



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 18, ISSN No. 0894-4954

## Coryell County to declare local disaster ahead of eclipse on April 8

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

Coryell County will issue a Declaration of Local Disaster to prepare for the total solar eclipse that is expected to draw thousands of visitors to the area.

County Judge Roger Miller said the influx of people could put a strain on the county's infrastructure, hospitals, and emergency response teams. The declaration is effective starting April 6, at 6 a.m. until April 13, at 6 a.m. "The reason that we're issuing it is that I'm getting reports that we're going to have anywhere from

2,000 to 200,000 people come into Coryell County," Miller said. "Between the county and the cities, we don't have those assets on hand to be able to respond to all the potential emergencies."

A disaster declaration allows the county to coordinate with the Texas Division of Emergency Management if state assistance is needed regarding severe traffic, fuel shortages, and other emergencies.

"The issue is trying to protect our resources, because potentially we're going to have more people in Coryell County than we can respond to," Miller

said. Miller said the declaration includes precautions to mitigate potential risks, such as prohibiting outdoor burning on certain dates.

**POPULATION SPIKE**  
Since several parts of Central Texas are in the path of totality, the county expects a significant population increase on the days leading up to and following the eclipse on April 8. The declaration will also list recommendations on how residents can plan ahead, such as keeping additional food on hand, preparing for internet and cellular service outages,

filling up gas tanks in vehicles, and avoiding unnecessary travel.

Miller announced the intent to issue the declaration at a commissioners' court meeting on March 12. Other counties have also declared local disasters for the eclipse, including Bell County, Kerr County, Travis County, and Burnet County.

Coryell County offices will be closed on April 8. The Declaration of Local Disaster will be published on the Coryell County website: [coryellcounty.org](http://coryellcounty.org)

16 MORE DAYS...



## Get ready for the eclipse with Gatesville's Block (Out the Sun) Party

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

For those looking for ways to celebrate the 2024 Great American Eclipse, Gatesville's pre-eclipse festival provides an opportunity to gather and enjoy some local entertainment.

The "Block (Out the Sun) Party" will take place on the downtown square during Saturday and Sunday leading up to the total eclipse on Monday, April 8. The festival will feature a variety of food trucks, vendors, and various activities for kids and adults.

"Some cities have planned large events in the hopes of drawing in a large number of visitors. We approached our plans a little differently," Eclipse Coordinator Cheri Shepherd said. "We knew that a certain number of people would be coming to Gatesville, regardless of what we planned.

We wanted to make sure that our residents and visitors had the best possible experience during and leading up to the eclipse."

Activities include a petting zoo, painting with a twist, goat roping, photo props, pickleball and cornhole tournaments, live music, and more. Visitors will also have a chance to view and support local artists through the "Art in the Shadow" exhibit that will feature various mediums of Texas and eclipse themed artwork.

With thousands of out-of-town visitors expected to arrive in Gatesville, the festival will also be an opportunity to support local businesses and organizations.

"It was an opportunity to educate and entertain residents and visitors while allowing small busi-

PLEASE SEE **BLOCK** | A2



## Annual Cross Walk to be held on Good Friday, March 29

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

With Good Friday upon us, the annual community cross walk will take place on Friday, March 29.

For over 15 years, Carlos Webb, founder of the cross walk, has put together this event for locals to participate in to honor Good Friday and Easter.

Webb expressed that he came up with the idea one day while watching the news when he had seen a man walking down I-35 carrying a cross.

"I thought it would be a good youth activity for

church," Webb said. Last year, the cross walk was attended by over 150 people.

"The cross walk is important for several reasons," Webb said. "It serves as a time of remembrance and celebration for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

The cross walk will start at the First Methodist Church and will begin at 8:30 a.m. The walk will be three miles long and will end at Coryell Community Church (CCC).

The cross that is carried

is around 100 pounds and is made up of 1x6 lumber. It is 10 feet tall and five feet wide.

Anyone can carry the cross. It is usually volunteers comprised of men, women, and children.

"We take turns so that as many people as possible can have a chance," Webb said.

During the walk, the group will pray for all surrounding schools and staff, first responders (fire department, law enforcement, and EMS), the military, the local judicial system and its

leaders, state and federal leaders, as well as for service organizations similar to Righteous Roots.

When asked what scripture Webb feels relates to the cross walk, he stated Luke 9:23, "Then He said to them, whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

**BE A BOLD WITNESS**

"I am passionate about uniting the churches and teaching people, young and old, and to be a bold witness in their walk with

Christ," Webb said.

"Scripture (1 Corinthians 12:20) talks about one body with many parts, so this event serves as a symbol of unity by bringing our church bodies together to serve one God, regardless of denomination," Webb said.

"We invite any and every one to get involved in this year's cross walk," Webb said. "Encourage your churches to participate."

If you are not able to walk, the community is invited to attend the worship rally after the cross walk.

The rally will be held in the prayer garden at Coryell Community Church (CCC) at approximately 10:45 a.m. Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

For further details, contact Carlos Webb at 254-223-2444.

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

Coryell Community Church is located at 115 North Levita Road.



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# Trinity Baptist Church presents 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.

This will be a free event and will give the community of Gatesville the chance to experience a live action story of Jesus' life, with the trial, crucifixion, and the resurrection.

Preparations for the play first began in October of 2023, when Trinity Baptist

Church member Jonathan Ford began writing the script.

"One hundred and sixty-eight friends have worked together since before Thanksgiving to offer a gift to our city that is already changing lives," Ford said.

The play consists of 12 different scenes and will be told from the point of view of Grandfather John as he explains his experience with the last days of Jesus to his grandsons Elijah and Abel.

"It reminds them of the real reason for Easter," Pastor Sam Crosby said.

"Easter is not about easter eggs but about the resurrection of Jesus."

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

"Passion 2024: 'Thee Gift' is becoming so much more to me than just a story of the past," Ford said. "Knowing first-hand the folks playing key roles such as Jesus, Peter, James & John, and Mary Magdalene, well, it's like time traveling from 35AD to 2024 in a millisecond."

Crosby expressed that a lot of time has been put into this event, with 168 volunteers, the costume designers, and the set team has worked lots of hours to prepare.

Jerusalem will open at 6 p.m. each evening 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 up to 1,000 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 when the story of Jesus' last week will be told.

Trinity Baptist Church has sent out 10,000 cards through the mail system within a 10-mile radius of Gatesville to invite the community to this event.

"We are praying for people to know that God loves them enough to send his son to save their soul, because that is what it is about," Crosby said.

Trinity Baptist Church is located at 1506 West Main

Street in Gatesville.

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

## BLOCK

FROM PAGE A1

nesses and non-profits to benefit," Shepherd said.

The event will be held Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 7, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission to the festival is free.

After the event on Saturday, NASA ambassador, Liam Finn, will provide a sold-out educational presentation called Syzygy at 6 p.m. in the Gatesville City Auditorium. Ticket holders should arrive by 5:45 p.m. Any seats that are unclaimed shortly before 6 p.m. will be released to the public first come, first served.

However, for those missing out on the talk, NASA representatives will return on the day of the eclipse to set up viewing equipment at the Gatesville Sports Complex baseball fields and will share educational information with visitors. Learn more about the viewing event at GatesvilleTxEclipse.com.

"As plans have evolved, I think the festival will be an opportunity for residents and visitors to make some wonderful memories surrounding the eclipse experience," Shepherd said.



For more updates about the festival and to sign up as a volunteer or vendor, visit [www.gatesvilletxeclipse.com/block-out-the-sun-party](http://www.gatesvilletxeclipse.com/block-out-the-sun-party).



Volunteer actors gathered to practice their lines during rehearsal.




ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Friends come in all shapes and sizes



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

One of the true blessings in life is friendship. It is a relationship between two people and, often, the underlying bond between the individuals is vague in definition. A friendship nourishes one's soul, can often rekindle memories of a different and better time, or help us to feel connected in what is all too often a world where we do not feel engaged. Friendship is a condition humans seek because it provides us with acceptance, recognition, and the warmth of shared experiences.

An evaluation of our friendships tells us a lot about ourselves.

Grade school friends are generally our first relationships outside the family circle. Created on the playgrounds of youth, these relationships help us

to ingratiate ourselves into a series of social norms and to pass through life's early challenges feeling supported. They helped us put into practice those virtues expounded by our parents about being fair, kind, sharing, and forgiving. It was

grade school friends who helped us to understand life in our own terms while facing whatever joys or tribulations might confront us.

When picking teams for a stickball game, friendship presented the challenge of selecting the best player for your team but to do so in a way as to artfully navigate the dilemma of failing to select a close friend, because they were a poor hitter. Such a decision compelled the art of social diplomacy at a level not unlike what is utilized by ranking state department officials.

As we grew just slightly older, our relationships evolved and the possibility of friendship with a member of the opposite sex became a possibility. Though previously looked on with disdain and contempt, it necessitated being able to recategorize girls as "human beings" instead of a species which must have come from another planet. It meant finding a common ground in which to talk and interact. I learned starting a friendship with a girl meant

meeting her "halfway" and taking an interest in what she liked and learning to accept there were possibilities beyond sports and the usual things which were the heart of a young boy's life. It meant learning to accept my female friend was different from me in many ways. Her interests were not necessarily sports, climbing a tree, or challenging each other about who could spit the furthest. It was learning to accept there was more in life than what my world had previously thought possible.

Later in life there are "activity" friends — so named because of the activity the two friends share. I have had hunting buddies, fishing buddies, going to the ball game buddies, poker buddies, lake buddies, and who knows how many other kinds of buddies. While the two of us friends would engage about the other goings on in our lives, the friendship primarily revolved around an activity we participated in together. It was an activity which was the connecting force. These

types of relationships can create wonderful memories, but unfortunately, usually end when participation in the underlying activity stops.

There are also work friends, church friends, college friends, and a host of other types of human relationships, which are loosely categorized as friends. But no matter the shape or form of the connection, it is part of the thread which weaves our life into the tapestry it becomes. Sometimes, positively, and, sometimes, negatively, we are all a product of our friendships.

Our closest friendships, commonly referred to as "best friends," are often a combination of all the possibilities of friendship. They listen when a friend needs to talk. They speak out when a friend needs to be corrected. They support when there is doubt. The relationship may be a daily interaction, or it might be that the two friends do not speak for months, or even years, but the connection between them never disap-

pears. It is a feeling which is kindled in the very soul of the other and shared. It connects the two in such a way that no power on earth could pull it apart. These are the most cherished and treasured of relationships.

This week, stop and reflect on all your friends and how your lives are entwined with one another. Smile at the joys you have shared and the emotion you feel. It is those feelings and experiences that make you the person you have become. Give thanks to those who have endured your shortcomings, listened to your complaints and sorrows, and who have smiled and leapt in joy upon learning of your successes.

Friendship is truly one of the best parts of being a human being.

Thought for the day: "I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light." Helen Keller

Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out!

## LETTER

### See you at the Eclipse

I had never seen a total solar eclipse when one crossed through my hometown in 2017. Even when thousands

of people started flocking to our rural patch of prairie from all over the world (sound familiar?), I just knew it was over-hyped. It wasn't.

I went from not being sure I would cross the street to watch one to spending significant time and resources creating a "stellar" children's picture book about it, so

parents like me and kids like mine wouldn't miss one of nature's greatest shows in their own backyard.

I'm looking forward to visiting your community and

reading my book for you at the BLOCK (out the sun) PARTY! on April 6th.

I hope to see you there, but if I don't, please take it from a former skeptic: A total so-

lar eclipse is totally worth the hype.

Here's to clear skies on April 8.

Jayme Sandberg  
Lincoln, Nebraska

NEWS FROM ECLIPSEVILLE

## Sharing our Culture



BY CHERI SHEPHERD

City of Gatesville Eclipse Coordinator

On Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, downtown Gatesville will be the site of a Block Party (Block out the sun Party). This festival will provide our community and visitors an opportunity to gather together to celebrate the coming eclipse. We especially want to give our visitors, who are coming from across the United States and around the world, a little taste of Central Texas culture!

### ART

On Saturday, April 6, local artists will display their work at Art in the Shadow inside Leaird's Furniture. Paintings, sketches, photos, and sculptures by local artists will be on display from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Some of the works will also be available for sale. Local artists with works on exhibit include Elaine Fitch, Gail Johnson, Jenifer Newby, Bonnie Armstrong-Wales, Justin Gummelt, Carrie Baggett, Maria Dost, Angie Lilljedahl, Kimberly Copeland, and K-6th grade students from Gatesville ISD's Grade Gifted and Talented program.

### LITERATURE

Area authors will be visiting with the public, signing and selling books inside 1854 Mercantile from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participating authors include Jean Ann Shirey, Helen Munday, Clay Reeves, Carrie Burrows, Chyanne Brake, Joye Thackston, Steven Wilcox, and David Screws.

On Saturday evening at 6pm, there will be a storytime for children. Author Jayme Sandberg will present a reading of her illustrated children's book "Total Solar Eclipse - A Stellar Friendship Story."

### MUSIC

The festival entertain-

ment stage will provide music throughout the day on Saturday. Students from the Gatesville High School band program will perform at 10 a.m., followed by DJ Jamie Ament from 1-4 p.m. Country artist Booger Boiles will play a set at 4 p.m., followed by local favorite Ed Leonard from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. We need local country dancers to show off their two-stepping skills and possibly give our visitors some dance lessons during the day.

On Sunday, our faith community will take over the entertainment stage. Local church groups and some gospel performers will be featured throughout the day.

### HISTORY

Coryell Museum will be open to visitors on Saturday, as well. In addition to the world's largest collection of spurs, the museum has an extensive collection of displays related to Texas and local history. Admission to the museum will be free, and donations will be accepted. The gift shop will also be open.

### AGRICULTURE

Texas Farm Bureau will provide their interactive, educational trailer with displays to help festival goers learn about the important role of agriculture in Texas.

There will also be a petting zoo, so children (and adults) will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with some farm

animals.

### MAKING MEMORIES

We know our visitors will want to take home some memories of their time in Texas. We will have some photo props, including a western backdrop with a saddle and a truck with a roping seat. With the courthouse as a backdrop, these are sure to be popular spots. We also have a special photo location coming to downtown soon, thanks to Higginbotham Brothers. If you, your business, or organization have something that would make a good photo prop, please contact me.

We will have U.S. and World maps where visitors can add a sticker to show where they traveled from. We also have an online guestbook at GatesvilleTx-Eclipse.com. We will post QR codes throughout town, asking our guests to leave a record of their visit. These and other items will be saved in a time capsule.

You can learn more about the festival and other plans for the eclipse at our website GatesvilleTxEclipse.com or on our Facebook page Gatesville, TX "Eclipseville" 2024.

If you have questions, comments, or would like to help, you can reach me at cshepherd@gatesvilletx.com or call or text 254-326-8248. I hope to see you at the Block (out the sun) Party!

## Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Seth Phillips with wife and kids.

### Say hello to our neighbor, Seth Phillips!

Seth has been the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Gatesville since 2021. "It's rewarding to see the direct impact that my job has on the quality of life for the citizens of Gatesville," Phillips said. He has lived in Gatesville for 36 years and expressed that his favorite part of our town is the ballpark. "I love seeing it come alive at night with all of the various sports leagues and tournaments," he said.

Seth reads The Gatesville Messenger each week. "I enjoy reading the sports section of the Gatesville Messenger," he said. "The Messenger does a great job of highlighting student-athlete achievements throughout each sports season."

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



**THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**

Publisher  
**SAM HOUSTON**  
sam@hcnnews.com

Director of Operations  
**JANICE VELASQUEZ**  
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

### DEADLINES:

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

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

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

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

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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.

# Faunt Le Roy Park to close for Total Eclipse

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

The City of Gatesville Parks and Recreation Department has announced that access to Faunt Le Roy Park, along with the walking trail, will be restricted between the dates of Friday, April 5 to Tuesday, April 9 due to the Total Eclipse.

"We are restricting access to Faunt Le Roy Park to provide safety and privacy to those who have paid for camping reservations specifically for viewing the eclipse," Parks and Recreation Director Seth Phillips said. "Restricting access will help ensure these folks have an enjoyable time while visiting our great city."

Part of the city's plan is to accommodate out of town visitors for the eclipse and to utilize the park for expanded RV camping and tent camping. In addition to the existing

RV spaces, the middle of the walking trail will be used for expanded RV camping as well.

Tent campers will reside in the picnic and playground area.

A bathroom and shower trailer will be placed in the park for all campers.

As of right now, there have been 116 people who have made reservations to camp in the park.

Parks and Recreation staff will be onsite throughout this time, and signs will be posted at the entrances giving notice of the closure.

Raby Park will remain open to the public as usual.

Spaces are to be reserved by visiting GatesvilleTxEclipse.com.

For further details, contact the City of Gatesville at 254-865-8951.

Faunt Le Roy Park is located on South 7th Street.



Pictured is the entrance to Faunt Le Roy Park.

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

## \$8.9 million project on SH 36 expected to end in 2025

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

Construction crews have begun a road overlay project on State Highway 36 that will cause various lane closures throughout its duration, according to a press release by the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Waco District.

The roadwork takes place on SH 36 from U.S. Highway 84 to FM 931 in Flat, which includes mill

and inlay operations for road surface restoration. TxDOT states in the release that it will enhance road safety and improve driver experience.

The \$8.9 million project started in mid-February. It is scheduled to be completed by spring 2025.

Due to an influx of visitors for the Great American Eclipse on April 8, traffic congestion is expected to be a concern on major

highways in the Central Texas area. A spokesperson for TxDOT's Waco District said they are working with industry partners to ensure that traffic-related disruptions are minimized, including no temporary lane closures.

TxDOT encourages motorists to slow down, eliminate distractions, and buckle up when driving through work zones.

## 73rd annual National Day of Prayer to be held May 2

Submitted Item

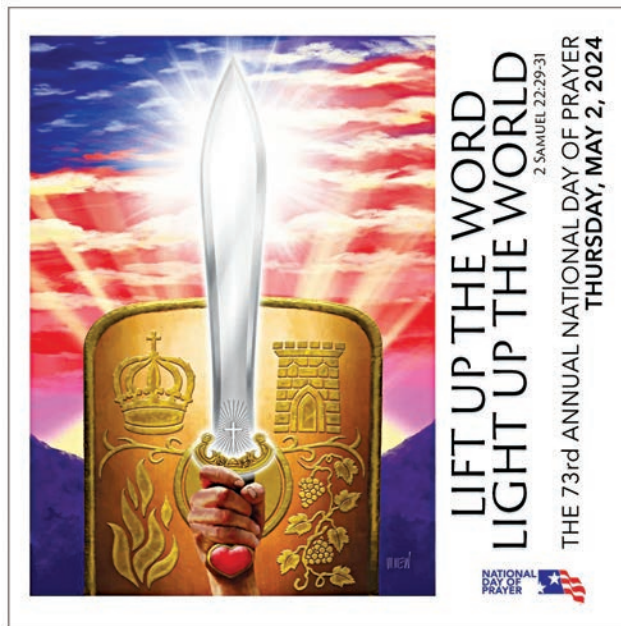
The First Methodist Church of Gatesville is extending a warm invitation to you and your congregation to join hands in supporting the National Day of Prayer, an event that promises to be a powerful gathering of believers across the nation.

The church will host the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in its sanctuary and chapel.

The church is honored to sponsor this annual event, and we extend an open invitation to all churches in the community to participate.

On this sacred day, our doors will be wide open, and we encourage everyone to join us in person if possible. However, we understand that physical attendance may not be feasible for all, and we warmly welcome those who wish to join us in spirit.

This year, the National Day of Prayer carries the theme "Lift Up the World - Light Up the World." This theme is beautifully exemplified in the 2024 National Prayer, skillfully crafted by Kathy Branzell. The power of collective prayer can



truly illuminate the world with hope, love, and unity.

In preparation for this significant event, we invite you to join us in forty days of prayer starting on Saturday, March 23, as we dedicate this time to seek the Lord's guidance, wisdom, and blessings.

We believe our collective prayers will have a profound impact not only on our community but also on the nation as a whole.

Let us come together as one body, lifting our voices in prayer and supplication

for our nation, our communities, and the world.

As the body of Christ, we have the privilege and responsibility to be the light that dispels darkness. May our prayers resonate with the love and compassion of our Savior, touching hearts and transforming lives.

For more information, including the 2024 National Prayer and 40 Days of Prayer, can be found at <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>, or contact Joyce Talbott at 254-223-0032.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Courthouse historian, Tiffany Butler, pictured left, gives a tour of the courthouse to Coryell County Historical Commission Chairman, Danny Corbett, and visiting state historical commission representative, Emiliano "Nano" Calderon, from Austin.

## Texas Historical Commission official given tour of courthouse

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Emiliano "Nano" Calderon, the CHC Program Coordinator in the History Programs Division of the Texas State Historical Commission in Austin, recently went on a private tour of the courthouse with local historical commission chairman, Danny Corbett.

Tiffany Butler, who works in the building and is considered by many to be the official "courthouse historian," guided the two men on a tour of the building describing how it was constructed and important events that have taken place inside and outside the 125-year-old structure.

She even showed them the bullet hole in a doorway in the district courtroom where, in 1909, Verna Ware opened fired during court killing three men. It was written that tensions were riding high in the district courtroom at the Coryell County Courthouse. A town divided had come to witness a much-discussed court case... that would never culminate with a verdict.

Multiple gun shots rang out in the packed courtroom, and those assembled were scrambling to avoid the sudden spray of bullets fired by a woman who was "wronged" by the man who

was on trial for seducing her.

The remaining bullet hole in the district courtroom door is the only reminder of what happened many years ago. Butler said that it is one of the main attractions during her courthouse tours.

Calderon was in Gatesville to attend the monthly Coryell County Historical Commission meeting. He gave a presentation to the members of the commission and spoke on new programs that the Texas State Historical Commission would be addressing in the next year.

## Whatever happened to ...

### 20 YEARS AGO (2004)

Coryell County Commissioners approved regulations for installing utilities.

Lydia West demonstrated how to use a spinning wheel at the 4th Annual Spurfest.

Jonesboro ISD replaced three route buses.

Around 150 vehicles that were entered in the annual Leon Fiver Fun Run participated in a parade down Main Street.

Many Gatesville residents participated in the annual

'50s night at the drive-in theater.

### 30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Forty-two members, auxiliary, and guests celebrated the Legion's 75th anniversary with a veteran's breakfast and flag ceremony at the American Legion, Charles D. Jageler Post.

Plans were underway for a "mammoth" Easter egg hunt to be held at the Gatesville Recreational Complex.

Bee House and Evant churches were set to sponsor the annual Easter

surprise pageant.

Thrift Mart/IGA participated in the national "Hometown Trees" program designed to beautify the community - in this case with 300 trees planted throughout Gatesville.

Concerned Coryell County residents were invited to a study group meeting at the Coryell Activities Complex to define critical issues facing Coryell County.

### 40 YEARS AGO (1984)

Building was in progress for a new Safeway store.

Gatesville High School students were commended by Judge Bobby L. Cummings of the 52nd District Court for quickly reporting a man's attempt to get them to smoke marijuana.

A band festival was planned in Gatesville High School's auditorium that included nine public school bands from across Central Texas.

Faunt LeRoy's Fun Fest was in the works.

Gatesville High School journalism students Bryan

Cook and Samuel Crosby received individual achievement awards at the 57th annual UIL Press Conference at the University of Texas in Austin.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Miss Texas, Judy Mallett, was to headline the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce's annual Family Fun Night.

The Gatesville Lion's Club prepared for its annual mop sale, with proceeds earmarked for the building fund for a new hospital.

Some of the Southwest's finest horses were about to be shown at the 19th annual Coryell County Horse Show.

Gatesville's city council selected a city-owned tract in West Gatesville for drilling a new 500-gallon-per-minute well.

The Gatesville Veterans of Foreign Wars post was set to celebrate Vietnam Veterans Day by serving a free chicken dinner at the VFW Hall on Highway 84 West.

## PEARL NEWS

# Solar Eclipse and Pearl Bluegrass weekend coming up



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

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](http://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.

The Pearl Baptist Church will host an Easter morning service at the Pearl Cemetery Pavilion on March 31st 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 invited to any of these Pearl churches and services. Bringing guests is happily encouraged, too.

Linda Ray reported that the Pearl mascot, Oliver, the very large but very sweet dog, did not make it to church on time last Sunday. She thinks that he forgot about the time change and overslept. She is hoping that Oliver has since adjusted to this change in daylight hours (we all know that there's the same amount but just framed differently) and will attend as usual this Sunday. I'm sure Oliver's human counterparts are having the very same problem. Change is sometimes very hard. We hope you all will attend the church of your choice no

matter what time it starts. The unspoken motto at Pearl Church of Christ is "better late than never." And that's the truth.

This week's Bible verse comes from Luke 23:34—Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do..." 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](mailto:betsyclark47@yahoo.com)

## OBITUARIES

### Charles Shepherd

July 12, 1941 - March 10, 2024

Charles Shepherd, age 82, of Gatesville, passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 15, at Scott's Funeral Home with Dr. Eric Moffett officiating. Interment was held at Gatesville City Cemetery.

Charles Ivy Shepherd was born on July 12, 1941, in Gatesville to the late C.C. "Snooks" and Tribble Campbell Shepherd. He grew up and attended school in Gatesville, graduating from Gatesville High School in 1959. He attended college at Sam Houston State for a short time before moving back to Gatesville. Once back, he became a partner in a local construction company. In 1965, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in Vietnam, earning two Purple Hearts and various other medals and accommodations. In 1969, Charles went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad and spent the next 37 years there before his retirement. His hobbies included playing pool, water skiing, camping, riding Harley Davidson motorcycles, collecting guns, and working in the yard. He also enjoyed spending time with his family and grandchildren. Charles always took great pleasure in helping others.

He was preceded in



death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Rhonda; sons, James "Jimmy" Shepherd and Brenda, David Shepherd and wife, Darla, and Tony Shepherd and wife, Kelly; daughter, Terri Shepherd Castro and husband, Frank; step-daughters, Nikisha Tarrant and significant other, Becca Huerta, Ashley Tarrant and significant other, Leon Boyd, and Taryn McWhorter and husband, Mike; brother, Dan Shepherd and wife, Cheri; and grandchildren, Stephanie, Michael, David, Sarah, Britany, J.D., Blake, Cortney, Breanne, Logan, Kennedy, Kreece, Ayden, Brayden, Braxton, Suri, Gracie, Mason, and Birdie.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516.

### Regina Medart

July 1, 1973 - Feb. 16, 2024

Regina Medart, age 50, of Leander, passed away on Feb. 16, 2024, at her home. Funeral services will be scheduled at a later date.

Regina Raye Medart was born on July 1, 1973, in Gatesville, to Otis Ronald Medart and Glennyth Herman Medart. Regina spent her early years growing up in the Pearl community and attended all 12 years of school in Evant. She graduated in 1991. She went on to attend Tarleton State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. She later attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos and received a Master of Arts degree with a major in Professional Counseling. Regina became a licensed professional counselor with her office in Austin.

Regina loved all kinds of music, and she loved the pets she had over the



years. She attended church services in the Austin area.

She was preceded in death by grandparents, Otha and Imo Medart, and Glenn and Laveail Herman; uncle, Roger Medart and aunt, Joan Medart Blanchard.

Regina is survived by her parents, Ronald and Glennyth Medart; brothers, Barry Lynn Medart and wife, Elizabeth, and Kyle Von Medart; niece, Frances Medart Casanover and son, Logan, and aunt, Kay Pruett.

### Rayven Jones

Jan. 26, 1998 - March 7, 2024

Rayven Jones, age 26, of Gatesville, passed away on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at Coryell Community Church with Dr. Eric Moffett officiating. Interment followed at the family's private land.

Rayven Donte Jones was born on Jan. 26, 1998, in Temple. He graduated from Gatesville High School in 2016, where he excelled in football and track. He married Martica Sanford on April 13, 2019, and together they had two children, Peyton and Leo. Rayven attended O.G.'s Barber School in Killeen. He opened R.J.'s Barber Shop in Gatesville in 2020 and was voted "Best Barber" by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce for two consecutive years. Rayven was baptized in 2007 at The House That God Built Church. He and his family are currently proud members of Coryell Community Church. Rayven was a devoted husband and father. His hobbies included fishing, cooking, and traveling with his family. He



expressed his love for others through barbering and was passionate about showing up for anyone.

Rayven is survived by his wife, Martica Jones; children, Peyton and Leo Jones; mother, Amanda Paro and husband Lucas; father, Ray Jones II and wife, Olivia; siblings, Andraque Jones and fiancé, Robin Galiano, Allaira Jones, Allaiya Jones, Tookie Jones, Araiya Jones, Amaia Jones, and Adonai Jones; grandparents, Kelly and Eloy Mainez, Jeri Jones, and Ray Jones, Sr.; and a niece, Zayla Jones. Rayven also leaves behind his two dogs that he cherished, Deuce and Avah.

### Travis Moore

June 8, 1940 - March 16, 2024

Travis Moore "Shorty," age 83, of Gatesville, passed away Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at Scott's Funeral Home with Pastor Charles McKamie officiating. Interment followed at Smith King Cemetery.

Travis Lee Moore was born on June 8, 1940 to the late Jimmie and Pearl Jones Moore in Coryell County. He was born at home and was the first baby that Dr. E.E. Lowrey delivered. He was also the first grandchild born to the late J.W. and Ellen Jones, of Flat. He grew up on The Royalty Farm in Mound and attended school in Flat. He graduated Lovington High School in Lovington, New Mexico in 1959.

He moved back to Mound with his family in 1960 and joined the Texas National Guard, 49th Division the following year. He was activated during the Berlin Crisis and was stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He was honorably discharged from the Texas National Guard in February of 1967. He attended Durham College in 1965, receiving a certification in Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Heating Technology. This certification led him to Sears in Waco, where he worked in Appliance Services from 1968 until 1975. He then spent the remainder of his career working for Fort



Hood Civil Service in AC mechanical repair until his retirement in 2003. He was a current member of the Gatesville Masonic Lodge #197 A.F. & A. M., and the Scottish Rite. He was also a faithful volunteer for Gatesville's Food for Families Drive for the past 20 years. He was baptized in the Baptist faith in 1959 and attended the First Baptist Church of Flat.

Travis was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Ronald Dean Moore, and Jimmie Doyle Moore; and sister, Nancy Ellen Harris.

He is survived by his son, Mark Moore and wife, Melanie, of Shore Acres; daughter, Alisa Gregory and husband, Philip, of Gatesville; grandchildren, Lillie Moore, Luke Gregory, and Clayton Gregory; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Gatesville Care Center, 105 N. 7th Street, Gatesville, TX 76528.

### John D. Riley

August 17, 1942 - March 14, 2024

John D. Riley, age 81, of Lubbock, passed away on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

A viewing was held on Tuesday, March 19, at Englund's Funeral Service, followed by a visitation. Arrangements are under the direction of Englund's Funeral Service of Slaton. A visitation took place on Friday, March 22, followed by a Celebration of Life service at Finch Funeral Chapel in Yorktown. Interment followed at Nordheim Cemetery next to his wife in Nordheim, Texas with military honors. Arrangements were under the direction of Finch Funeral Chapel in Yorktown.

John was born in Gatesville on August 17, 1942. He was the third son and fifth child of James S. and Eton Johnson Riley. John was a 1960 graduate of Gatesville I.S.D. and then attended Navarro Junior College in Corsicana on a basketball scholarship from 1960-1962. Continuing his education, he graduated from SWTXC in San Marcos in 1965. John married his college sweetheart, Barbara (Bobbie) Wagner, of Nordheim, Texas on Jan. 29, 1966, at St. Michaels Catholic Church in Runge, Texas. Pursuing a career in Pharmacy, he attended UT in Austin and graduated with a Pharmacy Degree in January of 1968.

John was drafted into the Army in July of 1968 in Dallas and did basic training in Ft. Polk, Louisiana. He was then stationed at Vint Hill Farms Station in Warrenton, Virginia with the Army Security Agency. In November of 1969, John was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, serving in Binh Dinh Province as a Pharmacist/Medic. He was discharged as an E-5 on July 3, 1970. John often said, "I am proud to be an American, but prouder to be a Texan."

John and Bobbie moved from Austin to Lubbock in 1975 and purchased Fee



Pharmacy on 34th Street, and the pharmacy was sold in 1989. John then worked as a pharmacist for the Lubbock State School from 1989-1998. John continued to do relief work throughout West Texas before retiring in 2022 after 54 years as a pharmacist. John loved playing golf frequently until 2016 when cancer surgery made it no longer possible. John was a member of Christ the King Cathedral in Lubbock.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; his sisters, Doris DeMilia and Ellen Lam; and his brother, Gene Riley, all of Gatesville.

John is survived by his sons, David Riley and his wife, Megan, and Jeff Riley and his wife, Lori, all of Dallas; his brother, Jim Riley and his wife, Linda, of Bulverde; his granddaughters, Lilly, Bridgett, and Violet Riley; his brothers-in-law, Jim Wagner and family of the Metroplex and Steve Wagner and family of San Marcos; his sister-in-law, Jerry Riley, of Gatesville; and numerous nieces and nephews that he dearly loved. John wanted to mention a special thanks to the Wagner Clan of DeWitt County, Texas for always being so welcoming all these years.

In lieu of flowers, and in consideration of having to travel, the family requests that donations be made to Nordheim Cemetery, or a charity of your choice.

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

# New angles in taxidermy



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Wyatt Oakley retired from the fire department in Odessa, then became fire chief in Stamford and retired from that position. Once, when he was fishing, he caught a beautiful bass and decided to mount it himself. It won a prize at a taxidermy competition. Now, he has Paint Creek Taxidermy in a building near downtown Stamford.

"I started in the garage at the house, and my wife finally, after smelling chemicals and dead animals, told me I needed to find some other place to do this," says Wyatt.

He works with all types of wildlife, everything from a water buffalo to a mouse. The water buffalo is the heaviest thing in his shop right now.

"I did a turkey and that was the first and last one of those I'll ever do. That's the nastiest thing God ever created."

He does some unusual mounts.

"I did a bobcat and a rattlesnake fighting. That's probably the most unusual

one I've done. But I've done fox, deer, aoudads, different kinds of goats, even some coyotes. I did a longhorn with about a six-and-a-half foot span of horns."

Wyatt, on the board of the Texas Taxidermy Association, stays busy but guarantees a one-year turn around on his work. He has customers from New Jersey to Nevada. Once, some women contacted him after they had shot a deer and didn't know what to do with it.

"I said, 'ok, bring it up here.' I spent two hours teaching them how to field dress a deer. They just ate it up. One of them put gloves on and helped me

do it."

He gets animals in all sorts of conditions.

"I've had everything from a full body pig to one that's been cut right there at the rib cage with a chain saw."

Wyatt started handling rattlesnakes.

"We euthanize them and freeze them and were selling rattlesnakes for a dollar fifty an inch plus shipping. They sold like hotcakes. Taxidermists all over the country wanted them so they could mount them. Some have sent me pictures of what they did. One shows a rattlesnake biting a pig, another shows a snake striking a fox."

He learned many of his

skills by watching other taxidermists. The first animal he mounted was a squirrel.

"I've done a 350-pound black bear, a 250-pound full body pig. People come in with some weird stuff sometimes."

He is quite innovative. He'll mount some animals or birds on a piece of driftwood for the client to hang on a wall. When I was in his shop his two granddaughters, Kylynn and Preslee, twelve and ten years old, were diligently learning how to do taxidermy.

# Mother Neff State Park at capacity for eclipse

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Mother Neff State Park, located in the southeastern portion of Coryell County, will be one of the 31 state parks in the direct path experiencing the total solar eclipse on April 8th.

According to Mother Neff State Park Superintendent, Melissa Chadwick, no special events will be held at the park on the day of the total eclipse, although she stated that all campsites at the park have been reserved for several months. "Not as much for overnight rentals," she said.

Chadwick reported that approximately 15 campsites had been previously rented with a few that were set aside for park staff and emergency vehicles. She also mentioned that additional park security would be needed on the day of the eclipse.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, it is recommended to head to your designated park early to allow for heavy traffic. It is also recommended to fuel up your vehicle before coming to the park in case of traffic delays.

Chadwick stated that the "day permits" to the park became available to the public on March 8th at 8 a.m., and that in less than an hour, the day permits were sold out, which numbered 70 in total.

Mother Neff Park has approximately 90 parking places available, then



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mother Neff State Park Superintendent Melissa Chadwick displays some of the eclipse items including t-shirts and eclipse glasses that will be on sale in the park's visitor center.

again, with some set aside for staff and law enforcement officers.

"We expect to be very busy on April 8th and for several days prior to the eclipse. Additional staff, volunteers, and the first responders will be on hand to assist with the larger-than-normal visitation we are anticipating," Chadwick said.

Regarding food and water, she said, "We have asked our vending machine

vendors to have items fully stocked, and there may be other items available for donations that would benefit the Mother Neff State Park Association."

"We recommend that folks check availability before heading out to any park on that day as capacity limits may be reached," she said. Texas Parks and Wildlife officials reminded park visitors that, following the eclipse, you may not be able to leave

quickly, so be sure to stock up on food and drinks in case your departure is delayed by traffic.

"We are certainly looking forward to the eclipse and creating stellar memories with our visitors that will last a lifetime," Chadwick said.

For more information about Mother Neff State Park, please call 254-853-2389.

# SUDOKU

Solution to the puzzle that ran in the March 16 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

# Good Friday and Easter closings

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.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

A public meeting regarding the Coryell County transportation Safety Action Plan is scheduled for

**2:00pm on April 4th**  
**at the Coryell County Main Street Annex**  
**in the Commissioners Courtroom**  
**at 801 E. Leon Street,**  
**Gatesville, TX 76528.**

The Safety Action plan is a comprehensive plan that identifies roadway safety concerns and provides solutions for these concerns. The overall goal of the Safety Action Plan is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. This public meeting is an opportunity for the public to voice the transportation safety concerns they would like to see addressed in the plan.

Mar 30

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MOUND NEWS

# Anna McPherson competes in national volleyball tournament



BY BARBARA HOPSON  
Mound News Correspondent

**K**elli, Kinsley, and Anna McPherson spent spring break 2024 in Orlando, Florida.

They traveled to play in the Sunshine Classic National Volleyball Tournament where Anna's team, Waco Juniors Volleyball Club 15 Black, finished 4th overall.

While there, the trio also took time to visit cousins Lizzi and Graham Howell and spent a Day at Disney's Magic Kingdom Park as well as watched a rocket launch from Cape Canaveral at Cocoa Beach.

Mr. Travis "Shorty" Moore died Saturday March 16, 2024. His funeral service was held Thursday at

Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville. Burial was at the Smith King Cemetery. Mr. Moore grew up on the Royalty Farm in Mound. Mr. Moore is survived by his son, Mark Moore and wife, Melanie, of Shore Acres; daughter, Alisa Gregory and husband, Philip, of Gatesville, grandchildren Lillie Moore, Luke Gregory, Clayton Gregory, and numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Moore will truly be missed in our community.

Will and Jennifer Mann and children spent spring break in Colorado where

they went skiing.

Christopher and Jennifer Eberlein spent a long weekend in Broken Bow, OK. with Matt and Valerie Terrell, Caleb and Annalee Terrell. They all enjoyed time at their cabin and fly fishing on the river.

Jerry Helms was honored on his birthday, Friday, March 10th.

Jerry and Brenda Helms will celebrate their wedding anniversary on March 26, 2024.

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

Paul and Rachel Hopson were honored on their birthdays this past week at the home of David and Pam Hopson.

Congratulations to the Livestock Judging Team on a great day of learning and competing at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo! Shout out to Thomas Belt for placing 15th out of 382 juniors!

Barbara's Notes: Happy Birthday to Mrs. Karen George



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Velva Riddle who recently presented the Women's Forum meeting at the Gatesville Public Library.

## Women's Forum met on March 11

Submitted Item

The program of the Women's Forum was presented on Monday, March 11, at the Gatesville Public Library by Velva Riddle. "The Trellis and the Seed" by Jan Karon is a children's book about the

growth of a seed. A large trellis is prepared for the growth of the very small seed. The sprout became a vine which began to climb the trellis. The lady who planted the seed fertilized and watered it until it grew and grew. God's tim-

ing brings forth fragrant blossoms. At the end, the moonflower produces a flower that gives stillness and peace.

Parallels to life were shown throughout the story.

Club Day this year will

again be held at Alfredo's in Lampasas on Monday, April 15. Many members will bring their spouses and guests to enjoy food and fellowship.

## Turnersville Community Center to hold meeting

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.

## RECIPE

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

### CHEESY BAKED POTATO SLICES

By Shirleen Chandler

- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 c. shredded cheese
- 4 med. baking potatoes, cut into ¼ slices (about 4 cups)
- ½ tsp. paprika
- ½ tsp. pepper



Preheat oven to 400. In a small bowl, combine soup, paprika, and pepper. In greased 2-quart oblong baking dish, arrange potatoes in overlapping rows. Sprinkle with cheese; spoon soup mixture over cheese. Cover with foil, bake 45 minutes. Uncover, bake 10 minutes more or until potatoes are fork tender. (Slice potatoes very thin and do not overlap them too much or it will take much longer to get them tender.) Serves 6.

## Red Cross Month observed in March

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

Red Cross Month is observed annually during the month of March.

Coryell County is in the Central and South Texas region of the Red Cross organization, which serves 83 counties and over 9.4 million people.

Headquartered in Austin, other locations are in Bryan, Del Rio, El Paso, Kerrville, Laredo, Midland, San Antonio, and Waco, with volunteers in every county in between.

The services of the Red Cross include disaster relief and preparedness, lifesaving CPR and first aid training, international family tracing, and support for military veterans and their families.

According to redcross.org, "Volunteers within different communities have carried out 90 percent of the humanitarian work for the Red Cross."

When you join the

American Red Cross, you are joining a worldwide movement dedicated to providing relief to people impacted by disasters. Whether you work full-time, are in career transition, a student looking for experience, active-duty military, a veteran, retired, or only have a few extra hours a month, you too can make a difference and save lives.

Listed are volunteer opportunities available in the Central and South Texas Region:

**Shelter Staff:** Help set up shelters for people displaced by disasters. Assist with greeting those coming into the shelter, registration, feeding, and other daily activities. Leadership and supervisory opportunities are available for those interested.

**Health Services Staff:** Licensed healthcare professionals are needed to help carry out a wide

range of daily activities in disaster shelters. From replacing medications and durable medical equipment lost during disasters to screening for COVID-19 symptoms and assessing first-aid needs of people arriving at shelters, health-care professionals play a vital role in maintaining healthy disaster shelters.

**Disaster Mental Health:** Coping with disaster can be difficult, and many people impacted by disasters need help overcoming feelings of stress and anxiety. Disaster Mental Health volunteers help provide mental health intervention where needed and help facilitate long term recovery.

**Disaster Workforce Engagement:** Help ensure volunteers are engaged in the Red Cross mission and

have access and opportunities for training in their positions, so they are ready to help when disasters strike.

**Staff Services:** Ensure disaster operations are properly staffed by assigning volunteers to appropriate shifts and positions while providing excellent customer services to volunteers and staff on disaster operations.

**Recovery Planning Case-work:** Support long-term recovery of individuals, families, and communities affected by disasters by assisting with recovery problem-solving and advocacy.

For further information, visit redcross.org.

*A Tribute to My Robert*

Losing someone we love is so difficult. You can't let the fear of losing someone outweigh the joy of loving them.

The pain and grief is sadly worth it because of all the great, wonderful memories.

Both are congruent and just savor them, keep them tightly in your heart, yet allow yourself to move forward in life.

You will be with them later in a wonderful place - where there's no grief or pain.

*Love you forever,  
Joy*

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# Local restaurants prepare for Total Eclipse takeover

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

With the Total Eclipse upon us, businesses in Gatesville have been preparing for the chance to spotlight their establishments to welcome visitors during this celestial phenomenon.

As there are many restaurants and businesses within the community, The Gatesville Messenger has highlighted the ones that will stay open during this once in a lifetime event.

**Studebakers Pizza** will remain open all throughout the Total Eclipse weekend, as well as on the day of the

eclipse on Monday, April 8.

On the day of the eclipse, there will be various specials for visitors and locals to enjoy and T-shirts will also be sold during that time.

A local, veteran-owned, family business, Studebakers prides itself on serving fresh homemade pizzas, salads, sub sandwiches, pastas, and a variety of ice cream and desserts.

Studebakers Pizza is located at 2701 East Main Street.

**Ranchers Steak House & Grill** will be open on the day

of the Total Eclipse to serve their usual menu along with the salad bar.

This establishment has been in business since 1997 and is inspired by the everyday family cooking that locals grew up enjoying.

Ranchers Steak House & Grill is located at 107 TX-36 North.

**The Feed Mill** will be open during the weekend of the eclipse. On Sunday, April 7, it will be open from 10:30 to 8 p.m., and on Monday, April 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or possibly later depending on the outcome.

On the day of the eclipse, the restaurant will sell eclipse T-shirts and eclipse glasses as well as have an eclipse special.

"We are trying to order ahead for different things," Tana Snoddy, owner of Feed Mill said. "But then again, how do you order if you don't really know."

The establishment is preparing for the eclipse by ordering cups, food, and other necessities in advance.

The Feed Mill has been in operation since 2010 and continues to serve the

community with homestyle cooking.

The Feed Mill is located at 108 North 6th Street.

**Bare Bones BBQ** will be open during the weekend of the Total Eclipse and will host a concert with a performance by Stoney LaRue on Friday, April 5. The restaurant will open on the day of the eclipse on Monday, April 8.

There will be Total Eclipse glasses sold at Bare Bones BBQ as well.

Bare Bones BBQ is located at 4305 TX-36. New Rodeo Mexican Grill

will be open on the day of the eclipse on Monday, April 8.

They will be operating at normal hours.

This establishment has been in business since 2013 and serves the community with authentic and traditional Mexican food.

**New Rodeo Mexican Grill** is located at 309 TX-36.

Visit [www.gatesvilletx-eclipse.com](http://www.gatesvilletx-eclipse.com) for more information about Gatesville's preparations for the eclipse.

## YARD OF THE MONTH - MARCH



COURTESY PHOTO

The Keep Gatesville Beautiful Yard of the Month for March goes to Tolane and Cody Fisher and family at 1302 Mill Street. Tolane says they are beginners at gardening, but you wouldn't know it from the looks of their yard. The Fishers, who both grew up in Gatesville, moved into this beautiful home last August and already have everything looking great. The colorful plants and flowers in the front include a fern, foxtails, marigolds, and a red bougainvillea. There is also a Redbud tree in bloom. Their front door features a "Hello" sign, which Tolane created with real citrus fruits that she dehydrated herself. On the side of the house, they have a tiered-raised bed which they call their "Salsa Garden." It has tomatoes, peppers, and cilantro, and she plans to plant onions and garlic soon. All in all, a delightful yard. Thanks, Fishers, for helping to keep Gatesville Beautiful!

## Coryell County to discuss SAP at public meeting

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

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

A public meeting will be held to discuss the Coryell County Safety Action Plan on Thursday, April 4, at 2 p.m. and will be in the Commissioner's Courtroom.

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

Coryell County is com-

mitted to a goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries. This can be achieved within 10 years, by Jan. 2034, with the funding and completion of projects outlined in the safety action plan.

Current potential projects include traffic signal and signal improvements, new and improved sidewalks and crosswalks, the installation of bike lanes, turn lanes, and guardrails, reduced speed limits, and safer school routes.

Funding has been provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant to develop the plan, which they applied for and were awarded last year.

Coryell County was one of 25 SS4A Safety Action

Plan (SAP) awards in the State of Texas in 2022.

Since public involvement is essential to the development of an SAP, a survey was conducted from Jan. 5 through Feb. 29 for citizens of Coryell County to complete. With 318 responses to the survey, locals provided 131 points on a map of Coryell County to identify road with safety concerns.

Post cards alerting citizens of Coryell County to the survey were mailed out to 17,000 residential addresses.

For more information, visit <https://coryell-county-sap.com>.

The Commissioner's Courtroom is located at 800 East Main Street.

## First Methodist 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.

Submitted Item

Two town hall meetings related to the solar eclipse are scheduled for Monday, March 25th. The first meeting, at 2 p.m., is specifically designed for local businesses. Topics will be specific to how the anticipated visitors may impact businesses and what they can do to prepare. Content

will include lessons learned from communities that were in the path of totality in 2017 and details about the City of Gatesville's plans. There will be a time for open discussion.

The second meeting, at 5:30 p.m., will be more general in nature and will be directed to residents. Details about public safety and traffic control plans,

community events, and tips for individuals will be presented.

Both meetings will be held in the Gatesville City Council Chambers at 110 N. 8th Street. For those unable to attend, the meetings will be live streamed on Facebook on the Gatesville, TX "Eclipseville" 2024 page.

## KGB to host Spring Clean-up March 23

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.

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KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Construction on the Coryell County Jail is nearly complete.

# County expected to use jail addition by April

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

After nearly one year of construction, the expansion of the Coryell County Jail is scheduled to be complete and in use by early April.

Commissioner Scott Weddle said in an email that the Texas Commission on Jail Standards is scheduled to inspect the expansion on March 28. Inmates who are currently housed outside of the county can move into the new jail following approval from the state commission.

Weddle said the county is aiming to make the move by April 1.

"Once we pass the inspection, we should

be able to start moving inmates into the expansion and start saving the out of county inmate fees paid to other counties," Weddle said.

The county is currently finalizing minor details on the expansion ahead of the inspection, Commissioner Ryan Basham said. Construction crews are also set to complete the new parking area in front of the Coryell County Sheriff's Office, which was built to meet Texas Accessibility Standards.

"There are just a few minor details that need to be addressed," Basham said.

The county approved the jail expansion in

November 2022 to bring the building up to compliance with state standards, which included issues with overcrowding. The new addition adds 47 beds to the facility.

The expansion replaces a historic building that served as the county jail since the 1930s.

The jail expansion project was originally scheduled to be completed in December, according to a previous article by The Messenger. Construction first began in May 2023.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Rofer applies four coats of PermaLastic Plus sealant to the northwest dome of the Coryell County Courthouse to prevent further leaks inside the historic structure.

# Courthouse repairs underway

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Work commenced last week on the repair of the northwest dome of the Coryell County Courthouse. In February, County Commissioner of Pct. 3, Ryan Basham, reported that the four courthouse domes, located on each corner of the building, were leaking and causing damage in the attic and to the offices below.

After the county agreed to a quote of \$48,500 from A\*R\*C\*Hitexture Roof Coatings owned by Gregory Cole of Rowlett, restoration and repair plans were soon put into action. Cole, who has been in the business for 48 years, said, "We specialize in working with metal roofs." He also stated that his work is guaranteed for 25 years.

When asked about the time frame for completing the work, Commissioner Basham said, "Best thing they can give me is two weeks to a month to repair the dome."

"Water from the northwest dome is leaking into the attic and into an office below, which is occupied by District Clerk Becky Moore where records have received water damage," Basham said.

Although leaks have been discovered in all four domes, the one on the northwest corner of the 125-year-old courthouse needed to be addressed first.

"On some of the spots, they're having trouble getting some of the old covering off. There's been more damage than good," he said. Basham reported that, over the years, hail has been responsible for damage to the domes and to the roof. "There is some hail damage and the contractor said that the dome we're working on now has been beaten down and they're going to have to straighten that up. Now, after the coating has been painted onto the dome, it will be more protected from hail damage, wind, and heavy rains," he said.

Basham recently gave an update on the repair work to the Coryell County Historical Commission and brought samples of the sealant that will be used on the dome. "There's going to be three different coats on it," he said. Four coats of a neoprene base, which is black and known as PermaLastic Plus, a rubber-based sealant, was applied by hand to the dome fol-

lowing repair work of loose seams and repair work on the lightning rod on top. Concerning the black PermaLastic, Basham said, "We're going to get some phone calls, and people are going to ask why the dome is being painted black, but it's not going to remain black."

According to Basham, the last two coats put on the dome will be Omni-Clad, which is a polyurethane coating that will provide seamless waterproofing. To carefully match the color of the other domes, the Omni-Clad coating will be "terra cotta" in color.

The white base that supports the dome was also treated with neoprene and then painted with a sealant called "Coryell County White."

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



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GHS baseball standouts, pictured left to right: Bralen Veazey, Gehrig Keeton and Justin Muegge.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Gatesville baseball winding down non-district schedule

BY CHRIS ALLMAN  
Contributing Writer

Gatesville baseball wraps a rigorous non-district schedule with a home game against 3A No. 9 Franklin on Saturday. Then they will turn their attention to district play, which starts on March 25 at Robinson.

The Hornets (11-7-1) dropped a 3-1 decision to 4A No. 21 Brownwood on March

19 despite stellar pitching from Gehrig Keeton. The sophomore threw a 61-pitch complete-game and scattered five hits while allowing just two earned runs and striking out four.

Brownwood took a 2-0 lead in the first, and the Hornets got their lone run in the top third when Bralen Veazey doubled home Lawson Mooney, who had drawn

a one-out walk. Veazey had two of Gatesville's five hits and is hitting .385 on the season to lead the Hornets.

Left fielder Justin Johnson and right fielder Justin Muegge each had hits for the Hornets as well.

On March 18, the Hornets traveled to Caldwell for a game that was a late addition to the schedule and picked up a 7-1 win. Bradey James

cruised to a complete-game win allowing just two hits over seven innings. Muegge had two hits in the win, while Veazey, Mooney, James, and Collyn Coleman each had hits.

In a 7-3 loss to Temple on March 16, the Hornets were undone by errors and an untimely loss of control as their staff walked seven Wildcats and hit three more. Gates-

ville out hit Temple 7-3 in the loss.

Gatesville led 3-1 heading into the bottom of the sixth, but the Wildcats scored six runs with just one hit in the inning. The Hornets issued six walks, hit two batters, and saw four passed balls in a wild inning.

Miles Tull had a pair of hits in the loss while James, Clayton Gregory, Johnson,

Muegge, and Logan Biggs also had hits.

The non-district finale against Franklin will be the Hornets' fifth game this season against a team ranked in the top 25 in their respective classification. In district, they will face defending state champion and current 4A No. 1 China Spring on April 2 and April 5.

## GHS girls' powerlifters dominate at state championship meet



Pictured left to right is coach Jacob Hunter, Shaylie Teague, Emma Davidson, and coach Jason Moffett.

COURTESY PHOTO

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

Two Gatesville High School powerlifters completed their season at the state championship meet this past week. The Hornet athletes include Shaylie Teague and Emma Davidson.

Teague is in the 148-pound weight class and finished four invitational meets, as well as the regional meet and the state meet this year. There were 152 girls who posted totals in her weight class in 4A D2 schools from around the state this season.

The meets included the Moody Invitational where she won first place with an 820-pound total, the China Spring Invitational where she won first place with an 850-pound total, the McGregor Invitational where she won first place with an 840-pound total, and the West Invitational where she won first place with an 830-pound total.

At the regional championships in Dublin, she won second place. Her stats included

345 pounds on squat, 190 pounds on the bench press, and 345 pounds on deadlift with a total of 880 pounds.

At the state championships in Frisco, she won sixth place. Her stats included 355 pounds on squat, 200 pounds on the bench press, and 335 pounds on deadlift with a total of 890 pounds.

"Shaylie will return next year and has a chance to do even better than she did this year," GHS Powerlifting Coach Jason Moffett said.

Davidson is in the 220-pound weight class and finished five invitational meets, as well as the regional meet and the state meet this year. There were 70 girls who posted totals in her weight class in 4A D2 schools from around the state this season.

The meets included the Moody Invitational where she won second place with an 850-pound total, the Gatesville Invitational where she won first place with an 890-pound total, the China

PLEASE SEE STATE | B2



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHELSEA JOHNSON  
Lady Hornet Raylee Glover pictured at bat.

## Hornet girls' softball competes in first district game of season

Staff Reports

On Tuesday, March 19, the Gatesville Lady Hornet softball team competed in their first district game versus La Vega Independent School District where they won 12-1.

Raylee Glover drove in four runs on two hits to lead the varsity Hornets past La Vega varsity.

Glover hit a home run to center field in the fifth inning, scoring three runs, and

doubled in the second inning, scoring one.

The Lady Hornets opened the scoring in the bottom of the first thanks to two singles.

The Lady Hornets first got on the board when Madison Hester singled, scoring one run, while another run was added in the second after Glover doubled.

A line out by Kinlee Gardner extended the varsity Hornets lead to 4-0 in the

bottom of the third inning.

Four more Lady Hornet runs crossed the plate in the fifth inning to extend the lead to 12-1. An error scored one run, and Glover homered to center field, scoring three runs.

Megan Mehaffey earned the win for the Lady Hornets. The starting pitcher allowed four hits and one run over four and two-thirds innings,

PLEASE SEE SOFTBALL | B2

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# SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

striking out seven and walking two. Number 17 started in the circle for La Vega. They gave up three hits and six runs, with five earned, over two-thirds of an inning, striking out none and walking one.

Kallie Featherston appeared in relief for the Lady Hornets.

Brilee Ford, Glover, and Gardner each collected two

hits for the Lady Hornets.

Leadoff hitter number 16 for La Vega, led the team with two hits in three at bat. La Vega turned one double play in the game.

The Lady Hornets travelled to their next game on Friday, March 22.

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



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHELSEA JOHNSON

Pictured left: Lady Hornet Madison Hester on the pitcher's mound. Pictured right: (left to right) Hornet softball players Journey Garrett, Raylee Glover, Megan Mehaffey, and Emma Raby.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are Jonesboro Eagle powerlifters Payton Brister, DeMarcus Acoff, and Austin Massingill.

## Jonesboro Eagles power through regional competition

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

Jonesboro Independent School District's powerlifting team recently competed in a regional meet this past week, with lifter DeMarcus Acoff advancing to state.

Senior DeMarcus Acoff competed in the 198-weight class and came out on top with first place. He lifted 515 pounds on squat, 355

pounds on the bench press, and 485 pounds on deadlift, with a total of 1,355 pounds.

Senior Payton Brister competed in the 220-weight class and won sixth place in his division. He lifted 375 pounds on squat, 315 pounds on the bench press, and 510 pounds on deadlift, with a total of 1,200 pounds.

Junior Austin Massingill competed in the 198-weight class and won eighth place in his division. He lifted 415 pounds on squat, 315 pounds on the bench press, and 450 pounds on deadlift, with a total of 1,180 pounds.

Coach Eddie Gallegos will lead Acoff to the state meet, which will be held in Abilene on Saturday, March 23.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured left to right is Matti Dixon, Addison Hamilton, Presley Robinson, and Zarah Wisehart.

## Oglesby Tiger basketball team honored with various awards

### Staff Reports

The Oglesby Independent School District's girls basketball team was given various All-District awards this past week.

To be awarded with All-

District is an honor that students are given for working hard on the court and in the classroom.

Awards include:  
Matti Dixon, Offensive MVP.  
Addison Hamilton, First

Team All-District.

Presley Robinson, First Team All-District.  
Zarah Wisehart, Second Team All-District.

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

## Elks compete in track meet

### Staff Reports

Evant High School recently announced the track results from the Santa Anna meet, which was held on Thursday, Feb. 29.

Girls track results  
Hailey Neri: First place, 1600 meters, 6:38; third place, 3200 meters, 14:21; third place, 800 meters, 2:47.

Brinlea Bates: Second place, triple jump, 29' 7.5

feet, personal record (PR).  
Izzy Gandy: Shot put, 24' 7.5, PR.

Bree Ramirez: Fifth place, shot put, 26' 8.5, PR; fifth place, discus, 77' 11.

Jolyce Acosta: Discus, 64' 3.5, PR.

Luwi Rodriguez, Harley Weeks, Brinlea Bates, and Maya Reynolds: fifth place, 4 x 100 relay, 58.46.

Daritza Escamilla: Fourth place, 100-meter hurdles,

21.65; fourth place, 300-meter hurdles, 1:06.

Luwi Rodriguez: Third place, 300-meter hurdles, 1:02.

The Lady Elks won fifth place and had a team total of 52 points.

Boys track results  
Dylan Price: 400 meters, 1:01, PR; 200 meters, 26.9, PR; triple jump, 32' 2.5, PR.

Wyatt Hitt: Fourth place, triple jump, 35' 0, PR.

## Gatesville Tennis program to hold after school practices

### Staff Reports

After school tennis practices are held on each Tuesday and Thursday of the week for sixth through eighth graders of the community.

The practices will feature

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, at the same time, there will be many games designed to mimic match play as well as organized match play.

The Gatesville Tennis Courts are located behind the Gatesville Intermediate School.

## STATE

FROM PAGE B1

Spring Invitational where she won first place with an 875-pound total, the McGregor Invitational where she won first place with an 895-pound total, and the West Invitational where she won first place with a 915-pound total.

At the regional championships in Dublin, she won first place. Her stats included 355 pounds on squat, 285 pounds on the bench press, and 290 pounds on

deadlift with a 930-pound total.

"Emma set a new regional record for bench press at this meet," Moffett said. "The old record was 255 Pounds, set by Kadee Sexton, also of Gatesville High School, in 2015."

At the state championships in Frisco, she won fourth place. Her stats included 355 pounds on squat, 275 pounds on the bench press, and 285

pounds on deadlift with a 915-pound total.

"Emma will also return for another season next year, with a very good chance to exceed her accomplishments from this year," Moffett said.

Gatesville High School boys powerlifters were competing Friday in Abilene for a state title.

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

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# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Texans take down recently ranked Roadrunners squad

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - The Texans kept things rolling March 9 with no end in sight, facing one of their toughest opponents yet and still emerging victorious.

Tarleton State (9-1) remained perfect at home (5-0) with a 4-3 victory over UTSA (9-5), who was ranked as high as No. 62 just two weeks ago in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITF) NCAA Division I Women's Rankings. Last week the Roadrunners were No. 70.

The Texans will now have gone at least a full calendar year without losing in Stephenville, as they next play March 19, and they last lost at home March 19, 2023. This is the second straight season Tarleton has upend-

ed UTSA, as it also won 4-3 last year in San Antonio.

The Texans remain atop the Western Athletic Conference in winning percentage (.900) and they have the fewest number of losses (one). This marked their third straight victory.

"What a match!" said head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron. "We knew this match would be tough and talked about how it would take everyone showing up for us to win. We took care of doubles and that momentum helped us start strong in singles. Noelia came out on fire and kept her energy up her whole match to get us a singles point quickly. Martha and Elsa played at an elite level today. They competed hard and I'm proud of them leading our team to victory."

Tarleton State had to

make a solid comeback in the doubles point to take it, which proved to be the difference on Saturday afternoon. All three pairs trailed midway through, but two duos emerged victorious in back-to-back fashion to clinch. UTSA's Ekua Youri and Magda Tuells first defeated Elsa Boisson and Clara Sobius 6-2 on Court 2. Then Tarleton's Noelia Lorca and Emma Persson came back to win 6-4 over Aleksandra Zlatarova and Vittoria Baccino on Court 3. The Texan duo of Martha Makantasi and Maretha Burger followed with a 6-4 win over Fatima Gutierrez and Cassie McLay to clinch the doubles point.

Tarleton and UTSA split the six singles matches, which is all the Texans needed to take the team victory.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texans kept things rolling March 9 with no end in sight, facing one of their toughest opponents yet and still emerging victorious.

First, Makantasi made it 2-0 Texans with a 6-3 6-1 win on Court 3 over Baccino. Makantasi improved to 9-1 in singles with the victory, all between Nos. 2-3.

UTSA got on the board next on the top court, as Gutierrez defeated Persson 6-1 6-3.

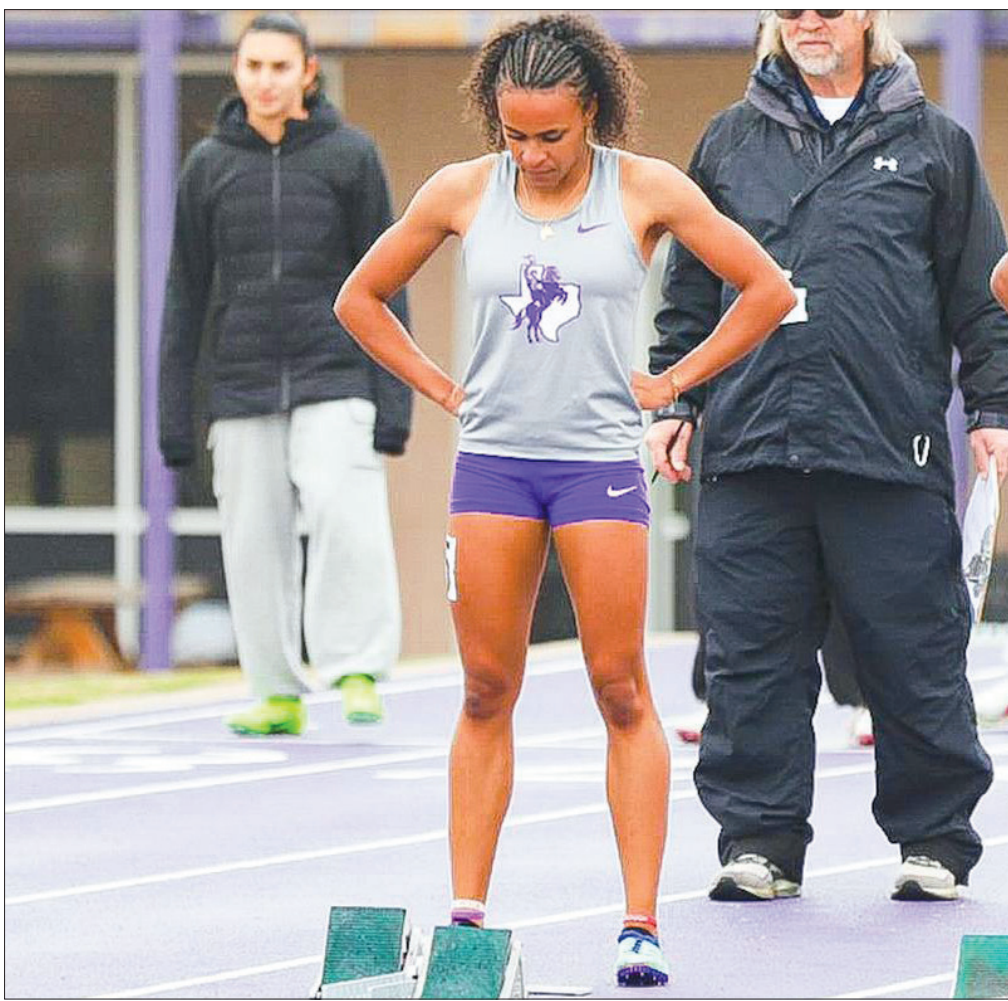
Lorca boosted Tarleton to a 3-1 team lead as she remained perfect in singles play, now 10-0, with her 6-1 6-3 win over McLay on No. 4.

UTSA's Youri beat Sobius 6-3 6-4 on Court 5 to make it a 3-2 Texan lead.

Boisson clinched the team victory for Tarleton on

Court 2, as she took down Zlatarova 6-3 6-7(5) 6-2. Boisson has won six of her last seven singles matches, improving to 7-3 on the year.

The Roadrunners took the final singles match to make it 4-3 overall, as Eva Beyebach beat Adeliya Mukhutdinova on Court 6.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State came home with a handful of medals after 11 athletes placed in the top three at the 2024 Wes Kitley Invitational.

## Tarleton Track and Field has 11 top-3 finishes

### Tarleton State University

ABILENE - Tarleton State came home with a handful of medals after 11 athletes placed in the top three at the 2024 Wes Kitley Invitational.

Three gold medal finishes highlighted the Texans' time in Abilene as Brya Davis took the Women's 100 meter dash, Summer Croxton took the Women's 200 meter dash and the Women's 4x100 meter relay team consisting of Anayas Copeland, Croxton, Amandine Estival and Davis took home the top prize Saturday.

### TRACK

The track is where the Texans found most of their success having eight of their 11 top finishes in-between the lanes. In the Women's 100 meter dash the Purple and White made a clean sweep collecting gold, silver and bronze. Davis took home

the top prize, winning the event with a time of 11.89 seconds, followed by teammate Estival who finished with a time of 11.97 seconds earning her second place. Danielle Thomas rounded things out taking third with a time of 12.15 seconds.

In the Women's 200 meter dash the Texans took the top-two spots, earning the fourth and fifth medals for Tarleton State. Croxton crossed the finish line first with a time of 24.55 seconds, earning the second gold medal for the Purple and White. Copeland wasn't far behind, finishing second with a time of 24.78 seconds.

In the Women's 4x100 meter relay, the Texans squads took first and third, earning the third and final gold medal for the Purple and White. The team of Copeland, Croxton, Estival and Davis took home gold with a time of 46.45 seconds. Bronze

was won by the team of Anna Hudson, Danielle Thomas, Alessa King and Aaliyah Rifort-Delem after they turned in a time of 47.55 seconds.

The final athlete to earn a top-three finish was Justin Raines on the men's side as he placed second in the Men's 100 meter dash with a time of 10.44 seconds.

### FIELD

The Texans took home three silver medals in field events across three different events. Kylee Willis earned the first silver in the Women's High Jump with a leap of 1.55 meters. In the Women's Hammer Throw, Bonnie Clifton earned silver after a throw of 46.41 meters. Mason Hill rounded things out with a silver medal finish in the Men's Shot Put after a throw of 16.09 meters.

## Baseball defeated in Game 3 at Grand Canyon

### Tarleton State University

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Tarleton State Baseball ended the weekend 1-2 against the Lopes after dropping the final pair of games to Grand Canyon.

Tarleton State (11-10, 2-4 WAC) was shut out by Grand Canyon (11-8, 5-2 WAC) in the final game of the weekend series with a 14-0 final in seven innings.

Jake Burcham (L, 0-2) got the start for the Texans giving up four runs on four hits, one walk and one strikeout in 2.1 innings on the mound.

Connor Mattison (W, 3-0) gave up no runs on four hits with four walks and five

strikeouts in 5.0 innings pitched.

The visitors fell at the mercy of the Lopes after three four-run innings.

Tarleton State compiled no runs on four hits. GCU tallied 14 runs on 17 hits with a pair of home runs and three doubles.

In the top of the first with two outs, Cris Enriquez claimed the first hit with a single through the left side. A pair of walks saw Austin Russell and Trace Morrison on to load the bases, but a fly out to centerfield left three Texans stranded.

The Lopes were first on the board with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first after a single to left field and a

two-run home run.

Grand Canyon caught fire at the plate in the third with a double and a walk to see a pair of runners on. A homer over the right field wall gave the home team a 5-0 lead. A couple of singles and an error from the visitors saw another run come in for GCU, unearned.

The home team saw another four-run inning in the bottom of the fourth with three singles, one double and three Lopes walked for a 10-run lead.

Another four-run inning in the bottom of the sixth from GCU ultimately sealed the deal. Four singles, one double and one walk tallied 14 runs for the Lopes to



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State Baseball ended the weekend 1-2 against the Lopes after dropping the final pair of games to Grand Canyon.

shut out the visitors.

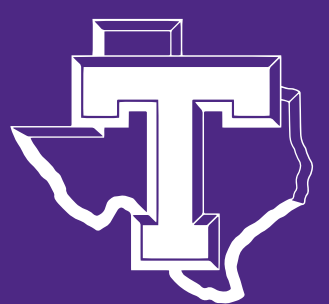
Tarleton State will return to Stephenville to host California Baptist for the

third weekend of conference play. Friday will see a 6 p.m. start. Game 2 will take place Saturday, March 23 at

3 p.m. and the final game of the series will take place at 12 p.m.



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# GISD athletics to hold free heart screenings March 5

## 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.

The 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 extra-curricular activities.

Consent forms will be sent home with students during school hours in time before the event. 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](mailto: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 now offering heart screenings.

Texas House Bill 76, which is Cody's law, was passed in

2019 by state legislature and gives parents in every school district the right to choose a heart screening for their child.

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

# Shoaf highlights high school coaches in newsletter

## Submitted Item

This newsletter will spotlight the amazing men and women we are blessed to call Gatesville High School coaches.

### What aspect of coaching do you enjoy the most?

Coach Chase Smith said, "I like to see the kids be able to carry over the lessons they learn on the field to everyday life - from

learning how to handle success and adversity to learning how to be competitive in everything they do."

Coach Brit Campbell said, "There are many aspects of coaching that I enjoy.

One of the most enjoyable for me is the relationships that I have and build with my athletes. Having the relationships built makes the huge wins that much bigger, the tough losses

are easier to get through together, I am able to coach them harder and hold them to a higher standard, and it is more enjoyable to share their progress and success with them."

### What do you enjoy most about being in the classroom?

Coach Andrea Holdbrook said, "I really enjoy the constant interaction with students. I get to see what they're like off the field and

in the hallways, and it helps me better understand who they are. I also really enjoy figuring out how they learn best."

Campbell said, "I enjoy getting to know the students; it allows me to help teach them, and it is easier to make class and learning more fun."

### What's the best part of your coaching season?

Coach Aaron Hunter said,

"The best part of football season is seeing your team grow together and become a family."

Holdbrook said, "All of it! Obviously, it's my favorite time of the year because I get to share what I love with others for four to five months. It's hard to pick one aspect that I enjoy the most, but I really love how the group molds together to form a family. Nothing is

better than watching them get excited for each other during competition."

There is no doubt in my mind that a good coach can change a game, but a great coach can change a life.

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



COURTESY PHOTOS  
Top left: Pictured is Gatesville High School baseball coach Chase Smith and his team during a game.  
Top right: Gatesville High School softball coach Andrea Holdbrook is pictured having a discussion with her team.  
Middle picture: Gatesville High School basketball coach Brit Campbell is pictured praying with his basketball team before a game.  
Bottom picture: Pictured is Gatesville High School Head Football Coach Aaron Hunter presenting a speech to the high school football team.





# EDUCATION

Gatesville ★ Evant ★ Jonesboro ★ Oglesby



COURTESY PHOTO

From left to right, Zayne Cerecerez, Director Amanda Cummings, Eason Johnson, and Dana Myers.



COURTESY PHOTO

The entire cast and crew from UIL production. Bottom row, left to right, Isabela Mondragon Gonzalez, Mia Portillo, Jadan Moore, and Serenity Hajdik. Middle row, Dana Myers, Director Amanda Cummings, and Mandy Jones. Back row, Torri Hobbs, Abigail Boose, Stetson Love, Jax Mullings, Issabella Cerecerez, Lucas Ayers, Eason Johnson, Lillian Kring, and Madison Regan.

## GHS students win medals at District 23-4A UIL One Act Play Contest

Submitted by Amanda Cummings

On Saturday, March 2nd, the Gatesville High School UIL One Act Play team participated in the District 23-4A UIL One Act Play Con-

test at the China Spring ISD Performing Arts Center in China Spring with their interpretation of the Tennessee Williams classic "The Glass Menagerie."

The following students were recognized for their

stellar work in the following categories:

**Outstanding Technician's Award:** Issabella "Zayne" Cerecerez.

**Honorable Mention All Star Cast Award:** Dana Myers.

**All Star Cast Award:** Eason

Johnson.

These students, along with their entire cast and crew, would like to invite the community to attend a final public performance of their show on Saturday, March 23rd, at the GHS Auditorium.

Doors will open at 3 p.m., with the show starting at 3:30 p.m. Admission to the show will be \$3 for students with an ID, military personnel, and senior citizens. All other attendees' tickets will be \$5, with children 5 and

under attending for free.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the flatbed trailer that was constructed by welding, tech, and construction students of Gatesville High School.

## GHS CTE students build flatbed trailer

Submitted by Liz Shoaf

Charles Conley recently invited me into his classroom to check out all of the projects his students are working on.

After admiring a huge, sturdy hog hunting stand and a beautiful gate, he directed my attention toward a flatbed trailer that his, Charles Lisenbe, and Peanut Blanchard's students worked on together.

Welding students assembled the frame and all metal components; construction students were responsible for the floorboards; and auto tech students installed lights and wiring.

The trailer is solidly built and looks great. If you are in the market for one, it is looking for a new home. More details are to come.

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

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

## Bohannon named to honor society

Staff reports

Collin Bohannon, of Gatesville, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Bohannon was initiated at Texas A&M University.

Bohannon is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff, and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership

is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the lead-

ership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann, who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories, and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars

in service to others."

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter; NASA astronaut, Wendy Lawrence; novelist, John Grisham; and YouTube co-founder, Chad Hurley.

## Evant ISD to host ACE 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 will feature planting and designing

springtime pottery, egg decorating, and an egg spoon race.

For further details, contact 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.

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# CRSP to meet March 28

Submitted by Marsha Lee

On Thursday, March 28th, members of CRSP (Coryell Retired School Personnel) will have their monthly meeting at Ranchers' Steakhouse. Social time will be at 9:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10 a.m.

Members are reminded that March is membership renewal time, so they may pay their yearly dues to the

Treasurer, Anne Byrom. Dues are a total of \$45 (\$35 for the state TRTA organization and \$10 for the local chapter).

The program is entitled "A Space-tacular Eclipse," and will be presented by Cheri Shepherd, City of Gatesville Special Events Coordinator, which, for the last year, has also included "Eclipse Coordinator" as part of that title. She will be speaking about the

April 8th total solar eclipse and events in town scheduled for that weekend.

Another reminder: the District XII Spring Leadership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st, at the Region 12 Education Service Center in Waco. Everyone is invited, and lunch will be provided, but you may need to sign up if you plan to attend. JoAnn Sugg, District 12 President, will be presiding.

# Daddy-Daughter Dance is 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, 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.

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 ex-

tra for an additional male individual.

There will be a registration form sent home to all students at each campus in time for the event, 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.

# PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are students of Evant Independent School District during guitar practice on Thursday, March 7. The Evant ACE program has established a new, free program for students who are interested in playing the guitar. The lessons are free, and the guitars are provided as well.

## BOOK REVIEW

# Books about Women's History

George Washington was the father of our country. Bill Gates co-established Microsoft. Thomas Edison improved the light bulb. Stephen King created Cujo. Walt Whitman wrote poetry, Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, and Bass Reeves brought bandits to justice. Notice one thing there? Those are all men, so, why not flip the coin? Read these great books about women in American history...



COURTESY PHOTO

Women's History Books for Adults c.2024, various publishers, \$24.99 - \$30, various page counts

A generation of us grew up with television doctors who were all men, but in "The Doctor Was a Woman" by Chris Enss (Two Dot, \$26.95), you'll see how Hollywood missed the mark, and that women wore white coats, too. Read about a woman physician who worked for the railroad, one who left her home in South Dakota to tend to farmers and their families on the prairie, a ground-breaking plastic surgeon, a female dentist in the late 1800s, and several woman doctors who worked during times of pandemic. You'll love these hidden stories that aren't hidden anymore.

Study any womens magazine from the 1950s, and you'll see plenty of ads targeted expressly to homemakers. In "Housewife: Why Women Still Do It All and What to Do Instead" (Legacy Lit, \$30), author Lisa Selin Davis looks at why "homemaking" is still mostly women's work today, even if the woman of the house is the breadwinner in a two-adult household. This is a wide and widely interesting look that, most importantly, doesn't denigrate homemakers. Instead, this book leaves women - and men - with ways to find their own comfortable (and equal) choices.

No women's history book would be complete without considering our First Ladies: in "American Woman: The Transformation of the Modern First Lady, from Hillary Clinton to Jill Biden" (Crown, \$30), author Katie Rogers writes about how our most modern first ladies have molded the role from one of quiet helpmate to one of activism and personal platforms. Though its focus is more contemporary, the book is overall a sweeping look at presidential wives: Rogers reaches back into history for comparison and

reality-check, making this a book that will delight historians and political animals alike.

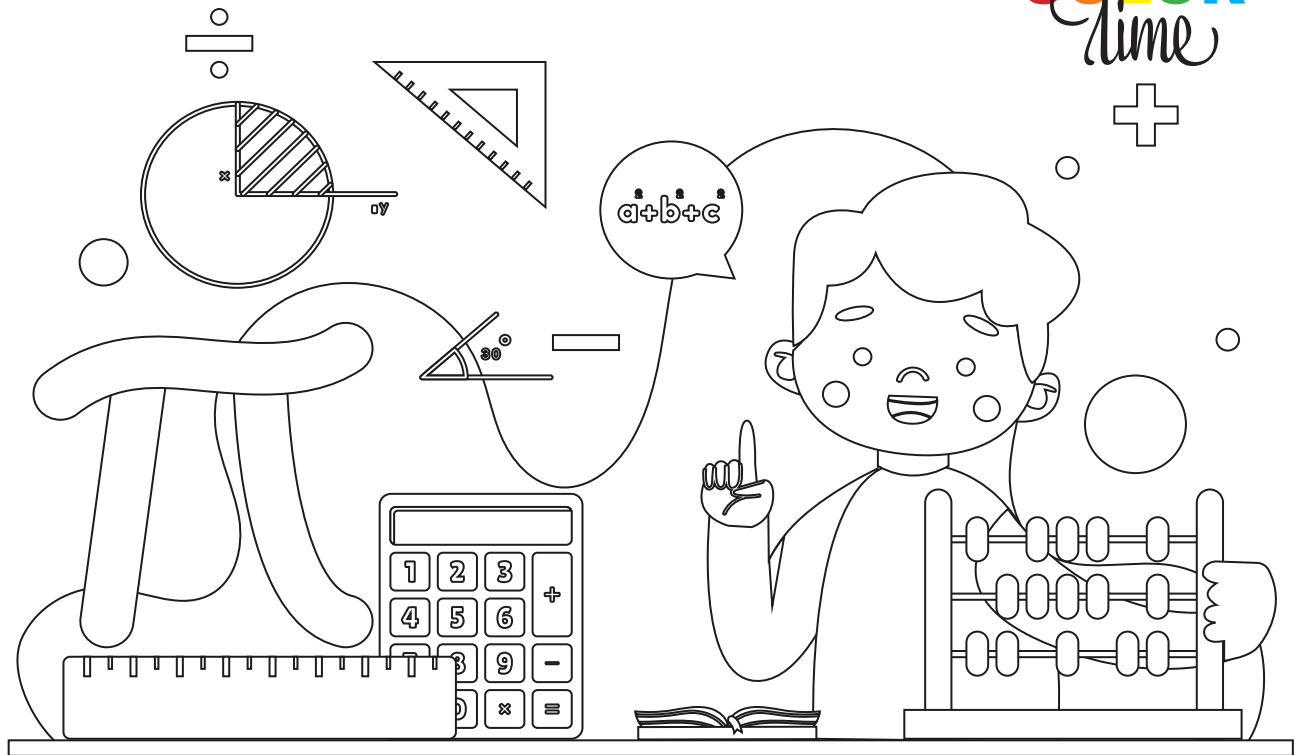
And, finally, if you like a little salt with your history, look for "Unbecoming a Lady" by Therese Oneill (Simon Element, \$24.99). Despite what you might think, yesterday's women didn't always behave. Many of them were not quiet or demure or shy at all, and their place was definitely not always in the home. In this book, you'll meet some of history's loudest, most audacious women, the bravest, and the ones who saw something they didn't like and fixed it: inventor, Lilian Gilbreth; Civil War doctor, Mary Edwards Walker; wrongly hospitalized Elizabeth Packard; visionary Ellen G. White; Alaska millionaire, Reindeer Mary Antisarlook; sideshow "fat lady," Celesta Geyer; miser Hetty Green; and others who did what they needed, or simply wanted to do.

If these books aren't enough - because you know you'll want more - check with your favorite librarian or bookseller. They've got all kinds of books to help you see that history is just as often HERstory.



## Did You Know?

MATH IS THE BASIS OF MANY DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, INCLUDING MUSIC AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, SCIENCE.



### Math

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

H N F S N O I T C A R F S M X  
W Z O F B G G E O M E T R Y P  
E B W S U B T R A C T I O N A  
S N O I T A U Q E W L D P U T  
R H A G T C Y L P I T L U M R  
Z S S V S O O D C Z Q H W D E  
Y O Y C V O V A L Q H A Q G E  
B N C A J R H H W I G I A Z V  
N L D A D D I T I O N T G E A  
M N O I S I V I D H N V C R R  
A M M I Q N U T O E G E B X R  
A L M L L A I G C B J E Q T O  
U D E Z V T N R J G S G L Q  
T B G W J E P I L E R Z M P  
O I W W P P T P A X Y X L V Y

Word Bank			
1. algebra	2. coordinate	3. percentage	4. division
5. fractions	6. addition	7. multiply	8. geometry
9. equations	10. subtraction		

World Math Day, celebrated on March 23rd - a day where kids around the world embark on a mathematical journey filled with excitement, challenges, and fun! This global event transforms the world of numbers into a playground of learning and discovery.

World Math Day invites kids to explore the magic of mathematics through online competitions, games, and interactive challenges. It's like a virtual math festival where children from different countries join forces to celebrate the wonders of numbers. Whether

you're a math whiz or just starting your mathematical adventure, World Math Day welcomes everyone to the party!

One of the coolest features of this day is the friendly competition. Kids can engage in math battles, solving problems and earning points that contribute to a global leaderboard. It's not just about finding the right answers; it's about embracing the joy of problem-solving and celebrating the achievements along the way.

Teachers play a crucial role in making World Math

Day a fantastic experience for students. They incorporate math challenges into their lesson plans, turning classrooms into vibrant hubs of mathematical exploration. Parents also join the celebration by encouraging their kids to participate in the online events, cheering them on as they tackle mathematical puzzles and games.

World Math Day goes beyond textbooks and classrooms; it's about showing kids that math is a dynamic and exciting part of our daily lives. From calculating scores in games to measur-

ing ingredients in recipes, math is everywhere!

So, on March 23rd, let's come together as a global community of young mathematicians. It's a day to celebrate the beauty of numbers, the thrill of solving puzzles, and the joy of learning. Whether you're exploring basic addition or tackling complex equations, World Math Day is an opportunity to showcase your math skills and, most importantly, have a blast doing it!



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# Gatesville Pack 272 holds the Annual Pine Car Derby

*Submitted item*

Pack 272 from Gatesville recently held its annual Pine Car Derby race. The race consists of each scout being given a solid block of wood, four axles, four wheels, and the race rules. The scout then carves the shape of the car they want, paints the body, and installs the wheels. After many test runs, they learned how to adjust the wheels for better movement and if their body design was the best choice. This event not only allows the scout to show their artistic side, but they also learn a wealth of information on aerodynamics and the importance of weight distribution. The results are as follows:  
In their respective heats: **Teddy**

**Foster** - 1st place and Best Paint Job, **Alaric Fernandez** - 2nd place and Best Wreck, **Zevin Noriega** - 3rd place and Most Imaginative.

**Case Jones** - 1st place and Best in Show, **Maddie Harris** - 2nd place and Best Sport, **Colt Darragh** - 3rd place and Most Aerodynamic.

**Teague Jones** - 1st place and Most Lost Parts, **Joseph Longoria** - 2nd place and Most Colorful, **Ashton Daniels** - 3rd place and Most Patriotic

**Annalyn Buttry** - 1st place and Turtle Mode, **Olivia Daniels** - 2nd place and Most Futuristic, **Gabe Hall** - 3rd place and Most Creative.

**Overall Winners:** Case Jones 1st place, Teague Jones 2nd place, Teddy Foster 3rd place.



Gatesville Pack 272 scouts show off their medals.

COURTESY PHOTO

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# Ambassadors lead youth through MJ Hanna Ranch

**Submitted Item**

On Thursday, March 14, elementary youth of the Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville were hosted by 4-H Ambassadors at the MJ Hanna Ranch.

The students were hosted at the ranch for Natural Resources Day Camp.

Youth spent the day identifying tracks, scat,

and other signed that are left by wildlife and domestic livestock, as well as learning how to collect and press plants. Each student was able to make their own plant collections to take home.

The Ambassadors were led by Becky Coward, Coryell County 4-H Extension Agent.

The MJ Hanna Foundation is a private foundation that primarily gives funds to provide services to families in need of further education and agricultural programs for youth.

For further details, contact the Coryell County AgriLife Extension Office at 254-865-2414.



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COURTESY PHOTOS

Top left: Mia Conley helps students identify tracks.  
 Top right: Recent rains left the perfect mud puddles to cast raccoon tracks.  
 Middle photo: Plant Team member Eli Eaton teaches students how to collect and press plants.  
 Bottom photo: Boys and Girls Club youth crossing the creek at MJ Hanna Ranch with 4-H Ambassadors.

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