

# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Feb. 24, 2024

\$1.00



SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 10, ISSN No. 0894-4954

## Repairs to county courthouse scheduled to begin in March

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

County Commissioner of Pct. 3, Ryan Basham, recently spoke to members of the Coryell County Historical Commission about the upcoming repairs on the Coryell County Courthouse due to the leaks the structure has been facing.

The four red domes located on each corner of the building are leaking and causing damage in the attic and to the offices below.

"The project of repairing the domes should start in the next two to three weeks and will cost \$48,500 to do just one dome. I have spoken with the project reviewer for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program at

the Texas Historical Commission in Austin, Dan Valenquela, and he said there is some funding out there, and that it's reimbursable. We can spend the money [for repairs], and they can reimburse us."

According to Basham, the county agreed to use a quote from Ace Roofing in Austin to begin work on the northwest dome of the courthouse.

"When I talked with Mr. Valenquela, we're not the only courthouse in the State of Texas that has asked for money for their courthouse as well, but he thought he could find somebody to work with this dome at this time," he said.

Basham continued, "On such a not-so-good note, the ladies and justices (statues) situated on the roof of the courthouse, to restore them would cost \$435,000. They would take them down and restore them. I'm trying to do some more research to see if there are other people that can do that." Sherry Lawrence, a member of the Coryell County Historical Commission said, "The first thing we make sure of is that all four domes are not leaking before we spend \$435,000 on the statues."

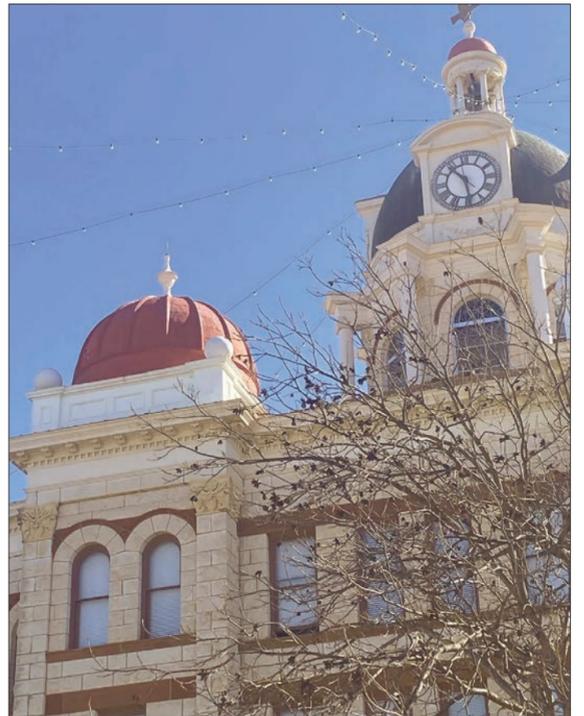
Basham said that the current concern is not restoring the statues (which can wait) but dealing with

the leaks in the attic. "The leaking from the northwest dome, it's leaking into the attic and in an office below, which is occupied by District Clerk Becky Moore where records have received water damage. This is something we definitely need to address in my opinion. It's getting worse."

Starting with the northwest dome which is causing the most trouble, "To repair the dome, they will do it on-site rather than removing it from the building."

Danny Corbett, Chairman of the Coryell County Historical Commission, asked,

PLEASE SEE **REPAIRS** | A2



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER  
The northwest dome on the courthouse will be repaired in March due to considerable leaking which has damaged offices below.



## Edge's journey of providing care to local elderly

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

In honor of Black History Month, which takes place in February of each year, The Gatesville Messenger interviewed an outstanding citizen who represents what it means to make a difference within the community.

Since Gatesville Senior Center's Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge was just a young girl, she has had a gift of working with and caring for the elderly.

"All I have ever done is work with the elderly," Edge said.

Edge began her journey at the Rotunda Nursing Home on Osage Road, which is now demolished. She was the juice girl, which meant it was her responsibility to

pass around snacks and beverages to the residents.

"I had to get a minor's release because I was too young to work," she said.

Along with having a compassion for the elderly, she also has a knack for cooking. She is known for her skills in the kitchen which began at a very young age.

She cooked her first meal at only six years old and

PLEASE SEE **EDGE** | A2



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER  
Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge sitting in her office at the Gatesville Senior Center.

## Art exhibition to bring awareness to child trafficking

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

Texas is one of the leading states in reported human trafficking cases. Of the 234,000 victims, approximately 79,000 are believed to be minors, according to a 2016 report by the University of Texas.

Due to the rising number of cases, local art enthusiast Esther Allen is banding together with Texas artists to help bring awareness to and combat the trafficking of children in the state.

"What's happening in our little cities is horrific," Allen said. "Going around talking to people, I've been hearing stories, and I'm just

dismayed and heartbroken about the stories that I'm hearing."

On March 9, an art gallery at the Baylor Club in Waco will exhibit work from regional artists who will donate 25% to 100% of the proceeds to Unbound Now, a Texas-based nonprofit that supports survivors and communities to fight against human trafficking worldwide.

The event will also include speakers who will share information and educate attendees regarding the sex trafficking situation in the Central Texas area, including Unbound Now

members, law enforcement, and local nonprofits.

"It's going to sadden some people, but hopefully this will help them understand the importance of protecting (children) and getting the message out," Allen said.

After attending a presentation from Unbound Now at a local garden club, Allen said she wanted to do something to help.

"I was shocked by what I was hearing," she said. "I said this can't be possible, not here. But it's happening."

An artist herself, Allen said she met several artists

through her involvement with an area chapter of The Watercolor Society. She hopes that this is an opportunity to not only donate to an important cause, but also showcase the hard work of local artists. She said artists from all over Texas will present their work at the event, including one artist from Colorado.

"We still have to create that smile, that there's going to be hope, that there will be hope in helping children," Allen said.

The gallery will include a variety of art in different mediums, including paintings, photography, sculp-

tures, and more.

Carla Hammonds, a Western lifestyle photographer in Gatesville, is one of the artists displaying her work at the event.

"I love that they're educating children to be aware of their surroundings," Hammonds said. "It gets emotional thinking about it. And also, to help those who have unfortunately gone through the horrors of what's going on with trafficking."

Clifton artist Laura Parent will showcase pencil graphite and charcoal sketches of her animals. She said she enjoys giving to

important causes and has donated her art at similar events that bring awareness to those in need.

"I'm doing this event because helping children - any child that is being taken from us, stolen and hurt, and (has) destroyed their lives, I want to donate toward this organization to make sure that that can stop," Parent said. "Hopefully, we can get a little bit towards that - just get everyone motivated."

Representatives from Gatesville's faith-based organization, Righteous

PLEASE SEE **AWARENESS** | A2



## Trinity Baptist Church

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# AWARENESS

FROM PAGE A1

Roots, will also participate in the event to promote their mission and ways to join the efforts to combat human trafficking.

"The Righteous Roots mission is to provide services to people who are dealing with all forms of abuse, so that includes trafficking," said Melanie Webb, Director of Righteous Roots. "We want our local people to know that it does not matter if you are from a small town or large city, abuse is prevalent in the area."

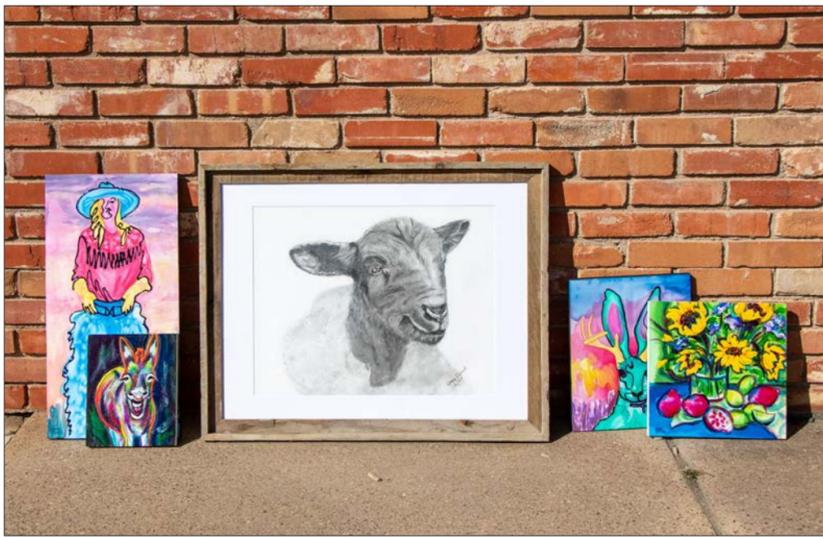
"Unchain the Bound-Age of Child Trafficking" art and sculpture event will take place from 2-7 p.m. at the Baylor Club in Waco on March 9. Attendees will have the opportunity to view and purchase work from local artists and help support the fight against child trafficking. Membership of the club is not required.

Learn more about local resources at unboundbow.org/Waco.



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Central Texas artists who will donate the proceeds from their work to help combat child trafficking. From left to right, Esther Allen, Andrea Meeks, Judy Parton, Carla Hammonds, Brenda Marwitz, and Mary Coleman.



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Various mediums and styles of art will be displayed at the "Unchain the Bound-Age of Child Trafficking" event on March 9.

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## REPAIRS

FROM PAGE A1

"So what you're saying is that the county is allocating the \$48,500 for the repair?" Basham replied, "It's coming out of our maintenance, hoping it will be reimbursed in order to do the second one [dome]."

Tiffany Butler, a courthouse steward and also a member of the Coryell County Historical Commission, said, "With the heavier rains coming during the spring, I'm sure we're

going to see more damage if we don't get something done. When the rain and winds come in, it's usually from the west or north-west. The leaks go back to the initial building of the courthouse. The commissioner's minutes going back to 1899 mention that the contractor/builder of the structure, Tom Lovell, told the commissioners that he was giving them \$1,000 back because the building

was leaking." Basham stated, "My goal is that we need to take care of this courthouse that we're so very proud of. I was born and raised in Coryell County, and I think she's probably the prettiest courthouse in the State of Texas. We need to take care of it. If there's an option that we don't have to use taxpayer's dollars, that's the route I'd like to go."

KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

## EDGE

FROM PAGE A1

she expressed that she learned from the best.

"I was always in the kitchen with my grandma," she said. "I cooked with her a lot and I stayed the summer with her most of the time."

As years passed by, she knew she wanted to work somewhere that felt like home, where she could cook and be with those she cared for.

"I have always wanted this job at the center, and I just knew that this would be the perfect job for me," she said.

The Senior Center has been close to Edge's heart for years since her father became involved with an organization called the Friendship House (that is similar to the center) before his passing. Her father was able to receive a hot meal and conversation five days a week, which made her grateful for their services.

"I knew that I needed to be here at the Senior Center after he died," she said.

Shortly after the passing of her father in 2022, she happened to see Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph in town and let her know that she was interested in the kitchen position.

The position soon became available, and the rest was history.

"I love getting up each morning and coming to work. I have not had a single day where I have not wanted to be here," she said.

On a typical day, Edge will prepare a plethora of food to serve around 85 people all by herself.

"When I first started, we had about 35 people, which included the meals on wheels folks," she said. "Since then, we have just kept growing and growing and growing."

For Edge, her role at the Senior Center is more than just a job, it is a family. She has become close with the congregation and even takes them on trips when she can.

"Me and some of the women went to Waco the other day and we shopped until we dropped," she said. "I took them to Maurices, Bath & Body Works, Crumble Cookies, and to get some coffee. We had a ball."

"I have loved elderly people since I can remember," she said. "They are the neatest people to be around, and you get the best wisdom for free."

"I feel like this place means something to the congregation, and especially to the people with Meals on Wheels," she said. "That is the way it was for my dad, and it meant something to him."

Edge will come up on her two-year anniversary of serving at the senior center in November of this year.

"A lot of the times people here will ask what we would do without you," she said. "It is the other way around, what would I do without them, because they make a difference to me."

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Get Excited! The Eclipse is nearly here!



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

**A**s a rule, solar eclipses are dramatic events, but the total eclipse arriving on April 8 is going to take “eclipse watching” to a whole other level.

In comparison to the total eclipse that crossed the United State in 2017, this year’s eclipse will last longer, the sky will be noticeably darker, and the sun will put on a much more lively and exciting show. Millions of people will be

able to view the event and witness one of the most astounding astronomical events in their lifetime.

This will be the last major eclipse across North America for 20 years, which means this is a rare opportunity to witness nearly

four and ½ minutes of a total eclipse. Gatesville is in the “path of totality,” meaning it will witness firsthand a TOTAL eclipse, which is a vastly different experience than a partial eclipse. While you might live long enough to see another solar eclipse, to be in the prime viewing area and experience the maximum solar effect is rare indeed. Only totality reveals the true celestial spectacle of the Sun’s glorious corona, the unique colors in the sky, and results in seeing stars in daylight hours.

Imagine, having the bright of day slowly disappear and give way to darkness. The experience of having the temperature drop perhaps as much as 15 to 20 degrees as the warmth from the sun is interrupted. This is an educational oppor-

tunity, a bucket list item, and, importantly, this is an opportunity.

Gatesville is evolving like much of the surrounding geographical area. As more and more people move to Texas seeking economic opportunity and to experience our unique Texas lifestyle, they want to find locations where they can have a positive visitor experience. This is an opportunity to open our arms and have thousands of visitors come to Gatesville, enjoy our hospitality, experience our community, and receive a generous portion of Gatesville love.

There will be thousands of people in Gatesville for this event. The city staff has worked tirelessly to make the experience of visitors a memorable one. This is the time for businesses

to open their doors, stay open later, open earlier, and build relationships with the many coming to our town. This is our opportunity to show visitors Gatesville is a wonderful place to come and live, to visit, or to stop and stay. By seizing the moment, we can attract those difficult to attract tourist dollars and have them return to Gatesville again and again. Why is this important? Because it will add to the strength of our businesses and our economic base, it will put out of town dollars in our tax coffers, and it will help make our businesses and community strong.

I am not going to mislead you. There will be a lot of traffic, there will be inconveniences, and the city will be crowded. Remember, little is ever gained with-

out putting in effort and experiencing a little bit of discomfort. Instead of complaining, jump on the band wagon and sing along.

Let’s stand up and “show off” Gatesville. Let’s be proud of what we have to offer and show our visitors the time of their lives. This is an opportunity which comes ... please forgive me ... only once in a blue moon. Be a part of the celebration and enjoy the uniqueness of the experience. This could be the beginning of something special.

Thought for the day: If the window of opportunity appears, do not pull down the shade!

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The three candidates for Coryell County Sheriff met in Copperas Cove for their first debate. Pictured left to right, Danni Suniga, J.C. Buster, and incumbent Sheriff Scott Williams.

## Sheriff candidates hold first debate

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

The three candidates in the running for Coryell County Sheriff gathered for a debate on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Trinity Worship Center in Copperas Cove. The debate was sponsored by the Coryell County Republican Women organization.

Each candidate spoke on why they are seeking election or reelection and what makes them the best candidate for the job.

The incumbent, Coryell County Sheriff Scott Williams is seeking reelection to what would be his third term in office. His opponents are J.C. Buster and

Danni Suniga - all three being Republican candidates.

There are no Democrat challengers to the Republican candidates in Coryell County, which means the Republicans will run unopposed in November.

Sheriff and congressional candidates were on

hand at the Gatesville City Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 22 to field questions on various issues and topics. Coverage of this event will be featured in a future edition of The Gatesville Messenger.

Early voting continues through March 1 and the polls open on March 5.

## Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Suzy Penrod

### Say hello to our neighbor, Suzy Penrod!

Suzy is currently serving her third year as the principal of Gatesville Junior High School.

“I became an educator because I have always enjoyed being around, working with, and doing what’s best for kids,” Penrod said. “The added bonus to my job has been the opportunity to work with the junior high staff. They are some of the most talented and dedicated educators I have ever worked with.”

She has resided in Gatesville for the past nine years and loves the sense of community in this town. “When a family is in need, the community rallies to support them in every capacity,” Penrod said.

Suzy reads The Gatesville Messenger and said, “I love how the messenger showcases community events, highlights local businesses, and recognizes people young and old around the community who have achieved great things.”

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

## American Heart Month observed during the month of February

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

The color red in February is not only to celebrate Valentine’s Day, but to also spread awareness for those who are living with heart disease.

The term heart disease refers to various types of heart conditions such as coronary artery disease, heart arrhythmia, heart failure, heart valve disease, pericardial disease, cardiomyopathy, and congenital heart disease.

In 1964, to shed light on the condition, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first proclamation for American Heart Month. Since then, United States

presidents have annually declared February as American Heart Month.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), nearly 18.6 million people across the globe died of cardiovascular disease in 2019, which is a 17.1 percent increase over the past decade.

In most cases, heart disease is manageable when adopting a healthy lifestyle, which includes not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, controlling blood sugar and cholesterol, treating high blood pressure, and receiving regular checkups.

Cardiologist Daniel

Jipescu at Coryell Health expressed that for heart health it is important to have a good diet that is rich in vegetables, fruits, and fiber.

“It is extremely important to pay attention to your symptoms and seek help when you feel anything rather than healthy,” Jipescu said. “We found more and more patients with what we call atypical symptoms (like shortness of breath, fatigue, or a decrease in activity level) whom after a cardiac work-up are revealing coronary artery disease.”

“Finding out about your cardiovascular disease

sooner than later is a key to better and longer health,” Jipescu said.

Ways to prevent heart disease from the Mayo Clinic includes:

- Daily activity: Regular, daily physical activity can lower the risk of heart disease. Physical activity helps control your weight as well as lowering the chances of getting conditions that may put a strain on the heart.
- Consuming a healthy diet: A healthy diet can help protect the heart, improve blood pressure and cholesterol, and lower the risk of type two diabetes.
- Maintaining a

healthy weight: Being overweight, especially around the middle of the body can raise the risk of heart disease. Extra weight can lead to conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and type two diabetes.

- Get quality sleep: People who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk of obesity, high blood pressure, heart attacks, diabetes, and depression. Most adults need at least seven hours of sleep each night, while children usually need more. Stick to a routine sleep schedule and keep your bedroom dark and quiet to sleep easier.

- Manage stress: Ongoing stress can play a role in higher blood pressure and other risk factors for heart disease. Some people also cope in unhealthy ways, but you can use healthy tactics such as physical activity, relaxation exercises, yoga, and meditation.

- Take steps to prevent infections: Certain infections may lead to heart problems. For instance, gum disease may be a risk factor for heart and blood vessel diseases.

For more information on American Heart Month, visit heart.org.



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### DEADLINES:

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

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

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

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

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**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.

## TNMP POWER GRANT



COURTESY PHOTO

Texas New Mexico Power (TNMP) has announced that the Gatesville Fire Department has been selected as a recipient of the company's power grant. Pictured is the \$5,000 award that is intended to fund a land leveler that will enable the department to leave the land in usable condition. The Gatesville Fire Department has assigned an area of more than 257 square miles to provide mutual aid to all of Coryell County.

## KGB to host Total Eclipse clean-up day

Submitted by Cleve Drake

Keep Gatesville Beautiful will host a community effort clean-up on Saturday, March 23 with more details coming soon. Our lovely town needs to look its best for the eclipse celebration. In an

effort to showcase what makes our town special, we are asking families, friends, and neighbors to gather and roll up their sleeves to join us. Please mark your calendar. RSVP, if possible, at 254-865-3575.

## Whatever happened to ...

### 20 YEARS AGO (2004)

The Gatesville Messenger needed photos depicting the first 150 years of Coryell County for a special section.

Brandon Belt authorized The Gatesville Messenger to announce his candidacy for the office of county attorney.

The Gatesville Lion's Club had a special campaign underway to collect every unwanted pair of glasses in the community.

A group of Gatesville ISD fifth graders successfully completed the Drug Abuse Awareness Education (DARE) program.

The Coryell County area got over three inches of snow.

### 30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Sonic was offering two corn dogs for 99 cents.

Local residents enjoyed pleasant weather by crowding into Gatesville parks.

The Texas Transportation Commission awarded Coryell County a contract to seal coat approximately 57 miles of state highways.

Tombstone was featured at the local cinema.

Susan Pigott, of Flat, was named Hardin-Simmons University's first full-time woman Bible professor.

### 40 YEARS AGO (1984)

An electrical short caused a fire that burned down a home in the 2000 block of Leon Street.

A town hall type meeting was held to discuss a proposed new civic center and livestock arena.

The Gamma Alpha chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International formally presented a Choctaw Pecan tree to Gatesville ISD.

For the first time in over 20 years, Gatesville Hornets made it to the high school boys' state basketball playoffs.

Jiffy Wash Laundromat offered a free dry with a paid wash.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Gatesville City Council ordered the abandonment of any efforts to rehabilitate Well No. 3 on South 23rd Street and the drilling of a new water well to replace it.

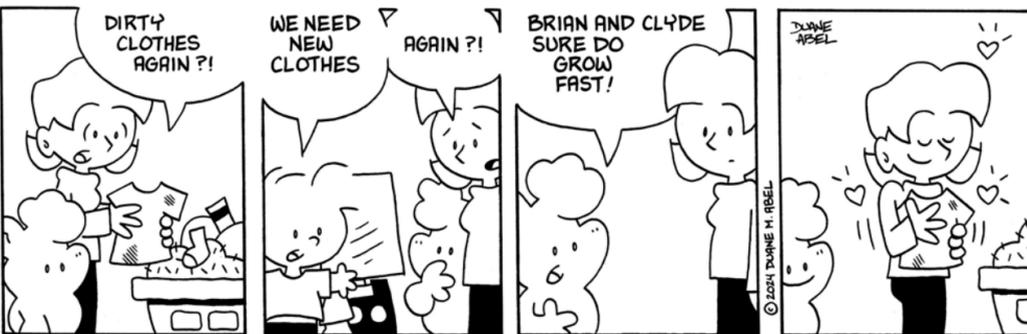
Leonard Meeks decided to sell Meek's Café, first opened in 1925 by his father.

Twenty-three structures were ticketed for failing to meet standards contained in Gatesville's minimum housing code.

Powell Supply Co. advertised two gallons of interior latex paint for \$5.

Barber Bennie Turner purchased interest in Pollard and Sellers Barber Shop and began operating as the Turner and Sellers Barber Shop at 714 Main Street in Gatesville.

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## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Alison Joy David was born on Feb. 14



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Little Miss Alison Joy David was born Wednesday, Feb. 14, at Baylor Scott and White in Roanoke to McKenzie Lois Hopson David. The baby weighed eight pounds, eleven ounces and is 21-inches long. The proud parents are Zach and McKenzie David. McKenzie is the daughter of Frank and Susie Hopson of Mound.

Miss Olivia Lois Long was baptized Sunday, Feb. 18, during the worship service at Trinity Baptist Church in Gatesville. Those attending were her family and many cousins. The celebration lunch

for Olivia Lois Long was at the Gatesville Feed Mill restaurant.

Ruby and Jacklyn Pullen competed last weekend in Region 4, TJHRA Rodeo Association in Sulphur Springs. Ruby won fourth

in breakaway roping on Saturday. Ruby and Jacklyn are from Rock Wall, and they are Barbara Hopson's great-nieces.

Emma Blakley, of College Station, came home on Friday and spent the weekend with her parents, Robert and Carolyn Blakley.

Bettie, Carolyn, and Emma Blakley had lunch in Gatesville Friday.

Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch in Gatesville Wednesday. Brodie and his sister, Caymbri Fisher, will be celebrating their birthdays this week.

The Coryell County 4H Horse Judging Team competed in San Antonio Monday, Feb. 12. Allie McPherson was part of the junior team that placed third out of 47 teams. Kinsley McPherson was a member of the senior team that competed well. The next Horse Judging competition will be the

Houston contest in March.

James and Karen Harris, of Kerrville, visited over the weekend with Mrs. Elizabeth Harris and Dennis Harris.

Delecia Reynolds visited Tuesday afternoon with Barbara Hopson.

Doris Hoff of Gatesville visited Friday with Martha Lawhorn.

Those having birthdays this month are C.R. Biggs, Noah Truett Hopson, James West, Elizabeth Phillips, Jonathan Penny, Ray August, Blake Smith, Connor Carothers, Connie Choate, Jason Carothers, Brodie Fisher, Caymbri Fisher, John Stephens, Laurana Harris, Kelly Baize, and Graham Howell.

*Barbara's Notes:* It's time to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 10, or set them Saturday night, March 9, for Daylight Saving Time.

## Applications open for 2024 Miss Springfest pageant

### Staff Reports

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

The categories for the pageant include:

- Baby Miss, infant to 12 months.
- Tiny Miss, 13 months to two years.
- Little Miss, three years to five years.
- Sweetheart, six years to nine years.
- Junior Miss, 10 years to 14 years.
- Queen, 15 years to 18 years.

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

All participants will get the opportunity to receive a free mini-photo session with CJ Photography.

The early registration deadline is Friday, March 1, and 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.

Your

NEWSPAPER

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GATESVILLE MESSENGER



**MIDDLE TRINITY**  
GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Middle Trinity GCD monitoring water wells

*Submitted Item*

The Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (the "District") is dedicated to the effective management and preservation of groundwater resources within Bosque, Comanche, Coryell, and Erath Counties. To enhance the management of these groundwater resources, the District is striving to expand the number of monitoring wells in each county. These wells play a crucial role in gathering information that aids in comprehending the effects of droughts and pumping activities on both short-term and long-term water level trends and availability.

As growth and development continue across the District, this information serves to assist the District in providing guidance to county officials regarding development projects that either utilize groundwater or are anticipated to do so. Moreover, this data empowers county officials within Priority Groundwater Management Areas (PGMA)\* to potentially establish more specific water availability requirements. This can be achieved through the provisions outlined in Chapter 35 of the Texas Water Code, subject to a determination by the court

of the necessity for such requirements.

To enhance our understanding of water-level trends and availability, the District is currently seeking additional low-use (stock/domestic) private water wells for the purpose of assessing static water levels from District residents. These wells should be equipped with an accessible vent port at the well head (with a 1/2-inch access) and should have the ability to ascertain screen intervals, either through well reports or owner-provided information by the driller. It is imperative to highlight that all water-level reporting will be expeditiously provided to the respective landowner. If individuals are interested in the District monitoring program, please contact the District at (254) 965-6705, or by email: wells@middletrinitygcd.org.

\*Bosque and Coryell Counties were designated as PGMAs by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on Oct. 31, 2008. This designation was conferred upon areas projected to face critical groundwater issues, including potential shortages of surface water, within a 50-year timeframe.

## CORYELL HEALTH RECOGNIZES YANEZ



COURTESY PHOTO

Coryell Health recently honored Registered Nurse Christina Yanez (pictured with certificate) with an A.C.E. award after being nominated by patients for being kind, compassionate, and positive, as well as going above and beyond to make them feel better. She is a member of the med/surg team. Coryell Health is located at 1507 West Main St. in Gatesville.

## Evant ISD to host blood drive on Feb. 28

*Staff Reports*

The National Honor Society of Evant Independent School District will be hosting their second blood drive of the year on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The drive will be held at Evant ISD from 9 a.m. to

2 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, visit [https://www.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/143719](https://www.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/143719).

Carter BloodCare provides lifesaving transfusion resources to more

than 200 medical facilities in over 50 counties throughout North, Central, and East Texas. Each year, the organization provides more than 440,000 units of blood products to meet patients' treatment requirements.

For more information, contact Jessica Buck at 254-471-5536 or by email at [jbuck@evantisd.org](mailto:jbuck@evantisd.org).

To learn more details regarding Carter BloodCare, visit [carterbloodcare.org](http://carterbloodcare.org).

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant.

# The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of February 14 - February 20. 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**  
**Feb. 14**

8:18 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 2000 block of East Main Street.

10:17 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of South Lovers Lane.

12:06 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

3:13 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 500 block of Andrews Street.

**Feb. 15**  
1:31 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of East Main Street.

12:33 p.m., stolen property reported in the 3400 block of East Main Street.

3:48 p.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of N. 27th Street.

5:49 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

**Feb. 16**  
5:08 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

8:10 a.m., stolen property was reported in the 1200 block of East Main Street.

2:11 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.

4:15 p.m., fraud was reported in the 4500 block of South State Highway 36.

**Feb. 17**  
5:57 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

9:24 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of Woods Drive.

10:02 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1400 block of Mills Street.

11:40 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 5500 block of FM 215.

**Feb. 18**  
1:20 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of South State Highway 36.

7:40 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 200 block of Valley View

Drive.  
9:57 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of Pidcoke Street.

3:27 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2600 block of Oak Drive.

**Feb. 19**  
12:26 p.m., stolen property was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.

4:23 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of FM 107.

7:50 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of North 27th Street.

7:51 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of West Main Street.

**Feb. 20**  
9:57 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1400 block of Pidcoke Street.

3:06 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100

block of Dodds Creek Drive.  
4:55 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2200 block of Waco Street.

7:01 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

**CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**Feb. 14**

8:21 a.m., missing livestock were reported on Hurst Springs Road

9:52 a.m., an assault was reported in the 500 block of Mountain Road.

2:10 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 136 before County Road 127.

4:06 p.m., suspicious persons were reported at the Hilltop Unit.

**Feb. 15**  
2:55 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 6300 block of North FM

116.  
3:10 p.m., a scam was reported in the 200 block of North 29th Street.

5:28 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Highway 281 Southbound and Freeman Creek.

8:35 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1690 and the county line.

**Feb. 16**  
10:10 a.m., criminal mischief was reported on Old Georgetown Road.

10:49 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 930 and Plum Creek.

12:26 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of Lutheran Church.

4:59 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of Nathan Drive.

**Feb. 17**  
6:30 a.m., a major ac-

cident was reported on Bypass 190 past the long bridge.

10:13 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 5600 block of FM 1783.

11:41 a.m., trespassing was reported in the 5500 block of FM 215.

5:07 p.m., an assault was reported in the 2000 block of Coryell City Road.

**Feb. 18**  
3:34 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Highway 36 near the Gatesville Trail Apartments.

3:52 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 200 block of Julia Drive.

4:30 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 100 block of Gladys Street.

6:34 p.m., illegal burning was reported in the 100 block of Harrell Drive.

**Feb. 19**

11:04 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 269.

1:13 p.m., a theft was reported in the 700 block of County Road 195.

2:40 p.m., a theft was reported in the 4600 block of County Road 356.

3:58 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 17500 block of Meador Grove Road.

**Feb. 20**  
4:43 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1200 block of FM 107.

9:40 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2800 block of County Road 225.

9:48 a.m., animal neglect was reported on East Highway 84.

4:54 p.m., shots fired was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.



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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



Paid political adv.

# OBITUARIES

## Joyce Tippit

June 28, 1934 - Feb. 18, 2024

Joyce Tippit, age 89, of Gatesville, passed away on Sunday, February 18, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, at Scott's Funeral Home.

Joyce was born on June 28, 1934 to Carlton and Thelma Martin Hartwick. She grew up in Osage and attended school in Oglesby and Gatesville, graduating from Gatesville High School in 1951. Joyce married Marvin Ray Tippit on June 28, 1951. Joyce was a homemaker when her two girls were young. Joyce and her husband owned and operated Tippit's Western Wear in Gatesville for 22 years. Joyce, better known as "Mammie," loved her family and enjoyed attending the many events of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. You could often find her at rodeos and various sporting events across the state. Joyce was always known for her sense of fashion and style. She enjoyed playing the piano and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Gatesville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Carlton and Thelma Martin Hartwick; husband,



Ray Tippit; and daughter, Terrie Tippit Lee.

Joyce is survived by her daughter, Debbie Maxwell and husband, Daryl; son-in-law, Gary Lee; grandchildren, Misti Morra and husband, Kevin, Lori McLaughlin and husband, Brent, Kristian Brown and husband, Jim, Kyle Maxwell and wife, Pauly, Chance Lee and wife, Brittny; great-grandchildren, Garret Jones, Quinlan Jones, McKenna Luensmann and husband, Braden, Camden Morra, Kian Dingianni, Kyler Maxwell, Myler Lee, Brayden Lee, and Kylie Maxwell.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Texas, 7000 N MoPac Expy #200, Austin, TX 78731 or the American Cancer Society, 3919 E. Hwy. 84, Gatesville, TX 76528.

## Billye Sue Ramsey

April 18, 1939 - Feb. 15, 2024

Mrs. Billye Sue Sulzer Ramsey, age 84, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024 in Gatesville. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 20 at Cole Funeral Home in McGregor with Dr. Daniel Crosby officiating. Burial followed at Post Oak Cemetery near Oglesby.

Billye was born on April 18, 1939, in Talihina, Oklahoma to Lee Lester and Ollie Rosetta (Pearce) Sulzer. When her mother passed at an early age, 2-year-old Billye was raised by her uncle and aunt, Ernest and Ida Mae Sulzer. She graduated from Buffalo Valley High School. Billye married the love of her life, Stanley Lynn Ramsey, of Whitesboro, Oklahoma on Sept. 25, 1958 in Eufaula, Oklahoma. Billye and Stanley moved to Oglesby in 1960 where they lived the remainder of their married life and raised five children and one grandson.

Billye retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Gatesville in 1998 after 20 years of service. She enjoyed spending time with her family, most of all her grandchildren. That time included many sporting events all over the state of Texas. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Oglesby.

She was preceded in death by her parents; uncle and aunt, Ernest and Ida Mae Sulzer; husband, Stanley Lynn Ramsey; sister, Ina Ruth Hoglan; and grandson, Robbie Goins.

Billye is survived by Dana Ramsey (daughter), of Hodgen, Oklahoma; Gerald Lynn Ramsey (son) and Stacy, of Sparks; Teresa Timmons (daughter) and Scott, of Gatesville; Sherri Campbell (daughter) and Kenneth, of Marshall; Karen Hawk (daughter) and Michael, of Temple; Sylvia Graves (daughter), of San Angelo;



David Clark (grandson) and Heather, of Waco; Tommy Goins (grandson), of Indiana; Cole Ramsey (grandson) and Jayme, of Little River-Academy; Liz Ramsey (granddaughter) and fiancé Brandon Boyer, of Temple; Preston Timmons (grandson), of Gatesville; Brooklyn Bailey (granddaughter) and Marte, of Gatesville; Lilly Timmons (granddaughter), of Gatesville; Krystal Bell (granddaughter) and James, of Belton; Branden Hawk (grandson) and Hailey, of Temple; Patricia Hoglan (sister), of Hooks; an incredible amount of great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Billye, Mom, Granny was the foundation for our family. She did not make a fuss but was instrumental in everything our family has become. We already miss her deeply but know she is rejoicing with the Lord and all those who went before her.

Pallbearers included David Clark, Kenneth Campbell, Scott Timmons, Cole Ramsey, Branden Hawk, James Bell, and Marte Bailey.

We would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the staff of Hillside Medical Lodge for the love and care they gave our Mom the last few years.

Memorial donations can be made to Post Oak Cemetery, 139 FM 1996, Oglesby, TX 76561.

## Dale Mohler

Nov. 10, 1941 - Feb. 20, 2024

Dale Mohler, age 82, of Gatesville, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

Visitation with Dale's family is scheduled from 2 - 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024 at Scott's Funeral Home.

Aaron Dale Mohler was born Nov. 10, 1941 to the late Willis Aaron Mohler and Lorraine Elizabeth Tennison of the Spring Hill community, a small community which is now part of Fort Hood. He lived in Gatesville until age 10 when his family moved to Houston. He graduated from John H. Reagan High School and later earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics and computer science from the University of Houston. He served four years in the United States Air Force, including fifteen months on security service in Samsun, Turkey. After returning to Houston, he worked for Gulf Oil Corporation and Cameron Iron Works as a Systems Analyst. He also designed the blood bank program for M.D. Anderson Hospital.

Dale married Rhonda Rodgers in 1977, moving to Gatesville where they made their home. He owned and operated Dale's Window & Door Shop in the early 1980's. He taught computer courses for Central Texas College in Gatesville and Lampasas and for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, where he later served as a Counsel Substitute. He retired in 2001 from his position as Health Services Manager at the Alfred D. Hughes Unit.

Dale served as a board member for the Gatesville Country Club and Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. He was the Gatesville Country Club's Golf Club Champion in 1983.

After his retirement,



he and Rhonda traveled extensively and always enjoyed seeing new places. He loved his wife, his sons, and all his grandchildren, as they were the light of his life. He was the best husband, Dad, and Pepaw.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willis Aaron, and Lorraine Mohler; sister, Deborah Mohler Smith; niece, Tamara Smith; nephew, Keith Norsworthy; and his favorite brother-in-law, Harold Vandiver.

Dale is survived by his four sons: Chris Mohler and wife, Nicki, of Killeen; Mike Mohler and wife, Brandi, of Leander; Matt Mohler and fiancé, Cassie Pinkel, of Fairbanks, Alaska; and Josh Mohler and wife, Kistin, of Winter Park, Florida; grandchildren: Logan Burkhardt, Zane Mohler, Mea Mohler, Ryan Sanchez, Aydin Mohler, Isabella Mohler, Declan Mohler, Kaison Mohler, Landon Mohler, and Kendall Mohler; two great grandchildren: Nox and Ever Burkhardt; sisters: Yvonne Vandiver, of Gatesville; Barbara Akers, of Morgan's Point; and Sherrie Keys, of Tomball; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, Dale's family requests memorials be made to the Gatesville Boys and Girls Club, 2533 E. Main Street, Gatesville, Texas 76528, or to the Coryell Museum and Historical Center, P.O. Box 24, Gatesville, Texas 76528.

## Roger Huckabee

March 11, 1942 - Feb. 16, 2024

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Roger Paul Huckabee, age 81, of Gatesville, a distinguished veteran and dedicated public servant, who passed away on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, at Scott's Funeral Home with Pastor Matt Dossey officiating. Burial followed after the service at Restland Cemetery.

Roger was born on March 11, 1942 and graduated from Gatesville High School. He then entered the military, serving in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. After his service, Roger studied Criminal Justice at Central Texas College before embarking on a distinguished career with the Austin Police Department. He was awarded Officer of the Year in 1967 for his heroism during the mass shooting event at the University of Texas the previous year. Over 25 years of service in the department he moved from patrolman to sergeant, then homicide detective and narcotics agent. In 1992, Roger retired from the Austin Police Department as Senior Sergeant, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and integrity.

Following his retirement, Roger continued his commitment to serving his community when elected Constable for Coryell



County, where he faithfully served from 1994 until 2009.

He was a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather, and loyal friend. A larger-than-life figure, his intelligence, wit, and sense of humor left an impression wherever he went.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Bernice & Audie Huckabee; his brother, Mike Huckabee; and daughters, Charlotte and Lisa Lee.

Roger is survived by his wife, Barbara Huckabee; son, Wade Huckabee and wife, Krista, and their children, Griffin and Finley Huckabee, as well as grandchildren, Megan Richardson and husband, Rhett, Cody Mohler and wife, Robin; and great grandchildren, Tyler, Tripp, and Tinsley Richardson, and Haz and Mya Mohler. Roger is also survived by Barbara's sisters and their families, Linda and James Draper and Brenda and David Byrom.

## Deborah Guptill

Sept. 5, 1945 - Feb. 10, 2024

Deborah Sue Guptill, age 78, of Lampasas, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024.

Services will be held at Sneed-Carnley Funeral Chapel on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at 11 a.m. with visitation an hour prior. The family requests casual attire.

Deborah was born in Broken Bow, Oklahoma to Jack Mump Freeman and Nadine Alley (Kunkel) Freeman. For many years, she worked as a mail carrier for USPS in Gatesville and was the very first woman to do so there. She also was employed with Head Start and obtained many certifications there. She enjoyed cooking, arts and crafts, and traveling with her husband, especially in their RV. Deborah also



enjoyed being involved in the church choir and was music director at Second Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Mary Freeman.

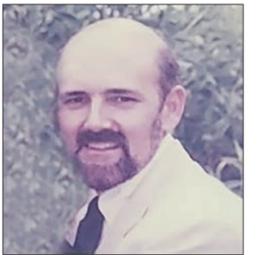
Survivors include her husband of 50 years, Robert Guptill, and her daughters, Joanna Guptill and Kathleen Vercele.

## Larry N. Smith

May 2, 1952 - Feb. 18, 2024

Larry N. Smith was born on May 2, 1952, in Waco and died on Feb. 18, 2024, at his home in Brenham. His parents, Noble Sharp and Janyrta Mae, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Gail; his children, Patricia Watson, Brian Smith, and Brian's partner, Isaac Munoz. He is also survived by two grandchildren, Nolan and Elizabeth, and by his sister, Barbara Roberts.

He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1974 with a degree in Animal Science. He spent many happy years coaching Little League and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He and his wife enjoyed gardening



and watching baseball and playing competitive games with the children and grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Oaks Chapel, 1306 West Main St., Brenham. To post a tribute to the family, please visit [www.memorialoakschapel.com](http://www.memorialoakschapel.com).

## Van Necessary

March 23, 1946 - Feb. 18, 2024

Larry Van Necessary, age 77, of Gatesville, died Feb. 18, 2024 surrounded by his family.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 at the Gatesville Church of Christ with Minister Justin Hall officiating. Interment will follow at Restland Cemetery. Van's family received visitors from 5 - 7 p.m. on Friday at Scott's Funeral Home.

Van was born March 23, 1946 to Dewey Afton and Beulah Mae Bartlett Necessary in Gatesville, Texas. He attended schools in Levita and Gatesville, graduating from Gatesville High School in 1964.

He married Jackie Sharon Chappell on Aug. 26, 1967. They began their married life in Dallas, where they met lifelong friends Charles and Nancy Cain. He worked for Dallas Power & Light. They moved to McGregor in 1968 where he worked for McLennan Electric Coop. In 1971, they moved to Gatesville, and he continued his lineman career at Fort Hood, finally retiring after 30 years of service in 2001.

He loved football, baseball, rodeo, and country music. He especially enjoyed weekend trips to Texas Aggie football games and tailgating "the Gatesville Way." His greatest love was his family. He never missed his kids' or grandkids' activities.

His actions revealed his love. A clear example of this was the hot sauce



that he improved over the years and shared with so many people he cared about.

He was baptized Dec. 1, 1968 and was a faithful member of the Gatesville Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jerry Necessary; and sister, Fae Braziel.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; sons, Greg Necessary and wife, Misti, Bret Necessary and wife, Amanda; goddaughter, Suzy Howey and husband, Brian; God-grandchildren, Austin Zook, Ashleigh Smith and husband, Coby, and their four children, Scarlett, Taylor, Miley, and Waylon; grandchildren, Alleigh Necessary, Aydan Necessary, Grayson Necessary, and Bryson Necessary; brothers, Dwaine Necessary, Bruce Necessary and wife, Becky; and sister-in-law, Audine Necessary.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Gatesville Church of Christ, 2417 E. Main St. Gatesville, TX 76528.

# Terrell retires at Coryell Health after 35 years of service

## Staff Reports

Home Health Administrator Becky Terrell with Coryell Health has recently retired after 35 years of service.

Terrell's journey with Coryell Home Health began with making aide and LVN visits in 1989. Despite the lack of experience in home health at the time, she accepted the challenge.

She rose through the ranks from being a scheduler, to an aide coordinator, and then as the RN case manager, showcasing her passion and commitment to excellent patient care along the way with each position she held at Coryell Health.

"I've enjoyed and learned from each position I've held and the people I've worked with," Terrell said. "My advice is to make a career of something you love."

In 2001, Coryell Health promoted Terrell to home health administrator. Throughout her career, she played a crucial role in managing day-to-day operations and maintaining high-quality, personalized patient care.

Terrell went above and beyond, in and out of the office, earning her associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree during her time with Coryell Health. Throughout her tenure, her education and experience evolved, but one thing



COURTESY PHOTO  
Coryell Health's recently retired Home Health Administrator Becky Terrell.

remained constant: "Coryell Health has been an amazing place to work," Terrell said. "Even with the growth in staff and advancements in technology during my 35 years of employment, the feeling of family has remained."

Coryell Health is a community-owned healthcare organization head-

quartered in Gatesville. The facility is committed to providing patients, their families, and the Central Texas communities with the latest medical technology and personalized care.

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

# OBITUARIES

## Sue McLelland

June 8, 1950 - Feb. 8, 2024



Sue Edwards McLelland passed away Feb. 8, 2024, at the age of 73. Annetta Sue ("Sue") McLelland was born June 8, 1950, and passed away peacefully at home in Burnet on Feb. 8, 2024. Sue was born to L.Z. and Eva Edwards in Waco. Sue obtained her high school diploma from Tomball High School in 1968, after which she attended Baylor University in Waco (pre-requisite work) and Dallas (nursing school), where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Sue subsequently obtained her Master of Science degree in nursing from Texas Women's University in Denton and attended the University of Chicago to complete the necessary coursework and credentials to become a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

Sue met her husband of 50 years, Gerald McLelland, while she was in nursing school, and he was working as a structural engineer in Dallas. Sue's smile and kind heart won him over. The couple married on Nov. 24, 1973, and had three sons: Matthew ("Matt") Edward McLelland, Michael Edward McLelland, and Marcus ("Mark") Edward McLelland.

Sue was energetic, positive, and kind. Her clinical nursing practice was primarily in the intensive care unit. Sue was intelligent, decisive, and caring as she treated some of the most complex hospital patients. She later taught nursing at El Centro College in Dallas (now Dallas College) and helped start an extension of El Cen-

tro's nursing program at Brookhaven Community College in Dallas. Sue had a passion for training a new generation of nurses, a profession she dearly loved. Several nurses who cared for her during her illness commented that they learned from her and are better nurses as a result. Sue and Gerald have recently been designing and building their retirement home in Wolf Creek Ranch overlooking Lake Buchanan outside of Burnet. Every nook and cranny of the new home has Sue's fingerprints on it along with Gerald's expert design. While its completion was delayed by COVID as well as continued issues with availability of materials and labor, Sue could see that the finish line was near, and for her, the process itself brought her such joy. Sue and Gerald were members first of Northway Baptist Church and then Park Cities Baptist Church while living in Dallas. They joined First Baptist Church - Burnet after relocating to the hill country. Sue was preceded in death by her son, Matt McLelland, of Austin; father, L.Z. Edwards, of Gatesville; brother, Jim Edwards, of Gilmer; and brother-in-law, Stanley McLelland, of Austin. She is survived by her husband, Gerald McLelland and her sons, Michael and Mark; daughter-in-law, Chanita Chantaplin McLelland, of Austin; grandchildren, William ("Will") Chantaplin McLelland and Samantha ("Sam") Chantaplin McLelland, of Austin;

her mother, Eva Edwards, of Gatesville; brother, Greg Edwards and wife, Kelly, of Liberty; sister, Janda Edwards, of Dallas; sisters-in-law, Martha McLelland Stenseng and husband, Vern, of Kerrville, and Sherry Edwards, of LaPorte; and nieces and nephews, Adam Smith and wife, Magda, of Wimberley; Jordan Edwards and James Edwards, of LaPorte; Allison Edwards, of Houston; Emily Edwards, of Liberty; and Erin Edwards, of Dallas.

A private graveside service will be held for family members only. A public celebration of Sue's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donating to Living LFS (livinglfs.org), the Sarcoma Alliance (sarcomaalliance.org), MD Anderson Cancer Center (mdanderson.org), or another worthy cause. Arrangements entrusted to Clements-Wilcox Funeral Home in Burnet. Condolences and fond memories may be offered to www.clements-wilcoxburnet.com Sue McLelland June 8, 1950 - Feb. 8, 2024.

# UWF meeting held Feb. 13

## Submitted by Shirleen Chandler

United Women in Faith met on Feb. 13, in the Banquet Room of the First Methodist Church in Gatesville, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sixteen ladies were present, including one new member, Nina Lee. Hostesses were Linda Maxwell and Linda Shirley.

President Patsy Smart called the meeting to order by leading in the Blessing. During refreshment time, Linda Klontz led members in picking new prayer partners. Following refreshments, President Smart thanked the hostesses and read The Purpose. She called on Mary Beth Rivers to read from the Daily Prayer Guide, mentioning those birthdays internationally. Marilyn Decker mentioned local birthdays. Velva Riddle read from the Response Magazine, and Shirleen Chandler led the group in singing "To God be the Glory."

Kathleen Blankemeyer presented the program from the book "Women Rise Up," the story of Mary Magdalene from John 20: 1-18. Mary Magdalene was a close friend of Jesus

and a member of his inner circle. If you have heard that she was a woman of ill repute who was cleansed by Jesus, there is no proof of this in the Bible. It is thought that the men who ran the religious services at the time started this rumor because they were jealous of her closeness with Jesus. Truthfully, she is known as the first evangelist, being the first one who showed up at the tomb, finding that Jesus was not there. Thinking he was the gardener, asked about where his body was. It was then that Jesus spoke to her by name, and she realized it was him. He said to her, "Go and Tell," and off she went to find the disciples.

President Smart called the business meeting to order. Among the business items, Blankemeyer reported on the plan to fix Easter bags for members who are in nursing homes. It was decided that members would meet at 10 a.m. on March 12, to assemble the packs. Members are encouraged to bring snacks and candy.

Chandler announced that she and Shirley had attended a meeting of the

Global women, held at First Methodist Church in Waco on Thursday, Feb. 1. This was the first meeting of its kind. The Mid-Tex Awakening Conference is leading the way for others to follow, and this meeting was a part of the Global Mid-Tex Awakening Conference. They received much information, which they will begin to share this year.

Meeting adjourned with the Benediction.

# BCMGA to hold workshop March 2

## Staff Reports

The Bell County Master Gardener Association will present a hands-on workshop called, Hush and Eat Your Flowers-Cool Season, on Saturday, March 2, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

The workshop will be held at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office located at 1605 N. Main St. in Belton. Certified Master Gardeners Kathy Lovelace and Kim Pringle will be on site to give an introduction to cool season edible flowers.

The class limit will be 20 people. Register by emailing bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com. The cost for registration will be \$20 per individual. Registration will close on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

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The family of *Melva Jane Lightsey* would like to thank Scott's Funeral Home, members of the Jonesboro Baptist Church, Bro. Matt Dossey, Cindy McDonald, and Wylanta for their part in providing the service to honor Melva. We appreciate the prayers, phone calls, emails, letters, flowers, and memorials. Thank you to the ladies of the community for the wonderful meal at the church. And last but not least, thank you to Dr. Maynard and the staff at The Meadows C-Hall for their loving care.

*God Bless You.*

# Meals on Wheels in need of drivers

## BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

As the Meals on Wheels program continues to grow, so does the need for volunteer drivers.

Meals on Wheels is a federally-funded program for elderly adults who are homebound, unable to prepare a meal, and have no one to cook for them.

Volunteers are needed to deliver nutritious meals to seniors in the community, which allows them to remain living in their own homes. This typically involves meal delivery, a friendly visit, or a quick safety check.

Meals on Wheels is done five days a week, Monday

through Friday, and takes around 30 minutes to an hour to complete, depending on the route taken. 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.

There is not a set schedule to volunteer and drivers must provide their own vehicle.

For more information, contact the Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234.

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

Saturday, May 4, 2024

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

# Code Girls during World War Two



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Julia Garrett, of Houston, didn't know her mother was a spy. When she found out, she became highly interested in the roll women played doing intelligence work during World War Two. Now, she gives talks all over the country about the women who deciphered codes and helped win the war. After Pearl Harbor, the military knew it needed to break codes.

"There were ten thousand women in the Navy and ten thousand women in the Army breaking codes," says Julia. "They worked around the clock in three shifts, twenty-four seven for years and they shortened the war because they could break the codes. They had a natural affinity for it because they were recruited from Ivy League universities while studying math, music, science, anyone who could understand the flow of numbers, space, and time." Her mother was one of them but never talked about it. She did tell Julia she worked in the code room, and the girl sitting next to her broke a Japanese code.

"I didn't ask her this question: If you were sitting next to her and she broke a code, what were you doing? I feel it is my job to tell her story as well as other women who broke codes and were never recognized." Julia put two and two together when she read a book, "Code Girls" by Liza Mundy about the female code breakers. "Why didn't my sweet mother tell us? During the war, the women were told they would be shot if they told about what they were doing. Even though the code of silence was lifted in 1990, and my mother died in 1998, she could have told us. She was a Girl Scout leader and could

have told those girls about her experiences. Even Liza Mundy, doing research for her book, had a hard time getting some of the women to talk to her." When Julia found out what her mother did during the war, she started looking through a drawer in a piece of furniture that had gone through several moves. "And there they were: her commendation letter, her little notebook about how to break codes and the little tests she took, her uniform, and all sorts of items I use in my talks. Her uniform had the letter Q on its sleeve, indicating intelligence service. If they were asked about it, they were told to say, "I empty trash

and sit on the Admiral's lap." The first time Julia gave her program was for neighbors and friends, people who had known her mother. "They were in tears. They, too, asked why couldn't she or my dad have told us. They never imagined my mother being in the Navy and breaking Japanese codes. We could have gloried in her, hugged her, and thanked her for her service." After the war some of those women went to the CIA or the National Security Agency.

## Righteous Roots in need of food donations, Eclipse meal volunteers

Staff Reports

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

There will be four meals served to over 200 people as well as having information shared about the services of Righteous Roots, victims' rights, and Jesus. Righteous Roots is currently in need of donations, whether that be volunteer work or items for the meal.

- Ways to donate include:**
- Sign-up to purchase some of the non-perishable items on the list and bring them by Righteous Roots' facility.
  - Coordinate the people in your circle or church to bake items in one of the needed categories.
  - Volunteer to help Righteous Roots on the weekend of the Total Eclipse by aiding in the down-town festival, preparing and serving the meal, or monitoring the parking lot for paid parking on Saturday, April 6.

- List of needed items:**
- Ten dozen brownies.
  - Ten dozen Rice Krispie treats.
  - Any kind of soup, enough to feed 100 people.
  - Premixed salad, enough to feed 150 people.
  - Twenty pies of various kinds.
  - Five boxes of individually wrapped chips.
  - Eight cases of bottled water.
  - Four large bags of shredded cheese.
  - Eight boxes of four sticks of butter.
  - Ten large pork or beef roasts.
  - Ten of the 24 packs of Hawaiian rolls.
  - Ten eight-pound bags of russet potatoes.
  - Ten large bags of baby carrots.
- Items are to be dropped off at the Righteous Roots building by 9 a.m. on Friday, April 5, but no later than Friday, March 29. For more information, contact Righteous Roots at 254-651-3600. Righteous Roots is located at 904 E. Leon St. in Gatesville.

## One tough cookie...



Mackenzie Stacher, driven by her mother, Sheila, made stops along the courthouse square with cookies in tow. She is seen above with some of the employees of The Gatesville Messenger who were anxious to purchase some sweets. Pictured left to right are Jaci Velasquez, Mackenzie Stacher, Kaylee Dusang, and Alexandra Meelbusch.

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

During the past few years, the determination and stamina of the lone Girl Scout in Gatesville has been in full force when it comes to selling cookies and establishing herself as a local driving force. As in years past, she could be described as "one tough cookie." Mackenzie Stacher always sets a goal of how many Girl Scout cookies she wants to sell. "Last

year, I sold 5,068 boxes," she said. Stacher joined the Girl Scouts in 2017 - the summer after her 3rd-grade school year. "I've been in Girl Scouts for seven years now - almost half my life since I'm now 16. I started as a Brownie and worked my way up to Ambassador," she said. "Being an Ambassador means that I am nearing the end of a very long journey of trail blazing and young entre-

preneurship." Stacher continued, "Girl Scouts has definitely thickened my skin and has taught me how life after high school might be. I've learned to work with people and how to attempt to work with difficult people. I've learned hard work and how to brave discomfort and frustration with a smile. Most of all, I've learned that the saying 'teamwork makes the dream work' is 100% true."

During the last few years, she has encountered a few setbacks - all weather-related. She has remained steadfast and continued to sell cookies during cold weather, high winds, and ice. Her determination and strong work ethics continue to help her reach her scouting goal of being able to go with other scouts on a trip to Paris, France during her last year in Scouts in 2025.

She commented on the strong support she has received from her parents, Michael and Sheila Stacher. "I would have never gotten where I am today without my parents. They are my backbone. They are at every booth, they love and support me, they brave the weather with me whether good or bad, hot or cold, no matter how miserable. They help me fight my battles and protect me from disrespectful customers. Without them, I don't think selling 5,000 boxes (of cookies) would have been possible last year - nor 3,000 this year. I truly love how supportive my parents have been of me in Girl Scouts."

Being the lone member of the Gatesville Girl Scout troop, Stacher commented on her quest to sell cookies, "I bite off way more than I can chew, and it almost always pays off. My ambition is taking me places. I juggle college classes, regular school-work, band UIL, mock trial, and Girl Scouts in addition to having to do housework and stay connected with friends."

Stacher can be viewed as a hardworking Gatesville Hornet.

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## PEARL NEWS

# Pearl Church of Christ raised funds for His Kids of Lampasas



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

The Pearl Church of Christ reports that they had another excellent annual Valentine's Silent Auction for His Kids on Feb. 11, thanks to the community and everyone who participated in this very worthy cause. Sixteen of His Kids from Lampasas and several of their leaders were able to be in attendance.

Thank you, Angel Norton and Juan and Mary Garcia, for bringing those sweet kids. These leaders gave a report which told the church that 18 to 24 kids continue to meet at Grace Assembly in Lampasas each week, and that they continue to be able to send kiddos to His Hill Camp in Comfort each summer due to the donations from the Valentine's Auction.

Richard Williams would be so proud that the program which he started nearly 40 years ago is still thriving to this day. We continue to honor Richard's memory and the love he had for the Lord. "Big R" (as

he was called) had a heart for kids, and his greatest desire was to see that all kids had the opportunity to know the Lord. He even made sure the kids had basic necessities. Richard also served Lampasas as a DPS trooper for many years, and he often filled the pulpit at Pearl Church of Christ during his lifetime. What a blessing it was to know Big R, and what a blessing it is to continue to love and serve His Kids today.

The next Pearl Bluegrass and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day is March 2. The bluegrass event goes on all day in the Pearl Community Center. The Pearl Cottage

Bookstore opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. Be sure and drop by the friendliest store in Texas to visit with "the girls" who operate this neat little store in the historic teacherage on the community center grounds. Remember, all proceeds go toward the bookstore's local charities, and most every purchase is by donation. The bookstore ladies call it "buy what you want, pay what you want!" You'll not only leave the store with some wonderful books and/or other treasures, but you'll leave knowing that you helped the community. There's no place like Pearl! This week's Bible verse

comes from Matthew 19:14—But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." 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](mailto:betsyclark47@yahoo.com)



COURTESY PHOTO

Anne Ramminger demonstrating some creative holiday ideas with members of the Morris Federation.

## Anne Ramminger shares creative ideas with Morris Federation

Submitted by Marsha Lee

Members of The Morris Federation held a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 10 a.m. in the James Coryell Room at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

After a short business meeting, Anne Ramminger was introduced to present a Valentine's Day-oriented program. Anne, the daughter of Kenneth and Velta Riddle, was a 1985 graduate of Gatesville High School. She currently works as Director of Health Information Management for the Coryell Memorial Healthcare System. Known for her scrapbooking skills and creativity, she has been a favorite with members of The Morris Federation who have enjoyed her hands-on programs over the last couple of years.

This year, Anne started out by showing members how to create decorative vignettes to set around their homes. It is really not necessary to go out and buy a lot of materials to create these vignettes or displays. They can be created with ordinary materials just ly-

ing around the home, but by pulling them together, they can create a happy arrangement which may look festive, enjoyable, and even inspiring. Such items may include things like candles, silk flowers, jewelry, books, cups, trays, and all sorts of knick-knacks - just whatever catches the eye.

The vignettes can be seasonal arrangements, or can be centered around a holiday theme such as Christmas (with a bowl of candy, mug with packages of hot chocolate mix, a stuffed toy, a plant, a candle, Christmas book, etc.); Valentine's Day (with a framed picture of yourself as a child or a loved one, a pair of baby booties, a silk flower in a vase, a Valentine beside the frame, and a necklace draped over the other side of the frame); things that remind you of someone special (maybe your mother with a Bible, a pair of her gloves or a hat, a piece of jewelry, a bottle of her favorite perfume); things that a special friend has given you over the years; or just things that are meaningful to you and make you happy

(like a tray with a special figurine, a candle, a piece of jewelry, some stationery or a letter, etc.).

You can set your vignettes anywhere - on a coffee table, a desk, a dresser. They can be placed on a flat surface, on a platform, on a scarf or a doily. She discussed how a person can alter their arrangements or colors or change the vignettes around as often as they like; after all, they are really for your benefit and your enjoyment.

After creating several vignettes, discussing them, and sharing ideas from members, Anne showed members how to make a hanging three-dimensional heart ornament, using hearts cut out from decorative, colorful, double-sided scrapbooking paper.

The group finished up by making and enjoying the perfect Valentine's Day treat: S'mores! Yes, it was a messy but delicious way to end an already enjoyable meeting!

## 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 sidewalk
  - Installing bike lanes, turn lanes, and guardrails.
  - Reduced speed limits.
  - 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 anywhere 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 survey electronically, visit [s.surveypal.com/vedgspc1](https://s.surveypal.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-sap.com>.

## City of Gatesville to host Art Exhibition April 6

Staff Reports

The City of Gatesville will host an art exhibition called Art in the Shadow, Saturday, April 6. The event will be held at Leaird's Furniture & Appliance at 10 a.m.

The city encourages the entire community, regardless of age, to submit their artwork for selection by a committee in an art exhibition centered around the state of Texas and the upcoming solar eclipse.

Selected artists will be invited to display their work during the Block out the Sun Party for the solar eclipse.

The theme for the art exhibition will be anything related to Texas, the eclipse, Gatesville, or Coryell County. Artists are expected to explore various elements, including landscapes, culture, history, landmarks, people, and unique aspects that make this region special.

Multiple art forms will be accepted such as painting, drawing, photography, and sculptures, and artists may submit up to five pieces. The artwork submitted does not have to be new but must be original.

All the entries must have a brief description highlighting the inspiration and relevance to the theme of the exhibition.

Submission guidelines include:

- Paintings and drawings should be ready for display and framed if necessary.

- Sculptures should be easily transportable and not exceed 30 inches.

- Photographs can be submitted either as prints or in digital form, adhering to the specified technical requirements.

To place your submission, email your artwork to [candypetpal-acevents@gmail.com](mailto:candypetpal-acevents@gmail.com). Be sure to upload the images of your work, ensuring

they meet the specified qualifications as well as providing a brief artist biography and description of each piece submitted.

The deadline for submission will be on Friday, March 1.

This event aims to foster creativity, showcase local talent, and bring people together through various art forms. Visitors will have an opportunity to appreciate the event, connect with artists, and may even purchase artwork during the exhibition.

This event serves as a platform for local artists to showcase their talent, engage with the community, and celebrate the remarkable features of this state and event.

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.

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Turnersville Community Center is having a Community Yard Sale and 42 Domino tournament on March 16th. To register for a booth, please email [turnersvillestampede@gmail.com](mailto:turnersvillestampede@gmail.com) 00030638

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville TX 76528, is having an online auction.

The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at [storageauctions.com](http://storageauctions.com) beginning Monday, March 11, 2024 at 11A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full.

Bidding sale will end on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 11A.M. Units to be sold: Thomas Baldwin. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools and misc. items.

**00030621**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 425 SH-36 Bypass N, Gatesville TX 76528, is having an online auction.

The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at [storageauctions.com](http://storageauctions.com) beginning Monday, March 11, 2024 at 11A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full.

Bidding sale will end on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 11A.M. Units to be sold: Kyle Trainer, Cassandra Ward. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools and misc.

**00030622**  
**INVITATION TO BID CORYELL COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT**

ITEM: County Road Rehab  
BID NUMBER: CCRB2024-06

DATE OF OPENING: March 5, 2024 @ 9:00 am  
LOCATION: Coryell 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

A mandatory Pre Bid site showing will be 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.  
00030623

**099**  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Dalton Lewis "Butch" Craig, Deceased, were issued on 12-21-23, in Cause No. 23-10932, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Patricia Ann Craig.

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: Dori Ray Mistic  
Attorney at Law  
907 S. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

DATED the 14th day of February, 2024.

Dori Ray Mistic  
Attorney for Patricia Ann Craig  
State Bar No.: 04091800  
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522  
Telephone: (254) 547-6000  
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157  
E-mail: [doriraymistic@hotmail.com](mailto:doriraymistic@hotmail.com)

**00030629**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Delmar Lowell Rubedor, Deceased, were issued on 12-21-23, in Cause No. 23-10926, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Brenda Renee' Rubedor.

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: Dori Ray Mistic, Attorney at Law  
907 S. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

DATED the 14th day of February, 2024.

Dori Ray Mistic  
Attorney for Brenda Renee' Rubedor  
State Bar No.: 04091800  
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522  
Telephone: (254) 547-6000  
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157  
E-mail: [doriraymistic@hotmail.com](mailto:doriraymistic@hotmail.com)

**00030630**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Paul Guido Haase, Deceased, were issued on February 12, 2024, in Cause No. 24-10949, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Sharon Haase Akers.

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

c/o: Sharon Haase Akers  
374 Sawmill  
Crockett, Texas 75835

DATED February 12, 2024.

Chuck P. Stermer  
Attorney for Sharon Haase Akers  
State Bar No.: 24094964  
619 E. Main St.  
Gatesville, Texas 76528  
Telephone: (254) 865-6003  
Facsimile: (254) 323-0070  
E-mail: [chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com)

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Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Floyd N Shook, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, at 409 County Road 341, Gatesville, Texas 76528, or to both the probate court and the named/proposed personal representative within 14 days after the date of publication of this notice.

Floyd N Shook, Personal Representative for the Estate  
409 County Road 341  
Gatesville, Texas 76528

**00030632**  
JENNIFER NEWTON  
CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT  
P.O. BOX 237  
GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE  
DORI RAY MISTIC  
907 S. MAIN ST.  
COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS 76522

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS  
UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF PERRY GORDON BENNETT, DECEASED CAUSE NO 23-10894, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. RICHARD CARTER BENNETT FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 2ND DAY OF JANUARY 2024, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SAID RICHARD CARTER BENNETT, DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME ABOVE MENTIONED TIME AND PLACE BY FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER CONTESTING SUCH APPLICATION SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO DO SO.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

JENNIFER NEWTON  
CORYELL COUNTY CLERK  
CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: A. KORNEGAY

**00030634**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Helga Kendall, Deceased, were issued on 12-21-2023, in Cause No. 23-10929, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Joe Carl Wooten.

All persons having claims to 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: Dori Ray Mistic  
Attorney at Law  
907 S. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

DATED the 15 day of Feb. 2024.

Dori Ray Mistic  
Attorney for Joe Carl Wooten  
State Bar No.: 04091800  
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522  
Telephone: (254) 547-6000  
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157  
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REAL ESTATE

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



### NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER

#### AMENDMENT

Permit No. WQ0005247000

**APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION.** Texas Military Department, c/o Environmental Department-NGTX-FE, 2200 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78703, which operates the Gatesville-Maneuver Area Training Equipment Sites (MATES), a military vehicle maintenance and refueling facility, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a major amendment of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0005247000 to authorize the reduction of monitoring frequency from once per week to once per month for regulated parameters at Outfall 001. The draft permit authorizes the discharge of stormwater and wash rack water on an intermittent and flow-variable basis via Outfall 001. The TCEQ received this application on May 24, 2023.

The facility is located at 5500 South State Highway 36, near the City of Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas 76528. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.704444,31.3775&level=18>

The effluent is discharged to two unnamed ponds, thence to an unnamed drainage channel, thence to Leon River Above Belton Lake in Segment No. 1259 of the Brazos River Basin. The unclassified receiving water uses are limited aquatic life use for the unnamed ponds and minimal aquatic life use for the unnamed drainage channel. The designated uses for Segment No. 1259 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use.

In accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 307.5 and TCEQ's *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards* (June 2010), an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. A Tier 2 review has preliminarily determined that no significant degradation of water quality is expected in Leon River Above Belton Lake, which has been identified as having high aquatic life use. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the Gatesville Public Library, 111 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Gatesville, Texas.

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

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

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

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

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION.** The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or a timely request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

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

**All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment> within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.**

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

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

Further information may also be obtained from the Texas Military Department at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Yamunalinie Pathmanathan, Clean Water/Air Coordinator, at 512-782-6098.

Issued: January 19, 2024



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# Showing Some Love to Their Residents

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CORYELL HEALTH AND SUSIE MEELBUSCH

Hillside Medical Lodge brought the Army of Love (Ft. Cavazos) to its facility to celebrate Valentine's Day with their residents. The soldiers of Ft. Cavazos passed out stuffed puppy dogs and teddy bears, which were donated from the Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop. The residents were able to dance with the soldiers as musical guest David Johnson played many love songs. RehabLiving at the Meadows made Valentine's Day special for their residents by holding a party in honor of the holiday. Many friends and family members came to be with their loved ones while enjoying musical entertainment and dancing. There were plenty of desserts including cupcakes, chocolate-covered wontons and strawberries, candy, and cookies, as well as homemade punch. Each of the residents, as well as staff members, received a rose.



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Message from Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP and the City of Gatesville.



## Hornet baseball eyes another deep run, blasts Lampasas to open season

BY CHRIS ALLMAN  
Contributing Writer

The unseasonably warm weather in the Heart of Texas area this week could be attributed to a number of things. It could be climate change. Or El Nino.

It's likely coming from just how fired up Chase Smith is feeling for his 2024 Hornet baseball squad, another deep playoff run, and his program as a whole.

Gatesville returns ten players from last season's upstart squad that advanced to the regional quarterfinals for just the third time in program history and a repeat run in the postseason is in their plans again.

In round one of last year's playoffs, the Hornets took

down 24-4A champion Marble Falls before dusting Giddings in a two-game sweep in the area round. In the regional quarters, they fell 6-3 to eventual state champion and district foe China Spring.

According to Smith, the carry-over from 2023 has been evident from the start of practice.

"We have a lot of confidence and a lot of that stems from playing good teams and competing really well against them," Smith said. "I think everybody believes we are capable and that we are really good team."

Flamethrower Bralen Veazey, senior catcher Lawson Mooney, and sophomore slugger Bradey James head-

line a roster loaded with experience and young talent.

Veazey, a Temple College signee, struck out 125 batters in 2023 and set a new program single-season record en route to an 8-1 record. Mooney hit .303 and stole 27 bases to set his own single-season program record and James hit .311 in his freshman season to tie John Ibarra for the team lead.

Ibarra, a junior, will take over the shortstop position full time with James at third base. Justin Johnson started the season at second base but was also Gatesville's every day left fielder in 2023. Senior Cayden Brister and sophomores Gehrig Keeton

and Clark Allman have seen time at second base in scrimmages.

Senior Clayton Gregory will play first when not on the pitcher's mound, and the outfield will be manned by Johnson, senior Sean Aguilar, and sophomores Miles Tull and Justin Muegge.

Tull, Muegge, James, Allman, and Keeton are part of a stellar sophomore class that also includes Colt Heath, Charlie Winkler, and Amos Phillips. All could see time on the field for the varsity - particularly during the non-district and tournament seasons.

"They are just a super competitive bunch and just bring that edge and energy

every game," Smith said.

In a season-opening 9-2 thumping of rival Lampasas in the season opener, Muegge led the team with two hits, while James had an RBI single. Johnson, Aguilar, Gregory, Ibarra, and Mooney all had hits as well in the win.

"We put pressure on them on the bases and played some small ball," Smith said. "Overall, we had really good at-bats and were able to move runners and score guys when we got them into scoring position."

The offensive support was more than enough for Veazey who struck out the first eight batters of the game and fanned 14 of the 23 hitters he faced.

Lampasas managed three hits but just one hard hit all night. Their first two hits could be referred to as a jam shot and a bloop double, but a more blunt description for both would be accidents.

"Veazey was just Veazey. He was blowing it past them the first time through the lineup then he started throwing his breaking stuff early in the count and they had a hard time with that. It was a good first start for him," said Smith.

The Hornets will travel to Palestine for their first tournament of the season where they will play Mexia, Jack-sonville, Fairfield and Tyler

PLEASE SEE **BASEBALL** | B2

## GHS academic rates highlight student athlete success

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

Student athletes often balance multiple responsibilities - from their classes, jobs, and personal lives to sports and other extracurriculars.

Despite the busy schedules, Gatesville High School athletes have averaged a 90% and above passing rate for each nine-week grading period since the 2021-2022 school year. With a 93% passing rate for the most recent grading cycle, Athletic Director Rickey Phillips explains Hornets Athletics academic expectations and how they prepare student athletes for their future beyond high school.

"One of the first goals of our athletic program is to establish the importance of academics," he said. "Establishing the importance of excelling in the classroom and being a good student first."

Although the University Interscholastic League (UIL) has academic requirements, such as No Pass No Play, Gatesville's athletic program has its own standards when it comes to athletes maintaining grades.

"If a student is not on the academic ineligibility list but is failing two to three courses between grading periods, our coaches at the high school and junior level are more than likely not going to allow that athlete to participate until those grades are satisfactory," Phillips said. "We want

our athletes to understand the importance of maintaining a high level of academics year-round."

Along with tutoring and after-school programs, Phillips adds that coaches and teachers offer support to students who are struggling.

"They go above and beyond to help all students be successful and excel in the classroom," Phillips said. "Same for our campus administration that is constantly finding ways to help students that are behind or need additional help academically."

This year, student athletes make up 60% of campus enrollment. Phillips said around 466 students participate in at least one sport, and four out of every five athletes play in multiple sports.

"We have so many student-athletes that are involved in other groups and extracurricular activities that GHS offers and that have jobs," he said. "The young folks that represent Hornets Athletics are committed and dedicated. They are organized and great time managers."

Senior student Bethany Penrod, who is involved in soccer, cross country, and student council, said the support from her team and coaches helps when it comes to balancing a busy schedule.

"It helps when you have a good environment," Penrod said.

Sean Aguilar, another se-

nior athlete who plays on the football, track, and baseball teams, said taking OnRamps college courses through the University of Texas has helped him form more efficient study habits.

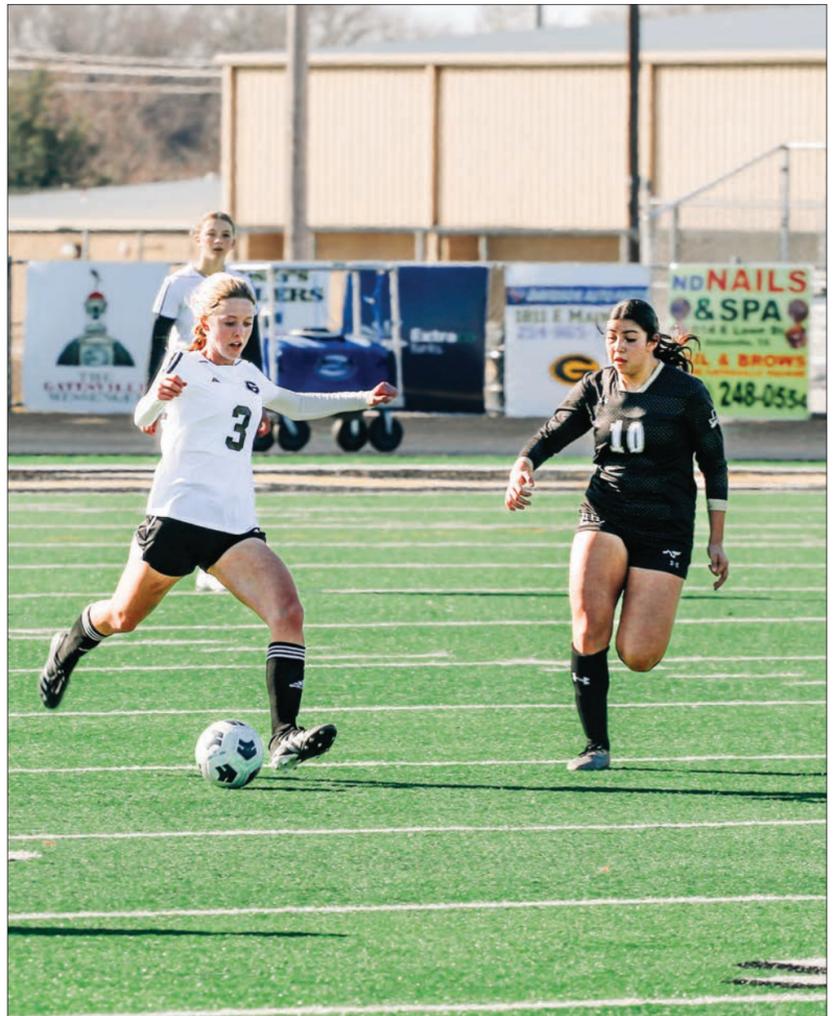
"Definitely try to stay on top of stuff and don't procrastinate," he said. "I have two off periods, and I use that for studying and homework to create good study habits."

While academics are at the forefront of the school's athletic program, Phillips emphasizes the link between athletics and academic achievement and how the two often complement one another.

"Kids that are smart in that classroom are probably going to understand the game or the sport a little better too, because they're thinkers and they're learners," Phillips said.

Whether or not students continue athletics following graduation, Phillips said the goal is to help prepare students to become productive citizens outside of a sports or academic setting.

"We talk about how your behavior here may reflect the first job interview you go to or your grades here or whatever college you're trying to get into," Phillips said. "Your grades here, your behavior, are going to have an impact on what you do beyond the walls of GHS when you graduate."



GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Student athletes make up more than half of GHS campus enrollment and often play multiple sports while balancing classes.

## Hornets fall to Jarrell in bi-district playoffs

BY CHRIS ALLMAN  
Contributing Writer

A second-straight 25-win season came to an end earlier than Gatesville basketball players and fans had hoped thanks to a 60-48 loss to Jarrell in the bi-district playoffs on Feb. 20.

After struggling early in the district schedule, the Hornets won their last two games to get into the post-season as the No. 3 seed and matched up with the Cougars - a familiar foe and the runner-up from District 24-4A.

Gatesville (25-11) took down Jarrell 44-43 in the

second game of the season and Tuesday's playoff affair looked like another Hornet win early as Gatesville jumped out to an 11-0 lead and then led 27-17 at half-time. But the Hornets offense stalled in the second half as they were outscored 43-22 in the second half.

Rayshon Smith led the Hornets attack with 17 points in perhaps his best all-around game of the season. The junior repeatedly knifed through the Cougars defense for layups and also buried a three-pointer to start the fourth quarter that

gave Gatesville a 41-38 lead. Two possessions later, Jarrell took a 43-41 lead and would not trail again.

West Allman had nine points for Gatesville, and Charlie Winkler and Kase Cox each had five points. Scout Hall, Graceson Stewart, and Amos Phillips had four points apiece.

The loss marked the end of the careers for Hall, Stewart, and fellow senior John Hall. Stewart and Scout Hall combined to average almost eight points and eight rebounds per game playing limited minutes as juniors.

John Hall had his best game of the year in a Hornets win over Stephenville when he chipped in four points.

After last season's 28-8 bi-district team graduated four seniors, the 2023-24 season brought a significant number of questions that were answered quickly. Gatesville raced out to a 21-4 record in non-district and captured tournament titles in Cameron and in Brownwood.

After struggling through the first six games of district, the Hornets closed the regu-



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GHS boys basketball players: top left to right, John Hall and Scout Hall; bottom row, left to right, Rayshon Smith and Graceson Stewart.

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | B2

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## GHS girls' powerlifting team advances to regional meet

### Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School girls' powerlifting team has been honored with 11 lifters qualifying for the upcoming Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association (THSWPA) regional meet.

The regional qualifiers include Zoey Arnold, Emma Davidson, Kensley Eary, Kasey Fitzer, Isabela Mon-dragon, Bayelyn Roberts, Alyssa Saxon, Marin Segra-ves, Shaylie Teague, Keyana Webb, and Paisley Wells.

The lifters that finish first or second in their respec-tive weight class, or that reach a pre-set lift total, will advance to the state competition.

The regional meet will be held on Friday, March 1 in Dublin.



## GHS soccer teams fall short against Salado, defeat Little River Academy teams

### Submitted Item

The Gatesville High School girls soccer team lost to number two ranked and un-defeated Salado on Friday, 0-5.

On Tuesday, GHS girls de-feated Little River Academy, 2-0, behind two goals from Andrea Ortiz. They got an-other strong performance in the shutout by freshman goal keeper Anna McPherson.

The Gatesville High School

boys soccer team lost to number six ranked Salado, 1-3, getting their lone goal from Alex Bueno.

On Tuesday, GHS boys won, 6-0, over Little River Academy, with goals from Alex Bueno, Angel Alm-endariz, Hector Silva, Os-waldo Leon, and Jerry Rodri-guez. The boys got another great performance from goal keeper Javier Bonilla in the shutout.

# GHS Athletics Hall of Fame announced 2024 inductees

### Staff Reports

The inductees for the Hall of Fame of the class of 2024 have been announced. The hall of fame recognizes athletes, coaches, teams, or friends of the program who have excelled at Gatesville High School and received significant recognition.

The Class of 2024 inductees will include:

Athlete Judy Kafer Hurst was a multi-sport athlete during her career at Gatesville High School in the early 1970's and excelled in basketball and track. She was a four-year member of the Lady Hornets basket-ball team and was chosen to participate in the state all-star game during her senior season and would later play

collegiately at Baylor Univer-sity. In track, she was a four-year state meet qualifier and held four individual school records upon graduation.

Athlete Jim Saun-ders was a three-sport let-terman for Gatesville High School from 1968 to 1972. He was a decorated quar-terback in football, earn-ing numerous district and postseason honors for his play on the gridiron. Upon graduation, he received a football scholarship to play for Baylor University.

Coach Guy Dean began his career in coach-ing during the mid-1980's, and Gatesville High School would be his only stop dur-ing a 30-plus year career. Since serving as the football assistant coach for many

seasons, he enjoyed success as a head coach in basket-ball, cross country, and golf. Dean led the Hornet cage team to district titles and several playoff appearances during a successful stint as the boys' hoops coach. He led the high school golf teams to more than a dozen state tournament appear-ances, highlighted by the high school boys winning the class 3A state title in 2009.

The 1950 to 1951 boys' basketball team ad-vanced to the UIL state semifinals. That season, Gatesville High School won the district 20A champion-ship and copped the team title at the regional tourna-ment to gain a trip to the state tournament.

The 2009 softball team was coached by Mi-chelle Edwards and posted a school-best, 32-10 record and advanced to the UIL class 3A state tournament. A 2-1 loss to Needville in the state semifinals ended their historic run.

The Hall of Fame banquet will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Gatesville High School, with more details to come.

For more information, contact Rickey Phillips, GISD Athletic Director by email at rgphilli@gatesvilleisd.org.

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

## BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

on Feb. 23-24.

"It's stepping into a little of the unknown with those teams we have never really played before. I think if we play well, we have a chance to win every game we plan," Smith said. "So it will be fun getting to go play a bunch of teams we have never played."

The rest of the non-dis-trict schedule will feature

tournament play in Stephen-ville and Franklin as well as a slate of games meant to prepare the Hornets for an-other district dogfight.

Gatesville will face three top 20 teams in 4A in non-district (No. 4 Taylor, No. 10 Stephenville, and No. 20 Brownwood) as well as God-ley - a top 30 team accord-ing to the Diamond Pro/ TSHB preseason rankings.

They will also face 3A No. 12 Franklin, 3A No. 17 West, and Lorena in non-district play.

The district schedule will feature 4A No. 1 China Spring, Region III No. 8 Sala-do, Robinson, Connally, and La Vega.

Though a challenging slate of games awaits, Smith is nothing but optimistic and enthusiastic about his

team's current state and their trajectory moving for-ward.

"Our guys are buying into playing great defense and pitching, being good on the bases, and situational hitting. That's a recipe for success, and they are seeing that it works. When we do those things I like what we are capable of."

## HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

lar season by winning three of their final four games and securing a playoff spot in the last game of the year.

The bulk of their scoring and rebounding will return for at least one more year next season. Allman led the team in scoring and steals

(16.1 PPG / 2.1 SPG) as a ju-nior and leading rebounder Cox (6.8 RPG) will also re-turn for his senior season.

Smith (9.1 PPG), Evan Mc-Cracken, and Logan Biggs are juniors while Winkler and Phillips are just sopho-mores. Winkler knocked

down 55 three-pointers in 34 games this year while Phillips pulled down five rebounds per game to go along with five rebounds per game.

District champion La Vega, runner up Connally, and fourth-place finisher

Robinson each won their bi-district games. All-district selections for 23-4A will be announced following the elimination of all four teams from the postseason.



February 24, 2024



The Floating Lantern Festival, set to enchant the night skies on February 24, 2024, is a mesmerizing celebration that combines tradition, wishes, and the magical glow of lanterns. Originating in different cultures around the world, this festival has become a symbol of hope, unity, and the beauty of dreams taking flight.

Imagine a night where the air is filled with the soft glow of countless lanterns floating peacefully above. The Floating Lantern Festival, also known as the Yi Peng Lantern

Festival in some regions, invites people to release lanterns into the night sky, each carrying their hopes and aspirations.

Kids can participate in this capti-vating event by crafting their lan-terns, decorating them with vibrant colors and heartfelt messages. It's a chance to express dreams and send positive vibes into the universe. Fam-ilies often come together to share this experience, creating a sense of connection and shared wishes.

The lanterns are typically made of lightweight materials like paper or fab-ric, and they are fueled by small flames, creating a se-rene and magi-cal atmosphere as they ascend into the night. This visual spectacle is not just a feast for the eyes; it's a moment of re-

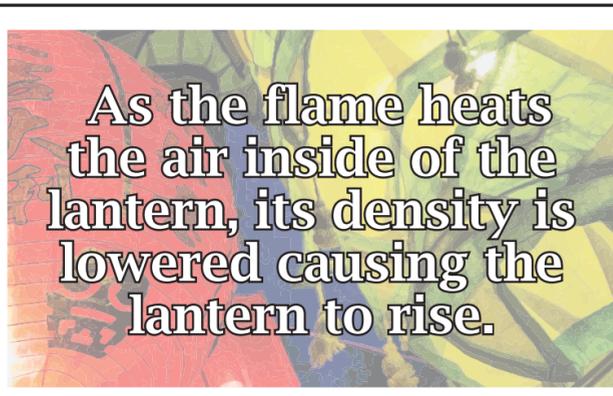
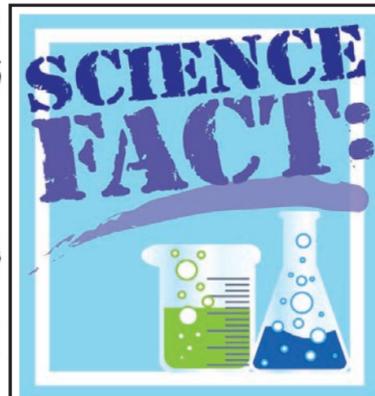
lection and shared optimism.

Floating Lantern Festivals are held in different parts of the world, each with its unique cultural touch. In some places, lanterns are released onto bodies of water, symbolizing the flow of life and the unity of people. In others, they take to the skies like a constellation of wishes, light-ing up the darkness.

Teachers might incorporate the Floating Lantern Festival into their lesson plans, exploring the cultural significance of the event and encour-aging kids to reflect on their dreams and aspirations. The festival's beau-ty lies not only in the illuminated night sky but in the collective spirit of hope and positivity that it fosters.

So, on February 24, 2024, kids and families can prepare their lanterns, gather under the open sky, and re-lease their dreams into the night, contributing to a celestial display that transcends borders and con-nects hearts around the world. It's a celebration of light, love, and the limitless possibilities that float on the wings of dreams.

Zhuge Liang made the first Sky Lantern out of an oiled based rice paper and bam-boo frame. This car-ried a small candle. Khoom Fay or Sky Lanterns were used in battles to signal to others that one was in danger.



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# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Daniel throws 11th no hitter in program history, Texans sweep games against Buffalo, MVSU



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

**Kendall Daniel pitched a no hitter in the 9-0 win over Mississippi Valley State Feb. 18, the first freshman since 1997 to do so.**

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Can you talk about a better home debut than ending it with a no-hitter? Kendall Daniel did just that in the 9-0 win over Mississippi Valley State Feb. 18, the first freshman since 1997 to do so.

The feat marks just the second freshman to ever toss a no-hitter in program history. The first was Caryn Holbrook, who tossed a per-

fect game in Tarleton's second year as a program March 29, 1997, in Stephenville vs. Eastern New Mexico. It was a 14-0 (5) win.

"Kendall is getting back in the swing of things and is really doing a great job in the circle for us," said head coach Mark Cumpian. "I was glad to see her throw a no-hitter today. All her hard work is paying off."

Hannah Blincoe earned her second win of the season

moving to 2-0 on the season in the Texans' 3-2 win over Buffalo. She earned her first win in the Texans' 5-2 victory over Idaho State Friday night.

The Texans are now 14-1 in the past three Whataburger Invationals.

"Overall, I thought it was a good weekend for us," said Cumpian. "We are starting to get in the groove of things and that's all you can ask for this early in the season.

I thought our pitchers did a better job of pounding the zone with strikes this weekend which is big. Our hitters need to be a little more disciplined in the box, but we will adjust next week as we head to Commerce."

Tarleton State 3 Buffalo 2  
The Texans opened up their first of two games Sunday vs. Buffalo going up 1-0 in the first inning. Brady Rowland hit a sacrifice fly to left field scoring Jordan Dickerson who reached base with a single to center.

Buffalo responded in the top of the second with two runs off a double from Alyssa Wasielewski.

The Texans tied things up at two in the bottom half of the third when Dickerson scored on a wild pitch.

Both offenses went cold until the bottom of the sixth when Tarleton State plated the go-ahead and eventual game-winning run. Hayden Fox pinch hit for fellow sophomore Hannah Reed, hitting a sacrifice fly to right field scoring Tristyn Trull and putting the Texans up 3-2. This marked Fox's first RBI of the season and the second of her young career with the Purple and White.

Blincoe went the distance this time, giving up two runs on five hits and striking out four. Her four strikeouts mark her new-season high in her first season as a Texan and matches her career-high that was set against Texas A&M March 1, 2023, during her time with Houston.

Tarleton State 9 MVSU 0  
Daniel was the star of the show in the Texans' final game of the 2024 Whataburger Invitational, throwing her first collegiate no-hitter in her home debut at the Tarleton Softball Complex.

She faced just two batters over the minimum, walking two on the day. She also struck out two on the day. Her no-hitter comes just 22 months after near-fatal car accident in April of her senior year of high school.

The Texans gave Daniel plenty of run support on the day, but she didn't need any of it.

Tarleton State got the scoring started early when Rowland singled to left, scoring Kelci Hill and Kayla Wallace and putting the Purple and White up 2-0. This marked the first of three times Wallace crossed

the plate for the Texans.

In the bottom of the second the runs kept coming when Wallace blasted a sky-high three-run shot over the right field wall, putting the Texans up 5-0. Wallace collected her first three RBIs of the day driving in Dickerson and Ashlee LaRue.

Things were quiet for both teams in the third before the Texans put up a four spot in the bottom of the fourth, putting the game in run-rule territory.

Wallace once again hit a homer over the right field wall, this time a line drive out of the Tarleton Softball Complex. She drove in Dickerson and LaRue once again, collecting her fourth, fifth and sixth RBI of the day.

The final run for the Texans came from a sacrifice fly off the bat of Kalyn Hill, scoring her sister Kelci.

The Delta Devilettes' final hope to keep things going in the top of the fifth didn't go as planned as they were retired in order. The final out of the game was only fitting as it was a grounder back to Daniel in the circle who threw out the runner at first securing the no-hitter for the redshirt freshman.

## Texans claim 1st win under Fuller Smith in season opener at Southeastern Louisiana

### Tarleton State University

HAMMOND, La. - Tarleton State Baseball took its first season-opening win in the last five years with a 9-4 win Friday, Feb. 16 at Southeastern Louisiana.

Tarleton State (1-0, 0-0 WAC) tallied nine runs in the first game of the series against Southeastern Louisiana (0-1, 0-0 SLC), with seven runs coming in the fifth inning alone.

A breakout fifth inning from the Texans paired with a strong relief pitcher found in Grant Garza sealed the deal for game one of the series. Tarleton State managed to pull off a seven-run inning, six of those runs with two outs on the board.

Garza pitched 5.2 innings allowing only three hits and one run to take the first win of the season. The right-handed pitcher surpassed his career high in innings pitched (4.1) from the 2023 season April 7 against Stephen F. Austin.

A single from Cole Mears ignited an electric fifth inning for Tarleton State. With

Mears on second and Cris Enriquez on first, a wild pitch saw both runners advance with two outs on the board. Austin Russell doubled to left center to bring in another run for the Purple and White. The next four balls saw Kooper Shook take first base, loading the diamond for the Texans. Hits from Mason Crews, Jordan Andrade and Trace Morrison tallied the next four runs. Morrison crossed home after scoring on a wild pitch to see a 9-2 score in favor of Tarleton State. The fifth inning saw seven runs, five hits, one error and no Texans left on base.

Tarleton State tallied nine runs, 10 hits, seven RBI and no errors overall. SLU compiled four runs, nine hits, and four RBIs, as well as four errors. Four Texans claimed doubles including Enriquez, Russell, Shook and Crews. Ike Shirey earned the only stolen base of the evening.

Morrison opened the year at the plate for the Purple and White with a walk. With three runners on, Enriquez

plated Morrison with a sacrifice fly for the first RBI of the season for Tarleton State.

Piercen McElyea started the game for the Texans where he remained on the mound for 1.1 innings giving up four hits and one run but leading the Purple and White with two strikeouts.

In the top of the second, Shook doubled to right field and advanced to third after a grounded out from Crews. The second out of the inning came from Andrade at first base but saw Shook cross home plate to retake the lead for Tarleton State.

McElyea saw one final out for the Purple and White in the bottom of the second after the Lions' Jude Hall struck out swinging. Garza took the mound for the Texans seeing two back-to-back outs to close out the inning, leaving two Lions on base.

Gray Rowlett opened the fourth inning for SLU with a home run to left center to tie the score at 2-2, but three consecutive outs followed to see the end of the frame.



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

**Tarleton State Baseball took its first season-opening win in the last five years with a 9-4 win Friday, Feb. 16 at Southeastern Louisiana.**

The bottom of the eighth saw Zach Poe out of the bullpen to take over for Garza. The Lions tallied one run in the eighth to close the deficit to six runs.

Poe saw 1.0 innings with one hit, one run, and one hit by pitch to close out his time on the mound. With Tanner

Carter taking the reins from Poe, SLU's Jude Hall cranked a homer to right center to add the final run for the Lions. The green and gold had one runner on but a final fly out to center field closed out the game for a 9-4 final in favor of Tarleton State.

Crews went 3-4 on the eve-

ning with one double and an RBI.

Carter pitched 1.0 innings, giving up one hit and one run.

Aiden Vosburg took the loss for SLU, pitching 1.2 innings, giving up six runs on five hits, and two walks, with four strikeouts.

## Tarleton State to construct new residence hall, expand Dick Smith Library

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — A new residence hall and expansion to the Dick Smith Library were each approved for Tarleton State University by The Texas A&M System board of regents.

Substantial growth in the student population over

recent years served as a catalyst for the two projects.

"As we strive to maintain Tarleton State as a first-choice destination, building up our residence hall capacity and providing additional academic resources for all to utilize is paramount," said Tarleton State President Dr.

James Hurley. "These two new spaces will help to further enhance the university experience for our Texans."

With today's approval by the regents, planning for the new \$120 million residence hall can now move into the design phase this spring, with a 2025 goal set for the

start of construction.

Multiple styles of rooms are expected to be included with approximately 1,000 beds. Upon project completion, 12 on-campus housing options will be available to students. Additionally, the university is updating its campus master plan to in-

clude up to 3,000 additional beds in the coming years.

Construction on the Dick Smith Library expansion is scheduled to begin later this spring. The additional space will total around 10,000 square feet.

The expansion will be a 24/7 space dedicated for

student use. Individual study rooms, collaborative study rooms, instructional space, meeting rooms and multi-purpose space are all slated to be included.

A prominent entrance to the library building from Texan Trace will also now be available from the west side.



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**LIVE OAK BAPTIST**  
Pastor Matthew Hamilton;  
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**MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**  
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N. Levita Rd., Gatesville,  
248-0849. Sunday worship  
9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday services 6  
p.m.; Adult Bible Study,  
Children's Ministry & C3  
Student Ministry.  
**CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**  
Doran Belknap III, Pastor;  
Sunday service 11 a.m.,  
8205 FM 182, Turnersville;  
254-218-5901.

**COVER2COVER MINISTRIES**  
Pastor: Rev. Brandy  
Spiker, Sunday service  
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.,  
Wednesdays 6 p.m.  
407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5,  
Gatesville.  
**GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER**  
Wes Covey, Pastor;  
Sunday school 10 a.m.,

Sunday services 11 a.m. &  
6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.;  
2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-  
9472.  
**GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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 CHURCH**  
Mike & Martha Johnson  
pastors, 503 N. 11th St.,  
Gatesville; 865-6222.  
Sunday worship 11  
a.m. Wednesday Bible  
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Women, children) 6 p.m.  
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Cristo, in the 2400 Block of  
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**LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
4460 FM 930, Levita;  
Sunday worship 10:45  
am.  
**MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE**  
William Bertelsen,  
Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy.  
236; Sunday worship  
10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.;  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7 p.m.  
**PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP**  
6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sun-  
day Services 9 a.m.  
**THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT**  
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412  
E. Main St., Gatesville;  
Sunday service 11 a.m.,  
Wednesday service 7 p.m.

**PENTECOSTAL**  
**TABERNACLE OF PRAISE**  
Rev. Jimmy Skiles,  
pastor; 202 E. Main,  
Gatesville; Sundays 10  
a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.;  
254-206-1826.  
**MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor;  
514 N. 13th St., Gatesville;  
Sunday School 9:45  
a.m., Sunday worship 11  
a.m., Wednesdays Bible  
Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.,  
Wednesday service, 7:30  
p.m.

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

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Youth Sunday Service  
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**HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH**  
Monty & Tammy VanHorn,  
pastors; 1608 W. Main  
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Wednesday Bible Study  
Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-  
4076.

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## GHS STAFF SPOTLIGHT



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Officer Brown, shown holding her certificate of appreciation is pictured with, in the front row, from left to right, Gatesville Primary School principal Van Collins, Officer Brown, GISSD Police Chief Gary Stiles, Officers Damien White, Justin Burgan, and Bobby Cole. Back row: GISSD Superintendent Barrett Pollard and Gatesville Primary School Assistant Principal Tamela Eary.

## Officer Carol Brown honored

### Staff Reports

During the Feb. 19th meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, Carol Brown was honored during the Student Spotlight presentation.

Her colleagues and co-workers had the following to say about her performance and her years in law enforcement:

Gatesville ISD Police Chief Gary Stiles said, "Carol's parents were both in law enforcement, and I believe her mother was the first female deputy sheriff at Bell County Sheriff's Office. Her career in law enforcement has now spanned 40 years, and she is still serving our community. She has strong ties and relationships in the com-

munity that have been instrumental in solving some major crimes. She has, and continues to do, a stellar job for us."

Primary Principal Van Collins stated, "Officer Brown's professionalism at the campus helps keep our students safe each and every day. We are lucky to have her expertise and knowledge to turn to whenever neces-

sary."

Primary Assistant Principal Tamela Eary explained, "Carol is always willing to jump in when needed. She goes above and beyond what is asked of her as an SRO and the students absolutely adore her as well as the parents. She is a positive role model for our community and our school."

## Light up the night at Oglesby ISD's prom on March 23

### Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District will host its annual prom with the theme "Light up the Night" on Saturday, March 23. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at Oglesby ISD.

The indoors will be closed to the public.

Students who are enrolled in Oglesby High School for their third and fourth year may attend the prom, as well as those who graduate at the end of the first semester of their senior year.

Students who are in DAEP or have a pending placement at the time of prom will not be allowed to attend.

All students wishing to attend prom must be in a good academic standing, in compliance with attendance rules, and clear of all fees and fines to be eligible to attend.

Students attending the prom may invite a guest from outside of the district, although the student attendees must complete a criminal history form, acquired from the front office, and provide a copy of their driver's license. A \$20 fee will also be required to allow entrance into the event.

Prom is a formal event where students will be expected to dress accordingly. Since this is a school event, this means that students are to comply with the general dress code, in addition to the prom dress code.

If students feel their attire is questionable, they are encouraged to discuss or show their evening wear to administrators before the event.

Students who are non-compliant with the dress code guidelines will be given the opportunity to comply, and if they refuse, they will not be permitted to attend prom and will not receive a refund.

The dress code will include the following:

#### Males:

- Will wear semi-formal or formal attire such as a suit, tuxedo, dress shirt with slacks or jeans, sports coat, or a vest with a tie.
- Dark colored dress jeans are allowed with a coat and tie.
- Dress shoes or boots are required.
- Western and other dress hats are allowed.

#### Females:

- Semi-formal or formal gowns or pantsuits will be required.
- Dresses may be sleeveless, strapless, or have spaghetti straps.
- Must keep attire properly fastened.
- All attire should be modestly cut, no plunging or low-cut necklines.
- No visible midriff or revealing side cut-outs.
- All attire should be of modest length, and not above the mid-thigh.
- No slits above the mid-thigh.
- No see-through material that exposes midriff, excessive cleavage, or thighs.

The prom will be held at Oglesby ISD which is located at 125 College Ave. in Oglesby.

For more information, contact Oglesby ISD at 254-456-2271.

## GHS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Celebrating Wyatt Dunbar in the GISSD student spotlight. Pictured left to right, GISSD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard, GHS principal Liz Shoaf, GISSD band directors Jose Sanchez and Michael Hamilton, Wyatt Dunbar and his parents, Brent Dunbar and Janet Dunbar.

## Wyatt Dunbar recognized for earning high score on PSAT

### Staff Reports

During the Feb. 19th meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, Wyatt Dunbar was honored during the Student Spotlight presentation.

GISSD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard had the following to say about Dunbar:

Wyatt Dunbar is one of our highest performing

students at GHS. Recently, Wyatt learned that he is a National Merit Scholar Finalist after scoring a 1450 on his PSAT. He is ranked third in the senior class with a 4.38 GPA. He competes nationally in marksmanship contests much like his older sister and GHS grad, Jessie Dunbar.

We are also recognizing Wyatt tonight for his amazing accomplish-

ments in band as a percussionist. The Association of Texas Small School Bands was pleased to announce the selection of the 2024 ATSSB All-State Band. More than 10,000 high school band students from across Texas auditioned in twenty-two different regions for a place in their respective all-region band. Wyatt is currently one of only 10 4A percussionists

that has been selected, through two levels of competition, into the All State Band.

This is the highest honor that an individual can receive in an individual competition. Please help us congratulate Wyatt on this amazing accomplishment.

## SUDOKU

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

### Puzzle answers from Feb. 17

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

# Choir students experience All-State competition

Submitted by GISD Choral Directors Cherith Wells and Tim Klingler

One of the most elite accomplishments as a high school musician is to earn a seat in one of the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State ensembles (choir, band, orchestra) and get to be a part of the convention in February.

Over 16,000 choir students state-wide start this process in the summer and fall, and through three rounds of intense auditions, only 600 will make an All-State ensemble. Specifically in the Small School All State Mixed Choir, there were over 2,200 individuals who started the process and only 112 seats in that choir. The competition is fierce.

At Gatesville High School, we were elated to have had six highly-motivated and prepared students in the final round, which is called Area. At the end of the Area round, we had two students earn All-State seats, and one who earned First Alternate. This was a first for Gatesville Independent School District Choir, to have more than one student achieving this level.

Senior Anna Phillips earned third chair in the Alto section. This was only Phillips' second year participating in the process, and her first time making it to the Area round, so the stakes were high for her as a Senior. Her preparation and determination were apparent: she did most of the preparation work on her own, so we were ecstatic for her to have this opportunity and reward her for her hard work. She will attend Belmont University in Nashville next fall to study Music Business.

Sophomore Paisley Wells earned third chair in the Tenor section. Wells made

the first-round last year, but didn't advance beyond that, making her progress all the way to the top this year even more exciting. She chose to sing Tenor (which is typically a male voice part) because she enjoys singing in her lower register, and the tessitura of the music is kind of high for a male voice, so she felt it would be comfortable for her. She is excited for the future and the potential to make the All-State Choir additional times.

Junior Memphis Wells earned 5th Chair in the Bass section. There are 24 individuals competing in each voice part, so the fifth chair is really good, but our Area only gets four seats in the All-State Choir. Wells has advanced to the Area round for three years in a row, and it was heartbreaking to land in fifth this year. First Alternate means that if a Bass ahead of you can't attend the convention, you get to move into that spot, but that didn't come to fruition this year.

Gatesville High School had an additional three students competing in the Area round, who all placed in the top third of the audition scores, and we are very proud of them as well as they will come back next year even hungrier to get a seat in the choir.

At the Convention, Anna and Paisley were mind blown hearing the first sounds of their first rehearsal. Each day they had multiple two-to-three-hour long rehearsals with their Clinician Dr. Eduardo Garcia-Novelli from the University of Kansas.

Dr. Garcia-Novelli not only inspired them to make phenomenal music, but to also be great humans, and kept them entertained in the process with his unique

sayings and teaching style. While at dinner one night, Phillips said, "This is literally the coolest thing I have ever done in my life." Paisley went into it thinking it would be cool, but underestimated the impact it would have on her. Having participated in other State level Choirs (TCDA JH All State Choir and FFA State Chorus), she felt like it would be somewhat the same, but it wasn't, it was so much more.

The final event for the All-State Choir was to perform their entire set in the Stars at Night Ballroom of the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio. There were 5,000 people in attendance from across Texas and the world. Many are choir directors and voice teachers, and many are family and friends who traveled for hours to hear the group. Their Concert consisted of 10 amazing pieces, one of which was an SATB arrangement of the "Star Spangled Banner" they learned in one rehearsal! Six of the pieces were prepared along the audition process and used for cuts at the various rounds of auditions (along with individual sightreading). The other three pieces were given to them in January and were learned prior to the February convention. One of the pieces was a World Premier (Wiracocha), which was commissioned by their Clinician specifically for the TMEA SSC All-State Choir.

As their director (and mother of one of them), I attended many of their rehearsals and every time I found myself in awe. Having worked on the music with them for months, I basically knew the pieces, but there was just something so inspiring about hearing it all together with the various



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERITH WELLS

Pictured left to right are choir students Paisley Wells and Anna Phillips.

instruments and/or soloists that I just couldn't put my finger on. Sometimes, I would purposely leave the rehearsal room because I wanted to save the surprise of how it would sound for the final concert, and boy I'm glad I did. The concert was epic.

Each of the 10 songs brought a new and wonderful layer to the level of difficulty, variety of styles and languages, as well as the artistry and musicianship they had been working toward. By the final piece, the entire audience was just elated.

As a high school choir student, I auditioned in

the process every year, and while I was pretty successful, I never made the All-State Choir. It didn't stop me from pursuing music, or wanting to teach it, but I will say that being there with our students this year was a great way to experience it, 20 something years later.

Gatesville High School has had several students make All-State over the last 24 years, and the choral program has been very successful, but this year has been extra special. Not only did the choir have multiple students make it, but the band program also had a student make it.

Our students not only excel in music, but they are also skilled athletes, participate in many of the CTE classes, are high-achieving academically, and are just great kids to be around. We enjoy teaching them and love watching them succeed in whatever they do, especially music. We look forward to the rest of the school year, as we still have multiple contests and trips to take with them.

The fact that they work so hard makes us so proud, and we feel blessed to be their leaders. Please consider coming to a performance, you won't be disappointed.

## CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON!



2023-24 Gatesville Hornets  
Season 25-11 Overall

*The Hornets lost in the 4A Bi-District basketball playoffs against Jarrell.  
This was the Hornets third-straight playoff appearance.*

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# Gatesville ISD purchased life-saving de-choking devices

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

Gatesville Independent School District recently made a purchase of two de-chokers for the cafeterias of each campus. This device is another life-saving option in addition to the Heimlich Maneuver.

The devices were placed in the campuses of Gatesville Primary School, Gatesville Elementary School, Gatesville Intermediate School, Gatesville Junior High School, and Gatesville High School on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Gatesville ISD's Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Yancey Sanderson expressed that some of the faculty members had seen the devices being advertised and asked Dr. Pollard if they could get some for the district.

"Any choking event is a life-threatening emergency, so we agreed having as many resources available as possible was a good idea," Sanderson said.

The devices were purchased through Gatesville ISD's nurse's budget.

"These devices are designed to require minimal training," Sanderson said. Each campus nurse will include these devices in their ongoing campus safety training for faculty and staff.

To operate the de-choker, one would insert the device's tongue depressor into the person's mouth and over the tongue. Be sure to get a tight seal over the nose and mouth, then tilt their chin up to open the airway and quickly pull back on the device. If the person stops breathing, give breaths, and do a finger sweep to look for a foreign object. If none is found, starting cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) would be the only option.

"Many faculty, staff, and even students are familiar with life-saving techniques such as the Heimlich Maneuver and sweeping the throat but in an emergency, you never know what is going to work," Sanderson said. "The de-choking devices are another resource to use if necessary."

According to dechoker.com, the de-choker has saved over 420 lives over this past year alone.

For more information, contact Gatesville ISD at 254-865-7251.

# TxDOT scholarship contest to award students who clean up their communities

Submitted item

Texas students who helped clean up and beautify their communities can now apply for a scholarship contest awarding a total of \$10,000.

The annual Don't mess with Texas Scholarship Contest is now accepting applications for the 2024 school year. All Texas high school seniors currently attending public, private or home school, and planning to attend an accredited college, university or trade school in the fall 2024 semester are eligible to apply. Judges will select two winners based on applicants' proven results in leading projects or efforts focused on educating communities about the importance of keeping our state and roadways clean and litter-free.

Sponsored by Ozarka and iHeartMedia, the contest recognizes the creativity of high school seniors who are taking a leadership role in preventing litter in their communities.

"It's important that future generations feel empowered to create long-term, sustainable solutions to make their communities litter-free. Our state is counting on these leaders to keep Texas litter-free for decades to come," said Norma Rios, program coordinator for TxDOT's Don't mess with Texas campaign.

Past winners include 2023 winner Hayden with Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy in Greenville. Hayden developed the Trashy Tuesday campaign. At least twice a month students would gather after school on a Tuesday and clean litter around their campus. The project expanded to cleaning community parks as well. Neddah with Brownsville Early College High School in Brownsville was another 2023 scholarship recipient. Neddah was a leader of the Environmental Club at her school. They conducted a litter survey, and then developed and implemented a litter-management plan at her campus. They also created an on-campus recycling program and created a competition among the classrooms to see who can recycle the most.

Don't mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes annual "Trash-Off" community outreach events and the Adopt-a-Highway volunteer program.

To apply for the Don't mess with Texas Scholarship Contest, visit [dontmesswithtexas.org](http://dontmesswithtexas.org). Applications must be received via online submission by 5 p.m. (CDT) on April 2, 2024.

# GHS choir students compete in Solo & Ensemble competition

Staff Reports

On Saturday, Feb. 17, 21 of the Gatesville High School Choir students traveled to the UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, which was hosted at University High School.

Choir Director Cherith Wells expressed that this will be the largest group from Gatesville High School to compete at the upcoming state competition.

The results include:  
**Class 1 (Advanced) Solo:**

Anna Phillips: Superior rating, advances to state  
Paisley Wells: Superior rating, advances to state  
Nevin Benning: Superior rating, advances to state  
Katie Hopson: Superior rating, advances to state  
Roman Wallace: Superior rating, advances to state  
Memphis Wells: Superior rating, advances to state  
Coral Bryant: Superior rating, advances to state  
Nahdiah Appleton: Superior rating, advances

to state  
Ranyah Garraway: Superior rating, advances to state  
Eli Alvarez: Superior rating, advances to state  
Devyn Ayala: Superior rating, advances to state  
Amelia Holden: Excellent rating  
Gracie Key: Excellent rating  
Vanessa Robledo: Excellent rating  
Brooke Herry: Excellent rating  
Sabin Brown: Excellent rating

Katelyn Sanchez: Excellent rating  
**Class 2 (Moderate) Solo:**  
Rylan VanHorn: Superior rating  
Emy Robles: Superior rating  
**Class 3 (Beginner) Solo:**  
Charles McLeod: Superior rating  
Chloe Corp: Superior rating  
For further details, contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERITH WELLS

Pictured are the members of the choir program who competed in the Solo & Ensemble competition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERITH WELLS

Members of the choir program at Gatesville High School who competed in the Solo & Ensemble competition.

# Local students excel at the Fort Worth Livestock Show

## Staff Reports

Various local students competed at the Fort Worth Livestock Show that was held last week and came home with awards. Caleb Mannix, Mia Conley, Marcy Conley, and Levin Lynch of Coryell County 4-H took home third place as a team in the Junior Division

of the Range and Pasture Plant Identification Contest. Marcy Conley of Coryell County 4-H also took home fourth place as an individual in the Junior Division of the Range and Pasture Plant Identification Contest. Held at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, adjacent to the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo

grounds, the contest was open to 4-H and FFA members from across the state as well as individuals. The Junior Division included students aged nine through high school freshman. Contestants were asked to identify a range of plants from the more than 120 on the master plant list of

range and pasture plants adaptable to Texas conditions. Students had 45 seconds to identify, write in the common name, and check the characteristics of each plant in the contest. The winning team in each division received a plaque sponsored by Beggs Cattle Company of Fort Worth. Gold, silver, and bronze

medals were presented to the top 10 high individuals by the Fort Worth Farm and Ranch Club. The contestants were sponsored jointly by the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agriculture Science,

and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The 2024 Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo ran through Friday, Jan. 12, to Saturday, Feb. 3. Visit [www.fwssr.com](http://www.fwssr.com) for more information regarding the event.

## GATESVILLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL'S 4TH GRADE MEDALISTS



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the members of the fourth grade UIL team who placed with medals. In the bottom row from left to right is Kelsey Johnson who won third in Spelling and Gypsie Browning who placed fifth in Ready Writing. The top row from left to right includes Conrad Coffman who won fourth place in Ready Writing, Blake Winkler who placed sixth in Number Sense, Tripp Winkler placed second in Chess, Zoe Hipp placed third in Oral Reading, and Caleb Buss placed fifth in Spelling.

## GATESVILLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL'S 5TH GRADE MEDALISTS:



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the members of the fifth grade UIL team who placed with medals. In the bottom row is Brynn Garvin who placed fifth in Listening and sixth in Music Memory, Conner Hunt placed third in Listening and third in Music Memory, Tatum Morris won first place in Maps, Graphs, & Charts, and Abby Bates who placed sixth in Spelling. The top row includes T.J. Sullivan who placed third in Chess, Colt Hukel who placed fourth in Maps, Graphs, & Charts, Owen Collins who placed second in Chess, and Max Powell who placed second in Dictionary Skills.

## JONESBORO ISD KINDNESS PROJECT ROCKS ON!



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro ISD pre-K and elementary students painted kindness rocks at the library to place in the kindness rock garden, give to friends, or take home to share with their families. The Kindness Rocks Project is a viral trend where people paint kind and encouraging words on rocks and leave them for others to find. For more information, visit [thekindnessrocksproject.com](http://thekindnessrocksproject.com). Pictured back row, left to right: Nate Grant, Bront Bowles, Brantley Delaney, Brendan Sellers, Robert Cox, Nacona McCoy, Saydee Cullar, Ashby Barnett, Emma Outten; middle Row, left to right: Wyatt Warren, Layla Whisenhunt, Taelynn Oglesby, Maylena, Villanueva, Chela Gallegos, Will Shoaf, Adrian Ramirez; bottom Row, left to right: Troy Whisenhunt, Tegan McDow, Owen Hartman, Barrett Taylor, Lytle Key, Kobyn Suggs, Sterling Cockrell; not pictured are Journee Gentry, Myla Anderson, Clara Blanchard, and Gunner Davis

## SHSU presents Fall 2023 President's List

### Staff Reports

Sam Houston State University has recently announced the students who have been listed on the President's Honor Roll. Local students who were named to the list include Lola Barron and Ciera Billingsley, of Gatesville. These students are undergraduates who have achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA) in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours. For more than 140 years, SHSU has prepared more than 21,000 students within eight colleges for meaningful lives of achievement. For more information, visit [shsu.edu](http://shsu.edu).



## Gatesville Elementary to host game night and spring sing March 7

### Staff Reports

Gatesville Elementary School will host a family game night and a spring sing on Thursday, March 7 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

This is an evening for the community to come together for a night of board games and activities as well as musical performances presented by the students.

Performance time will include:  
 - First grade at 5:45 p.m.  
 - Second grade at 6 p.m.  
 - Third grade at 6:15 p.m.  
 - Optional performance

for all students at 6:30 p.m. There will be a meal provided by the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for the cost of five dollars. The book fair will be open

for students and parents to enjoy as well. For more information, contact the Gatesville Elementary School at 254-865-7262.

The Gatesville Elementary School is located at 2537 E. Main St.

# GHS Honoring Black History

## Submitted Item

Gatesville High School principal Liz Shoaf recently made the following post about Black History Month at GHS. Shoaf wrote:

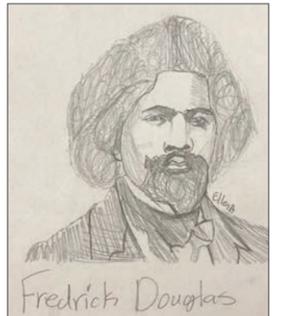
February is Black History Month. I recently learned that the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History chooses a theme each year to focus the attention to the public, and this year's theme is Af-

rican Americans in the Arts.

The ASALH notes that African-American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary, and other forms of cultural expression, the African-American influence has been paramount. African-American artists have

used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment.

GHS art students from Art Classes 1, 2, and 3 were recently tasked with weaving this theme into their work, and they have done another amazing job of blending their skills and talents with important lessons. There are many jaw dropping sketches outside the classroom of Claude Williams.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A display of artwork on the school's wall and close ups of some of the artists' depictions of influential Black people throughout history.

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# Tea time at the Gatesville Senior Center

JACI VELASQUEZ AND JANICE VELASQUEZ | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER AND COURTESY PHOTOS

The Gatesville Senior Center recently hosted a Tea Party where guests were treated to tea and finger foods. Each youngster also received a unicorn necklace and accessories to make their own custom beaded jewelry, which was provided by volunteers. Some of the senior ladies from the center joined the party and enjoyed watching the younger guests' enjoyment.



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