



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Feb. 10, 2024

\$1.00



SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 12, ISSN No. 0894-4954

National motto "In God We Trust" presented to local schools

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Following the signing of Senate Bill 797 into law in 2021, members of the Gatesville Exchange Club recently donated several "In God We Trust" posters to two local school districts.

Lauren Morrell, an Exchange Club member who leads the initiative, said they donated 50 posters of the national motto to Jonesboro ISD and two posters to Oglesby ISD last week.

"This is a copy of our national motto, and I think that it's important for our posterity to under-

stand where our country came from and kind of be reminded of that," Morrell said.

The bill states that a framed copy of the national motto "In God We Trust" is required to be displayed in a conspicuous place when donated to a public elementary or secondary school.

So far, the organization has presented around 145 posters to Gatesville ISD. After the initial donation of five posters in September of last year, Morrell said the district asked for additional posters for their classrooms.

Following the recent

donation to Jonesboro and Oglesby, she adds that the Exchange Club is working on reaching out to other nearby school districts about the posters.

"Whenever they pass laws that are important, they just sit on the books unless someone actually takes initiative and actions it, so that's what we're trying to do," Morrell said.

Morrell said members from the Exchange Club recently spoke about the initiative at their mid-winter conference to inspire other clubs in the region to also distribute framed posters at their local schools.

"Reminding our children

of where our foundations are gives them a footing to be able to flourish, and the Exchange Club embodies that," Morrell said. "It really met with the tenets that they stand for, and that's why they wanted to pick up this initiative."

Morrell adds that they are creating brochures to give out to local schools and exchange clubs with more information on how to purchase the posters.

"At this point, it's a new program so it's kind of word of mouth," Morrell said.

SEE PHOTOS MOTTO | A2



The official day of love...

Valentine's Day weddings in Coryell County

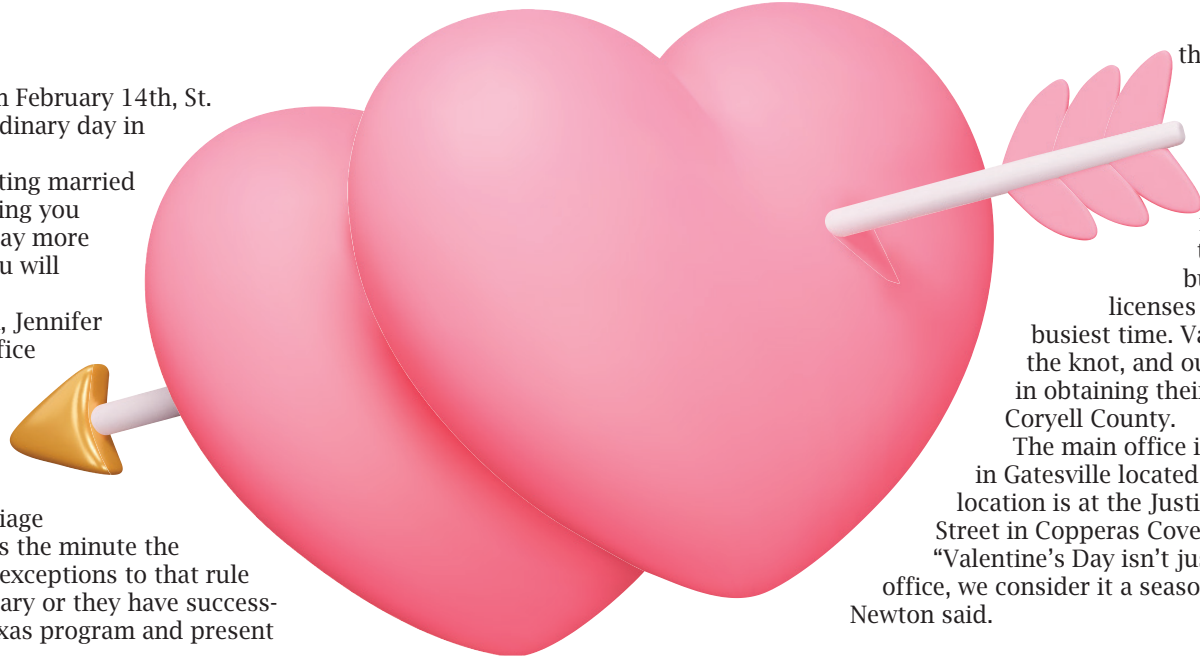
BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

More people seem to get married on February 14th, St. Valentine's Day, than on any other ordinary day in February.

There are certain advantages to getting married on Valentine's Day - it makes a wedding you will never forget and makes the holiday more memorable, and there's no chance you will forget the date of your anniversary.

Speaking with Coryell County Clerk, Jennifer Newton, she said "On average, our office issues about 44 marriage licenses from the end of January to mid-February."

After being issued a marriage license, Newton said that there is a 72-hour waiting period before a marriage license can be used. "That time begins the minute the license is issued," she said. "The two exceptions to that rule are: if either party is active-duty military or they have successfully completed the TWogether in Texas program and present



their certificate at the time of issuance of the license, then the 72 hours is waived."

When asked if there are any other holidays or months that can compare to the February spike in marriage license applications, Newton said, "June and October are the busiest months for issuing marriage

licenses in our office. February is the third busiest time. Valentine's Day is a great time to tie the knot, and our clerks are happy to assist couples in obtaining their license at either of our locations in Coryell County.

The main office is located on the first-floor courthouse in Gatesville located at 620 E. Main Street, and the second location is at the Justice of the Peace office at 210 S. 1st Street in Copperas Cove."

"Valentine's Day isn't just a day in the Coryell County Clerk's office, we consider it a season. It is always a busy time for us," Newton said.

Sports complex receives new weather alert system

Staff Reports

Gatesville Parks & Recreation recently installed an onsite weather system at the Gatesville Sports Complex to inform athletes and park visitors about severe weather risks before they hit the field.

The system is powered by Perry Weather, a platform that provides real-time weather

alerts, including wind, precipitation, temperature, and lightning detection. The system also provides text-to-speech messages and uses a professional meteorologist to help warn park goers about approaching weather conditions.

"For our sports leagues, park goers and tournaments, safety is paramount. This system ensures that players, coaches,

and families are kept informed and protected against sudden weather changes, particularly lightning risks," according to Gatesville Parks & Recreation's Facebook page.

Park goers can scan the Perry Weather QR code at the park entrance or view live weather updates online: <https://www.teamside.com/GatesvilleTX>

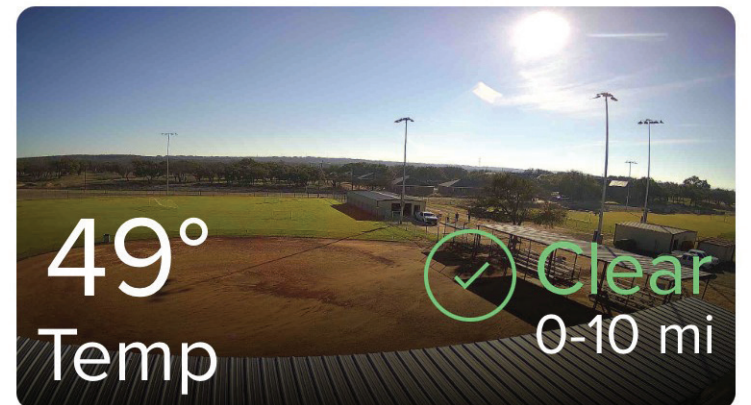
COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Sports Complex has added an online alert system that will inform park patrons about weather conditions ahead of games or practice.

Gatesville Sports Complex

perry weather

Updated 2/6/2024, 9:35 AM



Current Conditions				Hourly Precipitation		
54.0° WBGT	2 Wind	0" Precip	49° Feels	10 AM 0%	11 AM 0%	12 PM 0%



Trinity Baptist Church

A Church That Cares

Bible Study at 9:45 am
Worship:
First service at 8:15 a.m.
Second service at 11:00 a.m.

Bro. Sam Crosby,
Pastor

1506 W. Main Street
Gatesville, TX
Church 865-8495
Pre-school 248-0041

Mission Statement:

"For the glory of God, we exist to make fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ by every means possible."

CORYELL HEALTH AWARDED FIVE-STAR QUALITY RATING BY CMS



COURTESY PHOTO

Coryell Health recently received a five-star patient survey rating by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). According to Lauren Shelton, Chief Quality Officer at Coryell Health, CMS rates hospital systems from one to five stars to provide the public with an easy-to-understand summary of hospital quality. The rating stems from a patient survey that measures a patient's experience with their hospital care. Learn more about CMS hospital ratings by visiting [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)

Pedestrian dies after fatal crash in Coryell County

Staff Reports

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to a major crash on Interstate 14 (I-14) MM 279 between a pedestrian and one vehicle on Friday, Feb. 2, around 4:35 a.m.

According to a press release by Texas DPS, a 42-year-old Harker Heights woman, who was driving a 2023 Dodge Durango, was traveling westbound in the left lane on I-14.

A 38-year-old woman from Killeen was allegedly walking in the left lane of the interstate, according to the investigating trooper.

The Durango collided with the Killeen woman who was killed on impact and pronounced dead at the scene, Texas DPS states.

State police say next of kin have been notified. The crash investigation is still active and open.

"Texas DPS reminds pedestrians to obey all traffic laws when walking along the roadway. Pedestrians are required by Texas law to walk along a roadway toward traffic," the release states. "Walking in the lanes of travel are prohibited and very dangerous."

HAPPY Valentine's Day

\$30 OFF FULL AUTO DETAIL GIFT CERTIFICATE

www.wildbillsautodetailing.net

Wild Bill's Auto Detailing
2219 E. Main St.
Gatesville, TX 76528

BY APPT. ONLY:
(254) 865-5311
M-F 7-3 & Sat. 8-12

Checks - Cash
Credit Cards - Venmo

MOTTO

FROM PAGE A1



COURTESY PHOTO

Exchange Club members presented 50 framed national motto posters to Jonesboro ISD. Top row, left to right, Lauren Morrell, Marilyn Secret, Willow Holland, Kodii Suggs, Braxton Dossey, Alan Mathis. Front row, left to right, Charli Suggs, and Ashby Barnett.

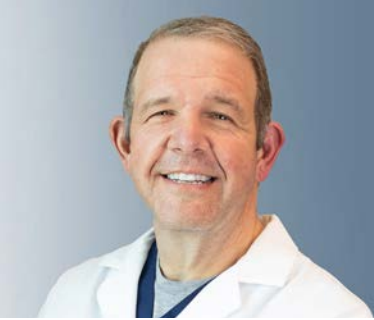
From the Neck Up, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

STAY LOCAL FOR YOUR EAR, NOSE & THROAT NEEDS

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


DR. HOLLAND TREATS:

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




- THYROID PROBLEMS
- SINUS INFECTIONS/NASAL OBSTRUCTION

DR. BRINDLEY SPECIALIZES IN:



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

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





COURTESY PHOTO

From left to right, Oglesby ISD students Drake Le Blanc, Addison Hamilton, Landon Williamson, and Matti Dixon stand with donated posters of the national motto "In God We Trust."

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

When things start downhill it is hard to right the ship



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

This past week was intended to be my vacation. I had been working for quite a few months without a break and determined that some time off was well-advised. Frankly, I was worn out as it had been over three years since I had taken an entire week away from work.

My wife was anxious to get away, so we booked a cruise out of Galveston, which would take us to ports of call in Mexico. My newspaper staff was very supportive of my decision and wished me a happy week of relaxation and fun. My wife and I enjoy cruising. It is relaxing, and we both love the sound of the ocean. Cruising seemed like the solution to all that ailed me, but little did I know what adventures I had coming.

We took off for Galveston on Friday, stopping in Houston at Captain Bennie's, one of our favorite places to eat. My wife and her family have been going to the restaurant for years, so whenever we are in Houston, we look forward to dining there. We made it to Galveston with no issues. The hotel room was fine, and next morning the breakfast at the Sunflower Café was tremendous. We parked our car and checked in at the ship about 1 pm.

and were ready for the ship to launch and start enjoying our vacation.

Unfortunately, it seems that during the previous night, while crossing the Caribbean and on its way back to Galveston, our ship had encountered tumultuous weather. Evidently, the ship passed through a storm so severe and unexpected it caused the ship to list severely. The sea became so rough even the water in the swimming pool was cast out! There was hail and high waves that crashed into the ship from multiple directions. We saw a video on YouTube showing people wearing their life jackets, with furniture and glassware falling from shelves. In conversing with some of the ship's crew, they made it clear there were some issues with the ship because of the storm.

When we arrived at our room, we found the carpet wet and some of the furniture damp. We were on the eighth floor, so the only explanation I can imagine is the wind blew so hard it forced rain under the balcony door. As we visited with other guests, it was ap-

parent other travelers faced similar challenges with their staterooms.

At this point we received an email from the cruise line, explaining the problems they were encountering and assuring us the cruise was not canceled but making everyone aware they had options. Guests could stay on board and receive a \$1,000 onboard credit, or they could leave the boat and receive a full refund, plus receive a free trip on a future cruise. We had our hearts set on making this trip and getting away, but at the same time, tried to be practical. We talked and decided perhaps it would be best to disembark. Who knew what issues the ship might have? Who wanted to be at sea and find out the toilets did not work, or the kitchen was shut down?

Let me be clear, I do not blame the cruise line at all. They were very kind, so much so I felt bad that an act of nature was going to cause them so much expense and trouble. This was simply bad luck all around.

We disembarked the ship and were giggling and

joking about our situation, thinking about how there was no reason to be upset. It was just a little bad luck. We could get back in the car and drive over to San Antonio or Fredericksburg and spend two or three nights and have a very good time. We would get our money back from the cruise and in the future, get a free cruise to boot! We were good troopers and determined to make the best of a bad situation.

Then the other shoe dropped. The cruise line could not find our luggage. With over 8,000 pieces of luggage to sort through, they could not find our two bags prior to the ship departing. We were in Galveston with none of our belongings.

Our hearts sank. With no clothes, toiletries, or my CPAP machine, we would have no choice but to drive home. There would be no cruise, there would be no fun in San Antonio, there would be no "making the best of a bad situation." We simply got in the car and drove home.

I would like to tell you the rest of the week went well

but I can't. A fraudulent bank transaction was uncovered, and I spent a portion of my time getting that issue resolved. I fell down a stairway, but fortunately was not injured other than a few bruises and a blow to my pride. We did decide to go the stock show but got called back home because my beloved Miss Jayne had been taken to the hospital. Fortunately, she is back in her residence and doing fine. Perhaps the highlight of the week was cleaning out the garage. Now, that is some vacation!

Right now, I am thinking that going back to work seems relaxing.

Thought for the day: Write your bad luck on the sand of a beach, chisel your blessings on a piece of granite stone.

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

What to know about renting out property for the eclipse

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The total solar eclipse that will pass directly over Central Texas is less than two months away, and hotels in Gatesville are already booked out or charging around \$800 per night for the weekend before April 8.

For those considering giving visitors a place to stay by renting out a spare room, RV, or vacation home, there are a few things to consider before putting a property up for short-term rental. Alisa Gregory, a local realtor and property manager, provides a few tips on how to prepare and protect your space.

Popular platforms that allow people to turn their homes into short-term vacation rentals include Airbnb and VRBO. Regardless of where a property is posted online, Gregory recommends that potential guests fill out an application or complete a screening before owners approve their stay.

"I would definitely say that they need to do an application, and I don't know if they're going to rent a room out, but I would definitely do a criminal background (check)," Gregory said.

Platforms like VRBO and Airbnb provide a guest verification process that scans government IDs, names, address, and other personal information, according to their websites.

Gregory also advises making the property rental ready by ensuring everything works properly and there are no safety hazards, such as servicing the air conditioning unit or mending any leaks.

Along with investing in insurance, Gregory recommends creating a checklist of the condition of the space before guests arrive to protect the property from any damage.

"They can make their own kind of checklist to

make sure those items are how they are before a renter moves in," Gregory said.

For further protection, Gregory advises including a security deposit as well as a cleaning and pet fee in the booking.

Some rental platforms, such as Airbnb and VRBO, will provide at least \$1,000,000 in liability insurance at no cost in case a guest is injured, or their belongings are damaged or stolen.

Gregory warns both visitors and renters to watch out for rental scams, which can include someone posting your property on another website and charging a different amount for the room or home. One way to avoid potential scams is to post the space on a reputable website or platform, she explains.

"As an owner, I would just watch where I advertise at," Gregory said. "I wouldn't blast it on a whole slew of things, so that way you can keep up with it."

Gatesville Police Chief Brad Hunt, who has been leading public education topics in preparation for the eclipse, wants to remind owners to lock up their valuables and remove any personal items from the space that they choose to rent out to guests.

"Even if it's a spare house, you don't want to have things like mail or family pictures about, because even if you do know the renters you might not

know who else is visiting," Hunt said. "If they're from out of state coming through a service you don't know who those folks are - just to be as safe as you can."

If someone plans to rent out a spare RV or camper, Hunt said city regulations claim it cannot be parked on public streets if some-

one is staying in the vehicle. If the camper is leased on private property, it must be hooked to a city sewer, according to the city ordinances.

"It can't be on the street, but it can be on your private property if you have some way where you're able to hook it up to your sanitary sewer," Hunt said.

Residents and visitors can learn more about lodging options for the upcoming eclipse by visiting <https://www.gatesvillexclipse.com/lodging-camping>

"We don't want to interfere with anyone's plans; we just want them to do it in a safe and legal way," Hunt said.



SUDOKU

Puzzle solution from Feb. 3.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Sarah Vincent

Say hello to our neighbor, Sarah Vincent!

Sarah is the officer manager for Mission Righteous Roots and has been there for a year now. She admits that the most fulfilling aspect of her job is bearing witness to the transformative touch of Jesus in the lives of those who are hurting or broken. "Serving as the first point of contact when people enter, I have the privilege of observing the entire spectrum of their experiences, struggles, triumphs, and the profound healing brought by Jesus," Vincent said. "Being part of a process that addresses the root of their issues and witnessing such powerful transformations makes my role exceptionally rewarding." She has lived within the community her entire life and was born and raised here. "My favorite aspect of Gatesville is witnessing the growth over the years, while many perceive growth as solely in terms of physical expansion and a growing population, I view it more positively," Vincent said. "Observing a community uniting with a shared vision for the common good, setting aside differences to bring about genuine change is truly inspiring."

Sarah reads The Gatesville Messenger and expressed how she loves its commitment to delivering authentic news to the community. "The newspaper's unwavering dedication to presenting the truth in every aspect of its reporting is both genuine and commendable," Vincent said.

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



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

Director of Operations
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

DEADLINES:

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

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

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

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

(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.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

A joke from the 20th Century...



BY DR. DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks publicly throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

It's an old joke from the 1990s, pulled from the files each time the Super Bowl rolls around.

Late Congressman Charles Stenholm, a distinguished Christian statesman from Ericksdahl (near Stamford) popularized the yarn in Texas, claiming it originated in Washington, DC. It was during more civil times, when Republicans and Democrats not only talked to each other, but shared jokes across the aisle.

That the joke has whiskers is further linked to the

"good old days" because it was shared at Super Bowls featuring the Dallas Cowboys. It was back when there was little argument but that the Cowboys were "America's team." Yes indeed, it was a LONG time ago.

Here's the joke: The youth minister of a church put up signs all over town inviting youth to attend a Super Bowl party. There'd be sandwiches and cookies

for all. Hours before the party, he grew antsy, fearing they'd run out of food before they ran out of "takers."

As a precaution, he prepared a hasty sign for the sandwich table. It read: "Please take no more than two sandwiches. Remember, God is watching you."

When he exited, a junior high kid slipped in, noticing the stark request on the sandwich table sign.

He decided to make a sign of his own for the cookie table.

It read: "Take all the cookies you want — God is watching the sandwiches."

During the recent Christmas/New Year's bowl season, James and Jeanie Williamson and their family gathered at their daughter's home in Houston. Mary and her hubby, Justin, have a spacious home, complete with all kinds of kitchen paraphernalia, the kind Justin, an accomplished cook, deems important. During the visit, Mary and her

sister-in-law, Sarah, busied themselves with small talk.

Thinking it may have been misplaced or somehow relocated by the Cornetts' five children, Mary asked, "Where is the sugar bowl?"

Pausing, Sarah answered, "I think it's in New Orleans." Justin, as well as Sarah's hubby, John Williamson, and the grandchildren made great sport about the exchange, deciding that the small talk had grown even smaller.

Their laughter perhaps lessened Sarah's shade of red, but powers that be at Texas Christian and Baylor Universities should be blushing about mystifying boo-boo's concerning their basketball playing floors.

Both are obvious to fans who have witnessed home games of both Baylor and TCU.

Let's take the two issues one at a time....

At TCU, the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum is state-of-the-art after a recent multi-million-dollar facelift.

Overall, the re-do is mag-

nificent. The floor pattern may be a work of art, but to the hordes of us who'd prefer to follow the game without risking sea sickness, it is lacking. Trying to follow the players and fast ball movement induces dizziness, the artwork appearing to be ocean waves shortly before storms brew. It may win a prize at the art show, but it is hard on TV viewers.

Social media is buzzing with unhappiness with TV coverage at Baylor's new \$212 million Foster Pavilion, where the Bears now play basketball. Fans say no provisions were made for TV cameras' placement for horizontal shots. Cameras are decidedly directed downward, the effect somewhat lessened by "zooming in."

At a time in history when both Baylor and TCU are combatants in big-time sports with big-time budgets and the big-time glitz that goes with such emphases, changing floor designs and finding new areas dedi-

cated to TV cameras should be "slam dunks."

Somehow, reference to colors brings to mind a tale attributed to my late Uncle John Harper, who was in law enforcement much of his life.

He often parked near a newly painted STOP sign. The black letters shined boldly against a brilliant red background. There, he ticketed and lectured motorists failing to come to complete stops. One driver objected, maintaining that he had merely "oozed through" the intersection.

"S-T-O-P don't spell 'ooze,'" Uncle John countered, handing him a citation.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured are the members of the Oglesby Lions Club who host the Rattlesnake Roundup event each year. The officers include President Ryan Basham, Vice President Willie Smith, Secretary Nancy Kepple, and Treasurer Ted Tatum.

Rattlesnake Roundup set for Feb. 24-25

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Oglesby Lions Club will host the 54th annual Rattlesnake Roundup, which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, and Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Oglesby Community Center.

Admission to the event is five dollars at the door with cash or card as payment, and children under the age of six are free.

The event will feature educational snake demonstrations, a vendor fair, live entertainment, and plenty of activities.

Breakfast will be provided each morning at the community center from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The vendor fair will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, and from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25.

There will be a train ride, tractor pulls, a carriage ride, games, and many more activities, along with a car show and a commu-

nity blood drive to be held during the day on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Spaces are still available for vendors. To become a vendor, email oglesbyrattlesnake@gmail.com.

World famous snake handler Jackie Bibby, also known as "The Texas Snakeman," will be present once again to demonstrate his skills when handling and dealing with the venomous snakes. Bibby has spent over 50 years handling rattlesnakes and holds five world records. According to Bibby, he got his start at rattlesnake roundups in Texas.

"I've been bitten twelve times over the years," Bibby said.

Despite the danger, he continues to entertain the crowds with his skills and knowledge.

The time and dates for the live snake demonstrations include:

On Saturday, Feb. 24: 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4

p.m.
On Sunday, Feb. 25: 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.

There will be a concession stand for food and beverages provided by multiple vendors which will include tacos, funnel cakes, snow cones, egg rolls, and more.

Live entertainment will be provided during both days of the event. On Saturday, Feb. 24, the Brazos Valley Cloggers will perform from 10-11 a.m., and Ed Leonard & Friends will play from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 25, Tell Runyan will perform from 1-4 p.m.

Snake registration will begin at 7 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, and no snakes will be registered after 10 a.m. on Sunday. The fee for registration will cost five dollars and a safety pledge must be signed along with providing a correct hunter's license.

No professional snake hunters will be allowed.

When the first rattlesnake

roundup occurred in 1970, more than 100 snakes were captured by 22 parties of daring snake hunters. The big winner of the day was Ralph Patterson of Levita who received a prize for catching the longest snake and the most pounds of snakes during a two-day hunt. Patterson received a \$100 cash prize as well as a couple of trophies.

The event was first created by the Oglesby Lion Club as a fundraiser for the community. The club uses fundraisers to create proceeds, which go back to the community, to the school, and to the Lions Club Eye Bank.

The annual event will be located at the Oglesby Community Center at 118 Main St. in Oglesby.

For further details, contact 469-450-4973 or email oglesbyrattlesnakeroundup@gmail.com.

Coryell City/Osage VFD to host soup fundraiser Feb. 10

Staff Reports

The Coryell City/Osage Volunteer Fire Department will host a fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 6-8 p.m.

The fundraiser will feature a variety of soups including beef soup, chili, cornbread, crackers, potato soup, taco soup, as well as beverages.

The cost for a pint, or a carry-out order, will be six dollars, and all you can eat will cost \$10.

Donations are appreciated, as all proceeds will benefit the Coryell City/Osage VFD.

For more information, contact 254-230-8758. The fundraiser will be located at 301 CR 255 in Gatesville, 10 miles east of Gatesville on FM 929 across from St. John's Lutheran Church in Coryell City.

Great big outdoor sculptures



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Joe Barrington, of Albany, creates outdoor metal sculptures. "One of my favorite pieces I ever built is in Lampasas. It's a sixteen-foot catfish on the back of a 1959 Chevrolet pickup. The fish hangs over the cab and has a come along on it and looks like it's just been caught."

He did an immense longhorn bull standing in a pasture near Highway 380 between Haskell and Throckmorton. The silhouette takes drivers by surprise. "That's one of the more popular pieces I've built. It was commissioned by a local rancher who had me build two fourteen-foot bulls. Then he told me he wanted a larger one. We put it out there with no ceremony or anything, and it got immediate attention.

Lots of photographs are taken there. It's been listed as a Roadside Attraction in Texas and got a lot of publicity for me. You can see it from two miles away, because it's twenty-four feet tall. I could actually stand up in the chest cavity when I was building it."

He creates large deer skulls twelve feet across that are found in pastures all over Texas. "I build a lot of giant, Texas iconic things like roadrunners and

horned toads. In Willow Park near Weatherford is a large gar twenty feet tall standing on its tail." His work is found in several states from North Carolina to California. He grew up in his daddy's welding shop in Throckmorton. He had his own welding hood when he was two years old.

In college, he studied art. "The professor found out I did welding, and when I asked what the assignment was, he said 'build me something.' I built an oversized set of tools that included pliers, a screwdriver and sledge hammer. I was able to sell some things while I was in college at Midwestern. That led me to be naïve enough to think that I could build sculptures for a living after I graduated."

It took a while. He worked with his dad six years, all the time creating and showing his work at art shows. "About the time I was struggling with it, I had a guy from North Carolina call me two years after I did a show up there. He said he buys ten thousand dollars worth of

art a year and wanted some of my pieces. That's what I was after: getting them out there. That is what I tell young artists: to keep building and putting it out there. You've just got to be determined."

His Red Star Studio in Albany is also his home. He has no plans to retire. "I get antsy if I don't work on something. I go on vacation for a week or so then I'm ready to make something. I may carve on a piece of wood or draw. I feel like, if you're an artist, you have that motivation. You've got the fuel and you've got to use it by creating something. If you don't have that, it's not going to work. You've got to have the drive. In my dream world, I could stay in my studio and make things I want to do, put them outside the studio, and wait for people to come and buy them. It doesn't work that way. If you keep producing good work consistently, you'll find a way to make a living with it."

Coryell Health to host Health & Recruiting Fair Feb. 21

Staff Reports

Local hospital Coryell Health will host a Health and Recruiting Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 21. The fair will be held in the public conference room on floor two of the Coryell Health facility from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The fair will feature free screenings, including: pulmonary function testing, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), cholesterol testing, and more.

Job recruiting will include Ideal Protein, Advanced Wound Care, Cardiology, etc.

There will be door prizes and raffle drawings as well as snacks and refreshments.

For more information, contact Coryell Health at 254-865-8251.

Coryell Health is located at 1507 W. Main St. in Gatesville.

Gatesville Public Library to hold genealogy class through February

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Public Library is offering the community a chance to experience its brand-new genealogy class.

The class is for community members who are interested in discovering the depths of genealogy. Participants will learn about resources the library provides as well as how to navigate other resources within Coryell County.

The first classes were held on Friday, Jan. 19, and Friday, Feb. 2, where community members were introduced to online research and discussed information on Coryell County websites and resources.

The last class will be held on Friday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m., and will entail how to navigate ancestry and state library archives.

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

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

HILLSIDE HOSTS CHILI COOKOFF



COURTESY PHOTO

Hillside Medical Lodge held its annual chili cook-off this past week. The judges of the event were Pamela Rudolph with The Gatesville Senior Center, Tana Snoddy with The Feed Mill and Barebones Barbeque, and Hillside's very own resident Robert Noyes. The winners of the cook-off (left to right) are Nikole Tatum, first place; Robert Noyes, second place; and Tabitha Tippit, third place.



A better way to send your message



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Advertise with us

254-865-5212

JOHNSON VETERINARY SERVICES

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

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION
Sale Every Saturday • Cattle at Noon
Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024
Jody & Robin Thomas (254)223-2958

No. 1 Steers	
Under 300 lb.	300-410
300-400 lb.	340-405
400-500 lb.	270-370
500-600 lb.	260-315
600-700 lb.	240-285
700-800 lb.	225-260

No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	275-335
300-400 lb.	275-330
400-500 lb.	260-305
500-600 lb.	220-260
600-700 lb.	215-245
700-800 lb.	190-220

Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	105-119
Low Yielding	80-95
Fats	95-100
Thin & Shelly	50-70

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	110-135

Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	2000-2650
Young Fair	1600-2000
Aged Pairs	Split & weighed

Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	900-1950

Number of Head	1140
-----------------------	------

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

Clifton Livestock Commission LLC

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

SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON

2-7-24 SALE	
Weigh Bulls	70-125
Weigh Cows	75-110

#1 Type Steers		#1 Type Heifers	
200-300 lb.	310-365	200-300 lb.	300-330
301-400 lb.	320-372.50	301-400 lb.	285-350
401-500 lb.	270-343	401-500 lb.	250-297.50
501-600 lb.	265-317	501-600 lb.	230-245
601-700 lb.	228-287	600-700 lb.	210-241

Cow Calf Pairs 1750-2750
Bred Cows No Test
Replacement Bulls No Test

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

One More Time

*If I had just one more time!
If I only knew this would be the last time!
Sometimes you're not given one more time!
If I had one more time to tell you I love you!
If I had one more time to tell you I'm sorry!
If I had one more time to hold you!
If I had one more time to hug you!
If I had one more time to kiss you!
God does not promise us one more time!
Life is not promised to us for one more time!
So we must use our one more time wisely.
So tell those you love, "I love you!"
So tell those you have hurt that you are sorry.
So hug those that need comfort!
So kiss those you hold dearly!*

*Always remember there may not be one more time!
Always remember this might be the last time!*

*God promised you "eternal life," not "one more time."
Don't waste your "one more time."*

In Loving memory of Boone Wilkinson

Your Father, Tim Wilkinson

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of January 31 - February 6. 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. 31
 1:46 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Avenue C.
 10:24 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
 4:14 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 10000 block of FM 116.
 8:06 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of Golf Course Road.
Feb. 1
 12:48 a.m., wanted/stolen (person/property) was reported in the 500 block of East Leon Street.
 11:07 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Park Street.
 1:30 p.m., wanted/stolen (person/property) was reported in the 3200 block of South State Highway 36.
 9:39 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of South State Highway 36 Bypass.
Feb. 2
 8:56 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2300 block of East Main Street.
 11:39 a.m., fraud was reported in the 1200 block of West Main Street.
 12:08 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 250 block of Carroll Drive.
 10:54 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Hay Valley Road.
Feb. 3
 6:48 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.
 7:02 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.

8:28 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of North 27th Street.
 11:23 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Spindletop Street.
Feb. 4
 8:22 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 1000 block of Scenic Drive.
 11:34 a.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 400 block of Liberty Street.
 12:26 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 250 block of Carroll Drive.
 4:20 p.m. an accident was reported in the 100 block of FM 1602.
Feb. 5
 4:03 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.
 7:54 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of North 7th Street.
 1:57 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Park Lane.
 6:39 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1200 block of East Main Street.
Feb. 6
 4:53 p.m., a theft was reported in the 400 block of North State Highway 36 Bypass.
 5:04 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1800 block of Bridge Street.
 6:01 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of South State Highway 36 Bypass.
 9:56 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of East Main Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jan. 31
 12:28 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2400 block of North FM 116.
 2:25 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 1000 block of County Road 334.
 3:13 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on FM 116 North Bound & Bald-Knob Road.
 4:06 p.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 3000 block of Clay Drive.
Feb. 1
 10:40 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of Cromeans Road.
 12:50 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Highway 190.
 2:36 p.m., fraud was reported in the 600 block of County Road 355.
 4:08 p.m., animal neglect was reported in the 360 block of Slater Road.
Feb. 2
 1:18 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on South Highway 36 and Henson Creek.
 3:31 p.m., a welfare concern was reported on Highway 281 at Evant School.
 7:29 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Old Osage Road.
 10:58 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 2300 block of Hay Valley Road.
Feb. 3
 11:14 a.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 1300 block of East Leon Street.
 11:49 a.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 8600 block of East

Highway 84.
 11:54 a.m., found livestock reported in the 4300 block of FM 1113.
 1:44 p.m., a road hazard was reported in the 1400 block of Straws Mill Road.
Feb. 4
 10:14 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1100 block of Indian Creek Road.
 10:31 a.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 700 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
 11:35 a.m., shots fired reported in the 400 block of Liberty.
 4:49 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 3100 block of FM 1113.
Feb. 5
 7:47 a.m., property damage reported in the 500 block of East Leon Street.
 10:24 a.m., illegal dumping reported in the 900 block of County Road 118.
 11 a.m., harassment reported in the 300 block of Baize Drive.
 12:01 p.m., animal neglect reported in the 100 block of Knowles Road.
Feb. 6
 8:11 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 500 block of County Road 339.
 9:13 a.m., a reckless driver was reported North Bound on FM 116, north of Pidcoke.
 4:03 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 311 near church.
 8:16 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on South Highway 36/North Bound.



COURTESY PHOTO

Art exhibition set for April 6 in Gatesville.

City of Gatesville to host Art Exhibition

Staff Reports

The City of Gatesville will host an art exhibition called Art in the Shadow Saturday, April 6. The event will be held at Leaird's Furniture & Appliance at 10 a.m. The city encourages the entire community, regardless of age, to submit their artwork for selection by a committee in an art exhibition centered around the state of Texas and the upcoming solar eclipse. Selected artists will be invited to display their work during the Block out the Sun Party for the solar eclipse. The theme for the art exhibition will be anything related to Texas, the eclipse, Gatesville, or Coryell County. Artists are expected to explore various elements, including: landscapes, culture, history, landmarks, people, and unique aspects that make this region special. Multiple art forms will be accepted such as painting, drawing, photography, and sculptures, and artists may submit up to five pieces. The artwork submitted does not have to be new but must be original. All the entries must have a brief description highlighting the inspiration and relevance to the theme of the exhibition.

Submission guidelines include:

- Paintings and drawings should be ready for display and framed if necessary.
- Sculptures should be easily transportable and not exceed 30 inches.
- Photographs can be submitted either as prints or in digital form, adhering to the specified technical requirements.

To place your submission, email your artwork to candypetpalacevents@gmail.com. Be sure to upload the images of your work, ensuring they meet the specified qualifications as well as providing a brief artist biography and description of each piece submitted. The deadline for submission will be on Friday, March 1.

This event aims to foster creativity, showcase local talent, and bring people together through various art forms. Visitors will have an opportunity to appreciate the event, connect with artists, and may even purchase artwork during the exhibition. This event serves as a platform for local artists to showcase their talent, engage with the community, and celebrate the remarkable features of this state, event, and community. For more information, contact the City of Gatesville at 254-865-8951. Leaird's Furniture & Appliance is located at 108 S. 6th Street in Gatesville.

GATESVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Welcome New Members:

Prestige Flight Production
 Rafter D Environmental, LLC • Neutek Solutions
 Gatesville Senior Center • Scott's Funeral Home
 Capital Title • Centex Health Insurance
 Elevate Hydration • Qwik Pack & Ship
 FAFO Farms TX • Jones Materials, LLC
 Cover2Cover Ministries • Gribble Construction
 Roam Roof & Solar • Diversified Payments
 Boots N Saddle Cowboy Church
 Whitney's Barbershop • Vision Concepts
 GSA254 Sports

Visit us at www.Gatesvilletx.info

Gatesville 2307 HWY. 36 SOUTH
 SPUR CAPITAL OF TEXAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GATESVILLE, TX 76528
 254-865-2617

MEMBER 2024

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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. The first class will take place on Thursday, Feb. 22, with the last being Thursday, May 21. Gatesville Police Chief Brad Brunt expressed that for now the academy is

limited to those who live or work within the city limits to accommodate the number of students attending each course. Classes will be held each Thursday from 6-9 p.m., with one session conducted at the shooting range. 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.

Serving All Of Central Texas Area

FERGUSON ROOFING

Locally Owned Company

Free Estimates
 Call 254-466-5128

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

BASTROP DENTURE AND IMPLANT CENTER

NOW OFFERING "Standard Dental Implants" for \$995

Walk-ins Welcome

CHECK OUR WEBSITE bastropdentureandimplant.com

For Information And Prices

FREE Consultation

Call For Appointment

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

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

Hours M-F 7am - 3pm

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

YOU CAN TRUST THE MESSENGER

SUBSCRIBE OR ADVERTISE
 254 • 865 • 5212

OBITUARIES

Keith Meaders

Aug. 4, 1961-Feb. 3, 2024

Keith Meaders, age 62, of Gatesville, passed away at home, surrounded by his family on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at the Gatesville Church of Christ with Minister Justin Hall officiating. Interment followed at King Cemetery. Keith's family received visitors from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Keith Alan Meaders was born on August 4, 1961 to the late Norm and Sherrell Everett Meaders in Killeen, Texas. He attended school in Gatesville, graduating from Gatesville High School in 1979. After graduation, he worked for Sim's Cabinets where he learned carpentry skills that led him to create his own business, working alongside Jimmie and Kayli Cummings. He met the love of his life, Susan Lee, and the two were married on June 23, 1984, making their home in Gatesville. Keith loved playing all kinds of sports, including basketball, tennis, and racquetball, but most of all, he loved being there for his children as they followed their own dreams and passions. He loved being a son, brother, uncle, and husband, but being a daddy and pawpaw were some of the best moments of his life! Spending time with his family meant more than anything. Keith enjoyed being outdoors, swimming in



the creek, and working with his dogs and farm animals. All who knew him will miss his smile and contagious laughter. Keith was a member of the Gatesville Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Norm Meaders and Sherrell Broom; sister, Peggy; and brother, David.

Keith is survived by his wife, Susan Meaders; children, Seth Meaders and wife, Britney, Nicholas Meaders and wife, Rachel, and Tristen Meaders and fiancé, Garrett Lowe; sisters, Ramona Cox and husband, Gary, Kelly Grant and husband, Weldon, and Belinda Duncan and husband, Peter; brother, Terry Meaders and wife, Elizabeth; and grandchildren, Eli Meaders and Baker Meaders.

In lieu of flowers, Keith's family requests memorials be made to the Big Sting, 3417 Imperial Dr., Gatesville, TX 76528, or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Melva Jane Lightsey

April 16, 1937 - Feb. 2, 2024

Melva Jane Lightsey, age 86, of Jonesboro, passed away on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, in Gatesville.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10, at Jonesboro Baptist Church, with Rev. Matt Dossey officiating. Interment will follow at Jonesboro Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 6 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9, at Scott's Funeral Home.

Melva Jane Lightsey was born on April 16, 1937, in Pidcoke, to the late George Truett and Susie Queenberry Lightsey. Melva grew up in Jonesboro and graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1955. Melva attended Baylor University, Tarleton State University, and graduated from The University of Texas, with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1959. After completing her degree, she taught school in Gatesville, New Braunfels, Lubbock, and Jonesboro. In 1968, Melva enrolled in Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth and graduated with a Master of Religious Education in 1970. From 1970-1973, Melva was a missionary for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Iowa, Virginia, and Georgia. From 1973-1977, Melva was a school principal and teacher for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home. Melva then returned home to Jonesboro and taught at Jonesboro School until retiring in 2001.

Melva loved her Lord, her family, and the Jonesboro



community. She loved teaching in Jonesboro schools and cherished her church and church family at Jonesboro Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for many years.

Melva is preceded in death by her brother, Joe Truett Lightsey; sister-in-law, Flo Lightsey; and brother-in-law, Nathaniel (Sonny) Foote, Jr.

She is survived by her sisters, Paula Foote and Sue Lightsey; nephews, Than Foote and wife, Traci; Joe Foote and wife, Crystal; great-nieces, Hallie Foote, and Bracy Foote; and great-nephews, Wade Foote, Truett Foote, and Pate Foote.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Melva Jane Lightsey Outstanding Scholar Award, the Jonesboro Cemetery Association, or the charity of your choice.

Jonesboro Independent School District, 14909 E State Hwy 36, Jonesboro, TX 76538

Jonesboro Cemetery Association, 2415 CR 194, Jonesboro, TX 76538.



COURTESY PHOTO

The great-granddaughters of Mamie Franks pictured (from left to right) Laura, Jennifer, and Caroline who pieced together the quilt blocks left to them by their grandmother.

PEARL NEWS

A meaningful quilt



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

I am so excited to share an email I received from Caroline Conner Sparks, a young lady with strong Pearl ties, regarding a very special quilt and The Pleasure and Profit Club. Caroline gave me permission to share this letter and pictures with you, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I have:

Hello,
My father John H Conner III forwarded your Pearl News to me. Mary (Mamie) Franks and her daughters Jane Franks and Merle Franks Conner were members. Merle Franks Conner is my grandmother. Several years ago, my grandmother gave me quilt squares that belonged to Mamie and were from the Pleasure and Profit Club. Members had completed a square each and embroi-

dered their names on it, but it was never pieced into a quilt. My sisters and I worked together to piece and quilt it to finish the project our great-grandmother Franks had begun. I have attached a picture of the finished quilt. The other picture was when my sisters and I were working on it. (left to right: Laura, Jennifer, and me-Caroline).

The women who embroidered their names on

squares:

Coma Jones*
Ona Jones*
Vera*
Marie Kelley*
Mrs. Herring*
Henrietta*
Myrtle*
Eula Mae Cox*
Faye Witt*
Ora Mae*
Selma Lacy*
Erma Lee*
Bonnie Brown*

A few squares were empty without names.

I love to read your writings about the club. It's wonderful to feel close to these women who shaped the woman I am today!

Kindest Regards,
Caroline (Conner) Sparks

*(These ladies were members in the mid 1930's and into the 1940's, and most of them still have relatives in the Pearl/Evant areas.)

To say I was thrilled to have received this letter and the pictures is an understatement. Many of you may have your own stories

about the ladies of The Pleasure and Profit Club, and I hope you will feel free to share. These ladies took care of the community of Pearl in many ways for many, many years, such as the Pearl School needs, the cemetery, and those who were sick or in need. We are blessed to have such a legacy, and I know it inspires you and I to be the kinds of giving and caring women as were our ancestors. Thank you, Caroline, and it is a joy to see that the apple does not fall far from the tree!

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page, and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page! Please submit any Pearl news to betsy-clark47@yahoo.com

"Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her, 'There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!'"
Proverbs 31:28,29

Righteous Roots in need of donations for Total Eclipse meal

Staff Reports

With the Total Eclipse coming to Coryell County, Righteous Roots has announced that it will host a meal for the community during the weekend of Friday, April 5, through Monday, April 8.

There will be four meals served to over 200 people as well as having information shared about the services of Righteous Roots, victims' rights, and Jesus.

Righteous Roots is currently in need of donations, whether that be volunteer work or items for the meal.

Ways to donate include:
- Sign-up to purchase some of the non-perishable items on the list and bring them by Righteous Roots' facility.
- Coordinate the people in your circle or church to bake items in one of the needed categories.
- Volunteer to help Righteous Roots on the weekend of the Total Eclipse by aiding in the downtown festival, prepare and serve the meal, or monitor the parking lot for paid parking on Saturday, April 6.
List of items prepared/cooked items:

- Fruit salad, four big bowls.
- Cookies, 10 dozen.
- Brownies, 10 dozen.
- Rice Krispie Treats, 10 dozen.
- Texas Sheet Cake, 6 cakes.
- Pies, 20 of any kind that does not have to be refrigerated.
- Cornbread, 10 pans.
- Soup/Chili, enough to feed 100 people.

- Salad, lettuce, and vegetables of your choosing, premixed, enough to feed 150 people.

Items are to be dropped off at the Righteous Roots building by 9 a.m. on Friday, April 5.

There are also a number of items needed, including gloves, drinks, food items/condiments and more. Contact Righteous Roots for a list of those items.

Be sure to drop off the items to Righteous Roots as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, March 29.

For more information, contact Righteous Roots at 254-651-3600.

Righteous Roots is located at 904 E. Leon St. in Gatesville.

Shops • Garages • Houses • Agriculture • Commercial

405-595-0770

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

With 4" Concrete, Fully Insulated,
1- Commercial Overhead Door,
1 Entry Door, #1 29 Ga. 48yr. Painted Metal, Built on your level site.
Additional Sizes Available, Mileage or Higher Concrete Prices May Apply.

Gober Post Frame Buildings

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

www.goberconstruction.com

FISH DAY!

IT'S TIME TO STOCK YOUR POND!

Delivery Will Be:

Wed., Feb. 21
WACO

2:00pm-2:45pm at
Brazos Feed & Supply

GATESVILLE
4:00pm-4:45pm at
Coryell Feed & Supply

Thurs., Feb. 22
COPPERAS COVE
7:30am-8:15am at
D&D Feed Store

"LIKE" us on Facebook!

FISH WAGON

To Place An Order Call
1-800-643-8439
www.fishwagon.com

Get your message HEARD!



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



Advertise with us
254-865-5212

ADOPT LOCAL GATESVILLE ANIMAL SHELTER



Come meet your new best friend!

We have many loving dogs who need a family to love them back.

FOR INFO: 254-865-2226

MOUND NEWS

The Brase/Shepherd families welcome a baby boy



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Little Mr. Malachi Ezekiel Shepherd was born Jan. 11 to Brittani and Shawn Shepherd at St. David's Medical Center Hospital in Austin. The baby's weight was eight pounds, twelve ounces, and he was twenty-one inches long.

Malachi has an older brother, Samuel Shepherd. Malachi is the grandson of Kathy Brase, and the great-grandson of Pete and Jo Curtis, of Leon Junction. Malachi also has an aunt, Staci Kinnear, and several cousins, Elli, Jenson, and Molli Kinnear, of Leon Junction. A memorial service for

Amelia Flores was held Monday at the Davidson Cemetery. She was raised on Sterlin and Mary Jane Barnard's place in Leon Junction. Mound Cowboy Church had a meal for the family afterward. Don and Sue Jones took Steve and Kay Branham out for lunch Sunday for their 50th wedding anniversary

at a local restaurant. Also attending were Kelby and Sterlin Shults, Kristen Jones, Alice Fretwell, and Jerry and Vickie Shults.

Jerry and Brenda Helms met Neil and Christy Helms in Hillsboro for dinner Tuesday evening.

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

Carolyn Blakley had dinner in Gatesville Thursday with Will and Becky Coward.

Delecia Reynolds was a lunch guest of Barbara Hopson last Tuesday.

Jeb Dixon and his daughter, Julia Kay Dixon, of Liberty Hill, visited Sunday afternoon in Gatesville and Mound with their relatives.

Donald Scott and Chase Stephens, of Pearland, spent the weekend with Ray and John Stephens.

Those who had birthdays this week were Jonathan, Penny, and Ray August.

Barbara's Notes: HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY EVERYBODY!



COURTESY PHOTO OF MEANINGFUL EATS

Breakfast casserole

January marriage licenses filed at Coryell County Courthouse

Staff Reports

Marriage licenses filed during the month of January 2024 at the Coryell County Clerk's Office included:

- Trace Tyler Ashcraft and Shelby Taylor Otte
- Joe Kenneth Barragan and Nicole Denich
- James Robert Bolton and Tiffany Nichole Sanchez
- Dalton Lee Chancellor and Kameron Carpenter Smith
- Audie Lee Davis and Tay-

- lor Ashley Pierce
- Jonathan Michael Dayton and Melissa Raeann Anderson
- Blake Timothy Ferguson and Maddeline Jean McLendon
- Braxton Lee Galindo and Raygan Anne Stewart
- Keith Anthony Hall and Alexandra Melissa Sales
- James A. Jones and Elvina Faye Perkins
- James Eric Keenan and Akeita Ware
- Terrance Lajuan Miller

- and Kelly Arlene Haywood
- Dave Anthony Rattigan, Jr. and Ija Jadia Johnson
- Alexis Marie Scott and Samara Lynn Whitley
- Charles Mathew Ulvi and Jessica Lynn Delapaz
- Benigno Uribe, Jr. and Stefany Alejandra Ortiz Saenz
- Matias Jacob Vasquez, Jr. and Lucinda Thornton
- Joe Derwood Werthen, Jr. and Victoria Leigh Gomez
- Trenton Lane Wolff and Eric Vaughn Berg

Meals on Wheels in need of drivers

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Meals on Wheels is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals to local, homebound, elderly folks. The federally-funded program provides home-delivered, nutritious meals, which allows seniors to remain living in their own

homes. 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 in Gatesville, and each Wednesday a route to Hamilton is taken. Anywhere from 10 to 14 clients are seen each day per route. To volunteer, contact the Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234 or 208 North Lutterloh Ave.

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@gatesvill messenger.com

Breakfast Casserole

BY DORIS NICHOLS

- 1 lb. regular sausage
- 2 c. milk
- Chopped green pepper to taste
- 6 slices white bread
- Chopped green chilies to taste
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- Chopped onion to taste
- 6-8 med. eggs, slightly beaten
- Chopped celery to taste
- 1 c. sharp cheddar cheese, grated

In skillet, fry sausage and crumble. Drain, reserving 3 tablespoons of grease to sauté onions, peppers, celery, and green chilies. Mix all ingredients together, including crumbled bread and cheese, and place in a 9X13 greased casserole dish. Bake at 350 for 1 hour. Yield: 10 servings.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)
Enrollment in Gatesville schools was at an all-time high of 2,640 students.

Three local juveniles were charged with felony criminal mischief in association with more than \$12,000 in damages done to vehicles at Country Ford dealership.

The Hughes Unit scored 100 percent on all standards under its control on an American Corrections Association accreditation inspection.

The Gatesville Messenger was honored as the Texas Weekly Newspaper of the

Year by the Texas Department of the American Legion.

Coryell County and the National Weather Service were set to sponsor a storm spotter training session.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)
The Coryell County Museum opened its Third Annual February Quilt Show.

An audit of the Coryell County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office continued by the State Comptroller's Office.

The Gatesville Cub Scouts of Pack 277 spent the weekend "Scouting for Food" for

the Gatesville Care Center.

City officials were seeking information regarding damage at the Gatesville Recreation Complex.

Shepard Motors advertised the 1995 Dodge Neon.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)
Gatesville High School sponsored one of this area's largest-ever Red Cross blood drives. A total of 127 units of blood was donated.

Butch Thorp, Gatesville Jaycee member, helped build a concession stand to benefit Gatesville's youth basketball program.

Local Representatives of the Bureau of the Census were set to conduct a survey of employment in this area.

The Exchange Club of Gatesville and the Gatesville Public Library were about to present The Freedom Shrine - a display of 28 historical American documents, photographically reproduced and laminated to non-warping wood plaques with an appropriately engraved plaque of presentation.

Cheri Paul, member of Gatesville High School's FHA/HERO chapter was elected the area's vice presi-

dent of projects.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

The county sheriff vacated his apartment in the jail building, moving into his own home in the wake of actions of unruly jail inmates, including flooding the second floor of the jail, which came through the ceiling, causing extensive damage.

Gatesville native, Dr. Robert J. (Bob) Brown, because the first chairman of the Nuclear Technology Program at Texas State Technical Institute (TSTI).

Sheriff Winfred Cum-

ings announced the hiring of Bobby Joel Dodd Jr. as a new deputy sheriff.

Agriculture Commissioner John C. White announced that Coryell County ranked in the top ten in the state in oat production in 1973.

Gatesville Garden Club members gave the club's half of the profits from the holiday bazaar to the Cultural Activities Committee for its city auditorium remodeling fund.

We'll Buy Your Gold & Silver
Coins, Jewelry, Etc. for Cash!

GOLD & SILVER PRICES

GOLD (XAU/USD 2/8/24).....\$2032.10
SILVER (XAG/USD 2/8/24).....\$22.52

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

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

ZED by Duane M. Abel



Who was Cupid?

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

With Valentine's Day soon upon us, the Valentine Cupid will be making his yearly appearance on greeting cards and advertisements.

Just who was Cupid? Today, he is pictured as a golden-tressed little Cherub carrying a bow and arrow. The arrows were said to represent feelings of love and desire and were aimed and shot at various people causing them to either fall deeply in love, or to fall out of love.



According to Roman mythology, Cupid was born to Mercury, the messenger of the gods, and Venus, who was portrayed as the goddess of love.

The Valentine Cupid we see today, is an interpretation of Eros, the Greek god of love. He was first portrayed as a handsome youth in early poetry and art, but when the Hellenistic period arrived from 323 B.C.E. to 31 B.C.E., he was portrayed as the chubby winged child that we know today.

When viewing Renaissance art, Cupid has been portrayed both as a young man as well as a child.

Valentine's Day started to become more and more popular in the 18th and 19th centuries when the winged Cupid, armed with his bow and arrows, was celebrated for his match-making abilities.

In today's world, Cupid continues to shoot his arrows and is as well-known and recognizable today as he was in

ancient Rome. This Valentine's Day just look around for his image as it appears on nearly every item associated with the romantic holiday. Even though his story dates back thousands of years, his character has evolved with time and remains to be seen as a mascot or iconic symbol for the "Day of Love."

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce announced Anytime Fitness as the February 2024 Business of the Month. The facility received over 60 nominations for the award. Anytime Fitness's gym includes 24-hour access and security, treadmills, squat racks, dumbbells, functional training, and more. Anytime Fitness is located at 1409 E. Main St. To nominate a member of the chamber for Business of the Month, visit <https://www.gatesvillechamber.com/business-of-the-month>.

Applications open for 2024 Miss Springfest pageant

Staff Reports

The Texas Station Event Center will host its annual 2024 Miss Springfest pageant on Friday, March 22, and Saturday, March 23.

The categories for the pageant include:

- Baby Miss, infant to 12 months.
- Tiny Miss, 13 months to two years.
- Little Miss, three years to

five years.

- Sweetheart, six years to nine years.
- Junior Miss, 10 years to 14 years.
- Queen, 15 years to 18 years.

The extra categories will feature the people's choice award and the most photogenic, as well as the \$1,000 scholarship which will be awarded to the queen.

All participants will get

the opportunity to receive a free mini-photo session with CJ Photography.

The early registration deadline is Friday, March 1, and will cost \$50. The last day to register will be Fri-

day, March 15, and it will cost \$60.

To register, or for further details, contact Susie Meelbusch at 254-383-2307.



Business Directory

 <p>WHITT Building Supplies</p> <p>Billy Latham Sales</p> <p>Office (254) 865-2190 Cell: (254) 223-2272 billy@wbsupplies.com</p> <p>1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass Gatesville, Texas 76528</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>R & M Fencing & Dozing</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">FREE ESTIMATES</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Fence Row Clearing Barbed Wire Custom Pipe Fencing Entryways & Corrals Barns & Metal Buildings Residential Fencing Game Fencing Dozer Work Available</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">LARRY RIDDLE 254-248-2205</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOYCE MCADAMS 254-248-4318</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">GOSSETT TRANSMISSION SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P.O. Box 291 • 1900 Main St. Gatesville, TX 76528</p> <p>JIM GOSSETT RAY GOSSETT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">254-865-5791</p>
 <p>5B DOZING & CONSTRUCTION FARM & RANCH</p> <p>DOZER WORK LAND CLEARING STOCK TANKS</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION METAL BUILDINGS WELDING & MORE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TC BROOKSHIRE, OWNER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(254) 223-1817 / (254) 216-9572</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">MID-TEX PLUMBING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Residential & Commercial</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Master Lic. No. M-42617</p> <p style="text-align: center;">midtexplumbing@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tyler Powell 254-223-3551</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Zach Hodges 254-383-6267</p> <p style="text-align: right;">120 Reno Rd. Gatesville, TX 76528</p>	 <p>WHITT Building Supplies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brandon Latham Owner / President</p> <p>1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass Gatesville, Texas 76528</p> <p style="text-align: right;">mobile: 254-223-1723 Office: 254-865-2190</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GRIBS CONSTRUCTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State Certified Installer of Septic Systems</p> <p>BACKHOE & DIRT WORK GRAVEL • ASPHALT ROADS • DRIVES</p> <p>Owner--Gary Gribble</p>  <p>2000 VIOLET LANE GATESVILLE, TX 76528</p> <p style="text-align: right;">254-248-4171</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FERGUSON ROOFING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Serving Central Texas</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Locally Owned Company COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Free Estimates.....254-466-5128</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">O & J SUPERIOR PLUMBING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAMERA LOCATOR RPZ Backflow</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RMP M41774</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeff Tesar Office: (254) 404-2242</p>
 <p>PROGRESSIVE Shawn Camp Insurance, Inc.</p> <p>Home • Auto • Motorcycle • Boat/Personal Watercraft</p> <p>Call Amy or Shawn today for a price quote and insure your peace of mind.</p> <p>2707 E. HWY. 190 COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522 SHAWNCAMPINSURANCE@HOTMAIL.COM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tel 254-865-2002 Fax 254-547-5778</p>	 <p>WHITT Building Supplies</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CHRIS WINKLER SALES</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass Gatesville, Texas 76528</p> <p style="text-align: right;">254.865.2190 Office 254.444.9040 Cell 254.865.9137 Fax chris.winkler@whittbuildingsupplies.com</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">DIXON ROOFING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FREE ESTIMATES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Insurance Claims Specialist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">254.248.4053 P.O. Box 67, Gatesville, TX</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Residential & Commercial</p>

DIRECTORY DISPLAY RATES
3 Months: \$26/week

ANNUAL GATESVILLE LIONS CLUB CHILI SUPPER

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Gatesville Lions Club recently hosted the 47th annual Homer Davis Chili Supper at the Gatesville High School cafeteria with approximately 250 people in attendance. Volunteers from Lone Scouts Troop 272 and two Cub Scouts helped with the event. Chili, soup, bread, and tons of desserts were available for the hungry crowd.



LEAP 

INTO A NEW CAREER AT HILLSIDE!

Full-time
**RN or
LVN**
Night &
Day Shifts
available

We are also hiring:

- **CNAs** – All Shifts
- **Dietary Cook**
5am-1:30pm or
1pm-7:30pm

BENEFITS INCLUDE:
HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION,
COMPETITIVE PAY & 401K.

APPLY AT: HILLSIDEML.COM

HILLSIDE
MEDICAL LODGE

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



SOUP & CHILI FUNDRAISER

Coryell City/Osage VFD
Sat., Feb. 10 • 6-8 P.M.
301 CR 255, Gatesville, Texas
(10 miles East of Gatesville on FM 929, across
from St. John's Lutheran Church in Coryell City)

Menu

**Chili
Beef Soup
Potato Soup
Taco Soup
Cornbread
Crackers
Drinks**

**All-You-Can-Eat
\$10.00**

.....

**Carry-out Prices
Pints \$6.00**

Donations Appreciated!
All proceeds benefit CC/O VFD.
For questions/more info., call (254) 230-8758.

Vernons honored at Gatesville ISD tennis courts

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

At the June 19, 2023 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees meeting, it was announced that the Gatesville High School tennis courts would be named in honor of long-time supporters of the GHS tennis program, Glenn and Sue Vernon.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, over one hundred supporters showed up at the courts to honor Glenn and Sue Vernon. GISD Athletic Director, Rickey Phillips, welcomed those assembled and paid tribute to the Vernons.

Phillips said, "If you are here and don't know Glenn and Sue, they have had a life-long love for tennis and not just for playing the game, but they have shared that love with everybody, players, coaches, community, and they've been doing that for quite some time."

Phillips said that Glenn and Sue Vernon began teaching and coaching tennis back in the 1970's. "What really separates them from a lot of people is that when they take these kids on with lessons, it doesn't stop there. They follow these kids, they travel, they go and watch them in their other sports and other activities. That's the love they have for these kids - not just giving lessons. These kids become their own, and they have travelled countless miles to watch these kids play and perform in tennis, and that speaks a lot about Glenn and Sue."

During the dedication ceremony, speaking on behalf of their former tennis students, Alex Scott, who graduated from GHS last year, spoke about his relationship with Glenn and Sue. "I've known Glenn and Sue

for quite some time. Glenn actually picked me out at a summer tennis camp back when I was younger. Glenn saw some potential in me, and I'm glad he did."

Scott continued, "I just couldn't think of two better people who deserve this more. They're not just great tennis coaches, but they're great people. They're fantastic human beings that will do anything for you." Speaking directly to the Vernons, he said, "You both have been a great inspiration to me, and one day, it is my desire to be like you and carry on teaching tennis."

Sue Vernon, speaking on behalf of her husband, told those assembled, "We're very grateful and humbled by this honor. We never would have dreamed that this would happen. For anyone in the school system that had anything to do with this, we thank you very much - especially the school board for voting to approve this."

"Thank you, parents, for trusting Glenn and me to work with your kids day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year. We've been teaching tennis for a long time, and we couldn't have asked for a better group of parents and kids, especially over the last six years," she said.

She continued, "We've learned that when you spend hours one-on-one for several years with a tennis player, you develop friendships and bonds that go way beyond the tennis court and last a long time."

Vernon concluded by saying, "Tennis players have made our lives better. We thank you for that and we love you and appreciate you very much."



Glenn and Sue Vernon pose with some of their current and former tennis students.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



GISD Athletic Director Rickey Phillips (pictured left) honored Sue and Glenn Vernon for their years of promoting the Gatesville High School tennis program. They were joined by Dr. Barrett Pollard (pictured right).

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Hornets split with Salado and La Vega, still chasing playoff spot

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Thanks to a split in games against Salado and La Vega, Gatesville basketball is still in the hunt for a playoff spot with two regular season games to play.

The Hornets beat Salado 67-47 on Feb. 2, then fell to league-leading La Vega 63-34 on Feb. 6 leaving them 2-6 in district play with games against Robinson and China Spring left on their schedule. There are a variety of scenarios that could still play out for the Hornets:

- Gatesville could finish as the No. 3 seed in the district with wins over the Rockets and the Cougars.

- A loss to Robinson and a win over China Spring would likely mean a district playoff against the Cougars for the No. 4 spot. A win over Robinson and a loss to China Spring would also likely result in a playoff between Gatesville and China Spring for the final spot.

- A pair of losses

would leave the Hornets outside of the postseason. That would leave the Rockets as the No. 3 seed and China Spring in the No. 4 spot.

The final two regular season games are must-wins for Gatesville, and they can look back to the Salado win for evidence of how they play in those situations. A loss to the Eagles would have all but ended Gatesville's playoff hopes -

something not lost on head coach Brit Campbell.

"I thought it was a must-win. So did our guys," Campbell said. "We acknowledged it, talked about it, and then just said 'let's go play.' And that's what we did."

The win over the Eagles was Gatesville's most complete win since non-district as seven players scored with four hitting double-digits. Charlie Winkler and

West Allman had 13 points apiece, while Kase Cox and Scout Hall had ten points each. Amos Phillips had nine points, and Rayshon Smith had eight.

Allman led in rebounding with nine, while Cox had eight and Hall had seven.

The Hornets were helped in large part by a quick start. They raced to a 17-9 first quarter lead that ballooned to 38-22 by half-time. In the fourth, they led

by as many as 24 points.

Winkler's hot hand sparked Gatesville in the first half as the sophomore sharpshooter knocked down a trio of three-pointers in the second quarter. His first triple gave Gatesville a 20-12 lead. Then his second upped the lead to 25-14. Later in the quarter, his third three-pointer was part of an 11-3 run that closed the half for the Hornets.

Scout Hall sparked the Hornet offense in a variety of ways. He picked up a steal and a layup for his first points, then hit a floater, a putback, and a second-half three pointer to complete a 4-for-5 shooting night. Hall and Allman led the team with two steals each.

Allman - Gatesville's leading scorer of the season - opened the scoring for Gatesville with a free throw and an alley-oop dunk in the first quarter, then picked up a steal and another dunk in the fourth to give Gatesville their biggest lead at 64-40.

La Vega has clinched at least a share of the district title and sits at 8-0, while Connally is 6-2. Robinson is 4-4 with Gatesville and China Spring both 2-6 in district. Salado is 1-7.

The Hornets visit Robinson on Feb. 9. Then they finish the regular season at home against the Cougars on Feb. 13.



GHS Basketball players West Allman, Scout Hall, and Charlie Winkler.

CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



O & J SUPERIOR
PLUMBING

CAMERA LOCATOR
RPZ Backflow

RMP M41774

Give us a call for all
your plumbing needs!

Jeff Tesar
Office: (254) 404-2242



Jonesboro Eagles honored with several awards

Submitted Item

Several members of the Jonesboro varsity football team were recognized by the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association's (TSMCA) 2023 All-State and All-Region Football Honor Lists, including Coach Eddie Gallegos as All-Region Coach of the Year for Division 1, Region 4. The full list includes:

Players who earned All-State:

Demarcus Acoff, senior
All District Dynamic Most Valuable Player (DMVP)
All District 1st Team Full-back
All Region DMVP
All Region 1st Team Full-back
All State 1st Team Defensive Line
Texas Six-Man Coaches Association (TSMCA) All Star

Jacob Cisneros, senior
All District 1st Team Running Back
All District 1st Team Safety
All District 2nd Team Punter
All Region 1st Team Running Back
All Region 1st Team Safety
All State 1st Team Safety
TSMCA All Star

Garrett Young, senior
All District 1st Team Cen-

ter
All District 1st Team Cornerback
All Region 1st Team Center
All Region 1st Team Cornerback
All State 2nd Team Cornerback

Layden Nichols, junior
All District 1st Team Linebacker
All District 1st Team Kicker
All District 2nd Team Full-back
All Region 1st Team Kicker
All Region 2nd Team Linebacker
All State 1st Team Linebacker

Austin Massingill, junior
All District 1st Team Tight End
All District 1st Team Noseguard
All Region 1st Team Tight End
All Region 1st Team Noseguard
All State 2nd Team Tight End

Players who earned All-District and All-Region Awards:

Maddox Stroud, junior
All District NCOY
All District 1st Team Tight End
All Region NCOY



COURTESY PHOTO

From left to right, the Jonesboro ISD athletes who received state recognition are Demarcus Acoff, Austin Massingill, Garrett Young, Jacob Cisneros, and Layden Nichols.

All Region 1st Team Tight End

Eric Thorman, junior
All District 1st Team Wide Receiver
All Region 2nd Team Wide Receiver

Nathan Forrest, senior
All District 1st Team Quarterback
All Region 1st Team Quarterback

Luke Stephenson, junior

All District 2nd Team Running Back
All District 2nd Team Cornerback

Truett Foote, junior
All District 2nd Team D Line

Pate Foote, junior
All District 2nd Team D Line

Kyson Smith, senior
All District 2nd Team Special Teams

OGLESBY TIGERS TOP PERFORMERS



COURTESY PHOTO BY TOM NORRELL

The top performers for the Oglesby Tigers during their 2023 to 2024 basketball season include Evan Williamson and Holdyn Goff. Both athletes finished their junior high careers on Saturday, Feb. 3. Williamson scored 157 points for the year, 35 rebounds, 19 steals, and 10 assists. Goff scored 260 points for the year, 117 rebounds, 35 steals, and 29 assists.

Gatesville HS powerlifting team powers through invitational

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School Powerlifting team competed in an invitational at China Spring on Thursday, Feb. 1, where the athletes came out as runners-up.

The boys' powerlifting team came out in second place overall with a total of 45 points.

Boys powerlifting results:

Aiden Pankow, second place, 114 Class, 500-pound total.
Sergio Bucio, first place, 123 Class, 785-pound total.
L.J. Hall, first place, 165 Class, 1,300-pound total.
Dutch Nielson, third place, 181 Class, 1,150-pound total.
Brayden Mills, fourth place, 181 Class, 1,110-pound total.
Caden Benton, sec-

ond place, 198 Class, 1,045-pound total.

Kaden Coffman, fourth place, 220 Class, 1,055-pound total.

Zach Bryant, first place, 308 plus Class, 1,690-pound total.

Other medalists include Aiden Pankow and Caden Benton, second place; Dutch Nielson, third place; Brayden Mills and Kaden Coffman, fourth place.

The girls powerlifting team came out in second place overall with a total of 51 points.

Girls powerlifting results:

Bayelyn Roberts, second place, 105 Class, 520-pound total.
Kasey Fitzer, first place, 114 Class, 610-pound total.
Paisley Wells, second place, 114 Class, 580-pound total.
Marin Segraves,

fourth place, 123 Class, 530-pound total.

Shaylie Teague, first place, 148 Class, 850-pound total.

Isabela Mondragon, third place, 148 Class, 645-pound total.

Reigen Davidson, fifth place, 148 Class, 500-pound total.

Zoey Arnold, first place, 198 Class, 770-pound total.

Emma Davidson, first place, 220 Class, 875-pound total.

Alyssa Saxon, second place, 242 plus Class, 765-pounds total.

The Gatesville High School powerlifting team competed on Thursday, Feb. 8, in McGregor.

For more information, Gatesville High School can be reached at 254-865-8281.

GHS GIRLS SOCCER



COURTESY PHOTO

The GHS Girls Soccer team, pictured back row, left to right: Kate Campbell, Brooklyn Blanchard, Bethany Penrod, Ally Penrod, Cheyenne Geiken, Nahla Hendrix, Lily Nielsen, and Kari Dudik; middle row: Karen Patino, Trinity Barrow, Cayleigh Coursey, Galileah Segura, Audrey Blanco, and Vania Martinez-Jaramillo; front row: Andrea Ortiz Saenz, Raisa Leon, and Anna McPherson.

GHS girls' soccer adds a loss and a win to their season record

Submitted Item

GHS girls' soccer team lost to number six-ranked Stephenville Saturday, 0-6. They beat Lampasas, 1-0, on Tuesday, with their lone goal from Vania Martinez-Jaramillo with an assist from Lily Nielsen.

GHS Boys Soccer

GHS boys tied Stephenville, 1-1, with a goal from Hector Silva, but lost the tiebreaker in a shootout. They tied Lampasas, 0-0, on Tuesday, but again lost the tiebreaker in a shootout.

Although the boys lost in the penalty kick shootouts, they still earned a point in the standings, as you get three points for a win, two points for a penalty kick tiebreaker win, and one point for a penalty kick loss. In the two games, the boys were led by their defense, Asa Hardcastle, Malichi Olvera, Damian Guerrero, Ryan Tesar, Hayden Blanchard, and goalie Javier Bonilla.

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

Oglesby Junior High Tigers finish their season, 12-1

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tiger junior high boys won the district 14A basketball championship on Saturday, Feb. 3, at the district tournament in Aquilla.

In game one, the Tigers defeated the Cransfill Gap Lions 24 to 10. The starters only played three minutes in this contest, giving the younger Tigers an opportunity to play and gain experience.

Evan Williamson scored seven points, one rebound, and one steal. Holdyn Goff scored four points, had two rebounds, and one assist. Blayze Fisher hit three points and had one steal. Couper Wulfkhule scored two points, had two rebounds, and one steal. Rancher Jeffcoat scored four points, three rebounds, and one steal. Keagan Redford made one free throw. AJ Mafra had two rebounds and one steal. Mason Marquez had two rebounds and one steal.

In game two, the Tigers defeated the Abbott Panthers 40 to 30 to advance to the championship. Holdyn Goff led the scoring

with 26 points, 16 rebounds for a double/double, four steals, and three assists. Evan Williamson dropped in 11 points, five rebounds, and three steals. Mason Marquez hit one free throw and three rebounds. Blayze Fisher rounded out the scoring with two points.

In game three for the district championship, the Tigers defeated the unbeaten Mt. Calm Panthers 47 to 26 to win the district 14A basketball championship and bring home another trophy.

Holdyn Goff ended his junior high career matching his number with 23 points, 12 rebounds for a double/double, one assist, and two steals. Evan Williamson ended his junior high career with 19 points, six rebounds, and two steals. Mason Marquez finished his junior high career with three points and three rebounds. Keagan Redford added two points.

The Tigers finished their 2023 to 2024 season with 12 wins and one loss.



COURTESY PHOTO BY TOM NORRELL

Pictured are the Oglesby junior high boys basketball team after completing their 2023 to 2024 season.

Gatesville HS wrestling teams advance to regionals

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School wrestling team competed in the district 10-5A tournament in Georgetown on

Wednesday, Jan. 31, where they went up against class 5A schools. The Hornets qualified six athletes for the upcoming regional competition.

The girls finished seventh in the 15-team field and will be sending four athletes to regionals, which includes Hannah Aguilar, Bri Allen, Ellie Knobloch, and Kylie

Williams.

The boys came out 11th overall. Tookie Jones won a gold medal in his respective weight class and will be joined by Nathan Elliot who

finished fourth at regionals.

The 5A-Region II tournament will be held on Friday, Feb. 9 and Saturday, Feb. 10, at Anna High School.

For more information,

contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281.

Boys & Girls Club to host local game room tournament Feb. 12

Staff Reports

The Boys & Girls Club branch of Gatesville will host a local game room tour-


namment for club members only on Monday, Feb. 12. The games will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will feature

Connect Four, foosball, cup stacking, shuffleboard, bobcat pool, free throw, Silver. IO, and Agar.IO.

Each first-place winner will move on to the area competition which will be held on Saturday, March 9.

For any further information, contact the front desk at the Boys & Girls Club at 254-865-8347.

The Boys & Girls Club is located at 2533 E. Main Street in Gatesville.



CORYELL KIDS
CHINESE NEW YEAR
February 10, 2024

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is eagerly awaited by families around the world, and in 2024, the festivities kick off on February 10th. This vibrant celebration marks the beginning of the lunar new year and is a time filled with joy, tradition, and hope for the future.

The Chinese zodiac operates on a twelve-year cycle, each year associated with an animal sign, and 2024 welcomes the Year of the Wood Dragon. Dragons are considered powerful and auspicious creatures, and the element of wood adds a touch of flexibility and growth to the year.

Kids can anticipate exciting dragon and lion dances during parades, where colorful and intricate costumes come to life. Families gather for feasts featuring delicious dishes like dumplings and noodles, symbolizing longevity and prosperity.

One of the highlights for children during Chinese New Year is receiving red envelopes, known as "hong-bao," containing money for good luck and blessings. The bright red color represents good fortune and happiness.

Participating in traditions like making paper lanterns, crafting dragon masks, or even trying their hand at cooking traditional dishes can make the celebration even more special for kids. Learning about different customs and cultural practices during Chinese New Year fosters an appreciation for diversity and global celebrations.

The Spring Festival lasts for fifteen days, culminating in the Lantern Festival. On this day, families light and release lanterns into the night sky, creating a beautiful display of wishes and dreams for the upcoming year.

So, on February 10th, get ready to join in the festivities, celebrate the Year of the Wood Dragon, and embrace the joyous spirit of Chinese New Year with your family and friends!


Crossword Puzzle

1			2			3
4			5		6	
7						
			8			
9						


ACROSS
1. Related to the moon
5. Muddy color
7. Slight hollow in surface
8. Most suitable
9. Hailing from China

DOWN
2. Desire to achieve
3. Happening each year
4. Astrological system
6. Instrument

Answers:
Across: 1. Lunar 5. Brown 7. Dent 8. Ideal 9. Chinese
Down: 2. Ambition 3. Annual 4. Zodiac 6. Oboe



COLOR
Time



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

To sponsor the weekly Coryell Kids pages, call Janice at 254-865-5212.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Williams 27-spot leads Texans to season sweep of Lumberjacks

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Men's Basketball notched its second season series sweep on the week with a dominating victory against Stephen F. Austin Saturday, Feb. 3, in Wisdom Gym.

With the win, the Texans (15-7 overall, 8-3 WAC) solidify sole possession of second place in the WAC after six weeks of play. The Lumberjacks (13-9, 6-5) fall into the middle of the pack in the league with a trio of teams that have five losses.

Lue Williams broke out in the second half exploding for 27, just a point shy of the Texans' WAC record he shares with Jakorie Smith. Williams also tied his career-high with five steals, a team-high.

Devon Barnes joined Williams scoring 20 for the third time this season. Barnes was a perfect eight-for-eight from the charity stripe. The duo of Williams and Barnes became the second Texan pair to both score at least 20 in the same game this season. Smith was the third Texan to score in double digits, posting 17 in addition to four steals and two assists. KiAndre Gaddy pulled down six boards and a game-high three blocks.

After the Jacks scored the first bucket of the game, the Texans broke out on a 5-0



Tarleton State Men's Basketball notched its second season series sweep on the week with a dominating victory against Stephen F. Austin Saturday, Feb. 3, in Wisdom Gym.

run to regain the advantage. A triple by Devon Barnes on his first shot of the game followed by a Williams layup accounted for five consecutive Texan points.

After a Lumberjack bucket, Tarleton broke it open early exploding on an 13-0 run. Barnes sunk a corner three and drew the foul for the four-point play. Back-to-back buckets of a layup and a triple by Smith forced Kyle Keller to burn his first

timeout of the game just five minutes in. The Texan defense was too hot for them to handle, forcing eight turnovers in just 5:11 of play.

Tarleton led by as many as 14 in the first 20, taking a 22-8 lead with 10:38 remaining. The Jacks turned it around in the latter part of the second half, erupting on a 13-2 run in 3:22 of play to cut the gap to 24-21. A triple by Williams got Wisdom

Gym on its feet with the six-point lead.

SFA took its second lead of the game at the 4:52 mark with a layup in the paint. Trailing 32-27 with 2:13 remaining, TSU closed the half on a 6-0 run. Smith accounted for a pair of layups while Williams was aided by an Innocenti steal and found himself with a fast break layup to take the lead, 33-32.

The Texans started the

second half hot with a Williams triple followed by a Gaddy block on the other end. Williams brought the ball up himself after the block and pulled up for his sixth point in 47 seconds.

Tarleton controlled the second half with Williams leading the offensive charge, posting a game-high 14 in the second half alone. Williams connected on five of his six shots from the floor including a perfect

four-for-four from deep.

The Jacks never led in the second half, but showed they wouldn't go home easy in the final minutes. Trailing by 10 with a minute and a half to go, Kansas transfer Latrell Jossell drained a triple. The final 75 seconds resulted in the Texans shooting 10-for-10 at the line while the Jacks made a triple and a layup.

Gaddy put the exclamation mark on the end of the game with a wide open dunk, to seal the 75-64 Tarleton State victory.

The Texans improved their impressive streak to 30-0 when the squad shoots over 50% in the D1 era. The Purple and White shot 22-for-43 from the floor, 51.2%. Tarleton almost tied its WAC record for three pointers made in a single game but fell one short shooting 11-for-20, 55%. Tarleton won the turnover battle 20-16 but fell in the battle of the boards, 36-23.

Tarleton will hit the road for three consecutive games starting with a pair of games at Utah Valley and Seattle U. The western road trip will start in Orem, Utah as the Texans take on the Wolverines of Utah Valley Thursday night at 7 p.m. CT. The Texans will close the trip with the WAC's northernmost member, Seattle U, Saturday evening at 5 p.m.

Texans play Ladyjacks tough, run out of gas in Nacogdoches

Tarleton State University

NACOGDOCHES -- The Texans held strong against a tough Ladyjacks squad in Nacogdoches Saturday, Feb. 3, but ran out of gas in the second half to fall on the road 73-62.

Tarleton State (6-14, 3-8 WAC) led by seven after the first quarter and one at halftime, but Stephen F. Austin (15-7, 9-2 WAC) outscored the Texans 37-25 in the second half to win by 11. SFA swept the season series, both in similar fashion, with a neck-and-neck game through the first three quarters and using a fourth quarter push to win. This was SFA's eighth straight win at William R. Johnson Coliseum, now 9-2 at home, while the Texans dropped to 4-8 on the road.

Like the first meeting, Faith Acker paced the

Texans with 15 points on 5-of-8 shooting, adding five rebounds, but was plagued by six turnovers. Elise Turrubiates led the bench with 12 points on 5-of-7 shooting, seven rebounds and four assists.

SFA pulled away by outshooting Tarleton State 28-of-57 (.491) to 23-of-63 (.365). Both teams combined for just five three-pointers and each shot an identical 14-of-19 (.737) from the free throw line.

After an 11-11 start halfway through the opening quarter, the Texans used a 6-0 spurt to lead by seven, the same lead they held after one, 21-14. Tarleton was hot in the first quarter, shooting 8-of-14 (.571) in the opening frame to SFA's 6-of-19 (.316) clip.

The Ladyjacks returned the favor in the second

quarter, making 8-of-12 (.667) to Tarleton's 4-of-12 (.333). The Ladyjacks used an 8-1 run over the first 90 seconds to get within one, then took a 27-25 lead at the 5:54 mark, their first lead since it was 11-9. Neither team led by more than three the rest of the half, with the Texans heading into the locker room with a 37-36 lead.

SFA opened with the first five points in the third quarter, not allowing the Texans on the board until over four minutes in. Tarleton responded and tied it back at 43-43 just over halfway through the third. Again it was a close rest of the frame, this time the Ladyjacks leading 49-45 entering the fourth.

The Jacks led 51-49, then went on a 7-0 run, which bled into a 12-2 run to take



The Texans held strong against a tough Ladyjacks squad in Nacogdoches Saturday, Feb. 3, but ran out of gas in the second half to fall on the road 73-62.

a 12-point lead with over four minutes left. SFA maintained the lead the rest of the way and won by 11.

The Ladyjacks were led by

Kurstyn Harden's 22 points on 9-of-14 shooting, adding eight rebounds and two blocks. Destini Lombard tallied 16 points on 7-of-10

shooting, seven assists, six rebounds and two steals. Kyla Deck put up eight points (3-6 FG) and seven rebounds off the bench.

Tarleton State Child Development Program granted CFLE certification

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University's Child Development and Family Studies program has been approved as a Certification in Family Life Education program by the National Council on Family Relations, the country's oldest nonprofit, nonpartisan, multidisciplinary professional association focused solely on family research, practice and education.

"The National Council

on Family Relations has an esteemed 86-year history of supporting and promoting the discipline of family science across the nation by holding academic programs to rigorous standards to continually improve the field," said Dr. Kristina Higgins, division director and associate professor for Child Development and Family Studies.

"Program approval from NCFR will help Tarleton's Family Life Education program gain national recogni-

tion within the discipline of family science as well as allow our students to graduate with the opportunity to apply for their certification in Family Life Education."

Tarleton launched the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in child development and family studies in fall 2018. The BS program is designed for students who want to work with children and families outside the public school setting and offers three concentra-

tions: Family Life Education, Early Childhood Education and Child Life.

They will be added to the BAAS in fall 2024. One hundred sixty-nine undergraduates are enrolled in the program this spring, with 24 in the Family Life Education concentration.

The program is fully online. To learn more, visit <https://www.tarleton.edu/degrees/child-development-and-family-studies/>. Founded in 1938, the NCFR includes members

from more than 35 countries and all 50 U.S. states who work in research, college teaching and pedagogy, program development, family life education, counseling and human services. Approximately 125 college and university family science degree programs in the U.S. and Canada use NCFR Family Life Education curriculum standards as guidelines for their undergraduate and graduate students.

A founding member of The Texas A&M System,

Tarleton State is breaking records — in enrollment, research, scholarship, athletics, philanthropy and engagement — while transforming the lives of nearly 17,000 students in Stephenville, Fort Worth, Waco, Bryan and online. True to Tarleton's values of excellence, integrity and respect, academic programs emphasize real world learning and address regional, state and national needs.

EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby

Skills USA Health Science students advance to state

Staff Reports

The students of the Skills USA Health Science chapter competed in several competitions over the week with many advancing to state.

The results include:

- Health Knowledge Bowl: Noah Smith, Callie Smith, Ellie Kelley, and Carsyn Modisett won first place.

- Nursing Assistant: Ellie Kelley, first place; Keira Jones, second place; Noah Smith, third place.

- Medical Math: Carsyn Modisett, first place and Callie Smith, second place.

- Medical Terminology: Noah Smith, first place; Ellie Kelley, second place; Leyah Smith, third place.

- Health Occupational Portfolio: Mia Portolio, first place and Brooke Bernquist, second place.

Information about the state competition is to be determined.

Gatesville High School can be reached by contacting 254-865-8281.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the Skills USA students who competed in various health science competitions.

Gatesville High School Happenings: Yearbook Class



Submitted Item

Summer Erwin's yearbook team is hard at work gathering this year's happenings so students can look back one day and say, "Oh, to be young again."

Erwin wears many hats and splits her time between the library and her yearbook classroom. If you pop in during fourth and fifth period, you will find a close-knit group of skilled writers, photographers, software navigators, list makers, creative thinkers, and deadline conquerors.

Under the leadership of editors Raylie Snively, Zoe Gribble, Cayleigh Coursey, and McKenzie Meritt, this year's team has pushed themselves to think outside the box while also embracing the 90's theme and

an appreciation for Gatesville High School nostalgia.

The 2023 to 2024 yearbook will include new sections such as all clubs, all-level sports teams, prom, and graduation. The yearbook team is also placing an emphasis on explanations of important events from the year and student commentary. They want student and staff thoughts and opinions to be included as well, so they have interviewed, surveyed, and gathered quotes.

For more information regarding the 2023 to 2024 yearbook, contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL LIZ SHOAF

Pictured top, left: Zoe Gribble, yearbook student, going over information to be put in the yearbook. Pictured bottom, left: Yearbook students pictured hard at work designing pages of the yearbook. Pictured bottom, right: Yearbook teacher Summer Erwin pictured with student Raylie Snively while working on the yearbook for the upcoming year.

Local • Honest • Community

Subscribe Today
254-865-5212



GHS Band to host 5th annual mattress fundraiser

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School Band program will host its fifth annual mattress fundraiser on Saturday, March 2. The fundrais-

er will be held at Gatesville High School from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The mattresses featured will include an adjustable base, luxury pillows, and a mat-

tress protector. All sizes will be available for purchase with 25-plus styles on display which are brand new with full factory warranties.

Delivery is available and

all forms of payment will be accepted.

The starting prices of the mattresses include a twin-size for \$199, a full-size for \$229, a queen-size for \$249, and a king-size for

\$499.

Every purchase that is made will benefit the band program.

For more information, visit <https://fb.me/e/3aj0fgYE4>.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 S. Lovers Lane.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Susan P. Pitts Memorial Scholarship

Staff Reports

The ladies of the John H. Reagan, Chapter 325 UDC, Gatesville, are offering their 11th annual Susan Patricia Pitts Memorial Scholarship to high school seniors, as well as home-schooled and college-level students who reside in Coryell and Hamilton Counties.

To determine who will receive the scholarship, an essay will be required to apply. The essay will have a topic provided and must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 15. Essays that are received after that Monday will not be accepted.

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

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

The essay winner will receive a note of winning at their designated school's annual scholarship banquet.

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

Carlson Cares Scholarships opens applications

Submitted Item

The Carlson Law Firm has announced a chance for Texas high school seniors to grab hold of the Carlson Cares Scholarships. Two students will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship to support their educational journey.

The Carlson Cares Scholarships are about giving back to Texas high school seniors.

Requirements to apply include:

- Must be a high school senior for the 2023 to 2024 school year.
- Enrolled in a Texas high school.
- Must be headed to a Texas university or college for the 2024 to 2025 school year.
- The essay or video must be submitted online through the application form.
- Proof of enrollment.
- An unofficial transcript.

Texas high school students who are planning to kick off the 2024 to 2025 school year at a Texas university, college, or trade school can apply to fill out the short online form and submit their entry using this year's prompt. The prompt entails something, or someone, that motivates you to keep pushing toward your goals.

Applicants can submit a two to three minute video or a 300 to 500 word essay at the link to apply and share what or who keeps you moving toward your goals.

Before hitting submit, ensure you've got your proof of enrollment and an unofficial transcript ready.

The submission period is open until Thursday, April 18, at 5 p.m. Winners will get the exciting news in their inbox on Monday, April 22. The winners will also have a shout out on social media and in the local news.

The Carlson Law Firm is about giving back to the community and supporting the next generation of leaders.

For more details and to apply, visit <https://www.carlsonattorneys.com/scholarship>.

Texas Farm Bureau scholarship applications now available

Staff Reports

The Texas Farm Bureau's annual scholarship opened on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, for undergraduate degree programs.

Every year, the Texas Farm Bureau awards over \$235,000 in scholarships in a variety of packages designed to meet different student needs.

Application requirements:

- You must be a Texas Farm Bureau member to apply.
- You must have a MyTFB account to apply.
- Each scholarship has a unique set of eligibility requirements which are located online by visiting <http://texasfarmbureau.org/youth/youth-opportunities/> within the Youth Opportunities page.

The 2024 scholarship applications will close on Friday, March 1.

For more information, or to apply, visit texasfarmbureau.org/scholarships.

U of A's Fulbright College announces Fall 2023 Dean's List

Staff Reports

The University of Arkansas's Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences has recently named Kennedy Preciado, of Gatesville, to the Fall 2023 Dean's List.

Preciado joins more than 2,500 additional Fulbright

College students on the Fall 2023 Dean's and Chancellor's Lists.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must achieve at least a 3.75 grade point average (GPA) for the semester while completing at least 12 credit hours.

Fulbright College is

home to more than 8,000 students who have degrees in fine arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

For more information, visit [Fulbright.uark.edu](https://fulbright.uark.edu).

South Plains College announces Hall as a fall 2023 graduate

Staff Reports

South Plains College (SPC) has recently announced its graduates of the 2023 fall class, which included Jimmy Hall, of Gatesville, who received

his IMET Certificate.

South Plains College 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.

For more information, visit southplainscollege.edu.

SHSU announces Fall graduates

Staff Reports

Sam Houston State University (SHSU) in Huntsville recently announced its graduates of the 2023 fall class.

Seth Kohlscheen, of Oglesby, received his Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology.

For more than 140 years, SHSU has prepared students for meaningful lives of achievement. The university is comprised of over 21,000 students within eight colleges well beyond Huntsville roots.

For more information, visit shsu.edu.

Thoms named to MSU's fall 2023 dean's list

Staff Reports

Each semester, students at Missouri State University (MSU) who attain academic excellence are named to the dean's list, including Gatesville High School alumna Tasha Thoms.

Thoms was among more than 5,100 students named to the fall 2023 dean's list.

For undergraduate students, criteria include enrollment in at least 12 credit hours during the fall semester and at least

a 3.50 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale.

MSU is a public university system with a mission in public affairs.

For more information, visit www.missouristate.edu.

UM announces Fall 2023 Dean's Honor Roll

Staff Reports

The University of Mississippi (UM) announced students named to the Fall 2023 Dean's Honor Roll list.

The list is reserved for students who earn a semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 to 3.74.

The students of Gatesville include Sydney Farrell who is majoring in computer science and Mary Farrell who is majoring in accounting.

To be eligible for the honor roll designa-

tion, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, includes a major medical school, schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an honors college acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning, and opportunities for community action.

For more information, visit olemiss.edu.

UMHB announces Honor Roll for Fall 2023

Staff Reports

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) announced that 593 students have been listed on the Fall 2023 Provost's Honor Roll.

Out of the many students that were on the honor roll, Catherine Fonden of Evant and Cheyenne Miller of Gatesville were both recognized for their academic efforts.

To receive this recog-

ognition, a student must achieve a 3.85 grade point average (GPA) or better on a 4.0 scale.

For more information, visit www.umhb.edu/news.



A better way to send your message



Advertise with us
254•865•5212

Awards Banquet



A letter from the 2024 Gatesville Chamber of Commerce President

I am honored to serve as the 2024 President of The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. My vision this year is to make our Mission Statement come to life "Growing Business. Building Community." We truly have some of the best hometown businesses that care for the Gatesville community. The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce has a full calendar of events that include quarterly "Business After Hours Mixers," golf tournament, Shivarree 2024, Corks and Kegs, Christmas Parade, monthly Market Days, and more! We are currently investing in a new product called "Growth Zone" that will assist Latana Franks - Chamber Liaison and allow our members to have online job postings, allow us to publish a

membership directory via our website, publish monthly newsletters, online account invoicing for membership dues and events, and much more. I am especially excited to announce that Shivarree 2024 is going to be held in downtown Gatesville. This is something that has not been done for the past several years and it is something that I think will help to revitalize our downtown square. I encourage businesses new and old to become members or renew their membership. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in this role and hope that I do so to the best of my ability.

MASON MATTHEWS
Chamber President



HILLSIDE MEDICAL LODGE SUPPORTS OUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY!

Please call for admission or for more information about our Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy services.



Our therapy team and compassionate staff works hard to provide you and your loved ones with the best possible care.

We are Central Texas' premier destination for post-hospital rehabilitation and long-term care.

Director of Public Relations/
Marketing and Hospital
Liaisons: Susie Meelbusch
254-383-2307



HILLSIDE
MEDICAL LODGE

**WE ACCEPT ALL INSURANCES,
MEDICARE AND MEDICAID**

300 S. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, TX 76528
254-865-7575
www.hillside.ml.com

JoAnn Sugg named Citizen of the Year

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recognized JoAnn Sugg as Citizen of the Year during their annual awards banquet on Jan. 20 at the Gatesville Civic Center.

Chamber President, Mason Matthews, and Exchange Club Member, Alan Mathis, presented the award to Sugg. Since 1959, the award has been given to an outstanding citizen of the Gatesville community.

"As you have heard, she is not just an above average citizen but someone who is totally involved in working to improve every element of our community," Mathis said. "She has been soulfully engaged for so many years in so many aspects of Gatesville that it has been very hard to gather the exact dates or even discover all of the folks that she has helped along the way."

Since moving to Gatesville in 1985, Sugg has been actively involved in serving her community. She spent several years as a teacher for Gatesville Independent School District, where she taught students to give back to their community by leading projects at the Gatesville Care Center and local nursing homes.

"One of the things that brings such joy to my heart is to see so many of our former students here and making a difference in our community," Sugg said.

Sugg joined the Gatesville Exchange Club

in 2000 and has served as president, secretary and currently serves as treasurer of the organization.

"Every event that the Gatesville Exchange Club has she is there, and The Day of the Child is where she really shines, because she really cares about the kids, she works getting the folks there, she gives out free child seats if they need one, it is just amazing," Mathis said.

Sugg's involvement within her community does not end there - she volunteers with the local non-profit Righteous Roots, serves as district president of the Texas Retired Teachers Association and on the board of the Gatesville's Crime Stoppers, among others.

"I personally believe that there is no one more deserving of the 2023 Citizen of the Year Award than who we have selected," said Mason Matthews.

Sugg has striven to serve others from an early age. While awards are nice, she said the main motivation for her service stems from the enjoyment of helping people and making a difference in someone's life.

"I don't know that I am worthy of this, I still have so many places I still need to serve and so many more things that I need to accomplish," Sugg said. "I know that is my purpose in life is to serve others."



The Resale Shop



Benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville

Selling gently used furniture, decor, housewares, clothing, etc.

Open Tues. - Fri. 8am-5pm and Sat. 9am-3pm

1706 E. MAIN STREET, GATESVILLE • 254-248-1250



Serving the real estate needs of Coryell County since 1985.

PROUD CHAMBER MEMBERS

(254)865-8954

2105 E. Main Street
Gatesville, TX 76528



For property listings and more:
tejasrealestate.com



Lute Sullins, Owner/Broker
Cell: (254) 216-9599

Gatesville Chamber of Commerce
Executive Board Member 2013-2022
President 2021

Thank you for allowing me to serve our community!

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the award recipients from your friends at

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

254-865-5212
Subscribe or Advertise



PROUD CHAMBER MEMBER!



Come see all our inventory!



EQUIPMENT SALES, RENTALS AND SERVICE

102 FM 107, Gatesville • 254-865-1000 • www.hillside-outdoors.com

WE BUY
Gold & Silver



COINS • JEWELRY • ETC.

Robert L. Berry

DBA Christian Brothers Ltd., An Ebay Store | Serving the Gatesville & Goldthwaite areas

716 E. Leon St., Gatesville, TX 76528
Monday-Friday, 9-5 • Saturday, 9-1

WE PAY CASH!
CALL 512-810-1002

Scott's Funeral Home honored as Business of the Year

DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Garrett Gunnels, a director of Gatesville Chamber of Commerce, announced during the Chamber of Commerce Banquet that the 2023 Business of the Year award was to be presented to Scott's Funeral Home.

"Gatesville Business of the Year award is a prestigious award only presented to one out of the 12 Business of the Month winners in 2023," Gunnels said.

"This particular business and the business owner have been pillars in the Gatesville community for some time," Gunnels said.

The business has served the community for decades and has remained a constant and familiar establishment with a rich history in Gatesville.

Morton Scott, who came to Gatesville in 1907, first purchased and managed a furniture store on the courthouse square. Shortly afterwards, Scott also acquired a pre-established funeral business and, in 1910, became a licensed embalmer.

In 1939, due to his expanding business, it was decided to build a new funeral home just a few blocks away from the existing business on the square.

Morton Scott retired in 1947 and turned the business over to his children, Robert and Lois. Robert managed the family business until his death in 1947 when his son, Bob, took over

and managed the funeral home until 1978 when he sold it to Gary Beasley who operated the business until 1999 when it was purchased by a National Provider.

In 2007, Scott's Funeral Home celebrated 100 years of service to the community. In July of the same year, Bill Cole, long time employee and Gatesville native, along with Ronnie Viss, purchased the funeral home making it locally owned once again.

As of 2020, the business was under the ownership of Bill Cole and his wife, Annette.

In 2022, Daren Moore became the sole owner of the establishment.

At the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Banquet, when it was announced to those in attendance that Scott's Funeral Home had been chosen as Business of the Year, Moore said that he was surprised by the announcement. "We had been selected last March as Business of the month, and it was an honor," he said.

Moore reported that the business has three full-time employees and about nine who are part-time.


Reacting to being named Business of the Year, Moore stated, "I was shocked and pleased at the same time for our staff and for all of us here. We really do our best to serve this community and the families that we serve. Everybody here puts forth one hundred percent."



Daren Moore, owner of Scott's Funeral Home accepts the award for Business of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

PHOTOS BY: ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH

PRUITT'S



PROUD CHAMBER MEMBERS

Lotto – Food – Gas

BREAKFAST: 5 am - 10 am • LUNCH: 9 am - 2 pm

254-865-5602

Drive-Thru Beer Barn

Open Sunday–Wednesday at Noon
& Thursday–Saturday at 10am

Hwy. 36 & FM 929, Gatesville, TX (next to TDCJ)

Proud Chamber Members!



PLUMBING

Residential & Commercial

Master Lic. No. 42617

Tyler Powell

254-223-3551

Zach Hodges

254-383-6267

120 Reno Rd., Gatesville, TX 76528
midtexplumbing@gmail.com

CORYELL

FEED & SUPPLY



213 E. Main, Gatesville
254-865-6315

Open Monday – Saturday, 8am-5:30 pm



Proud Chamber Supporters!



Proud to Support the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.



Gatesville • Evant • Oglesby

3411 E. Main Street
254-865-2783

115 S. Memory Lane
254-471-5531

117 FM 1996
254-470-2261

"Always Putting You First!"



Subscribe Today

254-865-5212

Zimmerman honored with 2023 Director of the Year award

DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Each year at the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Banquet, a director is chosen who, throughout the past year, has gone above and beyond to help promote the chamber and is recognized for their outstanding service.

This year, the banquet was held on Saturday, Jan. 20, where many were honored including the 2023 Director of the Year, Tina Zimmerman.

Fellow director Karia Perez, speaking about Zimmerman, said, "Our 2023 Director of the Year is a newer addition to our Board of Directors. Despite her newness, she quickly showed the willingness to grow and to improve."

Zimmerman, who has been a chamber member since 2021, became an ambassador early last year. "Being a business owner herself, she sees the benefits that the chamber can provide making her commitment even stronger," Perez said.

Perez continued, "Her passion for this organization is fierce and she should be appreciated by the members of the Gatesville

Chamber of Commerce."

About attending the meetings, Perez said of Zimmerman, "She shows up to almost every director's meeting, taking notes, and offering suggestions and ideas. She is not shy to speak up or offer constructive criticism, which makes her a great asset as a director."

Zimmerman said that when she joined the chamber in 2021, she wanted to meet more locals and became involved in many of the chamber events. "I just enjoy helping to promote local businesses," Zimmerman said.

During the past year, Zimmerman has been very active in chamber events. "I have attended most of the grand openings, businesses of the month, business after hours, Shivaree, Corks & Kegs, Christmas parade and Extravaganza, and the 2024 banquet."

Upon the honor of receiving the 2023 Director of the Year award, she said "I was in shock because I thought someone else was getting it. I am very humbled and grateful that my work was appreciated."



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Tina Zimmerman displays the award she received as 2023 Director of the Year at the recent Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

Studebakers honored with People's Choice Award



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH

Owners of Studebakers, Katrina Pelkey, left, and Gerald Pelkey, right, received the People's Choice Award for 2023 during the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Studebakers Pizza is a Gatesville staple, and the restaurant has become people's choice once again.

The restaurant was presented with the 2023 People's Choice Award for the second year in a row at the annual Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Jan. 20. As a local, veteran-owned, family business, Studebakers prides itself on serving fresh homemade pizzas, salads, sub sandwiches, pastas, and a variety of ice cream and desserts.

"We asked the community to show us who they think is the most deserving of this award," Chamber President Mason Matthews said. "Having two and half times more votes than any other business, the results were clear that the community had their People's Choice Award winner."

Katrina Pelkey, co-owner of Studebakers, said they are appreciative of the support they have received from the community.

"We were very surprised, but we were also very honored," Pelkey said. "Our employees and our customers are what makes us who we are."

While Studebakers offers delivery and

takeout, it has also become a popular gathering place for families and individuals in the community. Matthews recounts how Studebakers opened their doors to the Chamber so they could host one of their first mixers since the outbreak of COVID-19.

"In June, when I assumed the role as president, I wanted to reactivate having more quarterly business after hours mixers for which business owners and other members had an opportunity to fellowship," Matthews said. "This particular business opened their doors for us in August of 2023 to have one of our first mixers since the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is thanks to them that numerous other businesses have reached out to us, letting us know that they are interested in providing a site for our next quarterly mixer."

Studebakers first opened in 2010 and has recently completed the remodel of their building that includes a new seltzer and beer wall. They have been members of the Chamber for a decade.

The Historic Cotton Belt Depot houses the office of The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce serves not only as a visitors center, but also as a general business meeting place for our board of directors, members, and others in the community. Our mission is to promote business growth and development of our beautiful city as well as act as a resource for many businesses within Gatesville and the surrounding areas.



Cowboy Real Estate Team
Brokered by All City Real Estate LTD. CO

Congratulations

Business of the Year 2023 – Scott's Funeral Home
Citizen of the Year 2023 – Jo Ann Sugg
People's Choice Award 2023 – Studebakers Pizza
Director of the Year 2023 – Tina Zimmerman
Ambassador of the Year 2023 – Nancy Germain

Diana Barnett, GRI
254-423-7590

1707 E Main Street
Gatesville TX 76528
Office: 254-865-5006

GOSSETT TOWING
Est. 1970

1810 E. Main Street
Gatesville, TX 76528

Business Hours 8am-5pm:
254-865-7330

After Hours
Johnny Gossett:
254-865-3018

HILL TOP LIQUOR
MON.-SAT. 10AM-9PM

Cheers to all Chamber members and volunteers!

HENRY SUN, MANAGER • (254) 865-7007
3305 S. HWY. 36, GATESVILLE, TX 76528

Germain honored with 2023 Ambassador of the Year award

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Each year at the annual banquet hosted by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce, an ambassador who has gone above and beyond throughout the past year is awarded for their services.

This year, the banquet was held on Saturday, Jan. 20, where many were honored including the 2023 Ambassador of the Year Nancy Germain.

During the banquet, Chamber Director Diana Barnett gave a speech to honor Germain before she received her award.

"The 2023 Ambassador of the Year is a person who regularly attends ambassador meetings, assists with set up and tear down events, and goes out of their way to make sure that you are taken care of and that things are being done," Barnett said. "All with a smile on her face and a gung-ho attitude."

Germain was born and raised in Iowa and later moved to Texas in 1988 after retiring from the United States Military. She was deployed to Germany where she resided for six years while serving her country.

She first joined the chamber 10 years ago and became an ambassador around nine years ago.

"I wanted to help my community and meet more people," Germain said.

She has established her own small business called The Sisters where she makes everything

herself.

"I sell jams, jellies, marmalade, kitchen towels, microwave bowl caddies microwave potato bakers, burp cloths, and dream catchers," Germain said. "I like to find old quilts and recondition them for resale, but I just recently started to make my own."

She is continuously involved in the community whether that be with the chamber, at local events, or through the school district.

"I also referee high school football games; I just really love working with kids."

She explained that her main projects include the annual Food for Families and helping with the members of the junior ambassadors.

She expressed that she enjoyed volunteering at the Corks and Kegs event that was held this past November.

"It was such fun ID-ing everyone," Germain said. "The oldest person was 98 and the youngest was 22."

She plans to continue volunteering through the chamber as she would like to continue networking to keep sales local as much as possible.

When she first heard her name announced for the award, she thought to herself, "Please don't cry and trip on anything girl, you worked a lot of hours to be awarded this award, and I would do it all over again."



PHOTOS BY: ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Nancy Germain pictured with her husband while holding her award at the 2024 Chamber Banquet.

Coryell
Museum
& Historical Center

Visit us online:
www.CoryellMuseum.com

Coryell Museum and Historical Center

"Come see why Gatesville is the Spur Capital of Texas"

718 Main St., Gatesville, TX 76528 • 254-865-5007
Open Wed. - Sat. 10am - 4pm

We are so proud to represent our local Chamber of Commerce!

Authorized to represent all taxpayers before every department of the IRS

Tax Preparation
Tax Issue Resolution
Representation before the IRS
Bookkeeping
Payroll
Notary Public

KBen Services

Kathy Benjamin, E.A.
Enrolled to practice before the IRS

254-227-6733
2211 E. Main Street
Gatesville, TX 76528

kathy@kbenservices.com
www.kbenservices.com

Member: American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers



PHOTOS BY: ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
During the evening of the 2024 Chamber Banquet, past members were honored for their years of service to the organization. The individuals pictured (left to right) received a certificate of appreciation and include Monica Hinds with eight years of service, Abi Cozart with five years of service, and Susie Meelbusch with over 10 years of service. Those who are not pictured include Scott Harper with eight years, Barbie Klecka with eight years, and Lute Sullins with 10 years.

GRIB'S

Construction & Septic Tank Service

STATE CERTIFIED INSTALLER OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS

DIRTWORK, GRAVEL ROADS & DRIVES

BACKHOE & MAINTAINER

GARY GRIBBLE, OWNER
2000 VIOLET LANE • GATESVILLE, TX 76528

254-865-1236 or 254-248-4171

Gatesville Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for supporting your local Chamber of Commerce!

SPUR CAPITAL OF TEXAS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2307 HWY. 36 SOUTH
GATESVILLE, TX 76528
254-865-2617

2024 CORYELL COUNTY YOUTH FAIR CHAMPIONS



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County Youth Fair Home Economics Grand Champions



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County Youth Fair Home Economics Reserve Champions



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left to right: Coryell County Youth Fair Junior Grand Reserve Champions Gentri McFarlin, Martin Russell; Intermediate Grand Reserve, Preston Barron, Braidy Lusk; Senior Champion Reserve, Luke Maxwell, Hannah Gustin.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left to right, Coryell County Youth Fair Best of Show winners: (Junior) Ivan Readett; Braidy Lusk (Intermediate); and Parker Diserens (Senior).

Happy New Year!

Your Extraco Banks Gatesville team wishes you a Happy New Year!



We offer the financial tools to help you kickstart the new year on the right track!



LEARN MORE!
or visit extracobanks.com/resources



Member FDIC.

Subscribe today! Call 254-865-5212.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville FFA member Trey Harbour at the Fort Worth Livestock Show & Rodeo

Harbour captured Reserve Champion at Fort Worth Livestock Show & Rodeo

Staff Reports

Trey Harbour, a Future Farmers of America (FFA) member of Gatesville, captured the Reserve Champion Southdown Lamb in the Junior Wether Lamb Show at the 2024 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo (FWSSR) on January 28.

The annual show hosted junior exhibitors from across Texas competing for awards and more than \$27,300 in Junior Wether Lamb Show premiums.

Hosting 4-H and FFA members from 243 of Texas' 254 counties, the FWSSR takes pride in providing agriculture and livestock production learning opportunities to students competing in livestock

shows, judging contests and other competitions. Students have the opportunity to showcase the knowledge and skills gained through raising livestock and preparing for other competitions while competing for premium awards, scholarships, and the chance to sell their animals in the Jr. Sale of Champions.

"Generations of families have competed in the Fort Worth Stock Show, and it remains a cherished rite of passage for many who plan to make agriculture a career or who want to be a part of a school's team program," said Stock Show President Brad Barnes. "Even after decades of being involved in this show, I remain in awe

of these young people and am more convinced than ever that the agriculture and food production are truly the lifeblood of this great nation."

The 2024 Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo was held from Friday, Jan. 12 through Saturday, Feb. 3. With the theme being where the "West Is Fun," the event featured an authentic western vibe, including a rodeo in the Dickies Arena, food, shopping, livestock shows, live music, carnival-midway, equestrian competitions, petting zoo and more.

For more information on the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, visit www.fwssr.com.