



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Dec. 30, 2023

\$1.00



SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 6, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Texas DPS: Gatesville resident dies in fatal crash on Highway 84

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Public Safety is investigating a two-vehicle crash that killed one person in Coryell County on Dec. 21. The incident happened around 6:15 p.m. at the intersection of U.S. Highway 84 and Knowles Road.

According to a report by Texas DPS, a Dodge Ram truck was traveling east-bound on 84 at an "unsafe speed" on wet roads before it hydroplaned and collided into a Honda Civic. Texas DPS identifies the driver of the Honda Civic as 57-year-old Donna Marie

Henry from Gatesville. The report says Henry was pronounced dead at the scene and that their relatives have been notified. The Dodge Ram truck was operated by a 29-year-old male from Robinson, Texas. The name of the Dodge driver has not been

released. Texas DPS troopers would like to remind drivers to reduce their speed when road conditions are unfavorable and to drive defensively as millions of Texans hit the road this holiday season.

Top Stories of 2023

As 2023 comes to an end, The Gatesville Messenger offers a snapshot of some of the biggest local news stories of the year. From professional and personal to tragic and uplifting, this list kicks off the first five of the most memorable stories in Gatesville and Coryell County.

10 WOMEN RISE TO THE HEAD OF GISD

Through the years, women of Coryell County have become more visible in official offices and in educational roles. In March, The Gatesville Messenger featured the principals of Gatesville Independent School District's five campuses in honor of Women's History Month:

- Former Gatesville Primary School Principal Mashara Streater has a 23-year-long teaching career. She retired from her role in May of this year.
- Gatesville Elementary School Principal Keegan Webb took the lead in 2019 and is now in her fourth year as principal as well as in her 18th year of education.
- Gatesville Intermediate School Principal Bridget Register has been principal since 2019.
- Suzy Penrod has been the principal at Gatesville Junior High since 2021 and has over 25 years of experience in education.
- Marie Barrows was named the principal at Gatesville High School in 2021. Barrows left the military in 2010 and decided to pursue public education full time. In 2019, she became an assistant principal at Gatesville High School.

9 LOCAL RESIDENT RETURNS FROM ISRAEL

Gatesville resident, Vicki Kieltyka, shared her experience after returning from a trip to Jerusalem in October. After Kieltyka's best friend successfully underwent an operation to receive a pacemaker, Kieltyka promised that she would help her cross an item off her bucket list: A trip to Israel. Kieltyka and her friend arrived in Israel on Oct. 3 with plans to attend a tour that was supposed to take them to various historical and cultural sites. A few days later, on Saturday, Oct. 7, war broke out in the region after Palestinian militant group, Hamas, launched a surprise attack in Gaza, killing thousands of innocent people. Due to flights being canceled out of the Tel Aviv airport, Kieltyka said they had to make a three-hour journey across the border to Amman, Jordan. After catching four different flights, Kieltyka and her friend finally arrived home on Saturday, Oct. 14. NBC News reports that more than 21,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the Israel-Hamas war broke out in October.

8 DEMOLITION OF THE OLD JAIL AND ROTUNDA

Gatesville witnessed the demolition of two local buildings this year - the Coryell County Jail and Rotunda Nursing Home. The historic jail was demolished in May to allow for an expansion that will provide more beds for inmates. Before the demolition, the county donated several historical items from the jail to the Coryell County Museum and Historical Center, including an old jail door and 1880s filing cabinet. In June, the city moved forward with plans to demolish the old Rotunda Nursing Home located at 2525 Osage Road. The property, which had been abandoned since 2000, was considered a public health hazard in danger of collapse as well as being an eyesore. Demolition of the building officially began in August. The site has been identified as a possible location for the new Gatesville Police Department.

PLEASE SEE **STORIES** | A5

TEAM GATESVILLE JOINS THE RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The local Special Olympics team, known as Team Gatesville, recently joined community members to ring the bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. Joyce Talbott, a representative of the Salvation Army, said, "It is such a heartwarming sight to see our Special Olympics groups ringing the Salvation Army bells. Their participation not only spread holiday cheer, but also underscored the importance of everyone in the community supporting a common cause."

Gatesville Police Department provides community with Citizen's Police Academy

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Staff Reports
The Gatesville Police Department has recently made applications available for a Citizen's Police Academy to give locals an inside look at what it is like to be in the law enforcement field. Last held in 2019, the Citizen's Police Academy is a community outreach program hosted by the Gatesville Police Department with assistance from Coryell County District Attorney Dusty Boyd. The academy seeks to enhance understanding and communication with the citizens of Gatesville and is open to ages 18 and up. If you are 16 or 17 years of age, a parent or guardian is required to attend. "Back in September, we updated all our courses to host the Criminal Justice Practicum Class from Gatesville High School (Ms. Hamilton's class)," Gates-

ville Police Chief Brad Hunt said. "Once we completed that course, we realized this material would work well for a citizen's academy." Hunt expressed that for now the academy is limited to those who live or work within the city limits to accommodate for the number of students attending each course. If there are spaces available closer to the start date, slots may open for people living outside of Gatesville. "Twenty is our cap, so we can ensure each person gets to participate in our scenario-based training and events," Hunt said. "Each person will get to do a nighttime traffic stop, conduct a building search, shoot a handgun or rifle, process a crime scene, and more." Classes will be held each Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with one session conducted at the shooting range. The first class will

take place on Thursday, Feb. 22 with the last being Thursday, March 21. Each course is divided into time slots, ensuring each person will be included in each of the training sessions. *Different training sessions and courses include:*
Tour of the Gatesville Police Department with Police Chief Brad Hunt
Case preparation with District Attorney Dusty Boyd
Mental Health Services
Firearms safety day
Animal Control Operations
Crime Scene Processing
Building searches
Traffic stops instructions
High Risk Stops
Code Enforcement Operations
Dispatch Operations
Financial Crimes and Identification
Theft
Drunk driving demonstration
Narcotics
"At its core, it is about

developing relationships with our citizens through understanding and camaraderie," Hunt said. "Our officers, leaders, and support personnel enjoy the interaction, and we hope the attendees have a great time while learning a little bit about our daily tasks and challenges." "For us, it is a win-win situation, and it is the least we can do to show our community we care," Hunt said. "We believe that each person who attends our citizen academy will walk away with a greater understanding of the job we do and the challenges we face." Applications are to be picked up in the main lobby at the Gatesville Police Department, which is located at 200 N. 8th Street. For more information, visit gatesvilletx.com/police or email bhunt@gatesvilletx.com.



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Children's book set in Gatesville sparks nostalgia

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Waco author Joye Thackston recently published her third children's book inspired by her own childhood in Gatesville.

Titled "My Little David," the story follows a young boy, Sam, and his adventures with his grandfather. All ten chapters feature various landmarks and events around Gatesville and Coryell County, including the Coryell County Courthouse.

"I grew up in (Gatesville), and the stories are based on memories from my childhood," Thackston said in an email. "For instance, walking around

the courthouse on the rock fence and living close to my grandparents."

Although Thackston wrote the book for children, she said adults will also enjoy the stories about familiar places and activities that will take them down memory lane.

According to the book's summary, the story transports readers to a simpler era as Sam and his grandfather attempt to eliminate boredom from everyday life in rural Texas. Thackston said families can use Sam's journey as a teaching tool for young readers to direct their gift of love back to its

creator, God.

"As Sam and grandad get into mischief, an endearing picture of their precious relationship stands out," she said. "Learn from grandad's unique way of challenging Sam to ask questions while simultaneously intriguing him with a touch of mystery."

After volunteering in a women's prison ministry, Thackston said she was inspired to write stories that teach children about God's word.

"I watched the faces of the women in our classroom. It was apparent to me that, as children, they had never been

taught about God's love for them," she said. "Maybe if they had, they might have taken a different path."

Thackston is also the author of "If Only Donkeys Could Talk" and "The Desire of Sarah's Heart." Her children's book "My Little David" can be purchased at the Coryell County Museum or local booksellers, including Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and Walmart.

"Many people teach children at church, but maybe my little books will reach a few and make them wonder and ask questions," Thackston said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The book cover for "My Little David" features an illustration of the Coryell County Courthouse.

City of Gatesville provides annual recycling bin for live Christmas trees

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Since the holiday season is wrapping up, the City of Gatesville has made its annual recycling bin available for locals to drop off live Christmas trees at the Chamber Depot.

The drop-off bin will be available until Monday, Jan. 1. The City of Gatesville will then gather the recycled trees on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The City of Gatesville's Finance and Human Resource Director Mike Halsema said, "In addition, residents may place their live Christmas trees with other brushes on their regularly scheduled brush and bulky item pickup day."

Before recycling a live Christmas tree, it needs to be cleaned of all holiday decorations and flocking. Be sure to remove all the lights, ornaments, tree toppers, artificial snow, tinsel, tree stands, and other metal structures.

"If they are dropped off at the location by the depot, then they are ground up along with other brushes and used around the city," Halsema said.

The most obvious benefit of using a real tree is that they are natural.

While live trees are beneficial, they still require resources to grow and maintain including water, pesticides, and other farming by-products are a

given. The trees produce the largest negative impact through the fuel consumption needed to take them from the tree farm to your home.

Even when they are cut down, the roots left behind enrich the soil and store carbon. When you are done with a real tree, they can be recycled by mulching and composting.

Recycling lessens the environmental impact of Christmas tree harvesting and gives your tree life beyond the holiday season.

For more information, contact the City of Gatesville at 254-865-8951.

The Chamber Depot is located at 2607 S. TX-36 in Gatesville.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Christmas trees are present in the recycling bin at the Chamber Depot.

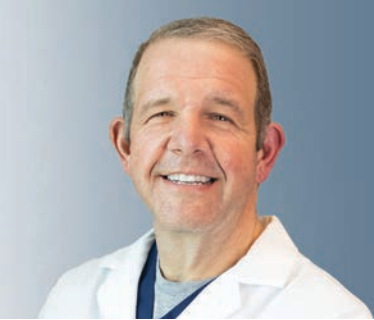
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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Walking Up a Hill to the Future



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

In some of my past columns, I have mentioned Miss Jayne. She is 92 years old and my dear friend and substitute mother, now that mine has passed.

She was born and grew up in Durant, Oklahoma where she attended grade school, high school, and college. Miss Jayne's Dad was a telegrapher with the railroad. He was a smart and industrious man who realized way back in the 40's that there were no dormitories at the growing Southeast Oklahoma State University and very few apartments in Durant. He purchased a city lot located just two blocks from the college, which already had a house built upon it. He then proceeded to take the roof off the house and built

a series of boarding rooms on the newly created second and third floors. Miss Jayne's family lived on the first floor, and the second and third floors were rented to female college students. Many of the renters made the house their home for their entire 4-year collegiate career.

Because of age and failing health, Miss Jayne had not been back to Durant for quite a few years. I decided it might be a good idea to take her to see the "old home place" one more time before her health failed to the point where she could

not travel.

I could tell Miss Jayne was excited to make the trip. She could not recall the last time she had been to see the place where she grew up, but the thought of seeing her childhood home and reliving her family memories was nearly more than she could bear. As we drove, we talked about her folks, her brother, and the times they shared. We talked about her deceased husband, Marcus, and how she had met him at Durant when she was in college. Clearly, it was important to her to share with me, her close friend, those intimate memories, and the reality that she was the only one left to tell the stories after all these years.

When we got to Durant, we drove to her childhood address and were surprised that, while the old house was vacant, it was still standing and in good shape. The yard was mowed and obviously cared for. Miss Jayne began describing how as many as 16 girls had lived upstairs at her family home and detailed the adventures which occurred. She smiled, giggled,

and regaled me in tales. She told me of the time she and her brother were playing with their pony, and it fell into a ditch which had been dug by the city to install a new water line. The pony had landed upside down in the trench and could not get itself out. Miss Jayne was sure it was going to die until some college students got shovels and managed to free the animal. She showed me the street corner where her three childhood friends would meet to join her to walk up the hill to grade school. The same girls would meet and walk up the hill to high school, and then to college. "I don't know how many steps I took over the years but everything I ever learned in school was on that hill, and I had to take that sidewalk to get there, from kindergarten through a master's degree," Jayne told me, "And, I even met my husband and fell in love up on that hill."

We drove around Durant, and Miss Jayne remarked on the changes. She told stories about old stores and businesses as she marveled at the evolution of the col-

lege campus - even pointing out to me the music hall she and Marcus would visit to "make out" when they were dating.

As we drove back home, we talked about life and those things which were important to value. She told me that, at her age, memories were all she had left. She was so pleased she got to see one more time the place which held so many memories for her. She also let me know how important it was to her to share those stories, so I might better understand exactly who she was and where she had come from.

As I drove back to my home, I thought about the hill Miss Jayne climbed when she started school. I tried to picture my 92-year-old friend as a 5-year-old going to kindergarten with her three childhood friends:

giggling as they walked, carefree and unaware of what travails life had in store for them in the years ahead. Little did she know where the sidewalk would lead her or what her life would become. She had no idea she and I would become friends so many years later.

We all have climbed our "hills" and one day will look back and recollect and smile at the past. My hope is when you do, you have someone close to share those memories with. They will enjoy hearing your memories as much as you will enjoy reliving them.

Thought for the day: Old memories are like coffee with cream and sugar: when stirred both can become mellow and sweet!

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

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Gatesville Chamber of Commerce to hold annual banquet Jan. 20

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is preparing for its annual member banquet which will be held Saturday, Jan. 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Gatesville Civic Center.

This will be an evening

of cards, games, and award presentations along with a catered meal.

The presentation of awards will include Business of the Year, New Business of the Year, People's Choice Award, Director of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, and Citizen of the

Year.

The winners of each category will be announced at the banquet.

To vote for the citizen of the year, visit <https://sites.google.com/.../vote/citizen-of-the-year...>

To vote for the People's Choice Award, visit <https://sites.google.com/.../vote/peoples-choice-award...>

Each ticket will cost \$25, which will be included with a meal. For a table of eight, the cost is \$175. Tickets are available for purchase at <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../2024-gatesville-chamber-of-...>

The last day to purchase tickets will be on the day of the event.

Membership renewals will be available during the event as well as forms for anyone who would like to join the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Drive. For more information, contact the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.

Carter BloodCare to set up blood drive at Gatesville HEB parking lot

Staff Reports

Local grocery store HEB will host a blood drive on Wednesday, Jan. 3, partnering with Carter Blood Care. The blood drive will be held from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

in the HEB parking lot.

To schedule an appointment, visit <https://ww2.greatpartners.org/.../drive-schedule/144046>.

Each donor will receive a \$20 e-gift card.

Carter BloodCare provides lifesaving transfusion resources to more than 200 medical facilities in over 50 counties throughout North, Central, and East Texas. Each year, the organiza-

tion provides more than 440,000 units of blood products to meet patients' treatment requirements.

For more information, visit carterbloodcare.org.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

TOM CREEK

Say hello to our neighbor, Tom Creek!

Tom is the Senior Vice President, the Market Executive, and a commercial banker for Extraco Banks and has been with the bank for over nine years. He expressed that the best part about his job is having the ability to assist and advise local businesses to succeed. He has lived in Gatesville for 16 years and enjoys the small rural community with great folks.

Tom reads The Gatesville Messenger and says that it is a great local newspaper that provides community information and events that is needed by Gatesville and local communities.

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

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran Dec. 23.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com



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(ISSN-08944954) | P.O. Box 799, Gatesville, TX 76528 | 116 South 6th St., Gatesville, Texas 76528 | 254-865-5212
The Gatesville Messenger is published every Saturday by Messenger Publishing Co. Inc., Periodical class postage paid at Gatesville, TX 76528.

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.

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

PEARL NEWS

Pearl mourns the loss of a former resident



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Kitty King Kemp, formerly of Pearl.

Mrs. Kemp was born in Pearl in 1941 to Harry and Essie Smith King, attended Pearl School, and graduated from Evant High School in 1959. She married her high school sweetheart, Charles Allen Kemp, and they resided in Richardson for many

years. A graveside service will be held at a later date at Restland Cemetery. Mrs. Kemp still has family and friends in the Pearl area and will be greatly missed. You can find more information on the Clayton Kay Vaughan Funeral Home

website in Alvarado.

I was blessed to talk with Kay Pruett this week, and she told me that she enjoyed a wonderful visit from Gwen Drennan earlier in the week. They talked about old times and made some new memories. Old friends are the "bestest!"

I was blessed with a phone call from David Scott earlier this week. "Mr. Scott" surely loves Pearl, and he prays for our Pearl people in need of prayer along his "prayer route" that he takes on his way to the newspaper office each morning. We do have several people who critically need our prayers at this time, so I hope you all join him from wherever you are as you begin your day. (The Lord knows who they are.) Prayers are greatly needed

and very much appreciated. There's nothing more powerful than prayer!

The next Bluegrass event and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day will be Jan. 6. The Bluegrass event happens all day long, but the Book Cottage is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kay and Corlisa will be so glad to see you when you visit the bookstore. Remember, almost all purchases are "buy what you want, pay what you want," and all monies go toward the bookstore's local charities. Where else in this area can you find over 6,000 books all in one location? There's no place like Pearl!

The next Pearl Community Center quarterly board meeting will be Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m., at the Community Center. The public is invited to attend.

This week's Bible verse comes Psalm 98:1-3 ... Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right Hand and His Holy Arm have worked salvation for Him. The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations. He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to Israel; all the end of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. NIV Happy New Year!

Please pray for continued blessings of rain, for our

veterans and service men and women, our country, our schools, and Israel. Be sure and thank Him for the rain we have received and all of the millions of other blessings we receive each day!

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured left to right are Katy and Chad Hill of Bare Bones BBQ, and Bobby and Lisa Livingston. Each year, the couples work together to host a car show toy drive to collect toys for children. Seated on the couch are the children of Chad and Katy Hill, Ruby and Brock Hill.

Hidden Gem receives large toy donation during holidays

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

From Nov. 1 through Dec. 4, the Hidden Gem Family Center took names for the Tree of Giving for kids for Christmas. The tree had individual ornaments with children's profiles and items needed. Items included shoes, toys, and

clothes.

They were able to provide for 81 children with the help of the Gatesville community.

On Dec. 18, Bare Bones restaurant donated a trailer load of toys which were able to provide to 50 more children. In total, Hidden Gem provided Christmas

presents for a total of 140 children.

Hidden Gem's director, Jennifer Featherston said, "We can not thank this community enough for helping others in need. Thank each one of you for your generous giving, and may the Lord bless each of you.

The Hidden Gem Family

Center is a Non-Profit Organization that focuses on the restoration of families who have been victims of crime, experienced loss, or devastation in their life. They also strive to provide programs and services that will strengthen families.

Sports complex closed through Jan. 31

Staff Reports

Through the winter break and into the new year, the City of Gatesville has scheduled MUSCO lighting to be installed at the Gatesville Sports Complex from

Monday, Nov. 20, through Sunday, Jan. 31.

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

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

For more information, contact the City of Gatesville Parks and Recreation

Department at 254-499-1015.

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

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2003)

The Gilbreath Room at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center became a USO for a reception honoring World War II veterans.

Gatesville Elementary School was nominated for the No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

A proposal was put forward that commissioners look into the possibility of establishing a paper recycling

program throughout all county offices.

A Christmas concert by the Gatesville High School choir had become a tradition for the Gatesville Lions Club.

The Oglesby Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored lawnmower races held at the Oglesby football stadium. First place went to Andy Smith.

30 YEARS AGO (1993)

Hay Valley 4-H Club was set to hold their annual Rabies Clinic.

Powell Supply advertised GE VCRs for \$219.

Sales tax rates were up for Coryell County. Construction on Texas Highway 36 in Gatesville was stepping up in pace, which led to lane closures and detours.

Doyle and Wanda Whaley, longtime missionaries to Guatemala, showed slides

and preached at Cold Springs Baptist Church in Flat.

40 YEARS AGO (1983)

A fire that swept through two duplexes was under investigation.

Gatesville Hornets basketball team won their first three games of the season.

Walmart advertised Walkmans for \$31.86 apiece.

The new Morris Senior Center in Oglesby was set

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- ◆ 117 N. Rice St., Hamilton, TX. Rustic Lantern, over 7,000 sq ft, 2 stories w/ 2 staircases, kitchen area, old safe, great commercial property for restaurant, office, or retail. \$549,000
- ◆ 1.469 ac. Lampasas River Place Subdivision, Lampasas River frontage, good tree cover, electricity along property line, Kempner water along front of property, \$125,000
- ◆ 5 ac. 4/2 brick home, 1960 CR 158 Evant, fireplace, open floor plan, recently remodeled kitchen, breakfast bar, pantry, second living area, office, ceramic tile floors, large front porch, fiber optic internet service, Multi-County Water, 2 car carport, storage that is 24'x19' w/ attic lift, \$599,000.
- ◆ 5.078 ac. East of Gatesville, Greenbriar Ranch Estates, Lot No. 4. North Greenbriar Creek, good tree cover, rolling terrain, electricity & water at the road. \$123,500
- ◆ 10.01 ac. East of Evant TX, Coryell County on CR 160. Lot 39, Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision. Rolling terrain, good tree cover, OWNER FINANCING. TERMS, 15% DOWN, 7.5% INTEREST, & CAN DO 10-15- OR 20-YEAR NOTE. \$139,900
- ◆ 10.01 ac, Lot 41 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX., Good Tree cover, Rolling Terrain, Fiber Optic Internet. \$149,500
- ◆ 11 +/- ac, Arnett, TX Coryell County, good tree cover, nice home site, will need to be fenced. MCWSC may be available. \$179,500
- ◆ 11.01 ac. Lot 5 Ph 2 Rio Escondido, 3180 PR 42111 Evant, TX. Ready to build on w/ house pad, electricity, septic system, water well, Fiber-optic internet, small cabin w/kitchenette, bathroom, covered patio, & RV pad, 1 tank. \$212,500
- ◆ 15 ac. East of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across road, will need to drill water well for water. \$150,000
- ◆ 16.5 ac. Turnersville, open pasture, good views, paved CR 220. electricity across road, check w/ Coryell City Water on availability of water meter. \$206,500
- ◆ 17.85 ac. 296 Cross Timbers Lane, Gatesville, 2 homes, 3/2 brick home, open floor plan, 2nd home 2/2 single wide, good tree cover, rolling terrain, storage building, excellent fences, 1 stock pond. \$749,500
- ◆ 18.1 ac. south of Evant, near Adamsville, Lampasas County, Hwy 281 & CR 2830. water well, electricity, carport, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$260,000
- ◆ 20 ac. Evant, TX, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Lot 23 Ph 1, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric available, Fiber Optic Internet. \$215,000
- ◆ 20.02 ac. Evant, TX, PR 42107, Hamilton County, Lot 43 Ph 6 Rio Escondido, rolling terrain, good tree cover, season creek. \$265,000.
- ◆ 20.33 ac 3/2 modular home 714 CR 415, Evant, open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, hardwood floors, pantry, free standing wood stove, 10'x60' front porch, multi-county water, 1 tank, fiber optic internet, small workshop, chicken coop, greenhouse, storage buildings and carport. \$498,000
- ◆ 22.2 Ac, 4/2 Palm Harbor Manufactured Home, 812 Blakley Rd, open floor plan, large master bedroom, his & her closets, 2 living areas, 14'x35' sunroom, laminate floors, ceramic floors in kitchen, laundry room & bathrooms, 8'x40' container w/ lean-to for a carport, outbuildings, water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$649,500
- ◆ 30.528 ac. East of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across the road, you will need to drill a water well. \$305,280
- ◆ 33.43 ac. near Coryell City, Coryell County, FM 929 & CR 260 frontage, rolling terrain, good views. \$295,000
- ◆ 38 +/- ac. South of Pearl, TX, Coryell County, FM 183 frontage, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, nice views, great home site. \$372,400
- ◆ 39.378 ac West of Gatesville, Hwy 36 frontage, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain. Good fences, water meter on property & electric available, Jonesboro ISD \$395,000
- ◆ 41.0457 ac. Hamilton, CR 404, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, approx. 25 acres farmland, 2 tanks, & good fences. \$449,000
- ◆ 47.332 ac. South of Ireland, TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, good fencing on 3 sides, southside will need to be fenced. \$395,000
- ◆ 50.24 ac. 3/2.5 home, 2171 CR 419 Evant, rolling terrain, good tree cover over 40% of property, remaining balance open pasture, great views. \$649,500.
- ◆ 58.51 ac. 3/2 frame home, 6630 FM 183 Evant, TX, water well, several outbuildings, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, 2 tanks, \$585,000
- ◆ 60.23 ac. CR 238 near Turnersville, TX, 1 stock tank, good fences, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain, \$361,380.
- ◆ 68.9 ac, 3/2.5 rock home 101 Mac Dr., Gatesville, approx. 2900 ft Leon River frontage, ceramic tile floors, carpet in bedrooms, vaulted ceiling, rock fireplace, granite countertops, breakfast bar, garden tub, metal building 45'x24' barn, cattle pens, 1 tank, approx. 48 ac of coastal. \$1,249,500
- ◆ 74.264 ac. West of Purnela, FM 1241 & CR 181, 1 tank, barn w/cattle pens, good exterior fences, approx. 65 acres good pasture w/coastal & native grasses, \$508,709
- ◆ 82.43 ac. West of Evant, Mills County. Open pasture, scattered mesquite tree cover, native grasses, 1 tank, fenced on 3 sides. \$560,524
- ◆ 88.007 ac, Hamilton CR 614 36 ft. Travel Trailer, 25'x30' metal barn, electricity, 1 tank, seasonal branch, water well, scattered tree cover, \$650,000
- ◆ 89.862 ac. 3/2 home 1784 CR 610 Hamilton, open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances, pantry, ceramic floors, carpet in bedrooms, Large front porch, 2 carports, 50'x 30' metal building, 8'x 40' storage container, well, 1 tank. great views, good tree cover, rolling terrain. \$975,000
- ◆ 105 ac. South of Pearl, TX, Self Rd. good tree cover, rolling terrain, small branch, 38'x42' barn w/rain harvest system, electricity along property line, will need to drill well for water. \$743,775
- ◆ 106 ac. CR 180 Purnela, Coryell & Hamilton County, good tree cover, rolling terrain, 1 tank, paved road frontage, electricity across road. \$832,100
- ◆ 154.904 ac. Turnersville, paved CR 226, Coryell County, brick home in need of repair, water well, 1 tank, 1 barn 100'x 50', 1 barn 50'x 48' & 1 barn 120'x 48', cattle pens, grain storage bin, open pasture w/ native grasses, 24-ac. field. Jonesboro I. S. D., Owners will consider owner financing. \$929,424
- ◆ 179.562 ac. 1.6 miles South of Gatesville, TX FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. \$1,166,255
- ◆ 199.86 ac. 4/2 Manufactured Home, 1805 CR 180 Purnela, fully furnished, 2 tanks, 8'x40' container, storage building w/water storage tank, barn, cattle pens, water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover, paved road frontage. \$1,568,901
- ◆ 210 ac. Carlton, Comanche County, approx. 5000 ft Resley Creek frontage, small cabin, water well, electricity, cattle pens, 2 tanks one approx. 2.4 ac. good tree cover, 48 ac. improved grass, good exterior & interior fences. \$1,450,000

to host an open house.

Coryell Memorial Hospital was given a "beeper" communications system.

50 YEARS AGO (1973)

R.D. Todd, of Hamilton, assumed new duties as rural mail carrier on Gatesville's 104-mile Route 3.

Gatesville's city council passed a formal ordinance clearing the way for new traffic lights on Main Street at the 6th Street and 7th

Street intersections.

Gatesville attorney Edwin Powell was appointed to a two-year term on the Coryell Memorial Hospital board of directors.

Swift's Supermarket advertised Borden's 1/2 gallon ice cream for 69 cents.

The Gatesville Public Library was requesting used paperback books for 'Trading Days.'

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



COURTESY PHOTO

Garlan and Gaenelle Holden of Jonesboro will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, Jan. 2. Garlan Holden and the former Gaenelle Adair were married on Jan. 2, 1954, at South Mountain with Bro. George L. Derrick officiating.

Office closures for New Year's holiday

Staff Reports

In observance of the New Year's holiday, many local businesses and governmental offices will be closed.

Many celebrate the holiday by attending gatherings with friends and family, and by participating in various traditions, such as making resolutions, giving gifts, and viewing fireworks displays.

Closings in the immediate area include:

GOVERNMENT

The City of Gatesville, the Coryell County Courthouse, and the Farm Service Agency will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1.

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 Bank, Educator's Credit Union, The First National Bank of Gatesville, Evant, and Oglesby will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1.

POST OFFICES

The post offices of Gatesville, Flat, Jonesboro,

Oglesby, Evant, Mound, and Purlmela will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1.

LIBRARY

The Gatesville Public Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1.

SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Senior and Multi-Service Center will be closed on Friday, Dec. 29 and Monday, Jan. 1.

NEWSPAPER

The Gatesville Messenger will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1.

DRT to meet Jan. 4

Submitted Item

The Sterling C. Robertson Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas will meet on Thursday, Jan. 4, at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held at a new location, the Waco Chamber of Commerce Building, located at 101 S. 3rd Street in downtown Waco. There is a meeting room there, and parking is available.

Bob Anne Senter will discuss I'll Gather My Geese,

the autobiography of Hallie Crawford Stillwell. Hallie married Roy Stillwell in 1918 and learned the ways of a rancher's wife in the Big Bend area. Her adventures were many. Reading the book before the meeting is not mandatory, but you will want to read it after learning about Hallie.

This meeting is free and open to the public. Prospective members are encouraged to attend.

STORIES

FROM PAGE A1

7 CITY WELCOMES NEW POLICE CHIEF AND CITY MANAGER

Although he has been on the job since Feb. 3, Gatesville Police Chief Brad Hunt was officially sworn in during a ceremony on Feb. 14 with his family attending. Hunt's wife, Courtney, pinned her husband's badge to his uniform.

"There are lots of good people working for the city of Gatesville, and I am thankful to be working with them," Hunt said to city staff and Gatesville City Council members.

Scott Albert began his role as Gatesville's new city manager on May 10 after accepting an offer for the position from Mayor Gary Chumley.

Albert said he was looking forward to "getting to know the community, the civic organizations, the different leaders, and listening to staff on areas to work on. Bill (Parry) has done a wonderful job, and I want to continue that. There's always room for improvement in moving Gatesville forward for the future."

6 CONSTRUCTION OF COUNTY JAIL BEGINS

After what seemed like an eternity filled with discussion, debates, and planning, the construction of the Coryell County jail addition finally began. In the latter part of July, the foundation was poured, and in early August, the walls began to rise.

"This is the first construction that we've done on the jail since 1991," Coryell County Commissioner Ryan Basham said.

Although the original timeline planned its completion for December, the 47-bed addition is now scheduled to be completed by February.

"If we're going to have a jail facility that is sustainable for many years to come, it needs to be addressed. And, I'm not going to say that this is a no-brainer, but it is a wise step," Coryell County Judge Roger Miller said.

THE COUNTDOWN OF TOP STORIES OF 2023 WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE JAN. 6 ISSUE.

Mother Neff State Park to host First Day Hike

Staff Reports

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

The program is free, but park entrance fees will

apply at the cost of two dollars per person for the ages of 13 and older, and children 12 and under are free.

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

Once you have completed

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

Reservations can be made by visiting <https://tpwd.texas.gov/> or by calling Mother Neff State Park at 512-389-8900.

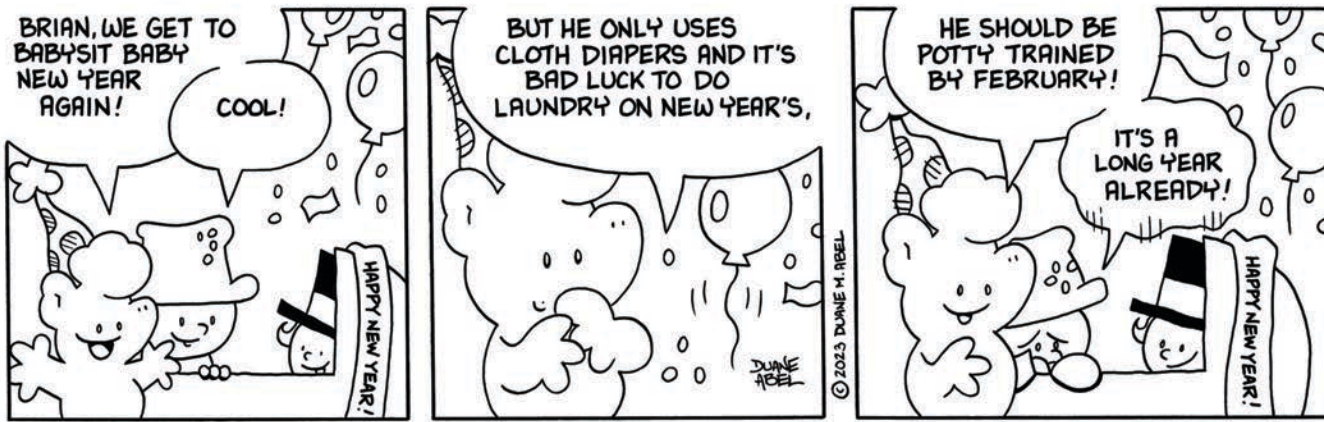
Mother Neff State Park

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

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

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

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of December 20 - December 26. 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. 20
3:19 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.

4:43 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of North 16th St.
7:03 p.m., a hit & run was reported in the 1500 block of State School Road.

10:35 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400 block of Valley View Dr.

Dec. 21
1:38 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2400 block of East Main Street.
8:45 a.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 300 block of South 5th Street.

12:56 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 3400 block of Jewell Drive.

7:57 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1900 block of East Main Street.

Dec. 22
8:53 a.m., a theft was

reported in the 500 block of Fieldstone Drive.
6:06 p.m., an accident was reported in the 600 block of South Lovers Lane.

6:38 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3200 block of CR 137.

7:01 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of North 7th Street.

Dec. 23
2:29 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3300 block of East Main St.

5:08 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.

5:51 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1700 block of East Main St.

4:19 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 36.

Dec. 24
3:56 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 400 block of North 14th Street.

8:19 a.m., an accident with injuries was reported in the 3900 block of North Highway 36.

8:36 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of State School Road.

7:31 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 3600 block of Churchill Dr.

Dec. 25
2:47 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

6:05 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Shady Lane.

6:57 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of North 14th Street.

7:35 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 2400 block of Oak Drive.

Dec. 26
12:14 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.

11:57 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

1:17 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1400 block of West Main Street.

2:42 p.m., a threat was

reported in the 400 block of North 16th Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dec. 20
8:36 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1200 block of FM 580.

9:33 a.m., a threat was reported in the 15600 block of Highway 36.

10:29 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2500 block of County Road 176.

10:31 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400 block of Valley View.

Dec. 21
11:21 a.m., a minor accident was reported on County Road 304 before College Street.

11:57 a.m., illegal dumping was reported in the 100 block of Gates Drive.

1:19 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 1800 block of Old Osage Road.

7:40 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107 near FM 1996.

Dec. 22
8 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400 block of County Road 142.

9:38 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Deer Run.

1:42 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Harrell Drive.

6:09 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 3200 block of CR 137.

Dec. 23
8:14 a.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 2300 block of Straws Mill Road.

8:51 a.m., criminal mischief was reported on FM 215 by the old dog pound.

6:55 p.m., a threat was reported in the 5000 block of East US Highway 84.

7:19 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 5500 block of FM 1829.

Dec. 24
4:24 a.m., water on roadway was reported in the 700 block of Straws Mill Road.

8:24 a.m., a minor ac-

cident was reported in the 3900 block of North Highway 36.

12:05 p.m., livestock found was reported in the 300 block of Hidden Valley Road.

12:11 p.m., an animal complaint was reported on South Highway 281 and East Live Oak.

Dec. 25
5:24 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 600 block of Barton Lane.

7:06 p.m., an injured deer was reported in the 2200 block of FM 930.

8:14 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 3100 block of West Highway 84.

Dec. 26
9:42 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 1700 block of FM 215.

12:45 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2700 block of South FM 116.

3:28 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported at County Road 432 and FM 932.

MOUND NEWS

Mound residents gathered for Christmas celebrations



BY BARBARA HOPSON
Mound News Correspondent

Zach and Amanda Long took their children to Palestine to celebrate Christmas with Aubree Ann and Olivia Lois.

They toured the Texas State Jail to see the Grinch locked up just in time to not ruin Christmas! They all attended the play "Miracle on 34th Street," had pancakes with Mrs. Claus, and attended brunch at the Queen's Hotel. Their trip wrapped up with a train ride to the North Pole aboard The Polar Express. Connor Carothers graduated from Baylor on Saturday, Dec. 16, with a B.A. in communication. On Dec. 23, the Carothers

family had their traditional Christmas White Elephant Exchange and meal... all family members were present along with Cooper Shackelford and Chyna Hoffman. A great time was had by all. Later in the evening, two nieces and their families dropped by to visit: Summer and Ab; Abraham and son, Damon, who reside at Ft. Gates; Holly, Fossie, Lil Fossie (16), and Kolton Moore, of Liberty Hill. They had attended the Fry Family Christmas earlier. It was

very nice to visit with them. Neil, Christy, and Taylor Helms, of Red Oak, visited and spent Friday and Saturday for Christmas. On Sunday, Reed, Katelyn, and Riley Griffith, of Montgomery, spent the day. On Monday, Mrs. Bettie Blakely, of Pearl, had Christmas dinner with Robert, Carolyn, and Emma Blakley, as well as Jerry and Brenda Helms. Scott, Kelby, and Sterlin Shults and Case and Kristen Jones had dinner at the

home of Don and Sue Jones Saturday evening. Sue Jones visited with Barbara Sue Hopson on Friday afternoon. Barbara's Notes: Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

T-ville Community Center to meet

Staff Reports

The Turnersville Community Center will host its quarterly meeting on Monday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Turnersville Community

Center, and the meeting is open to the public. There are two vacancies on the board, and new officers need to be elected to fill these vacancies. The Turnersville Community Center serves

residents of the rural community of Turnersville (originally Buchanan Springs). The community center is located at 8115 FM 182 in Turnersville.

Reflections from the 4-H Year



BY BECKY COWARD
Coryell County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development

PART 1
As the 2023 calendar year comes to a close, I'm reminded of the personal growth, celebrations of goals met, and outstanding achievements of our 4-H members. Looking back, it's extremely rewarding to revisit each month of accomplishments and hard work yielding success in our program. 4-H continues to be the premiere youth organization for helping young people reach personal goals and learn lifelong skills to be successful in whatever endeavors they choose to encounter. From an agent's perspective, it's most rewarding to consider how our program impacts the growth and development of the youth of our community. Reflecting back, I'd like to share some highlights that culminate the year of progress made. Here is a list by month of some of my "favorite things" that may or may not have been included in the headlines but are the

heart of what we are truly about.
January
Thiele Alvarado and Jack Bussey each receive \$1,000 Blackland Income Growth 4-H Scholarships. A record number, 27 youth and 40 horses, competed in the Coryell County Youth Fair Horse Show. The third annual CCYF 2nd grade 4-H pig scramble did not disappoint!
February
The junior 4-H horse judging team all received shiny new belt buckles each, winning the Bell County Youth Fair Horse Judging contest. The Gatesville Care Center was the real winner in our Ambassador Souper Bowl of Caring mustard vs. ketchup war, which yielded over 2,000 pounds!
Over 20 youth competed in the Consumer Decision Making Contests at major shows with our Intermediate Team placing 3rd, and Bailey Wolff tying for high individual at San Antonio.
March
Our youth leaders visited the state capital in Austin and Representative Shelby Slawson's office to discuss how 4-H helps youth succeed.
Our County 4-H Ambassadors prepared a taco buffet for the volunteer leaders in our clubs who devote their time and talents to serving youth.
The County 4-H Talent Showcase had entries in the junior, intermediate, and senior divisions from the Choreographed Routines, Musical/Instrumental, Vocal, Poetry/Prose, 4-H Skit, and Solo/Band Performance categories. It was a fun night at the Gatesville City Auditorium!
April
Ambassadors cleaned

up our two-mile Adopt A Highway Stretch on Business HWY 36.
MJ Hanna Ranch Invitational Range and Plant contests were held, awarding \$12,000 in scholarships to 4-H youth.
County and District Contests were held for Public Speaking, Horse Judging, Livestock Judging, Consumer Decision Making, and Fashion Show. Coryell County 4-H had the most entries in all 21 counties that comprise District 8.
May
The Texas 4-H Foundation announced it would be awarding three Coryell County 4-H members with 4-H Opportunity Scholarships for a total of \$45,000!
The Plant Identification junior teams captured 1st place in both the Grass Identification and Range Evaluation Contests at the Kerr County contest.
Members of the 4-H Robotics team gave an update and demonstration of their programming skills for the Coryell Retired Teachers Association.
June
4-H Ambassadors led a no-sew blanket project during the Copperas Cove Library summer reading program. The blankets were donated to local veterans in need.
Thirty county youth competed at State 4-H Roundup on the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station.
4-H youth attended Leadership Lab camp in Burnet, learning ways to be better leaders in our club, community, country, and our world, developing lifelong leadership skills.

MARSALIS PRESENTED WITH A.C.E. AWARD



COURTESY PHOTO

Coryell Health recently awarded culinary team member Gregory Marsalis (pictured with certificate) with an A.C.E. award. Marsalis was nominated by a fellow employee for always being kind, patient, and diligent when working with patients throughout the facility.

OBITUARIES

Donna Henry

Jan. 27, 1966 - Dec. 21, 2023

Donna Henry, age 57, of Gatesville, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 30 at Scott's Funeral Home. The family will receive visitors at the funeral home one hour prior to the service.
Donna Marie Henry was born on Jan. 27, 1966, in Greensboro, NC to the late Ransom and Mildred Scott Adams. She grew up and attended school in Summerfield, NC. She married David Henry in 1984, who was serving in the United States Marine Corp at the time of their marriage. After spending time in Germany and completing his tour of duty, Donna and David returned to North Carolina until his re-enlistment into the United States Army. Their first child, Kammi, was born in 1990 while the two were living in Germany. David was later assigned to Fort Hood and moved his family to

Gatesville where they made their home. Kassi, their second child, was born in 1996. Donna then began working for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in human resources and remained there until her retirement in 2021. During her career at TDCJ, she also attended Central Texas College and obtained an associate degree in general studies. In 2023, Donna returned to TDCJ, working as a supervisor over inmate records at the Woodman State Jail.
Having only two children of her own, Donna, also known as "Ducki," became a mother to many. She loved to paint and enjoyed listening to live music. She was also fond of nature and loved to spend time with her one and only grandchild, Asher.
She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, David.
Donna is survived by her two daughters, Kammi



Dunn and Kassi Henry; grandson, Asher Dunn; niece, Cora Sims and husband, Robert; brothers, Ronnie Adams Sr. and wife, Debby, and David Adams; sister, Jessie Smith; and many other nieces and nephews.
In lieu of flowers, Donna's family request memorials be made to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, P.O. Box 348390, Sacramento, California 95834.

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EDUCATION & SPORTS

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby

Top Stories of 2023 SCHOOL & SPORTS

As 2023 comes to an end, The Gatesville Messenger offers a snapshot of some of the biggest sports and school stories of the year.

This list kicks off the first five of the most memorable sports and sports stories in Gatesville and Coryell County.

10 GATESVILLE FIGHTIN' HORNET BAND RANKED 12TH IN STATE

History was made, once again, by the Gatesville Fightin' Hornet Band as they took the field at their state competition in San Antonio. This past year, the band scored 18th in the state, which was the highest in Gatesville High School history. As of this year, the band, Color Guard, Dazzlers, and directors received the announcement that they were ranked 12th in the state.

9 GATESVILLE CHOIR BREAKS TWO SCHOOL RECORDS

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.

8 LADY TIGERS MAKES HISTORY, FALL SHORT IN QUARTERFINALS

The Oglesby Lady Tigers volleyball team are area champions after defeating the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy on Nov. 2.

According to Coach Martin, "It was a great win and the first volleyball playoff win in the history of the program." This is the farthest the Lady Tigers have gone.

7 LOCAL STUDENTS COMPETED AT STATE UIL CROSS COUNTRY MEETS

Gatesville High School student Vania Martinez advanced to the UIL Class 4A state meet after clocking a time of 12:22 to claim third place at the 4A Region III meet. Martinez has represented Gatesville High School as she has advanced to state the past three years during her athletic career.

At the meet held Nov. 4 in Round Rock, Martinez finished 46th out of 152 runners.

At the Class 1A State Cross Country meet, Jonesboro's Lynlee Deats placed 49th and was able to beat her own personal record.

6 GHS' DAVIDSON, FITZER FINISH IN STATE POWERLIFTING TOP 10

Gatesville High School's Emma Davidson and Kasey Fitzer both had a strong showing at the Texas Women's Powerlifting Association state meet, finishing among the top 10 powerlifters in the state in their classification.

In the 114-pound weight class, Fitzer lifted a total weight of 615 pounds — 235 in the squat, 135 in the bench, and 245 in the deadlift.

In the 220-pound weight class, Davidson had a total of 755 pounds, with 325 in the squat, 200 in the bench, and 230 in the deadlift.

THE COUNTDOWN OF TOP STORIES OF 2023 WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE JAN. 6 ISSUE.



Mother & Son Movie Night set for 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.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.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Principals from all five of the GISD campuses were present at the last school board meeting for 2023, which was held on Monday, Dec. 11. They joined GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard for a candid photo following the meeting.

GISD School Board met Dec. 11

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Independent District Board of Trustees met on Monday, Dec. 11, and discussed several issues pertaining to the district including the replacement of staff lost through attrition and other personal needs, the purchase of Chromebooks for the elementary campus, and to vote on the school board officers for 2024.

The first agenda item dealing with the replacement of staff was described by Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard as being, "one of those initiatives which would bring back some of the positions lost through attrition." Pollard explained, "We either did not replace the position or replaced it with a paraprofessional. With an increasingly difficult STAAR test

and accountability system, we need these positions that are focused on academics back."

After Pollard's presentation and recommendation, the GISD board voted in favor of the replacement of lost staff.

In addition, Dr. Pollard addressed the board about the need to purchase Chromebooks for the elementary campus. He said, "Another initiative that we can now undertake thanks to the three golden penny revenue is the purchase of Dell Chromebooks for the elementary and the primary campuses." Pollard continued, "After that purchase, 3rd grade will have 10 carts with 22 Chromebooks on each cart."

"Previously, each elementary classroom simply had five Chromebooks for station work. Essentially, GISD

will be one to one in 3rd grade through 12th grade after this purchase. Within this purchase, we are also looking at getting one cart of Chromebooks for the primary campus as well," he said.

Following Pollard's presentation and recommendation, the school board voted their approval up to \$76,000 for the purchase of Dell Chromebooks and charging carts.

During the meeting, board members also discussed the election of school board officers for the 2024 school year. The current officers were re-elected for 2024 with Charles Ament voted as president, Charles Alderson as vice-president, and Cheyenne Kizer as secretary.

OHS's Dixon named Female Athlete of the Month for Nov.

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District student-athlete Matti Dixon has been honored as the November Class 1A Greater Texas Ford Dealers - Female of the Month.

Dixon is the captain of the volleyball team and was recognized for receiving Most Valued Player (MVP) of the District, Offensive Player of the Year in 2022, Super Centex Honorable Mention 2022, and Academic All District in 2022 and 2023.

Dixon registered 267 kills, 92 errors, 294 serving attempts, 46 aces, 26 serving errors, 363 serve receptions, 32 solo blocks, 140 digs, 43 digging errors.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby Independent School District's November Female Athlete of the Month, Matti Dixon.

Special Shoutout



COURTESY PHOTO

Hunter Walter

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

A special shout out to Oglesby Senior Quarterback Hunter Walter. Running backs, Receivers, defensive players, linemen get recognition for touchdowns, super catches, tackles etc., but, oftentimes, the quarterback position - especially in six-man football - sometimes gets overlooked. I have seen every game this young man has played this year; and he has done an exceptional job, not only as a proficient quarterback, but also as an excellent blocker, who has opened running lanes for the running backs to make big scoring plays. Thanks for the memories, and best of luck for your future endeavors.

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Jakoriah Long scores most points by a Texan in nearly 10 years, Tarleton State wins big at McNeese

Tarleton State University

LAKE CHARLES, LA. — Jakoriah Long and Lexi Bull had monster performances, powering the Texans to a big win at McNeese Dec. 16, 88-64.

Long scored the most points by a Texan in nearly 10 years, pouring in 34 points (11-13 FG, 3-4 3PT, 9-10 FT), adding two rebounds, two assists and three steals in 37 minutes. Her 34 points mark the most by a Texan in their NCAA Division I era, surpassing Teresa Da Silva's 31 points scored last season. In fact, Long's 34 points are the most by any Texan since Feb. 5, 2014, when Kiara Wright scored 35 at home vs. Midwestern State.

Long is just the third player in the country this year with 34 or more points on 80 percent shooting or better in a game.

The Texans (3-6, 1-1 WAC) snapped a short two-game skid, improving to 2-3 on the road. The Cowgirls (4-8, 0-0 SLC) fell to 4-5 at home at the Legacy Center in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Bull joined Long with a special performance, recording her first career double-double with 11 points (5-6 FG), 15 rebounds, three assists and two blocks in 36 minutes off the bench. She's the second Texan with 15-plus boards in a game this year, joining Andjela Bigovic, who secured 16 at New Mexico Nov. 12. This is the first time in at least the past 10 years that multiple Texans have secured

15 or more rebounds in a game.

"I'm so proud of our team's performance today for the entire game," head coach Bill Brock said. "We played very solid in all phases of the game. Jakoriah Long had an outstanding offensive game and Lexi Bull anchored our inside game with 11 points and 15 rebounds. We can enjoy this victory for tonight and have to get ready tomorrow for New Orleans on Monday morning."

Tyler Jackson and Faith Acker each scored nine points, with Jackson adding five assists and three rebounds, and Acker five boards. Karyn Sanford chipped in eight points (3-6 FG) and three rebounds off the bench.

The Texan offense returned in a flurry, scoring its second most points on the year, its most since its season-opening 106. The offense made 29-of-61 (.475) from the field, 7-of-15 (.467) from distance and 23-of-30 (.767) from the stripe. McNeese didn't shoot it that much worse (.415 from the field, .333 from three and .773 from the FT line), but Tarleton won the turnover battle 16-9.

The Texans used a big second quarter to take a commanding lead they never relinquished, then capped it off in the fourth to deflate the Cowgirls. Tarleton got to the line 12 times in the second quarter, making 11, to win the frame 29-17, then made 8-of-12 (.667) from the field in the fourth quarter on its way to

a 25-12 frame advantage and 24-point win.

Both teams struggled to get on the board to start, held without a point 150 seconds in, before Long buried a three to start her career night. McNeese didn't score until the 6:15 mark. The Cowgirls stuck around though, and after being down 10-8, used a 7-2 run to take their largest lead of the game at three, 15-12. Long made a jumper at the first quarter buzzer to knot the game after the first, 15-15.

The Texans opened the second quarter with a 7-0 run and led the remainder of the game. Tarleton gave up just three points nearly halfway through, and led by as many as 12 in the frame, which was the halftime difference (44-32) after Long made yet another buzzer-beating shot. She had 15 points (5-6 FG) and three steals at the break.

Each team went back-and-forth in the third quarter, as the Tarleton lead balanced between 9-13 the entire 10-minute frame. The Texans took a 63-52 advantage into the fourth quarter.

After leading 65-55 with 8:16 left, the Texans curbed any further Cowgirl threat with a 12-0 run over the next three minutes to lead by 22. Long dropped 15 points in the fourth quarter alone to put her atop all Texan D1 scorers.

One Cowgirl scored in double figures, as Emilia Tenbrock tallied 22 points (7-13 FG, 7-9 FT), four assists and three rebounds.



COURTESY PHOTO

Long scored the most points by a Texan in nearly 10 years. Her 34 points mark the most by a Texan in their NCAA Division I

Tarleton drops heartbreaker to Jax State

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE -- Tarleton State Men's Basketball fell victim to a second-half Jacksonville State rally to fall, 68-65, Dec. 14 in Wisdom Gym.

The Gamecocks (5-7, 0-0 CUSA) overcame a 12-point deficit to knock off the Texans (8-3, 2-0) and earn the second win for CUSA x WAC Scheduling Initiative.

A full, lively crowd filled Wisdom Gym in Tarleton's final home athletic contest of the year. The ZOOperstars! performed at halftime much to delight of the many kids and adults in the crowd. Christmas cheer was spread with an ornament giveaway and music throughout the game.

Devon Barnes led all scorers and set a new career high with 20 points, with 14 coming in the first half alone. He shot 8-for-16 from the field

including 4-for-7 from deep. Lue Williams notched 15 points and added six boards and a pair of steals. He has scored in double-figures eight times this season with six of those performances resulting in 15 or more.

Emmanuel Innocenti grabbed a game-best nine boards and four steals. Seven of his nine boards came on the defensive end and he added six points. He co-led the team in assists with Jakorie Smith tallying four.

The Texans held a 54-42 advantage with 9:44 remaining, their biggest lead of the night. Jax State clawed back executing a 7-0 run in two minutes to cut the Texan lead to five. A made lay-up by Williams increased the lead to seven. Another 6-0 run by the Gamecocks brought the visitors within one with 4:53 to go.

A pair of made free throws by Williams inched the

Texans ahead, but three consecutive Gamecock free throws tied the game for the first time at 58 and to take a 59-58 lead with 2:44 left in the contest. The Texans regained the lead quickly on a Barnes made layup to take back the lead 60-59. The Tarleton lead held until the final 39 second when Tandy gave the Gamecocks the lead for good 62-60. On the ensuing possession Smith had his layup blocked with 14 ticks to go. JSU made the second end of a one-one at the line with the Texans calling a timeout with 13 ticks to go.

Tarleton elected to cut the lead to one with a play designed for Barnes to drive toward the basket for the layup nearly drawing the and-one call. With seven ticks left, the Texans nearly forced a five second violation on the inbound, but the Gamecocks got the ball in and fouled with 4.52 remaining in the game.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State Men's Basketball fell victim to a second-half Jacksonville State rally to fall, 68-65, Dec. 14 in Wisdom Gym.

Jax State made a pair extending its lead to 65-62. The inbound pass found the hands of Williams. He drove through a sea of defenders for a near open look at a three to tie the game at the buzzer, but his shot hit the rim as the buzzer sounded.

The Texans never trailed in the first half and closed the session on a 7-2 run in

the final 1:45. Tarleton led by as many as 10 in the first 20 minutes. The squad shot a season-best 63.6 percent from beyond the arc making 7-of-11.

The Texans suffered their first loss of the season when shooting 40 percent or better from the floor. As a unit, they shot 24-for-60, a 40 percent rate. The Gamecocks were

23-for-55 from the floor a 41.6 clip. The Texans won the turnover battle for the ninth time this season, forcing 13 and only giving up eight. For the third time all year, the Purple and White shot over 30 percent from behind the arc making seven at a 35 percent clip.

Texans split Louisiana set, drop Monday midday contest at New Orleans

Tarleton State University

NEW ORLEANS — The Texans split their set in Louisiana, falling at New Orleans Dec 18, 67-59.

Playing at UNO's Education Day at Lakefront Arena in New Orleans, Tarleton State (3-7, 1-1 WAC) lost the turnover battle 17-4 as they dropped to 2-4 on the road. UNO (2-8, 0-0 SLC) snapped a five-game losing streak and improved to 2-1 at home.

Local New Orleans schools showed out Monday at an 11 a.m. tip for Education Day, creating a different environment the Texans had to adjust to. Overall, the Texans outshot and outrebounded the Privateers, shooting 23-

of-57 (.404) from the field to UNO's 25-of-67 (.373) clip, plus a 45-36 advantage on the boards. But a 17-4 turnover disparity and a UNO free throw advantage of 13-23 to 9-of-11 spelled a Privateer win.

"I give New Orleans a lot of credit today," head coach Bill Brock said. "They dictated the pace of the game on the defensive end of the floor and we did not respond well to their pressure throughout the game. Our offensive execution was not smooth and we had too many turnovers and wasted possessions. Our point guards have to do a better job of getting

us into our sets quicker and distributing the basketball in a timely manner. We will work on these areas after the Christmas break and try to do a better job of protecting the basketball. We wish Texan Nation a Merry Christmas!"

Faith Acker led the Texan scoring with 12 points on 5-of-8 shooting, adding six rebounds and two blocks. Teresa Da Silva tallied 11 points, five rebounds and two assists. Tyler Jackson pulled down a career-high 10 rebounds, just missing a double-double with nine points and two assists. Teresa Maggio led the bench with nine points (3-5), Elise

Turrubiates had eight points (3-4 FG), three rebounds and three assists, and Vitoria Carvalho notched six points and six rebounds.

UNO scored the opening four points to start Monday's game, but Tarleton responded quickly with a 9-2 run, capped off by a Jackson three-ball. It was back-and-forth the remainder of the frame, and Da Silva gave the Texans a one-point lead with a layup toward the end, as Tarleton State led 15-14 headed to the second.

The second quarter was all UNO, who didn't allow the Texans to score until the 4:19 mark. The Privateers started

with a 10-0 run to go up 24-15, then extended it to a 16-2 run to go up 13. The Texans shot 2-of-12 (.167) in the quarter to find themselves down at halftime 33-24.

Tarleton forced New Orleans to shoot just 6-of-21 (.286) in the third, and the Texans cut the deficit to seven midway through. UNO recharged towards the end, taking its largest lead of the game of 15, ending the third up 50-39.

The Texans didn't give up and fought their way out of a 15-point hole to down just five points at the 5:29 mark. The Privateers responded with a quick 6-0 spurt, then

held Tarleton at arm's length to win their second game of the season.

New Orleans was led by DeArica Pryor's 16 points (6-14 FG, 4-5 3PT), seven rebounds and two steals off the bench. Jayla Kimbrough (13 points, 6-9 FG, four rebounds) also scored in double figures, while Alexis Calderon tallied eight points, seven assists, three rebounds and three steals.

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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DANIEL STEVEN MALIK, Deceased, were issued on November 29, 2023, in Cause No. 23-10896 pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: TERESA LORRAINE EL-EANOR PIO.

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

c/o: DANIEL A. CORBIN
Attorney at Law
603 North 8th Street
Killeen, TX 76541

DATED the 20th day of December, 2023.

CORBIN, STAPLER, & CLAPPER, P.C.
603 North 8th Street
Killeen, TX 76541
Tel: (254) 526-4523
Fax: (254) 526-6711

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Gatesville, in the Special Meeting held on November 30, 2023 did pass and approve on the third and final reading the following ordinance: ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-08: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GATESVILLE, TEXAS ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF GATESVILLE, TEXAS, 135.03 ACRES SITUATED IN THE WILLIAM SUGGETT SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 912, CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS, BY OPERATION OF STATE LAW, THE PORTION OF THE ABUTTING COUNTY ROAD, OLD PIDCOKE ROAD, (INCLUDING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ON EITHER SIDE THEREOF); EXTENDING THE BOUNDARY LIMITS OF THE CITY SO TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE CITY'S LIMITS SAID ANNEXED PROPERTY AND ABUTTING COUNTY ROAD; GRANTING ALL INHABITANTS AND OWNERS OF THE ANNEXED PROPERTY ALL OF THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF OTHER CITIZENS; BINDING THE INHABITANTS OF THE ANNEXED PROPERTY BY ALL THE ACTS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CITY; ADOPTING A SERVICE PLAN FOR THE ANNEXED PROPERTY; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Complete text of this ordinance is available for inspection, during regular business hours, at City Hall, 803 E. Main Street. Wendy Cole, City Secretary 00030536

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Barry Kleiman, Deceased, were issued on 12-7-23, in Cause No. 23-10911, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Barton Kleiman. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Dori Ray Mistic, Attorney at Law; 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 DATED the 18 day of Dec., 2023.

Dori Ray Mistic
Attorney for Barton Kleiman
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
E-mail: doriraymistic@hotmail.com 00030538

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Anna Elisabeth McGuire, Deceased, were issued on 12-7-23, in Cause No. 23-10919, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Robert James McGuire.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Dori Ray Mistic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

DATED the 18 day of Dec., 2023.

Dori Ray Mistic
Attorney for Robert James McGuire
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
E-mail: doriraymistic@hotmail.com 00030538

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville TX 76528, is having an online auction.

The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at storageauctions.com beginning Monday, January 15, 2024 at 11 A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full.

Bidding sale will end on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 11 A.M.

Units to be sold: JOSHUA RAMSBURGER, BOBBY LUEBS, TAYLOR ELLIS.

Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools, and misc. items. 00030545

c/o: Mary Wiley, Attorney at Law; 100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 302, Harker Heights, Texas 76548 DATED the 21 day of December, 2023.
MARY WILEY
Attorney for NANCY MARIE SMITH
State Bar No.: 24032669
100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 302
Harker Heights, Texas 76548
Telephone: (254) 634-6969
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070 LAND & LOTS

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CANAAN
Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

COLD SPRINGS
Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

EASTWOOD
Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50 a.m. & 6 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST FLAT
9775 TX-36, Gatesville; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays - Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE
Dr. Pete Keough, Pastor; 912 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
Jeremy Sanders, Pastor; 120 College Ave.; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 am; Wednesdays - supper at 5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth Group 6 p.m., Prayer meeting 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

GATEWAY
Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

HARMONY
A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.

HAY VALLEY
3110 Hay Valley Road; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. AWANA children's ministry Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible Study for men & women on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

JONESBORO
Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.

KING
Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

LIBERTY
Royce T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

LIVE OAK
David Crosby, Interim Pastor; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evening Youth & Children's Bible Study 6 p.m.

MOUNTAIN
Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.

OSAGE
Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
2082 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m.

PECAN GROVE
6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

PIDCOKE
Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.

PLEASANT VALLEY
Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL
One mile north of Evant, Hwy. 281; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

PURMELA BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor: Brenden Hough; 875 FM 932, Purmela, TX 76566; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

SWEET HOME
511 N. 14th, Gatesville; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday worship 7 p.m.

SPANISH
Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Zeazy Dr., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.

TRINITY
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor; 1506 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday - activities for adults, youth, & children 6:30 p.m.; 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.

TURNERSVILLE
Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.

WESTVIEW
Interim Pastor: Eddie Taylor; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

WHITE HALL
Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.

WHITE MOUND
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.

MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558. For more info. & location, call 254-865-5908.

CATHOLIC OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. & Wednesday-Friday at 7 a.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CEDAR RIDGE
Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

EVANT
Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W. Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.,

Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

FORT GATES
4605 St. Hwy. 36 S., Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

GATESVILLE
Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.

LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO
2413 E. Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.

MIDWAY
1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove; Sundays - worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays - Bible Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.

PEARL
6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE
Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.

LUTHERAN IMMANUEL
David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd., Copperas Cove; Sunday Bible Study 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOHN
Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

ST. PAUL
Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday School 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.

METHODIST BETHEL UNITED
2 miles north of Irel & on FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays.

EVANT
235 US-281, Evant; Dennis Dutton, Pastor; Sunday worship 10 a.m.

FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE
2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children & Adult Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:30 p.m.

OGLESBY UNITED
Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.

PIDCOKE
Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy. 116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday worship service 10 a.m.; 254-677-6242.

MORMON CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
206 S. 26th St., Gatesville; Sacrament services Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN LIFE
Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday services 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7 p.m.

CORYELL COMMUNITY
Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry & C3 Student Ministry.

CORYELL FELLOWSHIP
Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901.

COVER2COVER MINISTRIES
Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wednesdays 6 p.m.

407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5, Gatesville.

GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER
Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.; 2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-9472.

GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN
Wray Nunn, pastor; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday worship 6:30 p.m.; Gateway Learning Center, 2315 Osage Rd., Gatesville.

HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL
Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th St., Gatesville; 865-6222. Sunday worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC & state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6 p.m.

JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
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LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Peter M. Mafwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.

MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE
William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday Services 9 a.m.

THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE
Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826.

MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 514 N. 13th St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesdays Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday service, 7:30 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN
Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

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Max Gunn, pastor; 254-216-1537; 10 miles west of Gatesville on HWY 84; Sundays 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; Youth Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.

HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH
Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise & Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-4076.

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Occasionally, hay bale artwork can be seen throughout rural Coryell County. Located on Old Fort Gates Road, this round hay bale was recently transformed from a turkey to Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Other hay bales have been seen throughout the county, including one decorated as a Christmas tree.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville recently performed a special Christmas concert at the city auditorium. The concert featured various age groups including the Elementary Choir and the Intermediate Choir. The program contained music, skits, tumblers, and dancers. The concert ended with the entire cast singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas."



2024

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