



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 36, ISSN No. 0894-4954

## Lt. Georg Cleverley named Interim Police Chief

*As of known history, Cleverley is the first female Chief of Police of the Gatesville Police Department*

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

The City of Gatesville recently appointed Lieutenant Georgiana "Georg" Cleverley to the position of Interim Police Chief of the Gatesville Police Department, according to Interim City Manager Brad Hunt.

Hunt said he appointed Cleverley to the position on July 18. As of known history, Cleverley is the first woman to serve as the Chief of Police in Gatesville.

"I am honored to serve the Gatesville Police Department and the City of Gatesville in whatever capacity is needed," Cleverley said. "This is a great community to live in and a great depart-

ment to work for. As Interim Police Chief, I will do my best to meet the needs of the department and citizens of Gatesville."

According to a former article by The Messenger, Cleverley served in the U.S. Army for 25 years before joining law enforcement and becoming a police officer.

Hunt said former Interim Police Chief Cody Lee was reassigned to his former rank of Lieutenant, and that "he remains in good standing" with the Gatesville Police Department.

During a regular meeting in June, Gatesville City Council decided that Hunt would remain Interim City

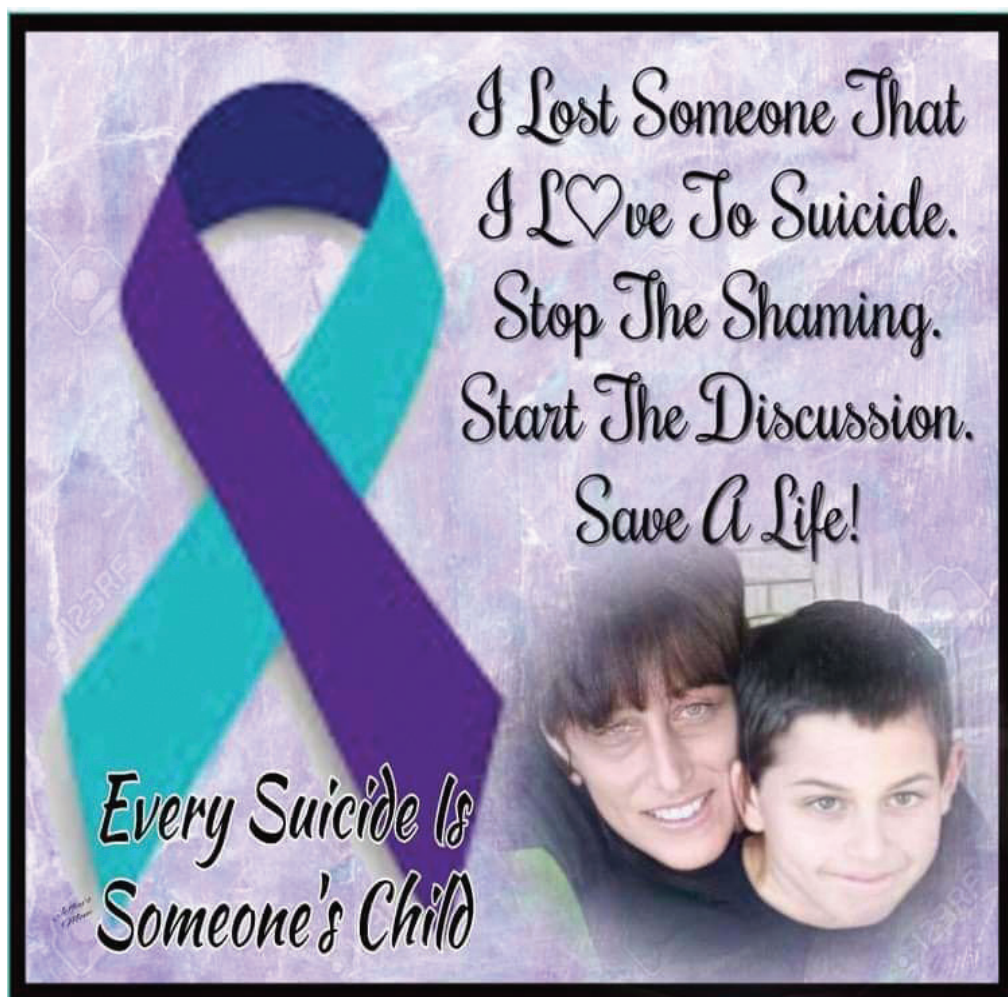
Manager until at least August 27. On that date, Hunt said the council will decide on his future role with the city, which includes returning as the Chief of Police or continuing his service as the city manager.

"Regardless, the weeks upcoming from July 18 to Aug. 27 provided me with an opportunity to grant Lt. Cleverley her first experience as a chief, and her appointment does, to my knowledge and as a matter of history, make her the first woman to serve as a Chief of Police in our city," Hunt said.



Georg Cleverley

STAFF PHOTO



Kara Yocom and her son, Isaac Bueno-Yocom.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Resident brings awareness to bullying, suicide with local event

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

After Kara Yocom lost her 14-year-old son to suicide, it became her mission to bring awareness to bullying, mental health, and suicide.

Yocom's son, Isaac Bueno-Yocom, took his own life on Aug. 2, 2015, after experiencing bullying at school. Now, she uses his story to help other parents and the community recognize the signs of bullying and suicide.

"I didn't know back then when I lost my son," Yocom said. "I didn't know how to bring up the conversation to him. Because in my generation it was if you talk to them, you put it in their head. The reality is, it's already there, so it's our job to talk to them and let them know we're their safe place."

Yocom is bringing her third annual L.I.V.E Fest event to Freedom Park in Gatesville on Oct. 19. The event will feature informational booths from various organizations, such as American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and I'm Bully Free, as well as speakers, performers, family-friendly activities, and more.

The purpose of the event is to spread awareness about the effects of bullying and provide resources for parents who are concerned about their child's mental health.

"Because suicide is on the rise, there's more and more every year, and people need to know that there are safe places, what they can do, and how they can talk to somebody about it," Yocom said.

"I'm here to help parents," she adds. "Say their child is being bullied and (is) suicidal, I'm here to talk to them, to help them, to tell them Isaac's story."

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in young people, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). People who have experienced forms of violence, including bullying, have a higher suicide risk.

"Bullying is on the rise," Yocom said. "It doesn't just stop at school; it keeps going through the internet. They don't get a break from it."

Ahead of the event in October, Yocom will pass out bracelets, stickers, and Peyton Hearts in memory of Isaac to customers at the

PLEASE SEE **AWARENESS** | A2

*Ahead of L.I.V.E Fest in October, Gatesville resident Kara Yocom will pass out bracelets, stickers, and Peyton Hearts in memory of her son at the Gatesville Pizza Hut from July 26 through Aug. 2.*

## Second person found guilty in Waco murder case

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

Another suspect is facing a prison sentence related to the murder of Waco resident Elizabeth Romero, according to a press release from the office of District Attorney Dustin H. Boyd.

Gatesville resident Erin Bailey Finchum, 37, was found guilty by a Coryell County jury on Monday

for the offense of murder, a first-degree felony, and tampering with physical evidence, a third-degree felony, in the case involving Romero.

Finchum is facing five to 99 years at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for the conviction of murder and two to 10 years for the conviction of tampering.

The district attorney's office says Romero's family was present in the courtroom for the verdict. Finchum's sentencing will be set at a later time.

In January, the district attorney's office announced that the first suspect, Jessica Colleen Robinson, of Gatesville, was sentenced to 47 years in prison for the murder of Romero.

The cases involving the two other suspects, Cody Gene Ayers and Betsy Ayers Robinson, are still pending, according to the release.

"The CCSO and the Texas Rangers worked diligently to piece together a timeline of events and identify potential suspects leading to the arrest of Jessica Colleen Robinson, Betsy Ayers Robinson, Erin Bailey

Finchum, and Cody Gene Ayers, for their involvement in the death of Elizabeth Romero," the release states.

Finchum was arrested and booked at the Coryell County Jail in November 2022 on charges of murder and tampering/fabricating physical evidence related to the murder of Romero, ac-

PLEASE SEE **MURDER** | A2



Erin Bailey Finchum

COURTESY PHOTO



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# MURDER

FROM PAGE A1

According to a press release by the Coryell County Sheriff's Office.

## Background

Romero was originally reported missing by Waco police in April 2022 after her family lost contact with her. A filed complaint states that Romero was known by her family to frequent Gatesville. The last ping on her phone from April 2, 2022, revealed an area near Gatesville.

In May 2022, the Coryell County Sheriff's Office received a tip suggesting that Romero may have been murdered at the 800 block of Moccasin Bend Road and that her body had been loaded "in a blue pickup and dumped off a bridge," according to the complaint. It was reported to authorities that Finchum and Robinson were both involved in Romero's murder.

Finchum was first arrested on May 19, 2022 on an unrelated charge of assault causing bodily injury. When she was first interviewed by investigators, she "denied any knowledge." Finchum later told investigators that she was present when Robinson

shot Romero with a small caliber revolver "somewhere in the upper chest twice" while in the living room at the Moccasin Bend address.

According to the complaint, investigators with the Texas Rangers and Coryell County Sheriff's Office also spoke with Robinson's mother, Betsy Ayers Robinson, who admitted that "her daughter Jessica shot Elizabeth at the house but does not know where the body was dumped." Ayers Robinson allowed investigators to search her blue Chevrolet truck, where they found a necklace with hair, beer cans, a cell phone, and stains that tested positive for human blood.

Jessica Robinson was first arrested on May 19, 2022 on a charge of property theft. Another arrest affidavit states that Romero was also involved in the theft, which took place at a construction site around March 31, 2022.

According to the affidavit, a construction worker had taken a video of Robinson and Romero after they allegedly stole

10 sheets of plywood from the property. The owner of the property posted the video to Facebook. Romero contacted the owner via social media and admitted her involvement with Robinson.

The affidavit states that the vehicle used in the theft was a blue Chevrolet truck, which belonged to Betsy Ayers Robinson.

Jessica Robinson was charged with murder on May 20, 2022.

Ayers Robinson has also been charged with murder and tampering with evidence, according to a previous report by The Messenger. She remains in custody at the Coryell County Jail on over \$1 million in bond.

The fourth suspect, Cody Gene Ayers, was charged with tampering with evidence. He was released in August 2022 after posting a \$20,000 bond.

A spokesperson with The Coryell County Sheriff's Office said Romero's remains were found shortly after the arrests.



ADOBE STOCK

Evant ISD has joined in movement of cellphone free campuses.

# Evant ISD introduces cellphone free program to its students

BY ALEX MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

With the recent wave of Texas school districts turning into cellphone free campuses, Evant Independent School District has announced that it will be implementing a new program for the upcoming school year which is called "Yondr."

The school board approved the Yondr program in May with hopes to improve educational and discipline outcomes. It is designed to keep student's cellphone free during school hours by using a locking pouch device.

According to the Texas Family Project, "Cell phones have taken over society and have had a massive impact on children everywhere. Children are being allowed cell phones and electronic devices younger and younger, and that has hindered their academic development."

Like Evant ISD, a couple of school districts in Texas have also recognized the issue with cellphones and

have established the same or similar programs, such as La Vega ISD, Richardson ISD, and most recently, Killeen ISD.

Students will now be required to place their cellphones inside of a Yondr pouch upon entering the school, which will then be locked. Students will be in possession of the pouch at all times during the school day. To unlock the pouch, students will have to step outside the phone-free zone and tap their pouch on an unlocking base.

"We believe the policy will benefit the students academically and behaviorally," Evant ISD Principal Ricky Mourning said. I personally believe we will see an improvement in academic performance, in student behavior, and an improvement in student engagement.

Mourning expressed that students will be the only ones using the locking pouch, while teachers and staff will have access to a landline phone in each

classroom in case of emergency situations.

If parents need to get in contact with their child, Mourning explained that you will have to call the Evant ISD offices main number, send an email to the students' teacher, or email administration personnel of Evant ISD.

When asked what the goal was for establishing the new policy, Mourning expressed that it is to aid in the reduction of student discipline.

"Student discipline reports indicated that more than 90% of all campus discipline was a result of cell phone usage," he said.

The district will host a cellphone free program information meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 6, to discuss its plans to introduce the Yondr program to students. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Evant ISD gymnasium.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant.

# AWARENESS

FROM PAGE A1

Gatesville Pizza Hut during Random Acts of Kindness Week from July 26 through Aug. 2. The week commemorates Isaac's birthday on July 26, and the day of his passing on Aug. 2.

Yocom adds that Random Acts of Kindness Week will also include bracelets and stickers to raise awareness about infant loss.

On Aug. 21, the Gatesville Pizza Hut will donate

20% of a purchase to benefit L.I.V.E Fest as part of their "Eat Pizza. Raise 20%" program. If ordering online or with the app, enter the code HUTGIVES or show the digital flyer to a Pizza Hut team member in person. The digital flyer can be found on the "3rd annual L.I.V.E Fest 2024" Facebook page.

Yocom said she is still looking to include more vendors for the event in

October, such as food vendors, speakers, performers, or vendors that sell crafts or items that bring people joy. She hopes to have a full list of vendors by mid-September.

L.I.V.E Fest will begin at 10 a.m. and is free to the public. Help support the event by visiting "L.I.V.E FEST 2024" at gofundme.com.

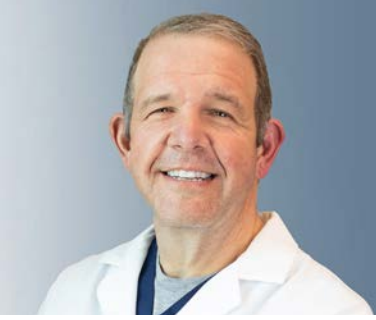
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COURTESY PHOTO

The Yondr program creates phone-free spaces for educators and other organizations. When a phone is placed inside a Yondr pouch, the pouch will lock inside a phone-free area. The phone may remain in the owner's possession at all times. Once the owner steps outside the phone-free zone and taps their pouch on an unlocking base, the pouch will reopen.

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## THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Can we please agree, no more resolutions!



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter. sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

**P**olitics is all about posturing. The word “politics” itself is neutral and refers to the art or science of government and political principles.

However, it can carry a negative connotation when associated with activities characterized by artful and often dishonest practices. Maybe it is just me, but it seems like for the last 20 or so years the dishonest practices seem to far outweigh the “artful.”

Public perception of politics can vary widely. Many Americans have a highly negative view of politics, citing feelings of exhaustion when thinking about the political climate and

process which they believe is dominated by special interests and partisan warfare. While politics can be a source of frustration and contention, it is also a necessary part of societal governance and can be a force for positive change when conducted with integrity and a focus on the common good. Many times, the perception of politics as negative can depend on one’s view of human nature and the potential for political systems to improve or

deteriorate.

One of the recent political ploys that has been utilized by more and more politicians on both sides of the aisle, is the “resolution.” This is a called vote taken by a government body, expressing a position about a particular political matter. For example, it might be a motion for the school board to express an opinion whether it disagrees (or agrees) with a mandate created by the legislature. A motion is made, the resolution is read, and the board members vote. The resolution itself has no authority or power. It does not change the status of any perceived injustice, nor does it affect any change. What it does is allow the proponents to use the resolution as a “talking point” on the campaign trail. I can hear the candidates preaching, “I voted in support of the resolution to end the mandate made by the legislature.” Sounds good, doesn’t it? Seems like a candidate is showing where they stand on an issue. The problem is the “resolution”

itself is meaningless. It does nothing but blow hot air at an issue and confuses the unknowing voting public into thinking something is being done, when it is not.

The fact that the motion has no demonstrative effect, except for publicity, is what makes the entire process so meaningless and such a waste of time. For example, if the school board passed a resolution saying it believes all registered voters should be allowed to vote in the next election, the motion would have no effect. State law and certainly parts of federal law ensure that all registered voters are allowed to vote in an election. So why would such a resolution be made in the first place? I suggest for some politicians it is so they can state to the voters, “I supported the resolution stating all registered voters be allowed to vote in the next election.” Sounds good, doesn’t it? Who wouldn’t support a candidate who is in favor of free elections? The point is the right for registered voters to vote in an election

already exists. A resolution by the school board or some other political board - whether it be the housing board, water board, or the library board has no authority or jurisdiction to make any changes in existing law regarding voting rights. The resolution is an act by “politicians” to make a gullible public believe they are actually doing something. The truth is they are simply creating fodder to be used on the campaign trail.

Instead of having all these resolutions decrying a certain political position, why don’t the politicians get to work and do those things that are within their power? Why don’t they work to affect positive change instead of spending meeting time on pomp and circumstance?

There is an old cowboy saying that refers to a city dude who moves to Texas and buys a cowboy hat and attempts to get people to believe he is a cowboy. This sort of fellow is described as “all hat and no cattle,” meaning he may have the trappings of being a cowboy, but when all is said

and done, he has no cattle and would not know what to do with a herd if he had one. So it is with a bunch of our politicians. They have the “hat” of office holder but not a care or concern about affecting positive change for the benefit of the public. They view their role as being about posturing, spin, and perceptions.

Let’s drop the resolutions unless there is one for office holders to start working together, to serve all the people in their constituency, and to take action that makes the citizen’s life easier, safer, healthier, and happier. Now I can support that!

Thought for the day: “Under democracy, one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule — and both commonly succeed, and they are right” H.L. Mencken

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

## Rodeo kicks off Thursday night

Submitted item

This year will mark the 87th annual Gatesville Riding Club Rodeo, which will be held Aug. 1-3 at the rodeo arena located on Veteran’s Memorial Drive. Gates will open at 6 p.m., and the rodeo will begin at 6 p.m.

Mutton Busting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Thursday will be Military Appreciation Night, with discounted tickets, including \$12 adults, \$8 children ages 6-12 with military identification. Friday will be Back the Blue. Those attending



Rodeo clown Ronald Burton entertains the crowd.

are asked to wear blue to support law enforcement officers. On Saturday, the 1st Cavalry Horse Platoon will perform.

In addition to the Mutton Busting, the rodeo will include “Bubble Balls and Bulls” and Jr. Barrel Racing.

Normal ticket prices will be \$15 adults, \$10 kids ages 6-12, and kids under the age of five will be free.

Those wishing to participate in the rodeo should call 254-493-8954 on Sunday, July 28, between 7-9 p.m. for pre-entry.

Follow the latest rodeo information on Facebook at Gatesville Riding Club.

## Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

KENLEY TURNER

### Say hello to our neighbor, Kenley Turner!

Kenley is the owner of The Pink Pearl Boutique, which has been in business since early February of this year. When asked what the best part about her job is, she said, “Getting to see all of my customers and helping them find the perfect outfit.” As a Gatesville native, Turner enjoys how our small community comes together during difficult times.

Kenley reads The Gatesville Messenger and said, “I love how they advertise local small businesses and help spread the word about local events.”

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

## Texas Attorney General issues warning of potential scam risks

Staff Reports

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is warning Texans of potential scams as a result of a widespread CrowdStrike service outage that disrupted hospitals, airlines, banks, and emergency call centers on Friday, July 19.

According to a press release distributed by Paxton’s office, Texans should be aware that bad

actors can use cybersecurity incidents to take advantage of consumers. By following the steps listed below, the public can significantly decrease their likelihood of falling prey to a scam that could compromise personal data privacy and devices:

- During technology outages, it is important to stay vigilant.
- Be suspicious of unso-

licited phone calls, visits, texts, emails, or messages on social media asking about login credentials to your computer. Be particularly suspicious if someone contacts you saying they are from CrowdStrike.

- Immediately change any passwords you might have revealed. If you used the same password for multiple accounts, make

sure to change it for each one. You should not use a revealed or compromised password in the future.

- If you believe you might have revealed sensitive information, report it to the appropriate people within the organization, including customer support or the IT division at your company.

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Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by 10am Tuesday for the Saturday issue. Articles about events that have occurred 30 days prior to submission will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertisements. 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.

**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.

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

# Hidden Treasures: A journey through the Coryell Museum

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Of the more than 6,000 spurs housed at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center, a few pairs of spurs tend to stand out. Prominently displaced under a glass dome are a pair of spurs that belonged to Pancho Villa, who was a Mexican bandit and guerrilla leader that would later become known as a folk hero.

After 1914, Villa engaged in civil war and banditry. He became notorious in the United States for his attack on Columbus, New Mexico. In 1916, a United States military expedition pursued Villa across the Mexican state of Chihuahua in retaliation for raids on Santa Isabel, where 16 Americans were executed. The invasion of Mexico was bitterly resented, and Villa was never captured.

On July 20, 1923, Pancho Villa was assassinated on his ranch in Parral, Mexico.

A sign located beneath his spurs display in the Coryell Museum reads, "Rebel outlaw, ruthless bandit, ardent patriot, passionate lover, beloved tyrant... Pancho Villa always lived larger than life. His personal magnetism, his simple, uncluttered idealism, and his overwhelming vitality made him a hero in his time and a legend in the years afterward."

The Mitchell Spur Collection is massive in size, and it has put Gatesville on the map. The collection, which was donated to the museum by former Gatesville coach and teacher, the late Lloyd Mitchell, and his wife, Madge, led to Gatesville's recognition by the 77th Texas Legislature as the "Spur Capital of Texas."



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER  
A pair of spurs worn by Mexican bandit and guerrilla leader Pancho Villa.

Pancho Villa's spurs were presented to Lloyd Mitchell by Kate Laughinghouse in 1940. Kate's husband had been an official in the Mexican government in the early 1900's and Kate was the aunt of Madge Mitchell.

Visitors are welcome to drop by the museum located at 718 E. Main to view

the massive spur collection. Coryell Museum and Historical Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, as is the gift shop. Yearly Coryell Museum memberships are \$20 for singles, \$30 for families, and \$40 for businesses and include free admission to the museum, plus 4 newsletters.

Of course, large and small donations are welcome at all times.

Coryell Museum offers area schools and tour groups a delightful, guided tour through the museum with docents at many exhibits. Call the museum at 254-865-5007 to plan a visit.

# LETTER

## Kindness & Blessings

I am an 85-year-old retired Armed Forces Veteran. My wife and I have recently bought a home in this area and I am recovering from two critical surgeries, my spouse also being disabled. We have relied on my daughter who resides locally and on my neighbor who has also been a blessing in assisting us in our daily needs.

On the 16th day of this month, our daughter was in Wal-Mart acquiring our needs, and, upon her check-out and using my debit card, the purchases were denied. Imagine her discomfort while other shoppers waited in line. My debit card had been compromised and

a new one had been issued. The card I had given her was the invalid card, so it was not accepted. A gentleman next in line offered to pay for the entire transaction, which he did and would not tell her who he was, declining any offer of reimbursement.

I would like to thank this individual for his gesture and offer to pay him back or contribute to his favorite charity. God gives us many blessings and He also hopes that we not hang on to them but to pass them along when the opportunity arrives.

I would also like to thank the staff of Wal-Mart for their consideration.

Jesus Fernando Garcia  
Gatesville

## SUDOKU

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Puzzle answers from the July 20, 2024 issue.

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

# Words and sounds



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

I started my newspaper column 38 years ago. This is column number 1,955. I started it because the editor and publisher of the Big Spring Herald came to my office and said:

"You've got a lot of good information about Texas on your radio program, and you need to share it with our readers." I told them I'd be glad to oblige and asked if it would be ok if I syndicated the column to other newspapers. They said that would be fine. So, I started my column. The first one was about a trip to see wildflowers down Highway 71 out of Brady.

Sometimes, the column expresses my thoughts, but mostly it's about

things I run across in Texas: history, folklore, small towns, unique events, characters, and storytellers, the same material I use for my radio program. August first marks a big anniversary for my radio program, The Sound of Texas. It's the beginning of my 56th year of doing the daily radio show. I've done 14,301 episodes since August of 1969.

I started the program because I felt reporting on the real Texas was not being purposely ignored

but just overlooked. I had a nine-year career in radio and television news working in Big Spring, Houston, Columbia, Missouri, and Des Moines, Iowa. I covered hard news and interviewed presidents and other influential people, but what I liked most was doing features about everyday people doing unusual or interesting things.

When I interviewed an 11-year-old blind girl, her enthusiasm and zest for life came through so beautifully on the interview that NBC radio wanted to air it on their weekend series called Monitor. That was the beginning of a six-year stint with NBC radio, sending features about cowboys, rattlesnake hunts, musicians, and characters. I got to wondering if Texans would enjoy hearing about themselves on a daily basis, so I got five three-minute programs ready and sent them to 65 west Texas radio stations inviting them to buy the series. One station replied. I was

thrilled. I had a network, KHEM in Big Spring and KZZM in Littlefield. I quit my news job and hit the road selling my radio program to stations and doing interviews. It was a good time to start the series, the decade of the sixties had been rough, and I wanted to do something that made people feel good.

Initially, the program was called Tumbleweed, because it's such a strong west Texas symbol. I went statewide with the program in 1970 and started using the name Tumbleweed Smith. Smith is my middle name. I appreciate the stations that air the series, the newspapers that carry the column, and especially listeners and readers who send me suggestions about interview topics. It still feels like I'm just getting started. Equipment and technology have changed, but the people have not. Texas is a big state with a lot of fun people, and I want to meet as many as possible.

Thanks for reading and listening!

# TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH TEAMS UP WITH CARE CENTER



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Volunteers from Trinity Baptist Church joined the Gatesville Care Center last week to help with handing out food, sorting through items, and assisting with customers. Pictured left to right are Barbara Lee Cogdill and Pat Whaley assisting a care center volunteer.

# Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

A "punk show," hosted by 1 Way Youth Ministries of Eastwood Baptist Church was to be held at the First United Methodist Church gym.

Marlee Whitford, of Gatesville, was a semifinalist in the American Coed State Pageant in Dallas.

Kristi Wright, senior counselor at the Hackberry Unit, was named the employee of the month by the Gateway

Foundation.

Leon River advertised Lucky Jeans and Dr. Martens.

Calee Jo Holcombe, a 2003 Jonesboro graduate, was named to the Phi Eta Sigma freshman honor society at Stephen F. Austin State University.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house was held at the new Gatesville

Family Medical Clinic.

Stolen goods taken from St. George Episcopal Church were recovered.

Gatesville graduate Paula Ruth Evans was awarded a scholarship from the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation.

Disney's "The Lion King" was showing at the Drive-In. Berry Mansell, of Gatesville, participated in the National Finals High School Rodeo championships in

Gillette, Wyoming.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

The 1984-85 Stingettes won a first place trophy for their jazz routine participation during the "Miss Halftime U.S.A." camp held in Georgetown.

The Gatesville City Council approved the sale of \$4 million in bonds to finance the Lake Belton water Pipeline Project.

Postcards, stationary, and

print with local historical value were made available to the public at the Chamber of Commerce Building.

A Headstart Center was being built at 211 N. Lutzerloh.

"Gremlins" was showing at the Drive-In.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

A Western Dance was set to be held at the Coryell Community Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Boyd,

owners of the House of Flowers in Gatesville, were elected officers in florist associations.

Joan's Dress Shop advertised blouses for \$4.95 each.

Burglars scored sizeable hauls in raids on grocery stores in Oglesby and Purnela.

Drake Furniture Company advertised a console color TV for \$649.95.

# OBITUARIES

## Melva Lynette Williamson

Aug. 17, 1958 - July 19, 2024

Melva Lynette Williamson, age 65, of San Antonio, Texas died peacefully on July 19, 2024 after a 5 year battle with cancer. A memorial service will take place at Porter Loring Mortuary North on Saturday, July 27, at 3 p.m. Porter Loring is located at 2102 N. Loop 1604 E. in San Antonio. A reception will follow at the same location from 4-6 p.m.

Melva was born in Gatesville, Texas in 1958 to Melvin and Lorene Jacobs. Melva and her two sisters lived on a farm in Coryell City for the entirety of their childhood. She attended Gatesville schools, where she made lifelong friends. Melva grew up in the Lutheran faith. She was baptized, confirmed, and married at St. John Lutheran Church in Coryell City, a church she continued to support throughout her lifetime.

Melva married her high school sweetheart, Tommy Lynn Williamson, in June of 1977, and they began their life together in Gatesville. In 1981, they were blessed with their first daughter, Jessica, and in 1985, their family became complete with the birth of their second daughter, Kristen. They took several opportunities to follow Tommy's career and lived in several cities across Texas until they made their final home in San Antonio in 1995.

Melva attended McLennan Community College following high school and worked as a secretary at the Guaranty Bank in Gatesville. She was blessed to be able to stay home with her girls for their elementary school years and then completed additional coursework to pursue her passion of working in the field of architecture, owning her



own home staging business and becoming an interior designer.

Throughout her adult life, Melva served in her church community in many ways and supported both local and foreign mission work. Additional hobbies she enjoyed were crafting, gardening, working puzzles, and playing games with friends and family. She held a strong faith in God and embraced challenges with a positive mindset up until her last day.

Melva was preceded in death by her husband, Tommy Williamson, and her father, Melvin Jacobs. She is survived by daughters, Jessica Taylor and husband, Jeramie, and Kristen Kravitz and husband, Aaron; grandchildren, Jacob and Madelyn Taylor, and Jacob, Matthew, and Jaxon Kravitz; her mother, Lorene Jacobs; and sisters, Marla Kelsey and Mona Carter; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials can be made to support one of the following organizations:

St. John Lutheran Cemetery Association, 10801 FM 929 Gatesville, TX 76528

Fahrenheit Mentoring - specify the Portugal Team (Gerecke) on [www.fahrenheitmentoring.org](http://www.fahrenheitmentoring.org).

## Wyvonne Shaw

Nov. 1, 1934 - July 20, 2024

Wyvonne Anita Shaw, 89 years of age, passed away at her home in Harker Heights.

Graveside service will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 29th, 2024, at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, July 28th, at Dossman Funeral Home in Belton.

Wyvonne was born on Nov. 1, 1934, on a farm west of Gatesville, to Richard Fred Schaub and Maudine Collins Schaub.

Wyvonne married Elbert Lee Shaw on March 24, 1973, at Cedar Knob Baptist Church in Salado. They were together until his death on June 16, 2021. She had her Associates degree from Mary Hardin Baylor University, and she was the Colonel's secretary at Fort Hood until she retired from the civil service.

Wyvonne loved the Dallas Cowboys and watched the games with her family. She had a Cee Dee Lamb jersey and wore it on game day. Every time he would make a play Wyvonne would say, "I love Cee Dee Lamb." She always sent two-year weaved calendars to all her family members every other year. She was never late or missed an anniversary or birthday day card with money inserted. If you were in the family, you were, "Like Family." If you were sick or in the hospital, she would send flowers to anyone she felt needed them.

She played the piano and loved her church and church family as a member of Anchor of Hope Baptist Church in Belton. Wyvonne gave to numerous charities and organizations other than her church. She liked her money but would not hesitate to give to her family in need - when asked, she gave. She was always giving and never asking for anything in return.



Wyvonne was so generous and the most loving and caring mom. She was the best mom ever.

Wyvonne is survived by her sons, Carl Weston and wife, Angel Alberti, of Harker Heights, David Weston and wife, Mary, of Herman, Missouri, Michael Shaw and wife, Bobbie, of Belton, and Gary Shaw, of Belton; daughter, Kim Wood and husband, Joe, of Belton; grandchildren, Rachel and husband, Alex Zerbst, of Houston, Sam and wife, Courtney Weston, Shanna and husband, Aaron Casey, of Belton, Holly and husband, James Standford, of Belton, Sabrina and husband, Merrill Ligons, of Round Rock, Michael Shaw, Katherine Robinson and husband, Louis Murphy, Benjamin Overton, Jordan Tester, Jeneveive Tester, Jazzmyn Tester; and great-grandchildren, Blankley Rose, Collette Weston, Rayne Murphy, Raden Murphy, Angelina Melle Tester, Chole Casey, Makayla Standford, Paxton Standford, Xander Standford, and Anderson Ligons.

Wyvonne is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and son, Melvin Shaw, grandson, Joe David Wood Jr., brother, Richard Schaub Jr., and daughter-in-law, Carmen Sieling Shaw.

# Protecting Gatesville's founding fathers



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Cemetery Coordinator Kelsey Cole is pictured standing next to a detailed map of Restland Cemetery, which was founded in 1942.

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Prior to Liz Reinhardt's retirement from Gatesville City Hall, in addition to her other titles and duties, she had devoted her time updating the data concerning Gatesville City Cemetery and Restland Cemetery. Reinhardt was responsible for platting the cemeteries and had section markers installed at City Cemetery in order to make it easier

to locate graves.

Kelsey Cole was the backup person when Reinhardt had to be away and had been helping with the cemetery project for the last eight or nine years. When Liz retired a few months ago, Cole took over all the cemetery duties and, in addition to being Deputy Court Clerk, she is now known as the Cemetery Coordinator.

"I am absolutely so excited about this," Cole said.

"When I was handed this cemetery position, the first grave I had to mark was actually my grandmother's grave. It wasn't really difficult, and it took me on this genealogy trail. It's just got me so interested in history and the histories of our cemeteries," she said.

Regarding burial at the City Cemetery, which was created in 1855, Cole said that there are too many unmarked graves in the 169-year-old cemetery. "We

are no longer selling lots in City Cemetery. There can be burials if the lots are already owned. The records of City Cemetery are so poor, it's hard to know where the unmarked graves are located," she said.

Assuming her new position, Cole said, "I definitely have some ideas and things I want to bring to people's attention about vandalism, which has been an issue, and that's something I want to address. I have some ideas I think would be helpful."

In describing her duties as Cemetery Coordinator, Cole said, "When people come in to purchase lots (at Restland Cemetery), I handle that. When graves need to be marked (for upcoming burials) or when monuments need to be set, I'll oversee all of that. I'm really more involved with more of the administrative part of it. One of my main focuses is to make sure that my records are correct and updated."

Keeping in mind that many of the founding fathers of Gatesville and Coryell County are buried here, Cole said, "We need to show respect and dignity to everyone and their families. I think there needs to be more love shown."

## PEARL NEWS

# Mark your calendars for Pearl Bluegrass



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

The next Pearl Bluegrass monthly event and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day is Aug. 3. The officers of the Pearl Community Center Board are Garrett Dickey, President, Chris Ray, Vice-President, Rhonda Dickey, Treasurer, and Connie Long, Secretary.

For information on renting the Community Center or RV spaces, contact Connie Long at 254-223-0621. For more information about the Pearl Cottage Bookstore, call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or Kay Pruett at 254-865-5864.

The Pearl Community Fellowship Church hosted a "New Chapter" celebration honoring Frances and Armand Clary on Sunday, July 21. More than fifty of

Clary's family members and friends gathered to bless their new adventure in Gatesville. Linda Ray presented the Clarys with a card she created, which denoted some of the facts about their travels to Pearl and back through the years. It is astounding to think that these sweet people traveled over 14,000 miles to get to Pearl Community Fellowship Church since its inception

in Feb. 2008. Since the Clarys will now be traveling from Gatesville to church, they will continue to rack up the miles but from a different direction. Everyone wishes Frances and Armand many happy years in their new digs.

Ronald and Linda's grandson, Riley, will be going to Brownsville to the State TAAF Amateur Athlete Federation in Discus July 25-26. Congratulations to Riley, and we wish you the very best!

I have had so many reports about how great Kay's yard looks after all her hard work. She told me that her backyard is like a bird sanctuary. Kay has always had wonderful yards and used beautiful yard art in her décor. She is so talented. Now, I'm not just saying that so that she won't send a hit man in retaliation for the many crazy stories I tell about her. Between Ron (and you know who you are, dear friend), and Kay, my life is often in jeopardy. Can I help it that Kay's itsy bitsy, teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini and

the Cat Whisperer are news worth telling? Kay has assured me that she is not sending a hatchet man after me ... yet. Now Ron, I'm not so sure what his plan is, so I'm steering clear of using any last names in his case. Our Pearl people are so interesting, don't you think? And, of course, there is no fake news involved, right? Plus, we never bother anybody or get into anybody's business. (Well, that's not true, but there's no place like Pearl!)

This week's Bible verse comes from Isaiah 55:7— Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on them, and to our God, for He will freely pardon. NIV

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page, and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page. Please submit any Pearl news to [betsyclark47@yahoo.com](mailto:betsyclark47@yahoo.com)

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La Hacienda Mexican Grill & Cantina • Scuba Steve  
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PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

The water tower at Mother Neff State Park was also used as a look-out tower to observe the park's heavily wooded terrain.

## Mother Neff to host "Tower Talk"

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Mother Neff State Park will be hosting a series of informative "Tower Talks" on Aug. 3, 17, and 31. The rock tower on the park grounds will be the site of these talks, which will inform the public about the men who built Mother Neff State Park - how they

did it and what everyday life was like for them. The men, known as the Civilian Conservation Corp, constructed the park between 1934 and 1938. CCC Company 817 quarried native limestone and milled local oak, elm, juniper, and cottonwood to construct the pavilion, residence, concession

building, and water/observation tower, which was used to survey the heavily wooded terrain. They also created the entrance portal, park roads, foot trails, fences, and picnic facilities. The Tower Talk event will be from 9-11 a.m. on each of the three days. The program will be free,

but a park entrance fee will apply - \$2 per person 13 and older. Children under 12 will be free. Mother Neff State Park is located at 1921 State Park Rd 14 in southeastern Coryell County. For more information, call 254-853-2389.

## RECIPE

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

### OVEN ROASTED VEGETABLES

BY PAULA MELBERN WEEKS

- 2 parsnips, peeled and quartered
- 2 carrots, peeled and quartered
- 8 red potatoes, halved
- 4 white pearl onions, peeled
- 1 lg. portobello mushroom, stemmed and cut into 8 wedges
- 8 Brussel sprouts, trimmed and halved
- 8 shitake mushrooms, stemmed
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 2 T. unsalted butter, diced
- ¼ c. dry white wine
- 3 T. olive oil
- 1 T. thyme leaves
- 1 T. chopped parsley
- salt & pepper



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVEANDLEMONS

Oven Roasted Vegetables

Preheat oven to 375. Toss parsnips, carrots, and potatoes in 1 tablespoon of olive oil plus a little salt and pepper. Arrange vegetables cut-side down on large baking sheet and roast on bottom shelf of oven for 20 minutes or until vegetables begin to brown. Turn the vegetables 2 or 3 times to prevent burning. Toss the pearl onions, garlic, and portobello mushroom with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and salt and pepper. Add to baking sheet of vegetables and mix together. Roast for 7-10 minutes. Meanwhile, blanch Brussel sprouts for 1-2 minutes. Drain under cold water. Combine Brussel sprouts and shitake mushrooms with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and salt and pepper. Add to baking sheet and stir to combine. Dot the butter over the vegetables and sprinkle with ¼ cup of white wine. Roast for 7-10 minutes. Gently mix in thyme and parsley before serving. Vary vegetables according to what you like. Serves 8.

## The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of July 17 - July 23. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

### CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**July 17**  
3:51 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 27th Street.  
4:07 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.  
7:28 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of E. Main Street.  
10:11 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.

**July 18**  
12:50 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.  
6 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of E. Main Street.  
6:39 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1300 block of Westview

Drive.  
8:33 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.

**July 19**  
1:54 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1000 block of Saunders Street.  
2:44 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.  
4:47 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of Bridge Street.  
4:52 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

**July 20**  
1:33 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of N. 28th Street.  
7:40 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 3600 block of County Road 265.  
8:41 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 6000 block of E. Highway 84.

9:15 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Marshall Street.

**July 21**  
12:08 p.m., a theft was reported in the 3300 block of E. Main Street.  
2:14 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400 block of N. 16th Street.  
7:44 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of S. 5th Street.  
10:18 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1300 block of Golf Course Road.

**July 22**  
12:51 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of S. 36th Street.  
6:10 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of Waco Street.  
2:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

3:34 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

**July 23**  
3:28 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 8200 block of S. State Highway 36.  
4:30 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 400 block of N. 14th Street.  
6:27 p.m., a gas leak/fire was reported in the 1400 block of W. Main Street.  
9:47 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 400 block of North 16th Street.

**CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**July 17**  
4:25 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 580 at Topsey.  
1:58 p.m., a scam was reported in the 100 block of

Julia Drive.  
3:01 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 116 and Lutheran Church Road.  
5:18 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 500 block of FM 185.

**July 18**  
2:11 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1100 block of Ceder Ridge Road.  
10:53 a.m., harassment was reported in the 15,600 block of S. Highway 36.  
12:03 p.m., a grass fire was reported on County Road 152.  
6:02 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Legend Oaks Drive.

**July 19**  
12:50 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2900 block of Mimosa Drive.

2:04 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.  
6:03 p.m., fraud was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.  
6:14 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Baird Street.

**July 20**  
7:58 a.m., livestock found reported in the 1500 block of County Road 266.  
9:28 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of Lutheran Church Road.  
12:55 p.m., a livestock complaint was filed in the 7800 block of Harmon Road.  
8:54 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2900 block of Mimosa Drive.

**July 21**  
11:46 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 700 block of Hemple Drive.  
2:23 p.m., found property was reported in the 100 block of County Road 262.  
6:56 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107 and County Road 339.  
10:50 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

**July 22**  
10:09 a.m., theft of a firearm was reported in the 100 block of County Road 262.  
11:51 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on Highway 190 Eastbound and Clark Road.  
5:35 p.m., suspicious persons were reported on FM 215 and County Road 223.  
9 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 1800 block of Oak Springs Road.

**July 23**  
1 p.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 500 block of Bagby Avenue.  
1:56 p.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 2500 block of N. 18th Street.  
4:30 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 8200 block of S. Highway 36.  
5:24 p.m., a theft was reported in Evant.

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under 300 lb.	300-375
300-400 lb.	285-340
400-500 lb.	265-310
500-600 lb.	245-285
600-700 lb.	225-255
700-800 lb.	210-235
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>	
High Yielding	140-157
Low Yielding	120-130
Fats	130-142
Thin & Shelly	100-120
<b>Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)</b>	
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<b>Cow &amp; Calf Pairs</b>	
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## MOUND NEWS

### Lizzi and Graham



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

**L**izzi and Graham Howell, of Orlando, FL, were visiting last week in Temple and Mound with their relatives.

Graham Howell, Dani jo Wood, Brooke Dixon, Truett and Jacklyn Pullen attended Kids Kamp along with the Mound Cowboy Church and White Mound Baptist Church last week at Latham Springs in Aquilla.

Miss Ruby Caroline Pullen, of Rock Wall, spent a few days in Mound with Kinsley McPherson last week while her sisters were at Kids Kamp.

Delecia Reynolds visited last Tuesday with Barbara Hopson.

Tammy Roe, of Nemo, brought her grandchildren, Brooklyn and Paxton Oh, of

Lewisville, and her mother, Mrs. Beth Haines, of Gatesville, to visit with David and Pam Hopson and family.

Mark and Kelli McPherson hosted Anna Grace McPherson and her Waco Junior Volleyball Team Saturday evening at the home of Anna's grandparents, David and Pam Hopson.

Justin and Amy Veazey, of Gatesville, attended Mound Cowboy Church Sunday to witness the baptism of their niece, Bailor. It was the most special day for several kids that were baptized.

Elli and Jenson Kinnear

were baptized Sunday July 21 by Rev. Bruce Cox. In attendance were their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends. After church they enjoyed a swimming party and hamburgers.

Molli Kinnear celebrated her birthday early with a strawberry-themed swim party.

Sue Jones, Margaret and Barbara Hopson went to Georgetown and had lunch with Holly and Sydney Jones.

Scott, Kelby, and Sterlin Shults, Case, Kristen and Paxton Brack Jones, and

Braydie Beaty were Sunday lunch guests of Don and Sue Jones.

Those who had birthdays this month were Annalee Terrell, Debbie Mettlich, Trey Kleshick, Kathy Reese, Kyanne Jones, Sonia Davidson, Brenda Heiner, Summer McClellan, Debbie Piller, Cindy Gowen, Anna Jaworski, Brandon Belt, Jennifer Doss, Bobby Carothers, Becky Moore, Anna McPherson, Brittani Shepherd, Cory Evetts, Jeb Dixon, Hal Davidson, Gwen Watson, Josh Evetts and Blayn Crum.



**THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**

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COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Joshua McCown, O.D. (second from left) is pictured with his team at Vision Concepts.

# Marriage license applications filed in Coryell County

## Staff Reports

Marriage license applications that were filed during the month of June at the Coryell County Clerk's office include:

- Logan Flint Blanchard and Stephanie Marie Lombano
- Blake Austin Boiles and Marley Paige Smart
- Leon Alvin Boyd and Ashley Lynn Harris
- Hunter Lane Eaton and Hailee Alexys Beckett
- William Edward Fisher and Brandie Michelle Brown
- Seth Hollis Fleming and Tysheba Alonica West
- Jesse Raymond Flores

- and Cayla Pearl Combs
- Dennis Dow Huang and Madelaine Zelena DeLeon
- Dmitri Richard Hurt and Shelby Elaine Ury
- David Alfred Lewis and Bertha Underwood Lewis
- Andrew Pham Nguyen and Ivan Lee Hoffman
- Christopher Allen Rodgers and Bridgette Ann Love
- Richard Ellsworth Spencer, Jr. and Carol Christina Rivera Torres
- Moses Isaiah Willett and Shurrie Arlene Swindall
- Jeffrey Lynn Williams and Jamie Leigh Dove
- Zachary Dalton Zoeller and Kendall Ann Harshman

# Protecting your eyes from the summer sun

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

During the summer season, it is important to remember to take extra precautions to maintain your physical health, including your eyes. The light and heat of the sun occur because of the ultraviolet (UV) radiation it emits, which becomes more intense in the summer.

Without the proper protection, UV radiation can burn the surface of your skin, which is a reaction commonly known as a sunburn and can negatively impact the eyes in several types of ways.

Local optometrist at Vision Concepts, Dr. Joshua

McCown, O.D. expressed, "My main recommendation for keeping our eyes healthy is protection from harmful UV rays by using hats and sunglasses that have a UV blocking coating on them."

If your eyes get exposed to an excessive amount of UV radiation, it could develop higher risks of certain conditions. The conditions include corneal sunburn, skin cancers on the eyelids and around the eyes, conjunctival cancers in the eyes, or macular degeneration, which is a condition involving UV damage to the central area of the retina.

Even though wearing

the right gear is helpful when keeping your eyes safe from the sun, it is also crucial to sustain a healthy diet.

"Eating dark leafy greens and ingesting omega-3s from things like salmon and fish oil are great nutrients for your eyes," McCown said.

According to the Beverly Hills Institute of Ophthalmology, "Studies show consuming omega-3 fatty acids, whether in foods you eat or in a supplement, may help reduce your risk of developing macular degeneration and glaucoma. Research also shows not only can omega-3 fatty acids help reduce your risk

of developing dry eyes, but it also helps treat bothersome symptoms as well."

"As far as how often to get your eye health checked, every year is recommended or more often if your eye health provider deems it necessary," McCown said. "If you think you are having any type of eye problem, it's better to not wait until your yearly exam and get things checked out sooner, particularly if someone is noticing new flashing lights, floating spots, or a curtain that appears to fall over their vision."

# Righteous Roots to host softball tournament Aug. 10

## Staff Reports

Righteous Roots recently announced that they will host a softball tournament on Saturday, Aug. 10, for the community. This will be the first of a few upcoming fundraisers that Righteous Roots will be hosting.

The tournament is designed for individuals 18 years or older. There will be a \$5 gate fee to enter the ballpark, and it will cost \$20 per umpire and \$200 per team.

The tournament will feature a homerun derby for \$20, closest to the pin for \$20, and a homerun band for \$20. It will be \$5 per home run and for each out taken.

Vendor booths will be available as well for \$40 per booth. To sign up to be a vendor, contact 254-223-0608.

Registration is available now and will end on Thursday, Aug. 1. To register, contact Payton George at 254-223-0207.

For further details, contact Righteous Roots at 254-651-3600.



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## “This job, it comes from the heart”

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Starting her 23rd year employed at Gatesville Independent School District, Life Skills aide, Connie Lee, shows no signs of slowing down.

She was born in Kansas, and her family moved to Gatesville when she was in third grade. “I thought Gatesville was the biggest town – we had moved to the city,” Lee said with a grin. She began her education in the Gatesville school system but admitted that she dropped out as a freshman in high school. “I went back and got my GED and then went to McLennan Community College where I received a degree as a drugs and alcohol counselor.”

In 2002, she was persuaded to go to work at GISD and she began as a substitute at the high school cafeteria and very soon transitioned into working as an aide in Life Skills. She remained at the high school for nine years before transferring to Life Skills at Gatesville Intermedi-

ate where she remained for six years before going back to the high school. She would remain there for a few years before returning back to the intermediate campus. “All totaled, this will be my 23rd year – the majority of it being in Life Skills as an aide,” Lee said.

When asked what changes she’s experienced since beginning her career in Life Skills, Lee said “When I first started, we taught the children the basics of life, cooking, cleaning and, today, none of that is taught anymore – it’s all academics. The kids need to know how to sweep a floor, they need to know how to wash a dish: It’s Life Skills. They need these things to survive. Mama and daddy aren’t always going to be there. I don’t care if I just taught them how to make Ramen Noodles, run the microwave, wash their clothes. Today, I’m teaching them their A,B,C’s.”

As for the upcoming school year, she said, “We’re getting a big batch of students this year, and it’s like

I’ve got all these keys and I’ve got to find out which one fits with this kid, where’s their lock at, what’s going to get to their head. You’ve got to win their trust. These kids don’t give it away freely.”

When asked if at the end of the day she feels like she’s made a difference, she replied, “Some days I do and some days it’s frustrating because some days I keep knocking; the key may not have fit yet, but I keep coming back and give it another shot. The biggest thing is to learn to talk to these kids and not argue with them – that would do nothing more than to escalate them. You learn to talk them down or just be quiet – sometimes, it’s okay to be quiet.”

“We’re all like special needs kids, we have things we will not do – there’s a line for each and every one of us,” she said.

Asked about what she’s learned over her years of service in Life Skills at GISD, she replied, “This is where I was supposed to be all along. The many years with all the



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Connie Lee sitting at her desk in the Life Skills class at Gatesville Intermediate.

other jobs I’ve had, but none of them can compare to how I’ve loved this job. There are days I’m so mentally drained and I just think I need to go to bed, but every day I look forward to coming back to see what the next day holds.”

“This job is something from your heart.”  
GISD Superintendent Dr.

Barrett Pollard said, “Connie Lee has been a loyal employee for GISD for many years. She has helped us on several campuses and always volunteers for more. For example, she has been a summer school aide for years. Connie really helps the district run smoothly.”

In the past 23 years, Con-

nie has influenced and inspired so many of her students as well as teachers and parents. Occasionally, when in public, she’ll run into a former student. “I still hug them in public, and, sometimes, they give me a few hints of who they are.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Sports physicals are required for the safety and health of student athletes.

## The importance of sports physicals for student athletes

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

Although summer is still in full swing, medical experts are reminding parents to schedule back-to-school sports physicals for their student athletes ahead of the start of the school year.

Dr. Jantzen Matli, a family medicine physician with Coryell Health, explains the purpose of sports physicals and why they are essential for the health and safety of young athletes.

“The overall goal of a sports physical examination is to maximize the safety of sports and activity participation of children and adolescents,” Matli said. “A common misconception is that these examinations are only needed for sports

like football, baseball, and basketball. However, they are also important for those involved in a variety of activities, including marching band.”

During a sports physical, Matli explains that health care providers examine athletes for various conditions to ensure they are healthy enough to play sports, including:

- Medical problems that could cause possible life-threatening complications during sports play, such as an underlying heart condition
- Conditions that may require a treatment plan before or during sports participation, such as high blood pressure

or asthma.

Old musculoskeletal injuries that may need further rehabilitation, such as a previous muscular strain or an ankle sprain

Matli adds that physicians will also ask about the student’s medical history, such as current medications, prior surgeries, previous concussions and injuries, and chronic medical conditions. This includes family medical history to help identify if the student is prone to any hereditary conditions like heart disease.

“Questions will be asked about whether the athlete experiences any concerning symptoms during exercise

PLEASE SEE **PHYSICALS** | B2

## GHS volleyball to host alumni game, ice cream floats Aug. 10

Staff Reports

Gatesville High School has announced that an alumni game for volleyball will be hosted on Saturday, Aug. 10.

The alumni game will be-

gin at 11 a.m. in the Sydney L. Pruitt Gymnasium.

Participation in the game is open to all past Gatesville High School volleyball players. The community is welcome to attend the game as well.

Following the event, ice cream floats will be served.

For further details, contact 254-865-8281.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

## LOCAL LIONS CLUB HONORS GATESVILLE YOUTH TRACK CLUB WITH DONATION



COURTESY PHOTO

During a recent meeting, the Gatesville Lions Club awarded the Gatesville Youth Track Club with a \$150 check. The donation will go toward purchasing a canopy for the kids to protect them from the sun during track season. Pictured is lions club member Jeremy Stills (left) presenting Don Ford, track club coach, with the check.

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# Hopson recognized at Texas State University

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

The History Department at Texas State University recently featured Allison Hopson in their History Department Alumna Student Spotlight. Hopson is a 2018 graduate of Gatesville High School and is the daughter of Billy and Carol Hopson of Turnersville.

Hopson said that her interest in history began after taking World History in sixth grade with Charles McKamie as her teacher. "He taught about Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and Ancient China, and it broadened my understanding of history. More specifically, from his class, I became very interested in archeology," she said.

She explained, "I had not considered a career in either archeology or history until I took History 1310 and 1320 Dual Credit during my junior year with Jeannie Schlicke-Collins. I loved the class and how Mrs. Collins taught - it was as though it was effortless to her, and that she knew everything about history. I quickly decided I wanted to study history and become as knowledgeable as her."

Allison Hopson earned her bachelor's degree from Texas State University in December 2021, majoring in History and minoring in Anthropology and English. She then returned to Texas State in the fall of 2022 to pursue an MA in Public History and graduated in May 2024. Before returning to pursue a master's degree, she interned at the Texas Historical Commission under State Archeologist Brad Jones.

As an intern, Hopson said, "I was very happy to have had the opportunity to network with some of my peers and practice the archeology and collections management side of my career aspirations. While I immensely enjoyed my time with The Texas Historical Commission, I decided I wanted to pursue a more interpretive and public-facing career."

While at THC, she studied collections management and archeological research—accessioning ceramics from the Fort Saint Louis archeological site in Victoria County. This intern experience with the THC brought Hopson into contact with like-minded professionals and expanded her interests in Public History. "I really enjoyed working on that project. It was interesting to learn about the different types of ceramic paste, paint, slips, and which technique indicates which culture the piece originated from," she said.

Upon beginning graduate school, Hopson received the Texas State University Graduate Merit Fellowship, and for the 2023-2024 academic year was chosen to receive the Brunson Family Endowed Scholarship. She is a member of the Phi Alpha Theta history organization and honor societies Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Chi. Additionally, she is a member of professional organizations such as the National Council on Public History and the American Alliance of Museums.

Hopson also assisted in establishing the Dunbar Oral History Project in 2023 for



COURTESY PHOTO

GHS 2018 graduate, Allison Hopson, was recognized by the History Department at Texas State University.

the historic Dunbar Neighborhood of San Marcos, documenting the community's history and lived experiences. Her commitment to the Dunbar community has continued through 2024, and she plans to continue working on the project indefinitely.

Hopson's interests lie in museum studies, and she hopes to work as a museum

curator in the future, the perfect career where she can combine her passion for historical inquiry, artifacts, and design. In terms of historical interests, she has found herself interested and passionate about several fields, including women's history, local and community history, French history, and Indigenous histories—all of which she hopes she can one

day integrate into her museum work.

"The design aspect of an exhibit draws visitors, and I'm very interested in how best to catch people's attention. Another aspect of museum curation is that it combines history and archeology," she said. Both of which are great passions of Allison Hopson.

## PHYSICALS

FROM PAGE B1

to include palpitations, chest pain, dizziness, wheezing, or fainting," Matli said. "We will check vital signs to include heart rate and blood pressure, and also perform basic vision testing."

Matli shares that a thorough sports physical will include the following assessments:

• **Musculoskeletal exam** - checks the range of motion of all joints and extremities and includes a strength test

• **Cardiorespiratory exam** - listens to the heart and lungs to identify the presence of any abnormal heart or lung sounds and checks the pulses of the arms and legs to ensure there are no obvious circulatory issues

• **Neurologic exam** - checks various reflexes and may also include an exam to assess general balance and coordination

Sports physicals can also help remove any unnecessary restrictions on sports participation or recommend any limitations on physical activity.

Ideally, students should receive a sports physical four to six weeks before the athletic season starts. Matli said schools often coordinate with health care facilities like the Coryell Health Medical Clinic to conduct physicals in the spring and/or fall.

Texas requires that children and teens have a sports physical before they begin a new sport or competitive season, according to Coryell Health. Matli said sports physicals are required for student athletes starting around middle school or high school. However, some schools might require them at a younger age depending on the sport or activity.

Even if a student has not participated in a sport but is considering joining one for the upcoming school year, Coryell Health recommends scheduling their sports physical sooner rather than later.

Matli explains that sports physicals are meant to be separate from a child or teen's annual physical or check-up. The difference between the two evaluations is that the sports physical is mostly geared toward the student's ability to participate in sports or other related activities.

"It is recommended that all children and adolescents see their primary care provider yearly for their annual check-up, which we commonly refer to as the "well-child check or well-child examination," which often includes discussion about immunizations and may involve lab work depending on the age of the child," Matli said.

Sports physicals are valid for one year until a new exam is required, according to a blog post by Coryell Health. Parents can make a sports physical appointment for their child by calling their preferred health care provider.

## Local schools announce meet the teacher/principal events

### Staff Reports

To prepare for the upcoming school year, students and parents will attend Meet the Teacher and Meet the Principal events. During this time, students will be able to pick up their schedules, meet their teachers/principals, see their classroom, and tour their designated school.

**Gatesville Primary School**  
Gatesville Primary School, located at 308 Hornet Way, will hold two Meet the Teacher events. Pre-kindergarten and ECSE will be held on Monday, Aug. 5 from 5-6:30 p.m. Kindergarten will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 5-6:30 p.m.

There will also be a chance for students to meet Principal Van Collins and Assistant Principal Tamela Eary during "Party with the Principals," on Thursday, Aug. 1 from 5:30-7 p.m. This will be a come and go event held at the Gatesville Primary playground.

**Gatesville Elementary**

### School

Gatesville Elementary School, located at 2537 East Main Street, will host its annual Meet the Teacher event on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 5:30-7 p.m.

On Thursday, Aug. 1, there will be a come and go "Popsicles with Principals" event for students to meet Principal Karrie Judd and Assistant Principal Jennifer Doss. Meet the Principal will be from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Gatesville Elementary gymnasium.

**Gatesville Intermediate School**  
Gatesville Intermediate School, located at 311 Hornet Way, will host Meet the Teacher on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 6-7 p.m. Schedules will be available for pick-up at Meet the Teacher.

Other pick-up times for schedules will be on Monday, Aug. 5 from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., and on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

This year's Meet the Principal event will be themed

as, "Pickles with Principals," and will be held on Thursday, Aug. 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. It will take place at the front awning of the Intermediate building and Principal Angie Pearson as well as Assistant Principals Alicia Meharg and Monte Pritchett will be present.

**Gatesville Junior High**  
Gatesville Junior High, located at 307 South Lovers Lane, has announced that it will hold its annual Meet the Teacher event on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 5-6:30 p.m.

All returning junior high students who attended Gatesville Independent School District during the 2023-2024 school year must be registered to receive their schedule at Meet the Teacher.

Other pick-up times for schedules will be on Monday, Aug. 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and Wednesday, Aug. 7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Online registration for the new school year is now open as well. Be sure to use Parent

Portal to access and complete the registration at [rmd.me/C1LRABYWD4I](http://rmd.me/C1LRABYWD4I). Proof of residence will be required.

**Gatesville High School**  
Gatesville High School, located at 205 South Lovers Lane, will host meet the teacher on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. During this time, students will be able to tour the high school, find their classrooms, meet their teachers, and gather last minute school supply lists.

Other pick-up times for schedules and student parking passes will be on Monday, Aug. 5 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m., and Wednesday, Aug. 7 from 9 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

**Evant Independent School District**  
Evant Independent School District, located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant, will hold its annual meet the teacher event on Thursday, Aug. 8 from 5:30-7 p.m.

**Jonesboro Independent School District**

Jonesboro Independent School District, located at 14909 East State Highway 36 in Jonesboro, has announced that it will hold a meet the teacher event on Wednesday, Aug. 14 from 6-8 p.m.

**Oglesby Independent School District**  
Oglesby Independent School District, located at 125 College Avenue in Oglesby, will host a "Popsicles with Principals" event on Thursday, Aug. 1 for students to meet Principals Casey Melton and Keegan Webb.

"Popsicles with Principals" will be held from 6-7 p.m. at the Oglesby ISD playground.

Meet the teacher will take place on Monday, Aug. 12 from 6-7 p.m.

There will be a watermelon festival held at the Oglesby Community Center immediately after meet the teacher to celebrate gearing back up for school on Wednesday, Aug. 14.

## Flag football, volleyball registration open

### Staff Reports

The City of Gatesville's Parks and Recreation department has announced that registration is now open for city league flag football and volleyball.

Flag football will have games every Monday

and Tuesday from Oct. 7 through Nov. 16. The age divisions include five years old and kindergarten, first and second grade, third and fourth grade, and fifth and sixth grade.

City league volleyball is open to third and fourth

grade as well as fifth and sixth grade youth.

Registration is open for volunteer coaches and players through Thursday, Aug. 29.

To register for either league, visit [www.teamside-line.com/GatesvilleTX](http://www.teamside-line.com/GatesvilleTX).

## Healey listed on Honor Roll

### Submitted item

On July 22, the University of Wyoming listed Texas students on the 2024 spring semester President's Honor Roll. Among those listed was Jake Healey of Purlmela.

The President's Honor Roll consists of regularly

enrolled undergraduates who earned a 4.0 ("A") grade-point average for the semester. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.

For more information about the University, visit [www.uwo.edu](http://www.uwo.edu).

## GISD to host Sports Nutrition 101 presentation July 29

### Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District has announced that they will host a Sports Nutrition 101 presentation with sports nutritionist Wendi Irlbeck, MS, RDN, LD, CISSN, on Monday, July 29, at 6 p.m.

The presentation is for all

students and parents who are interested in attending.

The meeting will be conducted from 6-7 p.m. via a live Zoom meeting in the Gatesville High School auditorium. The presentation will last for 45 minutes, followed by a 15-minute question-and-answer session with Irlbeck.

Discussion topics include Protein, carbs, and calories 101

Fueling, training, and games  
Navigating nutrition labels  
Sleep, hydration, and recovery  
Supplement use and safety  
Weight gain and weight

management

Grocery lists and fueling plan samples

If you are unable to attend the presentation that night on your own by using a tablet or cell phone. There will be a secure link sent out to those who are interested. Gatesville ISD athletic

trainer Tatianna Navarro will be sending out more details and additional information closer to the event.

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

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

## OISD cheer to host pancake supper Aug. 3

### Staff Reports

Oglesby High School cheerleaders will host a pancake supper on Saturday, Aug. 3, in hopes to raise funds for the cheer program.

The supper will be held at 5 p.m. at the Oglesby Community Center.

The cost per plate will be \$10 and will include three pancakes, two sausages, and scrambled eggs, as well as coffee and juice.

The Oglesby Community Center is located at 118 Main Street.

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Tarleton State picked to finish 2nd

Britten tabbed UAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, 5 total Texans named Preseason All-Conference

### Tarleton State University

ARLINGTON — To open the United Athletic Conference Media Day in Arlington July 23, the UAC announced the results of its preseason polls, with Tarleton State earning some of the top honors heading into the 2024 campaign.

The Texans were picked to finish second out of nine teams in the UAC this upcoming season. Running back Kayvon Britten was named the UAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, and he was one of five Texans to earn a spot on the Preseason All-Conference teams. Wide receiver Darius Cooper and center Tuli Teuhema joined Britten on the Preseason All-Conference Offensive Team, defensive lineman Brandon Tolvert made the Preseason All-Conference Defensive Team, and return specialist Deangelo Rosemond was voted on the Preseason All-Conference Specialist Team.

Britten, Cooper and Rosemond were unanimous selections.

The preseason coaches' poll and preseason all-conference players poll were voted on by head coaches across the United Athletic Conference. All nine UAC head coaches submitted votes on who they think the top players are entering the 2024 campaign, and they were not allowed to vote for their own players. They also ranked the teams in their opinion on how they'd finish this upcoming season. They were allowed to rank for their own teams.

The Texans slated narrowly behind the preseason favorite Central Arkansas. The Bears led the field with 77 points, earning five of nine first-place votes, while the Texans secured 74 points and three first-place votes. There was a large separation from the top-two teams and the rest of the field, with Southern Utah in third at 54 points. Austin Peay netted the other first-place vote, finishing fifth in the poll. Last season, the Texans were slated sixth in the preseason poll, but they proved the rest of the league wrong and took second at 8-3 overall, 4-2 in conference play.

Britten was a UAC First Team All-Conference running back a season ago, also logging 2023 FCS Football Central All-American Third Team and Phil Steele FCS 2023 All-American Fourth Team accolades. He was one of the best running backs in the nation, finishing with 1,150 yards on 183 carries (6.3 yards per rush) and 16 rushing touchdowns. Britten scored in 10 of Tarleton's 11 games, averaging 104.6



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans were picked to finish second out of nine teams in the UAC this upcoming season.

rushing yards per contest, plus he added 106 receiving yards and a touchdown on 11 catches, finishing with 17 total touchdowns on the season. Conference-wise, Britten was first in rushing touchdowns (third in the FCS) and total touchdowns (tied-fifth in FCS), second in total rushing yards (ninth in FCS), second in rushing yards per game (tied-11th FCS) and second in yards per rush (21st in FCS). Across Texan Football program history, he had the sixth most rushing yards in a single-season and the eighth most rushing yards per game in a single-season. Since 1977, he finished with the tied-third most rushing touchdowns in a single-season in program history, tied with Gaylon Bowser's 16 rushing scores in 1987, only behind Xavier Turner's 22 touchdowns in 2018 and Derrick Ross' 22 touchdowns in 2004.

This marks the second straight season Cooper has earned a spot on the Preseason UAC All-Conference team. Last year, despite missing four games due to injury, he was a UAC Second Team All-Conference wide receiver, as he finished with the tied-most receiving touchdowns on the team (five), the second most receiving yards (622) and the second most receptions (28). His 88.9 receiving yards per game was best on the Texans, the best in the United Athletic Conference, and the 11th

most in the FCS.

Teuhema earns the Preseason UAC All-Conference spot at center after UAC First Team All-Conference accolades in 2023. Last year, he started all 11 games, helping lead the No. 1 rushing offense in the UAC, with the Texans posting 201.7 rushing yards per game, 12th most in the FCS. The team also rushed for 25 touchdowns (most in UAC, 16th in FCS) and averaged 5.2 yards per rush (second in UAC, 17th in FCS). Overall, the Texans averaged 33.3 points per game (second in UAC, 13th FCS), 430.5 yards per game (second UAC, 14th FCS) and 6.4 yards per play (first UAC, 11th FCS). Teuhema and the Texan offensive line allowed just 14 sacks all season, the tied-third fewest in the UAC and the tied-18th fewest in the FCS. The team allowed just 3.91 tackles for loss per game, second fewest in the UAC, 10th fewest in the FCS.

Tolvert had a solid comeback season in 2023, as he led all Texan defensive linemen in total tackles with 36, 18 solo stops. He was third on the team in tackles for loss with six, with two sacks and seven quarterback hurries (second most on the team).

Running back Rosemond was a UAC Second Team All-Conference player last year at returner and receives the preseason nod this season. He served as Tarleton's pri-

mary kick returner all season, averaging 25.7 yards across 18 returns (462 total yards). Rosemond had three returns go for 50-plus yards, two for 60-plus yards, with a season-long kick return of 65 yards against North Alabama on Sept. 9. He had the most total kickoff return yardage in the UAC and averaged the second most. Besides Rosemond, only one other player in the UAC had a kickoff return go for 60-plus yards, and Rosemond posted two of them.

This is the first time Tarleton State has had a player voted for preseason offensive player of the year in its NCAA Division I era, and its five total honorees matches the most it has had at the D1 level (2022, Western Athletic Conference).

There were 27 players honored across all preseason awards. Tarleton State had the tied-second most honorees with five behind Central Arkansas (six), tied with Abilene Christian.

### THE FULL RESULTS OF THE PRESEASON UAC POLLS CAN BE FOUND BELOW:

2024 UAC Football Preseason Coaches Poll  
Central Arkansas (5), 77 points  
Tarleton State (3), 74 points  
Southern Utah, 54 points  
EKU, 53 points  
Austin Peay (1), 46 points  
Abilene Christian, 43 points

North Alabama, 26 points  
Utah Tech, 19 points  
West Georgia, 13 points

### PRESEASON OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

\*Kayvon Britten (Tarleton State)

### PRESEASON DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Edwin White Schultz (North Alabama)

### PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE OFFENSIVE TEAM

QB \*Will McElvain (Central Arkansas)  
RB \*ShunDerrick Powell (Central Arkansas)  
RB \*Kayvon Britten (Tarleton State)  
WR \*Takairee Kenebrew (North Alabama)  
WR \*Darius Cooper (Tarleton State)  
TE Hunter Brown (EKU)  
OL Alan Hatten (Abilene Christian)  
OL Chandler Kirton (Austin Peay)  
OL Will Diggins (Central Arkansas)  
OL Payton Collins (EKU)  
C Tuli Teuhema (Tarleton State)

### PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE DEFENSIVE TEAM:

DL Hosea Knifeley Jr. (Austin Peay)  
DL \*David Walker (Central Arkansas)

DL Rylen Sua-Filo (Southern Utah)

DL Brandon Tolvert (Tarleton State)  
LB Cirby Coheley (Abilene Christian)  
LB Darius Moore (Abilene Christian)  
LB Demetrias Charles (Central Arkansas)  
LB Kohner Cullimore (Southern Utah)  
DB Elijah Moffett (Abilene Christian)  
DB TaMuarion Wilson (Central Arkansas)  
DB Mike Smith Jr. (EKU)  
DB Edwin White Schultz (North Alabama)

### PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE SPECIALIST TEAM

K Patrick Nations (EKU)  
P Grant Nickel (Abilene Christian)  
RS Deangelo Rosemond (Tarleton State)  
LS Ryan Kean (Utah Tech)  
\*-Denotes unanimous selection  
NOTE - Ties in voting resulted in 12-member Defensive Team

### PLAYERS MENTIONED

#6 Darius Cooper  
WR 6' 0" Junior  
#39 Deangelo Rosemond  
RB 5' 8" Sophomore  
#93 Brandon Tolvert  
DL 6' 1" Redshirt Sophomore  
#4 Kayvon Britten  
RB 5' 7" Junior  
#50 Tuli Teuhema  
OL 6' 2" Junior

## TSU's Lue Williams signs professional basketball contract

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Former Tarleton State Texan guard Lue Williams has signed a contract to play professional basketball with Lahti Basketball in the Korisliiga League, the highest tier league in Finland.

Williams becomes the fifth Texan in the last two years to sign a pro contract joining Shakur Daniel, Tre Gipson, Tahj Small and Rod Bow in the professional ranks.

"Great news to hear about Lue and the contract," said head coach Billy Gillispie. "It is every player's dream to play at the professional level and Lue is very deserving of this opportunity. He has been a great Texan. Lue has helped his team win a lot of games, played in the postseason both years and earned a degree from Tarleton State University.

This is an honor well deserved and the first step of having a fabulous career. Congrats Lue!"

After spending a pair of seasons in the Stephenville, Williams left his mark on the Texan program. He played 69 games while starting 61 for the Texans. He averaged 11.8 points and 3.8 rebounds per game. The prolific shooter led the team in triples in his first season and totaled 86 made three-pointers while shooting at a 36.1% clip from deep in his career.

During his career with the Texans he ranks in the top five in seven career categories during Tarleton's D1 era. He holds the D1 era record with 289 made field goals and ranks second in three-pointers made with 86. He ranks third in free throws (153) and points (817). Williams is fifth in Texan

D1 era with 72 steals and 20 blocks and sixth in games started with 61.

"Playing professionally has always been my dream since grade school," Williams said. "God has blessed me beyond measures to be in this position to have finally made it happen. I am very excited to see that what was once a huge dream all my life come true. I know my pops is looking down at me smiling; and I know my mama, family and friends here are so proud of me!"

Lahti Basketball competes in the Korisliiga League, the highest tier league in Finland. Located in Lahti, Finland, Williams' new home is nearly 4,000 miles from Stephenville. In Finland, the two languages most widely spoken are Swedish and Finnish.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Former Tarleton State Texan guard Lue Williams has signed a contract to play professional basketball with Lahti Basketball.

Coryell County

# DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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**GATEWAY BAPTIST**  
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**MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**  
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**WESTVIEW BAPTIST**  
Pastor: Malachi Houser; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

**WHITE HALL BAPTIST**  
Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.

**WHITE MOUND BAPTIST**  
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.

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Kylie Carraway (left) and Anna McPherson (right) are shown passing out yogurt parfaits.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Cooper Dickie is pictured while explaining the different types of rabbits at the rabbit station.

## Coryell County 4-H hosts adventure day at Gatesville Public Library

### Staff Reports

Members of the Coryell County 4-H program recently hosted an adventure day during Gatesville Public Library's story time on

Wednesday, July 24.

Within the adventure day, there were five stations conducted at 10-minute rotations where local youth were able to learn everything they need to know

about 4-H.

Station one was a photography scavenger hunt which was put together by Braidy Lusk and Eve Fulton. The second station involved information about rabbits

and was hosted by Cooper Dickie. The third area was a food challenge and "My Plate" demonstration, which was conducted by Anna McPherson and Kylie Carraway. Station four was about

wildlife scat and was hosted by Colt Brookshire and Thomas Belt. Lastly, station five was a craft table put together by Hunter Beaty and Charles Belt. Coryell County AgriLife

Extension Agent Becky Coward concluded the adventure day with a question-and-answer session for the community where she provided information regarding 4-H.

# Failing forward: how mistakes drive progress

BY MICKY SHEARON  
Contributing Writer

Have you ever had a desire to try something new in your life, but the fear of failure held you back from stepping out and taking action toward achieving that desire? Well, if you answered "yes" to that question, you're not alone. According to research done by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, approximately 34%, or 87 million adults in the United States, cite a fear of failure as a reason for not attempting something new.

### EMBRACING FAILURE: THE KEY TO PERSONAL GROWTH

In the pursuit of any goal, failure is an inevitable companion. This might seem disheartening at first, but embracing failure can be a powerful catalyst for growth, learning, and, ultimately, success. The quote, "If you're not failing, you're not learning. If you're not learning, you're not growing. If you're not

growing, you're not living. Living without failing is failing to live," encapsulates the profound relationship between failure and living a fulfilled life.

### THE LEARNING CURVE OF FAILURE

Failure is often perceived as the antithesis of success, but in reality, it is an integral part of the journey toward achieving any worthwhile goal. When we fail, we are presented with a unique opportunity to learn. Each misstep teaches us what doesn't work, providing invaluable insights that refine our approach and sharpen our strategies. This process of trial and error is essential for innovation and progress.

When I first became involved in theater during my high school years, I loved being in the shows with my friends, but I literally had a crippling fear of auditioning. I felt like if I didn't get the part I was auditioning for, that meant I was a

failure. That fear of failure was so strong that I would become physically ill before an audition.

Finally, one day, my theater teacher pulled me aside and gave me some words of advice that have stuck with me ever since. He told me to quit focusing on the results of each audition. He told me that my goal should be to get a little better every time I auditioned and that if I did that, eventually, I would begin seeing success. He told me never to let a fear of failure hold me back from attempting anything in life. He called it "failing forward."

### GROWTH THROUGH FAILURE

The learning gained from failure directly contributes to personal growth. When we face challenges and setbacks, we develop resilience, adaptability, and problem-solving skills. These experiences build character and fortitude, qualities that are essential

for navigating life's complexities. Without failure, there would be no impetus to stretch our limits and expand our capabilities.

### THE VITALITY OF FAILURE IN LIVING FULLY

Living a life devoid of failure is akin to living in a comfort zone. While the comfort zone is safe and predictable, it is also stagnant and uninspiring. True fulfillment comes from pushing boundaries, taking risks and, embracing the possibility of failure. This dynamic approach to life infuses it with excitement, passion, and a sense of purpose.

Moreover, failure teaches humility and empathy. When we fail, we recognize our limitations and become more understanding of others' struggles. This empathy builds deeper connections and a more supportive community. In essence, failure enriches our human experience, making us more compassionate and relat-

able.

### TRANSFORMING FAILURE INTO SUCCESS

To harness the power of failure, it is crucial to adopt a positive attitude toward it. Here are a few strategies to turn failure into a valuable asset:

**Reframe failure:** View failure as a learning experience rather than a defeat. Ask yourself, "What can I learn from this?" and "How can I improve?"

**Embrace a growth mindset:** Cultivate the belief that your abilities can be developed through effort and perseverance. Embrace challenges as opportunities to grow.

**Reflect and adjust:** After a setback, take time to reflect on what went wrong and why. Use this reflection to adjust your strategies and approach.

**Seek feedback:** Engage with mentors, peers, or coaches to gain different perspectives on your failures. Constructive feedback can

provide valuable insights that you might have overlooked.

**Persevere:** Remember that failure is not the end but a part of the journey. Keep pushing forward with the lessons learned and don't give up on your goals.

In conclusion, embracing failure is not only about achieving success, but also about living a rich, meaningful life. Each failure is a lesson that propels us forward, fostering growth and resilience. By reframing our perspective on failure and seeing it as a vital component of the learning process, we unlock our potential and enrich our lives. As the quote beautifully articulates, "Living without failing is failing to live." So, let us welcome failure with open arms, knowing that "failing forward" is the key to living fully and achieving our dreams.

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# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



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COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left to right: Lions Club Director Dora Jean Dyson, Barrett Boyd, Clayton Gregory, and Lane Kinsey.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ellie Kelley is pictured with Gatesville Lions Club member Shawnee Miller.

# Gatesville Lions Club awards scholarships to local students

### Staff Reports

The Gatesville Lions Club recently held its weekly meeting at the Junction

on Route 36 where they awarded four Gatesville High School students with scholarships.

The recipients were recognized for their achievements throughout this past school year, while each

received a \$2,000 scholarship to help further their education. Lane Kinsey and Ellie

Kelley were each awarded \$2,000 from the Lions Club Scholarship. Clayton Gregory received \$2,000 from the

McKamie Scholarship, and Barrett Boyd was awarded \$2,000 from the Jerry and Dora Dyson Scholarship.



## National Bagpipe Appreciation Day

July 27, 2024

Bagpipe Appreciation Day, celebrated on July 27th, invites us to embrace the soul-stirring melodies and cultural significance of the bagpipes. For kids, it's an exciting opportunity to explore this unique instrument and learn about its rich history and traditions.

Bagpipes are often associated with Scottish culture, but they have deep roots in various parts of the world, including Ireland, Spain, and the Middle East. These ancient instruments have been played for centuries, symbolizing heritage, pride, and resilience.

On Bagpipe Appreciation Day, families can embark on a musical journey, discovering the captivating

sounds of the bagpipes. Whether listening to recordings or attending live performances, kids can immerse themselves in the powerful melodies and rhythmic beats of this iconic instrument.

Parents can share fascinating facts about bagpipes, such as how they're made and the different types used in different regions. Kids may be intrigued to learn about the bagpipe's unique design, with its distinctive drones and chanter, and the skill required to play them.

Bagpipe Appreciation Day also offers a chance to explore the cultural significance of bagpipes. Families can learn about traditional Scottish celebrations like Highland games and ceilidhs, where



### spor-ran

a small pouch worn around the waist so as to hang in front of the kilt as part of men's Scottish Highland dress.

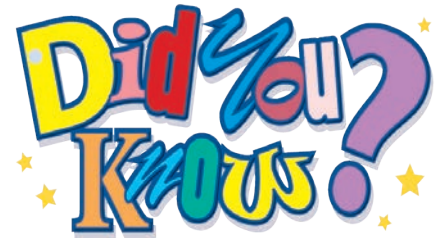
bagpipe music takes center stage. Kids can discover how bagpipes have been used in ceremonies, festivals, and military marches throughout history.

For hands-on fun, children can get creative with DIY bagpipe projects using simple materials like cardboard tubes and balloons. Building their own makeshift bagpipes allows kids to appreciate the mechanics of the instrument and gain a deeper understanding of how it produces sound.

Bagpipe Appreciation Day is not only about

celebrating the music but also honoring the traditions and stories woven into its melodies. It's a day to recognize the enduring legacy of this ancient instrument and the cultural connections it fosters around the world.

So, on July 27th, let's come together to appreciate the stirring tunes and timeless charm of the bagpipes. Whether listening to the haunting strains of Scottish airs or dancing to lively jigs, Bagpipe Appreciation Day is a celebration of music, heritage, and the universal language of melody



During the first world war, and even the second, Scottish soldiers would often march into the war to the tunes of bagpipes.



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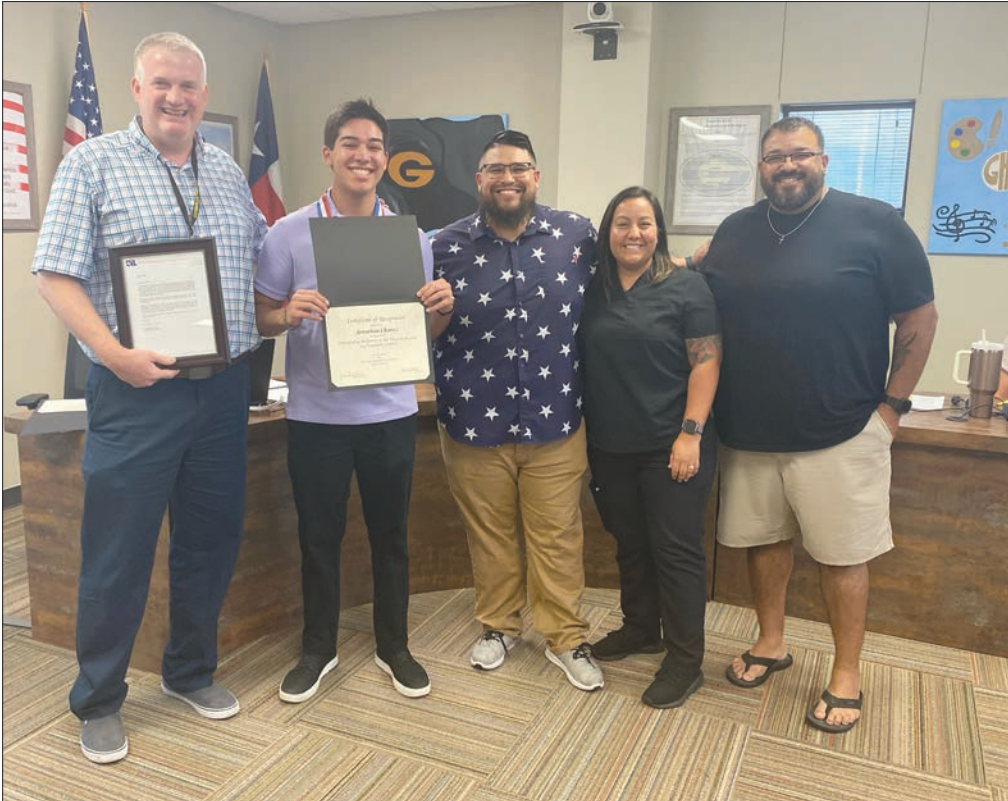
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Pictured left to right is GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard, Bralen Veazey, Monica Veazey, Zeb Veazey, Athletic Director Rickey Phillips, and head football coach Aaron Hunter.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left to right is Dr. Barrett Pollard, Lawson Mooney, Lauren Mooney, Terry Mooney, head football coach Aaron Hunter, and GISD Athletic Director Rickey Phillips.



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Pictured left to right is Dr. Barrett Pollard, Jonathan Chavez, GHS Band Director Jose Sanchez, Emily Aguilar, and Jajay Chavez.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left to right is Dr. Barrett Pollard with Hornet Legend Dennis Taylor, Cathy Taylor, Melba Shimmko, and Kim Chumley.

# GISD spotlights students, community members, and Hornet Legend

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

During the July 22nd meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, several individuals were included in the "spotlight." The categories included Student Spotlights, Community Spotlight, and the recognition of a Hornet Legend. GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard had the following to say about these individuals:

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS:**

**Bralen Veazy**

Bralen Veazey is being honored tonight for his accomplishments on and off the field. Coach Chase Smith had the following to say about Bralen: "What makes Bralen such a special athlete is not only his dedication to his craft but his willingness to help out the community and kids in it. He has spent countless hours doing community service tasks. From picking up trash on the side of the road to volunteering to help out numerous youth baseball players, Bralen has always gone above and beyond to give back to his community. He has earned superlative awards every year he has played for us starting with Newcomer of the Year in our 2021 Defensive MVP in the 2023 season and Pitcher of the Year this past 2024 season. He was also named to First Team Super Centex, and, to round out his accomplishments, he was named to the 2nd Team All-State Team at Pitcher and 1B. He is the first Hornet Baseball player to ever accomplish the feat of receiving 2nd Team All-State and was the only player to make the 2nd Team

All-State team at multiple positions. He will go down as the greatest pitcher to ever come through Gatesville, thus far also earning the following Hornet Baseball Records: 1st All-Time Season Strikeout Leader - 125; 1st All-Time Career Strikeout Leader - 275; 1st All-Time Season Win Loss Record - 9-1 (2024 Season); 1st All-Time Career Win Loss Record - 22-5; 1st All-Time Career ERA - 1.93. Bralen intends to continue his playing career at Temple College this fall."

**Lawson Mooney**

We want to recognize Lawson Mooney for his accomplishments on and off the field as well. Lawson was recently honored as the Waco-Tribune Herald's 2024 Male Athlete of the Year. Coach Aaron Hunter had the following to say about Lawson: "As a four-year starter for the football team, Lawson's impact on the field has been profound. Twice elected football captain by his teammates, he earned 1st Team All-District honors in 2021 as a sophomore; was named co-defensive MVP in 2022 as a junior; and was voted the 11-4A defensive MVP his senior year. Additionally, as a senior, he was voted 2nd Team All-State defensive back on the 2023 TSWA (Texas Sports Writers Association) All-State Team. During his four-year career, he broke the school record for all-time career tackles with an impressive 519, a record that has stood since 2000. Lawson also excelled on the baseball diamond, being named first team all-district outfielder as a freshman; first team all-district and co-offensive

MVP both his junior and senior years; while also receiving first team Super Centex honors as a senior. On the track, his accomplishments include becoming a district champion in the 4x100 relay and a regional qualifier in both the open 100 meters and the 4x100 relay. His commitment to academics is equally commendable, as evidenced by his recognition as a 1st Team Academic All-State honoree in 2024. Lawson has committed to run track at Dallas Baptist University this fall.

**Jonathan Chavez**

Mr. Jonathan Chavez was named a Texas State Solo Ensemble Contest (TSSEC) Outstanding Performer. This is an equivalent to being named a State Champion. To be named an Outstanding Performer, students must be among the best of the approximately 25,000 musicians that judges hear each year. Less than 2% of students who perform solo performances in Texas receive this award. Jonathan performed with such great musicality that his adjudicator stated, "OH BOY!" Jonathan also recently passed his Certified Nursing Assistant examination to become a fully certified CNA. GHS nurse Tori Cummings stated, "Jonathan always has a positive attitude. He is willing to step up in any situation and is a team leader. He was loved by all the residents at the Meadows, and they missed him when he was not there." GHS principal Liz Shoaf remarked, "Johnathan stood out as a student who always had a smile on his face and a can-do attitude. In addition to his musical talents,

Johnathan's health science training allowed him to help the campus. Johnathan worked with our nurse, Tori Cummings, and the campus broadcasting team to help create videos that modeled how to perform CPR, use an automated external defibrillator, and the Heimlich maneuver. These videos were used as teaching tools for all GHS students during the month of February when the campus was focused on the fundamentals of first aid. Johnathan's leadership skills and work ethic are going to take him places. We can't wait to see what his future has in store for him."

**COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:**

**Lee Jaynes**

Lee Jaynes started Hornet Radio in 2012 as a way to bring the excitement of Gatesville Hornet Athletics via the air waves. The broadcasts began with Hornet Football, then the lineup expanded to include other GHS sports and playoff competitions. Hornet Radio added video live-streaming in 2020, and its coverage and viewership of Hornet sports expanded both locally and outside of Gatesville. Lee and his on-air staff enjoy an extensive audience of viewers from near and afar on game nights. Those game nights now include football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball, softball and tennis broadcasts, and there has even been a live-stream track meet as well. Besides its live streaming of athletic competitions, Hornet Radio also provides a weekly 5th Quarter Show throughout the school year that recognizes and promotes Hornet teams, athletes, coaches



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GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard pictured with the Community Spotlight recipient, Lee Jaynes, who operates Hornet Radio.

and athletic department. Besides promoting everything related to Hornet sports, Hornet Radio also streams and promotes other non-athletic events in the community, they provide scholarships to student-athletes, and their presence is felt community-wide.

**HORNET LEGEND:**

**Dennis Taylor**

Dennis Taylor received his bachelor's degree in 1966 and his master's degree in 1975 (both from Tarleton). In 1966, Mr. Taylor began his 33-year career in education with a one-year teaching stint at Pearsall ISD. The next two years Dennis would teach at the State School for Boys. In 1969, Mr. Taylor began teaching in Gatesville and would dedicate the next 30 years of his life to GISD. He was a positive male role model to generations of

young people. In one of his annual evaluations, Don Edwards said the following about Dennis, "Mr. Taylor does an outstanding job of teaching. He is a great deal of help to me with various problems that arise in the elementary building. He is always available for other teachers if they have a serious discipline problem, and I am in the Primary building. He is an asset to our school program." In the middle of his career, Mr. Taylor would become the principal of the elementary campus. Tracy Barnes wrote, "Dennis is an excellent instructional leader. He is receptive to new ideas and information to improve professionally. He is a very capable administrator." For all these reasons, Dennis Taylor is a Hornet Legend.

