



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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City considers two proposed projects for affordable rental housing

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Gatesville City Council was presented with two proposed projects for new mixed income residential communities at a regular public meeting Tuesday.

The two potential communities, Gatesville Crossing and Gatesville Terrace, were presented by Trinity Housing Development, a group that specializes in affordable housing development for seniors and low-to-moderate income families. The company also constructed Gatesville

Trails, which is a senior living community located off State Highway 36.

With a potential location east of Highway 36 and south of the Gatesville Walmart, Gatesville Crossing would consist of approximately 36 units with one to three bedrooms. Although targeting families, the development would serve individuals of all ages earning between \$26,500 and \$50,000 per year. Rental costs for the units would range between \$700 and \$1,100 each

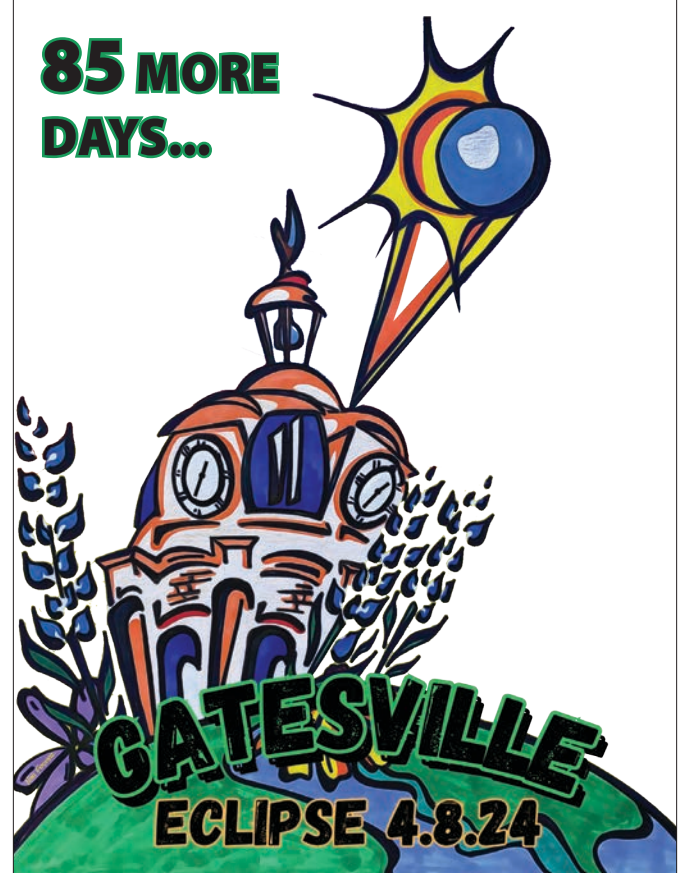
month. "We're certainly targeting families, but that also means a lot of young working people and young couples with or without children," Michael Fogel with Trinity Housing Development said.

Gatesville Terrace would consist of 52 units with one to two bedrooms for ages 55 years and older, which would be built north of Walgreens and south of Hillside Medical Lodge. The units would serve individuals with yearly

incomes between \$26,500 and \$36,000. Rent for Gatesville Terrace would range between \$700 and \$1,000 per month.

Rent for Gatesville Crossing and Gatesville Terrace is based on number of bedrooms and household income. According to Trinity Housing Development's presentation to the council, the income range for both communities is the area median incomes for Coryell County.

PLEASE SEE HOUSING | A2



City Council approves change to public meeting schedule

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Gatesville City Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to shift from holding two to one regularly scheduled public meeting each month.

The city normally meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. City Manager Scott Albert proposed the change as a way to provide more time for city staff to prioritize several city projects without the interruption of a meeting every two weeks. However, Albert said the city will call a second meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month as well as special meetings when necessary.

"It would be helpful for me and staff if we had a little bit of a gap, so we're not stopping every other week to start preparing for a council meeting while I'm getting caught up on some of these projects," Albert said.

Based on the decision, the council will only hold a public meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The plan is to revise the schedule for the next six months before shifting back to meetings twice a month.

Despite the approval of the change, some council members expressed concerns about revising the meeting schedule.

"I think reducing the amount of meetings reduces

transparency between the city and the public," Council Member Meredith Rainer said.

"The public is what I would be worried about," Council Member Aaron Smith said. "Them not being able to stand up and speak to us and ask questions."

Rainer adds that one meeting per month could potentially extend the length of regular meetings, especially when some ordinances require several readings.

Albert assured the council that a second meeting would be scheduled to expedite any significant decision-making matters.

"Perhaps the second meeting can just be shorter - just some basic things that need to get done - just so that the city is not spending an inordinate amount of time getting ready for it and they can continue on with what they're doing," Mayor Gary Chumley said.

Due to the holidays, some recent city council meetings were already held once a month. According to the City of Gatesville Charter, the City Council should hold at least one regular meeting per month.

Albert said the city will still hold a second public meeting on Jan. 23.

The Gatesville City Council calendar can be found on <https://www.gatesvilletx.com/meetings>

PLEASE SEE PROGRAM | A2



PHOTO COURTESY: TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Astronomers and their equipment set up on a farm near Fort Worth to observe the 1878 solar eclipse.

Solar Eclipses in former years

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Since day one, Texas has witnessed numerous solar eclipses.

In most recent years, it was reported in The Gatesville Messenger on March 5, 1970, that a "100-mile shadow will darken the face of the earth." The article continued, "The largest area of the covered sun to be seen in Texas is 73.5 percent, according to the U.S. Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory."

In 1970, it was reported that in Gatesville the eclipse would be "lasting for more than two hours, the moon will appear to leave the surface of the sun, and the eclipse will end at 1:13 p.m."

Also reported in the 1970

Gatesville Messenger article was that the last visible total solar eclipse in the United States had occurred in 1963 and the next total eclipse would be visible on April 8, 2024.

Once again, in 1979, The Gatesville Messenger reported another eclipse notice. "A few Gatesvillites paused long enough in their daily doings to gaze up into the sky. Those that did noticed something was eating the sun. What it was, was a solar eclipse." The article continued, "Bob Scott didn't miss it as he gazed through two exposed negatives, and Bill Herridge also took pictures constructed by a device for viewing the eclipse."

In 1984, it was reported that Waldean Cummings,

secretary of the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce, took a glimpse at the shadowed pattern of the sun as the moon separated the earth's path from the sun causing the eclipse. An article written about the 1984 eclipse stated that "The only notable change in the sunlight was a hazy, subdued sky as the sun was only partially blocked (approximately 80%), leaving a lighted area resembling a quarter moon."

It was also reported in 1984 that onlookers viewed the phenomenon through welder's helmets which were supplied by Raymond Massirer and Mike Blanchard.

Over the years, Texas has witnessed many solar eclipses, one of which, in

1878, acclaimed national attention.

In July of 1878, a group of astronomers from across the United States descended on a small farm just outside of Fort Worth to study and photograph a total solar eclipse. The astronomers' discoveries were eventually published in 1879 in a book titled "Report of the Observations of the Total Solar Eclipse July 29, 1878, Made at Fort Worth, Texas."

One of the earliest eclipses in Texas was estimated to be in the year 1397 - 626 years ago in the region now known as our state capital in Austin.

After April 8, 2024, the next solar eclipse to be witnessed in Texas will be in August of 2044.

Police announce program for elderly welfare, assistance

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Police Department is rolling out a new program that provides weekly phone calls to

elderly residents who live alone.

Through the Care Call Program, volunteers with Gatesville police will make regularly scheduled phone

calls to residents to check in on their welfare, offer assistance, or provide a chance for simple conversation.

The program is a free

service that requires a prearranged day and time for participants to receive regular phone calls. If a resident needs help or does not answer, a police officer

will stop by the resident's home to check on them.

"It is designed for seniors living within the city limits of Gatesville with a working telephone, and who

have the cognitive ability to participate in the program," Gatesville PD wrote on their Facebook page. "Exceptions

PLEASE SEE PROGRAM | A2



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Worship:
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COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured left: A state prison in Gatesville has been renamed from the Mountain View Unit to the Patrick L. O'Daniel Unit. Pictured right: Former TBCJ Chairman Patrick L. O'Daniel.

TDCJ renames Gatesville prison facility

Staff Reports

A Texas prison facility in Gatesville has received a name change, according to a news release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Formerly known as the Mountain View Unit, the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) has renamed the prison to the Patrick L. O'Daniel Unit in honor of a former chairman and his service to the criminal justice system.

The name change passed by a unanimous vote at the December TBCJ meeting in Huntsville. Current Chairman Eric Nichols commented on the former chairman's legacy during his address to the board:

"One of the responsibilities of this Board is to

approve the naming of facilities that fall under the purview of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. It is a distinct honor because words have meaning, and names have power. This is particularly true for buildings. The name can represent its mission; it may reference a historical figure or an individual who accomplished great things, so choosing it is important. I have the distinct privilege of recognizing a great man who once led this board and who cares deeply about public service," Nichols said. "Patrick O'Daniel's legacy will long outlast his time on this board. Today, I recommend that we rename the facility where he spent so much time. The facility has numerous

programs that provide individuals with the tools they need to turn their lives around successfully. Those programs, such as STRIVE, are a direct result of Mr. O'Daniel's pursuit to positively impact the men and women inside our prisons."

The unit first opened in 1962 as a school for boys before it was acquired by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 1975. It currently houses general custody, security detention, and death row female inmates.

With a maximum capacity of 644, the facility is also home to various educational and faith-based programs, including the Strength Through Restoration, Independence, Vision and Empowerment

(STRIVE) program, as well as the braille facility and agricultural operations.

O'Daniel served on the TBCJ from March 2017 to 2023 and was appointed chairman in January 2020. During his tenure, he played a pivotal role in the agency's response to the global pandemic, leading to achievements such as historic salary increases for correctional officers, the establishment of the Office of the Independent Ombudsman, and enhanced rehabilitation and faith-based programming. He is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas School of Law.

O'Daniel's dedication and leadership has also had an impact on providing educational services to

inmates through the Windham School District, resulting in improved access to prison libraries, salary adjustments for teachers, and the implementation of a technology plan to support classroom instruction and digital literacy.

"The TBCJ and TDCJ express their deep appreciation for Mr. O'Daniel's loyal service, integrity, and tenacity," Nichols said. "The renaming of the Mountain View Unit to the Patrick L. O'Daniel Unit serves as a fitting tribute to his remarkable contributions."

A renaming ceremony dedicated to O'Daniel will be announced at a later date.

HOUSING

FROM PAGE A1

Both communities will feature amenities such as fitness centers, community kitchens, BBQ areas, shared green spaces, and more. Units normally include fully-equipped kitchens, ample storage, vinyl plank flooring, and washer and dryer hookups.

Trinity Housing Development utilizes funding from federal housing tax credits to build mixed-income, affordable housing. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) allocates the tax credits annually to qualified developers.

The purpose is for the city to pursue one of the projects. Fogel said his team is recommending Gatesville Crossing as the demand is higher for family developments, and it would more likely receive funds through housing tax credits.

"We kind of know from our research that a non-age restricted development would be most likely to be successful as far as requiring that funding and to be built," Fogel said. "We just built the senior development, so it would be a good compliment to have a non-age restricted development in the pipeline behind that."

Fogel adds that they have also had feedback that Gatesville Trails has been well received in the community and is open to building another senior living development.

Council Member Greg Casey asked if they could keep Gatesville Terrace open for the future if the family development project is approved. Fogel said if one project is approved, there is a possibility to revisit the other project next year.

Council Member Barbara Burrow voiced her support for a development geared toward families.

"There are so many amenities in that area to serve that type of community, and I think that's really good. Right now, there's very little - there's no housing around there at all," Burrow said.

Kim Hill, a local realtor who has worked with Trinity Housing Development, agreed that the developments are a great opportunity for Gatesville.

"For me, as a realtor in the market, I think one of the things that's frustrating to me is that if you look at our income here and the people who can afford to live in Gatesville and want to live in Gatesville, some of their rents have gotten so high for not very nice property," Hill said. "I like it also because it's giving them opportunity, but it's also opening up a really good space next to Walmart for other opportunities."

The council did not take any action on either project but will revisit the decision at their next meeting on Jan. 23.

PROGRAM

FROM PAGE A1

can be made for participants based on serious health issues, age, and or limited family contact.

According to Gatesville PD's Facebook post, if a concern is expressed, the volunteer will determine the nature of the concern and what kind of response is necessary. Unanswered calls or busy signals are called back before an officer is dispatched to the location for a welfare check.

Those interested in joining the Care Call Program can call the Gatesville Police Department at 254-865-2226.

The program comes after police announced an investigation involving the home break-in and assault of an elderly person in early December. Police are still actively seeking a suspect in this case. They encourage anyone with information to contact Gatesville PD's Criminal Investigations Unit at 254-865-2226 or submit tips anonymously to Centex Crime Stoppers at 254-865-8477 or online at centex-crimestoppers.org.

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County plan for safer roads underway

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Coryell County is currently developing an action plan to help improve roads for drivers and pedestrians as well as prevent fatalities and serious injuries.

County Commissioners received an update at Commissioners Court on Tuesday about the progress of the Safety Action Plan from Natural Resources Solutions, a consulting firm in Austin helping the county form the plan.

The firm is utilizing two main sources to help the county track data for the plan. One is a model that highlights areas within the county where fatalities and wrecks frequently occur, and the other is a survey where residents can provide their own transportation safety concerns involving intersections and roads.

"The survey will help us understand what the public is most concerned about, so we can incorporate the findings into the Safety Action Plan," Hannah Jordan with Natural Resources Solutions said in an email.

Steve Manning, President of Natural Resources Solutions said during Commissioners Court that they are also meeting with local school districts to determine what is needed to improve road and pedestrian safety in school zones, such as constructing sidewalks.

"I would figure all of those schools might have some instance where they are worried about crossings or places for school bus stops," Manning said. "Anything like that we would want to know about."

Manning discussed the possibility of working with the Coryell County Road and Bridge Department to determine an estimated cost of some of those improvement projects, and which ones will need to be prioritized

based on the model and survey data.

Justin Latham with the Road and Bridge Department inquired about adding current county road project estimates to the plan. Manning and County Judge Roger Miller said the model should already highlight those areas, and those projects can be included as long as it improves county road safety.

"That's highlighted in fatalities on the county roads and that's really what we are trying to address - fatalities, serious incidents and accidents, and then vehicle pedestrian," Miller said. "Like Mr. Manning said, in school zones it's to help mitigate the vehicle pedestrian sidewalks - they are all about sidewalks in school zones and school areas or routes that can get students or children from housing areas to the school."

The county received funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant to develop the plan, which they applied for and were awarded last year. The development of a Safety Action Plan will allow the county to apply for the second part of the grant, which provides funds for projects to improve high-risk roads.

The U.S. Department of Transportation will release a notice of funding opportunities for 2024 in February. Miller said the county was eligible for up to \$30 million in 2023.

Last year, SS4A provided \$1.7 billion in federal funding to over 1,000 communities, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Residents can access the survey and learn more about the Safety Action Plan at coryell-county-sap.com/community. The survey will remain open until February 29.

Subscribe today. Call 254-865-5212.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

I have a dream...



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

The Martin Luther King national holiday is celebrated next Monday, Jan. 15.

Mr. King was a Baptist minister, activist, and political philosopher who was one of the most influential and prominent leaders in the civil rights movement

from 1955 to his assassination in 1968. The son of an early civil rights activist and minister, he advanced civil rights for people of color by non-violent resistance and

civil disobedience against Jim Crow laws and other forms of systemic discrimination in the United States.

Dr. King participated and led marches for the right to vote, labor rights, and other civil rights. He was one of the leaders of the 1963 march on Washington where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial; often proclaimed as one of the most influential speeches in American history. The contributions of Dr. King in no small way influenced changes in our society and led to landmark legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965,

and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Currently, our nation is divided, and our political direction seems muddled. While many politicians from both sides of the aisle scream and politicize issues, they ignore and disregard the option of coming together as one and working to find solutions to problems. Somehow, the idea of all Americans being brothers and having a shared destiny has gotten overshadowed. What exists is loyalty to party rather than country, and the lust for political gain rather than the advancement of our society.

The obstacles that our

country faces are many, but they are not obstacles which we cannot overcome. It will require leadership. It compels a never-ending commitment to doing the right thing, to advance society for all, and to work together for the greater good. Dr King would say, "The time is always right to do what is right."

The time is right for our elected officials to start acting like "leaders" and set forth a clear path for our nation. They should face political backlash from the extremist without fear, dare to reach across the aisle and make reasonable compromise, and create a vision for our future. Without a

vision, without working together, without a commitment for our nation to succeed, rather than for a few, our very existence will be challenged.

Dr. King said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." We are in a time of controversy. May the words and deeds of Dr. King influence us all to do better, to be better, and to demand better.

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

Gazebo to be constructed in honor of past community member, Ronnie Viss

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Following the Gatesville Exchange Club's 40th anniversary, the organization plans to give back to the community through the creation of a gazebo that will also serve as a memorial for one of their former members.

The structure will pay tribute to the memory of Ronnie Viss, who died in 2021 at 45 years old. Viss not only served in the Exchange Club, but also on the Gatesville City Council for eight years, including acting as Mayor Pro Tem during his term. He was also involved in several local organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club Advisory board and the Coryell County Child Welfare Board.

Viss's contribution to his community encompasses the purpose behind the gazebo, explains Lauren Morrell, an Exchange Club member leading the project. The gazebo will not only provide a nice addition to Gatesville, but the organization hopes it will also inspire citizens to take part in serving their community. While Morrell did not know Viss personally, she often heard about

his service and his impact locally.

"The gazebo came as a larger concept that the Exchange Club could take on as a way to also give to Ronnie because he was such an integral part of the community," Morrell said. "Just in the fact that the Exchange Club has the three tenants as a national organization- Americanism, prevention of child abuse, and community service. He (Viss) embodied that in the things he did in the Exchange Club, in the city council, and in life from what I have been told. That is the kind of embodiment of (what) we are celebrating. This club represents these things and honoring him would be a perfect example of what that is as a person."

Doris Hoff first met Viss through the Exchange Club two decades ago and became close family friends with him for several years. Through his community involvement and years of service in the funeral business, Hoff said Viss was always striving to help someone.

"He was compassionate," Hoff said. "He understood how people needed to be

helped and that was just his goal in life."

The Gatesville City Council approved the building of a gazebo during a regular meeting in December. The cost of project materials is estimated to be around \$8,000.

Morrell said Freedom Park is one possible spot for the gazebo, but the Exchange Club is also considering other locations in Gatesville. They plan to complete the gazebo by this summer.

Along with honoring Viss, the Exchange Club wants to make the project a community effort by potentially partnering with local entities, organizations, and schools.

"The successful construction of the gazebo will depend on a collaborative effort involving many individuals within our community, reflecting the very essence of the Exchange's core values," City Manager Scott Albert said in an email. "The project will require contributions from various members of our community to secure the necessary funding and support for the construction of this gazebo, which exemplifies the vision of



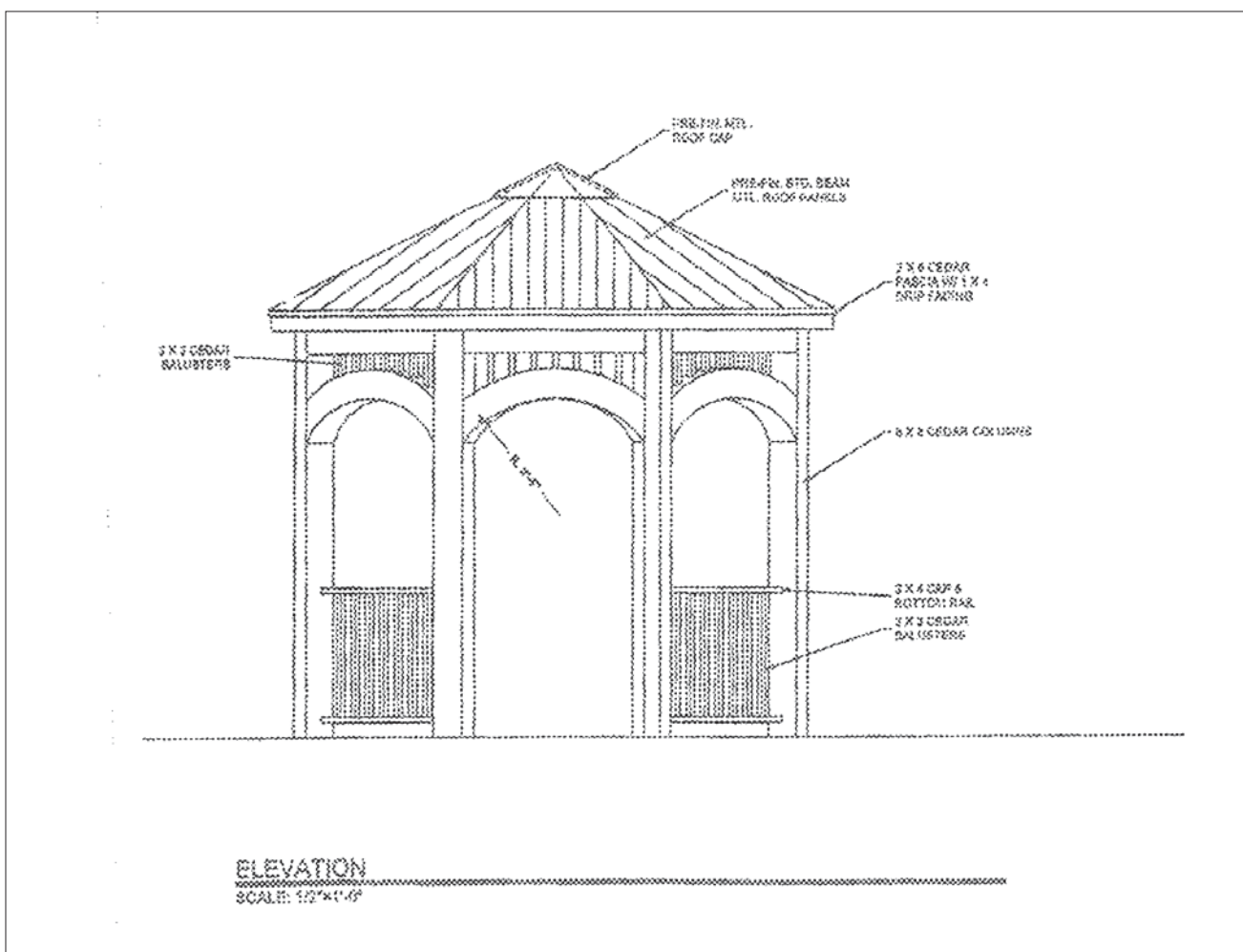
COURTESY PHOTO

Ronnie Viss

the Exchange - bringing people together for a common goal."

The Exchange Club plans to fundraise for the gazebo through June. Those who are interested in contributing to the project can contact the organization via their Facebook page: The Exchange Club of Gatesville.

"We would like it to be something for the community," Morell said. "A sense of ownership in when people see and read the placard that's on this - it will inspire them to want to be a part of their community and have a hand in it."



COURTESY PHOTO

The initial rendering of the gazebo that will be placed at one of the parks in Gatesville in honor of Ronnie Viss, a member of the Gatesville Exchange Club and Gatesville City Council, among other organizations.

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Folks
around town

COURTESY PHOTO

Elizabeth Shoaf

Say hello to our neighbor, Elizabeth Shoaf!

Elizabeth is the principal at Gatesville High School and is currently serving her first year. The best part of her job is getting to support and work with a campus filled with staff and students that are shaping the future. "I think the high school team is a perfect example of the proverb, it takes a village to raise a child," Shoaf said. "They go out of their way each day to provide our students with experiences that enable them to be creative, challenged, discover their strengths, and set goals for the future." She also expressed that Gatesville High School has an amazing student body that she is proud to call her "kids." She was raised in Gatesville and began teaching at the elementary school until she later transferred to the high school. Her favorite thing about Gatesville is the community's commitment to supporting youth programs and rallying together when a family, group, or individual is facing challenges.

Elizabeth reads The Gatesville Messenger and said, "My favorite part of The Gatesville Messenger is the remember when section, it's fun to read memories about the people I grew up with and know from the community," Shoaf said. "I think you all do a great job of keeping the community informed and supporting the positive culture so many work hard to establish."

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

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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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.

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

NEWS FROM ECLIPSEVILLE

Let's have a BLOCK (out the sun) PARTY!



BY CHERI SHEPHERD

City of Gatesville Special Events
Coordinator

As we began to plan for the influx of visitors that the April 8, 2024 eclipse is projected to bring to Gatesville, two priorities that we identified were:

Make sure residents and visitors have a safe and memorable experience.

Maximize the positive economic impact that the eclipse will bring to our community.

Based on what we've learned from cities that were in the path of totality in 2017, we expect our population to at least triple for that weekend. This is counting people staying in hotels, RV parks and camp-

sites, and also allowing for many of our residents to have a houseful of friends and relatives. We also know that there are a large number of weekend and hunting places around us. We are looking at the possibility of 15-20 thousand extra people staying in our area, and they are going to be looking for something to do while they wait for the "big event" on Monday.

In response, we have planned a downtown festival featuring activities, vendors, food, and live entertainment. A few of the planned activities include a petting zoo, art show, Texas Farm Bureau interactive exhibit, cornhole, disc golf, and pickleball tournaments, and a special time of worship on Sunday. We are calling it a BLOCK (out

the sun) PARTY. The event will take place on Saturday, April 6th and Sunday, April 7th. Admission will be free.

This presents our community with some great opportunities. Here are several ways that local organizations, businesses, and individuals can participate:

Activities for kids and adults - This is an opportunity for non-profit organizations to fundraise or to just offer something fun for our residents and visitors. Ideas include carnival-type games, face painting, photo props, selling souvenirs, holding a raffle for an eclipse or Texas-themed item (remember that we will have many out of state visitors who will be looking for a Texas experience).

Be a vendor - If you are an individual or business

and have something to sell, you can rent a 10X10 space on the square. Eclipse-, and Gatesville-, or Texas-themed items are expected to sell well, but this is a great opportunity to get your merchandise in front of a crowd of people. Food vendors and food trucks are also encouraged.

Show your talent - There will be a stage with various entertainment throughout the weekend. Kids groups, choirs, and up-and-coming local musicians can sign up for a time in the spotlight (tip jars are allowed). If your talent is in the visual arts, we are planning an art show where selected artists can exhibit their works.

Volunteer some time - Volunteers are needed to work at the event doing everything from assisting

with vendor set up, to sitting at an information table, to monitoring trash cans. If you can give a couple of hours or more on the weekend of the event, you can be part of the welcome committee!

Learn more at a Town Hall meeting! Join us on Thursday, Jan. 18th at 5:30pm in the council chambers at 110 N. 8th Street to learn more about these and other plans for the eclipse. You can also find information about each of these opportunities, and more, at GatesvilleTx-Eclipse.com. You may also contact me at cshepherd@gatesvilletx.com or (254) 326-8248.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Meals on Wheels in need of drivers

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

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

The Meals on Wheels program provides home-delivered, nutritious

meals that provide seniors in the community with support, which allows them to remain living in their own homes. This typically involves delivering a nutritious meal, a friendly visit, or a quick safety check.

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

ing or small talk.

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

At the end of last year,

the Meals on Wheels program stopped reimbursing volunteers for their mileage driven. Vehicles need to be provided by the volunteers as well.

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

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

Gatesville Police Department to host citizen's Feb. 22

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Police Department has recently made applications available for a Citizen's Police Academy to give locals an inside look at what it is like to be in the law enforcement field.

The academy seeks to enhance understanding and communication with citizens of Gatesville and is open to ages 18 and up. If you are 16 or 17 years of age, a parent or guardian is required to be present.

Gatesville Police Chief Brad Hunt expressed that for now the academy is limited to those who live or work within the city limits to accommodate for the number of students attending each course.

Classes will be held each Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with one session conducted at the shooting range.

The first class will take place on Thursday, Feb. 22



with the last being Thursday, May 21.

The courses will include high risk stops, building searches, animal control operations, mental health services, and more.

Applications are to be picked up from the main lobby at the Gatesville Police Department, which is located at 200 N. 8th Street.

For more information, visit gatesvilletx.com/police or email bhunt@gatesvilletx.com.

Gatesville Chamber of Commerce to hold annual banquet Jan. 20

Staff Reports

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

This will be an evening of cards, games, and award presentations,

along with a catered meal.

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

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

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

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

Membership renewals

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

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

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

Opportunities to attend BCMGA workshops

Staff Reports

Saturday, Jan. 13

The Bell County Master Gardener Association (BCMGA) will host a hands-on, seed-starting workshop on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office at the BCMGA Learning Center in Belton.

Certified Master Gardener Wayne Schirner will discuss the requirements for seed germination and how to grow seedlings. Attendees

will receive information on when to start seeds to have transplants at the proper time. Schirner will also speak about dense seed planting, as well as optional pointers that can assist in seed starting. Everyone will plant seeds that you will be able to take home to germinate and plant in your spring vegetable garden.

The class fee is \$20 with a limit of 20 people to attend. To register for this event, visit bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com. Registration will close

on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Thursday, Jan. 18

The Bell County Master Gardener Association (BCMGA) will present a free monthly seminar to discuss container vegetable gardening on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office, BCMGA Learning Center in Belton.

The seminar will be hosted by Certified Master Gardener Kathy Love. During the seminar, Love will introduce research-

based tips on how to grow your favorite vegetables in containers, as well as on apartment patios. The size of the containers is essential for each variety, meaning it is important to gain knowledge on which ones to select.

The class limit will be 50 people, so be sure to register at bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

The Bell County Master Gardener Association and the Harker Heights Activi-

ties Center presents a Special Event Seminar concerning Drought Tolerant Native Plants on Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The seminar will be held at the Harker Heights Activities Center located at 400 Indian Trail in Harker Heights.

Certified Master Gardener Barbara Ishikawa will present an assortment of native plants that are drought-tolerant for your landscape, enabling you to conserve water. Please register at

<https://bit.ly/3FHGjY7>.

Registration opens on January 2 at 8 A.M., with a class limit of 50 people.

Donations are appreciated to support continuing education opportunities in the Bell County area.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Office, BCMGA Learning Center is located at 1605 N. Main Street in Belton.

Gatesville native returns for signing of her newly released book

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

With family roots tied to Gatesville, local author Bobbi Williams will hold a book signing for her book "The Never-Ending Boob Job," from Saturday, Jan. 13 to Monday, Jan. 15, which will be held at 2522 Powell Drive in Gatesville. "The Never-Ending Boob Job" gives readers an inside look on Williams' journey with battling breast cancer. The book provides a raw account of the physical, emotional, and mental aspects of the disease. Williams was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer in July 2013. "Having cancer was an

eye opener for me since no one in my family had cancer before, nor any of my friends, so it was difficult to navigate at first," she said. "Also, I have a very quirky sense of humor and decided that I had to use it to get through my days." During the summer of 2015, Williams began writing "The Never-Ending Boob Job" in her spare time, and it was later published in 2022. Not only does Williams write, but she is also an Equal Opportunity and Diversity Investigator for the Department of Defense. "Writing is something I like to do in my limited free time, because I need a

creative outlet - the job can be quite dry," she said. Williams expressed that she needed a way to show her feelings and thoughts to go through her journey with cancer. "I believe that everyone's journey with an illness is different, however, I thought it would be good to tell my story for others," she said. "The patient must find their own way of dealing with their illness and take their journey as they decide to. No one can take it for them." She hopes that her readers will relate to something in her chapters and know that they are not alone. Throughout her writing

career, she has written an autobiography under a pseudonym. She also plans to publish another book in the future based on her grandmother's life. "My job keeps my days filled and busy, but I do plan on retiring from the federal service in the next few years to pursue research and writing more as well as to spend time with my 12 grandchildren," she said. Williams has also established a small online business called The Scrappy Grammy, which specializes in curating cancer gift boxes which contain her book, "The Never-Ending Boob Job."



COURTESY PHOTO
Bobbi Williams, author of "The Never-Ending Boob Job."

Grace Assembly to host King's table meal

Staff Reports

Grace Assembly Christian Church invites the community to dine at the King's Table on Saturday, Jan. 13. The meal will begin at 1 p.m. and will continue through 3 p.m. There will be fellowship,

fun, song, and plenty of food. The King's cooks will have main entrees, sides, beverages, and plenty of desserts prepared for after the meal. Appreciation bags will be given out for the King's guests.

Grace Assembly Christian Church has a long, proud history of serving the people of Gatesville. Through the dedication of leadership, staff members, and volunteers, and their impact in worship, they are committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ

and are here to spread his message. Grace Assembly Christian Church is located at 1408 Waco Street in Gatesville. For further information on this event, call 254-865-6949.

Feed My Sheep to host free medical clinic at Gatesville 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.

Mother & Son Movie Night set for Jan. 27

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Education Foundation will host a mother and son movie night on Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Last Drive-In Picture Show for students of Gatesville Independent School District. Tickets for the movie night will not be sold at the entrance, so be sure

to pre-register online or by returning a paper form to your child's school. Forms can be picked up at each campus or by visiting <https://gatesvilleisd.org/revtrak.net/r3> and are to be turned in by Friday, Jan. 19. The tickets will include a viewing of the movie Aquaman, mini-golf for

two, two 16-ounce drinks, two 44-ounce popcorns, and a photo booth with cell phone reception. The movie time for prekindergarten through second grade is 4:30 p.m. The movie time for third through sixth grade will be 7:30 p.m. The tickets will cost \$20 each and will be \$10 more

for each additional son. For more information, contact the Gatesville Education Foundation by email at educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org. The Last Drive-In Picture Show is located at 2912 TX-36 in Gatesville.

Severe Weather Education Class set for Jan. 23

Staff Reports

The 2024 spring severe weather season is not too far away, and the National Weather Service and local public safety officials want you to be ready. The National Weather Service (NWS) Office located in Fort Worth will be conducting a free Severe Weather Education class in Coryell County on Tuesday, January 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Copperas Cove Police Department. Officially known as the SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training Class, the program will be held in partnership with the City of Copperas Cove Office of Emergency Management. There is no cost to attend this class, no pre-registration is required, and you do not have to be a resident of Coryell County to attend.

This class is for established storm spotters and/or anyone who is interested in learning more about severe weather threats in North and Central Texas and how to be prepared. The class will feature an in-depth review and study of the various threats posed by severe thunderstorms. The program will also explore thunderstorm characteristics and features associated with severe and non-severe storms. Additionally, the program highlights severe weather safety and how you can report severe weather information to the NWS Fort Worth Office and local public safety officials.

The Coryell County Severe Weather Education class is part of NWS Fort Worth's annual severe weather preparedness campaign and is one of several severe weather training programs the NWS Fort Worth Office will conduct around the region between January and March 2024. Other classes across the region can be found at: <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap>.

The National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth provides forecasts, warnings, and weather-related services for 46 counties in North and Central Texas. For more information, visit the NWS Fort Worth Office website at <https://weather.gov/fortworth>, find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSDallasFortWorth> or on Twitter: @NWSFortWorth.

Travel Club to meet Jan. 16

Staff Reports

The January meeting of the Central Texas Travel Club will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at Johnny's Steaks and Bar-Be-Que in Salado. There will be a gathering at 11 a.m., and the meeting will follow at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in travel and to meet other travelers. There are no membership dues or requirements, and all ages are welcome. Johnny's Steaks and Bar-Be-Que is located at 301 Thomas Arnold Road in Salado. For more information, contact the Central Texas Travel Club by email at centraltexasravelclub@outlook.com.

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SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON

1-10-24 SALE			
Weigh Bulls	104-117	Cow Calf Pairs	No Test
Weigh Cows	65-109	Bred Cows	No Test
		Replacement Bulls	No Test
#1 Type Steers		#1 Type Heifers	
200-300 lb.	300-330	200-300 lb.	250-285
301-400 lb.	285-342.50	301-400 lb.	280-315
401-500 lb.	265-311	401-500 lb.	230-289
501-600 lb.	235-295	501-600 lb.	205-241
601-700 lb.	207-257	600-700 lb.	200-214

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CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION

Sale Every Saturday • Cattle at Noon
Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024
Jody & Robin Thomas (254)223-2958

No. 1 Steers		
Under 300 lb.	285-330	
300-400 lb.	285-325	
400-500 lb.	265-295	
500-600 lb.	245-285	
600-700 lb.	220-255	
700-800 lb.	210-235	
No. 1 Heifers		
under 300 lb.	265-320	
300-400 lb.	265-310	
400-500 lb.	235-275	
500-600 lb.	215-250	
600-700 lb.	195-235	
700-800 lb.	175-210	
Slaughter Cows		
High Yielding	90-103	
Low Yielding	70-80	
Fats	85-95	
Thin & Shelly	50-65	
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)		
Yield Grade 1&2		
Cow & Calf Pairs		
Young Choice	1850-2350	
Young Fair	1500-1800	
Aged Pairs	Split & weighed	
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker		
Replacement Cow	900-2050	
Number of Head	332	

Hwy. 36, Gatesville
(254) 865-9121
www.coryellcommission.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Southern Plainsmen Quartet

Southern Plainsmen Quartet to perform

Staff Writer

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame is pleased to announce that the Southern Plainsmen Quartet will be performing Southern Gospel Music in a free concert at the Gatesville City Auditorium on

Friday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. The Southern Plainsmen is a quartet known throughout the United States for fine harmonies and their wonderful rendition of Southern Gospel songs. They will be presenting old favorites and new compositions.

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame seeks to provide good, wholesome music with a family-oriented flavor at our free concerts held at The Gatesville City Auditorium Stage located at 110 N 8th St. in Gatesville on the third Friday each month.

The doors open at 6:45 p.m., and the show with our own Country Sounds Band will kick off the festivities at 7 p.m. Free parking will be available across the street at the library.

Marriage licenses filed in December

Marriage licenses filed during December 2023 in the Coryell County Clerk's Office included:

- Aaron Robert Allen and Karina Trimble;
- John Matthew Been and Sharon C. Lenior;
- James Robert Bolton and Tiffany Nichole Sanchez;
- Alexander Stephen Brega and Stephanie Ann Ramos;
- Troy Douglas Bryant and Laurna Ellen Dvorak;
- Tyler Wayne Campbell and Jennifer Denise Isaacs;

- Krystal Renee Caruthers and Kelly Baldwin Morris;
- Dalton Lee Chancellor and Kameron Carpenter Smith;
- Zachery Forrest Chappell and Jessica Jade Dean;
- Audie Lee Davis and Taylor Ashley Pierce;
- Jordan Levi Freeman and Cassidie Laramie Owen;
- Braxton Lee Galindo and Raygan Anne Stewart;
- Huego Marcolesta Garland and Teresa Alyce Gritzback;
- Colby Lathon Gilliam and Brandy Jacqueline Reed;

- Israel Hernandez and Blanca Daisy Gomez;
- Brenden Michael Hoffmann and Ashlyn Lee Barnes;
- Jozsef Imre and Rachel Michaela Kennedy;
- Armando Martin Melendez and Allondra Marie Collazo;
- Jeremy Jason Douglas Mitchell and Misty Jann Mitchell;
- Rodney Wayne Norman and Jenilee Dawn McGraw;
- Tracy Spencer O'Neil and Melissa Ray;
- Louis Peter Palumbo and

- Rita Cassia Palumbo;
- Carl Joseph Poorman and Tiffanie Nicole Meagher;
- Guillermo Rodriguez Marquez and Deyanira Rodriguez Villegas;
- Daniel Bruce Shanahan and Stacey Lee Stine;
- Nathan Colton Tatum and Nadia Lynn Ziegeler;
- Glenn Allen Walker and Krystal Nicole Schoepf;
- Timothy Herschel Williams IV and Tara Lea Campbell

T-ville Community Center to hold meeting Jan. 15

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 is open to the public.

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

A real Texas ranch experience



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

After spending nearly a lifetime in the hotel industry, Phyllis Golden started what she calls a western tourism company named Cowgirls and Cowboys in the West. It's located on her and her husband's cattle ranch near Canyon.

"We allow people to come out to our ranch and we guide them around the area on our American Quarter Horses," says Phyllis. "We teach them how to ride a horse, then take them to the rim of the Palo Duro Canyon and explain the rich history of West Texas: The Comanches, Charles Goodnight, Palo Duro Canyon, so many things that happened here that people are not aware of. They love it."

People from all over the world have been there. When I visited with Phyllis, there were guests there from Luxembourg and Switzerland.

"We have a variety of horseback rides that range from one hour to three hours and we also do chuck wagon events where we have entertainment, history talks, and serve a great western meal of brisket and all the fixings. That's very popular, but we only do it for private events. They're great, and people enjoy them."

The ranch operates only during the day and evening. There are no overnight accommodations. Phyllis says not everyone who goes to the ranch is an experienced horse rider.

"Most people who come here don't know how to ride a horse. They've ridden maybe a couple of times or rode when they were younger, but they're coming from Europe or

Australia. They just want to ride a horse in Texas. They are thrilled to be here pretending to live the cowboy life."

Phyllis gives visitors a real Texas ranch experience.

"A lot of people are interested in what we do, and we try to deliver not with a Disneyland kind of fervor but with a good old Texas 'this is how it is' reality."

Before she left the hotel industry, she managed the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo and turned it into a five-star facility.

"I decided to start a business doing some things that I truly love, which include hospitality, horseback riding, and history."

She credits Paul McCartney of the Beatles fame for giving her the idea to start the business.

"He was staying at the hotel, and I invited him and his wife to come out to the ranch. I told him about how friends would come out to ride, and he told me I ought to start a business offering rides to the public. So, I did."

When she first got word that a celebrity was going to be staying at the hotel and was told who it was, she was extremely excited because she loved the music of the Beatles. She put Paul in a suite that was all about cattle. Paul is a vegetarian.

SUDOKU

Sudoku results from the Jan. 6 puzzle.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

The first judging for the Coryell County Youth Fair took place at the annual horse show.

John Derrick and Bill Burdett retired from the Gatesville Post Office, taking with them 60-plus years combined service.

Texas First State Bank opened a new facility.

The Gatesville Messenger holds a photo contest to find a local scene or picture for the cover of the April

spring/summer issue of the Visitor's & Newcomers' Guide.

Gatesville Hornets took down the Cougars 48-34 in the season opener.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Coryell County was set to receive additional revenue - up to \$463,000 per year - thanks to a passed proposal for the county jail to begin providing transportation for federal prisoners.

The unemployment rate jumped to 7.4 percent.

Work was underway for a Higginbotham Brothers location in Gatesville.

Mrs. Tad Barton and Mrs. Aletha Bell Maxwell were honored at Calvary Baptist Church for many years of service.

Dairy Queen advertised a full meal deal (burger, fries, drink, and a sundae) for \$2.59.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

Gatesville Water Department employees spent New Year's Day repairing a water

main break in the 1500 block of Main Street.

Powell Supply Company advertised microwaves on sale for \$788.

Gatesville Hornets beat Georgetown, 48-46, and won third place in the Taylor Optimist Holiday Tournament.

The purchase of \$12,030 worth of required video camera equipment was approved by the Coryell County Commissioners Court. The equipment was

for filming DWI suspects when they were booked into jail.

Gerald Kitchens submitted his formal announcement that he would be running for the office of Sheriff of Coryell County.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Jack Mitchell, chief of the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department was elected by his fellow firefighters as the department's Fireman of the Year for 1973.

The Gatesville city council adopted an ordinance banning "unreasonable loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noise" in Gatesville.

The City of Gatesville was planning a \$484,000 sewer extension program.

City water department crews were kept busy repairing mains that had sprung leaks due to freezing weather.

Hornet basketballers toppled Cameron, 58-56.

PEARL NEWS

If you didn't attend the Bluegrass event, you missed a great time



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

If you were unable to go to last week's first Saturday Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Bluegrass events, you missed a great time.

I've heard that the crowd was great, and everyone enjoyed all the goings on. The bookstore ladies enjoyed visits from people they had not seen in quite a while, and they hope to see them a lot more in 2024. Remember, most everything in the store, including the more

than 6,000 books, is "buy what you want, pay what you want," and all monies go toward the various local charities that the bookstore supports. I suggest marking your calendar right this second for the next "super Saturday" events in Pearl—Feb. 3. 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.

What were the Pleasure and Profit Club ladies doing about this time in the year 1934 (90 years ago)? Let's check in on these industrious, community-minded ladies: Jan. 4, 1934...The club met with Mrs. Elouise Nabors. Having no work prepared, the social hour was spent laughing and talking, and those who wished learned how to make bound buttonholes and how to sew on buttons. Miss Mae Basham was the instructor. The president called the house to order for the business meeting. The minutes were approved. The roll was called, noting the absence of a

few members. Two dollars were paid for dues. Some paid up for several months. Since then, \$1.60 had been paid to Robert Manning for the freight on the wicker suit for the school, leaving \$3.96 in the treasury. New officers were elected: President-Miss Bessie Earl Whitt; Vice President-Mamie Franks; Secretary/Treasurer-Eula Mae Cox; Assistant Secretary-Bessie Smith; and Reporter-Myra Myrl Shook. We decided on the Greek Puzzle Quilt pattern for the quilt which we must have for the Rally Day. We also discussed some cloth to make slip covers for cushions on the wicker suit. It was also decided that we elect a Critic, which was voted on, and Myra Myrl was elected to fill this office. Also, a motion was made and seconded and voted on that we get blue

and white striped seersucker for our spring and summer club dresses and keep the ones we have for fall and winter. After the adjournment to meet with Ora Mae next club day, we were served cake, peaches, whipped cream and hot cocoa. Signed Eula Mae Cox. (When I read these excerpts from the Pleasure and Profit Club book, available in the Book Cottage for \$15, I always wish I could have been there! By the way, does anyone know what Rally Day was or why the school needed a wicker suit? Also, what did the office of "Critic" entail? Email me if you have any info, please).

This week's Bible verse comes from Ephesians 5: 1, 2—Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself

up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 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 betsyclark47@yahoo.com



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Left photo: Musicians gather at the Pearl Bluegrass monthly event and display their musical skills. Right photo: Volunteers at the monthly event in Pearl sell homemade desserts.

The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of January 3 - January 9. 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

January 3
3:56 p.m., harassment was reported in the 3400 block of Canyon Crossing Drive.
10:45 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Airport Road.
10:59 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of North 16th Street.
11:24 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2200 block of Coryell City Road.
January 4
12:39 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 36.
3:54 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.
3:57 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1500 block of Bridge Street.
4:22 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of South Business Highway 36.
January 5
10:19 a.m., stolen property was reported in the 1100 block of Baldrige Drive.

12:17 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1800 block of Mills Street.
4:21 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Trails Private Drive.
5:18 p.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of North 8th Street.
January 6
2:04 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Boone Street.
6:37 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 500 block of Straws Mill Road.
7:03 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of Golf Course Road.
7:50 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of South 34th Street.
January 7
12:28 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 5200 block of FM 1829.
8:50 a.m., stolen property was reported in the 2600 block of East Main Street.
1:42 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Carroll Drive.
2:31 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of East Main

Street.
January 8
11:03 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2300 block of North Highway 36.
8:51 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3300 block of County Road 318.
9:03 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1300 block of North State Highway 36 Bypass.
11:28 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of West Main Street.
January 9
5:49 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of State School Road.
11:56 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 200 block of North Lutterloh Avenue.
3:59 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 900 block of College Street.
CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
January 3
10:43 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 3900 block of South Highway 36.

11:10 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 10600 block of South Highway 36.
7:44 p.m., missing livestock was reported in the 800 block of County Road 102.
11:31 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 2200 block of Coryell City Road.
January 4
8:57 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Street.
11:25 a.m., animal neglect was reported in the 4200 block of TX Highway 236.
10:58 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 700 block of Flintrock.
11:14 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on South Highway 36 South Bound, North of Flat.
January 5
9:37 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Highway 36 and Henson Creek.
2:42 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1600 block of FM 2414.
4:34 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of Lutheran

Church Road.
5:39 p.m., a threat was reported in the 5000 block of East US Highway 84.
January 6
4:35 a.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 120 block of Harrell Drive.
5:32 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of County Road 245.
6:56 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 700 block of Straws Mill Road.
7:34 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 2412 and County Road 88.
January 7
12:31 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 5200 block of FM 1829.
3:16 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Windmill Way.
4:25 a.m., a dog bite was reported in the 100 block of Lazy Ridge Road.
9:01 a.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 8600 block of FM 182.
January 8

11:10 a.m., trees in the roadway were reported in the 7600 block of FM 182.
6:42 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 970 block of Blue Stem.
8:25 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 15600 block of South Highway 36.
8:54 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3300 block of County Road 318.
January 9
4:32 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of FM 116.
9:30 a.m., illegal burning was reported in the 1970 block of North FM 116.
10:10 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on South Highway 36 and Smith Creek.
1:21 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1430 block of Old Pidcoke.

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Coryell County

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3835 CR 127, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday worship 11 a.m.

BETHLEHEM PRIMITIVE

Elder Hugh Montgomery, pastor; 4555 FM 1690, Gatesville; Worship 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

CALVARY

Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 & FM 116; Sunday Bible study 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

CANAAN

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

COLD SPRINGS

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

EASTWOOD

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

FIRST BAPTIST EVANT

Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' & youth Bible study 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST FLAT

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

FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE

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

FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY

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

FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA

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

GATEWAY

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

HARMONY

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

HAY VALLEY

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

JONESBORO

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

KING

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

LIBERTY

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

LIVE OAK

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

MOUNTAIN

Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6

p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.

OSAGE

Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.

LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO

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

MIDWAY

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

PEARL

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

CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE EMANUEL

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

LUTHERAN

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

ST. JOHN

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

ST. PAUL

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

METHODIST

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

EVANT

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

FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE

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

OGLESBY UNITED

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

PIDCOKE

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

MORMON

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

CORYELL COMMUNITY

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

CORYELL FELLOWSHIP

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

COVER2COVER

MINISTRIES
Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wednesdays 6 p.m. 407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5, Gatesville.

GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER

Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday

services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.; 2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-9472.

GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN

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

HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL

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

JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sundays, 8:30-9 a.m. aqui se reune La Iglesia de Cristo, in the 2400 Block of E. Main St., Gatesville.

LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Peter M. Mafwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:45 am.

MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE

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

PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

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

THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT

Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE

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

MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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

PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN

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

REFORMED GRACE BIBLE

Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday services 10:45 a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.

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

HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH

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

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.

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045 SERVICES

045 SERVICES

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060 GARAGE SALE

DOLLAR SALE! Tues., 01/16 - Sat., 01/20. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030542



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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BID-CORYELL COUNTY

Timeframe: February 13, 2024-February 10, 2025

Bridge Bid

Additional Information: Contact the Road and Bridge Department, 254-865-5021 and visit the Coryell County website: <http://coryellcounty.org> for the bid sheets and additional information. The Commissioners' Court has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Sealed bids addressed to the Honorable Judge and Commissioners' Court will be accepted until 9:00 a.m. on February 9, 2024. Mail or bring your bid to:

Hon. County Judge Roger A. Miller

Coryell County Main Street Annex (SEALED BID) 800 E. Main Street, Suite A Gatesville, Texas 76528 Bid will be awarded at the Coryell County Commissioners' Courtroom on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m., 801 E. Leon St., Gatesville, Texas 76528.

00030568

NOTICE TO BID-CORYELL COUNTY

Timeframe: February 13, 2024-February 10, 2025

Paving Aggregate

Additional Information: Contact the Road and Bridge Department, 254-865-5021 and visit the Coryell County website: <http://coryellcounty.org> for the bid sheets and additional information. The Commissioners' Court has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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00030569

NOTICE TO BID-CORYELL COUNTY

Timeframe: February 13, 2024-February 10, 2025

Paving Oil Products

Additional Information: Contact the Road and Bridge Department, 254-865-5021 and visit the Coryell County website: <http://coryellcounty.org> for the bid sheets and additional information. The Commissioners' Court has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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00030570

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BOOK SIGNING:

Bobbi Williams will be present to sign her latest book, "The Never Ending Boob Job," recounting her breast cancer journey.



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10am-6pm Each Day
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CASH ONLY – Nice clothes, coats, shoes, hats, furniture, model trains, tools, paint, power saws, ladder, roll-around tool box, bench, front load washer, dog cages, patio furniture, hammock, flowers & pots, lamp shades, T.V.s, light fixtures, kitchen appliances, dishes, glassware, home decor, fabric, cast iron pans, jewelry, books, firepit, old trunk, mannequins, curio cabinets, guitars, amplifier, dulcimer, photography equipment, and much more.

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099 LAND AND LOTS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The City Council of the City of Gatesville, in the Regular Meeting held on January 9, 2024 did pass and approve on the third and final reading the following ordinance: ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-07: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GATESVILLE, TEXAS AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AT CHAPTER 18, "FEES", BY AMENDING SECTION 18-1, "FEE SCHEDULE" WITH REGARD TO SEWER RATE FEES FOR TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND SOLD WASTE FEES; REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Complete text of this ordinance is available for inspection, during regular business hours, at City Hall, 803 E. Main Street. Wendy Cole, City Secretary 00030574

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS GATESVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2022-23 Texas Academic Performance Report

Gatesville ISD will hold a public meeting on January 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Gatesville ISD Administration Building Room at 311 S. Lovers Lane, Gatesville, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Gatesville ISD's 2022-23 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). 00030575

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Mound families are busy with the Coryell County Youth Fair this week



BY BARBARA HOPSON
Mound News Correspondent

Those participating in the upcoming Coryell County Youth Fair from the Mound community include Brinna Petrie, Caymbri Fisher, Slayton Fisher, Colbi Allison, Grace

Carothers, Romi Bomar, Noah Hopson, Aubree Long, Olivia Long, Lillie Mann, Matti Mann, Allie McPherson, Anna McPherson, Kinsley McPherson, Jake Watts, Charles Belt,

Thomas Belt, Shelbi Bomar, Emma Treadway, Emily Turner, Kannon Turner, Lash Turner, Graham Bay, Greyson Bay, Eve Fulton, Elli Kinnear, Bailey Wolff, and Jozie Wolff. The Mound community wants to wish everyone good luck in the 2024 Coryell County Youth Fair. Alan McCorkle, of Buda, Brian McCorkle, Eric, and Liz McCorkle have been visiting with Elizabeth McCorkle during the Christmas & New Year's holidays. LaWanda Lawhorn of Temple brought Sunday

lunch to Martha Lawhorn. While there she visited Martha Lawhorn and her family. Emma Blakley, of College Station, spent her Christmas and New Year's break visiting with her family and friends while here. Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch in Gatesville Friday. Those who have birthdays this weekend are Jim Brooks, Martha Hopson, and Holly Jones.

OBITUARIES

John Craft Barnes

March 1, 1926 - Jan. 8, 2024

John Craft "Johnny" Barnes, age 97, of Oglesby, passed away Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at a local hospital after a brief illness. Graveside services with Naval military honors will be held at 10 a.m. today (Saturday, Jan. 13) at Post Oak Cemetery in Oglesby, followed by memorial services at the First Baptist Church in Oglesby at 11 a.m. Johnny was born on March 1, 1926, in Blackwell. His father was a Methodist minister, so the family moved frequently during his youth, but he graduated from Oglesby High School in 1943. After graduation, he joined the

United States Navy and proudly served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Following the war, he attended and graduated from Southern Methodist University, earning a BBA in Accounting. After graduation, he worked for Texaco for 39 years until his retirement. In 1949, Johnny married Betty Ruth Bates. Their union produced a daughter, Deborah Ann Williams and a son, Darrell Wayne Barnes. Betty preceded Johnny in death in 1988. Shortly after her death, Johnny returned to his childhood hometown of Oglesby, where he lived throughout the remain-

der of his life. Johnny had four grandchildren: Michelle Williams Fielder, John Williams, Wayne Barnes, and Rachel Barnes Sanchez. He also has five great-grandchildren. Johnny was active in the Oglesby community as a member of the Oglesby United Methodist Church and Lions Club. He took great pride in his military service and was usually seen wearing his WWII Veterans cap. He was a uniter of the community and was always willing to help in any way that he could. He never met a stranger and will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



In lieu of flowers please donate to the Oglesby Lions Club or the Veterans charity of your choice.



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Chants of Sennaar is a game of interpretation through extrapolation—you're gaining context for each word, and continuing to learn the language as you interact with their world.

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BY JENNIFER HARRISON

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

THE ENJENIR

The Enjenir, from developer PeatyTurf, was released on Dec. 18, 2023. It's a physics-based, sandbox-building game with 'ragdoll' third-person controls. The character movement is very similar to Human Fall Flat, another physics game. The developers behind The Enjenir are actually civil engineers, still both working full-time 9-5 jobs while creating this game. It's currently being offered as an Early Access game to help with playtesting, so they can spend their time adding features and mechanics. Building in this game is called 'gridless', meaning that there is no 'snap' when you place a building element. You have the freedom to place it as accurately (or inaccurately) as you like. You'll build intricate structures and vehicles, and then have to operate them with your clumsy ragdoll character. I've played the demo, and the building part is fun. You're

putting down various construction elements to complete the tasks, like building a fence, a water tower, and a cart. There are also tasks you need to perform by manipulating your Enjenir character. The game mechanics for moving the Enjenir around are really strange, but once you get the hang of the keyboard shortcuts they give you quite a bit of flexibility. You can make him climb a tree, for example, which is something I never could do in Human Fall Flat. But so far it's not a simple system to learn. The really interesting part of the game is the actual building of the structures. You're placing beams together and nailing them to each other and making sure there's lots of bracing. You're graded by your efficient building skills, your speed, and how strong the structure is. You're free to create whatever you like (including a roller coaster). You're limited only by your own incompetence. The game is in Early Access for at least 12 months while

they continue developing it, adding a bit of narrative and story to the game. To be honest, I don't care about the story; I just want a fun game. Let's hope they spend more time on the gameplay, not the story. For a free playable demo, check out the Steam page. https://store.steampowered.com/app/1800940/The_Enjenir/
TOUCH YOUR EYES
It's hard to come up with new puzzle ideas, but Touch Your Eyes from WoW_Studio manages to find something nobody else has tried. Touch Your Eyes is a simple 2-D puzzle made of circles. The goal is to cover the gray dots with the white circles and one black circle. Each circle can be made to be inside or outside the other circles, and they can be rotated along the inside or outside of the circle. From the Steam page for the game: "Touch Your Eyes" is a game born in the 2023 CIGA Gamejam. It is primarily a puzzle game with a gameplay style similar to pushing boxes, featuring multiple levels with special mechanics. CIGA Game Jam is an annual development convention in China. Every year people get together and brainstorm new game ideas, and then develop them in three days. Download the free demo on SteamOS and try it out for

yourself. The game is not yet available for purchase. https://store.steampowered.com/app/2681740/Touch_Your_Eyes/
CHANTS OF SENNAAR
From the Steam page: "Legend says that one day a traveler will reunite the Peoples of the Tower who are unable to communicate with each other. Observe, listen, and decipher ancient languages in a fascinating universe inspired by the myth of Babel." You're a mysterious traveler who has arrived in a city full of enormous buildings with a minimalist color palette. During your exploration, you encounter carvings, inscriptions, and writings that you won't understand. But as you continue to explore and get more information, you'll eventually be able to interpret what the beings are saying to you, and what the inscriptions say. I really like the graphics in this game. The buildings and simple line art reminds me of illustrations by Moebius (Jean Giraud,) a French illustrator and cartoonist. Chants of Sennaar is the latest from Rundisc. It's available on SteamOS for \$15.99, but you can check it out for free with their demo at https://store.steampowered.com/app/1931770/Chants_of_Sennaar/

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Timeframe: February 13, 2024-February 10, 2025

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Additional Information: Contact the Road and Bridge Department, 254-865-5021 and visit the Coryell County website: <http://coryellcounty.org> for the bid sheets and additional information. The Commissioners' Court has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Sealed bids addressed to the Honorable Judge and Commissioners' Court will be accepted until 9:00 a.m. on February 9, 2024. Mail or bring your bid to: Hon. County Judge Roger A. Miller Coryell County Main Street Annex (SEALED BID) 800 E. Main Street, Suite A Gatesville, Texas 76528 Bid will be awarded at the Coryell County Commissioners' Courtroom on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m., 801 E. Leon St., Gatesville, Texas 76528. 00030571

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BID-CORYELL COUNTY
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- 117 N. Rice St., Hamilton, TX. Rustic Lantern, over 7,000 sq ft, 2 stories w/ 2 staircases, kitchen area, old safe, great commercial property for restaurant, office, or retail. \$549,000
- 1.469 ac. Lampasas River Place Subdivision, Lampasas River frontage, good tree cover, electricity along property line, Kempner water along front of property, \$125,000
- 5 ac. 4/2 brick home, 1960 CR 158 Evant, fireplace, open floor plan, recently remodeled kitchen, breakfast bar, pantry, second living area, office, ceramic tile floors, large front porch, fiber optic internet service, Multi-County Water, 2 car carport, storage that is 24'x19' w/ attic lift, \$599,000.
- 5.078 ac. East of Gatesville, Greenbriar Ranch Estates, Lot No. 4. North Greenbriar Creek, good tree cover, rolling terrain, electricity & water at the road. \$123,500
- 10.01 ac. East of Evant TX, Coryell County on CR 160. Lot 39, Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision. Rolling terrain, good tree cover, OWNER FINANCING, TERMS, 15% DOWN, 7.5% INTEREST, & CAN DO 10-15- OR 20-YEAR NOTE. \$139,900
- 10.01 ac, Lot 41 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX., Good Tree cover, Rolling Terrain, Fiber Optic Internet. \$149,500
- 11 +/- ac, Arnett, TX Coryell County, good tree cover, nice home site, will need to be fenced. MCWSC may be available. \$179,500
- 11.01 ac. Lot 5 Ph 2 Rio Escondido, 3180 PR 42111 Evant, TX. Ready to build on w/ house pad, electricity, septic system, water well, Fiber-optic internet, small cabin w/kitchenette, bathroom, covered patio, & RV pad, 1 tank. \$212,500
- 15 ac. East of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across road, will need to drill water well for water. \$150,000
- 16.5 ac. Turnersville, open pasture, good views, paved CR 220. electricity across road, check w/ Coryell City Water on availability of water meter. \$206,500
- 17.85 ac. 296 Cross Timbers Lane, Gatesville, 2 homes, 3/2 brick home, open floor plan, 2nd home 2/2 single wide, good tree cover, rolling terrain, storage building, excellent fences, 1 stock pond. \$749,500
- 18.1 ac. south of Evant, near Adamsville, Lampasas County, Hwy 281 & CR 2830. water well, electricity, carport, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$260,000
- 20 ac. Evant, TX, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Lot 23 Ph 1, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric available, Fiber Optic Internet. \$215,000
- 20.02 ac. Evant, TX, PR 42107, Hamilton County, Lot 43 Ph 6 Rio Escondido, rolling terrain, good tree cover, season creek. \$265,000.
- 20.33 ac 3/2 modular home 714 CR 415, Evant, open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, hardwood floors, pantry, free standing wood stove, 10'x 60' front porch, multi-county water, 1 tank, fiber optic internet, small workshop, chicken coop, greenhouse, storage buildings and carport. \$498,000
- 22.2 Ac, 4/2 Palm Harbor Manufactured Home, 812 Blakley Rd, open floor plan, large master bedroom, his & her closets, 2 living areas, 14'x35' sunroom, laminate floors, ceramic floors in kitchen, laundry room & bathrooms, 8'x40' container w/ lean-to for a carport, outbuildings, water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$649,500
- 30.528 ac. East of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across the road, you will need to drill a water well. \$305,280
- 33.43 ac. near Coryell City, Coryell County, FM 929 & CR 260 frontage, rolling terrain, good views. \$295,000
- 38 +/- ac. South of Pearl, TX, Coryell County, FM 183 frontage, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, nice views, great home site. \$372,400
- 39.378 ac West of Gatesville, Hwy 36 frontage, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain. Good fences, water meter on property & electric available, Jonesboro ISD \$395,000
- 41.0457 ac. Hamilton, CR 404, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, approx. 25 acres farmland, 2 tanks, & good fences. \$449,000
- 47.332 ac. South of Ireland, TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, good fencing on 3 sides, southside will need to be fenced. \$395,000
- 50.24 ac. 3/2.5 home, 2171 CR 419 Evant, rolling terrain, good tree cover over 40% of property, remaining balance open pasture, great views. \$649,500.
- 58.51 ac. 3/2 frame home, 6630 FM 183 Evant, TX, water well, several outbuildings, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, 2 tanks. \$585,000
- 60.23 ac. CR 238 near Turnersville, TX, 1 stock tank, good fences, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain, \$361,380.
- 68.9 ac, 3/2.5 rock home 101 Mac Dr., Gatesville, approx. 2900 ft Leon River frontage, ceramic tile floors, carpet in bedrooms, vaulted ceiling, rock fireplace, granite countertops, breakfast bar, garden tub, metal building 45'x24' barn, cattle pens, 1 tank, approx. 48 ac of coastal. \$1,249,500
- 74.264 ac. West of Purlmela, FM 1241 & CR 181, 1 tank, barn w/cattle pens, good exterior fences, approx. 65 acres good pasture w/coastal & native grasses, \$508,709
- 82.43 ac. West of Evant, Mills County. Open pasture, scattered mesquite tree cover, native grasses, 1 tank, fenced on 3 sides. \$560,524
- 88.007 ac, Hamilton CR 614 36 ft. Travel Trailer, 25'x30' metal barn, electricity, 1 tank, seasonal branch, water well, scattered tree cover. \$650,000
- 89.862 ac. 3/2 home 1784 CR 610 Hamilton, open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances, pantry, ceramic floors, carpet in bedrooms, Large front porch, 2 carports, 50'x 30' metal building, 8'x 40' storage container, well, 1 tank. great views, good tree cover, rolling terrain. \$975,000
- 105 ac. South of Pearl, TX, Self Rd, good tree cover, rolling terrain, small branch, 38'x42' barn w/rain harvest system, electricity along property line, will need to drill well for water. \$743,775
- 106 ac. CR 180 Purlmela, Coryell & Hamilton County, good tree cover, rolling terrain, 1 tank, paved road frontage, electricity across road. \$832,100
- 154.904 ac. Turnersville, paved CR 226, Coryell County, brick home in need of repair, water well, 1 tank, 1 barn 100'x 50', 1 barn 50'x 48' & 1 barn 120'x 48', cattle pens, grain storage bin, open pasture w/ native grasses, 24-ac. field. Jonesboro I. S. D., Owners will consider owner financing. \$929,424
- 179.562 ac. 1.6 miles South of Gatesville, TX FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. \$1,166,255
- 199.86 ac. 4/2 Manufactured Home, 1805 CR 180 Purlmela, fully furnished, 2 tanks, 8'x40' container, storage building w/water storage tank, barn, cattle pens, water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover, paved road frontage. \$1,568,901
- 210 ac. Carlton, Comanche County, approx. 5000 ft Frances Creek frontage, small cabin, water well, electricity, cattle pens, 2 tanks one approx. 2.4 ac, good tree cover, 48 ac. improved grass, good exterior & interior fences. \$1,450,000

RECIPE

This recipe appeared in the "Methodist Best" cookbook in 2008. The Gatesville Messenger is running a series of recipes from that cookbook. If your church has a cookbook, or if you would like to submit your own recipe of a favorite dish for possible publication, please email it to: editor@gatesvillemessenger.com.

Sweet Potato Pie

BY CHRISTON HAYDON

- 2 c. sweet potatoes, cooked and mashed
- ½ tsp. ginger
- ½ c. butter, softened
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 2 egg yolks
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- 1 c. brown sugar, packed
- ½ c. milk
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 2 egg whites
- ¼ c. sugar

Mix first 9 ingredients together. Beat egg whites until foamy. Add ¼ cup sugar and beat until stiff. Fold into above mixture and pour into shell. Bake at 400 for 30 minutes or until done.



Sweet potato pie

PHOTO COURTESY OF COOKING CLASSY

STUDEBAKERS PIZZA NAMED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce announced Studebakers Pizza as the Business of the Month for January. Studebakers Pizza is a local, veteran-owned family business which offers a variety of homemade pizzas, sub sandwiches, salads, pastas, and an ice cream parlor. The restaurant has delivery, to-go, or dine-in options. Studebakers Pizza is located at 2701 E. Main Street.



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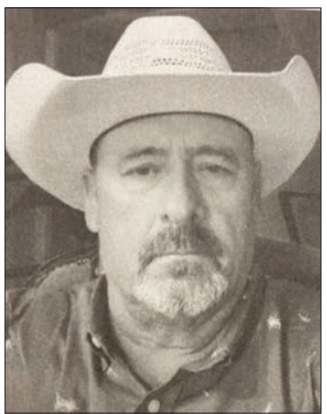
New book highlights Coryell County history

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Author and historian, Mike Lowrie, will be arriving in Gatesville in March for a book signing for his most recent book, "House of De Zavala, The Legacy of the Black Heart Stone."

Lowrie's book, a fictional novel, is based on actual events and true Texas history and has been described as a "fast-paced thrill ride through Texas and Northern Mexico." The novel can be more accurately described as being based on actual events in Coryell County involving the infamous Pancake Mine.

"The best stories for a writer always have a degree of truth in them," Lowrie said. "The Black Heart Stone was one of the best lost ar-



Mike Lowrie
COURTESY PHOTO

tifact and lost treasure stories I have ever found. After its flooring significance was revealed, it disappeared in 1935. It is still missing," he said.

Lowrie continued, "I first learned about the Black Heart Stone from Clay Coppedge and his book, "Forgotten Tales of Texas."

Clay Coppedge wrote a detailed history about the mine and mentioned that a rock was located with Jim Bowie's name and the date of 1832 carved on it. It was later said that the engraved stone also had a tale about 3,000 pounds of gold and another about a Comanche wife buried in Horseshoe Mountain near the headwaters of Coryell Creek.

Coppedge also wrote that the remains of a human being were found along with a black stone shaped like a human heart and a slab of flint with a strange diagram etched on it. Coppedge wrote "the flint was sent to the chief engineer of the Valencia Mines near Mexico City, who reported back

that the flint was a mining engineer's map of ancient Mexican origin." The map was later used to find the mining shafts and surface work.

Eventually, the Black Heart Stone ended up in the possession of Frank E. Simmons, a Coryell County historian. "Simmons wrote in great detail about the Pancake Mine and about the black rock, which Ike Pancake believed had little significance, for the Coryell County News in 1936. Simmons didn't attach a lot of significance to the Black Heart Stone until 1935 when a man traveled from Mexico to see Simmons, or rather the black rock in the shape of a human heart," Coppedge wrote. The Black Heart Stone went missing in 1935 and has never been found.

According to Coryell County Historian Mildred Mears, the Pancake Mine "had been a mystery to many men, numerous stories had been written about it, but none of them have been any value to the solution of the problem."

In 1941, Simmons published an article about the Pancake Mine, which he reported was located on the headwaters of Coryell Creek. Simmons stated that the main hill seemed to be the center of the old mining operation.

Simmons also wrote that very little was known about the early history of the mine. "No one knows by whom or when it was done, nor little of its early history, save that which has been traced by legendary lore, some early Mexican charts, and the cultural remains that are left in the caves, or burial grounds, and wild rocky canyons by a primitive people," he wrote.

Simmons also added to the mystery of the Pancake Mine by writing, "In the back of one cavity was found a piece of flint with a horse carved upon it. The engraving of the horse, a broken auger bit, a bullet mold, and an iron punch were found in the front shaft and indicate Spanish occupancy and the operation of the mine at the time it was abandoned."

Using the legend and lore of the mine as a story line, Mike Lowrie created a historical fiction novel based on the mine and the discovery of the "Black Heart Stone."

The actual stone, which disappeared years ago, was considered to be "highly prized." Lowrie was able to incorporate Texas history with fictional characters to create his book which has been described as "A high-octane adventure story that would do credit to Indiana Jones."

In speaking about his research into the Pancake Mine and the Black Heart Stone, Lowrie said "As any good writer is compelled to do, I did the research and

added to the story. I didn't have to go to the pyramids of Egypt to do it. It started at the Pancake Mine and in Gatesville."

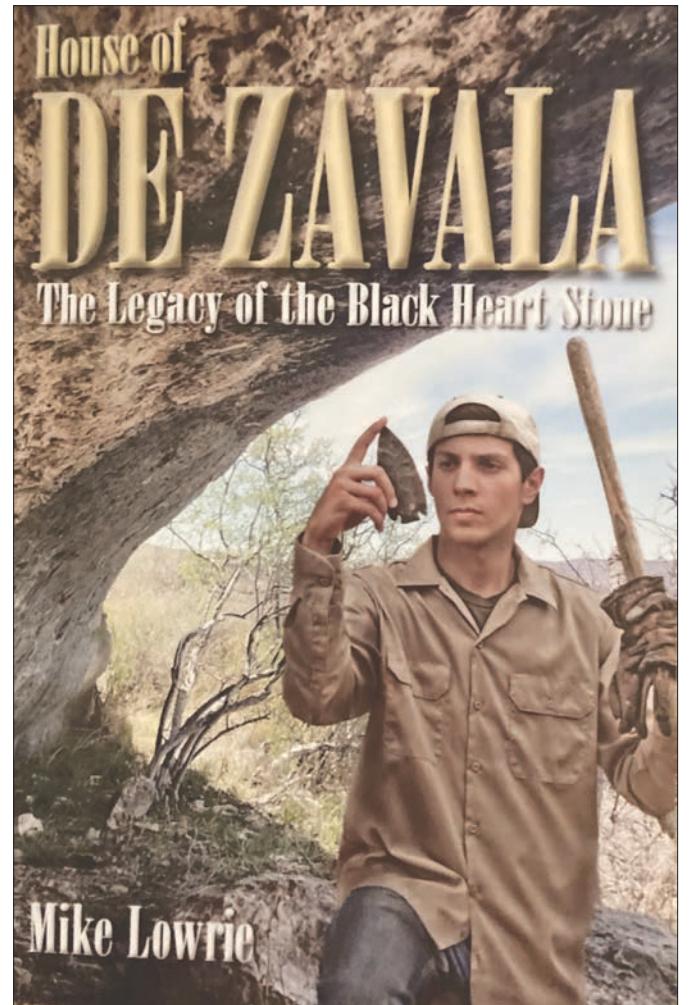


Photo of House of De Zavala, The Legacy of the Black Heart Stone book written by Mike Lowrie.
COURTESY PHOTO

Boxing up Christmas: Unwrapping the true gifts of the season

BY MICKY SHEARON
Contributing Writer

'Tis the season for boxing up Christmas! As the last strand of tinsel is carefully tucked away, and the ornaments find their cozy spots in their snug boxes,

one can't help but feel a twinge of nostalgia. Yet, amidst the flurry of packing tape and attic ascents, let's remember that some things from the holiday season are meant to be unwrapped and cherished year-round.

In the grand tradition of post-holiday cleanup, the Great Christmas Boxing-Up Extravaganza begins. The sound of crinkling wrapping paper and the satisfying thud of cardboard flaps echo through homes

everywhere. But wait, before you seal that last box, let's explore the treasures that shouldn't be confined to the attic.

1. The spirit of Christmas: More than a date on the calendar

As the calendar flips to a new year, it's easy to think the spirit of Christmas is exclusive to December. However, the magic of the season is not bound by dates. It's a feeling that can be unwrapped whenever the need for joy, love and good will arises. So, why not sprinkle a little Christmas cheer in July? Break out the festive socks, play your favorite carols, and spread joy regardless of season.

2. The spirit of giving: Because generosity knows no season

Sure, the presents have been exchanged and the stockings emptied, but the spirit of giving need not hibernate until next December. Random acts of kindness, charitable deeds and a helping hand are gifts that keep on giving. Whether buying a coffee for the person behind you in line or volunteering at a

local charity, the joy of giving transcends the holiday season.

3. The spirit of kindness: Unwrap it daily

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's easy to forget the simple power of kindness. So, let's not box up the warmth and compassion we feel during the holidays. Carry the spirit of kindness with you all year. Hold doors open, smile at strangers, and spread goodwill like confetti. It costs nothing, but the impact is immeasurable.

4. The spirit of gratitude: A year-round attitude

As the ornaments return to storage, let's not stash away the spirit of gratitude. Take a moment each day to reflect on what you're thankful for. It could be a breathtaking sunset, a cup of coffee or the kindness of a friend. Gratitude is a gift you can unwrap daily, bringing joy in abundance.

5. The spirit of community: Building connections beyond the holidays

The holiday season often brings people together, fostering a sense of community that warms the

heart. However, the spirit of community is not limited to Christmas gatherings. Attend local events, support neighborhood initiatives, and build connections that extend far beyond the festive season. A strong community is a year-round gift.

6. The spirit of family: Beyond the turkey and tinsel

While the holiday feast and family gatherings may be over, the spirit of family endures. Make time for loved ones, share laughter, and create lasting memories throughout the year. Family is not just a Christmas ornament; it's the sturdy tree that stands tall in every season.

As we bid adieu to the tinsel and twinkling lights, let's remember the true gifts of Christmas are not meant to be boxed up and stored away. They are the ever-present ornaments adorning the tree of our lives, bringing joy, warmth, and love every day of the year. So, here's to unboxing the spirit of Christmas and embracing its magic all year round!

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Christmas decor can be full of treasures and traditions.
COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville boys pummel Brownwood, Stephenville

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

The Gatesville boys basketball team punctuated their non-district schedule with a 65-30 thrashing of former district foe Stephenville on Jan. 9 in Gatesville. The win followed a double-digit win at Brownwood, another former league opponent.

The win over the Lions continued Gatesville's success in the city of Brownwood this season. They won four games in late December to capture the Texas Holiday Bank Classic in Brownwood, and their 72-60 win on Jan. 5 makes them 5-0 in the 78601 zip code this season.

The Lions - trying to avoid a loss to Gatesville for the

second straight season - tried to physically bully for four quarters to no avail. They committed 25 fouls in the game, and the Hornets attempted 30 free throws. Gatesville also committed just 16 turnovers and out-rebounded Brownwood 43-33.

Rayshon Smith had perhaps his best game to date with 18 points, five rebounds, and six assists. He was also 7-for-8 from the foul line. Kase Cox had his third double-double of the season with 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Graceson Stewart grabbed nine rebounds of his own - matching his season high. West Allman scored 15 points, while Scout Hall had seven, and

Logan Biggs chipped in five. While their record is similar to one year ago, this year's version of the Hornets are significantly deeper. A year ago, Gatesville had regular rotation of six-players, while this year's version has nine players who see significant minutes.

"We have gotten some really valuable minutes and experience. All those guys on the bench have gotten big minutes and made big-time plays. They have had to finish games for us and give guys a break and be solid. And we have gotten that from them," said head coach Brit Campbell.

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | B2



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Gatesville Hornets pictured left to right (top row) Evan McCracken and Graceson Stewart; (bottom row) John Hall, Logan Biggs, and Scout Hall.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured at the top of the pyramid is Paisley Wells and at the bottom from left to right is Brilee Ford, Alyssa Key, and Anna Phillips.

GHS Cheer team competes in 2024 UIL 4A Spirit State Championship

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville High School Cheer team recently competed in the 2024 UIL 4A Spirit State Championship and finished 27th in the State of Texas.

The competition was held from Thursday, Jan. 4 to Saturday, Jan. 6 at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

Assistant Cheer Coach Amber Colson said, "I am so proud of how hard this group has worked over the last several months, they put in countless hours to

prepare and go out and represent Gatesville ISD."

At the UIL Spirit State Championships, schools competed in three categories including crowd leading, fight song, and band dance.

The Gatesville High School Cheer team had zero deductions for their performances.

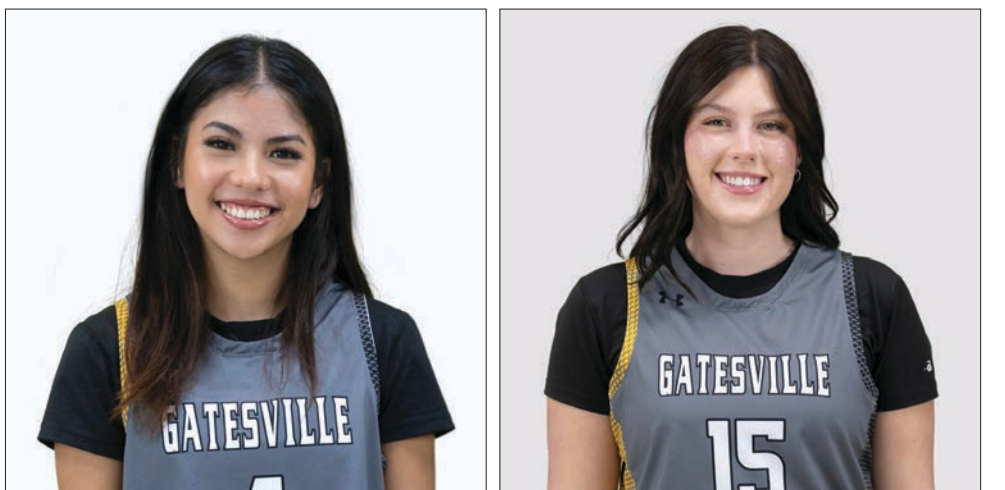
"They went out on the mat and looked amazing," Colson said. "I know next year we are going to come back even stronger, and I am so excited for the future

of Gatesville High School Cheer."

In addition to parents attending the competition, the Gatesville Junior High Cheer team was also present to support the high school cheerleaders.

Spirit is an extracurricular activity that focuses on the traditional game day role cheerleaders have on the sidelines and in schools supporting athletic teams.

For more information, visit uiltexas.org/spirit.



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Hornets Paige Sentillas (left) and Taylor Coward.

GHS girls split in district openers

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Gatesville girls basketball opened the district slate with a gritty road win at Robinson before falling to China Spring at home in the second game of league play.

The Lady Hornets topped the Lady Rockets 46-44 in a knock-down drag out on Jan. 5 behind their normal stellar post play and a big night from guard Paige Sentillas.

Taylor Coward posted a double-double with 19 points and ten rebounds while being blanketed and beat up all night. The senior forward consistently faced triple teams and shot 18 free throws in the game. Her partner in the interior - Emma Pollard - scored nine points and grabbed seven boards.

Sentillas scored eight points - one off of her season high - and grabbed a season-best seven rebounds while navigating the Lady Rockets press. The Hornets had just 14 turnovers, and only three belonged to Sentillas.

On the flip side, the Hornets forced 21 Rockets turnovers with Pollard and Riley

Higginbotham leading the way with two steals apiece. Gatesville (11-14) connected on four three-pointers in the game including a pair from Coward, one from Pollard, and one from Taylor Sanderson.

The Lady Hornets trailed 39-38 late in the fourth quarter but took the lead for good at 40-39 on a pair of Pollard free throws. Higginbotham knocked down a pair of foul shots to extend the lead to 42-39, but Robinson came back with a pair of their own free throws to narrow the deficit to 42-41.

Sentillas made a free throw to extend the lead to 43-41. Then the Lady Rockets missed their attempt at a game-tying bucket, and Yasmin Sanders forced a jump ball that gave Gatesville possession.

Two more free throws from Sentillas provided a 45-41 cushion, but a Robinson three pointer cut the lead to 45-44. The Lady Rockets fouled Pollard with less than a second to play, and she hit one free throw to provide the final 46-44 win.

Against China Spring, the Lady Hornets trailed by as

many ten in the third quarter before battling back. Down 38-28 late in the third they cut the lead to 38-30 on a nifty layup from Coward. Then Sanderson followed with a three-pointer to cut it to 38-33 heading into the fourth.

China extended their lead to 42-33 early in the final period before Coward led the Hornets back. The senior scored ten straight points to cut the lead to 43-41. Then a tough bucket from Pollard tied the game at 43-43 with under three minutes to play.

Coward connected on a free throw for a 44-43 Gatesville lead before a quick three-pointer handed China Spring a 46-44 lead. Coward hit a short jumper in the paint to tie the game at 46-46 with two minutes to play, but the Lady Cougars would pull away late for a 53-46 win.

Gatesville traveled to No. 11 Connally on Friday before another road tilt at Salado on Jan. 16. They wrap the first round of district play against No. 2 La Vega at home on Jan. 19.

Lady Tigers basketball team defeats Cransfill Gap 18-12

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Lady Tigers basketball team defeated the Cransfill Gap Lady Lions Jan. 8 (18-12) at home. This brings the Lady Tigers record to 2-2 on the

year.

Scarlet Aaron was high point for Lady Tigers with 8 points, 2 rebounds, and 6 steals.

Delany Marfa scored 4 points, 2 rebounds. Adelyn Gomez had 2

points, 2 rebounds.

Makenzie Wright 2 points, 9 rebounds, 1 steal.

Cierra Ingram 2 points.

The Lady Tigers will travel to Gholson on Thursday, Jan. 18 to play the Gholson Lady Wildcats.



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Gatesville High School Athletics Hall of Fame nominations now open

Staff Reports

Nominations are now being taken for the Gatesville High School Athletics Hall of Fame for the class of 2024. The hall of fame recog-

nizes:
 - Athletes that excelled at Gatesville High School and received significant recognition.
 - Coaches with significant achievements dur-

ing their career at Gatesville High School.
 - Teams that won state championships, advanced to state-level competition, or attained other significant playoff/postseason

achievements.
 - Friends of the program that contributed extraordinarily to Gatesville ISD athletics in a capacity other than a coach or athlete.
 To receive a nomination

form, contact Ricky Phillips by email at rgphilli@gatesvilleisd.org. All nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 9 and are to be turned in by email to Ricky Phillips or mailed to Rickey Phillips, GISD Athletic

Director, 215 South Lovers Lane, Gatesville TX 76528. Inductees will be announced the week of Feb. 12 through 16, and the induction banquet will be held next fall.

Oglesby Junior High boys' basketball defeats Cransfills Gap

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High boys' basketball team kept their record perfect at 4-0 on Jan. 8 by defeating the Cransfills Gap Lions 44-5 at Oglesby. Holdyn Goff led all scorers with 19 points, 10 rebounds, for a double/double and 3 steals. Mason Marquez scored 11 points, 5 rebounds, and 1 steal. Evan Williamson scored 4 points, 3 rebounds, and

2 assists. Caiden Brinkley scored 4 points, 5 rebounds, and 1 steal. Couper Wulfkhule scored 2 points and 2 steals. Blayze Fisher scored 2 points, 2 assists, and 2 rebounds. Liam Ammerman scored 2 points and 1 steal. Rancher Jeffcoat scored 2 rebounds and 2 steals. The Tigers will travel to Gholson on Thursday, Jan. 18 to play the Gholson Wildcats.

GHS HOSTS HORNET FRIENDLIES TOURNAMENT



GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville High School hosted their annual Hornet Friendlies soccer tournament last Thursday through Saturday at McKamie Stadium. Results for the girls' tournament was Shuemaker 0, Gatesville 1; Gatesville 0, Robison 8; and Giddings 1, Gatesville 1. Boys' results were Robinson 1, Gatesville 1; Gatesville 0, Lorena 1; and Gatesville 3, Burnet 0.

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.

HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

Brownwood cut the Hornets lead to 55-52 early in the fourth, but a floater from Cox made it 57-52. Two possessions later, Biggs' harassing defense led to a Lions player receiving a technical foul, and two free throws from Charlie Winkler pushed the lead to 59-52. The Lions cut the lead to eight at 62-54, but a three-pointer from Biggs made it 65-54. Cox would score on a layup from Evan McCracken to push the lead to 67-54 as the Hornets ran away with a twelve-point win. Against Stephenville, the Hornets (21-4) started fast and never looked back as they routed the Yellowjackets 65-30. West Allman scored 16 of his game-high 22 points in the first half as Gatesville raced out to a 16-6 first quarter lead and a 32-15 halftime advantage. The Hornets closed the second quarter on a 6-0 run on a runner from Scout Hall, a jumper from Graceson Stewart, and a layup from Rayshon Smith. In the third quarter they

pushed their lead to twenty at 41-21 when Smith knocked down a three-pointer. In the fourth, the Hornet starters went to the bench with a 51-23 lead and 5:30 to play. From there, the Hornets' second unit slammed the door shut. McCracken immediately buried a three-pointer to push the lead to 54-23. A layup from John Hall and a three-pointer from Scout Hall ran the score to 59-25 before another bucket from John Hall made it 61-25. A Biggs runner provided the final 65-30 margin. Cox was the only other Hornet in double digits with 16 points, while Smith added seven. The Hornets wrap non-district play with a record of 21-4 - one game off of their pace from a season ago - and will open District 23-4A play on Friday at Connally. The Cadets were district champions a year ago and return last year's MVP J'ylon Nobles. "We are in a good place and we're playing well," said Campbell. "We play like (we did against Stephenville) and we're going to be alright."

Submit your school and sports stories to alex@gatesvillemessenger.com

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THSCA honors athletes from local school districts with Academic All-State Team awards

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) has recognized local athletes across the district with Academic All-State Team awards, which were released on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023.

The recognition comes with acknowledgment of the hard work shown both

in the classroom and on the field while still excelling academically in grade point average (GPA) and class rank as well as SAT and ACT scores.

Honorees have the chance to receive the following awards: Elite, First-Team, Second-Team, and Honorable Mention.

The following students were awarded with Academ-

ic All-State Awards:

Gatesville High School
Lawson Mooney, First-Team Football Academic All-State Team Award
David Sims, Second-Team Football Academic All-State Team Award
Sean Aguilar, Second-Team Football Academic All-State Team Award
JT Coffman, Second-Team Football Academic All-State

Team Award

Tommy Aaron, Honorable Mention Football Academic All-State Team Award
Oglesby High School
Landon Williamson, Honorable Mention Football Academic All-State Team Award
Jonesboro High School
DeMarcus Acoff, Honorable Mention Football Academic All-State Team

Award

Evant High School
Cason Ingram, First-Team Football Academic All-State Team Award
Caystin Forrest, Honorable Mention Football Academic All-State Team Award
The THSCA is the largest coach's association in America, with over 26,000 members. The organiza-

tion provides quality representation, education, and services to Texas high school coaches and affiliate members while enhancing the professionalism of coaches and the schools they represent.

For more information, visit thsca.com.



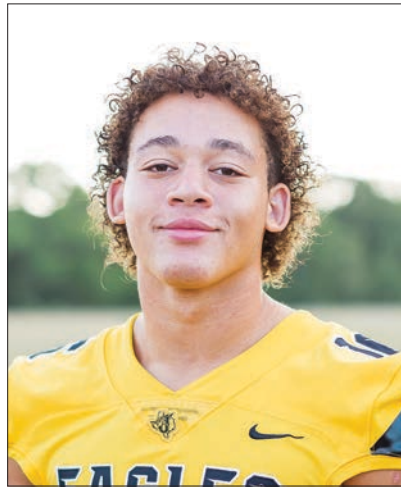
COURTESY PHOTO

Left to right: Gatesville High School's David Sims, 2nd Team award, JT Coffman, 2nd Team award, Lawson Mooney, 1st Team award, Sean Aguilar, 2nd Team award, and Tommy Aaron, Honorable Mention.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby High School's Landon Williamson, Honorable Mention.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro High School's DeMarcus Acoff, Honorable Mention.



COURTESY PHOTO

Evant High School's Cason Ingram, 1st Team award (left) and Caystin Forrest, Honorable Mention.



National Rubber Duck Day, celebrated on January 13th, is a day filled with quacks and fun, all thanks to those adorable rubber ducks that make bath time a blast! Rubber ducks have been floating into our hearts for decades, and this special day is the perfect excuse to celebrate their quirkiness.

These lovable yellow companions aren't just bath toys; they've become

icons of joy and playfulness. Did you know that the very first rubber duckies were invented in the 1800s? Back then, they weren't made of rubber at all but were crafted from solid rubber-like substances.

On National Rubber Duck Day, kids can indulge in rubber duck-themed activities. From creating rubber duck drawings to organizing a rubber duck race in the tub, the possibilities

for quacky fun are endless! Parents and teachers can also share the story of the rubber duck's journey through time, from its invention to becoming a beloved toy around the world.

So, on January 13th, grab your favorite rubber duck, give it a squeeze, and let the quacking celebrations begin! It's a day to appreciate the simple joys and timeless charm of these yellow bath buddies.

NATIONAL RUBBER DUCK DAY

January 13, 2024

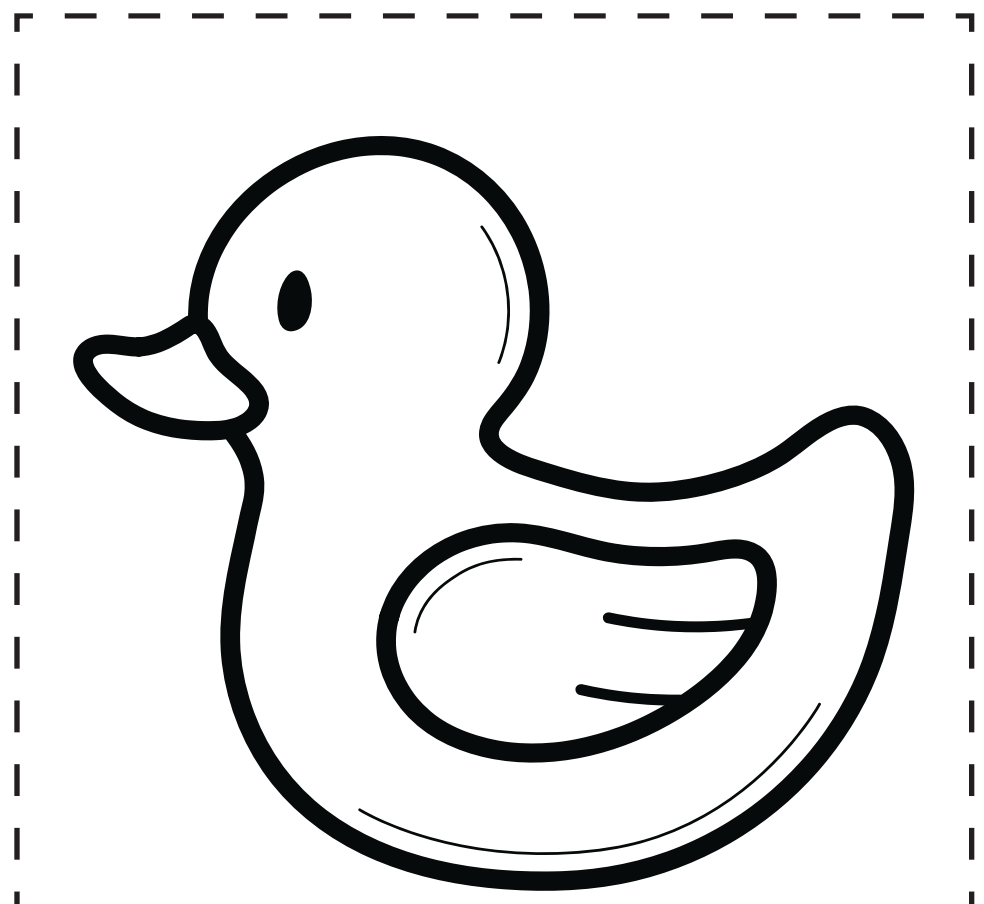
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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Williams' three-pointer in final seconds lifts Texans to victory against UT Arlington to stay perfect in WAC play

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State narrowly escaped UT Arlington's upset bid with a Lue Williams triple in the final seconds to hold on for a 78-76 victory Thursday, Jan. 4 in Wisdom Gym.

Three-point shooting was key for the Texans (10-4 overall, 3-0 WAC) knocking down 12 from long-range, one shy of tying the Tarleton D1 era record of 13 set 1/20/21 against Howard Payne. Four players scored at least 15 points each for the Purple and White for the first time in Tarleton's D1 era. The Texans handed the Mavericks (6-8, 1-2) their second WAC loss of the season on the Purple and White's way to remaining perfect in league play.

"This is conference play," said acting head coach Joseph Jones postgame. "It's going to come down to one or two possessions every game. I'm glad we were on the winning side of it this time."

Williams had the hot hand in the second half scoring 14 of his 16 total points in the final 20 minutes of the contest. The Atmore, Alabama native stopped and popped the eventual game-winning three-pointer with 24 ticks on the clock. Williams connected on

a season-best four of his five attempts from beyond the arc after the break. He added a pair of steals and assists and shot a perfect 2-for-2 from the charity stripe.

Emmanuel Innocenti led the Texans with a career-high 19 points and tied a career-high four steals. He also added six boards, all on the defensive end, and three assists while shooting 7-for-12 from the floor and 2-for-4 from behind the arc.

Devon Barnes posted 18 points and dished out a game-high five assists. Jakorie Smith tallied 15 points all in the first half. He left the game with a foot injury early in the second half. Traivar Jackson tallied one of the most unusual stat lines of the season with a game-best eight boards and zero points. KiAndre Gaddy found himself in foul trouble in the second half playing just under 20 total minutes and picking up his fifth and final foul with five minutes to play. Gaddy finished the night with five points and five rebounds.

The Mavericks had four players with at least 10 points including Makai Williams who led all scorers with 24.

The Texans' largest lead of the night came with 6:20 to go in the second half. Tarleton led 70-57 and seemed to have

control in the game; it just needed to coast to close out its third-straight conference victory, but the Mavericks had other plans. UTA's Dajuan Gordon started the rally with a bucket followed by a pair of made free throws by Shemar Wilson. A Phillip Russell triple followed by three points by Gordon cut the Texans' lead to three, 70-67, in just two minutes of action leaving 4:00 on the game clock.

The stage was set for another classic ending in Wisdom, like the Texans' last WAC game when Smith's shot heard 'round Stephenville, a three-point buzzer beater, gave the Texans the victory. Bubba Benjamin drew a foul and connected on a pair at the line to bump Tarleton's lead back to five. UTA responded in the next possession with a three-point play to cut the score to 72-70 with 2:21 remaining. Innocenti streaked down the floor in response to put the Texans up four at the two-minute mark.

UT Arlington converted on a lay-up after three consecutive misses and offensive rebounds to bring it within two. After forcing the Texans to turn the ball over, Makai Williams drove to the basket through traffic to tie the game at 74 with just 48 ticks



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State narrowly escaped UT Arlington's upset bid with a Lue Williams triple in the final seconds to hold on for a 78-76 victory Thursday, Jan. 4 in Wisdom Gym.

remaining. The Texans took the next possession down to the final seconds of the shot clock when Barnes flicked a pass out to Williams at the top of the arc where he buried a triple sending Wisdom Gym to its feet with 24 seconds remaining. UTA drew a foul with 6.01 seconds left and converted both freebies to pull within one.

The Mavericks sent Benjamin to the line where he missed the first and made the second giving the Mavericks a chance for a last second mira-

cle with four seconds remaining. UTA drove the ball up the floor but fell just before half court where the ball juttied away as time expired, sending the Texans into jubilation as they escaped with the 78-76 victory.

Tarleton held a five-point advantage in the first half, 42-37. The Purple and White earned its 42nd win as a Division I program when leading at the break and improved its record to 8-1 this season.

The Texans shot a season-best 55.6% from behind the

arc on 12-of-21. It's the best single game mark by the team since the squad shot 58.3% last January in Wisdom Gym in an 81-62 upset victory over eventual WAC Tournament Champion, Grand Canyon. Tarleton shot 27-for-57 from the floor, a 47.4% clip. The Purple and White won the turnover battle for the tenth time this season, 16-15. UT Arlington tied the Texans on the battle of the boards, 30-30.

Third quarter derails Tarleton at UTA in WAC restart



COURTESY PHOTO

The first half was neck-and-neck between Tarleton State and UT Arlington at the College Park Center Thursday, Jan. 4, but the third quarter was all Lady Mavs as they won the first game of the WAC restart over the Texans.

Tarleton State University

ARLINGTON — The first half was neck-and-neck between Tarleton State and UT Arlington at the College Park Center Thursday, Jan. 4, but the third quarter was all Lady Mavs as they won the first game of the WAC restart over the Texans.

Tarleton (4-8, 1-2 WAC) fell 73-49 in Arlington, finishing its four-game road trip 2-2. UTA (5-8, 1-2 WAC) won its fourth straight game after starting the year 1-8 overall.

It was a 28-25 contest at the break. After Tarleton tied it 30-30, UTA raced out to a 13-0 run, finishing the quarter on a 26-6 marathon to win the quarter 28-11 and take a 20-point lead. The Lady Mavs

made 11-of-18 (.611) in the frame while Tarleton shot 4-of-12 (.333).

Jakoriah Long led the Texans with 13 points, adding two rebounds, two assists and two steals. The reigning WAC Player and Newcomer of the Week Faith Acker pulled down 10 rebounds, adding eight points and three assists. Tyler Jackson tallied nine points, three rebounds and two assists. Lexi Bull made her third start of the season and notched five points and nine rebounds.

Overall, UTA outshot Tarleton 28-of-60 (.467) to 17-of-58 (.293) and outrebounded them 45-35.

Teams traded the lead throughout the opening frame, with neither leading by

more than four. UTA led by a point after one, 14-13. The same was true in the second quarter as well, and the Lady Mavs took a 28-25 lead into the break. After the one-sided third quarter, UTA maintained about a 20-point lead throughout the fourth.

Four Lady Mavs starters scored in double figures, led by Adela Valkova's 15 points, eight rebounds, four blocks and three assists. Avery Brittingham recorded 13 points on 5-of-10 shooting, six rebounds, three assists and three steals. Taliyah Clark finished with 13 points on 4-of-6 shooting and three rebounds. Gia Adams notched 10 points and five assists.

Tarleton Athletics announces Hall of Fame class of 2024

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's storied programs featuring elite student-athletes span the decades, but only a select few can call themselves Hall of Famers.

Eight more Texans can do just that, as Tarleton Athletics announced its Hall of Fame class of 2024 Tuesday, Jan. 9. Four individuals and one team have been voted into the prestigious Tarleton Athletics Hall of Fame: Texan Football's Kyle Masters, Texan Softball's Alicia Petersma (now Alicia Mathney), Texan Track and Field's Lane McNamara, Texan Women's Basketball's JoAnne Jones, plus Texan Track and Field's 1992 Women's 2-Mile Relay Team, consisting of Audra Bierman, Carmen Colon, Linda Garcia (now Linda McAfee) and Michelle Musgrave (now Michelle Heavyside).

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, in Stephenville.

"It is my honor to announce these prestigious student-athletes, whose time here that spans from 1975 to 2010 among them, will be inducted into the exclusive Tarleton Athletics Hall of Fame this coming May," Vice President for Intercollegiate

Athletics Lonn Reisman said. "This group includes All-Americans, conference winners and former student-athletes who raised their programs and our national profile. All of these individuals should be very proud, and we're excited to honor them soon."

The individuals inducted become the 180th, 181st, 182nd and 183rd members of the Hall of Fame, and the women's 2-mile relay team will serve as the 184th member.

Masters becomes the 180th member of the Tarleton Athletics Hall of Fame, one of the best tight ends in Texan Football history. He is the 73rd football player to enter the Hall of Fame as an individual, and the 76th football member.

Masters played for the Purple and White from 2000-04, accumulating 76 receptions for 1,087 yards and seven touchdowns while helping Tarleton to its first two NCAA playoff appearances. He was an NCAA All-American honorable mention in 2003 after tallying 20 receptions for 259 yards and a pair of touchdowns. The Wheeler native was a four-time All-Lone Star Conference selection, including back-to-back first-team honors in 2003 and 2004, and was named LSC Freshman of

the Year in 2001. As a freshman that year, he caught the second NCAA playoff touchdown pass in program history against No. 3 Chadron State on Nov. 17, en route to Tarleton's first NCAA playoff victory 28-24.

Masters came to Tarleton State as part of the 2000 recruiting class in head coach Todd Whitten's return, and played for the all-time winningest head coach for five seasons. The Texans won the LSC three straight years during Masters' tenure from 2001-03.

Petersma enters as the 181st member of the Tarleton Athletics Hall of Fame, one of the best hitters in Texan Softball history. She played four seasons for the Purple and White from 1999-2002, serving as a designated player her first two years, a third baseman in 2001 and a utility player in 2002. She is the fifth player from the Texan Softball program to earn Hall of Fame honors.

Petersma still is in the top-five in most of Tarleton's all-time hitting categories from her time on the team nearly 25 years ago. She is tied-second in career walks (83), third in doubles (49), tied-third in home runs (31), fourth in RBI (129), tied-fourth in runs scored (128), fifth in total bases (342) and fifth in hits

(192). She's played in the fifth most career games (203) and logged the fifth most career at-bats (607).

Petersma made All-LSC four times in four seasons, including twice as First Team All-LSC in 2000 and 2002. Her freshman year she was also named Second Team NFCA All-South Central Region and was named the LSC Hitter of the Week three separate times.

McNamara will be inducted as the 182nd member of the Tarleton Athletics Hall of Fame, one of the top student-athletes from Texan Track and Field. He will become the 29th track and field individual to enter the Hall of Fame, and the 31st overall.

McNamara competed in Stephenville from 1975-78, cementing his Tarleton career by making the finals in the NAIA Nationals Decathlon. He also ran in the NAIA National Track and Field Meet in Mile Relays three separate times, in 1975, 1976 and 1977.

The Plano native was named Tarleton's most valuable in field events by head coach Joe Gillespie in 1978 as he helped the Texans become TIAA champions in both 1977 and 1978.

The 183rd member of the Tarleton Athletics Hall of Fame will be Texan Women's Basketball's JoAnne Jones.

II Tournament.

The final inductee of the Tarleton Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2024 is the 1992 Texan Track and Field Women's 2-Mile Relay Team. This will be the seventh team of student-athletes and the third Tarleton Track and Field team to be inducted, serving as the 184th member. The other six teams include the 1959 Track and Field Sprint Relay team, the 1977 Football team, the 1978 Football team, the 1986 Football team, the 1991 Track and Field Mile Relay team and the 1992 Women's Basketball team.

This team of women consisting of Bierman, Colon, Garcia and Musgrave became All-Americans in the 2-Mile Relay. They were the only Tarleton State All-American Indoor Women's Track and Field members for a 23-year period until 2015.

They competed in the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championships in March 1992 in Kansas City, where they took fifth place with a time of 9:37, then a school record.

For more information on the Tarleton Athletics Hall of Fame, visit TarletonSports.com/HallOfFame.

EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby

Bannister, Tippit, and Nunn named to Dean's List at SNHU

Staff Writer

Southern New Hampshire University recently announced students who were named to the Dean's List at the university for the Fall term of 2023.

Former Gatesville High School students, Layton

Bannister, Kelsey Tippit, and Aleisha Nunn were included on the list.

To be selected for the Dean's List, it is required that full-time, undergraduate students have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.50 to 3.69 for

the reporting term. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is

a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate

and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH.

Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing univer-

sities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.



Deputy Trent Willingham and his K-9, Drago.

COURTESY PHOTO



Deputy David Ashley and his K-9, Kraken.

COURTESY PHOTO

Spotlight on Coryell Sheriff's Department K9 Unit

BY MARSHA LEE
Contributing Writer

In a recent meeting, members of CRSP (Coryell Retired School Personnel) were introduced to three deputies who work with Coryell County's K9 Unit: Trent Willingham, David Ashley, and Javario Savannah. Under Sheriff Scott Williams, the K9 Unit was reinstated in April 2017 with the purchase of Stana, a Belgian Malinois Narcotics K9, using drug seizure money. Two additional dogs had joined the Sheriff's Office by 2020 as a result of applications for grants. Gunner came from an organization called K9 Officers, Inc. based in Houston, and Kraken came from K9s for Cops and was purchased by a donation from Minnesota Vikings NFL player, Brian Robison. With these three dogs and their handlers, the K9 Unit was putting a dent in drugs in Coryell County, especially heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines, marijuana, and Ecstasy.

The K9 program is partially funded by the budget for the Sheriff's Office, which basically provides for food and a yearly check-up with required shots. But a budget designed for one dog would not support three, so County Commis-

sioners began to approve the acceptance of donations, which clearly came from a county that supported the K9 program. In April 2022, another situation arose when Stana, who had given five years to the Police Department, injured her leg and tore an ACL ligament. She could not bear weight on the leg, and it was causing stress on her hips and other legs - causing much pain. She was in need of surgery that would cost around \$1200-\$1670, and department funds were not available for this. However, an appeal to the local community provided more funds for surgery than needed. The extra donations were added to the K9 budget in the Sheriff's Department. Stana was retired to live out the rest of her life as free of pain as possible with her handler and his family.

The handlers and their K9s who were at the meeting were Deputy Trent Willingham, who graduated from Gatesville High School in 2017 and has been working with the Sheriff's Office for six years. His K9, Deputy Drago, is a full-blooded Dutch Shepherd who has served with the department for 10 months. He is a younger dog (two

years old) with less training, which makes him very intense. The other handler was Deputy David Ashley, who has been with the department for three years. His K9 is Deputy Kraken, a 5 ½-year-old Belgian Malinois shepherd, who has worked in the Department 4 ½ years. Kraken has had more experience than Drago, and his handler has children. So, he is more likely to be petted by others. The K9s live with their handlers and receive training every day, whether it is very serious training or playful training. They are always trained to look to their handler, respond to his instructions exactly, and protect him. The dogs wear a collar which to some may look uncomfortable or painful, but that is not the case. The collar is a way for handlers to communicate with their K9s, such as to give chase, to return to the handler, or to let the handler know where he is. Deputy Willingham said, "Handlers and their K9s may be awakened any time day or night to assist with vehicle searches or track suspects in our community as well as in neighboring areas. However, it's not always on the criminal side. We help locate people who are in

need. Kraken once tracked down a suicidal teenager near Cove who had run off into a tree line." They work as needed at traffic stops, with Police Departments, Departments of Public Safety, and Game Wardens. Once, they even responded to a call for backup from Lampasas County.

Supporting a K9 Unit can be expensive, and that is why donations become very helpful.

Here are just a few of the cost considerations for supporting a K9 Unit:

(1) Cost of the K9 - Single purpose K-9s may cost as much as \$1200-1400. Stana and Gunner were single purpose dogs (they sniffed out various drugs and tracked humans). Stana was purchased by Coryell County; Gunner was received on a grant. Dual-purpose dogs, like Kraken and Drago, can sniff out drugs and track people, but they can also bite, take down criminals, and hold them until Police arrive. Dual-purpose dogs will cost more.

(2) K9 Inserts for police cars - Cars used by K9 handlers often have no back seat. The whole back seat is for the dog, and these "cages" may run \$3800 each. They are designed individually to fit each car

used and cannot be interchanged with other cars.

(3) Heating systems - They are available, usually donated. When the handler leaves the car, the dog may remain in it. When temperatures rise above 80 degrees inside the car, the monitor rolls down the windows. The cost is about \$1,500.

(4) Ballistic vests - Each dog wears one to protect vital organs, and they run about double what the officers wear. They are usually provided by donations by citizens in the county.

(5) Cost of Training - Single purpose narcotics K9s must go through about two to four weeks of training with their handlers to become certified by the National Narcotics Drug Detection Association. Kraken has had two handlers (originally Mike Gonzales, who went through 3 months of training in Harris County Sheriff's Department K9 Unit). He is now a dual-purpose dog trained in narcotics as well as in how to track and apprehend humans. This training may cost as much as \$4900.

(6) Tending to a hurt dog - As with Stana, surgery or medical help may be required, with financial help often coming from donations. The dog, if he must

retire, spends the rest of his life with his handler. Often, the handler must retrain the K9 to relax and enjoy life.

The deputies shared their feelings that there is no doubt that the K9 Unit has been an asset to the Sheriff's Office. It has been instrumental in helping take drugs off the street as well as in tracking down and taking down subjects who decide to run. Certifications for Drago and Kraken include the following: narcotics detection (meth, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and MDMA (ecstasy); criminal apprehension; handler protection; open area evidence recovery; building clearing; and locating missing persons (most often children, elderly, or disabled). The officers talk with different groups about their K9 Unit and will sometimes give demonstrations. Most people like dogs, but the officers decide whether or not their K9 may be petted. The dogs must be well-trained. They are to protect their handler and respond to him immediately, not getting distracted from their job.

Gatesville ISD's GEAR UP announces senior winter checklist

Staff Reports

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) has provided an important checklist for seniors who will graduate in 2024.

GEAR UP helps students understand how to prepare, apply, and pay for college. The program provides services such as academic advising, personal finance, summer enrichment camps, career exploration, college tours, and the process of applying for financial aid.

The senior winter checklist includes:

Get your FAFSA submitted
Create your FSA ID. Your parents will also need an

FSA ID if they don't already have one. The FAFSA will likely be open sometime in December.

Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible and watch out for announcements about the opening date.

The earlier the better

Apply to your colleges of choice as early as possible. Be sure you are aware of the college application deadlines for your choice of colleges. Many popular and selective colleges will have deadlines for applications as early as Dec. 1, while others have deadlines in January or February. Be sure to send your transcript if prompted by your college of choice.

Once accepted, follow the

instructions or checklist for the next steps. This will likely include creating and logging in to your student portal and email, applying for student housing, and registering for orientation or summer freshman camps. Be sure to do this immediately as important information will be available through your student portal. Check your college email regularly, so you don't miss important information and deadlines.

Apply, apply, apply

Apply for scholarships by using the Scholarship Lady of Central Texas scholarship database with the password "24goforit" and check with your counselor for local scholarships.

Obtain letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches, and other important people in your life to include with your scholarship applications if required.

Spend time on your scholarship essays and get resources to assist you with completing it, whether that may be an English teacher, counselor, or parent.

Apply for student housing if you plan to live on campus. Once accepted to your college of choice, look for housing applications information and deadlines. You will likely need to pay a deposit with your housing application.

Register for orientations, freshman camps, and more

Once accepted, watch and register for orientation days, informational sessions, and summer freshman camps. These are very important to attend, so take advantage of any and all opportunities to learn more about your college, its traditions, and make connections.

Be sure to register for spring dual credit if you are interested.

Decide if you need to take or re-take the ACT or SAT and get registered.

Up your game

Keep up your grades, take advantage of extra credit assignments, and utilize before and after school tutoring. If you are absent, be sure to immediately check

with your teachers about makeup work and deadlines for submission.

Participate

Participate in extra-curricular activities and consider taking advantage of community service or volunteer opportunities.

Participate in GEAR UP activities and college visits.

For more information regarding GEAR UP or the senior winter checklist, contact the Gatesville ISD GEAR UP Site Facilitator Sarah Coker by email at scoker@gatesvilleisd.org or by phone at 325-451-1800.

DUNBAR EARNS SPOT IN ALL-STATE BAND



COURTESY OF GATESVILLE ISD

Gatesville High School Band's Wyatt Dunbar competed at the Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) All Area Audition at Robinson High School on Saturday, Jan. 6, where he received second chair. With the place he received, he has earned a spot in the All-State Band. Dunbar is one of 10 4A All-State percussionists in Texas. He will be performing with some of the best musicians in the state at the Texas Music Educators Conference in San Antonio on Saturday, Feb. 10.

SRO BURGAN GRADUATES



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Junior High School Resource Officer (SRO) Justin Burgan recently graduated in December with his bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University. Burgan graduated with honors as well as receiving a medallion for an outstanding graduation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERITH WELLS

Pictured (left to right) are choir students Anna Phillips, Paisley Wells, and Memphis Wells.

Gatesville Choir students receive All-State awards

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School Choir program has three students who received All-State awards, which include Paisley Wells, third chair tenor; Anna Phillips, third chair alto; and Memphis Wells, first alternate bass (fifth chair).

The choir had three other students qualify to compete at the area round as well.

For the past year, students have been preparing

to endure three intense rounds of auditions. During the auditions, they had to learn six extremely difficult songs in multiple languages, as well as having to sightread individually during the second and third rounds.

At the beginning of the process there were 16,000 students, and only 600 state-wide make one of the four All-State Choirs.

In years past, there have been five Gatesville Choir All-Staters in 24 years, with this year being the

first time to have more than one All-State choir student in the same year.

The students who received All-State will have the chance to participate in the TMEA SCC All-State Choir Convention, which will be held in San Antonio from Wednesday, Feb. 7 to Saturday, Feb. 10.

There will be over 30,000 people from all over Texas and around the world for the Music Educators Convention.

MADDOX MCANDREW NAMED WINNER OF VFW PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Intermediate School announced Maddox McAndrew as the winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Patriot's Pen essay contest. Annually, the contest is conducted nationwide to encourage students to use their knowledge of America's history to write essays expressing their view on an annual patriotic theme. McAndrew received a cash prize of \$300. Pictured from left to right is Gatesville Intermediate School Principal Bridget Register, Maddox McAndrew, and Assistant Principal Angie Pearson.

Annual Susan Patricia Pitts Memorial Scholarship now open

Staff Reports

The ladies of the John H. Reagan, Chapter 325 UDC, Gatesville, are offering their 11th annual Susan Patricia Pitts Memorial Scholarship

to high school seniors, as well as home-schooled and college-level students who reside in Coryell and Hamilton Counties.

To determine who will receive the scholarship, an

essay will be required to apply.

The essay will have a topic provided and must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 15. Essays that are received after that

Monday will not be accepted.

When completed, email the essay to Jane Pitts at johnhreagan325udc@yahoo.com.

The essays will be

emailed to the membership and voted upon during their May meeting in which the final decision will be announced.

The essay winner will receive a note of winning

at its designated school's annual scholarship banquet.

For further information, contact Jane Pitts at 254-723-4724.

MCC Foundation scholarship applications now open

Staff Reports

The McLennan Community College Foundation opened its annual scholarship on Friday, Dec. 1. Ap-

plications must be submitted by Monday, Jan. 15.

The MCC Foundation is allowed to award approximately 400 scholarships each year. The scholarships

are funded from permanent endowment funds or through annual contributions.

MCC was established in 1965 by the citizens of

McLennan County. It was the first junior college in Texas to incorporate the word community in its name. For 50 years, MCC has been serving Waco and

the surrounding areas to help community members achieve their educational goals.

To apply or for more information, visit <https://bit.ly/2JZ9jqk>.

McLennan Community College can be reached by

contacting 254-299-8000.

STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO PREPARE PANCAKES

BY DAVID SCOTT

Staff Writer

Karie Bartlett, an employee with the Gatesville Public Library, recently conducted a "Pizza and Pancakes Teen Cooking" night class for

the library's theme of the month for the youth in the community.

The first class in the series, held on Thursday, Jan. 4, focused on cooking pancakes, instructing students

ages 14-17.

Bartlett instructed the students how to make pancakes on griddles. She also taught them the importance of washing their hands prior to cooking, food safety

in the kitchen, and how to follow a recipe.

Additional "Pizza and Pancakes" classes will include one for students ages 14 to 17 on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Another class for ages 11 to 13 will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 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.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KARIE BARTLETT



Jaycee Shelton shows her decorated pancakes.



Blas Padrino learns how to flip pancakes on the griddle.



Some of the students learned about kitchen safety and how to make pancakes. From left to right are Danny Rodriguez, Blas Padrino, Hannah Barlett, Lucy Pritchett, and Madison Cox.

GATESVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLDS AWARDS CEREMONY

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Awards were recently given to students for the second nine weeks at the Gatesville Primary School. Three categories were recognized during the awards ceremony - outstanding and perfect attendance, character awards including responsibility and gratitude, and the Teacher's Choice or Hard-Working Hornet award. The awards were presented by individual teachers and by Gatesville Primary School principal, Van Collins. Several parents, grandparents, and family members were in attendance to watch the awards ceremony.



These students received awards in the Pre-K classes at Gatesville Primary School.



These students received awards in the kindergarten classes at Gatesville Primary School.



Awards were presented to kindergarten students at Gatesville Primary School.