds," McGhee said. "The goal is to carry them as fast as possible with as little drops as possible."

"Day two was a deadlift ladder with five bars ranging from 585 to 740 pounds," McGhee said. "The next event was a sandbag carry and sled drag, with one sandbag weighing 250 pounds, and the other bag weighing 300 pounds."

Every competition was completed with a 90-pound ruck pack on each athlete's back.

McGhee placed 29th overall out of 40 men.

"I finished the 670-pound timber frame carry and carried the



Chase McGhee competing at The Official Strongman Games World Finals.

COURTESY PHOTO

dinnies seven feet before the time ran out," McGhee said. "I got two bars on the deadlift ladder, and on the sandbag carry race I loaded the 250-pound sandbag and carried the 300-pound sandbag halfway down the course before the time ran out."

"I gained a lot of confidence in myself," McGhee said. "I am typically very

anxious going into competitions because I want to perform at the top."

"At the current time in my strongman career, I was very unlikely to place extremely high, much less win, so I was forced to focus on myself and not worry about winning because I didn't really have a chance at it," McGhee said. "I feel that it gave me

an awesome understanding of what I'm capable of and helped me to have more fun when I compete."

"At the end of the day, I was disappointed in a few things, but these are the 40 strongest upper 90 men on the planet, so I am happy and humbled to be in the mix with the outcome I got," McGhee said.

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

GIVE THEM THE GIFT THEY NEED THIS YEAR

STEARNS & FOSTER®

TEMPUR + SEALY

TEMPUR-PEDIC®

Speed Queen. The Proven Performer in Laundry

LeatherItaliausa SINCE 1997

LA Z BOY®

FLEXSTEEL®

FREE DELIVERY * FREE SET-UP* FREE DISPOSAL FINANCING WITH NO INTEREST THROUGH SYNCHRONY

LOCATED ON THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE IN GATESVILLE

Leavird's FURNITURE We're a Central Texas tradition since 1898



Lady Hornets struggle in Jarrell, looking for strong non-district finish

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

The Gatesville girls' basketball team traveled to Mineral Wells on Dec. 15 looking to grab one more win before they break for Christmas.

Heading into their most recent tournament in Jarrell, the Lady Hornets were 7-4 and a win away from matching their win total from last season but a trio of narrow losses contributed to a winless tournament.

Gatesville opened with a 54-53 loss to TAPPS 5A St. Dominic St. Savio then lost to host Jarrell 64-45. They were then dealt another close defeat when they lost to Bosqueville

36-32. A 43-28 loss to Sanger was followed by a 38-35 loss to Thrall in the tournament finale.

In the loss to St. Savio, the Lady Hornets (7-10) trailed 42-23 at the half before a third quarter surge in which they outscored the Lady Eagles 22 to 6. Sophomore Emma Pollard scored 15 points in the quarter to lead an offensive explosion. Pollard was named to the All-Tournament team for her efforts.

In the fourth, Pollard's layup gave Gatesville a 53-52 lead before St. Savio knocked down a pair of free throws to take a 54-53 lead. Gatesville's final

attempt came up short when a Taylor Sanderson jumper rattled around but didn't fall.

In their four-point loss to Bosqueville, they turned another halftime deficit around in the third quarter. Bosqueville led by 14 at the half before another 22-6 third quarter in Gatesville's favor. Gatesville had a chance to tie the game at 34-34 with less than a minute to play, but Bosqueville forced a turnover, then hit two free throws for the 36-32 win. Pollard led all scorers with 15 points, while Sanderson had six points as did Taylor Coward.

Coward averaged dou-

ble digits in the tournament and grabbed more than seven rebounds per game over the five-game stretch. Pollard collected just over nine rebounds per game.

The Lady Hornets led Thrall 23-20 at the half and led 29-26 after three quarters before Thrall outscored Gatesville 12-6 in the final frame.

A 48-36 loss to Jarrell was Gatesville's second-to-last game before they go on break for Christmas. After traveling to Mineral Wells, they will have 12 days off before their final



Taylor Coward



Emma Pollard

tournament of the season in Troy. They will play a final non-district game at

Lampasas before opening district play at Robinson on Jan. 5.

Hornets capture Cameron tourney title, stay hot with third win over Lake Belton

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Gatesville hoops is rolling heading into the Christmas break.

The Hornets captured their first tournament title of the year at the Cameron Yoe tournament on Nov. 9 then topped Lake Belton on Nov. 12 to secure their seventh straight win and up their record to 14-2 on the season.

The Hornets are riding a seven-game winning streak since their last loss and the Broncos have been the victim three times during the streak.

Gatesville and Lake Belton met in the final game of pool play in Cameron with the Hornets getting a 50-47 win. After each team won their bracket semi-final game to reach the finals, the Hornets

secured the tourney title with a 54-52 win.

Their final matchup of the season was in Gatesville, and the Hornets completed the season sweep with a 61-45 win.

Gatesville opened the Cameron tournament with a 67-33 rout of Hempstead, then gutted out a 71-69 overtime win against the Aussie Travelers, a prep basketball touring company from Australia.

The win over Hempstead was over as quickly as it started as the Hornets jumped out to a 23-0 lead and held Hempstead scoreless until the 5:12 mark of the second quarter. Ten of the 11 Hornets who were dressed out scored in the win led by West Allman's 14.

Kase Cox and Amos

Phillips each had eight rebounds in the win, while Scout Hall played his best game of the season picking up 9 points and seven rebounds in 17 minutes of action.

In their pool play win over Lake Belton, the Hornets fell behind early thanks to the Broncos hot hand from behind the arc. Lake Belton knocked down six first quarter three-pointers to take a 20-14 lead.

In the second half, the Hornets overwhelmed the Broncos defensively as they shot 1-for-22 from three-point range in the half and just 7 percent from the field in the fourth quarter. Lake Belton had a chance to tie the game in the closing sec-

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | B2



Kase Cox (left), West Allman (center), and Rayshon Smith.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS ALLMAN



Gatesville boys basketball team at tournament in Cameron.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS ALLMAN

The First
NATIONAL BANK
of Central Texas

Settle for nothing less than the *FIRST*.

fnbct.bank 254-216-6042

HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

onds, but Cox completely overwhelmed Nelson Hayes, who was unable to get a shot off.

Cox was one of three Hornets in double digits in the pool play win with 13 points and he also snagged six rebounds. Charlie Winkler had 13 points including three three-pointers.

West Allman led all scorers in the game with 17 points and added nine rebounds. Allman averaged 19.2 points and eight rebounds over the five-game tournament stretch on his way to being named Tournament MVP.

Allman (25 points), Cox (22 points), and Rayshon Smith (12 points and five assists) led the charge in the win over the Aussie Travelers.

The game was tied at 60-60 heading into overtime with the Travelers scoring five quick points to take a 65-60 lead. But Gatesville quickly answered on a driving reverse layup from Smith and a three-pointer from Allman.

With the game tied at 69-69, Allman knifed through the Lane for a layup and a 71-69 lead, then Smith's smothering defense forced an airball on the Travelers last possession.

The Hornets semi-final win over 2A No. 25 Mum-

ford was another defensive clinic as the Hornets pressured the Tigers into 23 turnovers, forced an 0-for-10 from three-point range, and won the rebounding advantage 41-19.

Allman (13), Winkler (11), and Smith (10) all reached double figures in scoring, while Hall turned in another solid performance with eight points and six rebounds. Cox grabbed ten rebounds in the win.

In the tournament title game, the Broncos came out firing again from beyond the arc. They hit on six of 17 three-point attempts in the first half before going cold in the third thanks to the Hornets defense.

In the three matchups, the Broncos shot 87 three-pointers and connected on just 19 - a 21 percent clip. Conversely, they shot 68 two-pointers and hit on 47 percent.

Gatesville led 30-26 at the half, then forced eight Bronco turnovers in the third quarter to extend the lead to 47-37 after three quarters. But the Broncos continued to bomb away in the fourth and whittled a 51-37 Gatesville lead to 54-52 and had the ball again in the closing seconds with a chance to win or tie.

But it was Cox again who blanketed Hayes who was forced to drop the ball off to Christian Onchweri who missed a desperation three-point

attempt to give Gatesville the championship.

Allman finished the championship game with 27 points, 13 rebounds, and five steals. For his performance in the clincher, the junior was chosen as one of the finalists for the Mr. Texas Basketball Player of the Week Award by Dave Campbell's Texas Basketball.

Cox and Smith were each named to the All-Tournament team as they helped lift Gatesville to their third tournament championship over the last two seasons. Last season, the Hornets won two championships and finished second in another. This year's squad finished third in Salado before winning the Cameron

Tournament.

In the 61-45 November 12 win over Lake Belton, the Hornets had four players in double figures including Allman (14), Smith (13 and five assists), Winkler (11 and 9 rebounds), and Amos Phillips who had a monster night with ten points and 12 rebounds.

Since the beginning of last year, the Hornets are 42-10 with just five losses outside of district play or the postseason. They hosted McGregor on Nov. 15 and will welcome Llano on Nov. 18 before breaking for Christmas.

MCC Foundation scholarship applications now 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, visit <https://bit.ly/2JZ9jkq>.

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

OISD TIGER CHEER



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby Independent School District varsity cheerleaders have been busy this holiday season spreading Christmas cheer. This past Friday, the cheer team provided smiles and candy canes for the visitors of Schmidt's Annual Christmas Lights. They also visited the Oglesby Lions Club the following Sunday.

CONGRATULATIONS, OGLESBY TIGERS! 2023 STATE RUNNERS-UP



State Finals Game: Oglesby Tigers

vs.

Benjamin Mustangs

Oglesby fell short in the state finals, 62-34, but made history this year by making it to the State Championship. Way to go, Tigers!

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

ROGER MILLER
Coryell County Judge

Grib's Construction
2926 S. Hwy. 36
Gatesville
254-248-4171

COMER AUTOMOTIVE
103 PARK ST. GATESVILLE
254-825-7000

MID-TEX PLUMBING
Residential & Commercial
Master Lic. No. M-42617
Tyler Powell 254-223-3551
Zach Hodges 254-383-6267
120 Reno Rd.
Gatesville, TX 76528

First National Bank
Gatesville • Evant • Oglesby
3411 E. Main 115 S. Memory Ln. 117 FM 1996
254-865-2783 254-471-5531 254-470-2261
FDIC "Always putting you first"

Kyle Matthews
Coryell County Commissioner Pct. 1

RYAN BASHAM
Coryell County Commissioner Pct. 3

Dusty Boyd
District Attorney

LONE STAR AUTOMOTIVE
254-206-3300
4701 S. State Hwy. 36, Gatesville, TX 76528 • lonestarauto@yahoo.com

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
TO SUBSCRIBE: Call 254-865-5212

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans roll Hardin-Simmons for Division I era record fifth-straight victory

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State men's basketball extended its winning streak to five games with a 92-56 defeat of Hardin-Simmons on Tuesday, Dec. 5 in Wisdom Gym.

The Texans (7-2 overall, 2-0 WAC) improve their longest winning streak of the D1 era and move to 3-0 at home this season. Tarleton now owns the all-time series with the Cowboys (5-3, 2-0 ASC), 5-4, after playing for the first time in 31 years.

Lue Williams led the squad in scoring posting 16 in just 16 minutes of action. KiAndre Gaddy and Jakorie Smith also posted double-figure scoring totals with 13 apiece.

The Texans saw 13 different players take the floor

with 12 recording at least a bucket. Adam Moussa led the team with three assists in nearly 18 minutes off the bench. Traivar Jackson posted a career-high seven points and led the team with a pair of blocks. Bubu Benjamin led the Texans with six boards and added eight points including a behind-the-back reverse slam dunk in the second half. The Tarleton bench contributed for 37 points, the most this season.

The Texans jumped out to an early 6-0 lead in the first minute of the game. The Cowboys executed their biggest run of the night with a 7-0 burst to take their first lead of the contest, 16-15. Tarleton would swap buckets but used an 11-0 run to pull out to a 44-28 lead.

Williams led the Texans in the first half with 14. As

a unit, the squad shot 18-for-36 from the floor, a 50% clip. The Cowboys three-point shooting kept them close, knocking down seven from beyond the arc at a 50% rate.

The Texans picked back up where they left off coming out of the locker room in the second half. Tarleton scored the first 11 points after the intermission to take a 59-33 lead with 17:14 remaining in the game.

The Cowboys were unable to get back on track after the first three minutes and were nearly doubled by the Texans in the second half, 44-23.

Tarleton made 18 buckets again in the second half, but this time at a 58.1% clip. The Texan defense forced the Cowboys to shoot two-for-eight in the half from beyond the arc.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State men's basketball extended its winning streak to five games with a 92-56 defeat of Hardin-Simmons on Tuesday, Dec. 5 in Wisdom Gym.

The Texans shot 54.5% from the floor improving their record to 26-0 in the D1 era when shooting 50%

or better. The Purple and White forced 24 turnovers while committing only half. The Texans won the

battle of the boards, 40-28 and posted 18 steals. The Cowboys tallied eight blocks in the contest.

Todd Whitten named UAC Football Coach of the Year; 9 Texans earn All-Conference honors

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — In one of the most successful seasons posted by a reclassifying program, it's only fitting that Tarleton State Football earned numerous awards, announced by the United Athletic Conference Friday, Dec. 8.

Head coach Todd Whitten was named the United Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, and nine Texan football players made All-Conference first or second team. Four Texans were UAC First Team All-Conference, two on offense and two on defense. Running back Kayvon Britten and center Tuli Teuhema were on First Team Offense, joined by linebacker Qua'Shawn Washington and defensive back Patrick Jones on First Team Defense.

On All-Conference Second Team, there were three on offense, one on defense and one on special teams. Wide receiver Darius Cooper, offensive lineman Layton Ernst and offensive lineman Hunter Smith made Second Team Offense. Defensive lineman Josh Griffis was named Second Team Defense, and running back Deangelo Rosemond made Second Team Specialists as a returner.

Overall, Tarleton's nine All-Conference players were the second most among all nine conference programs, only behind Austin Peay. Only the Texans and Governors had multiple first team offensive players and first team defensive players. Tarleton also had the most second team offensive players (three).

As for Whitten, he was one of five to earn a superlative award in the conference. It marks his seventh all-time Coach of the Year award, his sixth coming straight from the conference itself. It's his second time being named the conference Coach of the Year over the past five seasons. Whitten led the Texans to second place in the inaugural United Athletic Conference season, taking his team 8-3 overall, 4-2 in conference play. The Texans

finished four spots better than predicted by the UAC head coaches entering 2023, as they were voted to finish sixth in the 2023 Preseason UAC Coaches Poll.

The Texans had the complete package this year across all three areas; offense, defense and special teams. On offense, the Texans finished in the top-two in every important category, taking second (13th FCS) in points per game (33.3), second (14th FCS) in yards per game (430.5) and first (11th FCS) in yards per play (6.4). Defensively, the Texans proved to be explosive, finishing first in the conference (tied-fourth FCS) in defensive touchdowns (four), first (tied-ninth) in fumble recoveries (11), first (tied-28th FCS) in sacks and first (17th FCS) in yards per play (4.76). On special teams, the Texans led the conference (eighth FCS) in average kickoff return (24.3 yards), had no blocked kicks nor blocked punts, and were second (fourth FCS) in average punt return (18.2).

Whitten's Texans opened the year 2-0 with back-to-back 52-point games, winning at McNeese to start the season before beating conference opponent North Alabama by three touchdowns at home. After a loss at Texas Tech, the Texans cruised over Southwest Baptist, then Whitten earned his 100th career victory at Tarleton State with a 14-13 win at preseason Southland Conference favorite Southeastern Louisiana. The Texans had consecutive losses after that, coming in the last moments of the game in each, a one-point loss to Southern Utah and a double overtime loss at Eastern Kentucky. After that, the Texans rolled, winning four straight to end the year — a 42-0 shutout of Morehead State, a 25-23 road win at No. 18 ranked Central Arkansas, a 59-17 drilling of Stephen F. Austin, and a come-from-behind 31-30 win at Abilene Christian in the season finale.

Whitten, who is already the winningest coach in Tarleton Football history, now has a 104-53 (.662) all-

time record for the Purple and White across 14 seasons, and a 129-81 (.614) spot all-time as an NCAA head coach (19 seasons). His eight wins this year marked the most by the Texans at the NCAA Division I level. Since 2018, the Texans have the highest winning percentage among all Texas D1 and D2 programs (.727, 48-18). They also have the longest active streak of winning seasons in the state at six.

Britten earned his second straight First Team All-Conference award, following First Team All-SWAC honors playing for Arkansas-Pine Bluff last season. In 2023, he was one of the best running backs in the nation, finishing with 1,150 yards on 183 carries (6.3 yards per rush) and 16 rushing touchdowns. He scored in 10 of Tarleton's 11 games, averaging 104.6 rushing yards per contest. He added 106 receiving yards and a touchdown on 11 catches, finishing with 17 total touchdowns on the season. Conference-wise, Britten was first in rushing touchdowns (16, third in the FCS) and total touchdowns (17, tied-fifth in FCS). The next closest in rushing touchdowns was at 10, and total at 14. He was second in total rushing yards (1,150, ninth in FCS), rushing yards per game (104.6, tied-11th FCS) and yards per rush (6.3, 21st in FCS). In conference play, Britten led with 10 rushing touchdowns (next closest was at six) and was second at 744 rushing yards. In program history, Britten had the sixth most rushing yards in a single-season and the eighth most rushing yards per game in a single-season. Since 1977, Britten finished with the tied-third most rushing touchdowns in a single-season in program history, tied with Gaylon Bowser's 16 rushing scores in 1987, only behind Xavier Turner's 22 touchdowns in 2018 and Derrick Ross' 22 touchdowns in 2004. Britten scored three touchdowns in a game twice, once in the season opener and another in the season finale. He capped off the year and

Tarleton's comeback victory with three rushing touchdowns and 176 yards on 22 carries. He had four 100-plus rushing yards on the season, all over the last five games, rushing for a season-high 187 yards at Eastern Kentucky on Oct. 14, doing so on 18 carries (10.4 YPC).

Teuhema started all 11 games at center for the Texans in his first year on the team. He was part of an offensive line that provided the best rushing attack in the United Athletic Conference, with the Texans posting 201.7 rushing yards per game, most in the UAC and 12th most in the FCS. They averaged 5.2 yards per rush (second in the UAC, 17th FCS) and went for 25 rushing touchdowns (most in the UAC, 16th FCS). Overall, the Texans averaged 33.3 points per game (second in UAC, 13th FCS), 430.5 yards per game (second UAC, 14th FCS) and 6.4 yards per play (first UAC, 11th FCS). Teuhema and the Texan offensive line allowed just 14 sacks all season, the tied-third fewest in the UAC and the tied-18th fewest in the FCS. They allowed just 3.91 tackles for loss per game as well, the second fewest in the UAC, 10th fewest in the FCS.

Washington wrapped up his Tarleton career with First Team honors after being named Second Team All-WAC last season. A UAC Preseason All-Conference selection, Washington finished the year with 68 total tackles (42 solo), three fumble recoveries, 3.5 tackles for loss, three quarterback hurries and two pass breakups in 10 games. His three fumble recoveries were the tied-most in the conference (tied-third most in the FCS), while his 6.8 tackles per game were tied-16th most in the UAC. He was the UAC Defensive Player of the Week after Tarleton's Nov. 4 win over Stephen F. Austin, where he recorded two fumble recoveries, 10 total tackles and two pass breakups. He logged a season-high 12 tackles, with one fumble recovery, two tackles for loss and a quarterback hurry in Tarleton's conference-open-

ing win over North Alabama Sept. 9.

After earning Second Team All-WAC honors at linebacker last year, Jones made the switch to DB this season and got the UAC First Team All-Conference nod. Jones finished with the most tackles on the team at 73 (49 solo). He also logged the third most pass breakups (six), had an interception return for a touchdown in the season opener, added a forced fumble and a quarterback hurry in 11 games. Jones posted a season-high 11 tackles in the conference opening win over North Alabama Sept. 9, finishing with 11 tackles and a pass breakup. He opened the year with a 71-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter to seal a win over McNeese. In the season finale, he had a pivotal forced fumble that helped boost Tarleton to a comeback win over Abilene Christian. He had three games with 10-plus tackles on the season.

Despite missing four games due to injury, Cooper still finished with the tied-most receiving touchdowns on the team (five), the second most receiving yards (622) and the second most receptions (28). His 88.9 receiving yards per game was best on the Texans, the best in the United Athletic Conference, and the 11th most in the FCS. He had the tied-10th most receiving touchdowns in the conference. Preseason All-UAC and Preseason All-American this year after taking All-WAC First Team honors a season ago, Cooper had two multi-touchdown games, which coincided with his two 100-plus receiving yard games. He had a season-high 168 yards on five receptions and two scores against Stephen F. Austin Nov. 4. At Eastern Kentucky on Oct. 14, he finished with 149 yards on six catches and two touchdowns, coming down with a 30-yard TD in overtime on 4th and 15 to keep the game alive. In conference play, Cooper led the UAC with 91.4 receiving yards per game. He had the tied-third most receiving touchdowns (four) and the

third most receiving yards (457).

Last year's Second Team All-WAC offensive lineman had another exceptional year for the Texans. Ernst started nine games for the Texans on the offensive line and shined alongside Teuhema and Smith. Smith got the starting nod this year and had a breakout campaign as he started all 11 games. Mentioned before, the Texan offensive line provided the best rushing attack in the United Athletic Conference and allowed just 14 sacks all season, the tied-third fewest in the UAC and the tied-18th fewest in the FCS. They allowed just 3.91 tackles for loss per game as well, the second fewest in the UAC, 10th fewest in the FCS.

Griffis exploded at the end of the season, especially in conference play, finishing with five sacks, 8.5 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles, eight quarterback hurries, 12 total tackles and a pass breakup. Over his past four games, he had a sack in each contest, including a forced fumble in each of the last three games. His best game of the season came in Tarleton's season finale win against Abilene Christian, where he had a strip sack fumble, two tackles for loss and three solo tackles. Griffis led the Texans in sacks, tackles for loss, forced fumbles and quarterback hurries. In the UAC, Griffis was second in forced fumbles (three), third in sacks (five) and tied 10th in tackles for loss (8.5). In conference play, Griffis had the most forced fumbles (three), the tied-third most sacks (three) and the tied-11th most tackles for loss (4.5).

Rosemond served as Tarleton's primary kick returner all season, averaging 25.7 yards across 18 returns (462 total yards). He had three returns go for 50-plus yards, two for 60-plus yards, with a season-long kick return of 65 yards against North Alabama Sept. 9. He had the most total kickoff return yardage in the UAC and averaged the second most. Only one other player in the UAC had a kickoff return go for 60-plus yards, and he posted two of them.

EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Dr. Barrett Pollard, joined by Gatesville Elementary School principal, Keegan Webb, honor librarian, Kristen Sullins.

Sullins featured in the GISD Staff Spotlight

Staff Reports

Gatesville Elementary principal, Keegan Webb, had the following to say about Kristen Sullins who is the librarian at Gatesville Elementary. "Kristen not only works to build a love of reading in our students through things like book challenges, reading menus, and themed book boxes, but she has also made the library a hub of our campus."

Webb continued, "Students participate daily in enrichment activities during our RTI (Response to Intervention) block in

the library. Each semester, Kristen creates a library transformation where the library is transformed into a construction site, space station, winter wonderland, and more."

Webb said that students get to experience hands-on learning activities complete with props and costumes. In their Fall transformation, students got to visit the moon and engage in a creative writing activity about it.

"Not only does Kristen run a fantastic learning program through our library, but she also serves

as testing and RTI coordinator for the campus. We have never met someone that can build and run a spreadsheet quite like Mrs. Sullins," Webb said.

Webb said that this year Mrs. Sullins also took the lead as PTO president helping plan and organize treats, activities, and support for both teachers and students.

"I cannot say enough about Kristen and all she does for the elementary campus, but I do know that we would be lost without her," Webb said.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Dr. Barrett Pollard, joined by GHS principal Liz Shoaf, honored GHS senior William Allman during the Student Spotlight at the GISD board meeting.

Allman shines in Gatesville ISD Student Spotlight

Staff Reports

During the Dec. 11th meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, Willie Allman was honored during the Student Spotlight presentation.

GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard described Allman as "one of the most personable students you will ever meet."

Allman's teachers had many kind things to say about him. Katherine Burnside stated that, "Will is such a bright light to have in class and brings all the

laughs to my classroom." Sarah Coker said, "In five years, I have never seen him without a smile on his face and a kind word to say to his peers and staff." Coker also explained that William (without prompting from any teacher) wrote an email to her explaining his appreciation for everything she does. Gatesville High School principal, Liz Shoaf, said that Willie "has a knack for noticing when someone could use encouragement or a friendly greeting."

GHS Librarian Summer Erwin stated that Willie is a leader among his peers

and isn't afraid of putting himself out there. For example, she said that he plans and organizes a student-led Bible study and recruits students to come to prayer at the pole. Assistant Principal Clayton Floyd said that Willie "looks out for other students and makes GHS a better place every day." Janey Weber described how Willie works with a kindergarten class as part of his practicum. She stated, "Willie has done an amazing job helping those students."

Mother & Son Movie Night to be held Jan. 27

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Education Foundation will host a mother and son movie night on Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Last Drive-In Picture Show for students at Gatesville Independent School District.

Tickets for the movie night will not be sold at the entrance, so be sure to pre-register online or by returning a paper form to your child's school. Forms can be picked up at each campus or by visiting <https://gatesvilleisd.org/revtrak.net/r3> and are to be turned in by Friday, Jan. 19.

The tickets will include a viewing of the movie Aquaman, mini-golf for



two, two 16-ounce drinks, two 44-ounce popcorns, and a photo booth with cell phone reception.

The tickets will cost \$20 each and will be \$10 more for each additional son.

For more information,

contact the Gatesville Education Foundation by email at educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org.

The Last Drive-In Picture Show is located at 2912 TX-36 in Gatesville.

Jonesboro ISD presents Christmas program Dec. 19

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District will hold a Christmas program on Tuesday, Dec. 19.

The program will be held at 6 p.m. in the Jonesboro

ISD gymnasium.

The theme for this year's program is "A Night Before Christmas, A Jonesboro Edition."

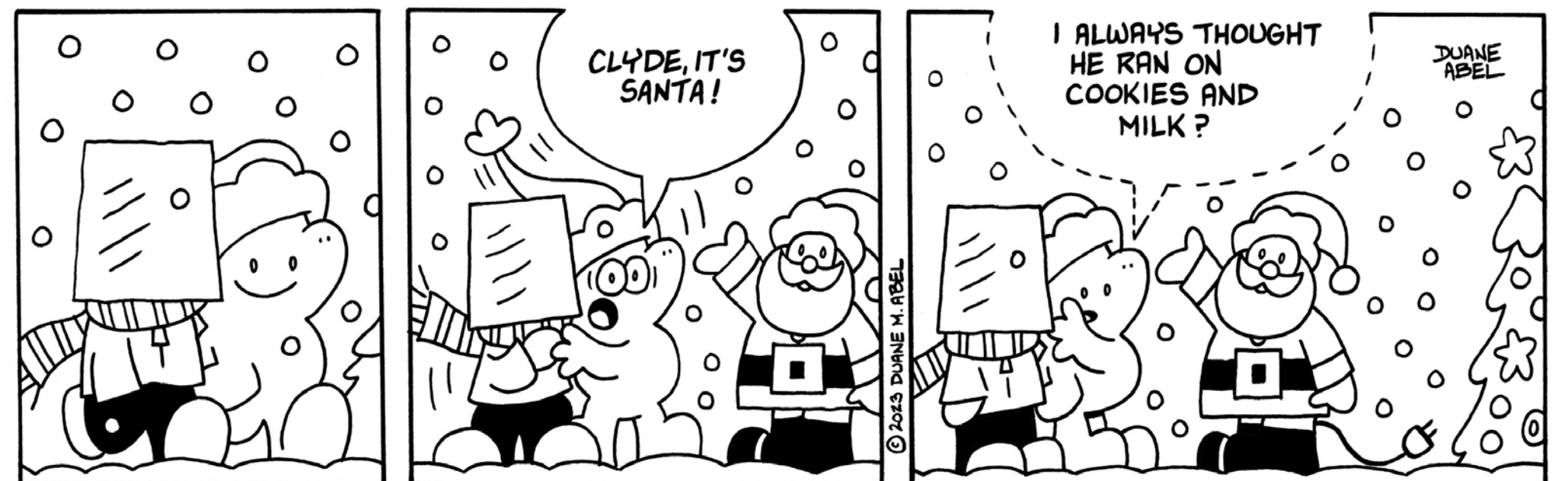
The program will feature prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, second

grade, and third grade students.

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

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

ZED by Duane M. Abel



Local high school students volunteer at Care Center

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Since the holidays are upon us, the Gatesville Care Center has been gearing up for its annual toy drive as well as getting food donations sorted to serve families within the community for Christmas.

Students from Gatesville High School, including athletes and the National Honor Society, visited the Care Center this past week to aid in combing through the donations such as marking items with the correct labeling, placing the donations

in designated areas, as well as sorting through food, clothing, toys, movies, and books.

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



Gatesville High School athletes (left) Zach Bryant and (right) Gabriel Charles sort through produce while volunteering at the Care Center.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Gatesville High School National Honor Society go through toy donations for Christmas. (Left to right) Sean Aguilar, Natalie Fast, Bethany Penrod, and James Coffman.



Gatesville Choir breaks two school records

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District announced the results from the Texas Music Education Association (TMEA) Pre-Area auditions, which were held on Friday, Dec. 1. Gatesville Choir broke two school records with nine students qualifying, and six students advancing to the final area

round in Jan. 2024.

- Results of the TMEA Pre-Area auditions:
- Katie Hopson - 4th Chair Soprano
 - Anna Phillips - 2nd Chair Alto
 - Paisley Wells - 2nd Chair Tenor
 - Roman Wallace - 8th Chair Tenor
 - Memphis Wells - 2nd

- Chair Bass
- Nevin Benning - 4th Chair Bass
 - Eli Alvarez - 1st Alternate Tenor

The students have been learning college-level music since before summer to prepare for the auditions, as well as having to individually sightread.

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
TO SUBSCRIBE: Call 254-865-5212

CORYELL Kids

Imagine a world where superheroes aren't the strongest or the fastest, but the ones who surprise everyone with their bravery and determination - these are the underdogs! An underdog is like a tiny seed that grows into a mighty tree, even when no one expects it.

In stories and real life, underdogs are the ones people might underestimate

National UNDERDOG Day

December 16

or overlook. Maybe it's the little turtle racing against speedy hares, or the shy kid in class who turns out to be an amazing artist. Underdogs face challenges and setbacks, but they never give up.

The coolest thing about underdogs is their hidden superpowers - not the kind with capes, but the power of heart, resilience, and hard work. They teach us that everyone, no

matter how small or quiet, has something incredible inside.

So, if you ever feel like an underdog, remember you're in excellent company! You have your own unique powers waiting to shine. Embrace challenges, believe in yourself, and get ready to show the world the amazing things you can do!

Color Time

Famous Underdogs

Here are some incredible underdogs who became heroes in their own stories:

CINDERELLA
Imagine a girl with a heart full of kindness who, despite facing challenges, gets to dance at the royal ball and captures the heart of a prince. Cinderella shows us that dreams really do come true, even for those who start with humble beginnings.

HARRY POTTER
Harry, a young wizard, was just an ordinary boy living with his not-so-nice relatives. Little did he know, he had magical powers and a destiny to defeat the dark wizard Voldemort. Through courage and friendship, Harry showed us that even the most unlikely heroes can change the wizarding world.

RUDY RUETTIGER
In the movie "Rudy," a small guy with a big dream fights against all odds to play football for Notre Dame. His determination and heart inspire us to never give up on our dreams, no matter how impossible they may seem.

MATILDA
Matilda is a clever little girl with magical abilities who triumphs over her mean headmistress and discovers her love for learning. Matilda reminds us that our uniqueness and intelligence are powerful tools to overcome challenges.

MOANA
Moana, a spirited island girl, sets sail across the ocean to save her people. Even though she faces enormous challenges and a fiery lava monster, Moana's bravery teaches us that anyone, no matter how small, can make a big difference.

Remember, these underdogs became heroes because they believed in themselves, stayed true to their hearts, and faced challenges with courage. You've got your own amazing story to create, full of adventures and triumphs!

GINGERBREAD HOUSE BUILDING AT FIRST METHODIST

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

On Saturday, Dec. 9, the First Methodist Church in Gatesville hosted its annual gingerbread house building event from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Members of the church, along with the community, participated in the event by building houses with gingerbread, icing, peppermints, candy, edible glitter, and snow. First Methodist Church's Missions Ministry Coordinator Michelle Martin puts together the event each year to bring forth Christmas spirit throughout Gatesville.



WE'RE HIRING

Dietary Aide and Dietary Cook
5am-1:30pm or 1pm-7:30pm

CNA
All Shifts

Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, Competitive Pay & 401K.

APPLY AT: HILLSIDEML.COM

HILLSIDE MEDICAL LODGE
300 S. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, TX 76528
254-865-7575

HILLSIDE MEDICAL LODGE

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER

ALEX MATA
SOCIAL WORKER

Alex is definitely a person who puts others before himself. He proves it on a daily basis with the care he provides to our residents. he is also a true team player and is always willing to help whenever needed.

We appreciate you, Alex, for all you do for Hillside.

We accept all insurances, Medicare traditional, Medicare replacement plans, Medicaid, and Medicaid pending.

Director of Public Relations:
Susie Meelbusch
254-383-2307

300 S. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, TX 76528
254-865-7575

www.hillside.ml.com

GATESVILLE'S CHRISTMAS PARADE

PHOTOS BY GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

There was a large turnout of floats and onlookers at the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas Parade held Dec. 9. This year's theme was "Toys, Toys, Toys."

