



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville's downtown could be listed on the National Register of Historic Places by 2025.

Gatesville to apply for downtown historic district

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The City of Gatesville is pursuing the establishment of a historic district following recent approval from the Texas Historical Commission in mid-February.

Now that Gatesville is considered eligible for a historic district, city staff can begin the process of

registering downtown as a place of historical significance that has a spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Establishing a downtown historic district can yield multiple benefits, including economic development, enhanced visibility of our downtown, property value

appreciation, a sense of community pride, and sustainability," City Manager Scott Albert said. "However, the primary objective of forming the historic district is to enable property owners to access various incentives and financial assistance programs, such as tax credits, grants, and other

initiatives to support the rehabilitation of downtown buildings."

According to a 2015 study by The University of Texas and Rutgers University, more than 10.5 percent of all travel in Texas is heritage related. A historic designation not only promotes tourism

and development, but also allows building owners to utilize federal and state tax credits to refurbish their properties.

The city hired the historic preservation firm, Post Oak Preservation Solutions, in September to help apply for the historic designation.

"Listing on the National Register of Historic Places is an honorary recognition of a property or district's historic or architectural significance," said Rebecca Wallisch, senior architectural historian with Post Oak Preservation.

PLEASE SEE **DOWNTOWN** | A2

Newton honored for Women's History Month



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County Clerk Jennifer Newton

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Coryell County is home to many powerful women, and in honor of Women's History Month, which is observed annually during the month of March, The Gatesville Messenger interviewed Coryell County Clerk Jennifer Newton to highlight her services to the community.

Newton's journey in the County Clerk's Office began in October of 2009. She was later appointed as the County Clerk during Commissioner's Court on July 1, 2021 and was elected on Jan. 1, 2023.

"I have always been interested in the judicial system and government, so the county was a great place for me to pursue my career," Newton said.

Being held to the high standard of a County Clerk, Newton has various daily responsibilities that she must complete.

Some of her responsibilities include records management, issuing and recording marriage licenses, managing vital statistics records, being the recorder of the county, TABC licensing, and many other records.

She also serves as the clerk for County Court and County Court at Law, regarding misdemeanors, probate, guardianships, civil, and mental health cases, as well as serving as the clerk for Commissioner's Court.

She believes that it is crucial for women to take on these

PLEASE SEE **NEWTON** | A2

23 MORE DAYS...



How will animals behave during the total solar eclipse?

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

While a total solar eclipse is an exciting experience for humans, many scientists and members of the public are preparing to capture how animals will also react to the rare event.

During previous eclipses, some viewers have reported that unusual animal and insect behavior occurs once the moon passes over the

sun, including claims that crickets begin to chirp, bees return to their hives, and birds fall silent. Although there is only a handful of research on the topic, a study published in the journal *Animals* found that approximately 75% of observed species at a zoo in South Carolina exhibited surprising behaviors during the Great American Eclipse in 2017.

Professor Adam Hartstone-Rose, a professor at North Carolina State University who led the study, said his team observed that many animals, including a troop of gorillas, started to engage in their nighttime routines.

"As totality set in, they started going toward their nighttime enclosure where they get their meal before they go to bed," Hartstone-

Rose said. As daylight resumed, he adds that the gorillas came back out of their enclosure.

Other animals had strange reactions to the eclipse, such as Siamang gibbons, a species of ape, that made unusual calls to each other and Galapagos tortoises that started breeding. Giraffes also galloped in what seemed like "pacing behavior" caused by stress

or anxiety.

In April, Hartstone-Rose and his team will travel to the Fort Worth Zoo to learn if their research is consistent with their findings in 2017. For this study, they are enlisting help from the public by asking participants to observe animals not only at their local zoos, but also wildlife out in nature, farm animals, and pets. Known as the

Solar Eclipse Safari project, willing participants can submit their observations via phone, tablet, or data collection sheets located on the project's website.

"We are also really interested in data that's collected not just on the path of totality, but also in any place in North America, because one of the ques-

PLEASE SEE **ANIMALS** | A2



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NEWTON

FROM PAGE A1

roles as they bring greater responsiveness to citizens' needs, which generates better decision making.

"Women's political participation is so important for our government," Newton said. "More women are taking on leadership roles, which further expands the diversity for Coryell County."

"I find Belva Lockwood to be a big inspiration, not just for me but for women in

general," Newton said. "She defied all odds and became the first woman to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, but she didn't stop there, as she did all of this before the nineteenth amendment, allowing women to vote, was passed."

Newton explained that she looks up to Lockwood because she stood firm on her beliefs and pursued her career, eventually running

for president of the United States.

"She was a genuine, independent woman who pursued her true passion which is in the same way I live my life," Newton said.

Although she thinks highly of Lockwood, her main inspiration comes from her mother Linda Newton, who she described as being a very strong and independent woman who never backed down or gave

up throughout life, all while staying true to herself.

"She pursued her career in nursing, and regardless of how trying the times were, she never quit. She kept pushing forward and ended up specializing in several different fields within nursing," Newton said. "After becoming a nurse, she decided to serve our country and dedicated eight years of her life to the United States Navy."

"She instilled all these traits into me from birth," Newton said. "I am who I am today because of my mom."

Newton makes it her priority to serve her county in the same ways that her mother served her country, with diligence and honor.

"I will continue to expand on our efficiency, exceptional customer service, and expanding our technology to the citizens of Coryell

County, all while being vigilant and efficient with taxpayer dollars," Newton said.

"Serving the citizens of Coryell County is the best part of my job," Newton said. "I listen to their needs and find ways to bring them to fruition."

DOWNTOWN

FROM PAGE A1

Property owners within the district can receive up to 45% of coverage for building rehabilitation expenses (25% in state tax credits and 20% in federal tax credits). Albert said that the goal is to establish multiple financial mechanisms within the historic district where building owners can potentially recover 75% or more of their restoration costs.

Listing on the National Register does not restrict building owners if they choose to refurbish their properties, Wallisch explains. However, to take advantage of historic tax credits, alterations and upgrades to buildings must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitation as well as be approved by the Texas Historical Commission and the National Park Service. Rehabilitation projects include minor upgrades such as a replacement roof, upgraded HVAC, or a full-scale restoration of the interior and exterior.

"It is recommended that property owners check with an accountant familiar with the tax credit process to determine what aspects of their projects

are qualified rehabilitation expenses (QREs)," Wallisch said.

Wallisch notes that a property must not only be income-producing to utilize federal tax credits, but must also be either income-producing or a non-profit business for state tax credits.

"Furthermore, although difficult to quantify, rehabilitation of historic buildings in downtowns has a significant economic impact to the broader community," Wallisch said. "Revitalized downtowns (bring) added tourism, increasing the economic vitality of businesses within the area. Increased tourism also helps to boost adjacent industries, including restaurants, hotels, and short-term rentals."

Wallisch adds that the listing also provides consideration of how developments such as highway construction or infrastructure projects can impact historic buildings.

Post Oak will meet with the Texas Historical Commission to finalize the historic district boundary and which buildings are eligible for the district. The firm will then compile

the first draft of the National Register nomination that they plan to submit by summer 2024.

Once Post Oak submits the first draft, owners of contributing properties can begin applying for historic tax credits.

"Gatesville is very lucky to have the beautiful Coryell County Courthouse as the focal point of the downtown business district," said Danny Corbett, Chairman of the Coryell County Historical Commission. "The establishment of a historic district will be of great benefit to the city. Protecting and preserving historic buildings will aid the city in recruiting new business to the downtown area and will also help current businesses grow. Businesses will be able to get tax credits, grants, and loans to help preserve these historic buildings."

Post Oak anticipates receiving the final nomination on the September agenda of the Texas Historical Commission's State Board of Review. If approved, it will proceed to the National Park Service, and then will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places in early 2025.



STOCK PHOTO

Many animals could act strange when a total solar eclipse passes over Texas and parts of North America in April.

ANIMALS

FROM PAGE A1

tions that we have is - we're building an idea that some animals have a reaction to an eclipse," Hartstone-Rose said. "We're building an idea of how different animals react to an eclipse, but we're hoping to gather enough data to be able to say what amount of eclipse is necessary to cause a behavioral change."

Other citizen science projects include NASA's Eclipse Soundscapes, which aims to collect sounds and sensory observations from the public to find how an eclipse might affect various ecosystems.

"Eclipses have always presented scientists with unique opportunities to learn about our solar system," MaryKay Severino, co-lead of the Eclipse Soundscapes Project, said in a press release. "The Eclipse Soundscapes Project is not only an opportunity for NASA to gather a large amount of scientific data, it's an opportunity for our participants to learn about the eclipse in a multi-sensory manner."

Both projects stem from a study in the 1930s that also used public observations to reveal how an eclipse might affect wildlife.

With areas throughout Central and North Texas expected to experience several

minutes of totality, many regional wildlife reserves and zoos plan to do their own observations on how animals in their parks will respond to the total eclipse.

Avery Elander, a spokesperson for the Fort Worth Zoo, said that the zoo is open to the public on April 8. Visitors are also invited to submit their observations to Hartstone-Rose's research team.

"We expect that if changes in behavior are observed, they will likely be animals behaving like they typically would at dawn or dusk such as nest building, change in vocalizations, increased activity/feeding, or moving toward their overnight barns," Elander said.

Director of the Cameron Park Zoo in Waco, Brendan Wiley, said they plan to closely watch the behavior of the elephants and orangutans.

"Both of those species are incredibly intelligent and perceptive, so we are naturally curious to see how they react," Wiley said.

Wiley adds that the zoo has a group of 200-300 wild black vultures that visit the facility during the day but depart once evening approaches.

"(We're) curious to see if they make an early departure," he said.

Jake Mayhew, the ranch manager for Buena Vista Wildlife Safari in Evant, said they intend to conduct some visual observations of their animals.

"Most animals are fairly based on how the sun comes up - sun phases and moon phases and things like that because that's how they feed," Mayhew said. "And they're not used to sudden darkness, and that alarms them, in my opinion, is what I think happens."

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose hopes to participate in the Eclipse Soundscapes Project by recording animal sounds with an audio device during the eclipse.

"The goal would be to help contribute to the NASA (Soundscape) project," said Warren Lewis, Chief Marketing Officer for Fossil Rim. "We would place it in our wolf area to see how our wolves react to the eclipse."

For those interested in helping scientists study animal behavior or how nature responds during the total solar eclipse, visit Solar Eclipse Safari at scistarter.org/solar-eclipse-safari-resources or the Eclipse Soundscapes Project at eclipsesoundscapes.org.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

The bluebonnets are coming!



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

Where has the time gone? Remarkably, we are halfway through the month of March, while just the other day, it was New Year's Eve. A host of traditional markers seem to be upon us as most schools celebrated spring break this past week, St Patrick's Day is Sunday, and Easter is just around the corner. Before we know it, full blown spring will be upon us.

The best thing about spring in Texas is the ar-

rival of the bluebonnets. I am not sure of any annual

ritual which puts a bigger spring in my step or smile on my face than does seeing bluebonnets dotting the Texas landscape.

Texas is known for its bluebonnets, and even though it's not the only place in the United States where they can be found, it is the only place you'll find both the *Lupinus Texensis* and *Lupinus Subcarnosus* species. Bluebonnets are often seen as a symbol of renewal, hope, and the Texas spirit. The flowers are very hearty and represent the beauty that can emerge from even the harshest and most challenging environments.

One of my favorite ways to drive down the highway, enjoying the fresh air of spring while listening to

my favorite music on the radio. I do not know how many people in Texas have the same spring ritual as I, but I feel certain it is most of them.

Did you know the bluebonnet was chosen as the official state flower in 1901? Or that Texas was the first state to plant wildflowers along their highways? Aren't we glad they did so?

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CENTRAL TEXAS "BONNETS IN BLOOM" CONTEST

With the arrival of spring, it is time for the second annual "Bonnets in Bloom" contest, sponsored by First National Bank of Central Texas! Last year hundreds of photos were submitted portraying our readers favorite bluebonnet images. Some were silly, some ar-

tistic, and all were simply amazing.

Starting March 18 and for a total of 4 weeks, a weekly winner will be selected from those photos which are submitted on our website. The winner each week will receive a year's subscription to the Gatesville Messenger, a Bluebonnets in Bloom t-shirt, their photo will be included in next week's edition of the newspaper and appear on our website. At the end of four weeks, a grand prize winner will be announced from the total entries received. The winner shall receive, in addition to the weekly prize, \$100 cash - plus their photo will be featured on the front page of the newspaper! Importantly, all the entries will be featured in the gallery section of our website.

So, while you are out driving around taking landscape shots of bluebonnets, images of your kids sitting in a field of "bonnies," of a great image of the Texas countryside dotted with bluebonnets, send the photo to the Gatesville Messenger website. Go to www.gatesvillemessenger.com and enter. Last year's grand prize winner was viewed online by nearly 500,000 people! This year we have a goal of a million views!

Thought for the day: God created Texas so we could all know what Heaven looked like.

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

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

Sales tax revenue took a big jump for the City of Gatesville and Coryell County, indicating a strong local economy.

The Central Texas Road Riders Association prepared to host a Spring Fling at Faut Le Roy Park.

Gatesville Mayor Daren Moore signed a proclamation for American Legion Week to recognize the 85th anniversary of its founding.

The Coryell County Youth Fair Board prepared to host the Carson & Barnes Circus at the Coryell Activity

Complex.

Daschofsky Insurance Agency presented a \$500 check to the Gatesville Band Boosters.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

The historic bridge over Leon River in Gatesville was the site of a "re-dedication" ceremony as it was in working shape again.

Owner Dale White prepared to permanently close City Drug in Gatesville.

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce and Agribusiness prepared to "look to the future" at their upcoming annual membership

meeting.

Sonic was offering free ice cream with the purchase of a regular hamburger and medium drink.

Dr. Charles Wilson resigned from the office of Ward 2, Place 4 City councilman.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

The Ladies Auxiliary of Centers Chapter No. 74, Disabled American Veterans, installed new officers: Bobbie Smith, Billie Starkey, Rosa Lee Moore, Lenora Belt, Ocle Henze, and Teresa Fenrich.

The Gatesville City Coun-

cil voted to allocate \$2,500 out of the city's motel tax fund for the completion of the Cotton Belt Depot renovation.

Gatesville automobile dealer Mark Schnorrenberg was elected Gatesville Chamber of Commerce president.

The Cut Above was offering perms for \$2.50.

Gatesville High's boy track and field varsity easily captured the Division II title at the Jacket Relays at Stephenville.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Coryell county's commis-

sioners court had initiated proceedings to condemn a tract of land at Leon and South 6th streets as the site for a new county jail.

Offices of the Coryell County sheriff's department moved operations from the county courthouse to the lower floor of the jail building.

A student at the Gatesville State Schools for Boys

struck the institution's youth activities supervisor, Walter Smith, on the head with a wooden table leg and "knocked him senseless."

Coryell Memorial increased private room charges.

The junior class of Evant High School presented a three-act, mystery-comedy: "It Walks at Midnight."

NEWS FROM ECLIPSEVILLE

Where Will You Be?



BY CHERI SHEPHERD

City of Gatesville Eclipse Coordinator

With the total solar eclipse now less than a month away, most of us have probably already considered where we will be when totality occurs.

Whether you've made that decision or not, here are a few options that you may want to explore.

ATTEND AN EVENT

Many people choose to attend a public eclipse event, and there are several good reasons to do so. First, sharing the experience with a group of people can add to the sense of excitement. You may enjoy feeling a connection with your fellow viewers. Many people who have experienced an eclipse in a group setting report that they made friends that they still stay in touch with.

A group setting may allow you to connect with others who either have experience in viewing an eclipse or who have scientific knowledge to share. Events typically have someone who is making announcements to help you understand what you are seeing and to let you know when it is safe to remove

your eclipse glasses (only during totality!).

In Gatesville, we have several options to join a public event. Some of those require pre-reserved, paid tickets. Paid parking, benefiting the Friends of the Library, is available at the Civic Center/Sports Complex, where NASA ambassadors will be on hand to share their knowledge. Gatesville ISD is hosting an event at McKamie Stadium with activities leading up to the eclipse and serving as a fundraiser for school supplies for students. The Last Drive In is hosting an event that is sure to be fun and family friendly. Coryell Community Church is offering free parking and will have activities and food trucks, but you do need to reserve your spot. Higginbothams and The Salty

Senorita have announced viewing parties, and I am sure that other businesses will follow suit. For tickets and more information on these events, you can visit GatesvilleTxEclipse.com or contact the event sponsors.

WATCH FROM HOME

You may prefer to watch from home, with just your family or a few friends present. For many, witnessing a total eclipse is a very emotional thing and they want to share it with those that they are closest to. For families, it can create a shared memory.

You may want to organize your neighbors and have a little block party as everyone gathers in their front yards.

WATCH FROM WORK

Since the eclipse occurs on a Monday, many of us will be at work. While that may be somewhat disappointing to those who would like to watch it at an event or with family, you can make the best of it by making a plan to share the experience with your co-workers. Since traffic is likely to be heavy and restaurants may be busy, consider having a potluck lunch that day. You can even come up with some eclipse-related menu items (Sun Chips, Moon Pies). Since totality lasts almost 4 ½ minutes, make a plan that allows everyone a break to see at least part of it if you can't all stop work to experience the entire time. Depending on your

job, there probably won't be much else happening during that time!

A COUPLE OF IMPORTANT TIPS

Wherever you are watching from you'll want to remember that, while totality is the most spectacular part of the eclipse, there will be about an hour and 15 minutes leading up to totality and about the same amount of time after when you can observe the partial phases.

Most importantly, you want to make sure that everyone has a pair of eclipse glasses during the partial phases. Permanent damage to the eyes can result from looking at the sun without proper protection. These should be ISO rated 12312-2. The City of Gatesville has had some custom made with our design, which make a nice souvenir. They are available at City Hall, the Fitness Center and at a few retail stores. Several businesses also have glasses for sale.

The next total solar eclipse to reach the United States will be in 2044 in Montana and North and South Dakota. The next one to touch Texas will be in 2078 when one grazes the southernmost tip of our state. This is truly a once in a lifetime experience for our community. Make your plans now for how you'll make it special for you and your family!



COURTESY PHOTO

Lisa Robuck

Say hello to our neighbor, Lisa Robuck!

Lisa has been the Executive Assistant to the Coryell County Judge for over a year and has worked for the county for three and a half years. She admits that the best part of her job is interacting with the public.

"I love hearing stories of Gatesville's past," Robuck said. "Coryell County people and history is so interesting." She has resided in Coryell County for over 30 years and has lived in Jonesboro for the past 26 years.

"My favorite community events are the Shivaree, the Boozaar, and the car shows," Robuck said. "Basically, any event on the square around our beautiful courthouse."

Lisa reads The Gatesville Messenger online each week. "Janice and David are always so helpful, when you walk into the Gatesville Messenger office and someone is always there to greet and help you," Robuck said. "Also, any articles about the history of Coryell County are my favorite."

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



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

Director of Operations
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

DEADLINES:

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

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

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

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OUR MISSION: The Gatesville Messenger shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

FNBCT celebrates new Gatesville banking center

Submitted Item

The First National Bank of Central Texas is proud to celebrate the opening of its new Gatesville Banking Center. The brand-new 4,600 square foot facility is conveniently located at 2908 E. Main St. in Gatesville.

The new location includes ample parking for customers as well as drive-thru lanes for convenience. Located inside the building is a large boardroom that can be utilized by local groups needing meeting space. The facility also includes a large outdoor pavilion that area residents will enjoy using for years to come.

Talented banker Will Coward is the Gatesville Banking Center President. The Coryell County resident has over two decades of experience banking in Gatesville. Coward leads a team of 7 outstanding bankers.

"We are very excited to be in our new building," said Coward. "The building's design and décor were intended with Coryell County

in mind, and we invite the whole community to come by for a tour. I would also like the community to meet our friendly staff and consider the wide range of banking products and services that we offer. We would love to be your new bank."

Chairman and CEO Joe Barrow is thrilled to be in a thriving community like Gatesville.

"We are proud of this new facility and invite the people in the area to stop in and see what The First is all about," said Barrow. "Will Coward and his staff are looking forward to serving the fine people of Gatesville and Coryell County in the years ahead."

A formal ribbon-cutting for the new building will be held sometime later this spring.

The First National Bank of Central Texas is a full-service bank with locations in Waco, Woodway-Hewitt, College Station, China Spring, Mart, Gatesville & Hillsboro.



The First National Bank of Central Texas' new Gatesville Banking Center team, including president Will Coward (center).

COURTESY PHOTO

Trinity Baptist Church to present Passion 2024: Thee Gift

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

With Good Friday and Easter to soon be in our presence, Trinity Baptist Church will host Passion 2024: Thee Gift on Thursday, March 28, Friday, March 29, and Saturday, March 30.

Passion 2024: Thee Gift is a free event and will give the community of Gatesville the chance to experience a live action story of Jesus' life, with the trial, the crucifixion, and the resurrection.

The event will feature live performances, live actors, live animals, and live music as well as a walk through on the streets of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem will open at 6 p.m. for the community

to view and will be located behind the sanctuary of the church in a large tent.

The tent will be able to hold anywhere from 700 to 800 people.

The office secretary of Trinity Baptist Church, Dena Bell, said, "We are just so excited to highlight this significant event in history."

The play will begin at 7 p.m. each evening where the story of Jesus' last week will be told.

Trinity Baptist Church is located at 1506 West Main Street in Gatesville.

For further information, contact Trinity Baptist Church at 254-865-8495.

Coryell City/Osage VFD to hold pancake supper

Staff Reports

The Coryell City/Osage Volunteer Fire Department will host a pancake supper on Saturday, March 16

from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The supper will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, as well as coffee, milk, lemonade, and juice.

The cost for children 12 years of age and under will be \$6, and adults will cost \$8.

For further details, contact 254-230-8758.

The Coryell City/Osage VFD is located at 301 CR 255 in Gatesville/Coryell City.

FMC presents Easter Cantata March 24

Submitted Item

The First Methodist Choir will be joined by singers in the community

to present an Easter Cantata on Sunday, March 24, at 6 p.m.

Admission is free. The Passion Song by

Lloyd Larson will be directed by Charles Ament with accompaniment by Rosemary Whittle. Soloists include Marsha and Robert

Fowler.

The First Methodist Church is located at 2600 East Main Street.

Turnersville Community Center to hold a public meeting on April 1

Staff Reports

The Turnersville Community Center will host a meeting on Monday, April 1, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Turnersville Community Center. The meeting is open to the public.

The Turnersville Community Center serves residents of the rural community of Turnersville (originally Buchanan Springs).

The community center is located at 8115 FM 182 in Turnersville.



Astronomers and their equipment set up on a farm near Fort Worth to observe the 1878 solar eclipse.

COURTESY PHOTO

Solar Eclipses in former years

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Since day one, Texas has witnessed numerous solar eclipses.

In most recent years, it was reported in The Gatesville Messenger on March 5, 1970, that a "100-mile shadow will darken the face of the earth." The article continued, "The largest area of the covered sun to be seen in Texas is 73.5 percent, according to the U.S. Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory."

1970

In 1970, it was reported that in Gatesville the eclipse would be "lasting for more than two hours, the moon will appear to leave the surface of the sun, and the eclipse will end at 1:13 p.m."

Also reported in the 1970 Gatesville Messenger

article was that the last visible total solar eclipse in the United States had occurred in 1963, and the next total eclipse would be visible on April 8, 2024.

1979

Once again, in 1979, The Gatesville Messenger reported another eclipse notice. "A few Gatesvilleites paused long enough in their daily doings to gaze up into the sky. Those that did noticed something was eating the sun. What it was, was a solar eclipse." The article continued, "Bob Scott didn't miss it as he gazed through two exposed negatives, and Bill Herridge also took pictures constructed by a device for viewing the eclipse."

1984

In 1984, it was reported that Waldean Cummings,

secretary of the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce, took a glimpse at the shadowed pattern of the sun as the moon separated the earth's path from the sun causing the eclipse. An article written about the 1984 eclipse stated that "The only notable change in the sunlight was a hazy, subdued sky as the sun was only partially blocked (approximately 80%), leaving a lighted area resembling a quarter moon."

It was also reported in 1984 that onlookers viewed the phenomenon through welder's helmets which were supplied by Raymond Massier and Mike Blanchard.

1878

Over the years, Texas has witnessed many solar eclipses, one of which, in 1878, acclaimed national

attention.

In July of 1878, a group of astronomers from across the United States descended on a small farm just outside of Fort Worth to study and photograph a total solar eclipse. The astronomers' discoveries were eventually published in 1879 in a book titled "Report of the Observations of the Total Solar Eclipse July 29, 1878, Made at Fort Worth, Texas."

One of the earliest eclipses in Texas was estimated to be in the year 1397 - 626 years ago in the region now known as our state capital in Austin.

After April 8, 2024, the next solar eclipse to be witnessed in Texas will be in August of 2044.

Turnersville CC to host yard sale and 42 tournament March 16

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.com. In-person registration for both will be from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the event.

Lunch will be provided from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., which will include sausage wraps, barbeque sandwiches, various sides, a drink, and a dessert for \$12. Children who are six years old and under will cost \$8 each.

There will be a raffle and a bake sale as well from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Each ticket will cost \$5 for the raffle or \$20 for five tickets.

This is a BYOB event.

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

PEARL NEWS

Please keep the Medart family in your prayers



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Please keep the Ronald Medart Family in your prayers. They lost their daughter, Regina, on February 12. A memorial service will be at the Pearl Community Fellowship Church in the near future.

The next big event in Pearl is the upcoming Solar Eclipse and Pearl Bluegrass weekend, April 5, 6, and 7. To sign up for RV space, go to www.eventbrite.com/o/pearl-texas-community-center. You can see how much they cost and what is available there. Also, on that Saturday the Pearl Bookstore will be open from

9 a.m. until 3 p.m. It will be a huge weekend in Pearl, so make your plans now. To benefit the Pearl Church of Christ Scholarship Fund, a beautiful maple coffee table (54x24x15) and a beautiful maple round dining table with a leaf (46" wide with leaf and 18" wide without the leaf), plus four chairs will be sold. The table is \$200, and the coffee table is \$75. All are in excellent condition. You can contact Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 for more information. The scholarships go to local seniors, and this is a very worthy cause! You can check out the pictures of the table and chairs on the church's Facebook page—Pearl Church of Christ. The Pearl Country Church (Pearl Baptist Church) will host an Easter morning ser-

vice at the Pearl Cemetery Pavilion on March 31, beginning at 7 a.m. Breakfast will be served at the church's fellowship hall following the service.

The Pearl Community Fellowship will have an Easter service beginning at 9 a.m. The Pearl Church of Christ will have an Easter service beginning at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and an Easter egg hunt for the kids. Upcoming speakers at the Pearl Church of Christ: Edward Schaub will be speaking on Easter morning at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Charles Patterson, retired Superintendent of the Killeen ISD and currently ministering and living in Corsicana, will be speaking on April 7, also at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Patterson is a native of Hamilton. Everyone is always in-

cluded in any of these Pearl churches and services. Bringing guests is happily encouraged, too.

Now, an update on the life and times of Kay Pruett: A visitor to Raby Park struck up a conversation with Kay while she was working in her yard that joins Raby Park. The lady told Kay that she loves coming to the park because it is so peaceful, and something is always happening. The lady said she recently heard a voice reading, and she looked up and saw an elderly man on Kay's patio who was reading the Bible. The lady added, "That must have been your husband." Kay laughed and said, "I am a widow. That elderly man was me reading to my dog, Pearl." The lady was embarrassed, but it didn't bother Kay at all. Kay said,

"It's hard to insult an old lady!" (Thank you, Kay, for sharing this story and helping me with current events for the news this week! You can't wish to rush me to my demise over this one because it came from you. Plus, I can't wait to visit and hear your beautiful baritone voice in the future).

This week's Bible verse comes from John 3:16—For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. KJV 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

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



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured is Librarian Shea Harp with the Gatesville Public Library wearing the eclipse glasses that can be obtained by various ways through the establishment.

Public Library offers free Total Eclipse glasses

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

In light of the Total Eclipse which will arrive in early April, the Gatesville Public Library is offering free eclipse glasses with three different ways to obtain them.

By checking out a book at the library that is space or science-related, one pair of glasses will be given per family while supplies last.

Another way to get a pair of eclipse glasses is to attend the SYZYGY presentation on Saturday, April 6, at the City Auditorium.

If you are an astronomy enthusiast or simply curious about rare astronomical events, then this will be an informative event to attend. The presentation will feature NASA Ambassador Liam Finn who will dive into the details of the eclipse, examining the path and characteristics, as well as exploring the science behind the occurrence.

The audience will learn about the features of each type of eclipse and what you can expect to see during each one. There will be discussions about how modern science has advanced our understanding of celestial events.

There will be safety tips provided at the presentation as well.

For further details regarding the SYZYGY event, visit gatesvilleteclipse.com/SZY.

The final option to obtain

a pair of glasses is to purchase a parking spot at the Gatesville Civic Center/Sports Complex for the NASA event on Saturday, April 8.

The area will feature open space for unobscured viewing, public restrooms, food/merchandise, vendors, and NASA Ambassadors providing information/education on the baseball field.

Chairs, telescopes, cameras, and coolers will be allowed.

Parking spaces can be reserved beginning at 6 a.m. on the day of the eclipse. Pre-purchase of a parking space assures you a legal and safe area to park and observe, as there is ample space to move around the grounds and set up your own viewing spot.

Parking Passes cover all occupants of a standard vehicle such as a car, a pickup, or an SUV, although oversized vehicles, which include buses, recreational vehicles, or commercial trucks should email sharp@gatesvilleteclipse.com to make arrangements for a larger space.

Once the parking space is purchased, present your parking receipt that morning to the staff to receive your pair of glasses.

Be sure to save your receipt as proof of purchase, and an email will also be sent out with more details and reminders around a

week before the day of the eclipse.

For parking reservations, visit gatesvilleteclipse.com/eclipseviewing.

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

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

The City Auditorium is located at 110 N. 8th Street.

The Gatesville Civic Center/Sports Complex is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.

Coryell Republican Women monthly meeting March 30

Staff Reports

The Coryell County Republican Women will hold their monthly meeting on Saturday, March 30, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will take place at 1802 ML King Jr. Drive in Copperas Cove.

The guest speaker will be Eric Bruntmyer, the president of Hardin-Simmons University. Bruntmyer will discuss Generation Z: Who are they, how do they think, what do they feel, and how will they vote?

Gay Lack, president of the Coryell County Republican Women, encourages those interested to follow the club on Facebook, or contact them at info@coryellrepublicanwomen.org.

Nominations being sought for Golden Deeds banquet

Submitted by Jo Ann Sugg

The Exchange Club of Gatesville is requesting nominations for their Golden Deeds Banquet, which will be held May 6. Nominations of a deserving person can be made in the following categories:

CARE AWARD: For an individual who has contributed to the care and enrichment of services to children in the community.

SENIOR CITIZEN: A senior citizen who has performed outstanding service to the community.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL: a healthcare professional from any field that has performed their job with excep-

tional dedication and compassion.

PROUDLY WE HAIL: A person who has consistently and regularly flown the American flag properly at their home or business during the last year(s).

BOOK OF GOLDEN DEEDS: Our most prestigious award recognizes dedicated volunteers who, over several years, have given endless hours of their time and talents to

make the community a better place to live.

Other awards will also be presented to include Educator of the Year, Youths of the Year ACE Scholarship winners, Fire Fighter of the Year, and Peace Officer of the Year.

Nominations are due by April 11, and forms are available at The Gatesville Messenger, from Exchange Club members, or by emailing josugg@embarq-mail.com.

MEMBER 2024
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Easter Sunday - March 31

Easter Egg Hunt 10-11 a.m.
(In lieu of Sunday School - adult and children's classes; adults will watch the kids hunt eggs)

Outdoor Worship Service 11 a.m.
Chairs will be provided or you can bring a lawn chair.

HE IS RISEN

Hay Valley Baptist Church
3110 Hay Valley Road, Gatesville, Texas 76528

Memory Quilts

Made from Clothing/T-shirts

- Graduation • Retirement
- Military • Childhood
- Passed Loved Ones • Sports

Text for pictures and prices: 254-368-3037

Pancake Supper FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 16
5-8 P.M.

\$8 Adults
\$6 Kids under 12

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Biscuits & Gravy, Coffee, Milk, Lemonade

For more info: (254) 230-8758

Coryell City/Osage V.F.D.
301 CR 255, Gatesville, TX
(10 miles East on FM 929 in Coryell City)

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Browsing the Texas Almanac



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

I'm a big fan of the Texas Almanac and get a copy every time a new edition comes out. I interviewed the editor of the publication years ago and was amazed at some of the things I learned, especially about a few Texas legends.

I was talking to a man in Henderson the other

day, and we talked about Henderson being in Rusk

County. The city of Rusk is in Cherokee county, and there is a Henderson county with Athens as the county seat. I got to wondering about similar situations in Texas. I found a bunch.

Houston is in Harris County. There is a Houston county with Crockett as the county seat. Crockett County has Ozona as its county seat. Austin is in Travis County and the city of Travis is in Falls County (county seat Marlin). Austin County has Bellville as the county seat.

Bowie is not in Bowie County. It's in Montague County. Bowie County has New Boston as the county seat. Cameron is not in Cameron County where the

county seat is Brownsville. Dimmitt is not in Dimmitt County where Carrizo Springs is the county seat. Hemphill is not in Hemphill County (county seat Canadian).

The city of Jefferson is not in Jefferson County (county seat Beaumont). Medina is not in Medina County where the county seat is Hondo. Pecos is not in Pecos County (county seat Fort Stockton). Tyler is not in Tyler County where the county seat is Woodville. Taylor is not in Taylor County (county seat Abilene). Terrell is not in Terrell County (county seat Sanderson).

Yoakum is not in Yoakum County. The city straddles

the line between Lavaca and DeWitt Counties. Yoakum County is on the south Plains where the county seat is Plains.

Then there are cities in counties where both have the same name: the city of Bandera is in Bandera County. Bastrop is in Bastrop County. Blanco is in Blanco County.

Others like this are Brazoria, Burnet, Childress, Coleman, Comanche, Crane, Dallas, Denton, Dickens, Eastland, El Paso, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hamilton, and Haskell.

Still others are Jasper, Kaufman, Lampasas, Liberty, Lipscomb, Llano, Lubbock, Mason, Menard, Midland, Montague,

Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Palo Pinto, Presidio, Refugio, Rockwall, San Augustine, San Saba, Throckmorton, Trinity, Uvalde, Victoria, Washington, Wharton, Wheeler and Zapata.

I think it strange that in some of the above instances the name of the city that is the same as the county is not the county seat. Texas is such an interesting place and has so many towns with intriguing names. I'm amazed and amused at some of them. Aren't you glad you live here!



COURTESY PHOTO

Local Cub Scout, Case Jones, displays the award he recently received.

Local Cub Scout honored with award

Submitted item

Local Cub Scout 7-year-old Case Jones has learned that hard work pays off as he made history last week in Cub Scout Pack 272. Case was awarded the Dr. Luis W. Alvarez Supernova due to his exemplary knowledge and work regarding STEAM. STEAM is an acronym that includes science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. He learned how to build and launch rockets, how to code robots to perform tasks, the skills of an archeologist, wild-life preservation, and much more. The work required for this award took him all across Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and New Mexico. Case completed over 40 science experiments and recorded countless hours of information to prove or disprove his hypothesis for the subject. He was the first cub scout to earn this prestigious award in Pack 272 under the current leadership.

Sheridan, first Irish immigrant

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In the past, Saint Patrick's Day has been chronicled in Coryell County history with articles about Irish immigrants who arrived in the area now known as Coryell County.

It has been written that the first true Irish immigrant to arrive was Hugh Sheridan who came to the Fort Gates community in 1849, before Coryell County was ever established. Sheridan was born in Ireland in 1822 and, at the age of 24, immigrated to the United States.

When Sheridan came to this country, he left behind his sweetheart, Elizabeth McCormick, in County Longford, Ireland. He arrived in New York in 1846. For six months he was engaged in farming in Connecticut. He later ended up in Pennsylvania where, in March of 1847, he enlisted to fight in the

Mexican War. He sailed from New York to Vera Cruz and was in the bombardment of that city and its capture.

He also fought in the fight for Mexico City, participated in its capture, and remained there until the treaty of peace was made. He later returned to New York and soon afterward reenlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Texas, reaching the state in December of 1848. He was with the first troops that came to Fort Gates on October 19, 1849, in what is now Coryell County. This was the first settlement in the area.

According to legend, he wrote to his sweetheart in Ireland from Fort Gates and described to her how beautiful the countryside was around the fort. He then asked her whether she would like to come to the United States and marry him. In those days, mail was extremely slow, and by the time he received her reply, she was already halfway across the Atlantic on a ship named the Yorkshire bound for Galveston.

To make a very long story short, Sheridan was able to meet her at the docks and bring her back to Fort Gates, stopping along the way in Fayette County where the two were married on Sept. 26, 1851, by a Catholic



Hugh Sheridan

PHOTO COURTESY OF FINDAGRAVE

priest. After the troops abandoned the Fort Gates post, Sheridan and his bride remained behind and were in charge of government property for three years following. The two remained in the newly formed Coryell County where they raised their family.

Sheridan became an eyewitness to the changes that transformed this area of Texas from a wild state to a prosperous condition. He was present when

the county of Coryell was formed in 1854. He bought 160 acres of land in the area around Fort Gates and engaged in farming and raising stock.

He died on August 4, 1911 at the age of 89 and was buried in the Fort Gates Cemetery near Gatesville. It was said that he was an Irishman that had a vision... maybe he just had the "Luck of the Irish."



Closings in observance of Good Friday and Easter

Staff Reports

Businesses and governmental offices across Coryell County will join the rest of the nation on Friday,

March 29 and Sunday, March 31 in celebration of Good Friday and Easter.

Closings in the immediate area include:

GOVERNMENT

The City of Gatesville, the City of Evant, and the Coryell County Courthouse will be closed on Friday, March 29. The City of Oglesby will be closed on Friday, March

29 and Monday, April 1.

The Farm Service Agency will remain open.

SCHOOLS

Gatesville Independent School District will be

closed on Friday, March 29 and on Monday, April 1.

Jonesboro ISD, Oglesby ISD, and Evant ISD will be closed on Friday, March 29.

The Boys & Girls Club of

Gatesville will be closed on Friday, March 29.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

All local banks will remain open on Friday, March 29.

POST OFFICES

All local post offices will remain open.

LIBRARY

The Gatesville Public Library will be closed on Friday, March 29, Saturday, March 30, and Sunday, March 31.

SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Senior and Multi-Service Center will be closed on Friday, March 29.

MUSEUM

The Coryell County Museum and Historical Center will be open on Friday, March 29.

NEWSPAPER

The Gatesville Messenger will remain open on Friday, March 29.

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY CROSS WALK

Begins at 8:30AM First Methodist Church
2600 E. Main St.
Gatesville TXt.

➔ **Walk 3 miles to Coryell Community Church**
115 N Levita Rd
Gatesville TX

WORSHIP RALLY TO FOLLOW
We will gather to fellowship in Worship and the Word!

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23"

Questions? Contact Carlos Webb at 254-223-2444

Saturday, May 4, 2024

JUNK & DISORDERLY

Vintage Market & Citywide Garage Sales

Are you interested in becoming a vendor?

For more information, contact Morgan:
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Vendor application:
www.visitgatesvilletx.com/
junk-disorderly



MOUND NEWS

McPherson sisters competed in 4-H horse judging in Katy



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Kinsley and Allie McPherson both competed in the Coryell County 4-H Horse Judging teams at the Houston contest this past Monday in Katy.

Kinsley was on the Live-stock Quiz Bowl team that competed at Houston last Friday.

David and Pam Hopson had lunch with Tammy Roe, of Nemo, Bill and Heather Menn, of Yorktown, and Mrs. Beth Haines at a local restaurant in Gatesville to celebrate Beth's birthday.

Mrs. Beth Haines spent Friday night in Nemo with her daughters, Tammy Roe and Patti Thompson, of Longview. They all went shopping in Granbury at the Marketplace Satur-

day morning to celebrate their mother, Beth Haines' birthday.

Tammy Roe of Nemo and her granddaughter, Brooklyn, of Lewisville, visited in Gatesville with Beth Haines and in Mound with David and Pam Hopson.

Emma Blakley came home Friday from College Station for spring break.

Robert and Emma Blakley went fishing at Lake Limestone Saturday.

Jerry and Brenda Helms and Carolyn Blakley went to Waco for shopping and

dinner.

Sunday was Jerry's birthday, and Brenda Helms and Carolyn Blakley took him for a birthday lunch at Walburg.

Several Ladies from Mound Cowboy Church and White Mound Baptist Church went to a lady's retreat at Tri-Rivers Retreat for the weekend. This year's theme was "CHOSEN."

Several grandparents from Mound attended the 2024 Grandparents Day last week at Trinity Preschool in

Gatesville.

Several people of Mound attended the 2024 annual Cardem International Circus at the Extraco Events Center in Waco over the weekend.

Jeb Dixon and his daughters, Julia, Brooke, and Reese Dixon, of Liberty Hill, visited last Sunday with their relatives in Gatesville and Mound.

Barbara's Notes: HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY everybody (make sure you all wear something green on that day.)

Eclipse at the Crosses event scheduled at CCC

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Coryell Community Church is planning to have a free event, Eclipse at the Crosses, which will be open to the public, on Monday, April 8, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. to view the solar eclipse in its totality.

"We started discussing the possibility of having

this kind of event approximately a year ago when we realized the possibility of how many people were going to be in Gatesville. We immediately saw this as an opportunity to provide our community (and guests) with a family-centered environment to enjoy the eclipse. Our staff and elders have been working

to prepare for the big day," said CCC pastor, Dr. Eric Moffett.

"We have 250 parking spots on our campus and right now and we have about 115 spots that are still open. The parking spots are free to reserve, and you can do so by going to www.coryell.church/events. We also have 1,000

free eclipse glasses that we will give out on the day of as well," he said.

The event, beginning at 10 a.m., will have corn hole, horseshoes, and GaGa ball. According to Moffett, the church's worship team will be on hand to lead in worship prior to the time of the eclipse. Also, Christian comedian, Adam Bush, will

be doing a set for those in attendance. In addition, there will be food trucks available on site.

The church playground will also be available for the children present. The CCC youth group will be helping through the day with the games.

"The eclipse is a unique opportunity for Coryell

Community Church to share what we have with our community and with those visiting. We think that our campus is a beautiful and meaningful place in which to view this incredible event," Moffett said.

OBITUARIES

Bobby Don Golden

May 28, 1949 - March 1, 2024

Bobby Don Golden, age 74, passed away on March 1, 2024, at the Veterans Hospital in Temple, Texas. He was born on May 28, 1949, delivered by a country doctor in a remote cattle ranch in Kiowa County, Colorado.

Bobby was a man of many accomplishments and interests. He proudly served his country in the United States Army, dedicating seven years of his life to defending the nation, and was a lifetime member of the V.F.W. After his honorable discharge, he pursued a successful career with Walmart.

Beyond his professional life, Bobby had a passion for nature and the great outdoors. He enjoyed spending time fishing and camping with his loved ones. He had an exceptional ability to connect with people, and his warm and welcoming personality made him a cherished friend to many. In addition to his family, Bobby had a strong sense of community and was actively involved in local organizations. Bobby was a dedicated dog lover and therapy dog trainer. One of his many hobbies was performing with his dogs as a volunteer at hospitals and rest homes.

Bobby is survived by two daughters, Dona Golden and Brenda Urbanczyk, and three grandsons, Matthew Golden, Dylan Abernathy, Jacob Abernathy, and



one great-granddaughter, Sunny Abernathy. He will also be missed by his brothers, Sam Golden and wife, Nancy, Bill Golden and wife, Carole, John Golden and sister, Betty Cochran. Also, numerous extended family members and friends.

A private celebration of life will be held later at a date to be determined at the Golden Cowhouse Ranch near Pidcoke. The family kindly requests that donations be made in lieu of flowers to the Gatesville Boys and Girls Club, 2533 E. Main Street, Gatesville, Texas 76528.

Bobby will be remembered for his keen wit and love of fishing, hunting, dominoes and card games and his positive mental attitude in spite of his disabilities. His presence will be deeply missed, but his memory will live in the hearts of all who knew him.

Gloria Jean Davidson

Nov. 8, 1935 - March 6, 2024

Gloria Jean Mercer Davidson, age 88, passed away on March 6, 2024.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 12, at Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville. Interment followed at Davidson Cemetery immediately following the service.

Gloria was born to Samuel Rufus Sr. and Ina (Sanders) Mercer on Nov. 8, 1935. She grew up on a dairy farm in the Keeter community of Wise County and graduated from Boyd High School in 1954. After graduating from the University of North Texas in 1957, Gloria started a 13-year career as a first-grade teacher in the Fort Worth Independent School District. She married Robert Wesley Davidson on August 12, 1968, and they enjoyed more than 45 years of marriage together.

After moving their family to Coryell County in 1985, Gloria busied herself with growing all kinds of flowers and plants, reading, and collecting and trying out new recipes. But what gave her more pleasure than anything else was spending time with her only grandchild, Preston, and hearing about his



accomplishments and various school activities. Gloria was baptized into Christ in her early teens and was an active member of the Gatesville Church of Christ, forming many close and long-lasting friendships there.

Gloria was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Robert, in 2014; and her brother-in-law, Robert Oswald. She is survived by her son, John David Davidson and wife, Amy, and grandson, Preston Davidson, all of Gatesville; her sister, Vada Oswald, of Wichita Falls; her brother, Samuel Rufus "Junior" Mercer and wife, Catherine, of Keeter; her niece, Cathy Barrett; and her nephew, Robert Oswald.

Memorials may be made to the Gatesville Church of Christ.

Roy Dean Townsend

March 11, 1933 - March 4, 2024

Roy was born March 11, 1933, in Evant, to Sherod William Alexander Townsend and Ida Irene Harris Townsend. He was one of nine children born to the couple.

Roy graduated from Evant High School in 1952 and then went on to proudly serve our country in the U.S. Army from 1953-55. The next year he married the love of his life, Ethel Mae Dyer, on October 12, 1956. The two raised three children, Connie Lynn, Donna Kay, and Gary Dean. Roy was first and foremost a family man, who always dedicated his life to providing the best for his wife and children. He was always working hard, whether that be as a welder, restaurant owner, or running the family ranch. Rarely would you ever find him sitting still; he was always up and moving, tending to animals, or working in the yard. He was a dedicated husband who loved nothing more than his beloved wife's homemade sweets and a



great western.

He is survived by his wife, daughter Connie Lynn, and husband, Clint Mayhew; daughter Donna Kay and husband, Bryan Henry; son Gary Dean and wife, Susan Townsend; along with 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. He passed away peacefully on March 4, 2024, after a long battle with cancer.

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FREE QUOTES

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce with the Parrot Imports owners who were recently awarded the Business of the Month for March. The business has been family owned and operated by Guadalupe and Heliodoro Eufrazio since 2017. The Parrot Imports offers a variety of quality Mexican imports and will custom order products for the community if certain items are not in stock. To nominate future local businesses for the Business of the Month award, visit <https://www.gatesvillechamber.com/business-of-the-month>.

SUDOKU

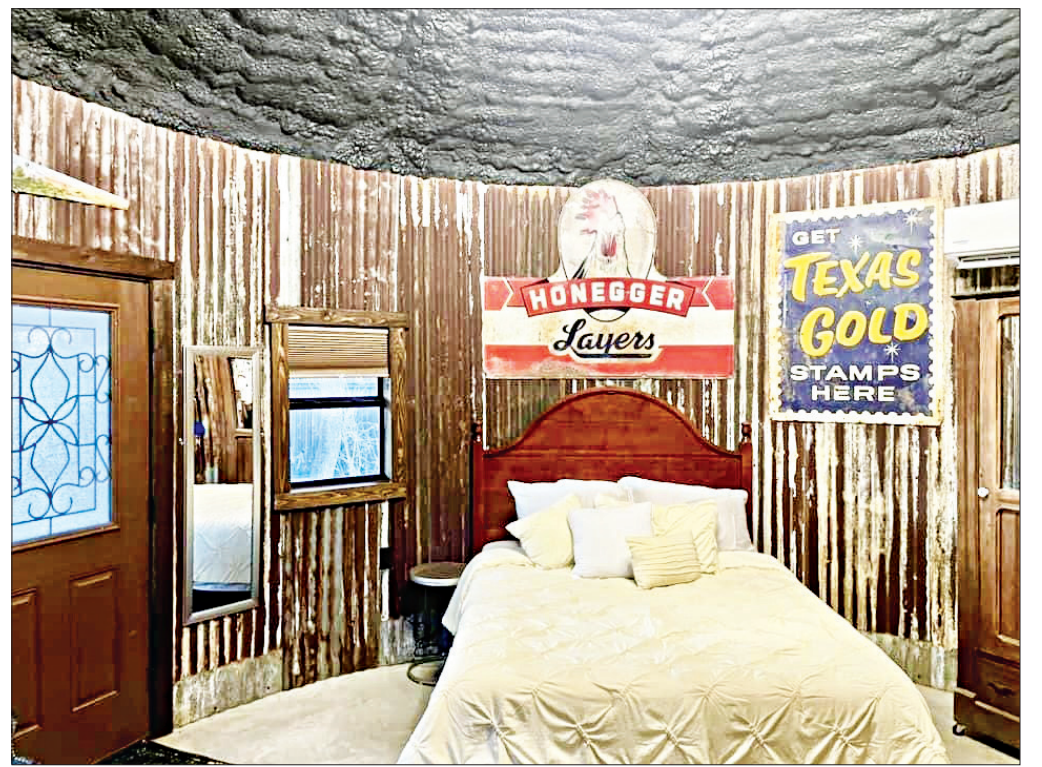
Puzzle answers from the March 9 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the two silo apartments located at the Texas Station Event Center. The silo pictured on the left is the Farm House, and the silo pictured on the right is The Country Store Inn. The photo on the right shows an inside look at one of the apartments, each featuring a queen bed and a bathroom.

Smith builds silo apartments in time for total eclipse

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Texas Station Event Center has been serving the community since 2004, and within that time, the establishment has been renovating and coming up with new ways to attract visitors.

Recently, Dean Smith, owner of Texas Station,

built two silo apartments as well as designed them and even decorated them with his all-time hobby, looking for unique, original antique signs.

"My dad, Dean Smith, is the true definition of an entrepreneur," Mendez said. "When he gets these visions of building something, you can bet within a couple years, he will have it done."

Mendez expressed that someone recently made a comment to Smith saying,

"You're breed no longer exists."

It only took Smith around two months to complete the silos without any help but his own.

"When he starts a project, you can bet he will work from sunup to sundown until it is finished," Mendez said.

One of the silos is called the Farm House, while the other is named The Country Store Inn. Each silo features a queen bed as well as a

bathroom.

The silos are available for daily, weekly, and weekend stays only at the cost of \$300 per night with a three-night minimum.

Both silos have already been rented out in time for the eclipse by individuals traveling from out of state to view the celestial event including Maryland, Chicago, and Alabama.

"Our RV Park has guests staying with us from Colorado, Michigan, Cali-

fornia, Kansas, Arkansas, South Dakota, Washington, Nevada, and a few other states," Mendez said.

Both silos are in a wooded area within the same property and within walking distance of Texas Station.

"We rent the event center for weddings, reunions, parties, festivals, cookouts, retired military events, and more," Mendez said. "So, he knew people would love to stay close to the venue on a weekend that is planned

for whatever event they are having."

For further details or to rent out a silo, contact the Texas Station Event Center at 254-223-4445.

The Texas Station Event Center is located at 305 Old Fort Gates Road in Gatesville.

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700-800 lb.	200-235

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301-400 lb.	330-410	301-400 lb.	285-320
401-500 lb.	290-332.50	401-500 lb.	260-315
501-600 lb.	270-310	501-600 lb.	245-280
601-700 lb.	250-293	600-700 lb.	205-252

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KGB to host Spring Clean-up

Staff Reports

The volunteers of Keep Gatesville Beautiful have decided it is time to clean up the community in preparation of the upcoming Total Eclipse weekend-long event.

The clean-up will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. All volunteers and participants will need to meet at the Gatesville Public Library.

Volunteers of the organization will provide trash bags, and gloves for the event.

If you are planning to attend the event, be sure to RSVP by text to 254-865-3675.

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

What is a Total Eclipse?

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

On Monday, April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun.

According to NASA, "The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk."

For this celestial event, the longest period of darkness will occur for

about two minutes and 40 seconds. The last time the U.S. saw a total eclipse was in 1979.

Exactly how the sun, moon, and earth align determines what kind of eclipse we see.

With a Total Eclipse, the moon moves directly in front of the sun and barely covers the solar disk. This allows observers in the center of the moon's shadow to briefly see the sun's outer atmosphere, the corona, which is too dim to see

when the bright solar disk is not covered.

The shadow that the moon casts has two main parts, which are the darker inner shadow called the umbra and a fainter outer shadow called the penumbra. Within the umbra, the sun's light is completely blocked. In the penumbra, the sun's light is only partially blocked.

To see a total solar eclipse, an observer must be within the umbra. Observers in the penum-

bra will witness a partial eclipse, with only part of the sun covered by the moon. Those outside the moon's shadow will see no eclipse at all.

As the shadow extends away from the moon, the umbra narrows or gets smaller. By the time it reaches earth, the umbra covers a relatively small area on our planet compared to the penumbra. That means the area that experiences a total eclipse is much smaller than the

area that experiences a partial eclipse. A typical umbral path may be less than 50 miles wide, while the penumbral zone can span a thousand miles or more.

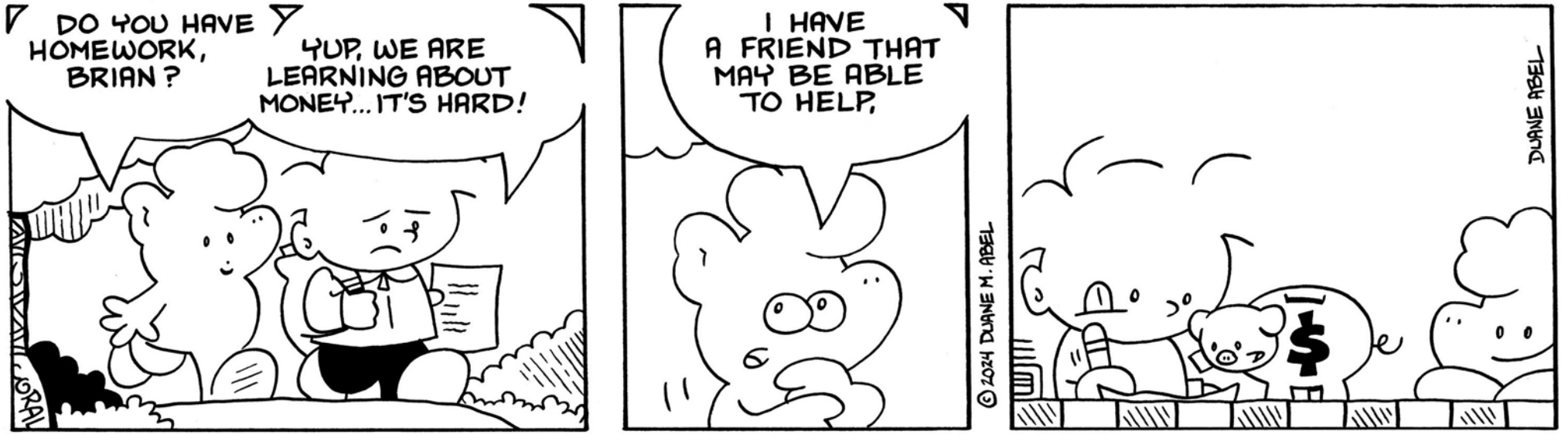
Because earth is continuously rotating, and the moon is constantly moving in its orbit, the moon's shadow will travel across earth's surface, tracing a path. This is called the eclipse path. Within this area is a smaller path traced by the umbra, called the

path of totality. The rapid movement of the moon in its orbit causes the shadow of the moon to sweep across the face of earth in just four to five hours. At any location along the path of totality, the total phase of a solar eclipse may last only a few minutes, or even less.

This will be the last total solar eclipse visible from the United States until August of 2044.

For further information, visit science.nasa.gov.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of March 6 - March 12. 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

March 6
6:14 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of West Main Street.
12:10 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 200 block of Valley View Drive.
7:29 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Woods Drive.
10:45 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Old Osage Road.
March 7
7:53 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2600 block of East Main Street.
8 a.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.
9 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 300 block of South 5th Street.
7:32 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1500 block of St. Louis Street.
March 8
8:41 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2100 block of East Main

Street.
8:44 a.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of North 27th Street.
5:13 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3000 block of West Highway 84.
9:55 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Cattle Drive.
March 9
10:48 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1400 block of St. Louis Steet.
11:34 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Carroll Drive.
5:33 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of Little Street.
7:07 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of State School Road.
March 10
12 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of Bridge Street.
3:04 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of East Main Street.
7:44 a.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the

100 block of Elm Street.
7:05 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of County Road 327.
March 11
1:44 p.m., a gas leak was reported in the 100 block of North 8th Street.
2:38 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
4:50 p.m., a fight was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.
8:39 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of South State Highway 36.
March 12
12 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of East Main Street.
12:37 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2200 block of East Main Street.
6:08 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.
9:58 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Linda's Lane.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

March 6
5:41 a.m., a threat was reported in the 1000 block of Lutheran Church Road.
6:08 a.m., suspicious activity was reported on FM 116 in the Pidcoke area.
9:27 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Barton Lane.
11:23 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.
March 7
11:16 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4500 block of East Highway 84.
11:19 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 3800 block of County Road 269.
5:05 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 3700 block of FM 1783.
5:21 p.m., trees in the roadway were reported on County Road 931.
March 8
12 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 600

block of Mountain Road.
7:38 a.m., a scam was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
11:29 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2900 block of Popular Drive.
3:37 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 300 block of Cattle Drive.
March 9
3:29 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 7200 block of South Highway 36.
6:51 p.m., road rage was reported on Highway 36.
7:25 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Old Pidcoke Road.
11:23 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 9500 block of East Highway 84.
March 10
12:17 a.m., an assault was reported in the 400 block of County Road 327.
12:25 a.m., a domestic dispute was reported in the 400 block of County Road 327.
6:25 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the

2300 block of FM 215.
7:05 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1000 block of Lutheran Church Road.
March 11
10:15 a.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of East Leon.
1:42 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 303.
2:55 p.m., harassment was reported in the 7700 block of FM 929.
4:56 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of Branson Lane.
March 12
9:52 a.m., a theft was reported in the 3000 block of FM 1113.
1:39 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of Julia.
4:52 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 2900 block of Popular Drive.
10:11 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of South U.S. Highway 281.

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Coryell County

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CALVARY
Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 & FM 116; Sunday Bible study 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
CANAAN
Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

COLD SPRINGS
Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
EASTWOOD
Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST EVANT
Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' & youth Bible study 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST FLAT
7175 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 10:45 a.m.; Wednesdays - Children & Youth 5:30-7:00 p.m. (supper provided), Adult Bible Study 6-7:00 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
Jeremy Sanders, Pastor; 120 College Ave.; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 am; Wednesdays - supper at 5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth Group 6 p.m., Prayer meeting 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY
Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
HARMONY
A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.
HAY VALLEY
3110 Hay Valley Road; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. AWANA children's ministry Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible Study for men & women on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
JONESBORO
Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.

KING
Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY
Royle T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK
Pastor Matthew Hamilton; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evening Youth & Children's Bible Study 6 p.m.
MOUNTAIN
Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.
OSAGE
Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
2082 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m.
PECAN GROVE
6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PIDCOKE
Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.
PLEASANT VALLEY
Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL
One mile north of Evant, Hwy. 281; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PURMELA BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor: Brenden Hough; 875 FM 932, Purmela, TX 76566; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
SWEET HOME
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SPANISH
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TRINITY
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WESTVIEW
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WHITE HALL
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WHITE MOUND
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
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4605 St. Hwy. 36 S., Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
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6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
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Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.
LUTHERAN IMMANUEL
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ST. JOHN
Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
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Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901.
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Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker; Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wednesdays 6 p.m. 407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5, Gatesville.
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Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.; 2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-9472.
GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN
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LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday worship 10:45 am.
MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE
William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday Services 9 a.m.
THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.
PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE
Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826.
MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 514 N. 13th St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesdays Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday service, 7:30 p.m.
PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN
Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
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060 GARAGE SALE

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PARKING LOT SALE! Sat., 03/23, 9 a.m. - 12 Noon. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00030653

Yard Sale: 112 Lakewood Dr. Sat., March 16, 7 a.m.-? Lots of clothes/kids-3x, shoes, kitchen gadgets, small appliances, exercise bike, Christmas decorations, toys. All priced to sell! Much more! 00030665

Community Yard Sale: March 15, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Turnersville Community Center, 8113 FM 182, Gatesville. Raffles & Bake Sale. Activities for kids! 00030671

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE! March 16, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., 307 Valley View Dr. Clothes, shoes, many decorations, and lots of miscellaneous items! 00030673

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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice By Publication: Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Private Club Registration Permit and Private Club Late Hours Permit by Somewhere Else nonprofit corporation DBA Somewhere Else to be located at 3109 South Highway 36, Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Melanie Taylor, President; Tonya Ruff, VP; and Terri Gonzales, Secretary/Treasurer. 00030663

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville, TX 76528, is having an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at storageauctions.com beginning Monday, April 1, 2024 at 11 A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Bidding sale will end on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 11 A.M. Units to be sold: Stephanie Williams, Nathan Benfer, Zachary Parker, Taylor Ellis, and Skylar Franks. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools, misc. items. 00030679

060 GARAGE SALE

MOVING SALE March 15-16 • 903 Scenic Dr. • 9am-6pm Motorcycle, gas golf cart, medical scooter, bicycle, garage/outdoor items, home decor/furnishings, music/books, electronics/computers, collectibles, trailer, bus seat, etc. POSTPONED Use for Sale = \$369,000 Cowboy Real Estate Team Diana Barnett GRI 254-423-7590 1707 E. Main St., Gatesville • Office 254-865-5006

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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of BENJAMIN NAPOLEON CROCKETT, JR., Deceased, were issued on February 27, 2024 in Cause No. 23-10886, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: CAROLYN GIBBONS.

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

c/o: Mary Wiley Attorney at Law 100 W. Central Texas Expressway Suite 302 Harker Heights, Texas 76548

DATED the 7 day of March, 2024.

MARY WILEY Attorney for CAROLYN GIBBONS State Bar No.: 24032669 100 W. Central Texas Expressway Suite 302 Harker Heights, Texas 76548 Telephone: (254) 634-6969 Facsimile: (254) 634-6587 E-mail: mary@lindleylawoffices.com 00030675

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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

JENNIFER NEWTON CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT P.O. BOX 237

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE ALLEN D. PLACE, JR. 109 SOUTH 7TH ST. GATESVILLE, TX 76528

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS UNKNOWN ADDRESS UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF TERRI LYNNE MAGEE, DECEASED. CAUSE NO 24-10973, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. SUE MAGEE FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 5TH DAY OF MARCH 2024, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SAID TERRI LYNNE MAGEE, DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2024, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS.

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

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 6TH DAY OF MARCH 2024.

JENNIFER NEWTON CORYELL COUNTY CLERK CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: K. PALLEY 00030672

070 LAND & LOTS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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045 SERVICES

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045 SERVICES

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DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Roamin' Chariots car club recently held a car show on the historic courthouse square with about 20 cars on display for the public. The car show was described as a "Cruise In" and many folks driving by the square dropped by to see some of the unique antique cars from the past.



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Gatesville Hornets follow solid tournament showing with rout of Palestine

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Gatesville baseball followed a solid showing in the Franklin Tournament with a 9-0 rout of Palestine on March 12 to capture their tenth win of the season and continue the best start to a season in the Chase Smith era.

The win over Palestine ran Gatesville's record to 10-5-1, the best sixteen-game start in Smith's four seasons as head coach. Last season, the Hornets were 10-6 through 16 games.

The win over the Wildcats saw Clayton Gregory and John Ibarra combine for a three-hit shutout, while the Hornets offense banged out 10 hits and scored all nine runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Justin Muegge led the offense with three hits and three RBI, while Logan Biggs had two hits.

In Franklin, Gatesville blanked Cameron 1-0, beat Smithville 3-2, and topped Lorena 8-3. Their only loss was a 3-0 setback against Waxahachie Life.

Ace Bralen Veazey allowed just one-hit in his shutout of Cameron in the tournament opener. He struck out seven Yoemen and also drove in the only run of the game when his first-inning single scored Biggs. Veazey, Lawson Mooney, and Justin Johnson each had two hits in the win.

Bradey James scattered three hits and allowed one earned run in to get the win over Smithville. Ibarra threw two innings of one-hit ball to pick up the save. The Hornets trailed 1-0 before scoring all three of their runs in the top of the fourth inning.

Ibarra drew a two-out walk to load the bases. Then Biggs laced a single to left field to

score Veazey and Miles Tull and give Gatesville a 2-1 lead. Ibarra scored on a wild pitch to make it 3-1. Biggs had a pair of hits in the game, while James had the only other hit.

In the loss to Waxahachie Life, the Hornets managed just four hits and drew one walk but stayed in the game thanks to the pitching of Tull, who allowed just two earned runs in his 5.1 innings of work.

The Hornets had a stretch of 12 innings of scoreless baseball that began in the fifth inning of the Smithville win and didn't end until the fourth inning of the win over Lorena.

PITCHING AND DEFENSE

"It was a little frustrating all weekend for us at the plate. We had some opportunities in a couple games but couldn't get the timely hits. The guys are starting to believe in pitching and defense and its ability to keep us in and give us a chance to win every game. Our guys were bound to bust out and they finally have put some runs on the board for us the past couple games," said Smith.

Gehrig Keeton took the mound for the Hornets against Lorena and threw a five-hit, one-earned run, complete-game to get the win. The Leopards scored all three of their runs in the bottom of the third and led 3-0 until the Gatesville offense came alive in the top of the fourth.

Johnson opened the inning with a double to left field and scored when Muegge ripped a single to left field to cut the deficit to 3-1.

In the top of the sixth inning, the Hornets scored five times to put the game away. After Collyn Coleman scored on a wild pitch

to cut the Lorena lead to 3-2, Biggs flared a two-run single to centerfield and scored Muegge and Johnson to take a 4-3 lead.

Biggs and Tull scored later in the inning when Mooney reached on an error and gave the Hornets a 6-4 lead. Gatesville tacked on two more runs in the top of the seventh before Keeton slammed the door with a pair of strikeouts to end the game.

Johnson went 4-4 in the win over the Leopards, continuing his solid senior season. Johnson is hitting .340 so far this season and has seen time at second base, shortstop, and all three outfield positions. He has also made four relief pitching appearances.

"He does fly under the radar but he has been one of the most consistent guys for us the past couple of seasons. He is a great teammate and a team first guy. He is also one of the best on the bases. He does a great job with dirt ball reads and is so good at taking the extra base when he gets the chance," Smith said of Johnson. "He's definitely has been a spark for us offensively lately and has quietly been really good defensively and on the mound. Really proud of him and all the hard work he has put in."

In the win over Palestine, seven different players had a hit, and Veazey walked three times.

Muegge started the scoring with a two-run single in the bottom of the fourth inning to give Gatesville a 2-0 lead. A Biggs single scored Keeton to make it 3-0, then Tull drove home Muegge for a 4-0 lead.

After Mooney drove in Biggs with a single, Veazey drew a bases loaded walk to give

Gatesville a 6-0 lead. Johnson followed with a walk of his own that scored Cayden Brister to make it 7-0. Muegge drove in the final run of the inning with another RBI single to make it 9-0.

Gregory - who missed the Franklin tournament due to illness - gave up just two hits in three innings in his return. Ibarra threw 3.2 innings and allowed just one hit.

In their last five games, the Hornet pitching staff has allowed only five earned runs. With two weeks remaining until the start of district, Smith noted that his team needs to continue to improve in all areas but that their offense - at the plate and on the bases - will need to be sharper if the Hornets want to contend for a district championship.

"We have got to play clean defense and not run into outs on the bases. We have made some silly mistakes on the bases that have killed our momentum at times and we can't do that against the teams we play in our district. At the plate we have got to be better situational hitters and move up and score runners when we get in big situations, because I have a feeling like a lot of our games already it will come down to a run or two and who doesn't make that costly mistake that will be the difference maker in those big district games," he said.

Gatesville visited Taylor on March 15 and then travels to Temple on March 16. They will travel to Brownwood to face their old 6-4A foes on March 19 then host 3A No. 9 Franklin on March 23. They will open district play at Robinson on March 25.



COURTESY PHOTO

GHS baseball player Justin Johnson.



COURTESY PHOTO

GHS baseball player Gehrig Keeton.

Gatesville Tennis to hold after school practice for youth

Staff Reports

After school tennis practices will be held every Tuesday and Thursday for

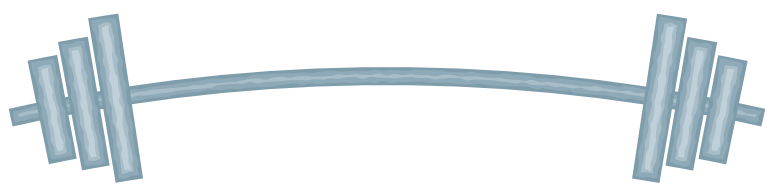
the sixth through eighth graders of the community. The practices will include a dynamic blend of fun

and challenge, which is designed to elevate your game to new heights. On Tuesdays, youth can

gather from 3:45-5:30 p.m. to learn new drills using a lobster ball machine as well as coach-fed play.

On Thursdays, from 3:45-5:30 p.m. there will be many games designed to mimic match play as well as orga-

nized match play. The tennis Courts are located behind the Gatesville Intermediate School.



GHS powerlifting athletes advance to state competition

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School boys powerlifting team finished fourth place in their regional meet with two lifters qualifying for the upcoming state competition.

Senior Zach Bryant and L.J. Hall punched tickets to state at the regional meet. Bryant won gold in the superheavyweight weight

class with a three-lift total of 1,770 pounds which includes 705 pounds with squat, 485 on the bench, and 580 pounds with deadlift.

Hall took silver in the 165-pound class with a total of 1,440 pounds, which includes 500 pounds with squat, 425 on the bench, and 515 pounds with deadlift.

Gatesville High School

had three other lifters earn top five medals, which include David Sims, third place with a total of 1,235 pounds; Caden Brister, fifth place with a total of 1,005 pounds; and Dutch Nielson, fifth place with a total of 1,195 pounds.

The Texas High School Powerlifting Association (THSPA) state meet will be held on Friday, March 22 in Abilene.



GHS boys and girls soccer teams clinch playoff berths

Submitted Item

Gatesville High School boys' soccer played at Brownwood March 8 and were able to earn a tie with Brownwood, with a score of 1-1. The boys got a goal from Hector Silva in the closing minutes with an assist from Oswaldo Leon to secure the tie. On Tuesday, the boys lost to #4 ranked Salado, 1-3, getting a goal

from Dustin Spilman, with the assist from Oswaldo Leon and Abraham Almandariz.

Prior to the games, the Hornets had secured a third-place district finish. Their playoff game opponent and date are yet to be decided. The boys finished their regular season, 12-4-4, with a 57 to 19 goal differential.

Gatesville girls lost to

Brownwood, 0-3, on March 8. The girls have two remaining games on the year. They play at Salado and China Spring to close out their season. The girls have secured a 5th place finish in a very difficult 7-team district, which includes two top-five teams, #3 Salado and #5 Stephenville, with China Spring and Brownwood just out of the top 25.

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Oglesby Tiger basketball team honored with various awards

Staff Reports

The Oglesby Independent School District's boys basketball team, as well as Coach Williamson, were given a plethora of All-District

awards this past week.

To be awarded with All-District is an honor in which students and coaches are given for working hard on the court and in the class-

room.

The awards include: Coach Larry Williamson, Coach of the Year. Landon Williamson, District MVP.

Kyler Fossett, Defensive MVP.

Edward Aviles Jr., 1st team All-District. Hunter Walter, 1st team All-District.

Alex Castillo, 2nd team All-District.

Johnny Gomez, All-District Honorable Mention. Jack Hendricks, All-District Honorable Mention.

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

Oglesby ISD is located at 125 College Ave. in Oglesby.



Pictured top row, left to right: Landon Williamson, Kyler Fossett, Edward Aviles Jr., and Hunter Walter. Bottom row, from left: Alex Castillo, Johnny Gomez, and Jack Hendricks.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Evant Elks, Lady Elks receive All-District awards

Staff Reports

The Evant Independent School District Elks and Lady Elks have been honored in receiving multiple All-District awards for their efforts during this basketball season.

The team was led by coaches Kyle Edwards and Sara

LaComb.

The Lady Elks awards include:

Luwi Rodriguez, 1st team All-District and Academic All-District.

Molly Waldrum, 1st team All-District and Academic All-District.

Hailey Neri, 2nd team All-

District.

Daritzza Escamilla, 2nd team All-District and Academic All-District.

Bree Ramirez, Honorable Mention All-District and Academic All-District.

Brinlea Bates, Honorable Mention All-District.

Harley Weeks, Honorable

Mention All-District and Academic All-District.

Izzy Grandy, Academic All-District.

Madison Wilson, Academic All-District.

Bella Kolajo, Academic All-District.

Maya Reynolds, Academic All-District.

Daisy Mondragon, Academic All-District.

Aubrey Kelley, Academic All-District.

The Evant Elks awards include:

Hunter White, 1st team All-District.

Cason Ingram, 2nd team All-District.

Jacob Turner, 2nd team All-District.

Caystin Forrest, All-District Honorable Mention.

Dylan Price, All-District Honorable Mention.

Wyatt Hitt, All-District Honorable Mention.

For further details, contact Evant ISD at 254-471-5536.



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Evant ISD 2024 to 2025 cheerleaders announced

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District recently announced the 2024 to 2025 Varsity and Junior High cheerleaders as well as the mascot this past

week.

The varsity team includes Bella Kolajo, Brinlea Bates, Maya Reynolds, Daritzza Escamilla, Adrianna Garcia, and Mascot Mariela Zarate.

The Junior High School

cheerleaders include Brooklyn Goforth, Nya'Bella Garcia, KK Barron, Madison Davis, Gabby Kolajo, Alex Logan, and Madeline Hall.

For further details, contact Evant ISD at 471-5536.

Evant ISD powerlifting team concludes season

Staff Reports

The powerlifting team at Evant Independent School District recently completed their second year as a program.

"Last year, we only went to one meet," Evant ISD powerlifting coach Brandon Young said. "This year we went to two meets, and we are hoping to expand our numbers and increase our number of meets in the future."

Results for the last meet held at Comanche ISD include:

Senior Keoni Edwards, second year lifter:

squat, 330; bench, 230; and deadlift, 425.

Sophomore Jolyce Acosta, first year lifter: squat, 160; bench, 70; and deadlift, 230.

"I think Jolyce with a little work has a good shot at getting out and making regionals next year," Young said.

For further details regarding the Evant ISD powerlifting team, contact Evant ISD at 254-471-5536.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Bengtsson takes 2nd again, Huidobro finishes tied-5th to lead Texans at Colin Montgomerie Invitational

Tarleton State University

SUGAR LAND — Max Bengtsson continued his tear on the course on March 4-5, taking silver for the second straight tournament, his third top-two finish over his last four events. Teammate Alvaro Huidobro finished tied-fifth for the Texans to lead Tarleton State at the Colin Montgomerie Invitational in Sugar Land.

Both Bengtsson and Huidobro turned in under-par efforts in all three rounds at Sweetwater Country Club, Bengtsson firing two -5 rounds and Huidobro shooting -4 to end the tournament. Bengtsson placed second in the 80-man field at -12 (67-70-67) and Huidobro finished tied-fifth at -8 (70-70-68).

The Texans took sixth out of 15 teams, as they were rounded out by Carson Gallaher at +4 (72-73-75, tied-47th), Bladen Samaniego at +7 (74-73-76, tied-54th) and Chandler Barch at +16 (77-79-76, tied-76th).

"It was another great week for Max and it's good to see him keep building on that

confidence," head coach Chance Cain said. "This week was a little different with his ball striking being a little off, but he scored really well. He has worked really hard on his short game this year and it showed by converting a lot of par saves when he needed to. So it's good for him to see when he doesn't have his best that he can still compete to the top of the leaderboard."

Bengtsson added to his terrific sophomore campaign with his third top-two finish in his last four tournaments, and his fourth top-20 result of the season. He tied atop the field in Par 5 scoring at -10, averaging a 4.17 gross score on Par 5's, scoring two eagles and 14 birdies throughout the 54-hole event.

Bengtsson had a great start to the tournament, posting an eagle on his second hole, then he holed three straight birdies after the turn to find himself -5 through 12. He finished the round at -5 (67). After a -2 effort in Round 2 with five birdies and three bogeys, Bengtsson again played a near spotless round Tuesday, posting another ea-

gle on the same hole (No. 2), plus adding birdies on holes 10-12 again.

In the three tournaments he's finished in the top-two recently, Bengtsson has shot -15, -5 and -12, respectively.

"I'm super happy for Alvaro, too, and it's good to see his hard work pay off by putting three solid rounds together to get his first top-five finish," Cain said. "He's had a new attitude going into the semester and he's putting in the work to be a more well-rounded player. It's always good to see when two guys finish in the top-five, and we will keep improving through our last part of the spring season."

Huidobro shot back-to-back rounds of 70 on Monday, opening his day with seven birdies in the first round and four birdies in Round 2. On Tuesday, Huidobro shot a career-best -4 (68), rebounding from a bogey on his first hole with a -4 stretch over his next nine.

Huidobro shot the most birdies across the entire tournament with 18. He was also tied-fifth in Par 4 scoring



COURTESY PHOTO

Max Bengtsson continued his tear on the course on March 4-5, taking silver for the second straight tournament, his third top-two finish over his last four events.

at -3, averaging a 3.9 gross score. His top-five finish was the best of his career, surpassing his tied-30th finish just a few weeks ago at the Bentwater Intercollegiate.

Gallaher had his best round in Round 1, going -2 over his nine holes to finish even through 18. He shot the tied-seventh most pars in the tour-

namment with 37. Samaniego had the tied-third most pars with 38.

Tarleton's team score was its second best of the season, only behind its third place -26 (838) efforts at the Monterrey International Invitational in October. NMJC won the tournament in Sugar Land at -17 (847). Houton's Jacob

Borrow was the medalist at -16 (66-65-69).

The Texans are now halfway through their six regular season spring tournaments before they head to the WAC Championship at the end of April. Next up for Tarleton State is The Big Texan in Kerrville at Riverhill Country Club March 25-26.

Tarleton State falls victim to Utah Valley late run

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Men's Basketball was unable to hold its halftime

lead and fell victim to a late Wolverine run to fall to Utah Valley, 63-60, Thursday, March 7 in Wisdom Gym.

The Wolverines (15-15

overall, 10-9 WAC) snapped the Texans (22-8, 15-4) 10-game winning streak that was the second-longest active in the nation.

Devon Barnes led the team in scoring for the eighth time this season with 18, snapping the Texans' 13-game streak of consecutive 20-plus points by at least one Texan. Barnes also added two assists and two rebounds.

Jakorie Smith led the team with eight boards and added 16 points. KiAndre Gaddy posted seven points, seven boards and two blocks.

The Texans jumped out to an early lead taking a 40-30 lead at the break. Tarleton shot just below 50% from the floor, 48.6%. Smith led the squad with 12 of his 16 points in the first half. Utah Valley did not make a three-pointer, shooting seven.

Tarleton's largest lead of the game came with 13:09 remaining in the second half. TSU was up by 13, 51-38 with 13:09 remaining in the sec-

ond half. The Wolverines cut the lead to eight, with a 5-0 run with four coming from Drake Allen.

The Texans found themselves up 58-46 with 9:18 to go, but then the Wolverines defense kicked in. An 8-0 run started by four straight Allen points, brought the UVU deficit to four with 6:11 to play.

Emmanuel Innocenti made the Purple and White's final basket of the game to put TSU up 60-54 with 5:52 remaining. Three straight made free throws by the Wolverines tied the game at 60 with two minutes to go. After another pair of free throws, TSU trailed for the first time in the half with a minute remaining. A turnover and missed layup in the Texans' next two possessions set up two UVU free throws with 11.1 ticks to go. UVU missed the pair be-

fore Williams ran the length of the floor and missed a corner triple with just under three seconds left. The Wolverines' Allen missed his second free throw, giving the Texans hope with 1.8 remaining and the ball under the basket. After back-to-back timeouts, the ball found Williams at half court where his half court jumper was off-line, giving Utah Valley the 63-60 upset victory.

Tarleton shot 24-for-66 from the floor, a 36.4% rate. The Texans were just under 20% from deep, four-for-21. The Wolverines won the battle of the boards, 49-40, with UVU pulling down 20 offensive boards. The Texans lost the turnover battle for just the sixth time this season, 13-11.



EMMA VANBECELAERE | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Devon Barnes looking to pass the ball to an open Texan while being blocked by Utah Valley.

Texans start out hot, go cold in loss at Utah Valley

Tarleton State University

OREM, Utah — Tarleton State couldn't miss in the first half but couldn't maintain that hot shooting all night in its loss at Utah Valley 73-66 March 7.

The Texans (9-19, 6-13 WAC) led 39-35 at halftime thanks to a 13-of-21 (.619) clip from the field, 3-of-5 (.600) from distance and 10-of-10 from the free throw line. That flipped in the second half, as they shot 7-of-22 (.318) from the field and 1-of-6 (.167) from distance. The Wolverines (10-18, 5-14 WAC) took advantage and won at UCCU Center in Orem Thursday night to keep their WAC Tournament hopes alive.

Tarleton State is still in great shape to make the WAC Tournament. The Texans are tied-seventh in the WAC standings as of the completion of Thursday night's games, and with the current head-to-head tiebreaker against Seattle U, the Redhawks hold the No. 7 seed and Tarleton the No. 8 seed. Those two teams square

off in the regular season finale Saturday in Seattle. The winner of that game will be the No. 7 seed in the WAC Tournament, and the loser may be the No. 8 seed or be done for the season.

Looking at the other teams in the mix, Southern Utah, UTRGV and Utah Valley are all tied for ninth in the standings at 5-14, a game back of Tarleton and Seattle U. Southern Utah and UTRGV play each other Saturday, and Utah Valley hosts Abilene Christian. There are eight scenarios that can play out on Saturday between the five teams fighting for two spots, and unless there are extreme swings in the WAC Resume Seeding System due to other results across the country, Tarleton clinches a spot in the WAC Tournament in seven of the eight scenarios. Scenario 1: Tarleton wins, Southern Utah wins and Utah Valley wins, Tarleton would be No. 7, Southern Utah would be No. 8. Scenario 2: Tarleton wins, Southern Utah wins, Utah Valley loses, Tarleton would be No. 7, Southern Utah would be No. 8. Scenario 3:

Tarleton wins, UTRGV wins, Utah Valley wins, Tarleton would be No. 7, Utah Valley would be No. 8. Scenario 4: Tarleton wins, UTRGV wins, Utah Valley loses, Tarleton would be No. 7, UTRGV would be No. 8. Scenario 5: Seattle U wins, Southern Utah wins, Utah Valley wins, Seattle U would be No. 7, Tarleton would be No. 8. Scenario 6: Seattle U wins, Southern Utah wins, Utah Valley loses, Seattle U would be No. 7, Tarleton would be No. 8. Scenario 7: Seattle U wins, UTRGV wins, Utah Valley wins, Seattle U would be No. 7, Utah Valley would be No. 8. Scenario 8: Seattle U wins, UTRGV wins, Utah Valley loses, Seattle U would be No. 7, Tarleton would be No. 8.

Essentially, the only scenario in which the Texans won't earn a spot in the WAC Tournament is if they lose on Saturday, UTRGV beats Southern Utah and Utah Valley beats Abilene Christian.

Now, back to Thursday's game.

The Wolverines outshot the Texans overall 24-of-49 (.490

to 20-of-43 (.465), and made six more threes, draining 10-of-15 (.667) from outside to 4-of-11 (.364) by Tarleton. The Texans made their first 20 free throws of the game, finishing 22-of-24 (.917) from the stripe to Utah Valley's 15-of-21 (.714) mark.

Overall, these two teams were fairly even across the board, with five lead changes and four ties throughout. The largest lead for each team was seven points; Utah Valley held a slim rebounding advantage 26-24 and had one fewer turnover, 18-17. The 18 turnovers by the Texans come after they had only 16 over their last two games combined.

Utah Valley started up 11-4 midway through the first quarter, and Tarleton responded with six straight. The Texans led 19-18 after the first quarter. In the second frame, the Texans took their largest lead of seven multiple times in the middle of the quarter, leading 39-35 at the break. The Wolverines opened the third quarter with a 9-2 run to lead 44-41, and they maintained a lead the re-



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State couldn't miss in the first half but couldn't maintain that hot shooting all night in its loss at Utah Valley 73-66 March 7.

mainder of the frame, headed to the fourth up 53-50. Utah Valley actually maintained that lead the remainder of the game, with Tarleton down by just a couple of possessions most of the way.

Tarleton had four score in double figures, three with 12 and one with 11. Elise Turruabates tallied 12 points (8-8 FT), five rebounds, three assists and a tied-career-high five steals. Jakoriah Long totaled 12 points on 4-of-8 shooting, five rebounds, four assists and two steals. Teresa Da Silva led the bench with

12 points on 5-of-8 shooting, including 2-of-3 from deep, adding two assists in 20 minutes. Miannah Little had 11 points on 3-of-6 shooting.

Utah Valley's Tahlia White had a game-high 25 points (8-16 FG, 5-8 3PT, 4-4 FT), adding four steals and two blocks. Ally Criddle finished with 11 points (4-6 FG), seven assists and three rebounds. Kyle Mabry had 11 points (4-7 FG), and Eleyana Tafisi just missed double-double, recording nine points and 10 assists, along with six turnovers.

EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby



The Exchange Club's Students of the Month. Back row (left to right): Noah Smith and Wyatt Dunbar. Front row (left to right): Jo Ann Sugg, Anna Phillips, Zoee Gribble, Matti Mann, Cayleigh Coursey, and Georg Cleverly.

KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Daddy-Daughter Dance set for April 20

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Education Foundation has announced that the third annual Daddy-Daughter Dance and Spring Fling will be held on Saturday, April 20.

The event will take place at the Gatesville Civic Center and will have multiple time slots for each age group.

Time slots will include prekindergarten through first grade from 5:30-7:30 p.m., second grade through fourth grade from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and fifth and sixth grade will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

If you have daughters in multiple time slots, select the time that works best for the family.

The cost for tickets will be \$25 for a dad and daughter and an additional five dollars for each extra daughter. It will be \$10 extra for an additional male individual.

There will be a registration form sent home to all students at each campus after spring break, as well as a link for an online registration form.

Be sure to bring cash for various raffles.

For further details, contact the Gatesville Education Foundation at 254-865-7251.

The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.

Gatesville Exchange Club honors GHS seniors

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Exchange Club of Gatesville recognized six high school seniors at their weekly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 29.

From September through February, the organization selects students who are nominated by a teacher for their outstanding qualities. This recognition is based not only on academics, but also on character, school and community involvement, and leadership abilities.

Students selected during the year will be recognized again at the Golden Deeds Banquet in April. After another round of scoring by club members, the two students with the highest scores will receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Exchange Club.

The students of the month for January and February are Noah Smith, Cayleigh Coursey, Wyatt Dunbar, Zoee Gribble, Anna Phillips, and Matti Mann.

"We hope that wherever you go, that you'll please take the time to be an active member in your community and to use that leadership and knowledge that you have to make a difference wherever you live," Exchange Club Treasurer JoAnn Sugg said.

Noah Smith was nominated by his Honors World History teacher Bonnie Latham, who praised his dedication to academic excellence, maturity, and sense of humor.

Smith has been recognized by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) for literary criticism and current events. Smith's extracurricular achievements include serving as a drum major in band and as a member of the Skills USA Health Science chapter, where he has won first and third place awards in state competitions.

He has work experience as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at Coryell Health and as a cashier at Gatesville's HEB. He plans to attend the University of Texas and study nursing.

"He is respectful, thoughtful, and a young man I would have my own son look up to," Latham said. "Noah's passionate drive, determination, and sense of responsibility coupled with his intrinsic motivation will produce excellence in any circumstance and grace your organization or program as a bright star."

Cayleigh Coursey was nominated by two of her teachers: Sarah Blanchard and Jeanette Schlicke-Collins, who commended her work ethic and drive.

"She is intelligent, a natural leader, enjoys a good challenge, and excellent when collaborating with others," Blanchard said. "Cayleigh is punctual, attentive, organized, trustworthy, and very responsible."

Coursey held several positions in her FFA chapter throughout her high school tenure, including reporter, vice president, and president. She also served as class treasurer, senior editor for the yearbook, executive board treasurer for student council, and captain of the varsity soccer team.

Along with extracurricular activities, Coursey's volunteer experience includes serving as a Pre-K teacher in her church and as a Coryell County 4-H ambassador. On the academic side, she has received awards in her history and science classes.

Coursey plans to study animal science at Blinn College and then transfer to Texas A&M University to continue her studies.

"Cayleigh is a true joy to be around, she has a very keen drive and determination to succeed in life as evidenced by the many organizations she is involved in," Schlicke-Collins said. "This drive has pushed her to work hard on her studies and to keep a focus on family life and volunteer work as well."

WORK ETHIC

Wyatt Dunbar was nominated by Gatesville ISD's GEAR UP Site Facilitator, Sarah Coker, who said his maturity and diligent work ethic immediately caught her attention.

Dunbar has received several academic awards, including an honor as a National Merit Finalist Superintendent's Scholar. He has been honored by the UIL for mathematics, number sense, literary criticism, and spelling.

Dunbar also served as a drum captain in marching band and a member of the Texas State Rifle Association junior team where he earned 14 out of 30 EIC (Excellence in Competition Points) at the National Matches in Camp Perry, Ohio. He played baseball during his freshman and sophomore

year as well as volunteered at his church, library, and the 4-H gun range.

Dunbar has been accepted to Texas A&M University. He hopes to study aerospace engineering and have the opportunity to work with NASA in the future.

"It is rare that a student can be involved in so many things and do it with a smile," Coker said. "I know that Wyatt is destined for great things and I'm excited to see where he goes with his college and career goals."

GENUINELY COMMITTED

Zoee Gribble was nominated by GHS librarian, Summer Erwin, who teaches Gribble in yearbook and broadcasting. Erwin describes Gribble as "diligent, tenacious, focused, and genuinely committed to excellence in her academic work and extracurricular activities."

Gribble participated in student council throughout high school and served as historian for her class. She was involved in the yearbook and held the editor position during her senior year.

Gribble also participated on the varsity cheer team and in FFA where she received honors in district. In community service, she served as a county and state ambassador for Coryell County 4-H and has volunteered in her church's youth group. She has work experience as a nursery assistant and customer service assistant at HEB.

Gribble plans to attend Blinn College to study marketing.

"She goes above and beyond in all that I ask of her and is always willing to assist in any area that is needed," Erwin said. "As an editor, she is committed to her leadership responsibilities and excels at planning, organizing, problem-solving, and motivating other students. I value Zoee's hard work and determination and can always rely on her when a task needs to be completed."

Anna Phillips was also nominated by Erwin, who was her teacher in broadcasting. Erwin said Phillips is always very polite, respectful, and willing to help.

Erwin adds that even as a high school student, Phillips has successfully managed school, extracurricular activities, and a job. She is part of the National Honor

Society and has earned academic all-district for three years. She was also on the varsity cheerleading team, where she received several awards, including most coachable and most creative.

Phillips spent all four years of high school in choir, where she became president for three years and received the Texas Music Education Association scholar award. Her volunteer activities included little hornet cheer camp, Gatesville Care Center, and the library. She has managed the concession stand at the city ballpark since 2019.

Phillips plans to attend Belmont University in Nashville to pursue a degree in music business with an emphasis on production.

"She is reliable, responsible, driven, enthusiastic, and does everything with a smile," Erwin said. "As a result of these strengths and experiences, I am confident that she will be successful in all her future endeavors."

Matti Mann was nominated by her agricultural science teacher Amanda Latham who said Mann has proven herself to excel not only academically, but also through her involvement in school and volunteer organizations.

Mann has been involved in FFA throughout high school, including serving as historian in her senior year. She was a 4-H ambassador for nine years and has volunteered for several organizations, including becoming a junior camp counselor for five years, collecting food for the local care center, and packing over 150 Operation Christmas Child boxes.

She has received academic awards such as the Hornet Fight Never Dies award and A/B honor roll. She also played on the varsity basketball team her freshman, sophomore, and senior year.

Mann plans to attend Blinn College in the fall for her associate degree and then apply for a dental hygiene program.

"Matti is a very well-balanced student. She excels in extracurricular events, while also maintaining an excellent academic record," Latham said. "Matti is the ideal student who has a passion for learning and helping others."

GISD to hold free heart screenings

Staff Reports

The Athletics Department of Gatesville Independent School District has partnered again this year with the Cody Stephens Foundation to offer free heart screenings (ECC's/EKG's) to students.

The free screenings will be done on Monday, March 25 at Gatesville High School's Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium during school hours; parents will not need to be present during the time of the screenings.

This offer is available to all current Gatesville ISD student athletes, sixth grade pre-athletic students, and to any high school or junior high school student that participates in any other extracurricular activities.

Consent forms will be sent home for students to complete. The forms should be returned to your child's coach or the athletic trainer.

For any further questions or additional information, contact Gatesville ISD athletic trainer Tatianna Navarro by email at tnavarro@gatesvilleisd.org.

The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation was founded in memory of Cody Stephens, who died from an undetected heart condition just weeks before graduation from Crosby High School.

After Stephens passed away, his family established a screening effort to prevent other tragedies. It has been a big effort in a big state, with more than 40 percent of all Texas schools offering heart screenings.

City of Gatesville to host Earth Day event for fifth graders

Staff Reports

The City of Gatesville is planning its eighth annual Earth Day event for fifth grade students, which will be held on Friday, April 19 at the Gatesville Civic

Center.

The purpose of this event is to help educate our children on recycling, reusing, reduction, and sustainability. The city will have 10 to 12 presenters attend the event in order to teach the

students about these topics. The city anticipates that approximately 200 students will participate in the event. The city is using the monetary and in-kind donations given by the community to provide giveaways for the

children to help support the event. All funds and giveaways will be strictly used for the benefit of the students. In addition, the city will recognize your business or organization by placing

your logo or business name on the Earth Day T-shirts. For further details or questions, contact City of Gatesville Development Coordinator Liz Reinhardt at 254-220-4419 or by email at lreinhardt@gatesvillex.com.

The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.



The Evant ISD One Act Play cast and crew are pictured at their district contest this past weekend.

COURTESY PHOTO

EISD One Act Play students attend district contest

Staff Reports

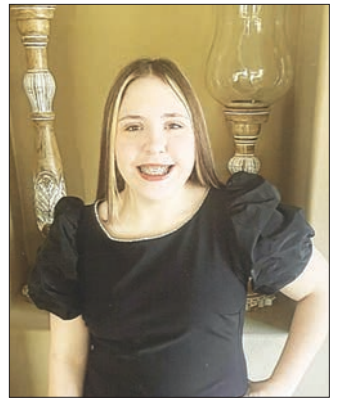
The students of Evant Independent School District in the One Act Play program have recently attended a district contest this past weekend on

Saturday, March 9, where they brought home lots of hardware. Directors Leticia Garland, Beth Gandy, and Sara LaComb lead the cast and crew to further advance to perform at the bi-district

competition. A list of the student's accolades include: Cason Ingram, Best Performer Award. Aubrey Kelley and Luwi Rodriguez, All Star Cast Award.

Bree Ramirez, Haylie Dryden, and Maya Reynolds, Honorable Mention All Star Cast Award. Madison Wilson, All Star Crew Award. This was the program's first One Act Play contest

within a span of 10 years. For further details, contact Evant ISD at 254-471-5536.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lillie Alexandria Moore

Moore placed first in choir competition

Submitted Item

Lillie Alexandria Moore won first place in the Texas Association of Private Schools choir solo. Moore is an eighth-grade student at the Lutheran South Academy in Houston. She is the daughter of Mark and Melanie Moore, of Shore Acres, the granddaughter of Mark and Lola Lam, of Gatesville, the granddaughter of Betty and the late Charlie Carter, of Deer Park, the granddaughter of Travis Moore, of Gatesville, and the niece of Phillip and Alisa Gregory, of Gatesville.



Hooyay for National Panda Day on March 16th - a day dedicated to celebrating the furry, bamboo-munching marvels, pandas! These adorable black-and-white bears are not just cute; they're also essential members of our planet's diverse ecosystem. Pandas are native to China and are easily recognized by their distinctive markings. National Panda Day is the perfect time for kids to explore the fascinating world of pandas, from their bamboo-centric diet to their playful antics. Did you know that pandas have a special "thumb" that helps them grip bamboo? It's like having their very own built-in bamboo-grabbing tool! Kids can join in the celebration by engaging in fun and educational activities. Whether it's drawing pandas, making panda crafts, or even learning panda-friendly dances, there are countless ways to celebrate the charm of these bamboo-loving bears. National Panda Day is also a reminder of the importance of conservation. Pandas are considered an endangered species, and efforts are un-

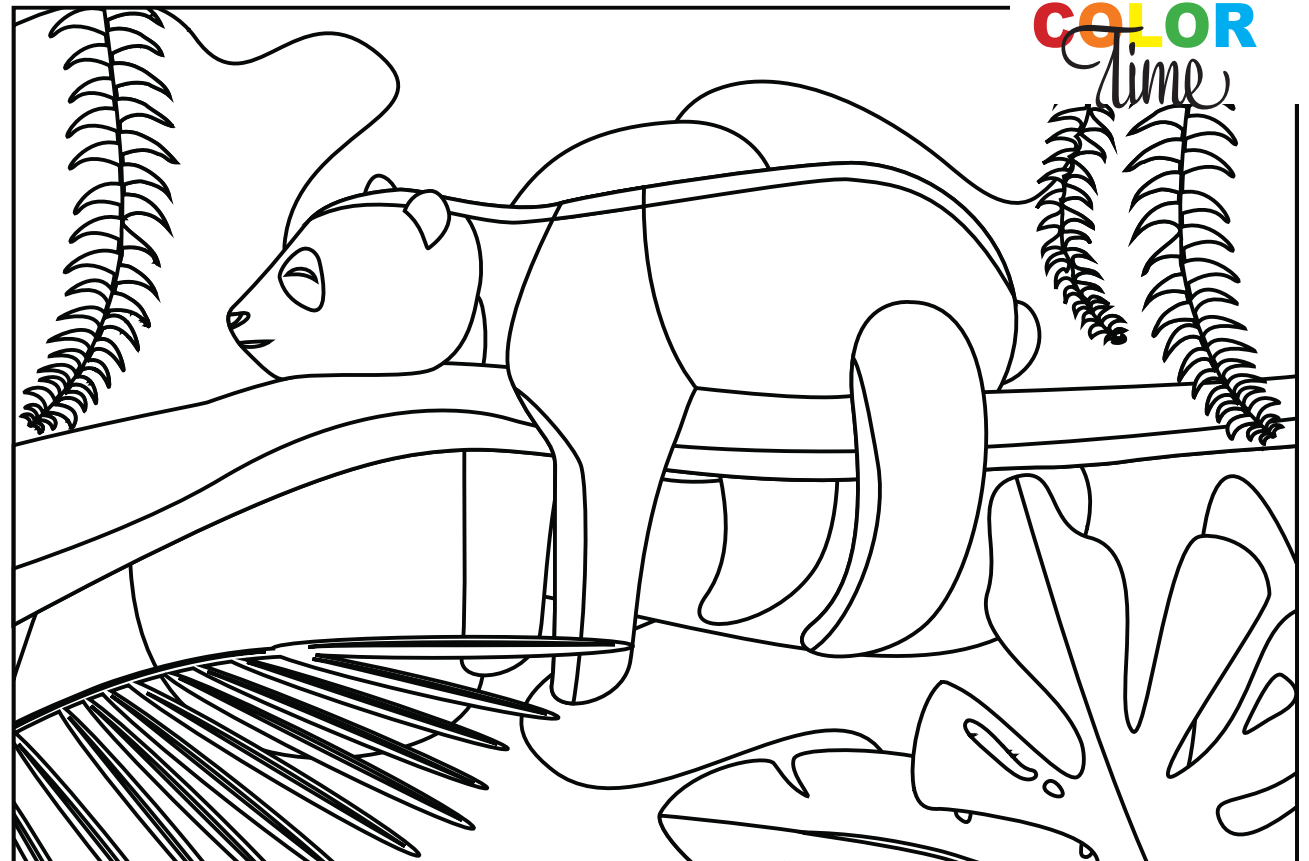
derway to protect their habitats and promote breeding programs. Kids can be panda ambassadors by learning about conservation initiatives and sharing their knowledge with friends and family. Zoos and wildlife organizations often have special events on National Panda Day, offering families a chance to see these lovable creatures up close and learn about their habits and habitats. It's an opportunity to connect with nature and understand the impact of conservation efforts. Teachers can incorporate National Panda Day into their

lessons, sparking curiosity about wildlife conservation and the interconnected web of life. Classroom activities can include discussions about ecosystems, the importance of biodiversity, and ways to make a positive impact on the environment. So, on March 16th, let's roar with joy for National Panda Day! It's a day to appreciate these incredible creatures, learn more about their world, and join the global effort to ensure that pandas continue to thrive in their bamboo-filled homes.

Did You Know?
pandas need to consume up to 15% of their body weight in 12 hours to survive and stay healthy.

SCIENCE FACT!
Bamboo is the fastest growing plant on this planet. It has been recorded growing at an amazing 47.6 inches in a 24 hour period.

ANIMAL FACT!
THIS ANIMAL LOVES TO MUNCH ON BAMBOO. BAMBOO IS A TYPE OF GRASS THAT IS VERY FAST-GROWING.
ANSWER: PANDA BEAR



COLOR Time



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



Nancy Garvin (left) and Frances Wise volunteer their time at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

Retired educators give back to our local community

BY MARSHA LEE
Contributing Writer

TRTA currently has more than 96,000 members statewide who continue to be involved in local public schools and in the well-being of their communities. These dedicated individuals have organized more than 240 local chapters throughout the state. In 2023, members of Gatesville's local chapter (CRSP, or Coryell Retired School Personnel) have donated more than 83,968 volunteer hours. This number was up 14,226 volunteer hours from the previous year's total of 69,742 hours logged in for 2022.

Chairman of the Volunteer Service Committee, Debbie Grmela, explained that "many of our 108 members participated in this project of serving our community by volunteering at schools, hospitals, nursing homes, churches, public libraries, the Care

Center, the Boys' and Girls' Club Resale Shop, museums, theaters, civic events, and various other sites." The state Vice-President, Ella Gautier, explained, "These volunteer hours are equivalent to roughly \$27 per hour in the private sector, which means that the Coryell County community has been saved roughly \$2,267,136 because of the volunteer work of its retired school personnel."

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Top local volunteers included Lois Bartels, 4320 hours; Debbie Martin, 4320; Linda O'Brien, 4320; Nancy Ashcraft, 3965; Mary Anne Leib, 3365; Pat Aslin, 3265; Gary Kafer, 2525; Mary Kafer, 2525; Laura White, 2421; JoAnn Sugg, 2272; Barbara Considine, 1805; Sonja Tatro, 1805; Joy Cummings, 1565; Gail Johnson, 1565; Nancy Morgan, 1528; Jan Wynn, 1468; Marsha Lee, 1442; Corilea Dye, 1310;

Fran Henshoher, 1142; and Yvonne Dutschmann, 1043.

"We are proud of our profession and even though we are retired, we still enjoy giving back to our community through volunteerism and we want to remain an active part of our community by serving on committees, boards, and councils that make policies and furnish services to local people," said Gail Johnson, CRSP President.

District 12 President, JoAnn Sugg, added, "The Texas Retired Teachers Association promotes the community volunteer services program implemented by local units (like CRSP) throughout Texas. Statewide totals for 2023 are not yet available, but total hours donated across the state by retired school personnel in 2022 came to 4,929,301 hours, valued at around \$133,091,127."



Chelsea Johnson was awarded as the Champion Intermediate Photography winner at San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo.



Lilly Kinsey was a Market Steer Class winner at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo.

Towne earns honors at Fort Hays State University

Submitted Item

Gabriella Towne recently earned the honor of being placed on the Dean's Honor Roll at Fort Hays State University. The university recently named 1,646 students to the honor roll for the fall 2023 semester.

The Dean's Honor Roll includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have completed 12 or

more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester. Full-time on-campus and FHSU Virtual College students are eligible.

The list does not include students who requested privacy. If a Hays address was given by the student as their primary home address, no other hometown was designated, the student will be listed as a

Hays student.

Fort Hays State University (FHSU), founded in 1902, is a public university in Hays, Kansas. It is the largest university in western Kansas and the fourth-largest of the six state universities governed by the Kansas Board of Regents, with a total enrollment of approximately 15,100 students.

Evant ISD to host Family Night

Staff Reports

The Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) program at Evant Independent School District will host a family night on Wednesday, March 27 for students and their families to attend.

The event will be held at Evant ISD from 5 - 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Activities will feature planting and decorating springtime pottery, egg decorating, and an egg spoon race.

For further details, con-

tact the Elementary ACE Site Coordinator Dyani Nettles at dnettles@evantisd.org or the Secondary ACE Coordinator Jaime Hanson at jhanson@evantisd.org.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant.

Kinsey wins steer class, Johnson named champion photographer at San Antonio

BY BECKY COWARD
Coryell County 4-H Extension Agent

The three-week run of the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo concluded last Sunday with the Livestock Judging Contest. This was not before Coryell County 4-H member Lilly Kinsey placed first in her class of lightweight Black Cross steers. There were 49 exhibitors who competed in the class. As a market steer participant, Kinsey qualified for the terminal auction the next day in San Antonio.

Other Coryell County 4-H youth who competed include:

Market Steers: Lane Kinsey, Thomas Belt (fourth place), Hubbard Kinsey, and Charles Belt.

Market Swine: Shelbi Bomar and Kinlee Gardner.

Market Lambs: Addy-son Edwards won seventh

place.

Breeding Gilts: Matti Mann, Lilly Mann, Canyon Smith (fourth and fifth place), Shelbi Bomar, Kinlee Gardner (sixth and seventh place), Justin Johnson, Memphis Wells, Paisley Wells (second and ninth place), Kace Laster (ninth place), and Landry Ohnheiser (ninth place).

Breeding Ewes: Breeze Buckner and Noah Haag.

Breeding Does: Bobbi Tubbs won sixth place.

Coryell County 4-H youth who competed in contests at San Antonio include:

Photography: Chelsea Johnson won Grand Champion Overall Intermediate, Best of Show Sporting, Catch All, Best of Show The Land, Nature/Landscape, Best of Show Living Things, People, Rodeo, and third place in sporting.

Horse Judging: Ava Hagen, Marcy Conley, Al-

lie McPherson, and Isela Rodriguez won (Third Place Junior Team) Kinsley McPherson, Luwi Rodriguez, Irena Murphy, Mia Conley, Lacey Jordan, Dallas Clough, Taylor Coward (seniors) and Tyson Jackson-Smith, Samantha Hadley, and Remleigh Buttry.

Consumer Decision Making: Bobbi Tubbs (second place high individual) with team members Emily Wolff and Jozie Wolff placed second as an Intermediate Team, Bailey Wolff competed as a senior.

Livestock Judging: Clayton Gregory, Lane Kinsey, Ryli Bryson, Lilly Kinsey, Thomas Belt, Landry Mabry, Paislee Culler, Saydee Cullar, and Pete Wallace.

Shooting Sports: Dutch Nielson, Brant Pruitt, Branton Bell, and Rayce Kizer.

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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

FLOATS AND GOATS AT GATESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Elementary School recently hosted a "Floats and Goats" event for the students in first through the third grade. Students had to earn the privilege to attend this event by earning "Buzz Bucks" by showing kindness and good character. The students who earned enough Buzz Bucks were treated to Big Red, Root Beer, and Coke floats followed by a visit to the petting zoo which contained a variety of goats.



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FAMILY NIGHT AT GATESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Elementary School recently held their annual "Spring Family Night" event. The activities included family games in the gym, musical performances in the cafeteria, and larger games in the outdoor learning center. The event was held with a great number of parents, family members, educators, and students in attendance.




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