



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Coryell County jail addition moving into final stages



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Coryell County jail expansion is set to be completed by next month, county commissioners say.

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The expansion of the Coryell County jail is scheduled to be completed in February, according to county commissioners. Commissioner Scott Weddle provided an update on jail construction during Commissioners Court on Dec. 28. He said the Texas Commission on Jail Standards plans to inspect the jail in early February to ensure the building meets

state standards.

Once the new building is approved by the Texas Jail Commission, the county can begin utilizing the space for inmates.

Despite recent holiday schedules, Weddle said contractor Butler-Cohen has still made significant progress on construction.

"They have been right on schedule and keeping it moving," Weddle said. "I don't see anything right

now that's going to keep us from getting there."

Commissioner Ryan Basham said the jail is approximately 75% complete. He adds that the expansion will enter its final phase of construction in the next two or three weeks.

David Campbell, on-site manager for Butler-Cohen, said construction crews will begin installing interior fixtures, such as lighting, plumbing, and security

devices once the ceiling and floors are complete.

"We are very, very close," said David Campbell, the on-site manager with Butler-Cohen. "I would consider this the final stages."

The construction of the 47-bed addition to the jail was originally scheduled to be completed in December, according to a previous article by the Messenger. Construction first began in May 2023.

Top Stories of 2023

To kick off 2024, The Gatesville Messenger offers a snapshot of some of the biggest local news stories of the year.

Last week, The Messenger presented the first five out of the top 10 stories of 2023. From city-wide to countywide, this list presents the top five most newsworthy events in Gatesville and Coryell County.

5 LOCAL RESIDENT INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Coryell County resident John Aycock was inducted into the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame where he was recognized and honored for his commendable service over the years.

According to the Hall of Fame, to date, only 31 Rangers out of thousands who have served over the past 200 years have been inducted. Aycock joined the ranks of those extraordinary Rangers who had been honored in the past.

Aycock was "totally shocked" when he found out he was being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Aycock was joined by Sgt. John Martin in the induction ceremony - both being the only two living inductees.

Aycock retired in 2001 after a 33-year career with the Texas DPS, including 18 years as a Texas Ranger.

"I'm proud of all of it," he said. "If you've got people to work with and cases to work on, you don't really need anything else but God, but you've got to have Him. If I hadn't had Him, there were a lot of times I wouldn't have come home. Lots of times."

4 RUSTY GARRETT RETURNS TO FOOD FOR FAMILIES

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

Since the start of Gatesville's Food for Families in 1990, Rusty has returned year-after-year to help raise funds for the city's donation site. According to KWTX, he has only missed the yearly food drive twice in three decades - once when he had the flu, and last year after learning of his cancer diagnosis and preparing for treatment.

The Gatesville community welcomed the local legend back with open arms on Friday, Nov. 17. On the morning of the food drive, several Gatesville High School students, band, cheerleaders, and staff hosted a pep rally where they recognized his dedication to Food for Families each year.

The school presented him with a poster of the total pounds that has been raised during his time supporting the drive in Gatesville, which equals to 8,116,369 pounds of food that has served local families and individuals in need.

3 FIGHTING WILDFIRES

Following a summer of extreme heat that resulted in a series of wildfires across Central Texas, Coryell County teamed up with local experts to develop a plan to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Public meetings were held in August, September, and October to discuss Coryell County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and to receive insight from citizens and state and local agencies to help shape the plan. Several groups were involved in the creation of CWPP, including The American Conservation Foundation, Natural Resource Solutions L.C., and Texas A&M Forest Service.

"This is going to help mitigate against risks for wildfires but also promote the ecosystem health and the protection of human lives and property," said Lillian Reed with Natural Resource Solutions L.C.

The creation of the plan involved conducting risk assessments to identify which areas are at the highest risk for wildfires as well as how to prepare if a wildfire occurs.

"I think the most important thing is that this is not just a rural plan," Coryell County Judge Roger Miller said. "There are components of this that are going to apply to the City of Gatesville, and we hope the city will implement those strategies."

The CWPP allows the county to apply for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant, a federal grant that helps at-risk communities plan for and reduce the risk of wildfires.

PLEASE SEE **STORIES** | A2



STAFF PHOTO

The Coryell County Youth Fair will include over 400 exhibitors this year.

Coryell County Youth Fair begins Monday

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The 2024 Coryell County Youth Fair is set to begin on Monday, Jan. 8. This annual event brings in hundreds of local youths to give them an opportunity to show their talents for a chance to receive awards and recognition.

This year, the fair will be comprised of 417 exhibitors as well as 2,595 total entries.

2024 Coryell County Youth Fair Schedule:
Monday, Jan. 8
4 p.m. - 7 p.m., all

PLEASE SEE **FAIR** | A2



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STORIES

FROM PAGE A1

2 CELEBRATING HISTORIC MILESTONES

Coryell County celebrated two major anniversaries in 2023 – the Coryell County Courthouse and Mother Neff State Park.

The county courthouse celebrated 125 years in July with a festive ceremony that included posting of the colors by an area horseback color guard, speakers, live music, and old-fashion games from children and adults. The building was completed on July 18, 1898.

The celebration also included speeches by Coryell County Historical Commission president Danny Corbett and Coryell County Judge Roger Miller.

Located in southeastern Coryell County, Mother Neff State Park celebrated 100 years as the oldest state park in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in December.

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

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

1 ECLIPSE PREPARATIONS

#1 In 2023, Gatesville began preparing for a solar eclipse that will darken the sky over the city and much of Central Texas for more than four minutes on April 8, 2024.

Gatesville is identified as a prime viewing area for the eclipse, which will not be visible in many parts of the state. That means many of those located outside the eclipse zone will flock to areas in which the eclipse will be prominent.

The city held its first town hall meeting in September to share the initial plans and priorities for the influx of visitors from across the globe who will be traveling to Central Texas.

Since traffic is expected to significantly increase in the days leading up to the eclipse, the police department's resources will be stretched. With the possibility of hundreds of thousands of people traveling to the Gatesville area, Eclipse Coordinator Cheri Shepherd said the number one priority is public safety, including awareness, education, and preparations.

There are many plans already in place, including a downtown festival and A NASA ambassador who will give an educational presentation on Saturday ahead of the eclipse.

"We really want to use this as an opportunity to promote Gatesville as a great place to live and visit, and we want to put our best foot forward when people do show up here," Shepherd said.

January is recognized as National Mental Wellness month

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

January has been designated as National Mental Wellness Month, so that the public can become aware and recognize the importance of mental health.

Mental illness refers to behavioral, emotional, and psychological disorders ranging from mild to severe. Those who suffer from mild symptoms might not struggle to function socially, personally, or professionally.

Scott Knight with The Jason Foundation stated that "good mental health can positively affect a person's physical health. Being in a good mental state can keep you healthy and help prevent significant health conditions."

Knight also stated that "Mental health conditions can also make dealing with a chronic disease more difficult. The mortality rate from cancer and heart disease is higher among people with depression or other mental health conditions."

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) released the following

information and statistics about mental illness:

One in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year.

One in six U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year.

One in five U.S. adults experience mental illness each year.

Half of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-34.

Taking care of a person's mental health can help to control or combat some of the physical health problems directly linked to mental health conditions. Some of the most common mental health conditions are PTSD, depression, panic disorders, and eating disorders. People who suffer from these conditions can be at a higher risk of suicide than those who do not.

Despite the fact that millions of Americans are diagnosed with some form of mental illness, only a small portion receive proper treatment. Often, when



STOCK PHOTO

Your mental health could affect your physical health.

a mental health disorder goes untreated, symptoms can worsen and interfere with all areas of life.

The Global Wellness Institute defines mental wellness as "an internal resource that helps us think, feel, connect, and function." The institute goes on to say that doing things that make you happy and feel good will increase your mental wellness, thus increasing your mental health.

Some activities that may improve mental wellness

include physical activities, artistic activities, volunteering, enjoying time with friends and family, eating good food, and completing personal goals. Also, getting enough sleep, developing a positive attitude, and laughing can improve mental wellness.

Each January, Mental Wellness Month is dedicated to breaking the stigma often associated with mental illness and bringing awareness toward good mental wellbeing.

FAIR

FROM PAGE A1

home economics must be brought to the Civic Center. No entries will be accepted after 7 p.m.

4 p.m. - 7 p.m., pee wee home economic check-in.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., check-in for ag mechanics.
9 a.m. - 5 p.m., judg-

ing of home economics.

9 a.m., check-in for the horse show.

10 a.m., judging/interviews for ag mechanic's show.

9:30 a.m., the horse show judging begins.

9 a.m., arrival/check-in of rabbits.

10 a.m., weight and classify rabbits in the following order - Fryers, Meat Pen, 4-Class, then 6-class.

12 p.m., record books for commercial cattle due to superintendent.

5:30 p.m. (or when judging is completed) - home economics open to the public.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m., the country store opens for the sale of baked goods only. (Except grand and reserve)

8 p.m., release all baked goods (with the exception of grand and reserve champion entries. These will remain on display.) Not responsible for items left after release times. Baked items left after 8 p.m. will be discarded. All other home economics entries remain in place.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

8:30 a.m., home economics opens to the public.

9 a.m., judging commences in the following order - Meat Pens, Fryers, then Breeding Rabbits. (Senior then junior showmanship to follow)

12 p.m. - 5 p.m., all other livestock entries can be unloaded into the complex pavilion.

5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., weigh and classify sheep.

6 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., weigh

and classify market goats, commercial does, and dairy goats to follow.

6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., weigh and classify swine.

6 p.m. - 7 p.m., weigh and classify market steers and check heifers.

Thursday, Jan. 11

8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., the home economics division is open to the public.

10 a.m., judging and interviews for commercial cattle.

11 a.m., judging commences in the following order - Halter Classes, Breeding Heifers, and Market Steers.

To Follow Halter Cattle, senior then junior halter cattle showmanship.

2 p.m. (approx.), judging of angora goats.

Following angora show, senior then junior showmanship.

Following angora showmanship at approximately 4 p.m., judging commences in the following order - Breeding Sheep then Market Lambs. (Senior then junior showmanship to follow)

Friday, Jan. 12

7:30 a.m., poultry check-in.

8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., home economics is open to the public.

9 a.m., judging commences in the following order - (Poultry) Broilers, Roasters, and Turkeys. (Senior then junior showmanship to follow)

11 a.m. (approx./Following Poultry), dairy goat show (senior, junior doe/

Billie then Billie showmanship to follow).

1 p.m. (approx./Following Dair Goats), judging commences in the following order - (Goats) Commercial then Market.

4 p.m., judging commences in the following order - (Swine) Breeding then Marker.

Prior to showmanship, Coryell County 4-H greased pig contest for second graders only.

Following pig contest, senior then junior swine showmanship.

Following market goats, release of livestock auction items with the exception of swine which will be released after the swine show. Release of home economics entries and pee wee entries.

Saturday, Jan. 13

9:30 a.m., pee wee rabbit show with check-in at 9 a.m.

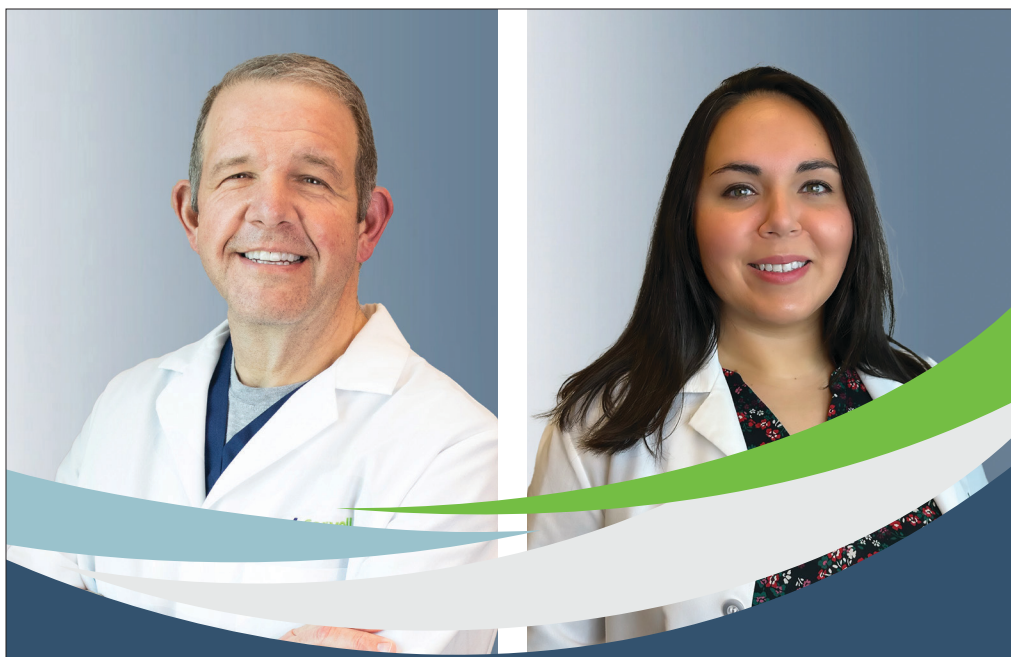
10 a.m., pee wee goat and lamb show with check-in at 9 a.m.

11:30 a.m., home economics pictures for newspaper (Grand and reserve only) and all home economic auction photos.

11:45 a.m., all home economics auction items including freshly baked goods should be placed on the auction exhibit table.

5:30 p.m., announcements, auction dedication ceremony, and special awards.

6 p.m., auctions sale - immediately following auction all items are released.



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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

On the way to who I am



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

New Year's Day has come and gone. New Year's Day is an important day for most of us and for some rather interesting reasons.

Stop and think about it. Some holidays, like the 4th of July, are on the calendar because an event happened on that day. Other holiday events, like Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, are all set on the calendar by the powers to be as the recognized time which to celebrate, honor, or give

remembrance. New Year's Day is celebrated on Jan. 1 just because it happens to be the first day of the year. Nothing notable in history happened on that day; it is simply a day set aside which allows us to reflect on the hope of what we could be.

Why does the start of a new year mean so much to people? Over a million

people gathered in Times Square to watch a lighted ball "fall" and count out the last seconds of the previous year. Private celebrations were held with families and friends. People drink, consume certain food items like black-eyed peas, and set off fireworks. It is a big deal here in Texas, and it is a big deal around the world.

The day is notable for people making New Year's resolutions, which are nothing more than promises one makes to oneself about accomplishing a certain goal. It might be to quit smoking, or get in shape, or take more time for oneself. Unlike most other promises, these resolutions have no legal weight and are completely unenforceable. Many times, the resolutions are cast aside before the first of February comes to pass. So, why do we make these so-called "resolutions?"

Could it be hope? With each new year, we are mentally refreshed with the idea of a new beginning and recognize the whole calendar year is before us. The failures of the past fall by the wayside, and we can set new goals, seek new accomplishments, and make positive choices. Our minds are programmed to believe we can be better. It is something inside us we want to do. But, to be better we must confirm in our mind what we are seeking, what we want to become, and the price we are willing to pay. Thus, the New Year's resolution.

There is no question: Many people, including me, would like to lose weight. They may make a resolution to eat less, to exercise, and change their lifestyle to one which is healthier. Everyone can agree this type of change is positive, and the results will be beneficial.

The tough part is paying the price to accomplish the goal and having the discipline to see it through. We kid ourselves that we will pass on the piece of pie, the cold beer, and laying on the sofa, watching an old movie. Instead, we envision ourselves eating carrot and celery sticks, drinking lots of water, and going to the gym religiously. Deep down inside we know that we probably are not going to be disciplined to achieve our goals, but something about setting the goal makes us feel better. With a little luck and perseverance, we might even accomplish at least a part of them.

Guess for me I like the idea of thinking about who I am becoming. What are the changes I can make which make me a better husband, father, columnist, citizen, and human being? I never want to be satisfied with

the person I was last year. It is exciting and, to some degree, almost thrilling to imagine the reality of the person I am, rather than the person I may have once been. Maybe, by the time the end of the year arrives, I will be one step closer to making the hope a reality. Of course, if I don't accomplish my resolutions, I will get the chance to start all over again on New Year's Day of 2025. Hope springs eternal!

May all your resolutions be fulfilled, and you find the person you have become.

Thought for the day: Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better person. Benjamin Franklin

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

2024 Resolutions on the Courthouse Square

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH & DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

New Year's Day is an annual holiday that is celebrated on Jan. 1, marking the beginning of the new year. Many people around the nation celebrate by setting a goal or resolution for the new year. Locals around the courthouse square have shared their resolutions for the upcoming year.



DEBBIE HILL
Coryell Central Appraisal District
My New Year's resolution will be to do better with my finances in 2024 - to plan better and save more money and not spend so frivolously. Wish me luck.



DERAL MCWHORTER
Gatesville Care Center
To be better in every phase of my life: a better Christian, better preacher, better husband, better father, grandfather, example, servant, and citizen.



SCOTT TATUM
Hometown Floors
To slow down this next year and really take the time to be present and enjoy the now.



CLAY MCCLELLAN
Leaird's Furniture & Appliance
Leaird's Furniture & Appliance is honored every time a new customer chooses us, or a repeat customer comes back to us. It is our New Year's resolution to provide the best customer experience to everyone who walks through our doors.



SCOTT A. WILLIAMS
Coryell County Sheriff
For 2024, the Coryell County Sheriff's Office's resolution is to persistently evolve so we can maintain our reputation as a community-oriented law enforcement agency, as well as continue to exceed the standard of professional law enforcement for our citizen's safety and security.



JENNY FEATHERSTON
Hidden Gem Family Center
My New Year's resolution for the Hidden Gem Family Center is to see the center become a great resource to anyone who is in need of assistance in their lives - whether it be getting their GED, a job readiness class, or Grief Support Group. We are looking forward to our community and county getting to know more about us in the coming new year.



Folks around town

COURTESY PHOTO

Dusty Body
Say hello to our neighbor, Dusty Boyd!

Dusty has been a District Attorney in Coryell County for over 11 years. The best part about his job is being able to serve locals within the community. He has lived in Gatesville since 2003 and enjoys the community connection.

Boyd reads The Gatesville Messenger and said, "The Messenger provides a platform for the news and stories that bond people together, fashioned with an emphasis on local interests."

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

Chamber of Commerce annual banquet Jan. 20

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is preparing for its annual member banquet, which will be held on 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.

Tickets cost \$25 and in-

clude a meal. For a table of eight, the cost is \$175.

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

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

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

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 Davidson, Reigan
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 Latham, Ella
 Loy, Kylie-Ahn
 McDow, Micah
 Petrie, Brianna
 Reed, Gracie
 Sader, Emily
 Shaw, Abigail
 Wilson, Hailey

Gatesville 4-H

Anderson, Cooper
 Arnold, River
 Ashley, Hannah
 Banegas, Ryleigh
 Berard, River
 Burgan, Adelaide
 Buss, Caleb
 Buss, Courtney
 Buss, Dylan
 Campbell, Chloe-
 Noelle
 Campbell, Leya Kay
 Farber, Jillian
 Glover, Raylee
 Glover, Rhylee
 Hipp, Zoe
 Jacobs, Max
 Johnson, Chelsea
 Lee, Leddy
 Lee, Rodie
 Moffett, Madelynn
 Readett, Ezra
 Readett, Ivan
 Readett, Lawrence

Smith, Callie
 Strickland, Levi

Coryell

4-H Gun Club
 Langley, Jeremiah
 Smith, Jackson

Oglesby FFA

Aaron, Scarlet
 Battreal, Caitlyn
 Brand, McKynzlynn
 Campbell, Kayson
 Chapman, Rian
 Chrisner, Dylan
 Contreras, Alisa
 Ewing, Hunter
 Ewing, Logan
 Fisher, Caymbri
 Fisher, Landen
 Fisher, Slayton
 Goff, Bentley
 Goff, Holdyn
 Gomez, Johnny
 Gonzales, Joel
 Gonzales, Rolando
 Gray, Kinzlee
 Henderson, Marlee
 Hooker, Ashton
 Hooker, Dylan

Muddy Boots

4-H
 Alexander, Kenyon
 Canady, Briah
 Canady, Xaira
 Collier, Alhana
 Collier, Ayden

Escobar, Ava
 Harsch, Braxton
 Harsch, Zane
 Lewis, Inara
 McDonald, Lagan
 Parks, Aaron
 Ray, Evelyn
 Raysor, Camdin
 Raysor, Jamesin
 Rogers, Jamesin
 Rollason, Gavin
 Rollason, Katelynn
 Tresrays, Corbin
 Utsey, Aubrey
 Westover, Mia

Coryell City 4-H

Allison, Colbi
 Carothers, Grace
 Edwards, Addyson
 Fritze, Braylynn
 Gardner, Kinlee
 Gribble, Zoe
 Johnson, Eason
 Latham, Avie
 Latham, Banks
 Latham, Betty-

Claire
 Latham, Byron Ace
 Tull, Allie
 Tull, Emma
 Weir, Sabrina
 Yochem, Bella
 York, Raynzlie

Hay Valley 4-H

Althoff, Caylor
 Archie, Clancy
 Barron, Audrey
 Barron, Preston
 Bomar, Romi
 Brown, Fynlee
 Brown, Waden
 Brown, Weston
 Buckner, Bliss
 Buckner, Breeze
 Burks, Emma
 Burks, Jeret
 Coward, Taylor
 Diserens, Parker
 Estes, Kate
 Kennedy, Goins, Lilly

Johnson, Stryker
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 Long, Aubree
 Long, Olivia
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 Mann, Lillie
 Mann, Matti
 Martin, Mackinlee
 McPherson, Allie
 McPherson, Anna
 McPherson, Kinsley
 Peveto, Newt
 Pope, Brensyn
 Segraves, Marin
 Shoaf, William
 Stewart, Claire
 Watson, Laren
 Watts, Jake
 Weaver, Cole
 Webb, Callen
 Webb, Camden
 Wells, Memphis
 Wells, Paisley
 Williams, Makaylie
 Williams, Mason
 Williams, Myler
 Wolff, Autumn

Hard Bargain 4-H

Attaway, Adyson
 Attaway, Makayla
 Ayres, Brynli
 Ayres, Cason
 Ayres, Kellan
 Ayres, Quinn
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Thornton, Jaelee
Thornton, Jett
Thornton, Judson
Turner, Kenley
Vega, Giovanni

Copperas Cove FFA

Aulabaugh, Cooper
Aulabaugh, Trinity
Bartram, Serinity
Cain, Olivia

Castillo, Janessa
Dobbs, Tucker
Harviel, Emma
Hooten, Reed
Hunt, Isabella
Lewis, Brayden
Lewis, Cameron
Lincoln, Hailey
Mata, Kyleigh
Medina, Rashely
Melendez, Jazelynn
Ortiz, Javiellys
Price, Addison
Rogers, Mya

Sanchez, Esmeralda
Santos, Anthony
Secrest, Caden
Smith, Bryce
Spicer, Hailee
Terry, Lynnsey
Thompson, LaLoni
Vesky, Peyton
Vesky, Shaylee
Wail, Lily

Cattle Drive 4-H

Bailey, Beau
Ball, Abigail
Belt, Charles
Belt, Thomas
Blanchard, Brooke
Blanchard, Cash
Bomar, Shelbi
Brookshire, Lane
Brookshire, Thomas
Bryson, Ryli
Chumley, Adlee

Chumley, Ellie
Chumley, Harper
Chumley, Hayes
Clarke, Kendal
Grazen Cockrell,
Sadler
Ferguson, Sawyer
Dickey, Cooper
Dingianni, Kian
Gilbert, Maddox
Gilbert, Presley
Gore, Colton
Gore, Natalie
Jaynes, Dawson

Johnson, Justin
Kinsey, Audie
Kinsey, Hubbard
Kinsey, Lane
Kinsey, Lilly
Lam, Joleen
Mabry, Kenton
Mabry, Landry
Mannix, Caleb
Ohnheiser, Landry
Redden, Baylea
Russell, Martin
Smith, Canyon
Tatum, Biloxi

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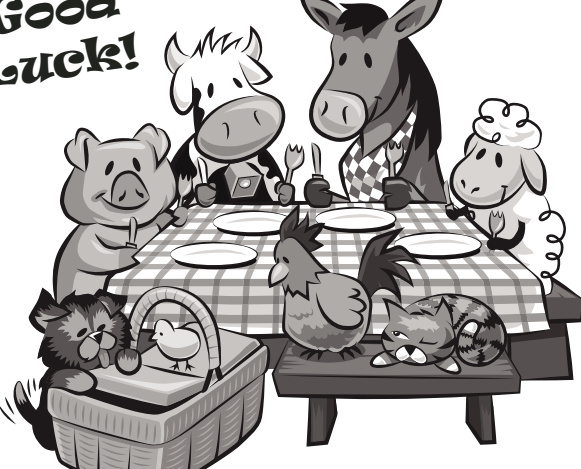
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Tatum, Tully
 Underwood, Ava
 Underwood, Beckett
 Wall, Breezy
 Wallace, Pete
 Williams, Kaylee
 Wittie, Ryder
 Wright, Royce
 Wright, Shyla

Jonesboro FFA

Barnett, Ashby
 Brown, Jaycie
 Christel, Camdyn
 Coble, McKenzie
 Deats, Landree
 Deats, Lynlee
 Dossey, Braxton
 Dossey, Braydon
 Foote, Pate
 Foote, Truett
 Gustin, Ella
 Gustin, Hannah
 Harbour, Trey
 Manning, Madison
 Martin, Eli
 Martin, Paden
 Martinez, Michella
 Maxwell, Luke
 McFarlin, Gentry
 McFarlin, Landri
 Middlebrooks, Memory
 Pruett, Logan
 Pruett, Rachael
 Scott, Kayleigh
 Taylor, Brynlee
 Walker, Kyleigh
 Weaver, Lacy
 Weaver, Stone
 Whisenhunt, Elizabeth
 Wood, James Leighton

Jonesboro 4-H

Beaty, Hunter
 Blanchard, Lakensi
 Blanchard, Linkin
 Carothers, Ryder
 Cohn, Madison
 Cullar, Paislee
 Cullar, Saydee

Hatcher, Katie
 Hill, Briar
 Hill, Chloe
 Janke, Chase
 Lusk, Benjamin
 Lusk, Braidy
 Lusk, Julie
 Outten, Emma
 Pearce, Ryah
 Pratt, Axton
 Pruett, Logan
 Ramirez, Avery
 Retana, Rylee
 Rodriguez, Antonella
 Rodriguez, Leonela
 Rueter, Addie
 Rueter, Laine
 Sellers, Brendan
 Smith, Alibi
 Smith, Sydnie
 Treadway, Emma
 Turner, Emily
 Turner, Kannon
 Turner, Lash
 Walker, Kyleigh
 Whisenhunt, Bryson
 Whisenhunt, Elizabeth
 White, Rhett

Pecan Grove 4-H

Bay, Graham
 Bay, Greyson
 Brown, Kelilah
 Brown, Kentley
 Davidson, Tres
 Duncan, Bailey
 Fulton,

Eve
 Gaisbauer, Barton
 Hix, Riot
 Hix, Ruckus
 Kinnear, Elli
 Kunkel, Claire
 Kunkel, Klein
 Lynch, Levin
 Prado, Nash
 Richardson, Tinsley
 Richardson, Tripp
 Richardson, Tyler
 Shelton, Adalyn
 Shoaf, Joanie
 Tubbs, Bobbi
 Wolff, Bailey
 Wolff, Jozie

Hornet Gold Intermediate

Burgan, Adelaide
 Coursey, Cay-

leigh
 Doyle, Ruby
 Dubai, Beretta
 Hester, Madison
 Hitt, Harper
 Hitt, Sydnee
 Holden, Natalie
 Hopson, Emmy
 Keenum, Tingleigh
 Muegge, Jayde
 Simmons, Logan
 Smith, Madilyn
 Stevens, Bryson
 Stevens, Landri
 West, Ryker
 Yarbrough, Charles

Hornet Gold Elementary

Caraway, Kylie
 Stevens, Jaxon

Hornet Gold Junior High

Hopson, Hadley
 Miller, Alexis
 Smith, Rogan

Coryell 4-H Horse Club

Clough, Dallas
 Conley, Marcy
 Conley, Mia
 Conley, Peter
 Duncan, Marilyn
 Gibson, Grant
 Gibson, Jessica
 Gibson, Julia
 Hadley, Grayson
 Hadley, Samantha
 Hagen, Ava
 Jackson-Smith, Tyson
 Milam, Hagen
 Murphy, Irena
 Murphy, Nikola

Evant FFA

Goins, Harper
 Rodriguez, Isela
 Rodriguez, Ludwika
 Slatton,

Caitlyn
 Thomas, Lance
 Thomas, Paige
 Waldrum, Molly
 Wilson, Madison
 Wright, Madison
 Yochem, Addison
 Yochem, Zoe

Evant 4-H

Kolajo, Gabriella

Five Hills 4-H

Haag, Jonathan
 Haag, Nicholas
 Haag, Noah
 Hooten, Reese
 Ledger, Lana
 Ledger, Lane
 Leir, Jakob
 Manning, Andrew
 Roehrig, Lucretia

Oglesby FFA

Hughes, Rylan
 Insall, Hunter
 Markum, Jaxon
 LeBlanc, Drake
 Mejia, David
 Meyers, Autumn
 Ortiz, Jana
 Oxford, Aiden
 Puryear, Brynley
 Riley, Thomas
 Rodriguez, Josue
 Ritchie, Kelsey
 Sanders, Paisley
 Sanders, Taetym
 Seymour, Jace
 Seymour, James
 Smith, Jordan
 Smith, Maddison
 Stanford, Kaylee
 Thompson, Gracie
 Uribe, Allisson
 Walter, Hunter M
 Wisehart, Zarah
 Wright, Makenzie
 Wulfkuhle, Couper
 Wulfkuhle, Judd



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 www.coryellcommission.com

City of Gatesville
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Good luck from Gatesville Civic Center and VisitGatesvilleTX.com

PEARL NEWS

Hurry on out to Pearl on Saturday



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

As I typed the Pearl News today, I realized that this was the first time I've officially typed "2024."

I also realized that if you are reading this on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, then you need to go to Pearl for the monthly Pearl Bluegrass event and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day. These

events take place at the Pearl Community Center on FM 183. The bluegrass goes on throughout the day, but the bookstore opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. You better hurry

(but don't drive too fast). I hope you all are enjoying 2024 so far, but you can enjoy it even more if you go to Pearl, because ... 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 from Isaiah 43:16 and Isaiah 43:18,19—This is what the Lord says—He who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, "Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in

the wasteland." NIV

Please pray for continued blessings of rain, for our veterans and service men and women, our country, our schools, our local, state, and national government officials, our law officers, Christians throughout the world, and Israel. (My list just keeps getting longer, but I feel like you all add to it yourselves daily ... and thank you for all those prayers).

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 betsy-clark47@yahoo.com

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran Dec. 30.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Nancy Garvin presented the program for the Morris Federation luncheon.

Garvin presents program to Morris Federation group

Submitted article

The Morris Federation recently celebrated Christmas with a Dutch Treat luncheon at The Feed Mill. After a short business meeting, members enjoyed a program presented by Nancy Garvin, who read two Christmas stories for young children.

Garvin's first selection was Snowmen at Christmas by Caralyn Buehner. It could be described as a snappy and entertaining companion to Snowmen at Night, sharing all the best

parts of Christmas such as icy treats and a snowman Kris Kringle. Mr. Wil-lowby's Christmas Tree by Robert Barry was Garvin's second selection.

Barry shares the Christmas Spirit with a whole forest of critters. His Christmas tree arrives, but alas, it is too tall for his parlor. He cuts the top off so it will fit, and soon the top of that tree is passed along again and again to bring holiday cheer to all the animals in the forest. Both books are good reads for children ages 4-7.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of December 27 - January 2. 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. 27
3:51 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of North Levita Road.

10:45 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of Coryell City Road.

2:15 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of North 7th Street.

5:58 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1500 block of Bald Knob Road.

Dec. 28
3:30 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

3:10 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 11000 block of FM 929.

6:29 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of FM 116.

9:49 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of North 29th Street.

Dec. 29
11:31 a.m., a threat was reported in the 300 block of Baize Drive.

12:47 p.m., a fight was reported in the 1400 block of Bridge Street.

1:39 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of East Main Street.

4:17 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 36.

Dec. 30
2:14 a.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.

3:21 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the

1300 block of North State Highway 36 Bypass.

3:47 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of West Leon Street.

11:58 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Sunny Lane.

Dec. 31
9:26 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of North Levita Road.

3:35 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 36.

6:07 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Meadow View Lane.

8:07 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of Baldrige Drive.

Jan. 1
1:31 a.m., a fight was reported in the 1600 block of West Main Street.

5:48 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.

10:24 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.

11:19 a.m., a threat was reported in the 2200 block of County Road 174.

Jan. 2
1:29 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.

10:20 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of North Lovers Lane.

12:24 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Austin Street.

5:23 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of North 31st

Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dec. 27
9:48 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 183.

12:57 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of County Road 213.

4:13 p.m., an assault was reported in the 400 block of Nathan Drive.

5:44 p.m., a theft was reported on Highway 36.

Dec. 28
10:22 a.m., illegal dumping was reported on County Road 318 and County Road 320 in Mound.

1:25 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 2700 block of Willow Loop.

1:59 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 4300 block of FM 215.

6:34 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 120 block of North FM 116.

Dec. 29
10:09 a.m., an animal bite was reported in the 1700 block of County Road 152.

6:39 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 300 block of County Road 360.

9:17 p.m., burglary of a habitation was reported in the 200 block of Skyline Circle.

10:35 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 7500 block of FM 929.

Dec. 30
10:48 a.m., an out-of-control burn was reported in the 2200 block of FM 930.

1:02 p.m., illegal burning was reported in the 200 block of County Road 329.

2:25 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the

600 block of Whispering Oaks Drive.

7:26 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 1200 block of Twin Mountain Road.

Dec. 31
6 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 2700 block of FM 3046.

8:52 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 1200 block of Holden Loop.

10:03 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1200 block of Lutheran Church.

10:30 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1100 block of Cedar Mountain Road.

Jan. 1
4:17 a.m., a noise complaint was reported on County Road 338.

7:23 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 800 block of County Road 312.

8:26 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Highway 84 and Knowles Road.

12:50 p.m., a theft was reported in the 7800 block of South Highway 36.

Jan. 2
12:18 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 100 block of Barton Lane.

12:54 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of Lutheran Church Road.

4:16 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Rio Drive.

4:16 p.m., a noise complaint was reported in the 11800 block of West US Highway 84.

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GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The unrestrained antics of a car lover



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Sanford Miles taught junior high school English in New York and recently retired to do some writing. In 2013, he bought a 1957 Plymouth Belvedere Sport Coupe for \$35,000 from a car dealer in Fort Worth and uses it to promote his latest book, *The Buried Plymouth - a Story Unearthed in Tulsa* (BuriedPlymouth.com).

He has always been a car buff. Growing up his aunt worked for an ad agency

and gave him all kinds of car magazines. That aunt also helped him financially

do something totally outrageous.

"I bought a 1959 Cadillac ambulance from a junk yard, restored it, and turned it into the world's most unique billboard," says Sanford in a telephone interview. "In 1998, I actually left teaching for five years because I had this idea that was going to change the world. I turned that ambulance into a 22-foot-long, eleven-foot-high, rolling, lighted billboard. I advertised for a wife and offered a free sports car with marriage. My fifteen minutes of fame lasted about six months. I was on the Today show with Al Roker. Australia media picked up the story and did reports on it. My website I had at the time

actually blew up because I had so many inquiries. I went out with a few but I'm still single. I live with the love of my life: an Airedale Terrier named Dale Carnegie."

Sanford read one of my columns while doing research for his *Buried Plymouth* book. It was about an incident in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which in 1957 was celebrating fifty years of statehood. As a time capsule, a 1957 Plymouth Belvedere loaded with memorabilia was lowered into the ground and was to be unearthed in 2007 to celebrate the city's centennial. Sanford ran across an article in 2007 that gave the date the car was to be brought up from its burial spot on the courthouse

lawn. He went to Tulsa to see the car raised. The story consumed Sanford for the next 16 years. He interviewed people who owned the car since its resurrection and finally found its permanent resting place in the Historic Auto Attractions Museum in Roscoe, Illinois. He was careful to get the facts straight about everything involved in the story. When the book came out last September, he had his Belvedere shipped to Tulsa to drive it around town to different book signing events and media interviews. It's the same make and model that was buried. He and his car were on the front page of the Tulsa World newspaper.

When I first heard about Sanford's work, I wondered

how in the world could someone write a 462-page book about the Tulsa story. But Sanford says the book is historical fiction, a combination of what actually happened and a little imagination.

The Plymouth was chosen as a symbol of the time, because as a Tulsa community leader said, "a Plymouth is a true representative of automobiles of this century with a kind of lasting appeal that will be in style fifty years from now." Today's cars are not quite like those made in 1957. The buried Plymouth was a wet mess when it came out of the ground because of a busted water main.

CRSP DONATES CHILDREN'S BOOKS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Coryell Retired School Personnel (CRSP), as a part of its Children's Book Project for TRTA, delivered 287 books to the Primary School for the Pre-K and Kindergarten students. An additional 216 books were delivered to the Gatesville Elementary School for 1st graders. The same was done for Pre-K through 1st grade at Jonesboro ISD with 67 books and Oglesby ISD with 65 books with an additional 38 books for their library. Pictured are Keegan Webb, Gatesville Elementary Principal, and Tamera Eary, Assistant Principal at Gatesville Primary School, looking through one of the 14 boxes of books delivered to Gatesville ISD.

BOOKS DONATED TO HEAD START



COURTESY PHOTO

Children enrolled in Head Start last spring and this fall were presented books by the local Retired School Personnel (CRSP). In addition to providing one book per child, miscellaneous books are sometimes donated to the Head Start program to support or enhance their curriculum. Pictured are some of the Head Start students with teachers, Madi Hope, Pam King, and Barbara Medford.

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

Polar Pickleball to be held at the Gatesville Civic Center Jan. 27 & 28

Staff Reports

An indoor Polar Pickleball doubles tournament will take place at the Gatesville Civic Center on Saturday, Jan. 27 and Sunday, Jan. 28. The event was put together by Kylie Glass Dixon and Cort Dixon.

For anyone who would like to arrive early to warm up, the doors to the center will open at 8 a.m. The check-in time will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will continue through 9:45 a.m. The fee for participating in the tournament is \$40 per team and will include

two T-shirts as well. All registration fees will be collected at check-in on Saturday, Jan. 27. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams in each bracket. To enter, download Scoreholio for free from the app store and search pickleball

tournaments near Gatesville, Texas. The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Drive.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)
The Coryell County Youth Fair got underway with more than 1400 entries. Eight new stained-glass windows were installed in the sanctuary at Pidcock United Methodist Church. Shawnee Jean Seidell, then seven years old, of Gatesville, allowed her long hair to be cut for the "Wigs for Kids" program. The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce selected Southside Sales as the best-decorated business for the Christmas season. The Gatesville Lady Hornets defeated Laxia and Lago Vista in their holiday tournament.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)
Arson was suspected in a series of grass fires set over the holidays. Slam Jam '94, a youth day of fun-filled activities, was set to be held at the Coryell Activities Complex. The second-annual February Quilt Exhibit at the Coryell County Museum was in the planning stages. Jonesboro Eaglettes defeated Gustine 43-33. Jim Walter Homes advertised "A home for every budget: no money down, no points, or closing costs."
40 YEARS AGO (1984)
A frigid, extended arctic

blast led to damages, especially crumbling pavement, to the section of town between 16th and 23rd Streets on Leon and Bridge. The computer age came to Gatesville City Hall with the delivery of a \$50,000 Zenith-model computer. Gatesville Hornets blasted Burnet with a 62-39 win. Over 100 people attended the Hillside Christmas party. Cold weather snap leads to issues with the City of Gatesville's garbage trucks, slowing garbage pickup.
50 YEARS AGO (1974)
Work began on a new parking lot for the First

Presbyterian Church in Gatesville. Vandals were repeatedly destroying club property at the Gatesville Country Club golf course. Richard Jones, the then 15-year-old freshman athlete at Gatesville High School, accidentally shot himself in the foot. Billy and Cronje Swindall sold Swindall's Drive-In Grocery to James R. McGlothlin and Max Bridges, who renamed it J-Max. Perry's advertised a 30-pack of diapers for \$1.77.

Coryell County

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

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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.

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

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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.

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254-865-5212 ext. 300

Gatesville Public Library to host Pizza & Pancakes nights

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Public Library will hold Pizza and Pancakes Teen Cooking Night classes for its theme

of the month for the youth within the community.

There will be two different classes based on age groups including 11 to

13 years old and 14 to 17 years old.

For ages 11 to 13, classes will be held Thursday, Jan. 11 and Tuesday, Jan. 23,

from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For ages 14 to 17, a class will be held on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The library will feature a new theme each month.

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

For more information, visit www.gatesvilletx.com/library or call 254-865-5367.

Reflections from the 4-H Year



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

PART 2

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.

July
Forty county 4-H youth attended the club officer training where they were taught about their roles as

4-H youth leaders. Skills attained included: knowledge of business meeting agendas, parliamentary procedure, ice breaker speeches, leadership of younger members, and program planning.

State level 4-H Ambassadors took trips to Europe and Ecuador on leadership tours. Coryell County had six representatives attend.

The Tri-County Youth Ag Tour (Bosques, Coryell, and McLennan counties) was held for youth interested in learning more about production agriculture and agribusiness.

August
County & State Ambassadors spoke at the Gatesville Exchange Club meeting, giving a presentation about their tour in Ecuador.

The Ambassador Team led 4-H Recruitment booths at campuses across the county at Meet the Teacher Events. A new club was formed in Evant.

Ambassadors packed back-to-school backpacks for children at the Gatesville Care Center.

September
Range and Plant ID Teams traveled to Lubbock, Canyon, and Amarillo for their senior plant team tour with stops at Tri-State Fair Contest, Palo Duro Canyon, Prairie Dog town, and Cadillac Ranch. Plants were collected along the way.

Agriculture Awareness Day was presented by the County Ambassador Team to fourth graders, and the 4-H Color Run Recruitment event was held.

Judge Miller signed the proclamation declaring National 4-H Week after hearing our Senior Ambassadors speak about their 4-H project growth.

October
Livestock Judging

team members spent the weekend in Aggieland competing at the Brazos Valley Fair and AggieFest contests.

The Plant I.D. team cut, assembled, and delivered sunflowers in bud vases to Hillside Rehabilitation Center, visiting with residents and spreading sunshine indoors.

Clubs & County Ambassadors celebrated National 4-H Week by completing service projects, handing out 4-H fliers, and assisting with community events, such as National Night Out.

November
Twenty-five youth competed at the District 8 Quiz Bowl contests representing Coryell County with all three senior teams advancing to State.

Junior and Senior Leaders 4 Life Teams competed in the District 8 contest exhibiting their skills acquired in parliamentary procedure and meeting operations.

Ambassadors and club members rang the bell at Walmart in Gatesville and Copperas Cove in support of the Salvation Army Red Kettle collection campaign.

December
Eighty-five attended the County 4-H Christmas Party and Dance at the Gatesville Civic Center. Youth brought donations for the Care Center, played games, made crafts, learned line dances, and had a blast dancing at the party.

Twenty youth representing the county competed in the District 8 4-H Food Challenge at Belton.

Scholarship, Record book, Photography, and Horse Clinic Workshops were held to educate youth and parents on how to be successful at upcoming events.

Hopsons celebrated Christmas



BY BARBARA HOPSON
Mound News Correspondent

Don, Sue, Case, and Kristen Jones, Scott, Kelby and Sterlin Shults went to see the Christmas lights at Cameron Park Zoo last Saturday evening in Waco.

Barbara Hopson hosted the annual Hopson family Christmas Eve Party at her home in Mound. Those attending were family and friends.

Elizabeth, Randi, and Benjamin Phillips, and Zoie Rhoades were Christmas and New Year's visitors with Martha Lawhorn. John Paul, Caroline Ste-

phens, and children spent a couple of days with Ray and John Stephens.

Mike and Donna Schultz visited Christmas Day with Ray and John Stephens.

Patrick and Kelli Casey and children of Frisco, Lara McCorkle of Tampa, Florida, were Christmas visitors with Eric and Liz McCorkle.

James and Karen Harris of Kerrville visited with his mother, Elizabeth Harris, and brother, Dennis Harris.

Jerry and Paula Bomar had all their children and grandchildren home for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Those who had birthday's today are Joe Don Mangum, Skyler Carothers, and Katie Webb.

Meeting set for Jan. 15 at Turnersville Community Center

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.

The Turnersville Community Center serves residents of the rural community of Turners-

ville (originally Buchanan Springs).

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

Mother & Son Movie Night 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 Aqua-

man, 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, email at educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org.

NATIONAL APPLE TREE DAY

JANUARY 6, 2024

Apple Tree Day, celebrated on January 6th, is a time to appreciate the significance of apple trees in our lives and ecosystems. This day symbolizes the connection between nature and

human well-being. Apple trees, with their blossoms and fruits, represent the cycle of life and the bounties of the Earth.

On this special day, people gather to plant new

apple trees, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. The act of planting a tree is a metaphor for nurturing the future, as apple trees take time to grow and bear fruit.

It's a reminder that patience and care are essential elements in cultivating both nature and our own lives.

Apple Tree Day also serves as a platform for

APPLES ARE 25 PERCENT AIR, WHICH IS WHY THEY WILL FLOAT IN WATER. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF A HEALTHY, WELL-BALANCED DIET.

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Apple
SPANISH: Manzana
ITALIAN: Mela
FRENCH: Pomme
GERMAN: Apfel

APPLE TREES ARE LIKE MAGICIANS, GROWING DIFFERENT FLAVORS OF APPLES ON THE SAME TREE!

EDUCATION & SPORTS

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RETIRED TEACHERS DONATE BOOKS



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired School Personnel were on hand during the holidays at the Gatesville Care Center. They helped to unload about 20 or more boxes of books and set them out for display on two 8-foot tables at the center. Clients of the Care Center were allowed to select Christmas gifts including several toys, games, stocking stuffers, and books for their children who were 12 years old or younger. Pictured left to right are Cherry Braziel, Frances Wise, and JoAnn Sugg, who were among the Retired School Personnel who helped unload boxes of books. Others who helped on this project at the Care Center included Nancy Morgan, Audra Wallace, and Gail Johnson.

Free clinic at Primary School

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Primary School will hold a free one-day medical clinic, which will be hosted by Feed My Sheep on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The clinic will offer a complete medical checkup, a well or sick visit, and medicine if it is available. There is no age requirement to attend the clinic.

Parents will need to complete a one-page consent to treat form before treatment.

Feed My Sheep provides free monthly medical clinics for children. The organization is comprised of volunteer doctors and nurses from local hospitals and medical schools who provide care to families who need access to care for their children.

For more information, contact 254-865-8281, ext. 5856.

The Gatesville Primary School is located at 308 Hornet Way.

Top Stories of 2023 SCHOOL & SPORTS

To kick off 2024, The Gatesville Messenger offers a snapshot of some of the biggest local sports and school stories of the year. Last week, The Messenger presented the first five out of the top 10 stories of 2023.

5 GHS' BRYANT, HALL COMPETE AT STATE POWERLIFTING MEET

Two Gatesville High School standouts participated in the Texas High School Powerlifting Association's State Powerlifting Championships in Abilene on Friday, May 24.

L.J. Hall lifted in the 165-pound weight class. He set personal records at the state meet in both the squat (450 pounds) and bench press (340 pounds) and added a deadlift of 475 pounds on his way to an 18th-place finish with a total of 1,265 pounds.

Zach Bryant represented GHS at the state meet in the 308-plus weight class. Zach also set new personal records in both squat (655 pounds) and bench (385 pounds) and rounded out his day with a 500-pound deadlift for a 1,540-pound total, which earned him a 7th place finish overall.

4 GHS TRIO SET RECORDS AND MADE LASTING MARK ON COURT

Three young men from the Gatesville varsity tennis team, Ty Warren, Slone Early, and Alex Scott, after competing and winning in the 4A Regional Tennis Tournament, qualified to advance to the UIL Class 4A State level of competition on April 25. For the first time in the history of Gatesville High School tennis, Gatesville sent multiple divisions to the UIL State Tournament.

In his first match, Slone Early won in boys singles against Burkburnett 6-0, 6-3 and then advanced to the 4A semifinals. In his semifinal match against Anna, Early was defeated 3-6, 2-6, and earned a third place bronze medal in the state competition.

Ty Warren and Alex Scott played in the state 4A boys doubles in the quarterfinals against Lindale, but were defeated in their first match 4-6, 6-2, 2-6 after battling to the end in a third additional set.

3 JUNIOR STANDOUT BREAKS DECADES-OLD RECORDS

Gatesville High School junior Barrett Boyd took on some outstanding achievements including school records in the pole vault and the 110-meter hurdles. Boyd qualified for national competitions and traveled to places such as Iowa, Virginia, Michigan, North Carolina, and Houston to compete against some of the nation's top young athletes. Her personal best in the pole vault heading into regional competition was a 12-foot, seven-inch performance.

2 OGLESBY TIGERS FINISH SEASON AS 1A, DIV. II STATE RUNNER-UP

The Oglesby Tigers made a valiant effort in their first ever state championship bid. Although the Tigers came up short to number one Benjamin Mustangs, the game, however, was much closer than the score indicated. The Tigers stayed close throughout the first quarter, and midway through the second quarter, matching score for score with the Mustangs. However, as the game progressed, miscues by the Tigers led to quick scores for the Mustangs, and the Tigers were never able to recover.

The Tigers ended their season at 13 and 1. With the majority of the players returning, the Tigers will reload and work hard in off-season in an effort to make another run at the state championship in 2024.

1 CARLO CAPTURES GOLD & SILVER MEDALS AT STATE

Gatesville High School senior Carlo Martinez won the gold medal in the 3200-meter run for Class 4A at the UIL state track and field championships in Austin on May 11.

Family, friends, and fans of Carlo Martinez showed up to support the Gatesville standout.



West Allman

Amos Phillips

Charlie Winkler

Gatesville boys win second tourney title in Brownwood, girls heating up as district looms

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

The Gatesville Basketball teams came out of the Christmas break swinging with the boys capturing the championship of the biggest high school basketball tournament in Texas and the girls winning three of their last five games.

In the Texas Holiday Bank Classic in Brownwood, the Hornets (19-4) toppled Wall, Alvarado, Abilene Wylie, and Maine-Endwell (NY) to capture their second tournament title of the season. They dropped a trap game at Maypearl 68-63 on Jan. 2 and have two more non-district games before opening 23-4A play on Jan. 12 at Connally.

The Lady Hornets went 2-2 in the Troy Holiday Classic picking up wins over Life Waxahachie and Whitney while falling to Bosqueville and West. They took down rival Lampasas 38-32 on the road on Jan. 2 to move to 10-12 on the season - one more win than a year ago.

The Texas Holiday Bank Classic Tournament featured 47 boys and

girls teams with 94 games played over three days. The Hornets captured the Boys Big School crown thanks to a trio of heart-stopping wins.

In their pool-play opener they took down the Wall Hawks 53-48 behind 13 points and 10 rebounds from sophomore Charlie Winkler and 14 points and five rebounds from Rayshon Smith.

The game was played at 8 a.m. on the Hornets first day back in action, and they appeared to sleep walk through the opening frame. They were down 13-7 after the first quarter then outscored the Hawks 37-19 over the middle two quarters for the win.

In their second pool play against Alvarado, the Hornets cruised to a 35-18 halftime lead and led 48-32 after three quarters before Alvarado outscored the Hornets 26-11 in the fourth. A pair of Kase Cox free throws in the final seconds gave Gatesville a 59-55 lead. Then the Indians hit a three-pointer to make it a 59-58 final.

Cox had 15 points and 6 rebounds and West

Allman - the tournament MVP - had 15 points and 5 rebounds. Amos Phillips had nine rebounds and Graceson Stewart had seven boards off the bench.

It was Phillips who starred in the semi-final win over Abilene Wylie taking an inbound pass from Rayshon Smith with 4 seconds left and hitting the game-winner to give Gatesville a 59-58 win. Phillips had 16 points and 8 rebounds in the win. West Allman had 13 points and eight rebounds while Smith had ten points and Kase Cox had six rebounds. Scout Hall came off the bench to chip in five points.

The win was also a measure of revenge for Gatesville as Wylie ended the Hornets 17-game winning streak a season ago in the same tournament semi-final.

The championship game was a 63-61 win over Maine-Endwell out of southern New York State and the Hornets again jumped out to a lead then held on for the win. They led 52-40 going into the fourth quarter but were

outscored 21-11 in the period.

Winkler carried the Hornets in the title game with 23 points. He buried four three-pointers and was a perfect 7-7 from the foul line in the game. Cox (12 points and nine rebounds), Allman (11 points and nine rebounds), and Stewart (seven rebounds) placed Gatesville in the win.

The Hornets traveled to Brownwood on Jan. 5 to take on the Lions then wrap non-district with a home game against Stephenville on Jan. 9.

The Lady Hornets open district play on Jan. 9 at Robinson. They took down the Lady Rockets in the district opener a year-ago in Gatesville.

La Vega remains the district favorite with a record of 18-8 and are the current No. 2 ranked team in 4A. Connally is 19-8 and ranked No. 11 in the most recent TABC polls. Gatesville will battle Salado (12-9), Robinson (10-12) and China Spring (5-16) for a playoff spot.

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Acker's big day leads Tarleton State to road win at Texas Southern

Tarleton State University

HOUSTON — Faith Acker is a true freshman, but she's not playing like one.

The Texan freshman center recorded a monster double-double on Saturday in Houston to lead Tarleton State to a 52-40 road win to end 2023. Acker tallied 23 points on 10-of-21 shooting and 12 rebounds to secure her first double-double in her seventh career game. Acker now leads the team in scoring (12.3 PPG), rebounding (7.3 RPG) and blocks (1.3 BPG).

The Texans (4-7, 1-1 WAC) won their second over the past three games and improved to 2-1 on their active four-game road trip, and 3-4 away from Stephenville overall. The Tigers (1-10, 0-0 SWAC) lost their ninth straight game, falling at H&PE Arena in Houston Saturday, Dec. 30.

"I'm really proud of our team's effort today on the road and bringing home the victory," head coach Bill Brock said. "We had a four-point lead heading into the fourth quarter and did an outstanding job of rebounding and shot selection to close out the game. Now it's time to return home and get ready for our trip to UTA on Thursday."



Faith Acker is a true freshman, but she's not playing like one. The Texan freshman center recorded a monster double-double on Saturday in Houston to lead Tarleton State to a 52-40 road win to end 2023.

This was Tarleton's first game in 12 days due to the holiday break, and their energy was renewed to start, which showed in their smothering defense. The team allowed just four points in the first quarter to take a 14-4 lead after one, forcing nine turnovers in the opening frame, along with a

Tiger 1-of-13 (.077) clip from the field, 0-of-7 from the three-point line.

Overall, the Texans forced 25 Tiger turnovers, tied for Tarleton's most takeaways in a game this season. They also forced a 15-of-54 (.278) mark from the floor, a 3-of-22 (.136) performance from distance, and 40 overall

points, the lowest totals by an opposing NCAA Division I team all year.

As impressive as the defense was, the individual star on the day was Acker. She is the first Texan freshman to achieve a double-double since Ikpeaku Iwobi notched two in her true freshman season of

2013-14. Acker is the first Texan freshman to post a 20-10 game in at least the last 10 years. She is also the third Texan in their D1 era to post a 20-10 game (Teresa Da Silva in 2022-23, Marissa Escamilla in 2020-21), and is the first Texan to finish with at least 23 points and 12 rebounds since Mackenzie

Hailey (March 9, 2019, at Angelo State). Finally, Acker is just the second Texan freshman in their D1 era to score 20 points in a game (Iyana Dorsey twice in 2020-21).

Acker didn't do it alone on Saturday though, joined by solid outings by a few others. Jakoriah Long tallied 10 points, five assists and three steals, Da Silva chipped in eight points, and Elise Turribiates finished with six points, six rebounds and two steals.

The Texans built as large as a 14-point lead shortly after their impressive first quarter, going up 18-4, 25-11 and 52-38. The Tigers cut it to nine at halftime 25-16, then used their best quarter of the game in the third to get within three at 34-31. Tarleton led 35-31 entering the fourth quarter and used a 7-0 run to go back up by double figures and never looked back.

No Tiger scored in double figures, led by eight points apiece from reserves Anela Thomas (four rebounds, two steals, two blocks) and Maci Quiller (four rebounds). Jaida Belton tallied four points, nine rebounds, three blocks and eight turnovers for Texas Southern.

Texans late rally not enough in Knoxville against #8 Tennessee

Tarleton State University

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tarleton State was within six with just over four minutes to go but was unable to shorten the deficit any more as the Texans fell 65-46 to No. 8 Tennessee Thursday, Dec. 21 at Thompson-Boling Arena.

The Texans (8-4 overall, 2-0 WAC) battled their fifth AP Top 25 opponent in program history, the nationally ranked No. 8 Tennessee Volunteers (9-3, 0-0 SEC).

"We want to come out and be the toughest team every time we step out on the court, that's the way we approach each and every game," said acting head coach Joseph Jones after the game. "We came out being physical against a team of Tennessee's caliber and that is a great takeaway for us tonight."

Devon Barnes produced a team-high 12 points as one of three Texans to score in double-figures. KiAndre Gaddy and Lue Williams added 10 apiece. Gaddy also added a team-best four blocks along with seven rebounds. Jakorie Smith led Tarleton with eight boards and two steals.

In the second half, the Texans made Tennessee fans very nervous of an upset. The Volunteers started out shooting 2-for-17 from the floor. Tennessee's shooting turned cold with the Vols only scoring eight points in the first 12 minutes of

the second half. With eight minutes remaining, the Texans found themselves within striking distance, trailing 47-38.

In a moment where the momentum felt switched in Rocky Top to the Texans' favor, the Tennessee fans made their presence known with a load roar in an attempt to disrupt the Texans. Despite a backcourt violation, the Texans cut their deficit to six after a crucial layup at the basket by Williams, to cut the difference to 50-44.

The Vols held their ground, earning a foul on the very next possession and converting on both free throws. A brief 8-0 run weakened the Purple and White's comeback chances, ultimately ending in a 65-46 defeat at the final horn.

The Texans were unable to score the first bucket of the game against an AP Top 25 opponent for the first time in program history, but Gaddy battled through traffic to lay-in the Texans first points in Knoxville.

Unfazed when the Vols took a 9-4 lead, the Texans overcame the deficit to take a 10-9 lead for the first time in the game. A three-point play for Barnes followed by another Gaddy bucket gave the Texans the lead. Tennessee responded to tie the game at 10. Once again, the Texans showed their fight with a layup by Dario Domingos to regain the lead.

Tennessee used a 7-0 run to regain the lead and hold a 14-point advantage

heading into the first half. The Volunteers were red hot from behind the arc, shooting 6-for-11, a 54.5% rate. The Vols had six players with at least five points each in the half; Barnes led the Texans with seven.

Both teams shot cold in the second half with neither team scoring until a Gaddy hookover three-and-a-half minutes into the second half. The Volunteers missed 22 shots in the second half shooting at a 21.4% rate from the floor. The 21.4 clip was over 30% less than their 51.9 mark in the first half. After making six threes in the first half, the deep ball was not falling for the Vols resulting in a 2-for-14 showing in the second.

Tarleton suffered the same drought from beyond the arc shooting 1-for-15 (6.7%) in the second half. The Texans' 21 second half points were just four less than their first half mark, while making nine shots in each period of play.

Overall, the Texans held Tennessee lower than their season average in shooting from the floor and behind the arc. As a unit, the Vols shot a 36.4 rate from the floor, 7% lower than their season average. The Vols made eight of its 25 shots from deep, a 32.0% clip.

Tennessee won the battle of the boards, 39-37 and the turnover battle, 11-8. The Texans made seven steals while holding the Vols to one of their own.



The Texans took care of the ball to coast to the 79-66 win for their ninth victory of the year

Gaddy sets program record with 5th double-double in comeback win

Tarleton State University

LOS ANGELES, CA. — Tarleton State rounded out the 2023 calendar year and its non-conference slate with a 79-66 comeback win Friday, Dec. 29 against Loyola Marymount at the Gersten Pavilion.

The Texans improve to 9-4 overall and 2-0 in the WAC, the most wins before the new year as a Division I institution and the most since the 2018-19 season. The Lions round out 2023 at .500, 7-7 overall.

For the first time this season, a Texan duo each posted a 20-piece. KiAndre Gaddy notched his fifth double-double of the season with 24 points and 12 boards. Gaddy now owns the program record for most double-doubles in a single season in the Division I era for the Texans.

Jakorie Smith tallied 21 points, powered by a game-high three triples. He added five assists. Four Texans scored in double-figures. Devon Barnes contributed 13 points and Lue Williams notched 11.

Emmanuel Innocenti had one of the most well-rounded nights by a Texan this season, in one of his best

games all year. He tallied a Tarleton season-best eight assists along with six points and six boards.

LMU was quick out of the gate opening on an 11-2 run in the first three minutes of the game. The next 17 minutes, the Texans took over. Trailing 21-12, Tarleton executed an 11-2 run to tie the game at 23. Seven straight Texan points by Barnes brought the Purple and White within two before an Innocenti layup tied the game at 23.

The Texans extended their run to 19-4 to take their largest lead of the half, seven, 32-25. During the run, the Texan defense forced the Lions to miss 10 shots while shooting at a 16.7 rate. The Texans were hot during their run, shooting 66.7 percent from the floor and were perfect at the charity stripe.

After a Lions' timeout, LMU scrapped back to close the Texan lead to just three. At the break, the Texans led, 34-31. The Texans shot a season-best 51.7 percent in the first half. Gaddy led the squad with 10 points. The Texan defense held the Lions to shoot just 13-for-37 in the half, 35.1 percent.

The Texans held the lead

for the entire second half. Williams and Gaddy both converted a three-point play which drew the bench off their feet on both occasions.

With the Texans leading 58-50, Smith took control scoring seven straight Texan points ending with the Purple and White leading, 65-56. The Lions showed they still had fight in them closing the Tarleton advantage. LMU converted an and-one and a mini 5-0 run to bring them within three, 64-61. The Texans responded quickly with a Williams' mid-range jumper, followed by a Gaddy dunk-in transition. Barnes capped the 6-0 run and forced a Lions timeout with Tarleton in front, 73-64.

The Texans took care of the ball to coast to the 79-66 win for their ninth victory of the year. Tarleton shot a season-best 65.4 percent from the floor in the second half. The mark was the highest in the second half since Feb. 6, 2023, at UT Arlington.

The Purple and White shot 32-for-55 from the field, 58.2 percent. Tarleton limited their turnovers to eight but lost the turnover battle, 8-6. LMU won the battle of the boards, 32-31.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010176004

APPLICATION. City of Gatesville, 803 East Main Street, Gatesville, Texas 76258, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010176004 (EPA I.D. No TX0024953) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 1,500,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 1100 College Street, Gatesville in Coryell County, Texas 76528. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Leon River Below Proctor Lake. TCEQ received this application on October 25, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Gatesville City Hall, 803 East Main Street, Gatesville, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.745,31.426388&level=18>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Gatesville at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Susan Hilton, P.E., MRB Group, at 254-771-2054.

Issuance Date: December 28, 2023

Darrell Jones

Aug. 11, 1937 - Dec. 27, 2023

Irvin Darrell Jones, age 86, of Adamsville (currently Lampasas), went home to be with the Lord on Dec. 27, 2023.

Services were held at Adamsville Baptist Church on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, at 10 a.m. with visitation prior. Interment followed at Hines Chapel Cemetery in Adamsville.

He was born as the second of five children to Luther D. (Luke) Jones and Lena Elizabeth (Green) Jones on Aug. 11, 1937 and grew up in Adamsville. He graduated from Lampasas High School in 1955 and he served in the Texas National Guard and worked for Sprint telephone company, retiring in 1994 after 30 years of service.

Darrell married Shelba Dean Miller in 1958, and they had four children together: Pete, Bob, DeAnn, and Kimberly. Shelba preceded him in death in 1982, and he married Gilma Flatt in 1983. Gilma preceded him in death in 2017.

Darrell accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior at a young age, and he was a wonderful example of God's love to all who knew him. He was a longtime member of the Adamsville Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon along with several other roles within the church. His other love was music and he operated



the Luke Jones Music Hall in Adamsville for many years as well as traveling to hear Bluegrass and Gospel music being played.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Luke and Lena; his wives, Shelba and Gilma; his brothers, Doug, Hiram, and Allen; sisters-in-law, Ann, Linda, and Thurma Nell; daughter-in-law, Rosemary Jones, and great-grandson, Mason Van Zandt.

He is survived by his brother and best friend, Troy Jones, of Adamsville; sons, Pete Jones and wife Cindy, of Navasota, and Bob Jones, of Houston; daughters, DeAnn Holden and husband Lynn, of Temple, Kimberly and husband Jason McDonald, of Lampasas, Anna Coker, of Decatur, and Amy LaPoe and husband Don, of Evant; 17 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Jimmie Don Thompson

Aug. 2, 1943 - Jan. 1, 2024

Jimmie Don Thompson, age 80, of Gatesville, passed away on Monday, January 1, 2024.

Services were held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5, at Scott's Funeral Home with Pastor Matt Dossey officiating. Interment followed at Restland Cemetery.

Jimmie Don Thompson was born on Aug. 2, 1943, to the late J. H. and Lorene Thompson in Hamilton. He grew up in Hamilton and graduated from Hamilton High School in 1961. He obtained a master's degree from the University of North Texas in Denton. Jimmie Don worked at the State School for Boys early in his career and then worked as a probation officer in Coryell County for 35 years, later becoming Chief Probation Officer. He served as an Army Reservist during Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia,

serving our country for 35 years.

Jimmie Don loved sports and played softball in the local area well into his 50's. He enjoyed going dancing with his wife, Barbara. Kids, grandkids, and friends loved hanging out at Maw and Papaw's house.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jimmie Don is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Kyle Thompson and wife, Kari; Ronnie Herbelin and wife, Liz; Ricky Herbelin and wife, Susie; daughter, Sherri Bone; grandchildren, Emily, Eric, Garrett, Tiffany, Patrick, Katy, and Jonathan; great-grandchildren, Kason, Derek, Layton, and Blakely; brother, Tommy Wayne Thompson; and sisters, Pam Jones, Kellie Thompson-Billingsley, and Lea Ann Rea.

Richard Brown

April 11, 1952 - Dec. 27, 2023

Richard Luther Brown, age 71, of Gatesville, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 4, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church with Father Will Rooney officiating. On Wednesday, Jan. 3, a Rosary service was held at 4:30 p.m. at Scott's Funeral Home, followed by visitation with the family from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Richard Luther Brown was born on April 11, 1952 to the late Luther and Elaine Gnat Brown in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Illinois and Virginia, graduating from Andrew Lewis High School in Salem, Virginia. He graduated with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Texas A&M University in College Station. He received his Professional Engineer (P.E.) certification from the State of Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in Austin. He worked for the Texas Department of Transportation for 30 years starting in the Angleton District office and then serving as Urban Planning Engineer and later as the Assistant Area Engineer in Waco, Area Engineer in Coryell and Hamilton Counties, and Area Engineer in Montgomery County in Conroe. He retired in 2016. Richard married Karen

Deaton in 1977, and the two made their home in Texas. They had two sons, David L. Brown and Richard M. Brown. Richard coached his sons in Little League baseball and Little Dribblers basketball, as well as served on the boards of Angleton Little League and Angleton Youth Basketball Association. Richard and Karen were founding members of St. Matthias Catholic Church in Magnolia where he served as Continuing Catholic Education (CCE) Director and Youth Coordinator. Upon moving to Waco, they were involved in St. Louis Catholic Church, CCE, as well as St. Louis Catholic School and Reicher Catholic High School.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Luther and Elaine Gnat Brown.

Richard is survived by his wife, Karen; sons, David and wife, Taylor, and Richard and wife, Hannah; grandchildren, David and Charles Brown; brothers, Howard Brown and wife, Paula, Michael Brown and wife, Lora, Robert Brown and husband, Esteban Torrez; and one niece and many nephews and their families.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 1108 West Main Street, Gatesville, Texas 76528.

How to prepare your home for winter storms

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Winter storms in Texas often bring a multitude of troubles, from power outages and loss of heat to busted pipes. As Texans enter the coldest months of the year, experts in the field offer preventative tips to help minimize busted pipes and water damage to your home or property.

Manager of Gatesville's Ace Hardware, Jerry Fellers, said pipes begin to crack after the water begins to thaw following a freeze.

"It's the thaw that gets it, so when the ice melts, all of your pipes are going to be expanded and that's when your leaks start to occur," Fellers said.

The first step he recommends is to insulate any exposed pipes with foam insulation, which can be found at home improvement or hardware stores. For water meters outside of the home, he advises covering it with pieces of insulation or a bale of hay to keep it from freezing.

"If you have an outside water pump, a water well, or water cistern, keep a heat lamp inside your water well house to keep pipes from freezing inside there and insulate those pipes as well," he said.

He also advises covering any outside water faucets and roof turbines to conserve heat. If it gets below freezing for an extended amount of time, remember to leave indoor water faucets dripping.

"Just a slow drip to keep your water from freezing and if you can't keep it warm enough inside of your house," Fellers said.

Other ways to help indoor waterlines in your kitchen or bathroom are to open the cabinet doors to help expose heat to the pipes.

After a historic winter storm in February 2021, Cody Smith with Advanced Tech Roofing Systems and Restoration said they provided restoration work to several homes that received water damage. His top rec-

ommendations to prevent pipes from freezing include not only dripping water faucets but also insulating the attic.

"The attic is the main thing to insulate since that will keep the warmth in," Smith said.

In preparation for heating a home during freezing weather, Smith also recommends checking heaters and the batteries of carbon monoxide and smoke alarms to ensure they work properly.

If pipes freeze, the Texas Department of Insurance advises turning water off at the shutoff valve to prevent broken pipes from leaking after they thaw.

"Once it hits 32 degrees and below, that's when everything starts to freeze up," Fellers said. "This time of year, January, February, and sometimes into March, is where you get the coldest spells."



STOCK PHOTO

Residents need to be prepared for winter storms.



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COURTESY PHOTOS

Members of a local baseball team, The Prospects, deliver Christmas gifts to residents at The Meadows and Hillside Medical Lodge, through the Silver Santas project. Christi Mooney, with the help of community donations, collected over 2,700 items to be dispersed through the Silver Santas program. Those receiving gifts included residents of The Meadows and Hillside Medical Lodge, as well as Meals on Wheels recipients.

Mooney spreads Christmas cheer with Silver Santas

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

To spread Christmas cheer, Gatesville native Christi Mooney dedicated her time giving gifts to the elderly this holiday season.

"I had been wanting to find a way to give back to the elderly for a few years now," Mooney said. "The holidays can be a very depressing and lonely time for the elderly," she said. "Some of them do not have family or friends that they see during the holidays, and few of the Meals on Wheels individuals see anyone all week other than

their delivery drivers." After coming across an organization on TikTok called Elder Angels, Mooney realized she wanted to do something similar for our community by giving gifts to the elderly in need. "I reached out to the founders Jenny and Tina, we had a FaceTime meeting, and they gave me the information about how

they got started, ran their organization, collection and distribution tips, etc.," she said. The very next day, Mooney then contacted her friend, Amy Best, and began preparing for Silver Santas immediately. "Our first initial goal was to collect enough gifts for the 59 Meals on Wheels recipients," she said. Partnered with the Gatesville Senior Center, Meals on Wheels is a federally-funded program that provides seniors in the community with support that allows them to remain living in their homes. Silver Santas was advertised for a month to collect

donations, as well as securing three drop off locations, which included The Salty Seniorita, 1854 Mercantile, and The Feed Mill. Both Let's Grow Learning Center and Trinity Baptist Preschool also collected donations for the month. "After the first week, we had well surpassed our goal," she said. "Our next goal was to be able to cover 211 residents at both nursing homes." Over 2,700 individual items were donated, as well as monetary donations. "My living room, kitchen, and dining room were overflowing," she said. "Coryell County came through with an incredible

amount of both donations and money towards the organization to use for gift purchases," she said. "We were blown away with support." Each gift had various items totaling between \$15 to \$20, including blankets, socks, lotion, backscratchers, lip balm, puzzle books, pens, nail files, candy, playing cards, body spray, magnifying glasses, and various other small items. The gifts were distributed to Hillside Medical Lodge and RehabLiving at the Meadows on Sunday, Dec. 17 by Mooney, Best, Parrish, Caylee Schiff, McKenzie and Chad Newman, and a local baseball team, The Pros-

pects. On Monday, Dec. 18 and Tuesday, Dec. 19, gifts were passed out during the Meals on Wheels route by the delivery drivers. "Our goal was to brighten their holiday and spread Christmas cheer," she said. "I think we got just as much or more joy out of delivering the gifts as they did receiving them." When asked if Mooney had plans to do this again next year, she responded with, "absolutely."

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CCGS Program Explores the Sanborn Fire Maps

Submitted Item

Beginning in 1867 the Sanborn Map Co. produced detailed maps of city buildings for use by fire insurance companies. The Sanborn Map Co. continues to provide an expanded mapping and visual concepts business today. Genealogists and historians have found a bonanza in these maps, which show architectural details of city buildings as they change through the years. Many of

the buildings are identified with an owner's name or its commercial use. Of particular interest is the change in the types of businesses that operated in the same building through the years. Mysterious, long-lost buildings such as calaboose and arched cellars are revealed to stir one's imagination. The Sanborn maps available online for Coryell County are limited to Gatesville and the date range 1885 to 1920. Even this small section of our lo-

cal history gives a valuable and different perspective on genealogical and historical research. Sherry Lawrence will present a program on the Gatesville Sanborn Maps on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at the Coryell County Genealogical Society meeting. The public is welcome to attend our meeting at the Gatesville Public Library at 6 p.m. Come see what surprises the old Gatesville maps show.

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