

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Smith takes on advertising sales position at The Gatesville Messenger

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Messenger is proud to announce the hiring of Gatesville native Kaitlyn Smith as the new Advertising Sales Representative.

Smith was born and raised in Gatesville and has resided here all her life. She is the daughter of Stacy Mercer and Trey Smith.

She is an alumna of Gatesville High School and graduated in 2019. She is currently working toward obtaining her associate degree at McLennan Community College (MCC), where she will graduate in May of 2024.

Smith began working at the early age of 13 and has been determined to work hard ever since.

For two years, Smith worked doing insurance sales, which she believes will benefit her with her new position.

"It is very hard and brutal; you have to really know what you are doing," she said.

She started her job at The Gatesville Messenger in early February and expressed that she wishes to be successful at this job.

One of her hopes is to

PLEASE SEE **SMITH** | A2



KIM WARE | HYDE MEDIA

Kaitlyn Smith joins The Gatesville Messenger.



Candidates for Coryell County Sheriff debate critical issues

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The race for Coryell County Sheriff heats up as the three candidates make their case to voters ahead of the primary election on March 5.

Coryell County Republican Party (CCRP) Chairman, Colton Buckley, moderated the debate at the Gatesville City Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 22. The incumbent, Sheriff Scott Williams, seeks re-election for a third term and defends his seat from opponents, Danni Suniga and J.C. Buster. Williams has served as the county's sheriff since 2016.

Suniga's work in law enforcement dates back to 2014, with most of her years spent at the Coryell County Sheriff's Office. She currently works for the Bosque County Sheriff's Office.

Buster has experience working for the Coryell County Sheriff's Office and the Gatesville Police Department. In 2019, he became the Chief of Police for Jonesboro ISD after helping build its police department.

With no Democrat challengers in the race for sheriff, the winner will run unopposed in the November election. Here are some of the key takeaways from the debate:

COUNTY JAIL OVERCROWDING AND DEATHS

The debate opened with a question about how the candidates would address the Coryell County Jail's overcrowding and infrastructure issues in a county with over \$9.1 million in debt.

Williams replied that the county recently built a 47-bed expansion to assist



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

With early voting ending on March 1, the evening was one of the last chances for Coryell County Sheriff contenders Danni Suniga, Sheriff Scott Williams, and J.C. Buster to convince citizens to vote for them.

jail overcrowding. He said there are about 80 inmates housed outside of the

county, and it costs \$100 a day to house those inmates. "We're going to be able to

utilize 40 of those beds that are brought to us, so that's still going to leave 40 out of

county. That's still \$4,000

PLEASE SEE **DEBATE** | A2



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Construction closes Leon Street in front of Coryell County Sheriff's Office.

Construction closes parts of Leon Street

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Construction around the Coryell County Sheriff's Office and the new county jail has closed off parts of Leon Street.

The parking area in front of the sheriff's office will be closed for construction for the next two weeks, according to a Facebook post by the sheriff's office.

A spokesperson for the sheriff's office said a new parking lot is being developed that will be placed in front of the department and the new jail. The sheriff's office asks visitors to park around Courthouse Square

until construction is complete.

There is also additional construction related to the jail expansion that has closed a portion of Leon Street in front of the sheriff's office. Coryell County Commissioner Ryan Basham said construction workers are excavating two new manholes to lay a sewer line that will connect to the new jail.

Roadwork related to the sewer line excavations should be complete by the middle of next week, Basham adds.



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DEBATE

FROM PAGE A1

a day times 365," Williams said. "We need to start desperately entertaining on building a new facility, because right now we're just throwing money out the window with no return."

Suniga addressed the overcrowding issue by emphasizing the need to be mindful about who they arrest.

"Because if you go after just specific cases that have warrants, you send a message to the victims on these other cases that their cases are not important enough to go after them," Suniga said. "We've got to make sure that we get the most harsh criminals off the streets to keep them from reoffending, get them through the system and justice court systems into the process."

Several civil lawsuits have been filed against the sheriff's office, including a recent \$800,000 settlement reached in September on an inmate death. Buster responded that he would aim to avoid future civil lawsuits and save the county money through employee retention and strong leadership.

"It takes a lot of money to train somebody and then let them go," Buster said. "My focus would be on leadership and proven leadership to build a better culture and to keep people that are working to keep the lawsuits down because they have a great work environment, and to move forward with the budget as the commissioners court presented."

Williams addressed the claims during the debate.

"I'm going to tell you (that) when you run a jail and you're the chief law enforcement officer of the county, somebody's going to be unhappy and they're going to want to sue you," Williams said. "Well, that just comes with the job."

During a cross examination, Buster confronted Williams about some of the lawsuits that mention he and jail staff refused medical treatment to inmates.

Williams denied the allegations to refuse medical treatment, saying that the sheriff's office contracts with Southern Health Partners to provide medical care for inmates.

"As far as civil lawsuits, you know what, I make no bones about it," Williams said. "We had two inmate deaths in my jail. The sheriff prior to me had them too. We settled out of court for a no-fault judgment at \$800,000. The reason that was settled was because it was going to be over \$2 million to get the same result. That was a business decision that was discussed by the commissioners' court and our risk assessment."

BUDGET

With a budget of over \$7 million and nearly 100 employees, budgeting experience was another major topic in the debate. Williams emphasized his seven years of experience authoring and maintaining the sheriff's office budget, and that his priorities are to raise salaries and build a new jail.

"We did a market analysis, and we are one of the lowest paid agencies," Williams said. "I understand that we're challenged here in Coryell County, because our tax revenue comes off of rooftops. (If) you're paying somebody below what they can go make, you're going to have a hard time retaining them."

Suniga referenced her success as a small business owner, but also said she plans to hire a chief deputy with budgeting experience as well as build a relationship with county commissioners and auditors.

"You've got to be able to

go to them and trust them, and they need to be able to trust you to get this done for the best interest of the citizens of Coryell County," Suniga said. "Not only to provide them the superior service that they deserve, but also what's going to provide the services for your deputies at the sheriff's office."

Buster said he has worked with a range of budgets during his service in law enforcement.

"I have plenty of experience with a large amount of money and small amount of money, but it's keeping the taxpayer first," Buster said. "Keeping the taxpayer first and thinking this is not my money. It belongs to you."

WILLIAMS CHALLENGED

Buster about a statement he made at a previous forum, where he plans to hire a captain as one of his first acts as sheriff. Williams asked if this would require an increase in the budget since the position currently does not exist at the sheriff's office.

Buster responded that there should be a captain position already, and that the sheriff's office would need restructuring to fill the position.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The candidates also countered how they would address relationships with other law enforcement and government agencies.

Suniga emphasized the need for good working relationships with both outside agencies and sheriff's office employees, especially when it comes to maintaining a strong narcotics unit.

"Working with other agencies in law enforcement is a must. You've got to be able to have those good relationships," Suniga said. "Just because your title is sheriff

does not mean that you are the most important person in the county. You're not superior to these chief deputies and chief officers through these other departments."

As a Jonesboro ISD police chief, Buster explains that he works with multiple agencies in both Coryell and Hamilton counties. He said he has also helped other school districts establish police departments, including the Gatesville ISD Police Department.

"It's about the safety of our community," Buster said. "If I'm doing this at Jonesboro, why wouldn't I do this in Evant and Oglesby."

Williams said he works with many outside agencies as sheriff, including the Lone Star Fugitive Task Force and Texas Auto Theft Task Force.

"I've been endorsed by multiple sheriffs. I've been endorsed by a lot of leaders within our community and endorsed by a lot of leaders in the state," Williams said. "I work hand in hand with them. You know what, I have to be a little cocky. I have to be a little tough, but you know what, the government's the one that named me the chief law enforcement officer in the county."

ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS AND FUGITIVE ESCAPE

During the cross examination, Buster and Suniga took the opportunity to call out various controversies during Williams's tenure as sheriff, including alleged assault allegations, altercations with elected officials, and a missing county jail inmate.

Williams denied the assault accusations, saying it was brought to a prosecutor and dismissed.

"I know the two people that are saying that," he said. "You know what, take me to a court of record. You bring your evidence, and I'll bring mine, because I will tell you later on recorded

audio and video, and that never happened."

Williams adds that the altercations were "heated debates," and that he has good relationships with local elected officials.

Williams also responded to a claim from Suniga that his friend who was accused of sexual harassment was moved to a different position rather than terminated. "This individual was demoted at the request of that particular dispatcher," he said. "They did not want anything to happen to this individual, (they) just did not want to be in the direct line of work of working with them. You know what, I honored that request."

Williams also addressed the Texas top 10 most wanted fugitive, Brandon Hogan, who escaped custody from a supervised work crew in 2022.

"We run thousands and thousands of leads, and I have it all the way up the chain to where they're doing a whole lot to try to find this (guy)," Williams said. "If my staff that was on the ground had done a little better job of informing me, we could have made a little bit of different decisions."

CLOSING REMARKS

The three candidates provided closing remarks on why they should receive the vote as sheriff.

Buster believes it's time for restructure in sheriff's office and to improve the work environment.

"I think we need to put citizens first. Our employees are the most valuable asset we have," Buster said. "Any businessperson will tell you that as long as you create a great work environment, your employees will stay."

Suniga said she wants to strengthen the relationships with other local entities, including schools and volunteer fire departments.

"I want to take it back into the communities and get back into our schools,

become one team with these other entities that our community has," she said. "I've touched base on this last time, we have volunteer fire departments that have these meetings, they have issues and concerns that go on at the sheriff's office that's fallen on deaf ears."

Williams reiterated his experience as a reason to re-elect him.

"I have been your sheriff for eight years," Williams said. "I respect these people standing on this stage just for the fact they stuck their neck out and put their name on a ballot and want to try to lead this county, but here's your choice: you've got a chief of one, or you've got a dispatcher from Bosque County, or you've got a two-term sheriff here with lots of experience."

Thursday night's event also included a debate between republican candidates vying for the U.S. House District 31 congressional seat. The district mainly covers Bell County, Williamson County, and parts of Coryell County, including Gatesville.

Although the incumbent Rep. John Carter did not attend the debate, four of the five of his GOP opponents faced questions about a variety of hot button issues the country is facing, including the border crisis, government spending, and support for Texas farmers.

The contenders at the debate were William Abel, Abhiram Garapati, Mack Latimer, and Mike Williams. John Anderson, as well as three Democratic candidates - Rick Von Pfeil, Brian Walbridge, and Stuart Whitlow - are also on the ballot for Texas' 31st Congressional District.

Early voting ends on March 1. For information on early voting and election day locations, visit <https://coryellcountytexas.com/elections/>



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SMITH

FROM PAGE A1

expand her presence in the community to broaden locals' knowledge about the newspaper.

"The newspaper keeps us involved in what's going on locally, especially our elderly who cannot get out of the house or do not have internet," she said.

As she had already started making her way into the community, she noticed

a few familiar faces along the way.

"I am finding out that more people are my family with the more people I meet in Gatesville," she said. "I didn't realize how many people are related to me until I started working for the community."

She loves the fact that our town has a more personal touch where everybody

knows everybody.

As she continues her walk with God, Smith feels that this quote pertains to her life in many ways.

"A life of purpose can only be fulfilled when we put God first and make Him the center of our lives."

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Remember the Alamo!



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

By its very nature, Texas history is exciting, dramatic, and can be as overwhelming as a West Texas tornado. With the name Sam Houston, it was destined for me to be a fan of Texas history from my conception, and this time of the year is filled with the remembrance of a generous portion of the events that shaped our great state.

The last few days marked the 188th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Alamo. On Feb. 23, 1836, a small group of volunteers who held the Alamo were met with the arrival of Gen.

Santa Anna of Mexico and his lead force of nearly 1,500 men. The men inside the Alamo were few, less than 200, and as the Mexican forces continued to arrive, the enemy's number

would eventually swell to over 4,000. The battle went on for 13 days, ending with the utter destruction of the Texican forces. Santa Anna instructed the bodies of the defenders to be burned and to remain unburied as a demonstration of his absolute disdain for the Texas patriots.

Perhaps the most famous letter in Texas history was written by the commander of the forces of the Alamo, William Barrett Travis. Originally from South Carolina, Travis was a man who was true to his word and committed to fulfill his duty to defend the Alamo. Written on Feb. 24, the day after the arrival of Mexican forces, it was sent to the delegates of the convention at Washington on the Brazos and was addressed to "The People of Texas and All Americans in the World." The letter ended with the immortal words, "Victory or death,"

which was truly the only outcome the battle could have.

For me, and I think a great many Texans, it is hard to read the words of Travis and not feel a swelling in our chest and have a tear come to our eyes. Those powerful words instill a sense of what the men of the Alamo must have felt in those final desperate days; how they were willing to sacrifice their lives for the idea that Texas might someday be a sanctuary of freedom and liberty. It is clear in my heart that every single person who has immigrated to Texas since the Travis letter was written has a duty and obligation to work and to live in such a way as to endorse the commitment of the defenders of the Alamo.

We must put aside petty disagreements and political rhetoric which divides, and in exchange, replace

it with deeds and words which compel our fellow Texans to work together for the greater good. We must ensure that all our people have opportunities, that we remain free and independent, and that we never waver from those things which make us Texas: hard work, helping our neighbor, and keeping our word.

Our times are not as desperate as those final days of the men of the Alamo, but difficult political decisions stand before us, and decisions must be made. Our world is changing and doing so rapidly. We must seek leadership from those who can embrace the future while maintaining the very character and essence of the history of Texas. It is who we are and what we should fight to maintain. It is why Texas is Texas!

As you go to vote this upcoming week, remember the blessed souls of those

who gave their lives at the Alamo. Remember the great men of Texas history, men such as Austin, Crockett, Bowie, Travis, Rusk, Lamar, Houston, and many others. Vote for the men and women on the ballot who will put Texas and the well-being of her citizens first, and not their own selfish, personal political agendas. The future of our Texas depends upon it.

Thought for the day: "Do your duty so that every son and daughter of Texas will praise your work this day and remember the Alamo, remember Goliad, remember the Alamo!" Sam Houston speaking to his troops just prior to the commencement of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Until next time...I remain a Texan, ridin' the storm out.

sam@hcnews

NEWS FROM ECLIPSEVILLE

Let's Show Some Texas Hospitality!



BY CHERI SHEPHERD
City of Gatesville
Eclipse Coordinator

A few weeks ago, I wrote about how planning for the eclipse has been a little like planning a dinner party and having no idea who is coming or how many. Since then, we've gotten a little more information about who is coming, and I thought I'd share some of that with you.

Visitors in Homes

As I talk with people throughout the community, many of them tell me that they will have family or relatives staying with them for the eclipse and for the weekend prior. Some of those will be people who grew up here and are coming home for this event. I've had reports of guests coming from as far as New York, Oregon, Montana, Washington, and North Dakota.

Hotels and Camping

Our hotels and RV parks are reporting that they are at or near capacity for the event, with guests coming from all over the US and around the world including some from as far away as Australia and Japan.

The City of Gatesville is providing tent and RV camping in Faunt Le Roy park and has reservations from guests coming from cities in Texas that aren't in the path of totality, like Houston. However, most of them are coming from all over the country, including California, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, and Florida. We even have one camper coming from the Netherlands.

Website Visitors

We've created an online "guestbook" at GatesvilleTxEclipse.com. We've had people sign in from Ireland, Norway, California, Mexico City, the UK, Washington, and Minnesota. We will leave this up through the eclipse and encourage all our visitors to sign in. You can see their comments by going to the website and clicking on "Guestbook".

Special Guests

We have some special guests coming, too. NASA Ambassador Liam Finn will be here with a team of astronomers. Liam is originally from Ireland and lives in Michigan now. He will be doing a free educational presentation in the City Auditorium on Saturday, April 6 at 6 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets are required and are going fast! You can get your tickets on the GatesvilleTxEclipse.com website. Look under "Events" and click on "Syzygy." Liam and his team will also be at the City of Gatesville Sports Complex on April 8. They'll be bringing telescopes, special cameras and projection equipment as they collect data for NASA.

We will also play host to author Jayme Sandberg. Jayme witnessed the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse in her hometown in Nebraska and was inspired to write a children's book about it. She will be presenting her book "Total Solar Eclipse: A Stellar Friendship Story" at a story time at 1854 Mercantile at 6:30 pm on Saturday, April 6.

Let's Show Some Texas Hospitality!
I've had the privilege

of talking to many of these visitors by phone or through email and social media communication. Everyone that I have talked to has been so nice. They are excited about traveling to Gatesville to witness the eclipse. Many of them are also excited about coming to Texas.

Gatesville has long taken pride in being a caring and giving community. Let's not miss an opportunity to show our guests from all over the world what a great place Gatesville, Texas is! We will have a downtown festival on April 6-7 with free admission. We will have food and merchandise vendors and activities for all ages, including photo props, a petting zoo, corn-hole, art show, local authors, music on the entertainment stage on Saturday and praise and worship on Sunday. The museum will also be open on Saturday. We can still use volunteers at the festival. Contact me at cshepherd@gatesvilletx.com or (254) 326-8248 for more information about volunteering. If volunteering isn't your thing, I hope you'll take time to say hello and welcome to our visitors, whether you see them in our stores and restaurants, or at the festival.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

KEGAN WEBB

Say hello to our neighbor, Keegan Webb!

Keegan is serving her fifth year as the principal of Gatesville Elementary School. She expressed that the best part of her job are the incredible students, families, and teachers that she gets to work with each day.

"Our elementary staff is a family that truly loves and cares for each child on our campus," Webb said. "We come to work each day ready to make a difference and a positive impact on our students and our community." She was raised in Gatesville and recently moved back to her hometown 14 years ago after the birth of her twin boys. She mentioned that her favorite thing about Gatesville is the generous and loving community.

"I have witnessed so many examples of our community stepping up to help when someone is in need," Webb said.

Webb reads The Gatesville Messenger and said that she loves looking for pictures and stories about Gatesville Elementary each week.

"I enjoy getting to see the highlights of our community and our student's accomplishments," Webb said.

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

SUDOKU

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		4	7	6				
6			2		5			9
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	4		6		7		1	
		3				2	9	
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				9	8	5		
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Puzzle by websudoku.com

Sudoku puzzle answers from Feb. 24.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com



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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.

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The first sheriff of Coryell County

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In 2024, with the upcoming race for the office of Coryell County sheriff approaching, a few changes can be observed in just how elections have evolved over the years. Today, we have electronic voting, early voting, and votes that can be cast by mail-in ballots. In years past, it was not that way - especially when officials were elected 170 years ago in this county.

When Coryell County was formed in March of 1854, public offices did not exist. Historian Frank Simmons wrote: "Very early in 1854, the first election was held under a live oak tree to elect officers for the new county." It was under a live oak tree that John Turney was elected as the first sheriff of Coryell County.

In 1986, Bob Saunders, an early day columnist, wrote about the first sheriff.

"John Turney was our very first sheriff. About all we know for certain is that he moved up here from the old Fort Gates community when Gatesville was designated the county seat in 1854. He wore that tin star as a badge of his office under great difficulties."

Saunders continued, "At that time, John Turney was doing pretty good to have an office in that first rawhide courthouse. John didn't even have a jail, so all he could do with his prisoners was to lock a rawhide strap around their legs and stake them to the trees with a long chain around the courthouse lawn. Of course, it was especially a little rough on said prisoners, especially when it was cold, rainy weather, and the wolves was pretty bad to gnaw on them. Prisoners were just horse thieves, and they were just holding them until old Judge Lynch

and his bunch could take care of them."

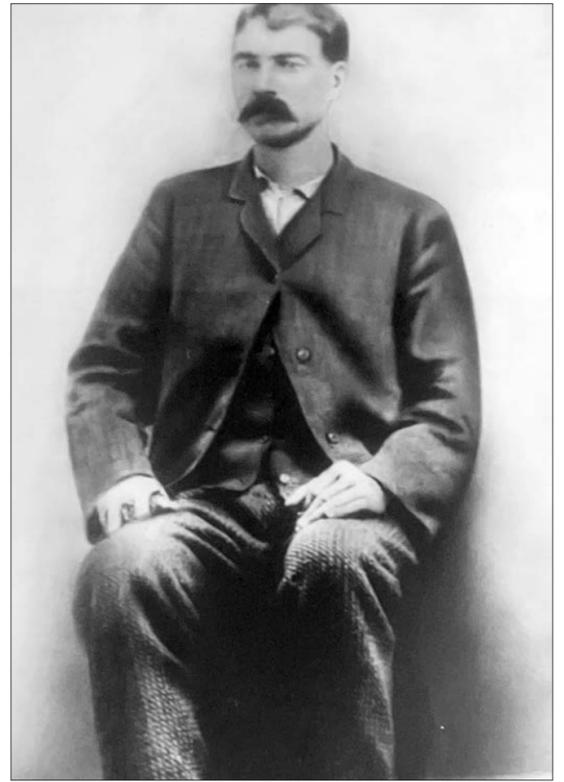
It was later determined that it was inhumane for the sheriff to keep the prisoners out in the elements and be subjected to harsh environments with predators that could harm them. It was then decided to build a log jail to house prisoners until they could be tried. The log jail, which is still in existence today and housed inside the Coryell Museum and Historical Center, was ordered to be built by the county commissioners in February of 1855, so that Sheriff Turney could have a place to keep them.

John "Jack" Turney, born in 1831 in Illinois, came to Texas as a child with his parents between 1840 and 1850 where they eventually settled on 320 acres of land about eight miles south of Fort Gates. As for his qualifications to be an acting sheriff, it might have been

noted that he served in the Texas Rangers, Company E, as a Private and served in that rank for three months.

Turney served as Coryell County Sheriff from 1854 until 1858. By the time the U.S. Census was taken in 1860, he was living with his wife and children in Bell County. He died at the young age of 39 and was buried at the Flint Creek Cemetery in Coryell County.

Commenting on his term as sheriff, Saunders wrote: "You can't blame John Turney - he done the best he could do with the little he had to do it with. I am sure that John Turney made a good sheriff. I am sure that John was Irish with the Scotch left off, and he deserves all the credit we can give him."



COURTESY PHOTO

The first Sheriff of Coryell County, John Turney.

MOUND NEWS

Little Mr. Paxton Brack Jones was born on Monday, Feb. 19



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News
Correspondent

Little Mr. Paxton Brack Jones was born on Monday, Feb. 19, at Scott and White Hospital in Temple. The baby weighed eight pounds and five ounces and was twenty-one inches long. The proud parents are Case and Kristen Jones. Paxton Brack is the great-grandson of Don and Sue Jones.

Mr. Graham Howell was

honored on his 10th birthday Saturday afternoon at the home of his great-aunt, Barbara Hopson. The party was given by his mother, Lizzi Howell. This year's theme was (Nerf Team Nerf Since 1969) Can't stop Won't stop. Those attending were family and friends.

Emma Blakley, of College Station, was home for the

weekend.

Robert, Carolyn and Emma Blakley attended the 54th annual Oglesby Rattlesnake roundup in Oglesby.

Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch in Gatesville Thursday.

Mrs. Olga Schmidt and family of Fort Worth had lunch Saturday with John Stephens.

Several people of Mound attended the 54th annual Oglesby Rattlesnake Roundup Saturday and Sunday at the Oglesby Community Center.

Barbara's Notes: Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m. (Happy Birthday to Mrs. Staci Combs.)

Income tax preparation assistance offered, March 14 at library

Staff Report

The United Way of Central Texas will be hosting Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) with free tax preparation of those households with an income of \$64,000 or less per year. IRS certified VITA volunteers will provide basic income tax return services without charge, ensuring 100% of an individual's tax refund goes directly to that individual without any hidden fees or costs.

The tax preparation event will take place on Thursday, March 14, from noon until 3 p.m. at the Gatesville Public Library located at 111 N. 8th Street. It will be by appointment only. If you wish to take advantage of this service,

please call 254-778-8616 to make an appointment in advance.

For those wanting to participate, the following documents must be brought to an appointment: a photo ID; Social Security card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) card (for you, your spouse, and all dependents); W-2s; and if applicable, a copy of last year's Federal Tax return; 1095 - (A,B, or C) proof of health insurance; 1099-G (unemployment insurance benefits); 1099-INT (bank interest); 1098-T (tuition statement); 1098-E (interest on student loan); Notice 1319 (advance child credit); 1099-NEC, 1099-MISC, and/or 1099-K; Checking/savings account statement

with bank routing numbers (optional); if you are married filing jointly, your spouse needs to be present at the appointment.

Due to program limitations, they will not prepare the following:

Married Filing Separately; Schedule C with loss, depreciation, or business use of home; Complicated Schedule D (capital gains and losses); Form SS-5 (request for Social Security Number); Form 8606 (non-deductible IRA); Form 8615 (child taxed at parent's tax rate); Form SS-8 (determination of worker status for purposes of federal employment taxes and income tax withholding); Parts 4 & 5 of Form 8962 (premium tax credits).

DINOSAURS DESCEND ON GATESVILLE



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A travelling cookie company recently brought an eye-catching exhibit to Gatesville. Families stopped by to check out the dinosaurs roaming the parking lot near the Gatesville Visitors Depot. Children were able to learn about the age of dinosaurs while getting an up-close-and-personal look at the Jurassic creatures.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

Coryell County held a 150th "birthday bash" on the front steps of Gatesville's historic county courthouse.

A total of 142 snakes were entered in the 35th Annual Rattlesnake Hunt.

Life-long Coryell County resident M.C. Evetts was awarded the Bronze Star 58 years after his army discharge.

American Legion Post 42 presented six Blue Star banners to families with rela-

tives serving in the military.

The ladies of the Levita Volunteer Fire Department were set to host a social for all women in the community at the fire station.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

The state comptroller said that \$1.2 million missing from the tax office was from motor vehicle funds stolen from Coryell County over a 6-year span.

Gatesville's four public schools observed Texas Public School Open House Week.

A rededication ceremony of the historic 1904 Leon River Iron Bridge was planned.

Debbie McGuire was drawn as the winner of a quilt made by community members for the Coryell County Museum's 3rd Annual Quilt Exhibit.

The Gatesville High School Class of 1949 planned a "mini reunion" at Chateau Ville Restaurant.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce was set to

hold an open house for the restored Cotton Belt Railroad Depot.

Ticket sales opened for the Coryell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary's 1984 style show and luncheon.

Gatesville Junior High School's 7th and 8th grade girls prepared for their season-opening track meet.

Honey's Haven advertised the grand opening for "the home of unique handmade gifts."

Jerry Giebler of Jerry's Mobil Station stopped

pumping gas, the gas station was sold, and it was going to be converted into a gas store with self-service gas.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Gatesville volunteer firefighters halted a fast-moving, destructive fire.

A training session was scheduled to teach Coryell County farmers and ranchers the use of the M-44 ejector for predator control.

Jack Russel was awarded a Master of Science degree

in computer science from the Florida Institute of Technology.

The Gatesville Jaycees were set to host an annual basketball tournament for adult men, planning to give all proceeds to a fund established by Gatesville elementary and primary schools to help needy children.

The Kountry Kitchen advertised catfish dinners for \$1.95 each.

Texas Independence Day observed annually March 2

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Texas Independence Day is observed annually on March 2 to honor the sacrifices of many men who gave their lives to fight for independence.

In the fall of 1835, many Texans concluded that liberalism and republicanism in Mexico was dead. The dictatorship of President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, supported by rich landowners, had seized control of the governments and subverted the constitution.

The first open fight in the Texas Revolution, where Texans successfully fought for their independence, took place on Oct. 2, 1835, which became known as the Battle of Gonzales.

In 1831, the Mexican government had loaned a cannon to Texas colonists at Gonzales to defend the colony against American Indians. In 1835, as tensions between Texans and the Mexican government were rising, the Mexicans sought to retrieve the cannon back.

According to encyclopedia.com, Mexican Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea dispatched six men to get the cannon, but the Texans refused and seized the Mexican soldiers, holding them captive.

Ugartechea then sent a

force of 100 soldiers, led by Lieutenant Francisco de Castaneda. At the Guadalupe River near Gonzales, 18 Texans blocked the soldiers' path. With more Texans arriving from nearby settlements, Castaneda led his soldiers upriver and set up camp.

On Oct. 2, 1835, the Texans attacked the Mexicans' camp. The Texans fired the cannon, in what is considered the first shot of the Texas Revolution.

Outnumbered, and having been instructed to avoid engaging the Texans in battle, Castaneda soon retreated. There were very few casualties.

The cannon became known as the "Come and Take It" cannon.

As dissention and discord mounted in Texas, the colonists agreed that another popular assembly was needed to chart a course of action.

On Dec. 10, 1835, the general council of the provisional government issued a call for an election on Feb. 1, 1836, to choose 44 delegates to assemble on March 1, 1836, at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

According to encyclopedia.com, 41 delegates were present at the opening session, and 59 individuals attended the convention held at Washington-on-

the-Brazos, including Sam Houston.

Houston was a former United States congressman and governor of Tennessee and happened to be a close friend of United States president Andrew Jackson. He was appointed the commander in chief of the revolutionary army and left the convention early to take charge of the forces gathering at Gonzales.

The convention delegates knew they must declare independence or submit to the Mexican authority.

On March 1, George C. Childress presented a resolution calling for independence. At its adoption, the chairman of the convention appointed Childress to head a committee of five to draft a declaration of independence. When the committee met that evening, Childress brought a statement that followed the outline and main features of the United States Declaration of Independence.

The next day, on March 2, the delegates unanimously adopted Childress's suggestion for independence, and 58 members signed the document.

And with that, the Republic of Texas was born.

Although independence was declared, the Battle of San Jacinto, which was the last battle of the Texas

Revolution, occurred on April 21, 1836. This was the defining battle of the revolution.

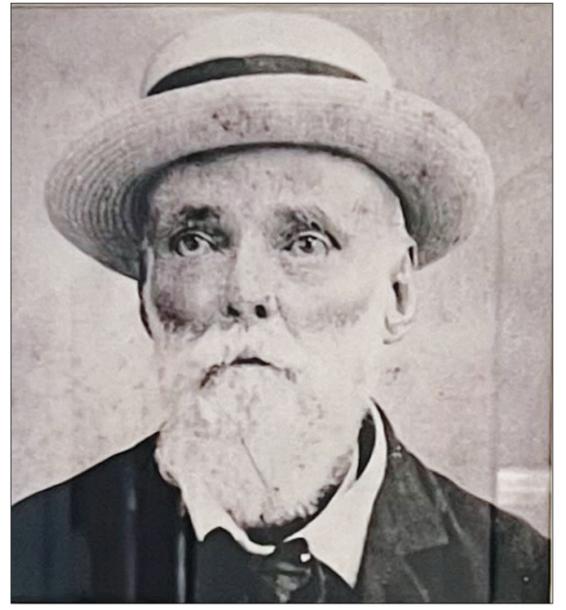
In April of 1836, Santa Anna learned that Houston was moving east. He then divided his army into three parts which included one part that went on a failed attempt to capture the provisional government, another remained to protect his supply lines, and the third went after Houston and his army.

Santa Anna set up camp on April 19, 1836, in a marshy area bordered by the San Jacinto River, while Houston set up camp nearby.

On April 21, 1836, Santa Anna received around 500 reinforcements under the command of General Martin Perfecto de Cos. When Houston didn't attack at first light, Santa Anna assumed he would not attack that day and the Mexicans rested.

Houston held a strong defensive position and wanted to let Santa Anna attack first, but in the end, he was convinced of the temptations to attack.

At about 3:30 p.m., the Texans began silently marching forward, trying to get as close as possible before opening fire. As soon as the Mexicans realized an attack was coming, Houston



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is John B. Callicoatte, former resident of Coryell County, who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto.

ordered the cannons to fire as well as the cavalry and infantry to charge.

The Mexicans were taken aback, as many were asleep and not one was in a defensive position.

After the battle, many Texans wanted an execution of General Santa Anna, but Houston refrained. He figured that Santa Anna was worth much more alive than dead.

Houston and his officers spoke with Santa Anna for hours before deciding on a course of action. Santa Anna dictated orders to his generals to leave Texas at once, as well as signing documents which recognized the independence of

Texas and ending the war.

Coryell County has roots to the Battle of San Jacinto, as John B. Callicoatte, who resided in the county, fought as a member of Captain Thomas H. McIntire's Company.

Callicoatte took part in the capturing of Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Years later, in March of 1906, Callicoatte passed away in Coryell County and he was buried in the Bee House Cemetery. In 1957, the State of Texas placed a memorial stone at the grave site to honor his service to Texas.

PEARL NEWS

Put down the Gatesville Messenger and head to Pearl



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

If you're reading this on Saturday morning, March 2, you need to quickly finish reading The Gatesville Messenger and head to Pearl. The Pearl Cottage Bookstore is open today from 9 a.m.

until 3 p.m., and they want to see you. Also, the Pearl Bluegrass event is happening all day today. Trust me, you don't want to miss these treasured happenings. What can possibly be

better than browsing the over 6,000 books in the bookstore while visiting with Kay and Corlisa and then listening to some wonderful bluegrass in the Community Center? Nothing that I can think of. Be there...or be square. There's no place like Pearl!

Blast from the Past: The following piece was published several years ago, and Linda resent it to me last week—it's still funny and needs to be repeated. Enjoy!

"Pearl Texas, Coryell County. Well, it finally happened. Mr. Dick Decker

predicted it would happen and said, 'I can't wait to see it in the Gatesville paper!'

Linda Ray was arrested for keeping the Pearl Church of Christ open during the Coronavirus. They were able to have church under the tabernacle, built in 1904, each Sunday. Wouldn't the early leaders be proud? But a group of deputies arrested Mrs. Ray at the church. She asked if her lawyer, Kay Pruet, could go with her; however, she was told they wouldn't put both of them in the back seat of the police car together. Mrs. Ray's hus-

band, Ronald, and their two sons, Chris and Ryan, were contacted by the Sheriff's Department a short time later with the offer of a large sum of money if they would come get her. An unknown source reported that it took a while for the jail to settle down. However, Mrs. Ray told everyone what polite young men the sheriff and deputies were. And, that she had met some of the nicest people in jail and had invited all of them to church.

Although the authorities seemed a bit shaken, Mrs. Ray, when asked about

the experience said, 'It was a great adventure and not much different than any other day in Pearl.' (Story compliments of fake news!)

This week's Bible verse comes from I Peter 5:7—Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." NLT

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

Righteous Roots in need of donations for Total Eclipse meal

Staff Reports

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

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

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

Ways to donate include:
- Sign-up to purchase some of the non-perishable items on the list and bring them by Righteous Roots' facility.

- Coordinate the people in your circle or church to bake items in one of the needed categories.

- Volunteer to help Righteous Roots on the weekend of the Total Eclipse by aiding in the downtown festival, 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.



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March 9th | 2-7 PM
Baylor Club

1001 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Waco, TX

Volunteers Needed. Call 254-405-5706.

Experience the passion of award-winning renowned artists, galleries, and amazing speakers, uniting to make a difference.

Sponsored by Jerry & Esther Ochoa Allen, Righteous Roots, and Johnson Roofing

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.

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Paul will teach you about mules



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

“The personality of the mule is more like the personality of a dog,” says Paul Garrison of Medina. “The only difference is you can’t have that mule lay in your lap.”

Paul trains mules to ride or pull at his place in Medina. He’ll also come to your place to teach you about mules.

“The mules are easy to train and get going, but it’s the people that need the training about how they need to properly communicate with that mule.”

Six generations of his family have lived on the

property.

“People come here to my place. Most of them stay three days; some will stay a week. We teach them the basics of how to properly and effectively communicate with their animals. There’s not but about six or eight people in the United States that do this.”

He’s been training mules twenty years, more

for riding than pulling. “Once I got started with them it became pretty obvious that I could get along well with them. I could do things that other folk, more often than not, had issues with.”

He says the further west you go the more interest you find in mules.

“The maintenance is much less than a horse. They don’t require much vet care. Mules, under most conditions, don’t need to be shod.”

Some mules have a substantial price tag.

“They are getting more and more popular. A good solid mule will start somewhere around six thousand dollars and may go up to sixty thousand.”

Paul defines some mule terminology:

“A donkey is a working animal that originated from a wild species in Africa. Now domesticated, they, along with mules, helped build highways,

railroads, and other things when our country was developing. A donkey has longer ears than a mule and is generally shorter than a mule.

“A mule is a hybrid cross between a male donkey and a female horse. The question now is what if you cross a male horse to a female donkey. That cross is called a hinnie. There is very little difference between a hinnie and a mule. There just aren’t as many hinnies as there are mules.

“A jack is a male donkey, also known as a jackass. A jenny is a female donkey. A burro is a small donkey. A male mule is a horse mule. A female mule is a molly mule.

“The mule, having fifty percent donkey and fifty percent horse, gets its athletic ability, speed, and ease of movement, from the horse.”

RECIPE

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

Oven Fried Chicken Parmesan

BY PAULA MELBERN WEEKS

- 1 clove garlic
- 4 oz. butter, melted
- 1 c. soft white breadcrumbs
- 1/3 c. grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 T. minced parsley
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 1/2 lbs. cut up chicken

Crush the garlic clove and combine with butter in shallow baking dish. Combine breadcrumbs, Parmesan cheese, parsley, salt & pepper. Dip chicken into butter and then coat it in the bread crumb mixture. Arrange chicken one layer deep in a large shallow baking pan and drizzle evenly with remaining butter. Bake uncovered at 350 for 1 to 1 1/4 hours until tender and browned. You can use 6 chicken breasts with 1/2 of the breadcrumb mixture.

Gatesville Public Library offers Total Eclipse glasses

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Public Library is offering three ways to get glasses for the Total Eclipse that will happen in April.

One way to obtain your pair of eclipse glasses would be to check out a space- or science-related book. There will be one pair per family while supplies last.

There will be a free NASA program called SYZYGY at the City Auditorium on Saturday, April 8. To get a pair of eclipse glasses, all you would need to do is attend the event. To reserve your spot in the program, visit gatesvillexclipse.com/SZY.

Another way would be to purchase a parking spot at the NASA event on Saturday, April 8. Once the parking space is purchased, be sure to present your parking receipt that morning to the staff to receive your pair of glasses. For parking reservations, visit gatesvillexclipse.com/eclipse-viewing.

For further details, contact the Gatesville Public Library at 254-865-5367.

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



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Gatesville Librarian Shea Harp wearing the Total Eclipse glasses.

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 deadline 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.

Gatesville to hold business workshop

Staff Reports

The City of Gatesville will hold a workshop for current businesses, future owners, and non-profit businesses, on Tuesday, March 5, at 6 p.m.

The retail coach, presentation, and workshop will

focus on helping existing business owners in Gatesville better understand the market and market opportunities. Discussions will be focused on the Gatesville Retail Trade Area, who the Gatesville consumer is (psychographics), and will look at

the retail sectors with the most demand potential.

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will be present to speak about the services they provide to the community.

The primary location of the event will be held at the Gatesville Council

Chambers located at 110 N. 8th Street, and the alternate location will be at the City Auditorium, which is also located at 110 N. 8th Street.

To RSVP for the event, the point of contact will be Leo Corona at 254-216-9383.

Turnersville CC to host yard sale and 42 tournament

Submitted Item

The Turnersville Community Center will host a community-wide yard sale as well as a 42 tournament on Saturday, March 16.

The yard sale will begin at 8 a.m. and will cost \$20 per booth.

The 42 tournaments will

commence at 2 p.m. and will be \$20 per player.

To register for either event or for further information, email turnersvillestampede@gmail.

The Turnersville Community Center is located at 8113 FM 182 in Gatesville.



COMING SOON...
March 15-16
Moving Sale at 903 Scenic Dr.
Watch for more details!



Cowboy Real Estate Team
254-423-7590
1707 E. Main, Gatesville • Off: 254-865-5006



Market Days

SATURDAY • 9AM-NOON
MARCH 9TH
Cotton Belt Depot Parking Lot
2307 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville, TX

Vendors can sign up under the Market Days tab at www.gatesvillechamber.com or stop by the Chamber office M-F from 9AM-2PM.

Held the 2nd Saturday of each month, March-December.



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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

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.

USDA News for Coryell County

Farmers can now enroll for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs the 2024 crop year

Submitted item

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that agricultural producers can now enroll in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2024 crop year. Producers can enroll and make election changes for the 2024 crop year starting Dec. 18, 2023. The deadline to complete enrollment and any election change is March 15, 2024.

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through September 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including ARC and PLC, to continue operating.

2024 ELECTIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2024 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2024 unless an election change is made.

If producers do not submit their election revision by the March 15, 2024, deadline, their election remains the same as their 2023 election for commodities on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

2022 CROP YEAR PAYMENTS

This fall, FSA issued payments totaling more than \$267 million to agricultural producers who enrolled in the 2022 ARC-CO option and the ARC-IC option for covered commodities that triggered a payment.

Payments through the PLC option did not trigger for the 2022 crop year.

ARC and PLC payments for a given crop year are paid out the following fall to allow actual county yields and the Market Year Average prices to be finalized. These payments help mitigate fluctuations in either revenue or prices for certain crops. Payments for crops that may trigger for the 2023 crop year will be issued in the fall of 2024.

CROP INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS

ARC and PLC are part of a broader USDA safety net that also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election can purchase Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.

Web-Based Decision Tools Many universities offer web-based decision tools to help producers make informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Producers are encouraged to use the tool of their choice to support their ARC and PLC election.

For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the ARC and PLC webpage, or contact their local USDA Service Center.

UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database and needs your help. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address, or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase.

You should also report any changes to your operation in which you reorganize to form a Trust, LLC, or other legal entity.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their Farm Operating Plan on form CCC-902.

To update your records, contact your Coryell County USDA Service Center at 254-865-7012.

MAKING FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current fiscal year, farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by August 1 of the fiscal year for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all of the required signatures are on FSA-155 and all other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

• **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.

• **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method, the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

• **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each



STOCK PHOTO

Enrollment for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs has begun.

resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.

• **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

For questions on your farm reconstitution, contact your Coryell County USDA Service Center at 254-865-7012.

CONSERVATION AT WORK VIDEO SERIES

A video series from NRCS and farmers.gov, Conservation at Work, presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they've implemented the conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.

We've got videos showcasing high tunnels, no-till, cover crops, prescribed grazing, and many more. Check out the Conservation at Work video series at farmers.gov/conservationatwork.

USDA NOW ACCEPTING FARM LOAN PAYMENTS ONLINE

The U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA) announced today that most farm loan borrowers will soon be able to make payments to their direct loans online through the Pay My Loan feature on farmers.gov in early February. Pay My Loan is part of a broader effort by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to streamline its processes, especially for producers who may have limited time during the planting or harvest seasons to visit a local FSA office; modernize and improve customer service; provide additional customer self-service tools; and expand credit access to assist more producers.

On average, local USDA Service Centers process more than 225,000 farm loan payments each year. Pay My Loan gives most borrowers an online repayment option and relieves them from needing to call, mail, or visit a Service Center to pay their loan installment. Farm loan payments can now be made at the borrower's convenience, on their schedule and outside of FSA office hours.

Pay My Loan also provides time savings for FSA's farm loan employees by minimizing manual payment processing activities. This new service for producers means that farm loan employees will have more time to focus on reviewing and processing new loans or servicing requests.

The Pay My Loan feature can be accessed at farmers.gov/loans. To use the payment feature, producers must establish a USDA customer account and a USDA Level 2 eAuthentic-

ation ("eAuth") account or a Login.gov account. This initial release only allows individuals with loans to make online payments. For now, borrowers with jointly payable checks will need to continue to make loan payments through their local office.

FSA has a significant initiative underway to streamline and automate the Farm Loan Program customer-facing business process. For the over 26,000 producers who submit a direct loan application annually, FSA has made various improvements including:

- The Online Loan Application, an interactive-guided application that is paperless and provides helpful features including an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet, and build a farm operating plan.

- The Loan Assistance Tool that provides customers with an interactive online, step-by-step guide to identifying the direct loan products that may be a fit for their business needs and to understanding the application process.

- A simplified direct-loan paper application, which reduced loan applications by more than half, from 29 pages to 13 pages.

FISH DAY!
IT'S TIME TO STOCK YOUR POND!
Delivery Will Be:
Wed., March 13
WACO
2:00pm-2:45pm at Brazos Feed & Supply
GATESVILLE
4:00pm-4:45pm at Coryell Feed & Supply

Thurs., March 14
COPPERAS COVE
7:30am-8:15am at D&D Feed Store
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Morris Federation to learn about eclipse

Submitted by Marsha Lee

The Morris Federation will meet Saturday, March 9, at 10:15 a.m. in the James Coryell Room at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. The program will be presented by Joyce Talbot, who will be speaking about the total solar eclipse which will occur in April. The City of Gatesville has been planning for the event, and activities are scheduled for that day.

The public is encouraged to make plans to attend the program about the eclipse. The Coryell Museum and Historical Center is located at 718 E. Main Street in Gatesville.

LOOKING FOR CLUES...



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

On February 17, The Gatesville Messenger ran an article titled "If these walls could talk," which told the story of a sealed stairwell and a forgotten upstairs room on the west side of the courthouse square. After decades of being sealed, the stairwell leading up to the third story of the building was recently opened for repairs and then re-sealed. In the abandoned stairwell, several photographs were located scattered on the floor. The Gatesville Messenger is asking for the public's help in identifying these photos. If you have any idea who the people are in these photographs, please feel free to call the Messenger at 254-865-5212 or send an email to editor@gatesvillemessenger.com

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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Germain receives ambassador spotlight

Staff Reports

Nancy Germain is a long-time member of the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce and is currently volunteering as an ambassador and assists with the Junior Ambassadors.

Germain moved to Gatesville in 1987 after being

raised in Corning, IA.

She joined the United States Army and was stationed in Missouri, Kentucky, and Germany.

After leaving the military, she worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and Laerdal before retiring. This is when she took on her love

of sewing and created her very own business called The Sisters.

She enjoys canning, quilting, and recently became a high school football referee.

Germain was also awarded the Ambassador of the Year award for 2023.

For more information

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

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is located at 2607 S. TX-36.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Nancy Germain who received an Ambassador Spotlight from the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

VINCENT RECEIVES A.C.E. AWARD



COURTESY PHOTO

John Vincent, a member of Coryell Health's housekeeping team, recently received an A.C.E. award after being nominated by his fellow employees for always going above and beyond to help his co-workers. His team described him as having an infectious and positive attitude, a great work ethic, and always being willing to help anyone. His actions are truly a reflection of the spirit of excellence.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of February 21 - February 27. 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. 21
 9:23 a.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 2400 block of County Road 321.
 1:32 p.m., a threat was reported in the 1000 block of West Main Street.
 4:02 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of North 27th Street.
 6:30 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 3300 block of Churchill Drive.
February 22
 2:38 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Mulberry Avenue.
 7:04 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.
 11:30 a.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 1000 block of Table Rock Road.
 5:43 p.m., fraud was reported in the 3400 block of Royal Drive.
February 23
 4:27 a.m., stolen property was reported in the 1200 block of East Leon Street.

9:17 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2400 block of Oak Drive.
 1:18 p.m., fraud was reported in the 600 block of Park Street.
 5:01 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
February 24
 12:11 a.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of Elm Street.
 12:14 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of Liberty Street.
 1:25 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2700 block of Business Highway 36.
 5:06 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of East Main Street.
February 25
 4:58 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North 14th Street.
 5:49 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of County Road 347.
 6:49 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2300 block of South Highway 281.

9:25 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 4600 block of South State Highway 36.
February 26
 3:40 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1600 block of West Main Street.
 1:20 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 300 block of Winter Road.
 4:47 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 8500 block of West Payne Branch Road.
 5:29 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2500 block of Jackson Drive.
February 27
 1:59 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of West Main Street.
 5:19 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of East Main Street.
 12:48 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Elm Street.
 1:52 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
February 21
 1:35 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 100 block of A Boone Avenue.
 7:05 a.m., a fight in progress was reported in the 500 block of East Leon Street.
 9:24 a.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 400 block of County Road 321.
 11:46 a.m., harassment was reported in the 1100 block of County Road 245.
February 22
 10:35 a.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of Thackston.
 11:20 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4300 block of FM 1113.
 4:41 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of Cedar Mountain Road.
 7:16 p.m., a threat was reported in the 1400 block of County Road 153.
February 23
 8:38 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 262.

1:31 p.m., a theft was reported in the 3400 block of FM 1113.
 6:25 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 2700 block of FM 3046.
 10:23 p.m., shots fired were reported at the gravel pit behind Alfred Drive.
February 24
 12:15 p.m., damaged property was reported in the 400 block of Liberty Street.
 1:49 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported on FM 116 North Bound south of Perryman Creek.
 7:40 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of County Road 347.
 8:53 p.m., stolen property was reported in the 900 block of Twin Mountain Road.
February 25
 5:08 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported at County Road 321 and Leon Junction.
 5:34 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 2700 block of South FM 116.
 5:50 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the

300 block of County Road 347.
 9:40 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of Cedar Mountain Road.
February 26
 10:41 a.m., a welfare concern was reported at Highway 36 and Fort Cavazos Gate.
 1:19 p.m., a fire call was reported in the 300 block of Winter Road.
 5:12 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 7600 block of Highway 36.
February 27
 8:44 a.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of County Road 107.
 10:02 a.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 3300 block of Herford Lane.
 11:25 a.m., a theft was reported in the 7500 block of FM 116.
 6:43 p.m., shots fired were reported on Mimosa Drive.

Coryell County

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 Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 & FM 116; Sunday Bible study 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
CANAAN BAPTIST
 Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST
 Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays – Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
EASTWOOD BAPTIST
 Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville; Sundays – Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST EVANT
 Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sundays – Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' & youth Bible study 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST FLAT
 9775 TX-36, Gatesville; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays – Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE
 Dr. Pete Keough, Pastor; 912 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
 Jeremy Sanders, Pastor; 120 College Ave.; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 am; Wednesdays – supper at 5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth Group 6 p.m., Prayer meeting 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
 875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY BAPTIST
 Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
HARMONY BAPTIST
 A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.
HAY VALLEY BAPTIST
 3110 Hay Valley Road; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
AWANA children's ministry
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JONESBORO BAPTIST
 Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.
KING BAPTIST
 Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY BAPTIST
 Royse T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK BAPTIST
 Pastor Matthew Hamilton; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evening Youth & Children's Bible Study 6 p.m.
MOUNTAIN BAPTIST
 Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.
OSAGE BAPTIST

Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
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 6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
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 Donald McConnaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST
 Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
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WESTVIEW BAPTIST
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 Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.
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The sale will be held at 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.

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The sale will be held at 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.

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Over 500 Fed at Military Appreciation Fish Fry

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The 16th annual Gatesville Military Appreciation Fish Fry was recently held on Friday, Feb. 23, at the Gatesville Civic Center. The event was sponsored by the City of Gatesville, Gatesville Chamber of Commerce

Foundation, Gatesville Chamber of Commerce, and the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department.

A social time was held for the military personnel from Fort Cavazos between 6 and 6:30 p.m. followed by the invocation by Reverend Dr.

Dewey "Buddy" Wheat, Jr. of The Presbyterian Church of Gatesville. A welcome and words of appreciation were issued to the military members by Mayor Gary Chumley.

It was reported that over 500 members of the military

were in attendance after being bussed in from Fort Cavazos.

Mayor Chumley, along with the Director of Public Relations at Hillside Medical Lodge, Susie Meelbusch, presented Cpt. William Johnson, Lt. Brandon Ber-

linrut, Sgt. Xylon Stevenson, SSG David Tracy, and SFC Jeremy Whisler with certificates of appreciation for their participation with the residents of Hillside Medical Lodge during their Valentine's Day celebration called "Army of Love."

Major General William A. Ryan III, Commander, First Army Division West at Fort Cavazos, then spoke to the soldiers before the fish fry meal began.

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



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Hornets drop Academy, head to Stephenville for tournament play

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

After a less-than-stellar start against Little River-Academy on Tuesday night, Gatesville baseball coach Chase Smith gathered his squad halfway up the first baseline to regroup.

Down 6-0 after a first half-inning filled with mistakes and near-misses, Smith decided that he needed to cut to the chase - no pun intended - with his crew.

"I told them they stunk that half inning. I told them their body language stunk, and if they didn't get it together, they were going to get run off the field in

front of their home crowd," Smith said.

It took one more inning, but the Hornets (4-2) more than got it together as they charged back for an 11-7 win to hand the Bees their first loss of the season.

The trio of Bralen Veazey, Clayton Gregory, and Bradey James allowed just five hits over seven innings and did not allow an earned run. Gregory struck out five in four innings of work as the Hornets pitching staff has now gone 16 innings without allowing an earned run.

Veazey, Gregory, and James also did damage at

the plate. Veazey had three hits and an RBI while Gregory had a pair of hits. James hit his first home run of the season and scored a pair of runs. His homer highlighted a seven-run second inning that saw Gatesville take an 8-7 lead they would never relinquish.

Gregory delivered a one-out single to start the bottom half of the second-inning that was followed by a John Ibarra walk. Lawson Mooney reached on an error that scored Gregory to make it 7-2. Sophomore Justin Muegge delivered a sac fly to score Ibarra and move courtesy runner Sean

Aguilar to third. Aguilar scored on a passed ball one pitch later to cut the lead to 7-4.

James then launched his no-doubt homer that momentarily looked like it might take out the GISD Administration building to cut the lead to 7-5. The Hornets tied it when sophomore Gehrig Keeton reached on an error that scored Logan Biggs and Miles Tull.

Senior Justin Johnson capped the inning with an RBI single that scored Keeton to make it 8-7.

Tull, a sophomore, went 3-3 in the game with a pair of RBI, two runs scored, and

played a flawless center-field highlighted by a diving catch of a low line drive in the sixth inning. He is hitting .600 through six games this season.

"That sophomore class just brings a really unique energy every day. And Tull and Muegge just feed off each other," Smith said.

Tull delivered the final offensive blow for the Hornets in the bottom of the sixth when his two-run double plated Cayden Brister and James for a 10-7 lead. He scored the final run of the game on a passed ball for an 11-7 lead.

James closed the game

out on the mound and got a sparkling defensive play to end the game. After a pair of strikeouts and a walk, Academy's Cyler Fuentes doubled to left field and outfielder Justin Johnson slipped trying to make the play.

After a quick recovery, Johnson scooped the ball up on the track and fired to Ibarra, who threw a one-hop bullet to catch Lawson Mooney that nailed Branson Williams at the plate.

In the win, the Hornets racked up 12 hits but committed four errors. On the

PLEASE SEE **DROP** | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the Lady Eagles basketball team at Jonesboro Independent School District.

Lady Eagles complete season with a strong finish

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

As basketball season ends for the girls at Jonesboro Independent School District, Cody LeCroy, girls' basketball coach, recaps the season.

This is LeCroy's first year at Jonesboro ISD, after coaching for Hamilton ISD this past year. Prior to that, he spent his time at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, the University of Dallas, Cisco College, Schreiner University in Kerrville, and Clarendon College.

"We were very young this year with five brand new starters, with three of them being freshman and only a handful of returners," LeCroy said. "It took some time to get adjusted to varsity level play."

LeCroy had expressed that once they got the wheels rolling, the team got hot and played well during district, winning six of the last seven games of the year before postseason came around.

This year the team held an overall record of 17 to 10 and 9 to three in the district.

"First district game of the year, we lost at home to Oglesby, and that hit

us hard," LeCroy said. "I don't think we expected to lose that game, but it showed that we had to work a little harder and fight a little tougher."

Oglesby ISD was undefeated the first time through the district rounds.

"When we went to Oglesby for the second round of district, we came back and took the game from them," LeCroy said. "Since that game, our girls played with a different energy and faster style of play, and we got hot after that and played very well for the remainder of the season."

LeCroy mentioned how he preached to the team that they must be able to attack the rim and not be afraid to take shots.

This year, the Lady Eagles outscored their opponents by over 300 points and averaged 47 points in district play while only allowing an average of 28, as well as having three girls score over 200 total points this year and one who broke over 300 points.

"The ability to have more than one scorer on the court is important,"

LeCroy said. "Teams are going to have to be able to cover all of our kids versus focusing in on just one or two."

The Lady Eagles made it to the postseason this year where they played Oakwood in the bi-district round and won with a score of 42 to 34.

"Unfortunately, we came up short in the Area Championship round this year versus Neches," LeCroy said. "The final was 65 to 25 and that ended our season."

LeCroy is making it his goal next year to pick up right where the team left off.

"There will be four returning starters with a strong eighth grade group coming up that will help us in all sports," LeCroy said. "Another year under these girls' belts will be nice to have."

"We will look to add a few new recruits for next year's team and look to make a strong run-in next year's playoff run," LeCroy said.

For further details regarding the Lady Eagles basketball team, contact Jonesboro ISD at 254-463-2111.

Hornet football athletes receive All-State recognition



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured left to right: Gatesville Hornets Lawson Mooney and Zach Bryant.

Staff Reports

Over the past week, two Hornet football players, Lawson Mooney and Zach Bryant, were honored with All-State awards.

Senior Lawson Mooney was selected to the All-State second team. He is the 11th player in Hornet history to be named to the second team and the first in almost a decade.

Mooney has set multiple records over his career with Gatesville High School, his achievements include having 519 tackles, receiving District Defensive MVP twice, being named Newcomer of the Year, getting multiple selections to the All-Super Centex teams, and receiving numerous players of the week awards from multiple outlets.

Senior Zach Bryant, offensive lineman for the Hornet football team at Gatesville High School, has been selected to the All-State third team.

Bryant's selection to the third team is a true testament to his growth and work ethic as he has worked hard over the past four years on the field.

Both athletes will have the privilege of being named to the Hornets Wall of Honor.

For further details, contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281.

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GHS soccer standouts Hector Silva (left) and Anna McPherson.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville soccer teams fall short this week

Submitted Item

The Gatesville High School boys' soccer team played an inspiring, hard-fought game against Stephenville, but came up short, 1-2. Gatesville's goal was scored by Asa Hard-

castle with an assist from Oswaldo Leon. The Hornets can secure a playoff spot with a win in one of their final four games. They are currently third in district with a game Friday against fourth place Lampasas, in

Lampasas. Gatesville girls lost, 0-5, to number six ranked Stephenville. Parents' night will be Tuesday at home against China Spring. In last week's games,

GHS girls lost to number two-ranked and undefeated Salado, 0-5. They then defeated Little River Academy, 2-0, behind two goals from Andrea Ortiz. They got another strong performance in the shutout by freshman

goal keeper Anna McPherson. The boys lost to number six Salado, 1-3, getting their lone goal from Alex Bueno. They went on to win, 6-0, over Little River Academy, with goals from Alex Bueno,

Angel Almendariz, Hector Silva, Oswaldo Leon, and Jerry Rodriguez. The boys got another great performance from goal keeper Javier Bonilla in the shutout.

GATESVILLE TENNIS

COURTESY PHOTO

Shown are members of the Gatesville High School tennis team who received medals during a recent tournament. Pictured left to right is Ian Rainer, Zayden Charles, London Kizer, Finn Rogers, Kasey Fitzer, Callie Smith, Olivia Walker.



GHS tennis team excels at tournament in Taylor

Staff Reports

The members of the Gatesville High School tennis team have dominated at a recent tournament held at Taylor Independent School District. Various athletes placed

and received medals.

The results include:
- London Kizer and Finn Rogers were Consolation Champs in the A Girls Doubles.
- Kasey Fitzer won third place in the girls' singles.
- Zayden Charles and Ian Rainer won second place in the B Boys Doubles.

- Callie Smith and Olivia Walker placed third in the A Girls Doubles.
For further details, contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281.



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DROP FROM PAGE B1

season, the Hornets are averaging more than ten hits per game but are averaging three errors per contest. "This is probably the best hitting team I have had since I have been here. If these guys will continue to work on improving defensively and buy in like they have offensively, then we going to really see something special," Smith said. The Hornets went 2-2 in the Palestine Tournament on Feb. 22 and 23, notching wins over Tyler and Fairfield and falling to Mexia and Jacksonville.

The 10-3 win over Fairfield featured a 6.1 inning, two-earned run, nine strikeout performance from Keeton and two hits apiece from Veazey, James, and Tull. In their 18-0 win over Tyler, Ibarra and Roman Perez combined to strikeout six and allowed just one hit in four innings. Veazey had three hits in the win, while Muegge, Keeton, and Tull had two hits apiece. The Hornets now travel to the Stephenville Tournament where they will face Godley, Snyder, West, and

old 6-4A foe Stephenville. They will wrap tournament play the weekend of March 7 in Franklin where they will face Cameron Yoe, Smithville, Waxahachie Life, and Lorena. They will host Palestine on March 13 before heading to No. 4 Taylor on March 15. "This is maybe the toughest two-week stretch of competition we have played in a really long time," Smith said. "It's going to be fun."



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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

TSU Baseball sweeps Northern Colorado in 4-game series

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — The Texans claim their fifth consecutive win of the season at home over the Northern Colorado Bears Sunday, Feb. 25 at the Tarleton Baseball Complex.

Tarleton State (6-2, 0-0 WAC) closed out the four-game series with another win over Northern Colorado (0-8, 0-0 Big Sky) with a 7-6 final.

Braydon Risley started out on the mound for the Texans, pitching 5.2 innings, giving up four runs on eight hits, walking one and earning four strikeouts. Jake Storey took the bump for the Bears pitching 3.2 innings, giving up two runs on four hits and walking five.

Zach Poe (W, 1-0) got the win for the Purple and White, pitching 1.1 innings, giving up two runs on one hit, walking three and striking out one. Tanner Carter (S, 1) took the save in the ninth pitching 0.2 innings, giving up one hit, no runs, no walks and no strikeouts. Dylan Smith (L, 0-2) took the loss for the visiting team, pitching 1.0 inning, giving up three runs on four hits, walking two and striking out three.

Tarleton State claimed seven runs on nine hits. Cole Mears led the home team at the plate with a home run for his second of the season and the only double for the Texans. Tyson Drake led in stolen bases, claiming the only one of the game.

The Bears saw one double from the plate and two home runs.

The first two innings were scoreless for both sides but in the bottom of the third, Mears cranked the ball over the right center wall for the first run on the board.

The top of the fourth was kind to the visiting team with two runs to take the lead for UNC. With a runner on first, James Wright homered to left center to tally two for the Bears.

Drake walked and stole second to start the Texans off in the bottom of the fourth. Mason Hammonds walked and Mears took first after being hit at the plate to see the bases loaded. Brandon Howell walked, bringing in a run for Tarleton State to tie the game at 2-2. A ground out closed out the inning for the Purple and White, leaving three on.

In the sixth inning, Zain Zinicola singled to center



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texans claim their fifth consecutive win of the season at home over the Northern Colorado Bears Sunday, Feb. 25 at the Tarleton Baseball Complex.

field to see a runner on for Northern Colorado and a home run from Brandon Stricklin brought in two runs to see the visiting team retake the lead by two.

The Texans came in hot in the bottom of the seventh after a walk saw the home team immediately on base. Kooper Shook singled to third to put two Texans on and a single to right field from Morrison sent

Howell across home plate. Crews singled up the middle to see Shook come home and tie the game up at 4-4.

In the bottom of the eighth, Mears doubled to center-field to start the home team off strong. Howell took a hit at the plate to put a second Texan on. A pair of fly outs to right field saw Mears advance and then score to take the lead for Tarleton State.

With Morrison taking first after being hit at the plate, Sergio Guerra singled to left field to see Howell take home for the Purple and White for a 6-4 score. Russell walked and Drake was hit at the plate to bring in the final run for the home team.

Northern Colorado found a bit of fight in the top of the ninth after Caden Wagner took a hit at home, a pair of

walks loaded the bases for the Bears. With Carter coming in for Poe and one out on the board, Jackson Meier singled to right field to bring in the fifth run for UNC. Zinicola was next in the box and reached on fielder's choice to see Kenny cross home to make the final score 7-6. A groundout to first closed out the game, leaving two on for Northern Colorado.

Texans beat Lions in Commerce for first time since 2016, get revenge walk-off win over Summit League Champion Nebraska-Omaha

Tarleton State University

COMMERCE — Tarleton State will not give up and it showed more than ever on the weekend of Feb. 23-Feb. 25 with the Texan's two big wins.

The Texans, now 8-6 on the

season, took down the Lions of Texas A&M-Commerce (5-10) for the first time at their place since April 1, 2016. In game one of the day, the Purple and White took down Summit League Champion Nebraska-Omaha (9-6) with a 4-3 walk-off double by Katy

Schaefer.

"I thought we did a better job of grinding out our at bats today," said head coach Mark Cumpian. "Our pitchers pounded the zone with strikes and did a good job of keeping us within striking distance. I am proud of the

full team effort tonight. We will need the same energy going into tomorrow."

Tarleton State 4 Nebraska-Omaha 3

Game one of the day was just what the Texans needed to get things going again. After falling 9-0 on Friday, Tarleton State came out Saturday hungry for a win over the Mavericks.

The Mavericks got the scoring started plating three runs in the top of the fourth. The first run came off a double to left field by Sydney Ross scoring Ava Rongisch. The second and third runs were tacked on after Lynsey Tucker reached on an error and Alex Olson and Ross were able to cross the plate.

The Texans didn't wait long to get on the board scoring two in the bottom of the fourth. Austin Germain doubled to right center scoring Bella Hernandez who pinch ran for Schaefer after she reached on a fielder's choice, and Kelci Hill who reached base with a single up the

middle to open the bottom of the inning.

In the following inning the Texans tied things up at three as Schaefer doubled to right center scoring Avery Songer. Songer reached base after drawing a walk.

The score remained tied at three heading into the bottom of the seventh giving Tarleton State the opportunity to take the second matchup with Nebraska-Omaha in walk-off fashion. The Texans capitalized on the opportunity as Schaefer once again came through clutch as she doubled down the left field line, scoring Kayla Wallace and walking off the 2023 Summit League Champions.

Alexa Rehmeier went the distance for the Texans giving up just three runs (one earned) on seven hits, striking out two and walking four.

Tarleton State 2 Texas A&M-Commerce 0

After securing the first win of the day, the Texans attention turned to the host, Texas A&M-Commerce.

Baserunners and hits were a rarity for both teams during the nightcap as there was just a combined eight hits on the game.

The matchup with the Lions was a pitchers dual through seven innings before the Texans scored the go-ahead runs in the top of the eighth.

Kelci Hill got on base in the top half of the eighth inning as she singled to center. Tristyn Trull then flashed her muscles for the first time this season sending a two-run long ball over the left field fence. This marked the only scoring from either team in the first matchup in Commerce since May of 2019.

This is Trull's first home run of the season and the fifth of her career.

Hannah Blincoe went all eight innings for the Texans giving up just three hits, striking out seven and walking just a single batter. Her seven strikeouts mark a career-high and she now leads the team with 17 strikeouts on the season over 29 innings of work.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texans, now 8-6 on the season, took down the Lions of Texas A&M-Commerce. In game one of the day, the Purple and White took down Summit League Champion Nebraska-Omaha (9-6) with a 4-3 walk-off double by Katy Schaefer.

Tarleton Beach Volleyball debuts, ends opening tournament with 1st win

Tarleton State University

LAKE CHARLES, La. — Tarleton State Beach Volleyball left its first tournament of the inaugural season with a win, finishing 1-3 overall at McNeese's Cowgirl Beach Bash in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The Texans (1-3) dropped their opening pair in the event Friday Feb. 23, 5-0 to No. 20 Cal Poly and 4-1 to the host McNeese. On Saturday, Feb. 24, Tarleton split the pair, enduring a 5-0 loss to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, then defeating Nicholls State 4-1 for its first win as a program.

"The McNeese Cowgirl Beach Bash was a great season opener to be a part of," head coach Tatyana Tuialili-Umi said. "We faced a lot of tough competition and I'm very proud of how quickly we were able to adjust and play to our strengths all across the board. Our Sandy Texans pushed back harder each

match as the tournament went on and really bought in to the idea of doing the little things right. I'm so proud of these girls for securing our first win in program history!"

Tarleton's first match in program history was about as tough as it could come, with the Mustangs slotted No. 20 by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Coaches Poll, the official poll recognized by the NCAA. Cal Poly is ranked as high as No. 13 by CollegeBeachVB.com.

Cal Poly took all five matches in straight sets. At No. 1, Ella Connor and Izzy Martinez defeated Emma Halcomb and Allison Bryant 21-9 21-12. In the 2's, Piper Ferch and Erin Inskeep took down Grayson Schirpik and Breanna McDonough 21-15 21-11. In the 3's, Piper Naess and Quinn Perry beat Melina Maldonado Ortiz and Charlyze Ching 21-5 21-6. As for the Pair 4's, Emma Zuffelato and Sydney Terrell

took down Isabel Gonzaba and Tatum Busch 21-14 21-13. In the 5's, Julia Soeller and Katie Clevenger defeated Sydney Garrison and Rajini Fitzmaurice 21-12 21-12.

In Tarleton's second match of the day, it took on the host McNeese Cowgirls, who are also playing their inaugural season. The Texans got a win at Pair 5, as Garrison and Fitzmaurice won 19-21 22-20 15-7. McNeese won the other four matches, defeating Halcomb and Bryant 21-19 21-16 at No. 1, Schirpik and McDonough 21-18 21-19 at No. 2, Maldonado Ortiz and Ching 21-16 21-17 at No. 3, and Gonzaba and Busch 21-16 21-19 at No. 4.

On Saturday, the Texans first took on Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to start. Last year, the Islanders advanced to the NCAA Tournament, finishing 21-13 overall. On Saturday, they knocked off the Texans 5-0, winning 21-11 21-10 over Halcomb



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State Beach Volleyball left its first tournament of the inaugural season with a win, finishing 1-3

and Bryant at No. 1, 21-14 21-12 over McDonough and Schirpik at No. 2, 21-9 21-10 over Maldonado Ortiz and Ching at No. 3, 21-16 21-14 over Garrison and Fitzmaurice at No. 4, and 21-10 21-11 over Gonzaba and Busch at No. 5.

In Tarleton State's team win over Nicholls State, they won four pair matches at Nos. 1, 2,

4 and 5. At No. 1, Tarleton's Halcomb and Bryant won 21-14 21-14. At No. 2, McDonough and Schirpik won 22-20 21-19. At No. 4, Garrison and Fitzmaurice won 21-15 21-19. At No. 5, Gonzaba and Busch won 21-15 21-19. Nicholls State won at No. 3 21-12 21-19 over Maldonado Ortiz and Ching. Cal Poly left the tourna-

ment a perfect 4-0 and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi went 3-1. Tarleton State, McNeese and Nicholls State all beat each other, going 1-3 at the event.

The Texans host their lone home matches of the season March 22 against Texas A&M-Kingsville at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Tarleton Beach Volleyball courts.

EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby



PHOTO BY OGLESBY ISD PRINCIPAL CASEY MELTON

Pictured left to right are students Landry Riley, Ashton Thompson, Holdyn Goff, Cierra Ingram, Hilaree Martin, Evan Williamson, Mason Marquez, Couper Wulfkuhle, and Makenzie Wright.



PHOTO BY OGLESBY ISD PRINCIPAL CASEY MELTON

Pictured left to right includes Caiden Brinkley, Rancher Jeffcoat, Alisyn Smith, Scarlet Aaron, Brynlee Puryear, and Kaden Bagley.



PHOTO BY OGLESBY ISD PRINCIPAL CASEY MELTON

Pictured left to right in the back row are students Ayleen Aviles, Victoria Mejia, Chayson Leverett, Brody Martinez, Jacob Delatorre, Hunter Insall, Adelyn Gomez, and Skyler Dickson. The students pictured in the front row from left to right are Abigail Insall, Brylee Griffith, Liam Ammerman, Adilyn Margoitta, and Perla Coca.



PHOTO BY OGLESBY ISD PRINCIPAL CASEY MELTON

Pictured from left to right are Oglesby ISD students Ali Chrisner, AJ Marfa, and James Bankhead.

Oglesby Junior High students place third in district UIL

Staff Reports

Various Oglesby Independent School District Junior High students were honored with awards from the Academic UIL competition that took place this past fall.

The students placed third overall in the district and had several individual and team placements.

SIXTH GRADE RESULTS INCLUDE:

Art
Brylee Griffith won fifth place.
Ayleen Aviles won fourth place.

Liam Anderson won sixth place.

Ayleen Aviles, Adelyn Gomez, Liam Ammerman, and Brylee Griffith won first place as a team.

Calculator
Brylee Griffith won fifth place.
Brylee Griffith, Jacob Delatorre, and Hunter Insall won third place as a team.

Chess
Chayson Leverett won second place.

Dictionary
Jacob Delatorre won sixth place.

Editorial Writing
Adelyn Gomez won fourth place.

Adi Margoitta won third place.
Impromptu Speaking
Ali Chrisner won third place.
Adelyn Gomez won sixth place.

Listening
Jacob Delatorre won fourth place.

Ayleen Aviles won third place.
Jacob Delatorre, Ayleen Aviles, and Liam Ammerman won second place as a team.

Maps, Charts, Graphs
Brody Martinez won sixth place.

Ayleen Aviles won fifth place.
Hunter Insall won second place.

Math
Hunter Insall won first place.
Abigail Insall won fifth place.

Number Sense
Hunter Insall, Jacob Delatorre, and Ali Chrisner won third place as a team.

Science
Jacob Delatorre won fifth place.

Hunter Insall won first place.
Hunter Insall, Jacob Delatorre, and Vickie Mejia won second place as a team.

Social Studies
Hunter Insall won third place.
Brody Martinez won sixth place.

Brody Martinez, Hunter Insall, and AJ Mafra won second place as a team.

Spelling
Perla Coca won first place.
Perla Coca, Skylar Dickson, and Adelyn Gomez won second place as a team.

SEVENTH GRADE RESULTS INCLUDE:

Art
Alisyn Smith won first place.
Kaden Bagley won fourth place.

Calculator
Alisyn Smith won first place.
Brynlee Puryear won fifth place.

Alisyn Smith, Brynlee Puryear, and Caiden Brinkley won second place as a team.

Dictionary
Scarlet Aaron won fourth place.

Scarlet Aaron, Rancher Jeffcoat, and Caiden Brinkley won second place as a team.

Number Sense
Scarlet Aaron won sixth place.
Scarlet Aaron, Rancher Jeffcoat, and Paisley Sanders won third place as a team.

Social Studies
Rancher Jeffcoat won first place.

Spelling
Rancher Jeffcoat won sixth place.

Rancher Jeffcoat, Scarlet Aaron, and Caiden Brinkley won third place as a team.

EIGHTH GRADE RESULTS:

Art
Landry Riley won sixth place.
James Bankhead, Ashton Thompson, and Landry Riley won third place as a team.

Calculator
Couper Wulfkuhle won fifth place.

Couper Wulfkuhle, Ashton Thompson won sixth place.

Dictionary
Mason Marquez, Ashton Thompson, and Couper Wulfkuhle won third place as a team.

Editorial Writing
Cierra Ingram won fifth place.
Makenzie Wright won second place.

Ready Writing
Makenzie Wright won first place.

Hilaree Martin won fourth place.

Impromptu Speaking
Makenzie Wright won fifth place.

Listening
Holdyn Goff won first place.
Couper Wulfkuhle, Holdyn Goff, and Ashton Thompson won second place as a team.

Number Sense
Evan Williamson won first place.

Social Studies
Holdyn Goff won sixth place.

Spelling
Holdyn Goff won second place.

Couper Wulfkuhle, Evan Williamson, and Holdyn Goff won second place as a team.

Science
Mason Marquez, Holdyn Goff, and Ashton Thompson won third place as a team.

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

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 Band mattress fundraiser is March 2

Staff Reports

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

Twenty-five-plus styles of mattresses will be on display.

Delivery is available, and all forms of payment will be

accepted.

The starting prices of the mattresses include a twin-size for \$199, a full-size for \$229, a queen-size for \$249, and a king-size for \$499.

Every purchase that is made will benefit the band program.

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

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

Annual Pitts Memorial Scholarship now open

Staff Reports

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

To determine who will receive the scholarship, an

essay will be required to apply. The essay will have a topic provided and must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 15. Essays that are received after that Monday will not be accepted. When completed, email the essay to Jane Pitts at johnhreagan325udc@yahoo.com.

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

INTERMEDIATE DEBATE CLASS DISCUSSES ZOOS



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the students of Ms. Schwoppe's class at Gatesville Intermediate School during a debate regarding whether zoos are beneficial or harmful to animals. The students are currently reading a book based on the debate in class. Each student was required to debate on a side that was a draw at random, which made the students persuade the audience despite their own personal opinions. After each debate, the students voted on the side that presented the best arguments, backed by evidence and thoughtful explanations.

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 Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (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 mod-

estly 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, call 254-456-2271.

Happy TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

March 2, 2024

THIS DAY IN...

2

HISTORY

- **1836:** THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS DECLARES ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM MEXICO.

Texas Independence Day, celebrated on March 2nd, is a day full of Lone Star pride and historical significance. It commemorates the adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836, marking the birth of the Republic of Texas. This day is an opportunity for Texans to reflect on their unique heritage and the journey that led to their independence.

Kids can delve into the exciting history of Texas Independence Day by learning about the brave men and women who played crucial roles in the fight for freedom. From the Battle of the Alamo to the decisive victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, the story of Texas's struggle for independence is filled with courage and determination.

Celebrations often include events like parades, festivals, and educational activities that highlight Texas's rich cultural tapestry. Kids can participate by creating Texas-themed crafts, learning traditional Texan dances, or even enjoying a slice of pecan pie—a delicious treat associated with the state.

Schools may organize special lessons, presentations, or projects to educate students about the significance of Texas Independence Day. Teachers can explore Texas history, discuss the state's unique symbols, and encourage kids to express their pride through art and storytelling.

For families, it's a great day to explore Texas's natural beauty, visit historical sites, or enjoy traditional Texan cuisine. Whether it's barbecue, Tex-Mex, or a classic bowl of chili, savoring the flavors of Texas is a tasty way to celebrate.

Texas Independence Day is more than just a historical milestone; it's a day to honor the spirit of independence, resilience, and community that defines the Lone Star State. So, on March 2nd, let the Lone Star shine a little brighter as Texans of all ages come together to celebrate their unique history and the vibrant culture that makes Texas a truly special place.

TO SPONSOR THE CORYELL KIDS PAGES, CALL KAITLYN AT 254-865-5212.



4-H NEWS



CORYELL COUNTY



COURTESY PHOTO

San Angelo Champion Intermediate Consumer Decision Making Team (left to right) includes Bobbi Tubbs, Jozie Wolff, Emily Wolff, and Eve Fulton.



COURTESY PHOTO

San Angelo Champion Senior Showmanship Winner Kinlee Gardner pictured with pig.

Coryell 4-H youth earn State Swine Showmanship Buckle

Submitted by Becky Coward

As thousands of young people and their families travel across Texas to major stock shows this season, I'm reminded of how big the state of Texas truly is. With 254 counties full of 4-H members and thousands of FFA students, representing hundreds of schools exhibiting their livestock, the annual migration to the majors is extremely humbling.

Fort Worth is the first major show in the spring

major show season. Coryell County 4-H had several youths experience the show ring in Cowntown.

Charles and Thomas Belt, Lane, Lilly, and Hubbard Kinsey all exhibited market steers. Kaylie Williams showed her goat, while Ad-dyson Edwards and Breeze and Bliss Buckner showed their lambs.

The Junior and Senior Plant Identification Teams were both awarded rosettes for placing 4th and 5th respectively. Junior Team Members were Mia Conley (6th high individual),

Marcy Conley (4th high individual), and Hagen Milam. Senior Team members were Caleb Mannix (9th high individual), Chase Janke, and Lane Brookshire.

The next stop of the "tour of the majors" for most of our youth includes San Angelo. Results from 4-H youth competing at the San Angelo Stock Show are as follows:

Kinlee Gardner, Senior Swine Showmanship and Reserve Champion Chester Gilt.

Colbi Allison, 5th place Doe.

Kace Laster, two 4th place Gilt.

Lillie Mann, 5th with her Gilt.

Paisley Wells, two 2nd place and one 3rd place Gilt.

Memphis Wells, 3rd place Gilt.

Shelbi Bomar, 3rd place Gilt.

Matti Mann, Canyon Smith, and Landry Ohnheiser showed gilts.

Ryder Wittie showed her goats.

Charles and Thomas Belt, Lane, Lilly, and Hubbard Kinsey all exhibited market

steers.

Baylea Redden won Best of Breed, Best Opposite Breed, and showed multiple placing rabbits.

The Consumer Decision Making Team competed with the following results:

4th place Juniors include Rhett White, Elizabeth Whisenhunt, and Charles Yarbrough

1st place Intermediates include Bobbi Tubbs, Eve Fulton, Emily Wolff, and Jozie Wolff

Senior Team placed 9th with Chase Janke, Leonela Rodriguez, Hunter Beaty,

and Peyton Williamson Other Seniors competing were Bailey Wolff, Braidy Lusk, and Makaylie Williams.

The Livestock Judging team members who competed were Clayton Gregory, Ryli Bryson, Lane Kinsey, Thomas Belt, Lilly Kinsey, Pete Wallace, and Paislee Cullar.

Our 4-H youth will travel to San Antonio next, then on to Houston and Austin. Congratulations to everyone on their project work and success at the major shows!

4-H AMBASSADORS DONATE 500 POUNDS OF FOOD



COURTESY PHOTO

The Coryell County 4-H Ambassador Team recently collected and donated 500 lbs. of food during the National Souper Bowl of Caring event. The 4-H members also volunteered by packing food boxes and toiletry bags at the Gatesville Care Center. The third "H" in 4-H stands for hands. The Ambassador team pledged their hands to larger service. 4-H helps youth learn to serve.

Coryell County 4-H to host various events through April

Staff Reports

The Coryell County Fair is over for the year, but there are still many things happening within Coryell County 4-H.

There will be around seven contests coming up within the next few weeks, and each contest has the potential to advance to a district level for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age divisions. A state level competition is available for seniors who are active 4-H members prior to Friday, March 1.

Each contest is open to kindergarten through 12th grade and includes:

- Coryell 4-H Photography Contest, due Friday, March 1.
- Coryell 4-H Fashion Show, due Friday, March 1.
- Coryell 4-H Fashion Storyboard, due Friday,

March 1.

- Coryell 4-H Educational Presentations, due Thursday, March 7.

- Coryell 4-H Public Speaking, due Thursday, March 7.

- Coryell 4-H Talent Showcase, due Thursday, March 7.

There will be a workshop open to third through 12th graders regarding educational presentations and public speaking on Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 20. Be sure to register online at <http://coryell.agrilife.org>.

All contests must be entered online by each deadline listed above. More information can be found through the entry forms, which can be found by visiting <http://coryella-grilife.org>.

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Gatesville Intermediate recognizes UIL 6th Grade Medalists

Submitted by Candi Garvin

University Interscholastic League (UIL) 6th Grade Medalists from Gatesville Intermediate School are pictured, left to right:

Bottom Row:
 Emma Henry -- 2nd Editorial Writing
 Dillon Baker -- 5th Mathematics
 Hailey Mehaffey -- 5th Oral Reading
 Tanna Lee -- 3rd Spelling
 Jalynn Kim -- 5th Dictionary
 Maddox McAndrew -- 1st Number Sense / 4th Science

Middle Row:
 Caleb Davenport -- 3rd Music Memory / 4th Number Sense / 1st Science
 Claire Pollard -- 3rd Spelling

Madelynn Moffett -- 6th Dictionary / 3rd Modern Oratory
 Case Sadler -- 2nd Social Studies
 Ben Farmer -- 1st Chess / 2nd Number Sense
 Luke Foreman -- 4th Dictionary
 Aspen Taylor -- 2nd Calculator / 4th Editorial Writing
 Allison Adcock -- 6th Ready Writing

Back Row:
 Rhylee Glover -- 6th Music Memory
 Sage Haines -- 4th Music Memory
 Olivia Potts -- 1st Modern Oratory / 3rd Oral Reading
 Levin Lynch -- 6th Social Studies
 Coralise Ivy -- 3rd Science
 McKenna Kuykendall -- 5th Ready Writing



UIL 6th Grade Medalists at Gatesville Intermediate School.

COURTESY PHOTO

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Rattlesnake Roundup strikes again

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Hundreds showed up for the 54th annual Rattlesnake Roundup at the Oglesby Community Center on Feb. 24-25.

The event featured live snake demonstrations and

a show, a vendor fair, live entertainment, games, carriage rides, a petting zoo, food trucks, and more.

World famous snake handler Jackie Bibby, also known as "The Texas Snakeman," was present

once again to demonstrate his skills when handling the venomous snakes. Bibby has spent over 50 years handling rattlesnakes and holds five world records. He was joined by other snake handlers who also took part

in the daring demonstrations.

The first Rattlesnake Roundup occurred in 1970 when more than 100 snakes were captured by 22 parties of snake hunters. This year, snake hunter win-

ners include Greg Key for catching the longest snake, Kris Kahler for the shortest snake, and Butch Heffelfinger for the largest snake by weight.

The event was first created by the Oglesby Lion

Club as a fundraiser for the community. The club uses fundraisers to create proceeds that go back to the community, the school, and to the Lions Club Eye Bank.



PHOTOS BY KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Top left: "The Texas Snakeman" Jackie Bibby impresses the audience by holding three rattlesnakes in his mouth.

Top right: Snake handler Nate Reed (middle) makes it out of a pile of rattlesnakes without triggering a strike.

Middle left: Classic cars lined up near the vendor tables at the festival.

Middle right: Nathan Hamilton with his Burmese python, Esmeralda.

Bottom left: Monkeys also made an appearance at the annual event.

Bottom right: Raylee Reed successfully eases her way out of a sleeping bag full of venomous rattlesnakes.

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