SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881

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Third suspect identified, charged in March murder case

BY KAYLEE DUSANG Staff Writer

Police have identified another alleged suspect involved in the murder of Martin William Davis that took place on March 26, 2023, according to a statement by the Gatesville Police Department.

Gatesville resident Scott Allen Harkcom, 34, was indicted by a Coryell County Grand Jury on Jan. 25 on a charge of murder connected with the shooting death of Davis, court documents say.

"We and our partners have remained diligent in pursuing this case, as we promised," Gatesville Police Chief Brad Hunt said. "The arrest of this third suspect does not close the case entirely but ensures the three known parties

to Mr. Martin's death are brought to justice. Our thoughts remain with the family of the deceased."

Police say Harkcom received the indictment while in custody at the Coryell County Jail on an unrelated charge.

Two other suspects have already been identified in relation to the case. Shawn Michael Smith-Brearey, 21, and Trevor Lovell Ford, 32, were charged with murder between June and July 2023.

The incident occurred at about 9:36 p.m. in the 1600 block of Waco Street. Police found Davis, 61, with gunshot wounds, lying on the ground outside of the front door of a residence. EMS personnel were unable to revive the victim.

Davis arrived home from H-E-B and was unloading his groceries from his vehicle when the incident took place, according to the police. Davis was standing near his open front door when three people approached him from the street.

Video surveillance of the incident shows three people approaching Davis's home while wearing clothing covering their faces and arms. According to a previous report by the Messenger, at least one suspect fired the fatal shot, and then all three fled to the south from the residence.

Harkcom is currently being held at the Coryell County Jail on a nearly \$562,000 bond.

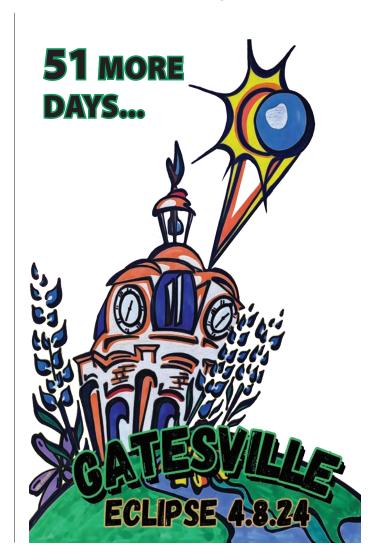
An indictment is not a



CORYELL COUNTY BOOKING PHOTO

Scott Allen Harkcom

statement regarding the guilt or innocence of a defendant. All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



VALENTINE'S DAY ROYALTY



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured are Dorothy Pruett and Rebel Brown, who were crowned king and queen of the Senior Center's Valentine's Day lunch. The lunch featured a full course meal, which included ribeye steaks, sauteed green beans, baked potatoes with all the fixings, and homemade peach cobbler.

Ten months later, county approves new sheriff's office camera, video system

BY KAYLEE DUSANG Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the Coryell County Commissioners Court approved a nearly \$470,000 request from the Coryell County Sheriff's Office to purchase new body cameras and in-car video equipment to replace an outdated system.

The sheriff's office brought the dilemma to commissioners' court in April 2023 after the company providing their original camera and video system went out of business. Lieutenant Chad Summers said the sheriff's office needed a new system since they could not replace the parts to the old equipment or re-

ceive customer support.

"We're just happy that
it's finally approved, so
we can move forward for
the safety of our officers
in the community knowing that we have a good
system that we're going to be putting in our
vehicles," Summers said.

"The community and our

officers, we did a lot of work trying to figure out which one we were going to go with, and through that I think we found a good system that we can add onto later."

Commissioner Scott Weddle said the county plans to apply funds from Senate Bill 22, a state grant that provides financial assistance to sheriff's offices in rural counties.

"As a court, it is our fiduciary responsibility to support the sheriff's office and give them the tools not only to protect them, but to protect our citizens," Weddle said. "And part of that, of course, is body cams and in-car videos."

Due to a state law that requires law enforcement officers to use body worn cameras, Summers said the sheriff's office was using cameras from Amazon until they received a new system.

The updated equipment will be provided by Safe Fleet, a company that pro-

vides digital safety equipment for law enforcement agencies. Safe Fleet systems are also utilized by the Gatesville Police Department as well as law enforcement agencies in Harker Heights, Killeen, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

"It makes it easier for the county attorney and district attorney and everybody using the same system to get videos," Summers said.

Now that the cameras are approved, Summers said the sheriff's office will receive the equipment within a 30-day time period. He adds that the sheriff's office will install the cameras.

"To save the county some money, we're going to certify some of our guys on installing these, so that later on down the road if we have an issue with something they can do the whole maintenance on it," Summers said.

Beginnings of Black History Month

BY DAVID SCOTTStaff Writer

As we are in the midst of February, which is Black History Month, also referred to as African-American History month, it needs be recognized and remembered that there were those who paved or have helped pave the way and sacrificed so much to change the direction of our country as we pay homage to African

Americans of the past.
Black History Month is
observed in the month
of February in the United
States and Canada, but in
the Republic of Ireland,
and the United Kingdom,

Black History is observed in October.

The month of recognition began as a way of remembering important people and events, as well as paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity.

In the United States, it all dates back to 1925 when Harvard-educated historian, Carter G. Woodson, who was African American, began to raise awareness for the African-American contributions to civilization as he founded the Asso-

PLEASE SEE **BEGINNINGS** | A2



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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 yearsto nine years.Junior Miss, 10 years

to 14 years.
- Queen, 15 years to 18

vears.

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 it will cost \$50. The last day to register will be Friday, March 15, and it will cost \$60.

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

BEGINNINGS

ciation for the Study

ciation for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH).

After bringing awareness, Woodson announced the second week in February to be "Negro History Week."

One of the reasons this week was chosen is because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and the birthday of Frederick Douglas (Feb. 14), both of whom were historically essential in the advancement of African Americans.

After its conception, the event first took place in February of 1926.

Woodson strived to give recognition and encourage teaching the importance of African-American history and contended it was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within broader society.

Woodson died on April

3, 1950 and, by that time, Negro History Week had become a central part of the African-American life, and progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration.

Cities nationwide began to issue proclamations noting the celebratory week.

During the 1960s, what was referred to as the "Black Awakening" expanded consciousness of African Americans about the importance of black history, and the Civil Rights Movement focused Americans of all races on the subject of the contributions of the African Americans to our history and culture.

During the nation's bicentennial year of 1976, the celebration was extended to a month, which also marked 50 years since the inception by Woodson.

voodson. The President of the United States at that time, Gerald Ford, encouraged all Americans to seize the opportunity to honor the "too-often neglected" accomplishments of Black Americans in every endeavor throughout the history of the country.

Although it began in the United States in 1926, it wasn't until 1987 when the United Kingdom first celebrated Black History Month during the month of October. Canada then followed in 1995 when the Canadian House of Commons recognized February as Black History Month. It wasn't until October of 2010 that the Republic of Ireland also adopted a month.

The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Republic of Ireland are the only four countries in the world that officially honor Black history and culture.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville delegation pictured (left to right) on the front row: Caitlyn Clough and Staci Lewis. In the middle row: Haley Garcia and Hope Lacefield. On the back row: Tristen Tidrick and Jonathan Hannold.

Gatesville delegation attend "Night to Shine" prom

BY DAVID SCOTT Staff Writer

On Friday, February 9, Crestview Church of Christ in Waco once again partnered with the Tim Tebow Foundation with help from Elite Therapy Group and HOCTIL (Heart of Central Texas Independent Living) to host Night to Shine — an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs and disabilities who are 14 and older.

Six athletes from Team Gatesville Special Olympics were in attendance. Team Gatesville Head of

were in attendance.

Team Gatesville Head of Delegation, Heidi Clough, said, "Night to Shine is so much more than a dance. It is an amazing celebration of the unique abilities of each king and queen. In

watching their joy, it is an uplifting experience for us all. Grounded in God's love, Night to Shine prom can help change how culture embraces and includes people with special needs."

Participating in the prom was Gatesville athlete
Tristen Tidrick who said,
"My favorite part of prom was spending time with my buddy, Chloe, and singing karaoke with my cousin,
Staci. I look forward to prom each year."

Every guest of Night to Shine entered this complimentary event on a red carpet complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi. Once inside, guests received the royal treatment, including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining stations, limousine rides, corsages and boutonnieres, a karaoke room, dinner, prom favors for each honored guest, a Respite Room for parents and caretakers and, of course, dancing.

Each guest received a crown or tiara because they are all kings and queens!

are all kings and queens!
This event is held simultaneously around the world. Last February, 622 churches in 46 countries came together to celebrate 75,000+ honored guests in what has become a world-wide movement celebrating people with special needs

and disabilities.



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Never take another man's bet



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is also an author, playwright, actor, and entertainment pro-

This past weekend was Super Bowl Sunday. For those of us who can remember the half-empty stadium for the first Super Bowl, it is hard to comprehend how the game has become a truly global event.

The game was viewed on television by over 115 million people in the U.S. alone, making it the most viewed television event of all time. More than 50 million people bet on the Super Bowl, and it is estimated the total value of the wagers was \$16 billion.

As a young boy, the neighborhood kids and I would gamble. Oh, we had the usual childhood bets like, "I bet you a nickel you can't beat me in a race" or

"I bet I can hold my breath longer than you can," but as we got older, we did expand our wagering. When we were about nine or ten, we would get a bunch of poker chips together, divide them evenly amongst us, and "pretend gamble" on a variety of games. Whoever ended up with the most chips was declared the "winner." We would play blackjack, craps, and roulette. It was a lot of fun, and come to think of it, it was probably a

good way to learn arithmetic as we figured the odds on a craps table and the payout on roulette. We guys had a lot of fun, and, as I recall, the competition was very intense.

In the mid '60s, there was no internet or cable television. There was no ESPN or internet to learn the outcome of a sporting event. The newspaper was the best source, and it was always at least half a day behind. Sporting events were rarely available for viewing via television, and so when a contest was on, it was something my dad and I would watch together. During the mid '60s, the Big 8 basketball schools played their games on Saturday afternoon or evening, and one of the games would be rebroadcast on local television on Sunday.

Watching those games was one of the highlights of the week for a couple of reasons: I loved basketball, and it was cool to simply see major college players perform. Perhaps even more importantly, it was

a time when my dad and I could be together and interact. He would ask me which players I liked best and why, talk about the coaches and their strategies, and point things out about the game I did not yet understand. Mom would make us lunch, and we would eat in the living room, which is something we were ordinarily not allowed to do. It was a special time.

Before the start of one game, Dad looked at me and asked if I wanted to bet. As I recall, Kansas was playing Missouri. He asked me which team I liked, and I told him Missouri. He responded by telling me he would take the Kansas team, plus he would give me six points. He explained this meant Kansas not only had to win the game, but they also had to win by more than 6 points. I felt like I was stealing money from my very own father! There was no way Kansas would win, much less win by more than the allotted points.

We watched the game,

and it was a good contest with the score rocking back and forth. I was nervous as the game came down to the wire, praying Missouri could hold on, but in the last minute Kansas exploded and blew the game open. When a Kansas player hit a shot with about five seconds left, they went ahead by seven, and I had lost the bet. I was crestfallen and could not believe I had the bet "won" the whole game only to lose in the last few seconds. My dad, in a goodnatured way, kidded me about losing the wager and all I could do was take it.

After a couple of minutes of cajoling, Dad told me to go and get the sports page out of the newspaper. I ran and got it, handed it to him, and he showed me the results from the games played the night before. There it was: Kansas beat Missouri by seven points. I did not know the game we had bet on had already been played and Dad knew the result before we wagered!

At first, I thought "what

the heck was going on here? Did my own father cheat when he made the bet with me?" I had never, ever, seen my dad do something dishonest or unfair, and I simply could not believe what had happened. I was bumfuzzled!

Before I could speak, Dad looked and me and said, "Son, I know you have been gambling with the neighborhood kids for fun, and that is OK. What I want you to know is there are a thousand different ways to cheat in gambling and in life, so do not ever take another man's bet. If, out of the clear blue sky, he wants to make a wager with you, he knows something you do not know."

Pretty sage advice, whether when gambling or in life itself.

Thought for the day: No one has ever bet enough on a winning horse...

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

Operation Stand Down set for March 9

Staff Reports

Operation Stand Down Central Texas will be hosting their 8th annual Spring Stand Down and Homeless Community Triage for all homeless on Saturday,

March 9, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center located at 3601 S. W.S. Young Drive in Killeen.

The event will provide all the homeless with a

hot meal, haircut, medical screenings, new clothing and shoes, along with various other resources.

The event is being sponsored by the City of Copperas Cove, Bell County,

the City of Killeen, and the Central Texas Homeless Coalition.

For more information, call 254-681-8522.

Local office closures in observance of President's Day holiday

Staff Reports

Businesses and governmental offices across Coryell County will join the rest of the nation on Monday, Feb. 19, in celebrating Presidents' Day.

Presidents' Day was originally established as a national holiday in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington. The federal holiday is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all United States

presidents, both past and

present. **GOVERNMENT**

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

SCHOOLS

Oglesby ISD and Evant ISD will be closed on Monday. Gatesville ISD, Jonesboro ISD, and the Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville will

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Extraco Bank, Cadence Bank, Educator's Credit Union, and the First Na tional Bank of Gatesville, Evant, and Oglesby will be closed on Monday.

POST OFFICES

All local post offices will be closed on Monday. LIBRARY

The Gatesville Public Library will be closed on Monday.

SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Senior Center will be closed on Monday.

MUSEUM

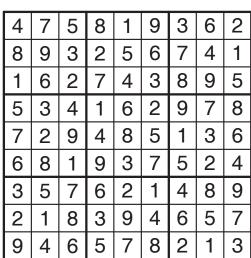
The Coryell County Museum & Historical Center will be closed on Monday.

NEWSPAPER

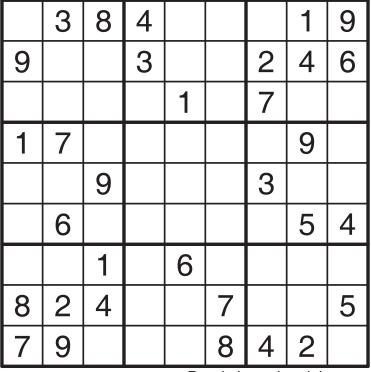
The Gatesville Messenger will remain open on Monday.

SUDOKU

Answers to puzzle from Feb. 10.



Puzzle by websudoku.com



Puzzle by websudoku.com

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Aaron Hunter pictured with wife and children.

Say hello to our neighbor, Aaron Hunter!

Aaron Hunter is the Assistant Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Gatesville Independent School District, and he has just finished his second season as the head coach.

"I was the Defensive Coordinator for two years before that," Hunter said. "I have now been coaching at Gatesville for four years total now." He expressed that the best part of his job is having the ability to impact kids everyday through the avenue of athletics. He graduated from Gatesville High School in 2007, so this has always been his home.

"Gatesville is a special place because of the kids we get to coach every day," Hunter said. "Our kids work extremely hard and understand the importance of representing our athletic program in everything that they do."

Aaron reads The Gatesville Messenger because he enjoys seeing the coverage of Gatesville ISD student

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



Publisher **SAM HOUSTON**

Director of Operations **JANICE VELASQUEZ**

DEADLINES:

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by Oam Tuesday for the Saturday issue. Articles about events that have

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

All articles and advertisments must meet our standards and newspaper format as determined by

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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.

Coryell County seeking to develop a Transportation Safety Act Plan

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

Coryell County is currently in the process of developing a Transportation Safety Act Plan to identify and address roadway and transportation safety concerns. The plan will feature projects that are to improve dangerous roads identified by the community.

Current potential projects include:

Traffic signal and signal improvements.

New and improved sidewalks and crosswalks. Installing lanes, turn lanes, and guardrails.

Reduced speed lim-

Safer school routes.

This comprehensive plan will identify many areas of concern to provide a framework to address concerns and reduce injuries and fatalities.

Locals and community members are to complete a survey which will contribute to the plan by Thursday, Feb. 29.

The survey will take any-

where from five to 10 minutes and is comprised of questions that seek perspectives on transportation issues, such as roadway conditions and safety concerns.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and must be completed by an adult. Your name will not be collected, and your survey responses will be confidential. There

will be an option to enter your email to receive additional information about the planning process.

To complete the surelectronically, visit s.surveyplanet.com/vedgspc1. Paper copies will also be distributed at various venues, including the county offices.

The survey data will be

analyzed, and the results will be summarized and presented in the Safety Action Plan that will be completed

in the summer of 2024. For more information,

visit https://coryell-county-

MOUND NEWS

Congratulations to Jacklyn and Trey



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

iss Jacklyn Pearl Pullen of Rock Wall won the 12U breakaway roping last Saturday in Decatur.

Jacklyn is the great-niece of Barbara Hopson.

Bobby and Holly Jones had lunch in Gatesville Sunday at a local restaurant with Don and Sue Jones.

Martha Lawhorn, Elizabeth and Benjamin Phillips, and Morgan Smart attended the livestock show and rodeo in Fort Worth Saturday eve-

Congratulations to Mr. Trey Harbour, a member of the Gatesville High School (FFA) Club, who won Reserve Champion Southdown Lamb in the Junior Wether Lamb show at the 2024 Fort Worth

Stock Show and Rodeo.

Valerie Ferrell and Barbara Hopson had lunch in Gatesville on Friday. On Sunday, Robert and Bo had dinner with Jerry and Brenda Helms and watched the Super Bowl.

Several people of Mound watched the Annual 2024 Super Bowl LVIII football game between the Kansas City (Chiefs) and San Francisco (49ers) on Sunday eve-

Barbara's Notes: Happy 50th anniversary to my friends in Waco, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Pooley. Happy birthday to Ms. Connie Choate.



Pictured is Robert Kazmierczak who received Ambassador Spotlight for the month of February.

Kazmierczak receives ambassador spotlight

Staff Reports

Robert Kazmierczak is one of the newest members at the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce and is currently volunteering as an ambassador.

Kazmierczak and his wife moved to Gatesville in 2008 from Tyler. He grew up in the Buffalo, NY area and joined the Army when he was only 18 years old. He then later moved to Texas where he was assigned to the base on Ft.

While serving, he was in-

jured and is now a disabled veteran and has been part of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization for 43 years. He is now serving as Judge Advocate and Sergeant at Arms at the local DAV which is located on State School Road.

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

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is located at

54th annual Oglesby Rattlesnake Roundup set for Feb. 24 & Feb. 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 7-10

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

Spaces are still available for vendors. To become a vendor, email oglesbyrattle-

snake@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

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

said. Despite the danger, he

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Feb. 17

10am-2pm

903 Scenic Dr.

continues to entertain the crowds with his skills and knowledge.

The time and dates for the live snake demonstrations include:

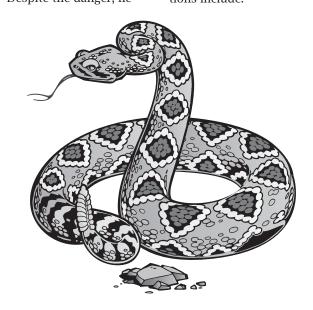
Cowboy Real

Diana Barnett

GRI

254-423-7590

RPZ Backflow



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 that 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.

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.



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PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT AND

Top, left photo: West side of the courthouse square about 1912 (courtesy photo).

Top, right photo: In years past, a hole was cut through the third floor of The Gatesville Messenger to reach the sealed room no longer accessible from the street level.

Middle, left photo: Fidel De La Torre climbing up to the sealed rooms in the abandoned stairwell.

Middle, right photo: The mysterious door on the courthouse square is unsealed after decades, revealing an abandoned stairwell.

Bottom, left photo: windows that once overlooked the courthouse square, which are now sealed over.



If these walls could talk.

BY DAVID SCOTT Staff Writer

When walking on the west side of the courthouse square, few notice a solitary door situated between The Gatesville Messenger and Leaird's Furniture Store. The door has been sealed for several decades.

With the recent rain and high winds, the top piece of the door frame rotted and fell onto the sidewalk. Using a ladder and flashlights, employees at the newspaper office peered into the darkness to determine what the door concealed.

What was discovered was that it was where a stairwell used to be that had once allowed access to the third floor where there were two large rooms - one above the newspaper office and one

over the furniture store. The room over Leaird's eventually became a part of the furniture store, while the room over the newspaper office remained cloaked in darkness until a hole was cut through the wall from the third floor of the Messenger office and into the sealed room that no one today can seem to remember.

When the street-level door was removed, a number of items were found scattered on the floor of the former stairwell, including various receipts and photographs among other discarded items. When examining the staircase landing above, it was discovered that there was a door to the left and a door to the right leading

into the two rooms. However, access to the rooms had been sealed off with plywood.

It was later said that trespassers had been prowling in the two rooms and, thus, the stairs were removed, the upstairs doorways boarded over, and the door below at street level had been permanently sealed. This supposedly happened many years ago.

It was decided by Leaird's and by The Gatesville Messenger to remove the streetlevel door and replace the rotted wood and then re-seal the doorway.

Curiosity over the third-floor abandoned room, which had remained shrouded in darkness for decades, inspired some

research to discover more about it and what it was used for:

A good source of information came from the Sanborn Fire Maps, which show a large number of buildings around Gatesville's public square. The maps show details of buildings and even records the types of businesses that were occupying the buildings. Although these maps were not created each year, the Gatesville series has maps for 1885, 1891, 1896, 1907, 1912, and 1920.

After examining the maps, it was discovered that the "hidden room" over the newspaper office was not in existence in earlier maps but did appear on a map in July of 1891 where

it was labeled as being vacant. In March of 1896, it was being used as a furniture warehouse - being just across the hallway from Scott's Furniture Store (now Leaird's).

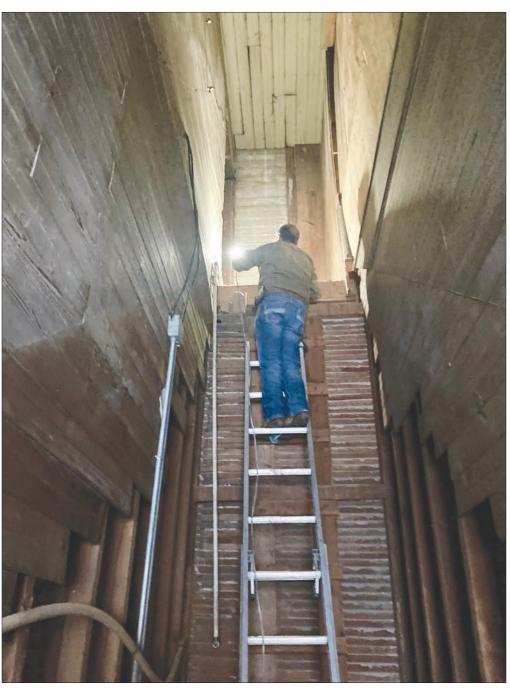
In May of 1902, the room had been divided and the front half was being used as a books and stationary store, with the back half of the room being vacant. Five years later, in October of 1907, a map indicates that the upstairs room was being used for "moving pictures" – an early day theater, possibly for silent movies. A few years later, in 1912, it was listed as being a restaurant.

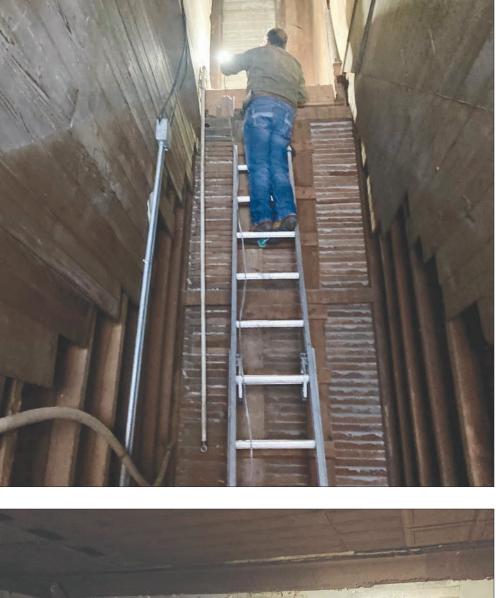
The last Sanborn map made for Gatesville was created in April of 1920, and

the room was described as being a bakery that contained a brick oven.

Very little information, if any, has been recorded about the room after 1920, but various businesses continued to use the room until it was finally abandoned, and the street door was sealed. Later, during the renovation of the Gatesville Messenger, the third-floor windows were bricked over which created an almost airtight environment.

A few questions have been answered about the sealed room and the missing staircase, but many questions remain.









RE-ELECT SCOTT A. WILLIAMS FOR CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF

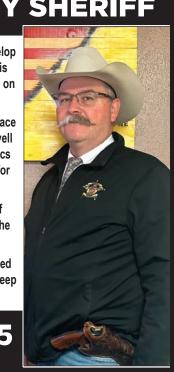
HONESTY and INTEGRITY: Although anyone can develop honesty and integrity, not everyone does. Scott is a proven man of his word and plans to continue operating Coryell County Sheriff's Office on a strong foundation of honesty and integrity.

EXPERIENCE: Scott's extensive background as a licensed peace officer, jailer, deputy sheriff, reserve investigator and Sheriff for Coryell County, as well as his tenure at TDCJ and his military support/logistics experience speak for itself. Scott is well qualified and the right man for Sheriff!

LEADERSHIP: The office of Sheriff should reflect the views of the people it serves. We deserve a Sheriff who can and will enforce the law of the land. That man is Sheriff Scott Williams.

COURAGE: In a time where it seems law enforcement is criticized more often than praised, there's never been a better opportunity to keep a courageous and fearless leader like Scott in office.

Primary Election: Mar. 5 Early voting: Feb. 20 - Mar. 1



Book recommendations for Black History Month

BY KAYLEE DUSANG Staff Writer

For Black History Month, the Gatesville Public Library has exhibited a collection of several books for readers to commemorate Black writers and their contributions to literature.

The list includes everything from fiction to nonfiction, science, sports, history, politics, and more that are available for checkout at the library.

"This selection was put together by us looking at the different lists and seeing what other libraries were recommending, and what our community seems to be attracted to (based on) the amount of checkouts it has gotten," Library Director Shea Harp said. "All these books have been written by and are about people who are celebrated during Black History Month."

While there are several books to choose from, the list below provides a glimpse of some of the library's featured texts and their summaries:

"Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee Shetterly

Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of female African American mathematicians helped calculate flight

paths that would later launch rockets and astronauts into space. Moving from World War II through the Cold War and civil rights era, "Hidden Figures" chronicles the true story of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden and their major contributions to NASA that helped win the Space Race.

"The 1619 Project" by Nikole Hannah-Jones and The New York Times Maga-

This award-winning book weaves together a collection of essays that explores America's origin of slavery - beginning in August 1619 when a ship arrived in Jamestown bearing 20 to 30 enslaved people from Africa. Featuring the work of various journalists, thinkers, and scholars of American history, "The 1619 Project" demonstrates how the legacy of slavery continues to shape contemporary American culture.

"Ruth and the Green Book" by Calvin Alexander

In the 1950s, Ruth and her family embark on a road trip from Chicago to visit her grandmother in Alabama. When she discovers that Black travelers are not accepted in some of the small towns, her family relies on a guidebook to

help them travel safely. "Ruth and the Green Book" is an illustrated children's story that gives context to the historical significance of the real-life "Green Book" that helped guide African American travelers during the Jim Crow era.

"Freewater" by Amina Luqman-Dawson

A Newbury Medal winner, this work of middle-grade fiction follows the story of two enslaved siblings, Homer and Ada, who flee from a plantation to find freedom. After they escape, they discover the secret community of Freewater, a society created by formerly enslaved people and freeborn children. In Freewater, Homer finds friends and works to protect their new home from the encroaching dangers of the outside world.

"Enemies in Love" by Alexis Clark

"Enemies in Love" tells the nonfiction love story of a German POW and an African American army nurse. Elinor Powell and soldier Frederick Albert meet when Black army nurses were placed in regular contact with German soldiers who



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Public Library's book display for Black History Month.

were detained by Allies. "Enemies in Love" portrays a narrative of race and forbidden love during one of the most violent conflicts in history.

"Beloved" by Toni Morrison

Considered one of the most celebrated American novelists. Morrison's "Beloved" is a classic pick for Black History Month.

Set in rural Ohio several years after the Civil War, Sethe is haunted by her past and the ghost of her unnamed child whose tombstone is engraved with one word: Beloved. The tale follows Sethe's endurance from the hardships of slavery to freedom.

"Still We Rise" by Erika Council

Penned as "a love letter to the Southern biscuit," this cookbook honors Black culinary culture with over 50 recipes that connect readers to Black heritage in the American South. The author, who is also the owner and chef of Bomb Biscuit Company in Atlanta, shares recipes inspired by her family, friends, and other Black cookbook authors, including corn milk biscuits, red curry basil biscuits, hominy

honey butter, and cinnamon sugar and pecan biscuits.

'The Color Purple" by Alice Walker

Recently turned into a major motion picture, "The Color Purple" is an epistolary novel that explores the lives of African American women in early 20th century Georgia. Composed of letters written by two sisters, Celie and Nettie, the story shares a rich and memorable portrayal of Black women through their experiences of pain, struggle, resilience, bravery,

and sisterhood.

CHAMBER HOSTS RIBBON CUTTING



Gatesville's newest business, Whitney's Barbershop, held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony with the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 10. The event featured vendors and raffles, as well as special offers on haircuts. Whitney's Barbershop is located at 2422 East Main Street.

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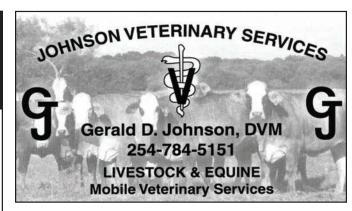
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PEARL NEWS

The Young and the Rest of Us



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

reaking news from the young and the rest of us in Pearl: I, your trusty Pearl News Correspondent who never causes any trouble or gets in anybody's business (well, that's not true), just received a call from Linda Ray warning me that my life is in jeopardy and that I should take the necessary precautions to protect myself from our dearest friend and foe—ves, both apply as you will see.

It all began when Linda Ray received a call from Kay Pruett who asked her if she would be available to take her somewhere. This after Kay finished reading the Pearl News in The Gatesville Messenger. Linda, always obliging and knowing that Kay never asks for anything, of course responded that she would be happy to take her anywhere she needs to go. Kay then told Linda that she needed a ride to East Texas as she has urgent business with said Pearl News Correspondent. It seems that Kay's name was once again mentioned in the Pearl News column along with the teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini, and this time Kay said that she is going to put an end to this

once and for all-permanently! (To be fair, I had been warned about reporting such tales. However, I just have to report the truth, don't I?)

Linda, again always obliging, when possible, let Kay know that this might not be such a good idea, but she would see what she could do. As Linda pondered the situation, she realized that if she and Kay struck out on their own, there is no way that they could even find East Texas—neither have the necessary apps on their phones to make such a journey, and who in the world would have a paper map with print large enough for them to see? In fact, Linda thought, they would probably just get to the outskirts of

Gatesville and have to turn around and head back home. There you have it, the whole sad story... to this point. Being only somewhat of a writer and not at all a prognosticator in the least, I have no idea what will happen next. Will Kay and Linda, in a Thelma and Louise manner, decide to undertake such a trip to do heaven knows what to this poor, innocent purveyor of the news? Or should this sweet, truthful...and don't forget innocent... writer do as Linda Ray strongly suggested—call Judge McDonald (the previously mentioned precaution) and report Kay once again. If you happen to see him in town, you might want to let him know that she's up to no good again. He'll know who you mean. Folks, there's no place like Pearl—no matter where you live.

This week's Bible verse comes from Lamentations 3:22-24—The faithful love of the Lord never ends. His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I

will hope in Him." NIV Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page, and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page! Please submit any Pearl news to betsyclark47@yahoo.com



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233-279 600-700 lb. 220-249 **ANDY'S SALE BARN CAFE** WEDNESDAYS @ 11 AM – BUFFET • BURGERS • SANDWICHES



A Fredericksburg firm makes cast iron skillets



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

f you want an upscale, state-of-the-art cast iron skillet, go to Fredericksburg.

"It's an interesting market and is actually significantly more interesting than I thought coming into it," says Jay Mallinckrodt, who thirtyfive years ago started a company named **Heartland Enterprises** that makes parts for jet engines. Two years ago, he started making skillets under the name Fredericksburg Cast Iron. "I knew there was a lot of passion about cast iron; there's a lot of family heirlooms that were handed down from somebody's grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, uncle or parents. Since starting this business, we've talked to people who love cast iron skillets. Feelings for them are so significant and deeper than we ever imagined."

He started making skillets during the pandemic.

"We had the relationships or capabilities here already to take it on."

The skillets come in

three sizes. "We have our number ten, a ten-inch cast iron skilled, that was our first product then we launched a number fourteen cast iron griddle, which is a fourteen-inch diameter round griddle that is great for all sorts of things like warming tortillas or cooking pancakes, eggs, or steaks. Our most recent product that we launched is our number twelve cast iron skillet. So, we have a ten and twelve-inch skillet and a fourteen-inch griddle.

He put his skillets on social media, and they quickly caught on with the public.

"We immediately had lots and lots of followers and lots and lots of interest. When we first launched our products had limited releases, maybe thirty, fifty, seventy-five skillets at a time, and they would sell out in ten minutes or less. We have sold probably thirty-five

percent outside the state

of Texas. Recently, we've been placed in all of

HEB's Central Markets

ten locations of those

across Texas. There are

stores in major markets. That has been good for

us also.' He is shocked at the response. The insides of the skillets are shiny.

"We machine and polish the cooking surface so that it's very smooth. That smoothness makes it virtually non-stick on day one. The flat outer bottom makes it fit snugly on the stove or countertop. There's no wobble. It's also easy to maintain."

He says his products have come a long way from the old-fashioned cowboy, chuck wagon, blacksmith style of cast iron skillet.

"But we have certainly kept the weight, which is a big factor in heat retention. In fact, our skillets weigh a little more than those early ones."

Jay took me through his factory where a man was working on a machine that softens some of the roughness and gives the skillets a smooth finish.

VALENTINE'S DAY TREAT



JANICE VELASQUEZ | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Residents packed into the Gatesville Senior Center on Wednesday for their special Valentine's Day steak luncheon. Nearly 60 meals were served. Senior Center director Pamela Rudolph (second from left), is pictured holding a discussion with special guests Helen Munday, Don and Sue Jones, and Alexandra Meelbusch.

CRSP raises money to give away free books with "BINGO for Books!"

Submitted Item

Members of CRSP (Coryell Retired School Personnel) will have their next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 22, at Rancher's Steakhouse. Social time will be at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10 a.m.

After the business meeting, the program will consist of playing "BINGO for

BOOKS!" All money donated to play Bingo will be placed in the Chapter's Book Fund to purchase free books for this year's "Children's Book Project." If you just prefer to make a donation to the fund (rather than paying by game), that will be fine, too. Members are asked to help out by bringing small prizes to be awarded to

winners. In 2023, our chapter gave away an awesome 3,215 books to children ages 12 and under, but our book fund is very low at the present time.

Of course, members may make donations of money or of books (new or gently used) any time during the year, but the Bingo is just a way of making it fun for

us! If you are not a member of CRSP but would like to donate some books, please contact Marsha Lee at 254-865-2030 or leave a message.

Members may begin to pay their dues at this meeting if they so desire. Dues are \$45 (\$10.00 for the local chapter and \$35.00 for the state).

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.

For submission guidelines, or to place your submission, email candypetpalaceevents@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 sub-

mission 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.

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.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

The Gatesville City Council voted to withdraw from a program as a "Main Street

The mailbox located inside the Coryell County Courthouse was moved outdoors to the courthouse

Robin Burgess, chief executive of an independent media business in the United Kingdom, visited at The Gatesville Messenger office to learn how news-

papers are dealing with the Internet.

A large turnout cleaned out the chili at the Gatesville Lions Club's annual chili supper held in the Gatesville High School cafeteria.

The Centex Crime Stoppers organization in Gatesville needed new board members.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Coryell County Commissioners voted to pay off a loan for prison land it

incurred in 1987.

The Gatesville City Counsel passed an emergency ordinance authorizing the Texas Department of Transportation to erect a traffic light at the intersection of Main and 19th Streets.

A student-produced program about Gatesville Junior High School was set to air on KXXV-TV channel

Robin Young Thomas passed the four-part CPA exam on her first try.

The Oglesby Lions Club prepared for their rattlesnake hunt.

40 YEARS AGO (1984) Data entry classes were added to Gatesville ISD's

vocational program. The Gatesville Post Office was taking applications for

a rural mail carrier. Hornet varsity basketball

team beat the McGregor Bulldogs.

Wholesale Foods on North Lutterloh Avenue advertised eight-roll packs of

toilet paper for 99 cents. Gatesville Girl Scouts were busy selling and delivering cookies.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

A growing gas famine frustrates local gas station operators as they expect possible shortages.

Miss Texas (Judy Mallett), also known as a "down home fiddler," was to be the featured entertainer at the Greater Gatesville Chamber of Commerce's annual Family Fun Night.

Gatesville High School's senior thespians were planning to present Joseph Kesseling's famous comedy:

"Arsenic and Old Lace." Due to a fabric allergy, dry cleaner Ruben Cummings was forced to sell his business Modern Cleaners at 606 Leon Street.

Red and White Food Stores advertised 3-quarts of Purex for 33 cents



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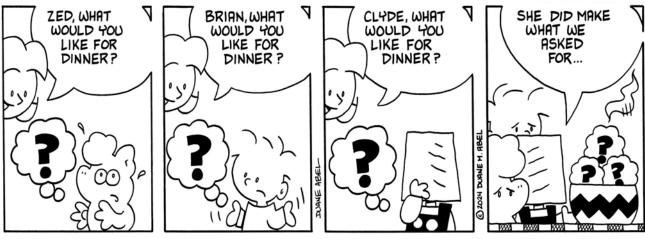
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KGB ANNOUNCES YARD OF MONTH



Keep Gatesville Beautiful has announced Deanna Brookfield at 410 South 6th Street as the Yard of the Month for February. Brookfield moved into her home a little over a year ago and made it look attractive by painting, putting up shutters and a fence, and doing her own landscaping. She says she is a picker and found her Valentine's decorations that way. Her landscape includes Texas Superstar Purple Vitex, monkey grass, boxwood bushes, privet hedge, irises, and a rose bush. For more information regarding the Yard of the Month, visit keepgatesvillebeautiful.com.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of February 7 - February 13. 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

February 7

10:20 a.m., wanted/ stolen (person/property) was reported on 1901 East Main Street.

10:36 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of State School Road.

5:13 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 200 block of North 10th Street. 5:58 p.m., animal cruelty

was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

February 8

8:32 a.m., an accident was reported in the 500 block of East Main Street.

5:07 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 14700 block of North State High-

6:28 p.m., a threat was reported in the 1400 block of Westview Drive.

6:42 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of North 28th Street.

February 9

1:54 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of East Main Street.

2:37 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of East Main

4:27 p.m., a threat was reported in the 600 block of South 14th Street.

8:53 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.

February 10

9:22 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway

10:36 a.m., a threat was

reported in the 100 block

of North 27th Street. 8:46 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

8:59 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2000 block of St. Louis Street.

February 11

7:14 a.m., a gas leak/fire was reported in the 1700 block of FM 215.

1:40 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2500 block of Osage Road.

3:45 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1000 block of West Leon

Street. 7:48 p.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block

of North 27th Street. February 12

4:33 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 2600 block of Powell Drive.

1:47 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of North 14th Street.

7:40 p.m., a gas leak/fire was reported in the 1200 block of East Main Street.

7:55 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Business Highway 36.

February 13

1:09 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

5:25 a.m., a threat was reported in the 2200 block

of Bridge Street. 11:34 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2400 block

of Oak Drive. 7:06 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2200

block of Bridge Street.

CORYELL COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

February 7

10:28 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.

11:31 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 800 block of County Road 334.

11:50 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1100 block of County Road 102.

3:13 p.m., a fight in progress was reported on FM 107 and Pew Branch.

February 8

9:40 a.m., missing livestock were reported in the 9400 block of FM 182.

10:42 a.m., identity theft was reported in the 300 block of Old Fort Gates Road.

1:15 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3200 block of Hay Valley Road.

2:33 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of Oak Springs Road.

February 9

10:39 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on North Highway 36 near the prisons.

3:12 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1900 block of Oak Springs Road.

8:47 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on FM 116 North Bound at Pidcoke.

10:47 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Powell Farm Rd.

February 10 12:09 a.m., shots fired

were reported in the 550 block of County Road 131. 10:32 a.m., a livestock

complaint was reported on South Highway 36 and Smith Creek.

3:54 p.m., a noise complaint was reported in the 800 block of Estate Circle.

5:05 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 800 block of Estate Circle.

February 11

8:18 a.m., water on roadway reported on Straws Mill Road.

9:53 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 200 block of County Road 207.

4:40 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Hollis Lane.

5:33 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of South US Highway 281.

February 12

7:19 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of FM 2412. 11:36 a.m., a livestock

complaint was reported on Greenbriar Road. 4:38 p.m., suspicious

persons were reported in the 7600 block of FM 1783.

8:53 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 15700 block of FM 107.

February 13 11:22 a.m., suspicious

activity was reported in the 100 block of Dora's 1:13 p.m., road blocked

was reported on County Road 273. 7:05 p.m., a domestic

dispute was reported in the 2000 block of Oglesby/ Neff Park Road. 8:56 p.m., fraud was

reported in the 500 block

of Nathan Drive.

Health & Recruiting Fair Feb. 21 ing, and more. Staff Reports Job recruiting will include Local hospital Coryell Ideal Protein, Advanced Wound Care, Cardiology,

Coryell Health to host

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 test-

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

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

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

Central Texas Travel Club to hold meeting

Staff Reports

The February meeting of the Central Texas Travel Club will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at Johnny's Steaks and Barbeque in

The gathering will commence at 11 a.m. with the actual meeting to begin at 11:30 a.m.

Discussions will include

upcoming trips to Big Bend,

The Ark, Eastern Europe riverboat cruise. Houston. Hawaii, and others.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in travel and meeting others.

For more information, contact centraltexastravelclub@outlook.com.

Johnny's Steaks and Barbeque is located at 301 Thomas Arnold Road in Salado.

BCMGA to hold classes at 2024 Home & Garden Show

Staff Reports

The Bell County Master Gardener Association will hold various classes on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the 2024 Home and Garden Show.

Certified Master Gardeners will conduct demonstrations on many gardening topics, which will include Turf and Weed Control at 10 a.m., Water Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting

at 11:15 a.m., Propagating Succulents at 12:30 p.m., Getting Ready for Spring at 1:15 p.m., Seed Saving at 2 p.m., and Soil Testing at 2:45 p.m.

The gardeners will be available to answer questions, as well as having access to the Kids Zone and Seed Table.

The 2024 Home and Garden Show will be located at 301 West Loop 121 in Belton.



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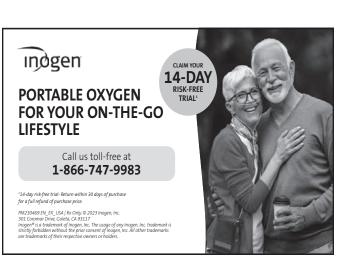
FOR INFO: 254-865-2226

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The Westward Road Gospel Group

COURTESY PHOTO

Gospel concert to be held at Pidcoke Baptist on Feb. 28

Submitted Item

Pidcoke Baptist Church will be hosting a gospel concert given by Westward Road vocal group on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Providing a unique blend of gospel and modern worship music is where Westward Road excels. Westward Road is an exciting and dynamic family trio, led by Scott Roberts, a 20-year veteran worship leader and nation-charting songwriter, and his wife, the talented

and award-winning vocalist, Kelli Roberts. Their son, Garrett Roberts, completes the superbly gifted musical family with his smooth vocal tones.

Their "out of the box" take on worship and gospel music paired with their God-given ability to communicate the Good News takes audiences into the presence of God in a very powerful way. They have performed for audiences in large theaters and for intimate settings in rural churches, festivals, and fairs.

A Westward Road concert leaves you uplifted by their message of hope and encouraged to live a life of trust in God. Their inspiring style of music along with their smooth family harmonies and ability to lead God's people into His presence through worship will have audiences of all ages falling in love with this fun and energetic

The public is invited to attend. Pidcoke Baptist Church is located at 11125 FM 116 North.

RECIPE

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHERN LIVING

Chicken enchilades

Chicken Enchiladas

BY VICKI MELTON

- 1 ½ 2 lbs. chicken
- 1 pt. enchilada sauce 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ½ tsp garlic salt dash pepper 1 large pkg. of Fritos corn chips 2 c. grated cheese

Boil chicken until tender. Reserve broth. Remove bones and chop chicken. Combine enchilada sauce, soup, onion, salt, and pepper. Grease baking dish. Line with chips. Add mixture, sprinkle with cheese. Cover with chips. Drizzle 1 c. broth over chips. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes.

OBITUARIES

Louise Wolfe

June 15, 1942 - Feb. 5, 2024

Louise Wolfe, age 81, of Gatesville, passed away on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9, at Restland Cemetery in Gatesville with James Baize officiating.

Iva Louise Wolfe was born on June 15, 1942, to Nolan and Ivalene Pruitt in Turnersville. She graduated from Turnersville High School and married Jerry Wolfe on June 7, 1958. Louise was employed for 32 years with the Boy Scouts of America and was a member of the Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Waco.

Louise enjoyed playing BINGO, golf, going to the movies, and was an avid fan of Baylor Bear basketball. She loved to travel. Louise was a loving mother, grandmother, and sister, and enjoyed life together with

her sisters. She also had a special love for her baby brother.

Louise will be sadly missed by family and friends, her dog, Tipsy, who ate her biscuits, and her other dog, Little Bit.

Louise was preceded in death by her parents, Nolan and Ivalene Pruitt; husband, Jerry Wolfe; sisters, Darlene Anderson and husband, Andy; Barbara Dyer and husband, Billy; nephews, Bill Dyer and Travis Pruitt; and brother-in-law, Dick Gellasch.

She is survived by her daughter, Rhonda Carrigan and husband. Mickey: grandsons, Kevin Mathis and Tyler Carrigan; sister, Nelda Gellasch; brother, Larry Pruitt and wife, Cheryl; nephews, Rick Wolfe, Rodney Wolfe, and Clint Pruitt; niece, Jill Cock-



rell; great-nieces, Bridgette Bartek, Elizabeth (Star) Pruitt and son, Camden.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Meals on Wheels, Gatesville Senior Center, 208 N. Lutterloh, Gatesville, TX 76528, or to the Turnersville Community Center, P.O. Box 701, Gatesville, TX 76528.

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 Hunt 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.

Volunteer drivers needed for Meals on Wheels program

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

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

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

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

Anywhere from 10 to 14 clients are seen each day per route.

Vehicles need to be provided by the volunteers as well. To volunteer, contact the

Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234.

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





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BETHEL HEIGHTS 3835 CR 127, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday worship 11 a.m. BETHLEHEM PRIMITIVE

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

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

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

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

5:30 p.m. **EASTWOOD** Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518

East Main, Gatesville; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50 a.m. & 6 p.m. FIRST BAPTIST EVANT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. **JONESBORO** Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.

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

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

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

6 p.m. **MOUNTAIN**

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

Wednesday. OSAGE

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

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

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

Donald McConnaughhay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service PLEASANT VALLEY

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

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

11 a.m **PURMELA BAPTIST** CHURCH

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

SWEET HOME

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

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

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

TURNERSVILLE

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

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

WHITE HALL Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday

3200.

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

Box 103, Mound, TX 76558. **MOUND COWBOY** CHURCH Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O.

Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.

CATHOLIC

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

CHURCH OF **CHRIST CEDAR RIDGE**

Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. **EVANT** Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W.

Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. **FORT GATES**

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

Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday

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Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

LUTHERAN

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

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

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

METHODIST

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

FIRST METHODIST **GATESVILLE** 2600 E. Main St.; Stephen

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

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

PIDCOKE METHODIST Rev. Pete Harris; Hwy. 116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday worship service 10 a.m.; 254-677-6242.

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CORYELL FELLOWSHIP Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901 COVER2COVER

Children's Ministry & C3

MINISTRIES Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker,

Student Ministry.

Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wednesdays 6 p.m. 407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5,

GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER

Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.; 2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-9472. **GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN**

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

HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL

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

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

FELLOWSHIP 6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday Services 9 a.m. THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT

PEARL COMMUNITY

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

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF **PRAISE**

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

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

PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN

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

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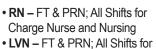
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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MICHAEL RAY DAYMUDE, Deceased, were issued on February 5, 2024, in Cause No. 22-10601, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: SHEILA ROWLAND. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed

by law. c/o: ESTATE OF MICHAEL RAY DAYMUDE SHEILA ROWLAND

789 Topaz Street Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

DATED February 6, 2024. KAREN M. VILLANUEVA Attorney for Applicant State Bar No.: 24102608 Telephone: (254) 771-1855 Facsimile: (254) 771-2082

E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com 00030618 No. 24-10943 ESTATE OF WILLIAM R. ELLER DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT

AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEX-

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

AS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William R. Eller, Deceased, were issued on January 24, 2024 in Cause No. 24-10943 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Patricia Lynn Goforth Independent Executrix of the Estate of William R. Eller. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

ney at Law PO Box 407 Waco, Texas 76703-0407

c/o: Karen C. Matkin Attor-

Patricia Lynn Goforth

ary 2024.

Karen C. Matkin Attorney for Independent Executrix State Bar No.: 13197400

DATED the 24th day of Janu-

PO Box 407 Waco, Texas 76703-0407 Telephone: (254) 776-1752 Facsimile: (254) 741-6022 Email: kmatkin5@aol.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

099

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

1707 E. Main, Gatesville • Off: 254-865-5006

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DORIS ELIZA-BETH SIMANK were issued on February 7th, 2024, in Docket No. 10945, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Jeffery Lightfoot. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as fol-

c/o Craig W. Brown, PLLC 312 S. Houston Ave.

Cameron, TX 76520 Dated 2/7/2024

00030620

Craig Brown Attorney for Executor of the Estate of DORIS ELIZA-**BETH SIMANK**

No. 24-10941 IN THE ESTATE OF JA-SON PAUL GRAHAM, DE-**CEASED** IN THE COUNTY COURT

OF CORYELL COUNTY,

TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jason Paul Graham, Deceased, were issued on January 31, 2024, in Cause No. 24-10941, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: Lisbeth

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

BAIRD, CREWS, SCHIL-LER, & WHITAKER, P.C. **STEPHEN** c/o: **BRISCHKE** Attorney at Law 15 North Main Street

DATED the 14th day of February, 2024.

Temple, Texas 76501

BAIRD, CREWS, SCHIL-LER, & WHITAKER, P.C. STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE Attorney for Applicant State Bar. No.: 24045552 15 N. Main Street Temple, Texas 76501 Telephone: (254) 743-7311 Facsimile: (254) 774-9353 E-mail: stephenbrischke@bcswlaw.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID CORYELL COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPART-

ITEM: County Road Rehab BID NUMBER: CCRB2024-06

DATE OF OPENING: March 5, 2024 @ 9:00 am LOCATION: Corvell County Main Street Annex 800 East Main St., Suite A, Gatesville, TX 76528

DATE OF AWARD: March 12, 2024 @ 9:00 am LOCATION: Coryell County Commissioners' Court Room 801 East Leon Street, Gatesville, TX 76528

Bids are solicited for furnishing the materials set forth in this invitation to bid. Completed bid proposals must be received in the Coryell County Auditor's Office, 800 East Main St., Suite A, Gatesville, Tx 76528 by the deadline stated above. All bids must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the bid number and opening date on the outside of the envelope.

A mandatory Pre Bid site showing will hosted February 27, 2024, 9:00 A.M. at the Coryell County Road & Bridge department, 3701 US Hwy. 84 West, Gatesville, TX 76528. Contractors that do not attend this meeting will not be eligible to bid.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

manner prescribed by law.

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ANN PATRICIA SPRINGER, Deceased, were issued on February 5, 2024, in Cause No. 23-10930, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: BEVERLY DEANNA CORDELL. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the

c/o: BEVERLY DEANNA CORDELL 120 Baldridge Drive

Gatesville, Texas 76528 DATED the 9th day of February, 2024.

James O. Cure Attorney for BEVERLY DEANNA CORDELL State Bar No.: 05252800 2584 Blue Meadow Dr. Temple, TX 76502

Facsimile: (254) 773-2477 E-mail: jocure@cureandfrancis.net 00030626

Telephone: (254) 778-8934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Janice L. Price, Deceased, were issued on February 9, 2024, in Cause No. 24-10944, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Laura Swanson and Richard D. Price. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to

present them to the undersigned within the time and in the

manner prescribed by law. c/o: Chuck P. Stermer Attorney at Law 619 E. Main St.

Gatesville, Texas 76528

DATED February 9, 2024. Chuck P. Stermer Attorney for Laura Swanson and Richard D. Price

Telephone: (254) 865-6003

Facsimile: (254) 323-0070

State Bar No.: 24094964 619 E, Main St. Gatesville, Texas 76528

E-mail: chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com 00030627

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BOOT SCOOTIN' BENEFIT

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A benefit was held on Saturday, Feb. 10 to raise funds for the Meals on Wheels program. The program delivers hot meals and conversation to local elderly folks within the community. The benefit included performances by the Texas Connection Band, a kettle corn station, fried ribs, raffles, and door prizes. The event was held at the Texas Station Event Center.



liams, and Senior Center Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge.



Pictured left to right is Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph, Rob Wil-Senior center volunteer Devin Edge is pictured preparing fried ribs for the benefit.



Many gathered to enjoy the evening at Texas Station to help raise funds for the local Meals on Wheels program.

Donations needed 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

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,
- Texas Sheet Cake, 6 cakes.

10 dozen.

people.

- Pies, 20 of any kind that does not have to be refrigerated.
- Cornbread, 10 pans. - Chili, enough to feed
- 100 people. - Soup, any kind, enough to feed 100
- Salad, lettuce, and

vegetables of your choosing, premixed, enough to feed 150 people.

Items are to be dropped off by 9 a.m. on

Friday, April 5. List of needed items:

- Non-latex gloves, three boxes.

- Lemonade mix, two large powder mixes.
 - Tea bags, four boxes.
- Chips, eight boxes that are individually
- wrapped. Pancake batter, 10
- boxes. Syrup, 10 bottles.
- Jar of pepperoncini peppers, six jars.
- Jalapeno peppers, four jars.
- Beefy onion soup and dip mix, six boxes.
- Small plastic tongs, 10 pairs.
- Bottled water, 10 cases.
- Salad dressing, four large ranch, two Italian, and two thousand
- islands. Mustard, four bottles.
- Mayo, four bottles. - Ketchup, six bottles.
- Saltine crackers, six boxes.
- Shredded cheese, four large bags that will freeze.

- Salted butter, eight of

- the four stick boxes for a total of 32 sticks that will freeze.
- Pork Roasts, 10 large roasts that will freeze. - Hawaiian rolls, 10 of
- the 24 packs. - Eight-pound bags of
- russet potatoes, 10 bags. - Large bag of baby car-
- rots, 10 bags. Be sure to drop off the items no later than Friday, March 29.

Donations can be dropped off at Righteous Roots, 904 E. Leon St. in Gatesville. For more information, call 254-651-3600.

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CHRIS ALLMAN I THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GHS basketball standouts, pictured left to right, are Charlie Winkler, Kase Cox, Rayshon Smith, and West Allman.

Hornets routs of Robinson, China Spring lock up third straight playoff berth

BY CHRIS ALLMAN Contributing Writer

A Gatesville basketball season that appeared to be on life support less than two weeks ago is now alive and well and rolling into the postseason for the third straight year.

The Hornets put together back-to-back wins over Robinson (69-53) and China Spring (50-35) to leapfrog the Rockets and the Cougars and finish the regular season as the No. 3 seed in the final 23-4A standings.

Gatesville will play 24-4A runner-up Jarrell in the bidistrict playoffs on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Belton High School.

The Hornets knew a final two-game sweep was possible - even probable - but after a 64-36 loss at La Vega on Feb. 6, Brit Campbell thought his team would need to start playing like the team that won 24 games and a pair of tournament championships early in the

"We really just tried to get back to being together and being us," said head coach Brit Campbell. "We haven't been playing together, we have been frustrated, and we have been doing things

that weren't in the team's best interest. We just tried to get our guys back and make it fun again."

The Hornets rediscovered the fun in the wins over the Rockets and Cougars.

In the win over Robinson, Kase Cox turned in his best game of the season. The junior forward used his frenetic energy to score twenty points and grab eight rebounds. All nine of his field goals came on short jumpers or fast break layups. He also had four steals in the

West Allman pumped in 19 points and grabbed nine rebounds, while Rayshon Smith had 14 points in the win. Allman and Cox combined to score 30 points in the paint in the win.

Gatesville (25-10, 4-6) started the game on a 9-0 run, but then the Rockets scored the next 11 points to take an 11-9 lead. The game was tied 23-23, but Gatesville started the second half on another run.

Cox scored on a feed from Graceson Stewart for a 25-23. Then Evan McCracken buried a three-pointer for a 28-23 advantage. Stewart

PLEASE SEE **PLAYOFF** | B6

OGLESBY ISD HELD COMMITMENT DAY FOR SENIORS



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASEY MELTON

A commitment day was held on Feb. 7 for three seniors of Oglesby Independent School District. Letters of intent were signed to continue their athletic endeavors at the collegiate level. The students include Matti Dixon, Landon Williamson, and Hunter Walter. Matti Dixon will be attending McLennan Community College (MCC) in Waco to play golf. Landon Williamson will be attending the University of Mary Hardin Baylor (UMHB) in Belton to play football. Hunter Walter will be attending Schreiner University in Kerrville to play baseball. Pictured left to right: Hunter Walter, Matti Dixon, and Landon Williamson.



Gatesville Junior High Boys Basketball results

FEB. 1 - GJHS VS	ROBINS	ON			
8A vs. Robins	on 1	2	3	4	FINAL
Robinson	5	6	6	6	23
Gatesville	17	10	16	6	49
Scoring: Grady	Keeton-	32; Eli Ph	illips-8; I	Draven H	Iender-
son- 7; Camder	n Webb-2				
Record: 12-4					

7A vs. Robinson	1	2	3	4	FINAL		
Robinson	6	5	4	13	28		
Gatesville	6	11	4	9	30		
Scoring: Jaxon Fr	anks-	14; Andre	w Winkl	er-5; Prest	on Bar-		
ron-4; Bennett Eggeling-3; Max Jacobs- 3; Sebastian Hubik-2							
Record: 11-5							

8B vs. Robinson	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Robinson	5	6	4	9	24
Gatesville	5	8	1	7	21
Scoring: Isaac Cr	awfo	ord-8; Brensy	yn Pope	-7; Jaxon I	Botkin- 5;
Jayden Reyes-1					
D 1 7 0					

7B vs. Robinsor	1	2	3	4	FINAI
Robinson	14	4	10	6	34
Gatesville	0	2	0	2	4
Scoring: Gabriel	Campo	os-2; Jenn	ar Velasq	uez- 2	
Record: 7-8					

FEB. 8 – GJHS VS. CHINA SPRING									
8A vs. China	1	2	3	4	FINAL				
China	10	8	3	6	27				
Gatesville	12	6	17	9	44				
Scoring: Grady	Keeton-	20; Eli Pł	nillips- 16;	Draven	Hender-				
son- 5; Stefon B	loyd-3								
Record: 13-4									

7A vs. China	1	2	3	4	FINAI			
China	1	10	6	11	28			
Gatesville	8	8	12	11	39			
Scoring: Jaxon	Franks-	24; Andre	w Winkle	er-6; Tays	hon Ev-			
ans-6; Bennett Eggeling-3								
Record: 12-5								

8B vs. China	1	2	3	4	FINA
China	7	6	15	7	35
Gatesville	6	10	10	5	31
Scoring: Jaxon	Botkin-	15; Brensy	n Pope- 1	0; Isaac	Craw-
ford-4; Pate Fos	ster-2				
Record: 7-9					

7B vs. China	1	2	3	4	FINA
China	14	9	10	13	46
Gatesville	4	6	11	14	35
Scoring: Brayd	en Warre	n- 12; Zio	on Nunn-8	; Micah ()lvera-8;
Trey Moore-5:	Jennar V	elasquez	- 2		

Record: 7-9

FINAL Record: 14-4

FEB. 12 – GJHS VS. CHINA SPRING									
8A vs. China	1	2	3	4	FINAL				
China	4	6	5	5	20				
Gatesville	16	11	7	9	43				
Scoring: Grady Keeton- 22; Draven Henderson- 7; Eli Phil-									
ling-5: Kaydon l	Ruster-5	Stefon R	ovd-4						

7A vs. China	1	2	3	4	OT	FINAL		
China	5	3	5	9	3	25		
Gatesville	6	2	5	9	0	22		
Scoring: Drew Winkler-12; Preston Barron-5; Bennett Egg-								
eling-3; Jaxon Franks-2								
EINIAI Dogorde	126							

8B vs. China	1	2	3	4	FINA
China	9	12	4	6	31
Gatesville	6	7	4	3	20
Scoring: Jaxon	Botkin-	12; Isaac C	Crawford	d-4; Karme	elo Roy-
al-2; Brensyn Po	ope-1; N	lemphis Sa	alas-1		
FINAL Record:	7-10				

7B vs. China	1	2	3	4	FINAL			
China	13	5	12	14	44			
Gatesville	5	0	6	12	23			
Scoring: Jennar	Velasqu	iez-9; Zio	n Nunn-6	; Brayder	ı War-			
ren-4; Jaxon Shepard-2; Micah Olvera-2								
FINAL Record: 7-10								

GHS soccer girls fall short, boys add two more victories

Submitted Item

The Gatesville High School girls' soccer played Brownwood on Tuesday, but came up short, 0-3, against Brownwood. The girls are led by

four-year starters, seniors Bethany Penrod, Raisa Leon, and Cayleigh Coursey.

Gatesville High School boys' soccer played China Spring on Friday. GHS got

an early goal from Oswaldo Leon. The game was tied, 1-1, until the final six minutes when Gatesville got a goal from Hector Silva. They also added goals from Asa Hard-

castle and Silva (assist from Angel Almendariz) in the final minutes to win, 4-1. On Tuesday, GHS played Brownwood. The boys fell behind, 0-2, at halftime, but fought

their way back with goals from Oswaldo Leon and Angel Almendariz (assist from Alex Bueno) to even the score. With only 14 seconds left, Asa Hardcastle sent a

ball into the box that found the head of Oswaldo Leon, and the back of the net, giving the Hornets a dramatic last second victory, 3-2.



P.O. Box 309, Evant, TX 76525 Phone: 254-471-5531. Fax: 254-471-3180 www.fnbevant.com

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY TM

Texan Women's Golf takes top five finish in spring campaign opener at Texas State Invitational

Tarleton State University

NEW BRAUNFELS — Tarleton State Women's Golf kicked off its first event of the spring at the Texas State Invitational at the Landa Park Golf Course Feb. 5 and 6, tying for fifth place.

In a field of 15, the Texans finished tied for fifth with fellow WAC member UT Arlington, each shooting a plus-70 (922). The duo finished 13 strokes behind Abilene Christian, whose second place overall finish was the only WAC school better than Tarleton. Utah Valley and UTRGV both finished behind the Texans and Mavericks.

"First spring tournament is in the books. Our performance this week showed us what we need to work on to keep on improving during the season," said head coach Isabel Jimenez after the tournament. "I am excited for what's ahead and all the potential we have as a team."

Four Texans finished in the top 30 in the first event of the spring. Sofia Rodriguez led the Texans with a top 20 finish, tying for 19th place and carding a 79-72-78, 16 over-par. After ending the first round in the top 10, Lou Deltombe finished in a tie



Tarleton State Women's Golf kicked off its first event of the spring at the Texas State Invitational at the Landa Park Golf Course Feb. 5 and 6, tying for fifth place.

for 24th place with 73-81-76. Mathilde Brogens finished a stroke behind Deltombe in a tie for 27th place with a 231.

Elle Fox tied for 29th, shooting one stroke behind Brogens with a 232. In her first collegiate tournament, Quedesha Golledge shot a

249 tying for 67th place.

In total, the Texans featured 18 birdies across the three rounds. Fox and Golledge each made five birdies.

The host school, Texas State, took home the team title by 48 strokes, shooting a nine over-par across three rounds of the invitational. Abilene Christian (+57) and Sacred Heart (+57) rounded out the top three team finishers.

On the individual side, Texas State's Hailey Jones won the title as the only

under-par 54-holes in the tournament with a twounder par. She carded a 70-69-72 on the par 71 course to win the crown. Texas State's Yvonne Chamness took home second place turning in 72-71-73. Central Michigan's Ashley Goh and

Abilene Christian's Delaney Martin tied for third, shooting five-over par, 218. Goh carded a 68 on her second round of play, the lowest among all 80 competitors in any of the three rounds.

Tarleton will compete in six tournaments in the spring season including the 2024 WAC Champions at the Rim Golf Club in Payson, Arizona. The Texans return to three events they participated in last season and adventure to two new courses this spring. The Texas State Invitational and the UAB Spring Bash are two events new to the Texan schedule this go around. Returning to the slate from last season are the GCU Invitational, HCU Women's Intercollegiate and the Oral Roberts Spring Invitational.

The Texans will have a two week break in competition, returning to action at the end of the month on Feb. 27 and 28. The Purple and White will travel west to Phoenix, Arizona for the two-day GCU Invitational at the GCU Golf Course. Last year, Tarleton finished 11th of 17 and returner Sofia Rodriguez broke the top 20 individuals with a tied for 19th place finish.

Texans use 26-point swing to erase 15-point deficit at Utah Valley Williams scores 20-plus in third consecutive game

Tarleton State University

OREM, Utah — Tarleton State Men's Basketball erased a 15-point deficit for the second time this season, to come from behind and knock off Utah Valley, 72-61 at the UCCU Center Thursday, Feb. 8.

The Texans (16-7 overall, 9-3 WAC) matched their WAC record in wins, earning their ninth conference victory over the Wolverines (9-14 overall, 4-8 WAC). Tarleton also clinched its first over .500 overall winning percentage in its D1 era.

"Tonight was a big-time road win for the Texans," said acting head coach Joseph Jones after the game. "Our guys fought extremely hard and played their hearts out. It shows us that this team is never going to give up and never quit for Tarleton and their teammates."

Lue Williams led the team in scoring for the thirdstraight game, posting his third consecutive 20-plus game, posting 21 with 15 coming in the second half. He also brought down six boards and dished out three assists.

Jakorie Smith and KiAndre Gaddy also scored in double-digits posting 13 and 10, respectively. Emmanuel Innocenti pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds while scoring seven

Tarleton trailed at the half by 15, in a half that was seemingly dominated by Utah Valley. However, the second half was a completely different story. The Purple and White outscored the Wolverines, 49-23, a 26-point swing from the first half.

Barnes got the Texans started in the second 20 minutes, draining a triple and a mid-range jumper just outside the paint to shorten the deficit to 10 on a 5-0 run in the first two minutes. After his jumper, his excitement warranted a technical foul according to the official, where Utah Valley converted on one-oftwo. On the very next possession, Barnes was called for another foul which sparked the bench and seemed to shift the momentum in the Texans favor. Barnes made the Texans' seventh straight point on the other end, the begin-

ning of a 7-0 run to bring Tarleton within six, 41-35 with 15:22 to go.

After the Wolverines made a bucket, it was Gaddy's turn to spark a run. The senior missed the last 17:07 of the first half after drawing two quick fouls. In a span of 1:33 Gaddy made a trio of buckets and his and-one free throw for a 7-0 run of his own, bringing the Texans within a point, 43-42.

With the Purple and White outscoring the hometown team 19-5 in the first eight minutes of the second half, UCCU Center fell mainly silent except for the contingent of Tarleton fans located right behind the squad's

Williams tied the game for the first time since it was 7-7, draining a contested shot from downtown to deadlock it at 45. After a UVU missed three-pointer, the ball found Innocenti at the top of the arc where he swished his first three of the night to give the Texans a 48-45 lead and seemingly deaden the crowd.

The two teams would trade baskets before being tied for the final time at 55.



Lue Williams led the team in scoring for the third-straight game, posting his third consecutive 20-plus game, posting 21 with 15 coming in the second half.

With 5:57 to go, Williams made a hook shot in the lane to tie the two squads at 55 and break the tie converting his and-one free throw. The Texans shot out to a five-point lead when Smith and Gaddy made buckets on back-to-back possessions. Smith knocked down a pair of triples with the latter giving Tarleton a 66-58 lead with 1:09 to go.

The Wolverines would 60, 45% from the floor. The

make one more triple but after a few shots in the paint that didn't fall and a TSU rebound, the game was out of reach for UVU. The Texans closed the game on a 6-0 run with two pairs on two pairs of free throws and a fast break wide open dunk by Williams to put the exclamation point on the 72-61 victory. Tarleton State shot 27-for-

after shooting 32.1% in the first half. The Purple and White shot over 50% from deep for the third time this season resulting in their third win. TSU shot 53.3% from downtown in the game and 62.5% in the second half. Utah Valley shot 23.3% in the second half after shooting 46.7% in the first 20 minutes.

Texans shot an impressive

56.3% in the second half

Tarleton State extends priority date for need-based financial aid

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University has extended its priority consideration date for institutional, need-based aid, including need-based scholarships, to

The move comes as a response to Department of Education delays in delivering Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applicant data to institutions, as well as problems

with the rollout of federally mandated changes in the

application itself. While technical glitches and lack of updated data have caused frustration for students, parents and financial aid offices across the country, Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley says the university is monitoring the situation and reacting accordingly.

"We are adjusting our processes to compensate

for the challenges presented by the Department of Education's changes to FAFSA," Dr. Hurley said. "This is part of our commitment to make transformative postsecondary opportunities accessible to all students. We want our students to feel supported and know that we are in this with them."

According to Undersecretary of Education James Kvaal, stu-

dents' FAFSA information, contained in Institutional **Student Information** Records (ISIRs), will be sent to colleges beginning in March, almost two months later than the original late-January date the department indicated when the overhauled FAFSA softlaunched in December. Tarleton is committed to sending award letters to students as soon as possible after receipt of ISIRs

from the Department of Education.

Tarleton State's priority date for 2024-25 meritbased scholarships remains Feb. 15. Students are encouraged to apply by then for the best chance at receiving funding.

"It's in our students' best interest to submit the FAFSA and scholarship as early as possible and before the respective priority dates since we begin allocating

awards soon after the priority dates. However, if for some reason, a student is unable to meet the priority date, the university continues to accept applications for scholarships and financial aid through the beginning of the semester," said Dr. Javier Garza, vice president for enrollment management.

For more information, visit https://www.tarleton. edu/finaid/.

EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby

Retired School Personnel (CRSP) Provide Free Books for Children

SUBMITTED BY MARSHA LEE

Every educator knows that developing a love of reading is the key that opens the door to a world of knowledge and discovery for students. With this in mind, members of Coryell Retired School Personnel (CRSP) once again continued their annual participation in a statewide Children's Book Project aimed at placing free books in the hands of children, ages twelve and under, who otherwise might not have books of their own. This statewide project was started in 1998 by TRTA (Texas Retired Teachers), the nation's largest organization of retired public school employees. Although the statewide total of books given away in 2023 is not yet available, the grand total was 117,850 books in 2021 and 144,237 books in 2022. However, our local chapter donations were 2,230 books in 2021 and 2,406 books in 2022. Our total for this past year (2023) is an awesome 3,215 books!

About 1,500 books were delivered to the Gatesville Care Center to be distributed to clients for their children as Christmas gifts. Books have also been donated to Jonesboro, Oglesby, and Gatesville school districts, especially for Pre-K, kindergarten, and first graders. Books for students enrolled in Head Start in both the spring and fall semesters received books, and some books were donated to help support the Head Start curriculum. Books were taken to the Texas Hospitality House for use by parents who brought along children when they came in on weekends to visit family or friends incarcerated

at TDC. If parents or children staying at the Hospitality House want to take books home with them, CRSP will gladly replace the books as needed throughout the year. Something new was tried in 2022-23, as several retirees worked at tables set up behind the Presbyterian Church on Halloween for the Boozaar. As children came by to play games, check out booths, or trick-ortreat for candy, CRSP allowed the children to pick out a free book or two along with a piece of candy. The children seemed to really enjoy this option, and lots of parents expressed their appreciation of our effort and said they would try to donate books to us for next year. About 175 books were given away that evening. At the "Back to School Bash" last August, CRSP Book Project committee members set up tables and gave books away to children who came to pick out school supplies. The Book Project Committee plans to try other ideas like these at other special community events and activities.

Books are chosen for their content and artwork as well as appropriateness for grade level. A book plate is carefully placed inside the cover, indicating that it is a gift from CRSP. According to Gail Johnson, local CRSP President, "Although we are no longer actively teaching in the classroom, we retirees continue to care about school children. We respect and appreciate the job that current teachers do; after all, we have walked in their shoes." JoAnn Sugg, District XII TRTA President, added, "The book project is also supportive

of parents as they strive to encourage their children to read at home. Retirees never underestimate the importance of reading, whether it is for pleasure or for work-related details."

One-way CRSP purchases new books is with funds raised or donated by members themselves. One meeting a year is spent playing "Bingo for Books," where members pay a nominal fee to play a card(s) in each game and receive a small prize if their card is a winner. Some members just make a donation from time to time or purchase a few new books to donate throughout the year. The retirees also collect "gently used" books each year to give away to children. (Gently used books are not brand new, but they are in very good condition: no writing in them; no torn pages, cover, or spine, etc.)

"We are always on the 'look out' for a book deal, like other groups' book sales or garage sales, where we can pick some nice books up to add to our book numbers," says Books Project Chairman, Marsha Lee. "If anyone would like to donate new or gently used books or donate money to buy new books, our organization will be most appreciative. You can contact me by phone or via text message at 254-216-1677 or by email to marsha_lee48@yahoo.com. Likewise, if you know of some other group who could benefit from receiving free books for children, or if you know of another venue where we could set up a table to offer free children's books, please contact me or any member of retired



CRSP's Gail Johnson sorts through books at the Gatesville Care Center.



National FFA Week, celebrated from February 17th to 24th, is an exciting time for kids to learn about agriculture, leadership, and the incredible opportunities that the Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization offers. FFA is not just about farming; it's about fostering leadership skills, personal growth, and a love for agriculture.

During this special week, FFA chapters across the country engage in various activities to celebrate and

educate. Kids can expect fun events like farm tours, workshops, and even petting zoos to discover the wonders of agriculture firsthand. The blue and gold FFA colors symbolize the organization's commitment to tradition and progress.

For those interested in plants, animals, or technology, National FFA Week is a perfect time to explore these fields. Kids can learn about sustainable farming, technology in agriculture,



and the importance of car-

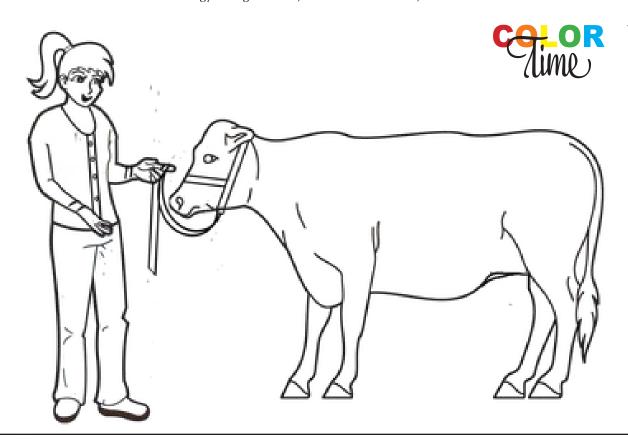
ing for the environment. Teachers may incorpo-

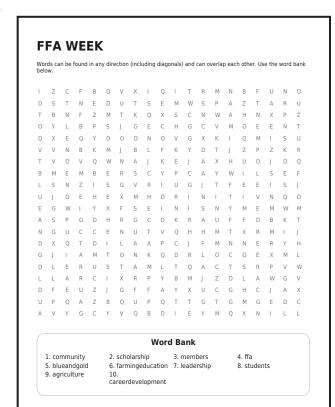
rate FFA Week into their lesson plans, introducing students to the significance of agriculture in our lives. FFA members often share their experiences, inspiring kids to consider the diverse career paths within the agriculture industry.

National FFA Week is an opportunity for kids to appreciate the hard work of farmers, understand where their food comes from, and explore the countless possibilities within agriculture. It's not just a week; it's an invitation to explore, learn, and appreciate the vital role that agriculture plays in our world. So, from February 17th to 24th, let's celebrate the spirit of FFA and the bright future it holds for the leaders and innovators of tomorrow!



FFA was organized nationally in 1928 in Kansas City, Mo. In 1950, Congress granted FFA a federal charter, making it an integral part of public agricultural instruction under the National Vocational Education Act.







To sponsor the Children's pages, call 254-865-5212.

RETIRED TEACHERS READ TO GATESVILLE PRIMARY STUDENTS



COURTESY PHO

Pictured is retired teacher Deanna Mueller, member of the Retired Teachers Association (RTA) surrounded by students of the Gatesville Primary after reading them a book. The association spent the afternoon reading to students. Before leaving, they made sure each student went home with a book of their own.

GHS AUTO TECH PROGRAM RECEIVES DONATION



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville High School Auto Tech program recently received a donation of electronic test kits from Texas State Technical College (TSTC). Students of the class are now able to build circuits while gaining more knowledge and learning the tricks of the trade.

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.

Annual Susan Patricia Pitts Memorial Scholarship open

Staff Reports

The ladies of the John H. Reagan, Chapter 325 UDC, Gatesville, are offering their 11th annual Susan Patricia Pitts Memorial Scholarship to high school seniors, as well as homeschooled 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,

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

Texas Farm Bureau scholarships 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 texasfarm-bureau.org/scholarships.



Several Gatesville High School CTE students advance to state

Staff Reports

Many students who are members of the Career and Technology Education (CTE) program at Gatesville High School competed in a rigorous Skills USA competition this past weekend and dominated in an assortment of categories.

The students include:

Kinsley Wrisk is an auto tech student who will compete at the state level with her cylinder head project.

Carley Dowling and Addison Woods are welding students who will compete at the state level.

Dutch Nielsen and Kase Cox are construction students who will be competing at the state level with their outdoor bar project.

Easton Keeney and Terri Gooden are construction students who will be competing at the state level with their folding picnic table project

Rex Owens and Brayden Mills are construction students who will be competing at the state level with their coffee table project.

Ada Hardcastle is a construction student who will be competing at the state level with his coffee table

projec

Skills USA serves as an extension to many of the CTE classrooms and focuses on supporting students as they engage in their handson skills against current industry standards. The program empathizes with career readiness skills such

as teamwork, commitment, professionalism, and leadership to fuel career and life

success.
For further details, contact Gatesville High School

at 254-865-8281.



Auto Tech student Kinsley Wrisk.



Welding students (left to right) Addison Woods and Carley Dowling.





Construction students (left to right) Dutch Nielsen and Kase Cox.



 ${\bf Construction\, students\, (left\, to\, right)\, East on\, Keeney\, and\, Terri\, Gooden.}$



COURTESY PHOTO



Construction students (left to right) Rex Owens and Brayden Mills.

PLAYOFF

dropped in a layup to put Gatesville up 30-23. Then Cox picked up a steal and converted a layup for a 32-23 lead. Following a Robinson timeout, Smith drove for a layup and a 34-23 advantage, and the Rockets

would never threaten again. The Hornets played without sophomore star Charlie Winkler against Robinson but got valuable contributions in his absence. Mc-Cracken scored four points and had three assists in the win, and Stewart had six points and four rebounds. Scout Hall scored six points and had three rebounds and three assists in the win. Amos Phillips had five rebounds, two blocks, and a steal.

"Guys are just filling their roles really well. They are just doing their part," said Campbell.

The win over Robinson set up a winner-take-all showdown with China Spring who had trounced the Hornets 61-47 on Jan. 26.

"A good team wasn't going to get in (tonight). That's just the bottom line. China Spring is a good basketball team that didn't get in. If we hadn't won, then we would be the good basketball team that didn't get in. We just wanted to do our best to not let that happen."

Their best was a defensive clinic where they matched the patient, methodical Cougars offense move for move and allowed just 12 first half points.

The mark of most of the Hornets, wins this season has been fast starts. In games they start fast, they typically win, and against China Spring they raced to a 14-4 lead on the back of Allman and Winkler.

Allman scored the game's first six points on two jumpers and a putback. Then

Winkler drilled a corner three-pointer for a 9-4 lead. Allman came back with two free throws and deep threepointer to give Gatesville a 14-4 lead that they would never relinquish.

China Spring would cut into the Hornet lead at 42-33 in the fourth quarter, but free throws from Cox and Smith upped the lead to 47-33. The celebrations began after Winkler found a streaking Phillips for a layup, and then senior John Hall sealed the win with a free throw.

Allman had a game-high 16 points, while Winkler had ten. Stewart had eight points, and Phillips had six.

The Hornets are now in the playoffs for the third straight season and have won 25 games or more two seasons in a row. Since the start of the 2022-23 season, they are 53-18 with a bidistrict playoff win in 2023 and four tournament championships.

The return to the playoffs is validation that Gatesville is a program not only on the rise, but also a preview of what's ahead as they will return Allman, Cox, Winkler, Smith, Phillips, McCracken, and Logan Biggs.

"It's big for the program to get back, especially losing those seniors last year and having the year we had last year. Then to come back and have another really good year is huge to get back into the postseason," said Campbell.

Gatesville beat Jarrell, their first-round opponent, 44-43 in Gatesville in the second game of the season. The Hornets were without Smith, Phillips, Hall, and Biggs who were still playing football in that game.

PRIZE WINNING PIG



Eighth grader Kace Laster from Jonesboro Independent School District recently had an eventful week in multiple livestock shows. He placed ninth in his duroc class at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo as well as placing fourth in his duroc class at the San Angelo Livestock Show.

Gatesville High School Band to host 5th annual mattress fundraiser

Staff Reports

Gatesville High School Band program will host its fifth annual mattress fundraiser on Saturday, March 2. The fundraiser will be held at Gatesville High School from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The mattresses featured will be Beautyrest and will include an adjustable base, luxury pillows, and a mattress 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 twinsize for \$199, a full-size for \$229, a queen-size for \$249, and a king-size for

Every purchase that is

made will benefit the band program.

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

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

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63% are college educated

41% have children in the household.











FREE MEDICAL CLINIC WAS HELD AT GATESVILLE PRIMARY

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Feed My Sheep recently hosted a free medical clinic at Gatesville Primary School. The clinic offered a complete medical checkup, a well or sick visit, and medicine if it was available. The clinic also provided free

vision screening, dental hygiene information, and blood pressure screening. One room contained care

ing, coats, and blankets. Feed My Sheep provides free monthly medical clin-

packages along with clothics for children. The organization is comprised of volunteer doctors and nurses from local hospitals and

medical schools who provide care to families who need access to care for their children.













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GHS Law Practicum class competes in mock trial at Baylor

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

The Gatesville High School Law practicum class recently made their way to the Baylor University School of Law in Waco for a Mock Trial competition.

The team was led by educator Brittney "Star" Hamilton. They competed in four rounds over the course of three days (Thursday, Feb. 1, through Saturday, Feb. 3).

The class had very little time to prepare for the mock trial since the case is released each year on Oct. 1, and the competition is held the following February.

Although there was a time crunch, the students worked hard in the months leading up to the

"We met two to three times a week from November to February practicing opening statements, direct and cross examination, and closing arguments," Hamilton said.

This year's mock trial involved a civil case in which 14.2 billion dollars was at stake.

"A billionaire took an excursion on a submersible and, unfortunately, did not return (sound familiar?)," Hamilton said.

The team was able to be the plaintiff and defense twice.

The students consisted of attorneys Alex Johnson, Keira Ruiz, and Cameron Thompson. The witnesses were portrayed by Alaynah Wrisk, Aeriale Appleton, Katie Hopson, Callie Earls, Cloie Byrom, and Brianna Petrie (with the alternate being Lexi Cobb).

Each team is required to bring a timekeeper, and Gatesville's was Raylee Glover. She is responsible for keeping the team within a strict time frame with each round lasting up to two and a half hours.

"It was a tough competition and unfortunately, we did not advance," Hamilton said. "However, our artist Ellie Knobloch will be advancing to state after placing first at regionals in the courtroom artist competition."

To be a successful courtroom artist, you would need excellent drawing skills and the ability to work quickly while maintaining accuracy in your work.

Knoblock was given the length of the court proceedings, as well as one and a half hours to two and a half hours to draw a scene from the trial that depicts the emotions and content of the courtroom.

"This is the second year we have competed, and I feel that we have improved a great deal from last year," Hamilton said. "Coaches from the competing schools complimented us on our improvement."

Knobloch will attend the state competition in Dallas to compete as a region 12 courtroom artist on Thursday, March 7, Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9.

"Being an attorney is a tough job and takes years of schooling,' Hamilton said. "This program encourages students to look past the years of schooling to the benefit of what an attorney is and does.'

"I look forward to the growth between now and next year and hope to advance," Hamilton said.



Members of the Law Practicum class at the Baylor University of Law after competing at their regional competition. Pictured far right is Ellie Knobloch, region 12 courtroom artist, who will be advancing to state in early March.

How to Support Early Readers at Home

(StatePoint)

Recent data indicate that over 60% of fourth graders in the United States are reading below grade level, with performance particularly low due to the lingering effects of the pandemic. The good news? Learning

experts say that the trend is reversible. One key factor is to make sure that young children have a strong foundation in early language skills when they begin kindergarten. Here are a few tools and ideas for supporting the literacy journey at cess Bundle system, for ex-

home and on-the-go:

Make Reading Playful Interactive learning tools can go beyond drills and practice and make learning fun while building confidence and independence. The LeapStart Learning Sucample, features touch-andtalk pages that work on key skills like phonics, vocabulary, counting and problem solving. The attached smart stylus is designed for young kids' hands and a carrying handle makes on-the-go reading adventures possible. The system comes with an interactive storybook based on the popular animated series, Go! Go! Cory Carson, and an activity book that introduces early skills like letters, numbers and more. Sold separately is an expansive library of compatible books covering pre-

subjects. "Tapping to hear words sounded out helps children gain independent reading skills and an understanding of how print works," says Dr. Clement Chau, vice president of learning at Leap-Frog. "Getting kids excited about reading through play helps set the stage for reading success before kids even

school through first grade

learn how to spell words." When teaching children to read, one technique that teachers like to use is to slide a finger below each word in a sentence as it is read aloud. This helps young children connect spoken words with words on a page. Slide-to-Read ABC Flash Cards are double-sided cards that fit into a screen-free tablet with special sensors so kids can explore letters, words and

colorful pictures with the touch of a finger. Kids can even slide their fingers below the printed sentences to hear each word read aloud, just like how a teacher might do it in a classroom.

A strong foundation for reading starts with knowing the letters and letter sounds. One toy that introduces these essential skills is Mr. Pencil's Scribble, Write & Read. Using the included stylus, kids can trace dotted lines to write numbers, lowercase letters and uppercase letters. In addition to finding letters to build words, kids can slide Mr. Pencil across the screen to sound out new words, or free-draw anything they can imagine to inspire their creativity.

"By practicing stroke order and hearing letter sounds aloud, children will begin to map letters to the sounds they represent," says Chau.

Story Time

One other simple way to build reading fundamentals is by making your child a card-carrying member of the library. Most public library systems have dedicated children's librarians who run programming and events designed to entertain and educate kids of all ages, while developing a lifelong love of reading. In addition to programs such as seasonal reading challenges and story time, some branches also provide free homework



COURTESY PHOTO

There are many interactive learning tools available to help make reading playful.

help and host events for kids covering everything from STEM topics to music and art. Be sure to check out

books with every visit! Dr. Chau also recommends checking in with vour child's teacher periodically to assess their progress in school and to learn how you can support your child at home.

"A lot of what it takes to prepare your child for future reading success can be supplemented outside the classroom, particularly with recommendations from the teacher," says Chau.



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