



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Jan. 20, 2024

\$1.00



SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 9, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Gatesville resident pleads guilty to murder of missing Waco woman

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Jessica Colleen Robinson, of Gatesville, has been sentenced to 47 years in prison for the murder of Waco resident Elizabeth Romero, according to a press release from the office of District Attorney Dustin H. Boyd.

Robinson was arrested on charges related to the killing of Romero in 2022. The release states that Robinson pled guilty to murder, a first-degree felony charge, on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Romero was originally reported missing by Waco police in April 2022 after her family lost contact

with her. An arrest affidavit states that Romero was known by her family to frequent Gatesville. The last ping on her phone from April 2, 2022, revealed an area near Gatesville.

In May 2022, the Coryell County Sheriff's Office received a tip suggesting that Romero may have been murdered at the 800 block of Moccasin Bend Road, and that her body had been loaded "in a blue pickup and dumped off a bridge," according to the affidavit. It was reported to authorities that Robinson and another woman, Erin Finchum, were

involved with the murder at the Moccasin Bend address.

Investigators interviewed Finchum who said they were present when Robinson shot Romero with a small caliber revolver, the complaint states.

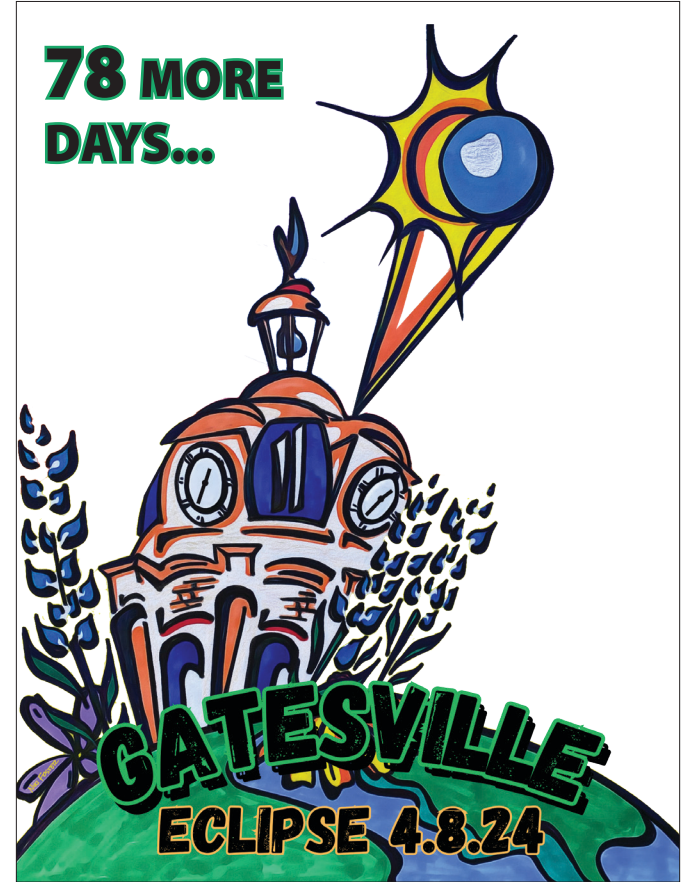
According to the affidavit, investigators with the Texas Rangers and Coryell County Sheriff's Office also spoke with Robinson's mother, Betsy Ayers Robinson, who admitted that "her daughter Jessica shot Elizabeth at the house but does not know where the body was dumped." Ayers Robinson allowed investigators to search her blue



COURTESY PHOTO

Jessica Colleen Robinson sentenced to 47 years in prison after pleading guilty to murder charge.

PLEASE SEE **GUILTY** | A2



STOCK IMAGE

Most house fires are caused by heating problems during the winter months.

Gatesville VFD offers safety tips for heating homes this winter

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

After several reports of house fires across Texas this week, including two large fires in the Central Texas area on Monday, there is often a correlation between house fires and freezing temperatures.

Following record-breaking low temperatures this week, Chief Billy Vaden with the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department offers a few precautions that people can take to safely heat their homes and protect themselves from a fire.

Most house fires in the winter are mainly caused by some sort of heating problem, Vaden explains. Before building a fire in a fireplace or wood stove, he said it's important to ensure they have been cleaned properly.

"A lot of times the chimneys are not cleaned, and the stove pipes are not clean, and they have a lot of creosote in them," Vaden said. "That's something you should always do - prepare way ahead of time and have all that cleaned."

When it comes to fireplaces, Vaden said to ensure it has a safety screen in front of it and that wood is fully dry before using it to build a fire.

"Your wood does need to be dry because if it's damp or wet it's going to cause a lot of smoke and smoke will have carbon monoxide in it," Vaden said.

Flammable items such as clothing, bedding, or paper should be kept at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters, Vaden said. When using space heaters,

he adds to make sure it has a setting that turns off if it falls over and to avoid using an extension cord to plug it into the wall.

"You have to plug it straight into the outlet on the wall because they can draw a lot of power, and most little extension cords that people have around the house are not capable of providing enough electricity or enough amps to make those heaters work," Vaden said. "Never walk off and leave an electric heater running. You should always cut it off." Vaden reminds people to check the batteries of smoke detectors and ensure they are working properly, since they are beneficial at detecting early signs of a fire.

One of the most common issues that arise when heating a home is the

threat of carbon monoxide poisoning, an odorless and colorless gas that can be deadly, Vaden explains.

Always check to ensure carbon monoxide alarms are up to date. He advises replacing them every five years.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include nausea, headaches, dizziness, and shortness of breath.

If a fire or carbon monoxide is suspected in the house, Vaden said to always call 911.

"If you suspect something, don't hesitate to call 911 and get somebody to come out and look," Vaden said. "That's our job to come out, look, and make sure you're safe. We don't mind it - nobody likes to get out in the cold, but that's our job."

This year's Youth Fair dedicated to the Grahams

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The 2024 Coryell County Youth Fair and Livestock Show wrapped up a week of events and competition with a Premium Auction Saturday evening at the Gatesville Civic Center.

This year's 65th annual youth fair was dedicated in honor of Charles Graham and the late Linda Graham. The Grahams were honored for their contributions both monetarily and altruistically to the Coryell County Youth Fair and to the youth of Coryell County for almost 40 years.

During the dedication ceremony, Coryell County Youth Fair representative Miranda Allison said, "Not only have they given personally, but also through their various business interests as well. If we were to look at their contributions, historically, they have been in the top ten of contributors to the fair through purchases at the annual auction including individual add-ons and for many years."

Linda Graham, who

passed away in July of 2023, was a local teacher who retired after 32 years in education. She established the Dorsey-Graham Memorial Scholarship and enjoyed awarding scholarships to area youth to further their education. Charles and Linda Graham also contributed to the founding of the Gatesville ISD Education Foundation.

Never ones to expect or want recognition, they have continued to impact the lives of Coryell County youth for decades by giving freely with no expectations.

"Their kindness and generosity cannot be overlooked as their contributions to our county fair have allowed the annual fair to grow and flourish through the years by awarding the youth's hard work monetarily for both their future goals and projects," Allison said.

When told that the fair was being dedicated to him and his late wife, Charles Graham said that he kindly accepts the recognition and was very appreciative.



COURTESY PHOTO

Charles and Linda Graham named during youth fair dedication.



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COURTESY PHOTO

The Texas Connection Band to play benefit concert to help fund the local Meals on Wheels program.

Benefit concert to help Meals on Wheels

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Meals on Wheels program has been around for many years and has continued to serve the Gatesville community by providing hot meals to local elderly folks.

In order to keep helping those in need, the Meals on Wheels program will host a benefit at Texas Station Event Center on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph stated that during this past October, the government decided to cut the budget drastically for the Meals on Wheels program.

"We knew that we were going to have to do something to alleviate our loss of funding," Rudolph said. "We were told that we would have to do some type of fundraising to make the difference for funding, and I thought a dance would be a good way to raise money."

Rudolph felt that Texas Station Event Center would be the best spot to hold the benefit.

After a conversation between Texas Station's Manager Kaylie Mendez and Rudolph, Mendez spoke to her father Dean Smith, owner of Texas Station, and he agreed to donate the building for the benefit.

"I am in the process of having flyers printed up," Rudolph said. "I will send out the flyers to all of the Meals on Wheels folks as well as passing them out within the community to seek vendors and support."

The benefit will begin at 12 p.m. with a cornhole tournament that will last until 6 p.m. Sign-up will be the day of the event, and the winners of the tournament will receive half of the jackpot prize.

Following the cornhole tournament, there will be a performance by the

Texas Connection Band from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The admission will be \$10 per person or \$15 per couple.

"I spoke to a friend of mine, Rob Williams, who is in the band, and they agreed to play at the benefit for free," Rudolph said.

The Texas Connection Band has been together since July 2013 and includes Rob Williams, Jesse Aviles, Lewis Aviles, Joe Chidboy, Joe Tennison, and JC Ticket. The band performs old and new country, rock, southern rock, and the blues.

The benefit will feature Frank's Kettle Corn out of Waco. The company will set up a kettle machine and cook the kettle corn fresh on site. There will also be a meal provided by Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge, which will be fried rib baskets with fries.

The public is reminded

that alcoholic beverages will be BYOB.

Edge, Rudolph, and Rudolph's niece, Tracy Lewis, will be working endlessly to prepare for the benefit by decorating, preparing meals, and putting together activities for the event.

"This benefit is important, because I do not want to have to put anyone on a waiting list because of funding," Rudolph said. "Anyone needing homebound care or meals should have the opportunity to receive that, and I don't ever want to have to tell someone that we can't help them get something to eat. That would kill me," Rudolph said.

If you are interested in becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer, there will be an information station at the event where you can sign up.

"All of the money donated will stay local," Rudolph said.

"The money will cover the food to prepare the meals for Meals on Wheels, supplies for the volunteers, and anything that will keep the nutrition program running."

If you are not able to attend the benefit but still want to donate, visit <https://givebutter.com/MealsonWheels>. The website allows the community to make a one time or recurring donations to the Meals on Wheels program.

"We will be appreciative of anything we get," Rudolph said. "If we can have people come out and enjoy their time while learning more about what we do here, that would be the ultimate goal."

For more information or to become a vendor, contact Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph at 254-404-5721.

Texas Station is located at 4604 TX-36 in Gatesville.

GUILTY

FROM PAGE A1

Chevrolet truck, where they found a necklace with hair, beer cans, a cell phone, and stains that tested positive for human blood.

Jessica Robinson was charged with murder on May 20, 2022.

Robinson was first arrested on May 19, 2022, on a charge of property theft. An arrest affidavit states that Romero was also involved in the theft, which took place at a construction site around March 31, 2022.

The affidavit states that a construction worker had taken a video of Robinson and Romero after they allegedly stole 10 sheets of plywood from the property. The owner of the property posted the video to Facebook. Romero contacted the owner via social media and admitted her involvement with Robinson.

The affidavit states that the vehicle used in the theft was a blue Chevrolet truck, which belonged to Betsy Ayers Robinson.

Ayers Robinson has also been charged with murder and tampering with evidence, according to a previous report by The Messenger. She remains in custody at the Coryell County Jail on over \$1 million in bond.

Another suspect in the case, Cody Gene Ayers, was charged with tampering with evidence. He was released in August 2022 after posting a \$20,000 bond.

Finchum was arrested on an unrelated charge of assault and is being held at the Coryell County Jail on a \$270,000 bond.

A spokesperson with The Coryell County Sheriff's Office said Romero's remains were found shortly after the arrests.

The cases involving the three other suspects are still pending, according to the District Attorney release.



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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Don't warranties last forever?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

Perhaps it is the times we live in, or maybe it is people in general, but folks seem to be more demanding than they once were. There is a time to make reasonable requests or to insist on getting what you paid for.

It is not unreasonable that your salad be delivered a reasonable time prior to the entrée, and not at the same time. One is entitled to ask for the repairman to clean up the mess he created in performing the repair, but it is not reasonable to ask the same repairman to clean the whole house. It is not out of the question to anticipate the Amazon delivery driver will place your package near

your front door, rather than driving by your address at a high rate of speed, throwing the package out the window, and hoping you find it somewhere on the block where you reside. No one is saying that sticking up for yourself is inappropriate. On the other hand, it is not always about "me." Not long ago, I had the need to go to my neighborhood John Deere dealership and get an oil filter. The

tractor needed to have the oil changed, and I hoped to purchase the necessary item so I could get the task at hand accomplished.

When I arrived at the dealership, I walked up to the parts counter to find an older man in the line ahead of me. He was engaged in an animated conversation with the service manager, so I backed up a little bit giving them some room, hoping that calm would soon be restored.

As the conversation continued, I could hear the old man speak in a very agitated and loud manner, "If this is not covered by warranty, your tractors are not worth a flip." He continued to rant, "I will never buy another tractor from you again. This is ridiculous. You are doing nothing but trying to cheat me!"

As I listened, I was very shocked by the old man's rant. John Deere products are noteworthy for their reliability, and I dealt with this dealership through the purchase of two different

tractors, service issues, and regular maintenance. My experiences had always been very positive, and I had endorsed the dealership to my friends and neighbors. It was hard for me to imagine what the old man was saying could be true.

Finally, the old man exclaimed, "I am leaving, and you will never have my business again." He then shouted something which is not appropriate to put into a public newspaper. As he left, I meekly approached the counter and the store employee. The man was red-faced, and it was easy to determine he was agitated by his conversation with the mad customer. I hoped to inject some levity into the situation so I jokingly said, "Would now be a bad time to ask to borrow some money?" and then I smiled.

The man behind the counter let out a sheepish grin and said, "As good as any," and then giggled a little bit. I responded by saying, "That conversation did not seem to go well," and the

service rep responded by saying, "You do not know half of it. I have talked to that man on the phone twice, the store manager had talked to him once, and we all told him the same thing, but he still will not accept that his tractor problem is not covered by the factory warranty."

I could not help but ask, "what was the problem with the tractor" to which the service man said, "He has a problem with one of the pistons and the engine rings."

At first hearing this information I could not help but ask myself, "I wonder why the piston and rings would not be covered by the man's warranty." I guess the thought running through my head was written on my face, so the employee looked at me and exclaimed, "It is sort of easy to understand. He bought his tractor 22 years ago!" It turns out the old man wanted John Deere to repair an engine which he had owned and used for 22

years and expected it to be covered by his original factory warranty!

I assured the clerk that my experiences with the dealership had always been positive, and I was sorry the man had acted so out of line. He smiled and thanked me for my pleasantness, and I headed out the door to get home and change the oil. On the way home I started to giggle, thinking about the old man who made such a disruption. I wonder if he thinks the same way about everything he ever bought. Is there a "lifetime" warranty on cars, appliances, and electronics? Heck, I am pretty sure there is not even a lifetime warranty on life!

Thought for the day: A warranty is a notice telling the buyer when the product they just purchased will no longer be functional.

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



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City Manager provides tips for freezing temperatures

BY SCOTT ALBERT
City Manager

The coldest temperature of the season thus far arrived this past Sunday and continued into Tuesday evening.

The City of Gatesville recommends the following tips to prepare your home for future freezing temperatures.

The following tips include:

- Open cabinets and maintain a consistent

- thermostat temperature both day and night.

- Keep the heat on when going away for vacation during cold weather.

- Insulate pipes and faucets in unheated areas, and seal off openings in doors and air vents.

- Drain swimming pool equipment, shut down your sprinkler system, turn off outside faucets, and remove connected hoses.

- Cover outdoors spig-

- ots with faucet covers or freeze caps.

- Avoid dripping faucets throughout the day and night. Instead, shut off your water and run all faucets to drain the water from your pipes before going to bed. In the morning, turn your water back on and use it during the day.

- If a pipe freezes but has not burst, attempt to thaw it out with an electric heating pad, haird-

- ryer, or a towel soaked in hot water.

- Apply heat by gradually moving the heat source toward the coldest spot on the pipes. Never concentrate heat in one area, as cracking ice can damage the line.

- Never use an open oven or a gas stovetop to heat your home.

- The City of Gatesville can be reached by phone at 254-865-8951.



COURTESY PHOTO

Preparing your home for winter with a few helpful hint could avoid major damage to your home and wallet.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Greg Casey

Say hello to our neighbor, Greg Casey!

Greg has been a licensed insurance agent at First Texas Agency since 2020 and is involved with his family business, building custom and antique cars.

Regarding his family business, Casey admits that he enjoys taking old things and making them new again. "With insurance, I spent most of my life in the business world where I was a Human Resource and Environmental Health and Safety Director," Casey said. "So, the insurance keeps me in an office and professional atmosphere where I can continue to help others."

Casey has lived in Gatesville since 1977 and has made a few moves over the years. "Gatesville is my home," Casey said. "My family has been here since the beginning of the town, and I like the small-town vibe and closeness of the people."

"One thing about Gatesville, they will always rise to the occasion when someone is in need," Casey said.

Greg reads The Gatesville Messenger and expressed that the newspaper has been around forever and has always kept the community informed of things going on. "It has gone through changes in the past but has kept its focus on the county and surrounding areas," Casey said.

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



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DEADLINES:

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

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

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

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

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

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.

ECLIPSE PRESENTATION HELD AT EXCHANGE CLUB



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Preparations are underway for the total solar eclipse that will pass through Gatesville on April 8. Cheri Shepherd (left) is pictured with George Cleverly after giving a presentation to the Gatesville Exchange Club at their weekly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11. Shepherd discussed what the public can expect during the eclipse as well as ways to volunteer for the festivities leading up to the event.

Parkinson Support Group to meet

Staff Reports

The local Parkinson support group meets on the second Monday of each

month at the Grace Bible Church. All interested are invited to attend. The next meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m.

at the church, located at 4012 US Hwy. 84 in Gatesville. If you have questions, please call Becky Adams at 254-216-1032.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

The Coryell County Youth Fair ended with the premium auction.

Cal Knowles received a fiddle in the monthly giveaway at the Pearl Bluegrass Music Festival.

Sandy Gately announced her candidacy for the office of district attorney.

Fourth grade students in Becky Morgan's and Amanda Wolff's classes at Gatesville Intermediate School made Christmas cards to send to soldiers in Iraq.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

The Coryell County Youth fair auction tops the \$87,000 mark.

A Gatesville ISD school board meeting was held, and the focus was on land purchase and expansion.

James "Butch" Caldwell, of Evant, and Mark Robi- nette, of Gatesville, both leaders of the Boy Scouts of America Leon Valley

District, were honored for their devotion at a scout awards banquet.

David Hopson, of Mound, was elected chairman of the ASCS Community Committee.

Walmart Portrait Studio advertised 64 portraits for \$3.95.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce moved its offices to the renovated Cotton Belt Railroad depot.

A longhorn steer head sculpted by Don Hunt, of Gatesville, was the top-selling bronze in a Select Western Art Sale.

Kenneth McCuiston, of Gatesville, was set to be the guest speaker at a meeting of the Coryell County Genealogical Society.

Powell Supply Company advertised car alignments for \$19.

The Jonesboro girls

basketball team won its district opener, 44-29, over Morgan.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Mayor Bob Miller decided not to seek re-election.

Local Texas Highway Department maintenance men were switching speed limit signs on major highways in Coryell County to reflect a lower speed limit of 55 mph.

Coryell's commissioners court voted for an increase in expense allowances for county officials.

A number of acres burned after a grass fire started on the Bill Wright place.

Randy Gohlke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Gohlke, was recovering from a hunting accident in which his gun accidentally discharged and caused him to lose the thumb and tips of three fingers on his right hand.

MOUND NEWS

Don and Sue Jones hosted the Jones family reunion



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

The Jones family had their annual family reunion Sunday, January 14, with a potluck lunch at Mound Cowboy Church.

It was hosted by Don and Sue Jones. There were 35 people in attendance.

Matti and Lillie Mann both showed at the 65th Annual Coryell County Youth Fair this past weekend. Both came home with some first-place ribbons. They both sold at the auc-

tion.

Lillie's pig was bought by Gatesville Youth Livestock Supporters, and Matti's was bought by David and Pam Hopson and Frank and Susie Hopson. With this being her senior year, she has quite a few add-ons from several generous

donors.

Emma Blakley left Sunday to go back to College Station to start her final semester.

Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch in Gatesville on Tuesday.

Jerry and Brenda Helms went to Dallas Saturday to visit with Neil and Christy Helms.

Mound lost one of its residents, Jared Alan Bruton, who died Friday, Dec. 29. A memorial service will be scheduled by his family at a later date.

Several people of Mound attended the Celebration of Life for Jason Paul Graham Saturday, Jan. 6, in Gatesville at Trinity Baptist Church. Jason was the son of Mr. Charles Graham and the late Linda Graham.

Barbara's Notes: Happy Birthday to Mrs. Robin Culp.

Gatesville Police Department to host citizen's academy 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.

UWF meeting held Jan. 9

Submitted Item

United Women in Faith met on Jan. 9, 2024, in the Banquet Room of the First Methodist Church in Gatesville, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thirteen ladies were present, including one visitor. Hostesses were Kathleen Blankemeyer and Amber Featherston.

President Patsy Smart called the meeting to order by leading in the Blessing. During refreshment time, Linda Klontz led members in picking new prayer partners.

Following refreshments, President Smart thanked the hostesses and called on Shirleen Chandler to install new officers for 2024. They are President, Patsy Smart; Vice-President, Velva Riddle; Secretary, Shirleen Chandler; Treasurer, Linda Shirley. Mission Coordinators include: Spiritual Growth, Mary Beth Rivers; Education & Interpretation, Carol Dildine; Membership, Nurture & Outreach, Kathleen Blankemeyer. Other officers are: Chair of the Nominating Com-

mittee, Jeanette Shepherd; Historian/Yearbook, Amber Featherston; Special Activities Chair, Marilyn Decker; Telephone Committee Chair, Carol Dildine.

President Smart presented the Special Mission Recognition Pin to Kathleen Blankemeyer, a member of the group who has been outstanding in her work in 2023. President Smart then read the Purpose and called on Mary Beth Rivers to read from the Daily Prayer Guide. Velva Riddle read a prayer from the Response Magazine, and then she presented the program from the book "Women Rise Up." The lesson was called Advocate: Martha of Bethany, from the gospel of Luke, Chapter 10. Martha complained to Jesus that her sister Mary was not helping with the chores, and Jesus should tell her to come help. This shows what close friends this family was to Jesus, that she would ask such of him. Women often do domestic work, and with

a history of a Protestant Work Ethic in the background, being a worker is valued in society. But we need to remember to rest and take time for self-care also, as Jesus pointed out to Martha. Shirleen Chandler led in singing, "Leave It There."

President Smart called the business meeting to order. She read a note from Jane Pense, daughter of long-time member Adelle Jones, who gave a donation in memory of her mother. She also read a note of appreciation for the bag of goodies the group had given. Featherston and Chandler had worked to put their new Yearbooks together, and they were presented to members for 2024. New business included the idea of signing Valentine cards at the February meeting for the folks in nursing homes. Members liked the idea. Easter bags will be prepared in March.

Meeting adjourned with the Benediction.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of January 10 - January 16. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jan. 10
9:05 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

9:58 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 900 block of College Street.

1:53 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Ash Drive.

5:03 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2400 block of Oak Drive.

Jan. 11
8:36 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of South 7th Street.

12:33 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1500 block of West Main Street.

3:04 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of South 27th Street.

6:59 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North 16th Street.

Jan. 12
1:06 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of South Levita Road.

9:10 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

7:14 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.

10:55 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of East Main Street.

Jan. 13
11:33 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 2200 block of Waco Street.

1:17 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North 14th Street.

4:18 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 3300 block of East Main Street.

9:39 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.

Jan. 14
12:18 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Carroll Drive.

12:42 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of Golf Course

Road.
2:33 p.m., a fight was reported in the 200 block of Bobcat Lane.

5:49 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North 14th Street.

Jan. 15
10:35 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.

12:25 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 200 block of South 21st Street.

5:59 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 200 block of East Leon Street.

9:58 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.

Jan. 16
1:20 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of South 23rd Street.

10:41 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1600 block of Waco Street.

3:37 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3400 block of East Main Street.

5:32 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of Inez Lane.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jan. 10
1:21 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1400 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

4:26 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 16000 block of East Highway 84.

4:32 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of FM 116.

12:28 p.m., a scam was reported in the 900 block of Pheasant Circle.

Jan. 11
1:53 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2900 block of Horse-shoe Bend Road.

3:37 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1500 block of Strawsmill Road.

9:42 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 9700 block of Highway 84.

9:58 p.m., a missing person was reported near South Highway 36 and Old Waco Road.

Jan. 12

7:55 a.m., animal neglect was reported in the 3300 block of County Road 318.

9:51 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1800 block of Old Osage Road.

11:45 a.m., a road was reported blocked near 600 Cromeans Road.

3:20 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 303.

Jan. 13
9:54 a.m., a scam was reported in the 11000 block of Flint Rock Creek.

10:57 a.m., a theft was reported in the 400 block of Fowler Street.

4:04 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1100 block of Kubitz.

5 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 9600 block of FM 107.

Jan. 14
10:42 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of Pheasant Circle.

2:38 p.m., fight in progress was reported in the 200 block of Bobcat Lane.

5:48 p.m., an animal complaint was reported near Strawsmill and Liberty Street.

9:26 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of County Road 107.

Jan. 15
5:33 a.m., ice on roadway reported on West Main Street and FM 116.

5:56 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 6900 block of FM 932.

11:06 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1100 block of County Road 316.

11:55 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 274.

Jan. 16
12:08 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 6300 block of FM 2412.

12:42 p.m., a scam was reported in the 100 block of River Ridge Drive.

3:11 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 700 block of Flintrock Drive.

11:05 p.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported on FM 1996 near Oglesby.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vikki Shelton demonstrates the art of cake decorating at a recent meeting of the Morris Federation.

Morris Federation become cake decorators

Submitted by Marsha Lee

Members of the Morris Federation held their first meeting of the year at the Coryell Museum Saturday, Jan. 13, at 10 a.m. They were treated to a very special meeting that day on "Cake Decorating" by Vikki Shelton.

Vikki graduated from Gatesville High School and then attended McLennan Community College in Waco from 1997-1999. There she earned an associate degree in applied science (accounting and business management). She began working at a Waco branch of Extraco Bank in 2000 and continued there until she was transferred to the Gatesville branch a year and a half later. In all, she worked with Extraco for about 23 years, earning several promotions from Banking Specialist to Relationship Banker to Assistant Financial Center Manager. She now works full-time for Kalya-Siebert as a Production Control Clerk.

Decorating cakes is a hobby for Vikki. "I've been decorating cakes for 15 years plus," she said, "and I absolutely love it!" She went on to explain, "I never took any classes, so everything I do, I have learned by practicing and just doing it over the years." For her program, she brought a small cake, several plastic bags of icing in bright colors, half a dozen different decorating tips, and a dozen cupcakes in individual plastic boxes.

She began by showing members the various tips she had brought and what kinds of designs they could make. For example, one tip was for making leaves, another for small flowers, one for roses, and several for various kinds of borders. These were just a few of the most often-used tips; there are many, many more deco-

rative tips available. She was asked how to initially apply icing to the entire cake (before decorating it) without picking up lots of cake crumbs in it. Vikki explained that she first gently wiped loose crumbs from the cooled cake, then put the cake in the freezer for a little while until it had time to set up firmly. After removing it from the freezer, she brushed away loose crumbs, and applied a first layer of icing. After putting it in the freezer or refrigerator again until the icing set up firmly, she removed the cake and iced it a second time, smoothing the icing on the top and sides of cake and covering up any crumbs caught in the first layer of icing. There are many icing recipes, depending on what the decorator prefers and what kind of firmness the decorations require. She shared her recipe with us. In choosing colors for icing, she stated that she prefers the Wilton plastic jars of colored paste over the bottles of liquid coloring. The liquid coloring sometimes seeps and oozes a little colored moisture around decorations on the cake after it sets for a while. She also suggested using light plastic icing bags for decorating. They're disposable and easier to manage than ones you make yourself out of parchment paper or waxed paper. Just remember not to fill them too tightly lest the icing splits the bag when you squeeze it out. The plastic bags, tips, paste coloring,

doilies to set your finished cake on, etc. are available at many places that carry Wilson Cake Decorating Supplies.

Vikki shared pictures of several cakes she had decorated and indicated different techniques she had used on them, like applying a textured look to the sides of a cake. Then, she turned members loose with cupcakes to decorate for themselves. She again pointed out the different tips and assisted all her 'beginning cake decorators.' Everyone had fun, and all were amazed at how beautiful their cupcakes turned out!

Vikki said, "I love seeing the reaction to what I create for customers. They may give me a quick, basic idea, and I do what I think they might like. A cake not only has to look good; it has to taste good as well, and I have a lot of compliments, especially on the icing."

If you wish to check on ordering a cake, you may contact Vikki Shelton at Vik's Custom Cakes & Treats, (254) 493-0458, here in Gatesville.

BCMGA workshop is Jan. 24

Staff Reports

Wednesday, Jan. 24
The Bell County Master Gardener Association and the Harker Heights Activities Center will present a Special Event Seminar regarding 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.

Registration opened on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 8 a.m. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3FHGjY7>.

The class limit is 50 people.

Donations will be accepted 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.

Meals on Wheels program in need of volunteer drivers

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

At the end of last year, the Meals on Wheels program stopped reimbursing volunteers for their

mileage driven. Vehicles need to be provided by the volunteers as well.

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

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400-500 lb. 235-275
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600-700 lb. 195-235
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COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured (left to right) are the new Women's Forum officers for the upcoming year which include Jean Morrison, Parliamentarian; Catherine Fulton, President; Velva Riddle, Treasurer; Joyce Talbott, Secretary; and Luci Zahray, Vice President.

PEARL NEWS

Quarterly board meeting is Jan. 22



BY BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

Don't forget that Monday, Jan. 22, the Pearl Community Center quarterly board meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m., at the Community Center. The public is invited to attend.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Lonnie Putnam who passed away earlier this month. We don't have any word on services at this time, but we will keep you updated.

I was so fortunate to be able to watch my oldest granddaughter play basketball in Martinsville last Saturday. Her team, consisting of fourth and fifth grade girls, played twice and won both times. These girls have great coaches, and they demonstrated excellent teamwork. My granddaughter made ten points during each game, and I'm so thankful that she gets all her talent from her grandmother.... her other grandmother that is. Her dad, my oldest son, threatened to put me on a leash several times that day as he thinks I always veer to the left when walking and take the wrong turns every time we leave a building. (I only bumped into one person on the sidewalk this time and no injuries were reported). Never mind that I literally can't walk and chew gum at the same time. Thankfully, I have an attentive family who redirects my steps and protects the other people along my path. Plus, I have a Wonderful Father who watches over me night and day ... even when

my kiddos are nowhere around. Life is beautiful here in the Piney Woods, but there's still no place like Pearl. I love you all!

This week's Bible verse comes from Matthew 6:31-34: "So do not worry, saying, 'what shall we drink?' or 'what shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." 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.

Women's Forum hold meeting to elect new officers for 2024-25

Submitted by Joyce Talbott

The Monday, Jan. 8 meeting of the Women's Forum was held at 1:30 p.m. at the Gatesville Public Library. The nominating committee comprised of Lera Lam and Mary Emma Bennett presented a slate of officers for the coming 2024 to 2025 year. Members voted by secret ballot and unanimously elected Jean Morrison as Parliamentarian, Catherine Fulton as President, Velva Riddle as Treasurer, Joyce

Talbott as Secretary, and Luci Zahray as Vice President.

Zahray presented the second half of "Wilma Mankiller: A Cherokee Nation Woman Activist - Part II," providing an introduction her quote, "Marginalized peoples have always kept the principals of the Declaration of Independence: The ideal that we all should be treated equally before the law, and we all have a right to access our government (Democracy Awakening by Heather Cox Richardson)."

In the book, Wilma fought fearlessly for her cause to help Native Americans and restore in them their faith in themselves. She was opposed by many politically for various reasons, including that she was a woman. Her determination and intellectual abilities, which included formidable skills as a grant writer, enabled her to overcome. Physical hurdles included a serious car accident, myasthenia gravis, the need for kidney transplants, lymphoma, breast cancer, and a life-taking

pancreatic cancer. Her ability to go into communities, listen to what they said, and then act upon what they had recommended enabled her success. She was most influential in bringing about a national policy of Self-Determination for Native Americans.

The next meeting of the Women's Forum will be Monday, Feb. 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the Gatesville Public Library, Joyce Talbott will bring the program.

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OBITUARIES

Ronald Starnes

Nov. 1, 1947 - Jan. 10, 2024

Ronald Starnes, age 76, of Gatesville, gained his wings on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Scott's Funeral Home with Pastor Jimmy Skiles officiating. Interment with military honors followed at Restland Cemetery.

Ronald Wayne Starnes was born Nov. 1, 1947, to the late Delmer Schutes, and Ina and Travis Starnes in Wichita Falls. He grew up in the Abilene area and graduated from Abilene High School in 1966. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving two tours in Vietnam from 1967 until 1969. He met Linda Watson in Abilene in 1966, and they were married in Sweetwater in 1968. They had two children, Rhonda and Rodney. They were stationed in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Rich-

ardson, Alaska, and Fort Hood, Texas. In 1978, he joined the Army National Guard and was employed at M.A.T.E.S. from 1980 until his retirement in 2007, having served 40 years and 10 months in the United States Army. Ronald was a man who loved God, his family, and his country. In 1978, he and his family made their home in Gatesville. He enjoyed hunting, rodeoing in Alaska, his dogs and horses. In his later years, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, golfing, traveling, gardening, and taking care of his property in the country. He was a member of Gatesville Masonic Lodge #197 A.F. & A.M. and Bee House Lodge #550 A.F. & A.M. in Evant.

Ronald is survived by his wife of 55 years, Linda Watson Starnes; children, Rhonda Starnes Bruner and husband, Wayne, of Bryan; Rodney Starnes and wife, Shelly, of Paradise;



grandchildren, Hudson Hopkins, of Texarkana, Lance Gray and fiancé, Meghan, of San Diego, California, Henslie Starnes, of Fort Worth, Jackson and Morgan Bruner, of Bryan, Jonathan, Jacob, and Jonah Chagoya, of Paradise; sister, Gail Boone and husband, Carlton, of Brownsville; several cousins, nieces, and nephews; lifetime friends, James and Dawn Lanham, of Gatesville; and many friends.

Lupe Esparza

Jan. 12, 1927 - Jan. 11, 2024

Lupe Esparza, age 96, of Gatesville, passed away peacefully at his ranch on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18 at Scott's Funeral Home. Interment followed at Ater Cemetery.

Lupe Esparza was born Jan. 12, 1927 in Ames to the late Epigmeño Esparza and Marie Garcia Esparza. He attended Enterprise School in Ames. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1946 and served as a Military Policeman while in Japan immediately following World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1947. He was drafted a second time in 1953 and was assigned to the 531st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion in Fort Bliss during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged later

that year.

Lupe married the love of his life, Leonora Ortega, in 1950. Together, they spent 73 wonderful years together. He worked as a trim carpenter until his retirement in 1992. He was also a member of the Coryell County Sheriff's Posse for many years. In 1975, he built his family home by himself and enjoyed raising cattle and operating his family ranch.

Lupe was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Nellie Corona; and brothers, Andy, John, Robert and Joe Esparza.

He is survived by his wife, Leonora; two daughters, Elizabeth Medart and husband, Barry, and Karen Benjegerdes and husband, Joel; brother, Manuel Esparza; grandchildren, Frances Casanover, Julie Collins and husband,



Brian, Katie Homan and husband, Garrett, Megan Wiegrefe and husband, Wesley; and great-grandchildren, Logan Casanover, Evelyn and Connor Collins, and Harper and Madeline Homan.

In lieu of flowers, Lupe's family requests memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

The Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville recently announced that its Program Director Brittany Romero received Staff of the Month for December throughout all the clubs within Central Texas. "Brittany is a huge asset to our club, and we are so blessed to have her," a representative of the club said.

SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran Jan. 13.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Sing along with Anna Banana



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Anne Leslie Tijerina of Marshall sang in Nashville and Carnegie Hall. She has recorded albums of her upbeat music.

"I call it family gospel country," says the talented musician.

She sang and recorded for years with her dad, Bill Monigold, calling themselves The Daddy Daughter Duo. The lyrics to one of their songs go like this: Daddy's still fishing with a cane pole and he's still bringing them in. They wrote much of their music.

Two years ago, after a career as an occupational therapist, Ann started entertaining children, singing the songs she learned as a child. She gets the kids singing all verses of familiar tunes like this one:

"Row, row, row your boat gently down the lake

Don't stand up and rock the boat. That's a big mistake."

When she performs, she wears a pair of yellow overalls and calls herself Anna Banana, a name she acquired while doing volunteer work in Houston wearing a pair of yellow overalls.

"We were mostly working with Hispanic young people, and - since my name is Ann - they started calling me Anna Banana.

She also performs wearing a blue Hawaiian shirt with a banana design pattern. When she's on her way to a gig, people notice her.

"Try wearing it in the airport going to New York this past summer. It brought a lot of smiles. That's really what it does."

In her appearances at museums, libraries, and schools, she fits the songs to the audience.

"While I was doing an educational experience with some urban kids in

Houston, one of the songs was 'She'll be Coming 'Round the Mountain. The curious youngsters would ask, 'why was she coming around the mountain,' and 'why was she driving six white horses?' One said his grandmother did not have a wagon and horses. I asked him what his grandmother drove, and he replied, 'a red Camaro.' I asked how she got to his house, and he said, 'the Beltway.' So, we sang, 'she'll be coming 'round the Beltway when she comes.' We made it, so they could relate to it."

Anna Banana has written about 25 songs and is working on more. She sings and plays the piano and keyboard and is trying to learn to play the harmonica.

I asked Anna where she got her yellow overalls. "Goodwill," she said with a smile.

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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 a.m.

MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE

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

PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

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

THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT

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

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE

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

MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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

PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN

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

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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018

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037

HELP WANTED

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037

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- CNA/NA – FT All Shifts
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- RN or LVN – Day Shift FT
- PRN all shifts

PHYSICAL THERAPY:

- Physical Therapist Assistant PRN

RADIOLOGY:

- CT/X-Ray Tech – PRN; TDH MRT & ARRT w/1 yr. exp. in CT/X-Ray

SLEEP LAB:

- Sleep Center Clinical Coordinator, must be RPSGT Certified – FT or PRN

SURGERY:

- Certified Scrub Technician
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- Matching 457B investments • Tuition Reimbursement
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SERVICES

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Bring help to load heavy items.
CASH ONLY.
See pictures on Tri-Rivers Estate Sales Facebook page or EstateSales.net

075

MOBILES FOR SALE

Mobile Home-1999 For Sale-Brigader Homes of Waco Home- Mom's 2bedrooms&baths Size-16.0x60.0 Starting price is \$15,000.00/ best offer. Call: 254-248-1572 Also, 2-yrs.-old refrigerator and a washer & dryer. 00030580

096

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GARAGE SALE

099

PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

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. 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.

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. 00030570

NOTICE TO BID-CORYELL COUNTY
Timeframe: February 13, 2024-February 10, 2025

Inspections Services
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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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

Public Notice:

On January 26, 2024 at 9 AM the Coryell County Tax Office will conduct a test on the automatic tabulating equipment used to count ballots for the upcoming March 5, 2024 Joint Primary Election. The test is open to the public and will be conducted at 201 S. 7th St. Gatesville, TX 76528. 00030582

099

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BID-CORYELL COUNTY
Timeframe: February 13, 2024-February 10, 2025

Roadside Mowing
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. 00030572

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Floyd Edward Coplen, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2023, in Cause No. 23-10900, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Angela Coplen. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Angela Coplen
125 Austin St.
Gatesville, Texas 76657
DATED the 19th day of December, 2023.
Chuck P. Stermer
Attorney for Angela Coplen
State Bar No.: 24094964
619 E. Main St.
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-6003
Facsimile: (254) 323-0070
E-mail: chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com
00030576

PUBLIC NOTICE: The City of Gatesville, Texas will be conducting an online auction of surplus fitness equipment. The auction will open for bidding on February 2, 2024, at 9 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. CST on February 16, 2024. You can view and bid on these items online at: <https://www.govdeals.com/gatesville>.
Wendy Cole
City Secretary 00030581

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of James Glenn McCartney, Deceased, issued on January 12, 2024, in case number 23-10934, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Aaronda Mayo, Independent Executor.

All persons having claims against this estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Lisa Uresti, PLLC
Attorney at Law
130 E. Travis St., Ste. 350
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dated the 17th day of January, 2024.

Law Office of Lisa Uresti, PLLC
130 E. Travis St., Ste. 350
San Antonio, Texas 78205
Telephone: (210) 928-2701
Fax Number (830) 287-5252
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00030584

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060

GARAGE SALE

25 CENT SALE! Tues., 01/23 - Sat., 01/27.

The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030543

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

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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 Purmela, 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 Purmela, 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 Purmela, fully furnished, 2 tanks, 8'x40' container, storage building w/water storage tank, barn, cattle pens, water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover, paved road frontage. \$1,568,901
- ▶ 210 ac. Carlton, Comanche County, approx. 5000 ft Resley Creek frontage, small cabin, water well, electricity, cattle pens, 2 tanks one approx. 2.4 ac, good tree cover, 48 ac. improved grass, good exterior & interior fences. \$1,450,000

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@gatesvillmessenger.com

Dilled Pot Roast

BY PAULA MELBERN WEEKS

- 2-2 ½ lbs. boneless beef chuck pot roast
- 1 tsp. coarse salt
- 2 T. cooking oil
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 1 T. dried dill weed
- ½ c. water
- ½ c. plain yogurt
- 3 T. flour
- 3 c. hot, cooked noodles

In a large skillet, brown roast on all sides in hot oil. Transfer to crock pot. Add water to crock pot. Sprinkle roast with dill weed, salt, and pepper. Cook on low for 10-11 hours or high for 5-6 hours or until meat is tender. Transfer roast to a serving platter, reserving juices. Cover roast and keep warm. Measure 1 cup of reserved juice. For sauce, in a small saucepan stir together yogurt and flour until combined. Stir in the reserved juice and the remaining dill weed. Cook and stir until thickened. Serve with meat and noodles. Serves 6-8.



Dilled Pot Roast over noodles.

COURTESY PHOTO



STOCK PHOTO

Learning how to hold a meaningful conversation can be a skill.

Mastering the art of meaningful conversations: A guide to building connections

BY MICKY SHEARON
Staff Writer

People who don't know me well tend to think I'm this very Type A, outgoing and gregarious person. They may see me onstage at the Granbury Opera House or some community function, mingling with people, and assume I'm in my comfort zone being around a lot of people. In reality, however, nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is I am simply a high-functioning social introvert. I have learned over many years a few skills that have helped me cope with what can sometimes be a debilitating social anxiety.

Like many who seem to thrive while on stage in front of an audience, throw me into a room full of people I don't know and expect me to talk, and you have just committed me to my seventh circle of hell. While the Fear of Public Speaking has long been an oft-stated fear of the masses, social phobia/anxiety — or an intense fear of social interactions — can manifest itself even in one-on-one conversations.

Making small talk with someone you've just met can be terrifying. Common sense tells us we want to convince the other person we're smart, so we casually drop our job title, education, accomplishments, etc.

But it turns out that's precisely the wrong approach.

I just finished reading a new book, "NEXT! The Power of Reinvention in Life and Work," by Joanne Lipman, and in her book, Lipman interviews dozens of business leaders who, to one degree or another,

suffer from social anxiety. She also interviewed numerous social psychologists about techniques for people who suffer from social anxiety to use in social settings that will help them relax and enable them to make more meaningful connections.

The technique her book focuses on is something seemingly so simple it tends to escape most people: ask for advice.

When you stop and think about it, it's succinctly brilliant! It immediately takes the perceived spotlight off us and places it on the individual to whom we are speaking, yet in a very warm and positive way. The person to whom you are talking is immediately impressed. They figure the person asking for their advice must be pretty clever — partly because it's flattering to be asked for help.

In other words, they tend to think: They were smart to ask for my advice because I am smart.

But where do you go once you've asked the other person for advice? How do you avoid the awkward shifting of focus back to you? In the intricate dance of human interaction, the ability to forge meaningful connections is a skill that transcends boundaries, be it in the boardroom, at social gatherings, or during chance encounters. So, how can one navigate the delicate balance of conversation to leave a lasting impression? Here are the key elements outlined in Lipman's book that can transform your interactions into meaningful dialogues, fostering genuine connections with new acquaintances.

ASK FOLLOWUP QUESTIONS: BUILDING BRIDGES OF INTEREST

The power of asking follow-up questions cannot be overstated. Actively engaging in conversations by probing deeper into the topics at hand demonstrates genuine interest and lays the groundwork for building a connection. Taking the conversation beyond the surface level creates a bridge between minds, fostering a deeper understanding and connection.

LISTEN ACTIVELY: THE ART OF THOUGHTFUL RESPONSE

In a world filled with constant distractions, the art of active listening has become a rare and valuable trait. Paying close attention to the speaker and responding thoughtfully showcases your intellectual acumen and conveys respect. This skill transforms interactions into meaningful exchanges where each participant feels heard and understood.

SHARE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES: CRAFTING RELATABLE NARRATIVES

Anecdotes from your own life can serve as powerful connectors in conversation. Sharing relevant personal experiences adds a layer of relatability, making the dialogue more enjoyable and dynamic. By weaving your stories into the fabric of the conversation, you create a shared space where both participants can find common ground, solidifying the foundation for a meaningful connection.

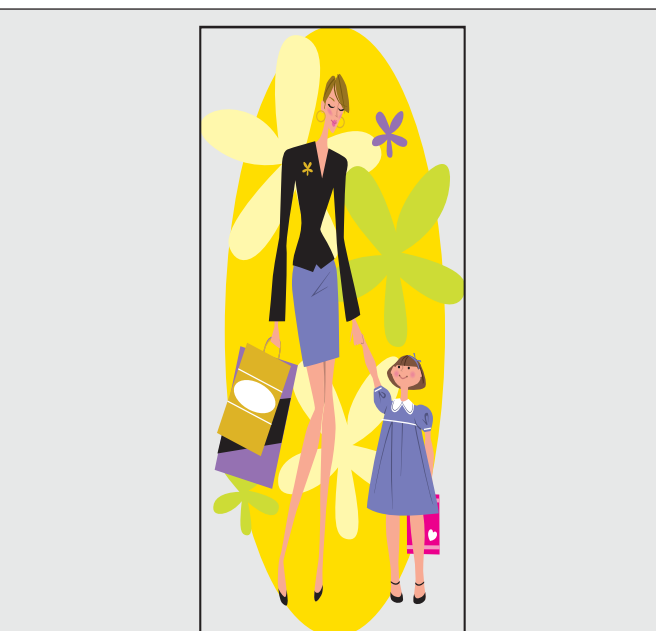
EXPRESS VULNERABILITY: BRIDGING THE EMOTIONAL GAP

Occasionally expressing vulnerability is a courageous act that can lead to profound connections. In the vulnerability, we find our shared humanity. Opening up about challenges or personal experiences humanizes you, creating an environment where others feel comfortable reciprocating. This willingness to show a genuine, authentic self fosters a more profound sense of connection and understanding.

USE BODY LANGUAGE: THE SILENT LANGUAGE OF CONNECTION

Communication extends beyond words, and non-verbal cues play a pivotal role in the art of conversation. Maintain eye contact, employ open body language, and be mindful of your gestures. These silent signals contribute to a positive impression, enhancing the overall quality of the interaction. A firm handshake, genuine smile or attentive posture can speak volumes, creating an atmosphere conducive to meaningful conversation.

Incorporating these elements into your interactions is a transformative step toward enhancing your communication skills. Whether navigating professional relationships, networking, or forming new friendships, these practices can make you more effective in various aspects of your personal and professional life. So, the next time you find yourself in the midst of a conversation, remember these key points and navigate as you effortlessly build meaningful connections.



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KGB'S YARD OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Keep Gatesville Beautiful's Yard of the Month for January is the home of Amy and Curtis Stuard, which is located at 107 River Ranch Drive. Amy has been working hard and hoping to get the Yard of the Month award for a while, and it was on her bucket list. She works in the yard herself as well as having some professional help with the lawn and landscape maintenance. Her landscape includes live oaks, crepe myrtles, holly, privets, boxwood bushes, lantana, roses, and Bermuda grass.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Lorri McDaniel was recently surprised with a retirement party at Hillside Medical Lodge.

McDaniel retires after 39 years

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Lorri McDaniel was recently honored during a retirement party held at Hillside Medical Lodge where she has worked as the Business Office Manager for 37 years. She has worked a total of 39

years in the healthcare profession.

Her retirement party consisted of catered food, a cake, sweets, and balloons. Several employees at Hillside Medical Lodge gathered to wish her well on her

retirement. Members of McDaniel's family were also on hand along with numerous friends.

"Now, I can spend more time with my four grandchildren and do some travelling," McDaniel said.



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2024 Coryell County Youth Fair

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT AND ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Here is a glimpse of some of the activities at this year's Coryell County Youth Fair. Keep an eye out for results and photos in the coming weeks that highlight the hard work and dedications the kids, their families and volunteers put into making the fair so successful each year.



Lady Hornets fall, still in playoff hunt

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Despite dropping their last two district games at Connally and at Salado, the Gatesville Lady Hornets basketball team is still alive for a postseason berth.

The Lady Hornets (11-16, 1-3) currently sit fifth in the district standings with one game left to play in the opening round of games. They hold a one-game lead over Robinson (0-4 in 23-4A) and sit just behind China Spring (1-3 in 23-4A) for the fourth playoff spot.

Gatesville topped Robinson in the district opener but fell to China Spring. The Lady Hornets and Lady Rockets will rematch on Jan. 23, and Gatesville will play China Spring on Jan. 26. A sweep of both games and a Robinson win over China Spring on Feb. 2 would secure a playoff spot for

Gatesville.

Against Connally, the Lady Hornets were without second-leading scorer and rebounder Taylor Coward who averages 11.8 points per game and grabs 8.7 rebounds per game.

Emma Pollard led the Lady Hornets in scoring and rebounding in the 59-33 loss with 12 points and ten rebounds. Guard Paige Sentillas grabbed seven rebounds, and Laura Trejo had five rebounds. Angelina Jimenez scored nine points and grabbed two rebounds in 12 minutes of action.

Gatesville out-rebounded Connally 37-36 in the game.

The Lady Hornets will welcome No. 2 La Vega to Gatesville on Jan. 19 before starting their second round of district play at home against Robinson.



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Lady Hornets basketball standouts Emma Pollard and Paige Sentillas.

Oglesby ISD reflects on historic season

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

When Landon Williamson was in middle school, he remembers watching his older brother play on Milford High School's varsity team when they appeared in the UIL Football State Championships in 2018.

Now, as a senior at Oglesby High School and the receiver and cornerback of the varsity football team, Williamson said it was a surreal experience to follow in his brother's footsteps and also play at AT&T Stadium.

"I wasn't even in high school then, but I remember experiencing that," Williamson said. "I was like, man, I can't wait to play there."

On Dec. 13, the Oglesby Tigers set off to end a historic season in their first ever state title game in Arlington. After ending the 2023 season at 13-1, the Tigers walked away as runner-up in the 1A, Division II state championship game.

"I felt relieved at that moment because right when I got here, the expectations were already set, and we just kept on reaching our goals each game," Williamson said. "Once we finally

got there, we realized we made it, but we didn't make it without all the hard work we put in."

After completing his first year on the team, Williamson said his biggest takeaway was not to take the whole experience for granted.

"We had fought hard to get there, so I just felt like every single game, we realized this wasn't the last one. We could keep on going (and) we could keep on making it to AT&T Stadium. And we did," Williamson said.

Williamson graduates in the spring and plans to continue playing football in college.

"I built a family when I came here and I feel like every single week we came closer and closer to each other, and I'm just really grateful for everything that happened this season, no matter how it turned out," Williamson said.

Coach Jeb Dixon contributes the success of the season to the team's work ethic, emphasizing that each player puts in the work in and outside of practice. Since many of the players also play for other

varsity teams year around, including basketball and track, Dixon said he'll find them lifting in the weight room even during the summer.

"They find time to do what they need to do, and I do think that's probably what I would give most of the success to," Dixon said.

Dixon said the team also learned how to face adversity throughout this season.

"There were several games where we may have had somebody get injured, or we played without a starter or whatever, and others stepped up and played a different role than they were used to playing," Dixon said.

Dixon led a state championship game as an assistant coach for Jonesboro in 2016, but this was his first season to appear in the state championship as a head coach.

"I do think there were moments that were too big for us, but at the same time, I think that the kids enjoyed it," Dixon said. "It's a dream come true for these kids, because a lot of these kids will never get to experience

PLEASE SEE **OGLESBY** | B2



GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Oglesby ISD Superintendent Shane Webb (left) and Coach Jeb Dixon at the AT&T Stadium for the Texas high school football state championships on Dec. 13.

Hornets drop first two district contests

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

If you know anything about District 23-4A basketball, it's that there are no easy wins anywhere on the league schedule. Gatesville basketball can attest to that after dropping their first two district games on the road at Connally and at Salado.

The Hornets (21-6, 0-2) lost to the Cadets 45-41 on Jan. 12, then fell in overtime to the Eagles 56-52 on Jan. 16. It's the first time the Hornets have lost consecutive games this season and only the second time they have lost back-to-back contests since 2022.

In both losses, the Hor-

nets were plagued by slow starts and long-distance

struggles. They scored just seven points in the first

quarter at Connally and eight in the opening period

at Salado. In both games, they shot a combined

5-of-35 from behind the three-point line.

After falling behind 15-7 after the first quarter against the Cadets, the Hornets charged back. Scout Hall buried a 30-foot three pointer as time expired to cut the Connally lead to 30-24 at the half. In the third quarter, Gatesville allowed just two points and trailed 32-31 heading into the fourth quarter.

They would get as close as 43-39 on a three-point play from West Allman with 1:20 to play, but the Cadets held on for the four-point win. Allman scored 19

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | B2



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Hornets basketball standouts Graceson Stewart, Kase Cox and West Allman.

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COURTESY PHOTOS

Oglesby Tigers Kyler Fossett (left) and Johnny Gomez.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jonesboro Eagles Demarcus Acoff (left) and Maddox Stroud.

Local school districts receive TSMCA honors

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Coaches and athletes from Jonesboro and Oglesby Independent School Districts have recently been recognized on the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association's 2023 All-State and All-Region Football Honor Lists. For Jonesboro ISD, Coach Eddie Gallegos and two athletes were recognized under the 2023 All-Region Division I list: Gallegos was honored as Region IV Coach of the Year.

- Demarcus Acoff, senior, was named Region IV Defensive MVP.
- Maddox Stroud, junior, was honored as Region IV Newcomer of the Year.
- For Oglesby ISD, Coach Jeb Dixon and two athletes were recognized under the All-State Division II and All-Region Division II lists:
 - Dixon was honored as Coach of the Year in the All-State Division II and Region III categories.
 - Kyler Fossett, junior,

was named Offensive MVP in the All-State Division II and Region III lists. Johnny Gomez, senior, was named Region III Defensive MVP. The Texas Six-Man Coaches Association was formed in 1948 by a group of coaches with the approval of the University Interscholastic League (UIL). Every year, they release a roster that honors local athletes and coaches from six-man football teams.



GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Oglesby ISD senior Landon Williamson (number 13) is the receiver and cornerback for the varsity football team.

OGLESBY

FROM PAGE B1

anything like that in their life again." Superintendent Shane Webb said it was exciting to witness the support from not only the Oglesby community, but also from the Central Texas area. "Having good programs, extracurriculars, it just creates a great atmo-

sphere within your school system, which bleeds over into your community," Webb said. Webb hopes to continue building a well-rounded school system where students are involved and successful in both extracurricular and academic programs. "My hope is that we continue what we've done so far this first semester of the school year, and

we continue to grow from that, and we try to improve all of our programs to be the best that they can be," Webb said. Looking to the future, the team hopes for another run at the state championship in 2024. "I think the biggest thing is just the kids and how hard they work and how hard they play," Dixon said. "They brought a community together."

Polar Pickleball tournament to be held Jan. 27 & Jan. 28

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The establishment of Pickleball dates all the way back to 1965 and is still sweeping the nation today as players of all ages take a major interest in the sport. Pickleball courts were first established in Gatesville back in 2022, and since then the city has established a league as well as creating various tournaments for players to participate in. There is an upcoming pickleball tournament that is being put together by Kylie Glass Dixon and Cort Dixon. This will be a two-day, indoor Polar Pickleball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 27 and Sunday, Jan. 28. The tournament will be held at the Gatesville Civic Center, which is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Drive. 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. All ages and skill levels are invited to attend, as pickleball was first invented as a means of entertainment. It has since evolved from those roots, and has become a widely spread sport across the United States and Canada. Local pickleball player Alex Scott said, "What I like most about pickleball is the fact that it is such an easy sport to pick up very quickly." Pickleball combines the elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong.

The sport uses a paddle and a plastic ball with holes and can be played indoors or outdoors. A typical game is played to 11 points, and a team must win by two, although tournament games can be played to 15 or 21 points, and a team must win by two as well. "It was easier for me, because I had a tennis background, but I've seen people who don't have a tennis background pick it up very fast," Scott said. "It's a life-long sport that anybody can play." Thousands of pickleball players comprise a wide cross section of the population. Seniors, juniors, adults, men, and women enjoy the physicality as well as the feelings of camaraderie the sport invokes. For more information on pickleball, visit usapickleball.org. For more information regarding the tournament, contact the City of Gatesville at 254-865-8951.

GHS athletes chosen to play in FCA Victory Bowl

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Three Gatesville High School athletes were chosen to participate in the 15th annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Victory Bowl. The FCA Victory Bowl is comprised of Central Texas All-Star games, which pulls seniors from the 12-county area that FCA covers. The games

are held in early June each year, with this year being Saturday, June 1 through Monday, June 3. Coaches, players, and cheerleaders are nominated by their coach or cheer sponsor and are selected by each of the Victory Bowl coaching staffs. The athletes chosen include senior Barrett Boyd, senior Zach Bryant, senior Nathan Elliott, senior LJ

Hall, and senior Tookie Jones. Both the volleyball and football games will be held on Monday, June 3 at Waco Independent School District. For more information, visit heartofTEXASfca.org. Waco Independent School District is located at 501 Franklin Ave. in Waco.

GHS Athletics Hall of Fame nominations now open

Staff Reports

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Gatesville High School Athletics Hall of Fame regarding the class of 2024. The hall of fame recognizes: Athletes that excelled at Gatesville High School and received significant recognition. Coaches with significant achievements during 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 Ricky Phillips, GISD Athletic Director, 215 South Lovers Lane, Gatesville TX 76528. Inductees will be announced the week of Monday, Feb. 12 through Friday, Feb. 16, and the induction banquet will be held next fall.

Alumni games start Jan. 27

Staff Reports

Gatesville High School will host two alumni games in honor of the community's past hornet athletes. The first game will be the alumni baseball play-

ers vs the varsity high school team on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 3 p.m., located at the Ryan Powell Memorial Park/Danny Loerwald Field. The second game will be the alumni softball players vs the varsity high school

team, which will take place on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. This will be located at the Gatesville High School Softball Field. For more information, contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281.

HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

points in the loss and was the only Hornet in double figures. Hall added eight points. Allman led the team in rebounding with five boards with Rayshon Smith, Charlie Winkler, Kase Cox, and Amos Phillips all grabbing four rebounds apiece. Gatesville out-rebounded the Cadets 30-29 and scored 15 points off of turnovers compared to just five for Connally. Against Salado (9-16,

1-1), the Hornets trailed by three points heading into the fourth quarter but came back to tie the game 48-48 when Smith hit a free throw with two seconds left in regulation to send the game to overtime. Salado led 50-48 in overtime before Allman tied the game 50-50 with a nifty layup. Salado took a 52-50 lead but a putback from Cox tied the game at 52-52 with 32 seconds left. A layup from Salado's Levi Ball and a pair of free throws provided the final 56-52 score. Allman had a double-

double in the loss with 18 points - 11 in the fourth quarter and overtime - and had 10 rebounds. Cox had 14 points and nine rebounds, while Graceson Stewart hauled in 11 boards. Gatesville returned home to face league-leading La Vega (17-4, 2-0) on Jan. 19. Then they will welcome a surprising Robinson team to Gatesville on Jan. 23. The Rockets are 2-0 in district after going 0-10 a season ago. They beat Salado and China Spring in the first two district contests.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Lopes cruise past Texans Saturday in Stephenville

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State fell Saturday, Jan. 13 for the first time this season, dropping to 3-1 on the day with a 79-47 loss against Grand Canyon at Wisdom Gym.

The Texans (4-10, 1-4 WAC), dropped their third straight overall, and their fifth straight at home, while the Lopes (14-3, 6-0 WAC) won their sixth straight and their 12th in the last 13 games. Grand Canyon entered as the No. 2 ranked team in the WAC, two days after Tarleton hosted the No. 1 ranked team in the conference.

GCU jumped out to an 18-1 lead and commanded the game, leading by as many as 38 points. The Lopes outshot the Texans 25-of-52 (.481) to 12-of-50 (.240) and didn't allow Tarleton to make a

two-point basket in the first half. The Lopes outscored the Texans 30-8 in the paint and outrebounded them 40-31. The Texans won the turnover battle 19-21, and seven different Texans were credited a steal.

Jakoriah Long led Tarleton in scoring once again, this time with nine points to go with two assists. Teresa Da Silva added eight points and five rebounds, and Tyler Jackson chipped in eight points as well.

GCU held an 18-1 lead more than six minutes in, as the Texans missed their first eight shots and had four turnovers before their first field goal make at the 3:23 mark, a Nykesha Sanders three-ball. The Lopes led 28-7 after one, forcing Tarleton to shoot 1-of-12 (.083) in the frame.

GCU built a 29-point lead in the second quarter before

leading at the break 46-20. Tarleton's four field goal makes in the first half were all three-pointers, and they added eight free throws.

The third quarter was seemingly whistle-free and had good pace, a low scoring frame knotted at 11 as GCU maintained the same 26-point lead headed to the fourth, 57-31. The fourth quarter was flooded with whistles as GCU built a 38-point lead and won by 32.

The Lopes were led by Sydney Erikstrup's 21 points on 6-of-9 shooting, including 4-of-7 from distance, to go with four rebounds. Jada Holland tallied 15 points (5-of-7 FG), five rebounds, six assists and two steals. Laura Erikstrup powered the bench with 11 points (7-8 FT) and four rebounds.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State fell Saturday, Jan. 13 for the first time this season, dropping to 3-1 on the day with a 79-47 loss against Grand Canyon at Wisdom Gym. The Lopes outscored the Texans 30-8 in the paint and outrebounded them 40-31.

Texans fall to Lancers in return to Wisdom Gym



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State's return home Thursday, Jan. 4 was soured by the WAC's top ranked team, California Baptist University. The Texans (4-9, 1-3 WAC) fell to the Lancers (13-1, 5-0 WAC) 89-59 at Wisdom Gym in Stephenville.

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's return home Thursday, Jan. 4 was soured by the WAC's top ranked team, California Baptist University. The Texans (4-9, 1-3 WAC) fell to the Lancers (13-1, 5-0 WAC) 89-59 at Wisdom Gym in Stephenville.

On the same day Tarleton State's students returned to campus for the spring semester, the Texans returned to Wisdom Gym, their first home game since Dec. 10 and just their second since the end of November. After a 6-0 start by Tarleton and a 12-11 score late in the first, CBU used a 19-0 run from there to take a commanding lead they did not relinquish.

CBU made 15 three-pointers on the night, finishing 15-of-41 (.366) and outscored the Texans in the paint 24-10.

The Lancers outshot Tarleton 30-of-72 (.417) to 19-of-59 (.322) and outrebounded them 48-37.

Jakoriah Long led the Texans with a game-high 17 points on 6-of-11 shooting, adding five rebounds and three assists. Karyn Sanford earned her first career collegiate start and tallied 10 points and four rebounds. Faith Acker had seven points and five rebounds, and Elise Turribiates led the bench with seven points and five boards.

On a Purple Out night with Texan fans receiving free shirts and donning the school's signature color, Long had the gym in a frenzy early with a deep shot on the Texans' opening possession, then an and-one on the next to put Tarleton ahead 6-0. CBU responded with a 9-0 run

to take a 9-6 lead. When it was 12-11 CBU, they scored seven straight to end the first quarter up 19-11, then the second quarter's first 12 points to lead 31-11 with eight minutes to play. Tarleton kept it about that same deficit the rest of the quarter, cutting it down to 15 before CBU hit a buzzer-beating three to end the half, putting the Lancers into the locker room with a 45-27 lead.

CBU held about a 25-30-point lead most of the second half, going up by as many as 31. They led 70-44 after three before winning 89-59.

CBU's Chloe Webb flirted with a triple-double, tallying 11 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists, and two steals. Six different Lancers scored in double figures of the eight who played.

Texans fall to WAC-leader Grand Canyon to cap west coast trip

Tarleton State University

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Tarleton State was unable to maintain its hot first-half start and dropped the second game of its west coast trip to Grand Canyon, 74-48 Saturday night at GCU Arena.

With the win, the Lopes (16-1 overall, 6-0 WAC) improve their NCAA Division I-leading winning percentage to .941. The Texans (10-6, 3-2) are now tied for second place in the WAC with Stephen F. Austin and Utah Tech, all touting the same record in the league.

Devon Barnes led the Texans in scoring for the second consecutive game as the only player in double-figures with 11. He also led the Texans with two steals, three made triples and co-lead with two assists.

KiAndre Gaddy pulled down a team-best five boards and two blocks in addition to his six

points. Jakorie Smith and Emmanuel Innocenti each added seven to the Texans' scoring effort.

The Texans started out with a punch that was needed to deflate the havoc crowd. Trailing 4-2, Tarleton broke out on a run to change the narrative of the game early on. The Purple and White then broke out on a 16-0 run to take a commanding 18-4 lead at the 13:51 mark and force GCU to call a timeout. The Texans downed a pair of triples by Innocenti and Barnes who each contributed five points during the run.

Innocenti's triple to cap the 16-0 run initiated a flurry of three-pointers with the next five made baskets coming from deep. Both Texans' next triples came from Barnes with GCU's Tyon Grant-Foster responsible for two of his own. Leading 24-10, Tarleton's biggest lead of the night, the Lopes took

control and showed they are at the top of the WAC for a reason.

GCU broke out on a 7-0 run before a shot clock buzzer beating three from Smith fell for the Texans. Gaddy converted on a layup in the paint with 6:41 to go which wound up being the Texans final point of the half. GCU closed the half on a 16-0 run to drastically switch the momentum and get the crowd back on their side heading into the break. The Lopes owned a 36-29 advantage at the half.

Coming out of the half, it was all GCU. The Lopes picked up right where they left off, extending their 16-0 run to close the first half to 21-0, scoring the first five points of the second. Made baskets were few and far between for the Texans in the second half as the Lopes pulled away and took the game out of reach early in the second half.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State was unable to maintain its hot first-half start and dropped the second game of its west coast trip to Grand Canyon, 74-48 Saturday night at GCU Arena.

The Lopes outscored the Texans by 40 in the final 30 minutes of play. GCU shot 50.9 percent from the floor and 53.5 percent from three-point range (8-for-15). The Lopes won the

battle of the boards, 47-28. Once again, the Texans won the turnover battle forcing 12 GCU turnovers compared to only committing eight.

Tarleton did not make

a three-pointer in the second half and shot 5-for-18 from deep (27.8 percent). The Texans attempted 10 more shots than the Lopes with them falling at a 37.1 percent rate (20-for-63).



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Elianna beginning to cook her pancakes.

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Youth cooking class held at the Gatesville Public Library

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Public Library has been hosting a cooking class for the local youth in the community during the month of January, which is called Pizza and Pancakes. There is a new theme each month for youth to participate in. Gatesville Public Library employee Karie Bartlett has been conducting the class for different age groups with this specific group being of the ages 11 to 13 years old. The local youth that were present at the recent

cooking class on Thursday, Jan. 11 are homeschooled students. The students included Zuri, Elianna, Cora, Liam, and David. The next class will feature pizza-making and will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 23 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for the ages of 11 to 13 years old. For more information or further questions, contact the Gatesville Public Library at 254-865-5367. The Gatesville Public Library is located at 111 N. 8th Street.

Oglesby ISD to host FAFSA Night Jan. 31

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District will hold a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) night for students on Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event will be held in the computer lab on campus. The newly updated FAFSA form has begun a soft launch for the 2024 to 2025 school year. Each year graduating seniors must complete this as a graduation requirement. The first step is to create an FSA ID. To begin, visit <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> and click get started. To start the next phase, a social security number will be required. If you need to obtain your number, contact the school guidance counselor Mrs. Nichols. The approval process typically takes two to three days, meaning it is important to complete this first step as soon as possible. The following list entails what to bring to FAFSA night:

- Parent's 2022 tax returns (1040 or 1040A and W-2).
 - Student's 2022 tax return or W-2 (if the student worked).
 - Parent's social security or ITIN number (if they have one).
 - Student's social security number (to create FSA ID).
 - Parent's date of birth, email, and phone numbers.
 - Balance of parent's cash, savings, and checking accounts.
 - Parent's marriage date (if separated or divorced, date is needed as well).
 - Records of untaxed income (child support, worker's comp., etc.).
 - Net worth of parent's businesses or investments (if applicable).
- Oglesby ISD can schedule appointments during the day if the evening of the FAFSA night does not work for you. For more information or further questions, contact Oglesby ISD at 254-456-2271. Oglesby ISD is located at 125 College Ave. in Oglesby.

EVANT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023				
EXHIBIT C-2				
Data Control Codes	10			98
	General Fund	State Funded Special Revenue Funds	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,441,811	\$ -	\$ 49,772	\$ 1,491,583
5800 State Program Revenues	1,193,202	450,257	7,645	1,651,104
5900 Federal Program Revenues	9,014	-	1,209,988	1,219,002
5020 Total Revenues	<u>2,644,027</u>	<u>450,257</u>	<u>1,267,405</u>	<u>4,361,689</u>
EXPENDITURES				
0011 Instruction	1,051,709	221,061	871,817	2,144,587
0012 Instructional Resources & Media Services	7,153	-	-	7,153
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	12,957	525	6,350	19,832
0021 Instructional Leadership	53,940	68,990	24,042	146,972
0023 School Leadership	114,937	2,751	-	117,688
0031 Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	6,500	94,137	-	100,637
0033 Health Services	5,118	-	-	5,118
0034 Student Transportation	130,103	-	11,258	141,361
0035 Food Services	-	-	177,182	177,182
0036 Extracurricular Activities	159,119	-	27,720	186,839
0041 General Administration	353,513	6,439	6,942	366,894
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	448,979	-	-	448,979
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	6,217	3,809	-	10,026
0053 Data Processing Services	61,038	-	34,999	96,037
0061 Community Services	2,343	-	64,296	66,639
0071 Debt Service - Principal	6,324	-	-	6,324
0072 Debt Service - Interest	1,321	-	-	1,321
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	37,660	52,545	-	90,205
0093 Payments to Member Districts of SSA	-	-	39,363	39,363
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	30,935	-	-	30,935
6030 Total Expenditures	<u>2,489,866</u>	<u>450,257</u>	<u>1,263,969</u>	<u>4,204,092</u>
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	154,161	-	3,436	157,597
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
7913 Proceeds from Right to Use Lease Assets	32,400	-	-	32,400
7915 Transfers In	-	-	37,645	37,645
8911 Transfers Out	(10,000)	-	-	(10,000)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>22,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,645</u>	<u>60,045</u>
1200 Net Change in Fund Balance	176,561	-	41,081	217,642
0100 Fund Balance - Beginning	773,973	-	5,068	779,041
3000 Fund Balance - Ending	<u>\$ 950,534</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 46,149</u>	<u>\$ 996,683</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Fowler earns master's degree at Angelo State

Staff Reports

Kamryn Fowler, a 2017 graduate of Gatesville High School, was one of 620 students at Angelo State University to graduate during the 2023 fall commencement exercises on Dec. 16 at the ASU Junell Center/Stephens Arena. Fowler received her Master of Social Work degree. Angelo State University, founded in 1928, is a four-year public school in San Angelo. Their Ram family environment and core

values help students feel at home, a place where they know faculty and staff care deeply about their success. Their faculty makes it possible for students to conduct undergraduate research, rank above state acceptance averages for professional schools, and receive personal access to instructors and progressive facilities. Angelo State is a part of the Texas Tech University System with campuses across the state.

Ray earns BS degree from UTA

Staff Reports

Ryan Arlie Ray of Purmela recently earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas Arlington during the Fall commencement ceremonies held on Dec. 15 in Arlington.

Ray, a registered nurse with the Coryell Healthcare System in Gatesville, graduated Magna Cum Laude from the UTA school of nursing. Ray is currently enrolled in the Masters Nursing Program at the university.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of January 10 - January 16. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jan. 10
9:05 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

9:58 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 900 block of College Street.

1:53 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Ash Drive.

5:03 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2400 block of Oak Drive.

Jan. 11
8:36 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of South 7th Street.

12:33 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1500 block of West Main Street.

3:04 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of South 27th Street.

6:59 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North 16th Street.

Jan. 12
1:06 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of South Levita Road.

9:10 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

7:14 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.

10:55 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of East Main Street.

Jan. 13
11:33 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 2200 block of Waco Street.

1:17 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North 14th Street.

4:18 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 3300 block of East Main Street.

9:39 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.

Jan. 14
12:18 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Carroll Drive.

12:42 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of Golf Course

Road.
2:33 p.m., a fight was reported in the 200 block of Bobcat Lane.

5:49 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North 14th Street.

Jan. 15
10:35 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.

12:25 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 200 block of South 21st Street.

5:59 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 200 block of East Leon Street.

9:58 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.

Jan. 16
1:20 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of South 23rd Street.

10:41 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1600 block of Waco Street.

3:37 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3400 block of East Main Street.

5:32 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of Inez Lane.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jan. 10
1:21 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1400 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

4:26 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 16000 block of East Highway 84.

4:32 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of FM 116.

12:28 p.m., a scam was reported in the 900 block of Pheasant Circle.

Jan. 11
1:53 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2900 block of Horse-shoe Bend Road.

3:37 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1500 block of Strawmill Road.

9:42 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 9700 block of Highway 84.

9:58 p.m., a missing person was reported near South Highway 36 and Old Waco Road.

Jan. 12

7:55 a.m., animal neglect was reported in the 3300 block of County Road 318.

9:51 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1800 block of Old Osage Road.

11:45 a.m., a road was reported blocked near 600 Cromeans Road.

3:20 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 303.

Jan. 13
9:54 a.m., a scam was reported in the 11000 block of Flint Rock Creek.

10:57 a.m., a theft was reported in the 400 block of Fowler Street.

4:04 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1100 block of Kubitz.

5 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 9600 block of FM 107.

Jan. 14
10:42 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of Pheasant Circle.

2:38 p.m., fight in progress was reported in the 200 block of Bobcat Lane.

5:48 p.m., an animal complaint was reported near Strawmill and Liberty Street.

9:26 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of County Road 107.

Jan. 15
5:33 a.m., ice on roadway reported on West Main Street and FM 116.

5:56 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 6900 block of FM 932.

11:06 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1100 block of County Road 316.

11:55 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 274.

Jan. 16
12:08 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 6300 block of FM 2412.

12:42 p.m., a scam was reported in the 100 block of River Ridge Drive.

3:11 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 700 block of Flintrock Drive.

11:05 p.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported on FM 1996 near Oglesby.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vikki Shelton demonstrates the art of cake decorating at a recent meeting of the Morris Federation.

Morris Federation become cake decorators

Submitted by Marsha Lee

Members of the Morris Federation held their first meeting of the year at the Coryell Museum Saturday, Jan. 13, at 10 a.m. They were treated to a very special meeting that day on "Cake Decorating" by Vikki Shelton.

Vikki graduated from Gatesville High School and then attended McLennan Community College in Waco from 1997-1999. There she earned an associate degree in applied science (accounting and business management). She began working at a Waco branch of Extraco Bank in 2000 and continued there until she was transferred to the Gatesville branch a year and a half later. In all, she worked with Extraco for about 23 years, earning several promotions from Banking Specialist to Relationship Banker to Assistant Financial Center Manager. She now works full-time for Kalya-Siebert as a Production Control Clerk.

Decorating cakes is a hobby for Vikki. "I've been decorating cakes for 15 years plus," she said, "and I absolutely love it!" She went on to explain, "I never took any classes, so everything I do, I have learned by practicing and just doing it over the years." For her program, she brought a small cake, several plastic bags of icing in bright colors, half a dozen different decorating tips, and a dozen cupcakes in individual plastic boxes.

She began by showing members the various tips she had brought and what kinds of designs they could make. For example, one tip was for making leaves, another for small flowers, one for roses, and several for various kinds of borders. These were just a few of the most often-used tips; there are many, many more deco-

rative tips available. She was asked how to initially apply icing to the entire cake (before decorating it) without picking up lots of cake crumbs in it. Vikki explained that she first gently wiped loose crumbs from the cooled cake, then put the cake in the freezer for a little while until it had time to set up firmly. After removing it from the freezer, she brushed away loose crumbs, and applied a first layer of icing. After putting it in the freezer or refrigerator again until the icing set up firmly, she removed the cake and iced it a second time, smoothing the icing on the top and sides of cake and covering up any crumbs caught in the first layer of icing. There are many icing recipes, depending on what the decorator prefers and what kind of firmness the decorations require. She shared her recipe with us. In choosing colors for icing, she stated that she prefers the Wilton plastic jars of colored paste over the bottles of liquid coloring. The liquid coloring sometimes seeps and oozes a little colored moisture around decorations on the cake after it sets for a while. She also suggested using light plastic icing bags for decorating. They're disposable and easier to manage than ones you make yourself out of parchment paper or waxed paper. Just remember not to fill them too tightly lest the icing splits the bag when you squeeze it out. The plastic bags, tips, paste coloring,

doilies to set your finished cake on, etc. are available at many places that carry Wilson Cake Decorating Supplies.

Vikki shared pictures of several cakes she had decorated and indicated different techniques she had used on them, like applying a textured look to the sides of a cake. Then, she turned members loose with cupcakes to decorate for themselves. She again pointed out the different tips and assisted all her 'beginning cake decorators.' Everyone had fun, and all were amazed at how beautiful their cupcakes turned out!

Vikki said, "I love seeing the reaction to what I create for customers. They may give me a quick, basic idea, and I do what I think they might like. A cake not only has to look good; it has to taste good as well, and I have a lot of compliments, especially on the icing."

If you wish to check on ordering a cake, you may contact Vikki Shelton at Vik's Custom Cakes & Treats, (254) 493-0458, here in Gatesville.

BCMGA workshop is Jan. 24

Staff Reports

Wednesday, Jan. 24
The Bell County Master Gardener Association and the Harker Heights Activities Center will present a Special Event Seminar regarding 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.

Registration opened on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 8 a.m. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3FHGjY7>.

The class limit is 50 people.

Donations will be accepted 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.

Meals on Wheels program in need of volunteer drivers

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

At the end of last year, the Meals on Wheels program stopped reimbursing volunteers for their

mileage driven. Vehicles need to be provided by the volunteers as well.

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

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500-600 lb. 215-245
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700-800 lb. 175-210

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Gatesville Exchange Club names students of the month

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Exchange Club of Gatesville recently named their students of the month.

Students of the month are seniors and are nominated by a teacher for their outstanding qualities as young people. This recognition is not based solely on academics, but also on character, school, and community involvement, and leadership abilities that make a well-rounded individual. Exchange Club members receive the nominations and score each one on merit.

Two students are selected each month from September to February. The twelve students that are selected during the year will be recognized again at the Golden Deeds Banquet, which is held in April. After another round of scoring by club members, the two students with the highest scores will receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Exchange Club.

The students of the month chosen include Olivia Walker and Carsyn Modisett.

Olivia Walker was nominated by teacher Bonnie Latham who described her as being a bright young student eager to do well, but she settles for nothing short of perfection in her work. Latham also stated that Walker "is a student with an exceptional mind who can think on a deep and critical level." Latham

continued, "Behind that incredibly confident exterior is a young woman full of compassion with a large capacity for understanding, especially if she feels you are worthy of her trust and love."

Over the years, Walker has been very involved with the Gatesville High School Tennis Team where she has served as team captain and was named Hornet Radio's Player of the Week. Walker has also been a member of the National Honor Society for the past three years. In addition, she also received the Outstanding Student Award in History.

In school-related activities, Walker has received the Hornet Heart Award, the Hornet Pride Award, and was recognized in Academic All-District. She has also volunteered her time to work with the GHS tennis camps and, recently, volunteered during the 125th anniversary celebration at the Coryell County Courthouse.

Walker currently has a 4.4 grade point average.

Carsyn Modisett was nominated by teacher Sharon Inbody, who described her as being one of the most hard-working and dedicated students in her class.

"Carsyn is a student that everyone loves to teach. She is receptive to learning new things and is a fast learner," Inbody said. She continued,



Photo caption: Pictured from left to right are Exchange Club members, Georg Cleverley, Olivia Walker, Carsyn Modisett, and Exchange Club member, JoAnn Sugg.

COURTESY PHOTO

"She has impressed me with her inquisitive mind and math skills. She learns quickly and applies her knowledge to all that she is taught." Inbody said that Modisett is very competitive and tends to bubble to the top of anything she pursues.

Modisett remains very active on the GHS campus where she has participated

in the PALs program, year-book staff, and Skills USA. In the past, she also served as the assistant stage manager during a 2021 GHS Theater production.

Modisett has received several academic awards including the Excellence Award in Algebra, the HFND Award from Coach Cole, and the Excellence Award in English 3 in 2023. She was

also inducted into the National Honor Society in May of 2023. As for her community volunteer activities, Modisett has volunteered at various Trinity Baptist Church events, such as VBS and the Halloween Treat Shop while filling in with children's church when needed. She also volunteered with Dancing with the Stars Central Texas in

2022 and 2023. Her work-related activities have included working at the Gatesville City Pool, as well as serving as a delivery driver, and a Certified Pharmacy Technician for Gatesville Drug Company. Modisett currently has a 4.0 grade point average.

Coryell Retired School Personnel (CRSP) to meet Jan. 25

Submitted Items

The first meeting of the year for Coryell Retired School Personnel (CRSP) will be on Thursday, Jan. 25, at Rancher's Steak House.

This is the month when CRSP has its silent auction to raise money for its Scholarship Fund. Members

are asked to bring new or lightly used items, crafts, homemade canned or baked goods, tools, books, collectibles, gift cards (or just a donation is good, too), or any of a huge variety of other items. All proceeds go into the scholarship fund, and the group has a fun time buying each

other's "stuff." Scholarship committee members are asked to be there at 9 a.m. to help set up items. Other members should come about 9:20 - 9:30 a.m. to submit their items for the silent auction and have an opportunity to look around and place bids on items of interest for

themselves. Members who have not turned in all of their volunteer hours for 2023 (especially updates for November and December) are requested to give them to Debbie Grmela as soon as possible. She has not yet turned in our total count of hours, but that deadline is

quickly approaching. Please help her out. All members need to turn in their volunteer hours for January thus far, as this begins a new count for 2024. Members are asked not to turn in their 2023 hours and their 2024 hours together. The meeting will begin at

10 a.m. The program will be presented by Sam Crosby, pastor at Trinity Baptist Church. His topic will be related to beginning a new year. There will also be a short business meeting.

Feed My Sheep to host free medical clinic at Primary

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 com-

plete 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.

As well as holding a free medical clinic, the Gatesville Primary Community Outreach program will also host a coat, hat, and sock drive on Saturday, Feb. 10, for families in need. The items will be free while supplies last.

The Gatesville Primary School is located at 308 Hornet Way.

Hall Named to SPC's Fall 2023 Dean's List

Staff Reports

Jimmy Hall, of Gatesville, was named to the South Plains College Fall 2023 Dean's List. Hall was among more than 700 students to be named to the list. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.25 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours.

South Plains College (SPC) is a comprehensive, two-year community college that serves the greater South Plains area of Texas with innovative educational programs that span the arts and sciences, technical education, continuing education and workforce development. Serving a 13-county area that comprises the southern

portion of the Texas High Plains, the college's main campus is located in Levelland. SPC also offers educational programs at three locations in Lubbock - the SPC Lubbock Downtown Center, SPC Lubbock Career and Technical Center, and the SPC Reese Center - as well as an extension center in Plainview.

HILLSIDE MEDICAL LODGE

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER

MIA GASTON
CNA

Please help us congratulate our amazing CNA, Mia Gaston, for being named Employee of the Month! Mia never stops hustling while showing kindness to all. She's works very hard and is always reliable!

Thank you, Mia, for all you do for Hillside.

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

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

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