SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881

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# \$1**.00**

# Early day actor visited Gatesville

**BY DAVID SCOTT**Staff Writer

In a display hanging in the Coryell County Courthouse Annex is a photo of a man seated on a horse in front of the Cotton Belt Railroad Depot. The photo is identified as being of Yakima Canutt. It is unknown why and when Canutt visited Gatesville... but just who was Yakima Canutt?

Canutt became very well-known in California as a rodeo rider, actor, stuntman, and movie director.

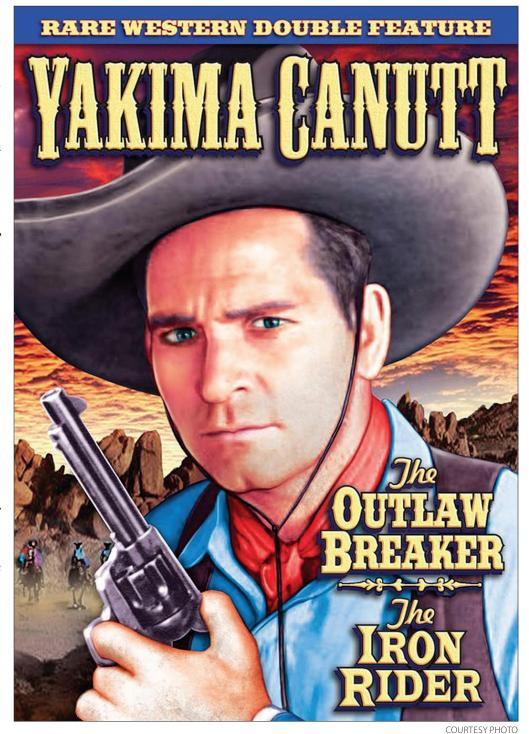
He was born in 1895 in Colifax, Washington under the original name of Enos Edward Canutt. He began breaking wild broncos at the age of eleven and eventually gained a reputation as a bronc rider, bulldogger, and all-around cowboy.

It was at the Pendleton Round-Up that he got the name of "Yakima," when a newspaper caption misidentified him stating, "Yakima Canutt may be the most famous person NOT from Yakima, Washington."

Canutt was once quoted as saying, "I started in major rodeos in 1914 and went through 1923. There was quite a crop of us travelling together, and we would have special railroad cars and cars for the horses. We'd play anywhere from three, six, to eight, ten-day shows – Bronc riding, bulldogging, and roping."

He won his first world championship at the Olympics of the West in 1917 and won more championships in the years following.

PLEASE SEE **ACTOR** | A3



 $Many of Yakima's \ early films \ are \ now \ available \ on \ DVD.$ 

# County commissioners address impacts on proposed budget

**BY KAYLEE DUSANG**Staff Writer

In midst of preparing for the upcoming fiscal year, Coryell County Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday to preview the county's proposed annual operating budget for 2025.

The lengthy session led to a discussion on top factors in the county's proposed budget and tax rate increase, salary raises for clerical workers, as well as the adoption of a new health insurance plan for employees.

### **PROPOSED BUDGET**

The county's proposed budget will raise more revenue from property taxes by \$4.3 million, which is about a 33.24% increase from last year, according to the budget filed on August 15.

Last week, the commissioners court approved a proposed tax rate of .4737 cents per \$100 of valuation. This would be a 26.9% increase compared to last year's tax rate of .37328 cents per \$100.

Commissioner Kyle
Matthews explains that
one of the largest factors
in the proposed budget
increase is the county not
planning for the depletion of around \$14 million in American Rescue

Plan Act (ARPA) funds that were distributed to counties by the federal government following the outbreak of COVID-19.

"Just like anybody, when someone gives you \$14 million and says, 'go spend it' and you build a lifestyle out of it, and when that \$14 million is gone you cannot sustain that lifestyle anymore," Matthews said.

The act was signed by President Joe Biden in 2021 to combat the pandemic along with public health and economic impacts, according to the National Association of Counties. The package provided \$65.1 billion in direct aid to state and local governments.

Matthews said the ARPA funds were used in previous years for the county's Road and Bridge Department, the capital improvement fund, collecting data for grant support, the Mental Health Deputy Program, among others. He said the balance of the ARPA funds was around \$600,000 in 2024, but the majority of it was used over the last three years.

"If you give raises from the ARPA money, or you purchase things that you finance from ARPA mon-

PLEASE SEE **BUDGET** | A2

# City's proposed budget raises incentive pay for volunteer firefighters

**BY KAYLEE DUSANG**Staff Writer

In an effort to help boost volunteerism at the Gates-ville Fire Department, the City of Gatesville is proposing to raise the incentive pay budget for volunteer firefighters from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per year.

Introduced to the fire department five or six years ago, the goal of the incentive pay is to help support volunteer firefighters who often need to respond to weekend and after-hours night calls. The total incentive pay – currently \$25,000 – is split between the volunteers based on the number of calls they can respond to.

"They don't get very much at \$25,000," Gatesville Fire Chief Billy Vaden

PLEASE SEE **FIREFIGHTERS** | A2



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

From left to right, volunteer firefighters Willie Taylor, Teristin Byrd, and Robert Ferguson stand in front of Engine 2 at the Gatesville Fire Department.

# Texas DPS confirm five killed in Lampasas County crash

**BY KAYLEE DUSANG** Staff Writer

A fatal two-vehicle wreck in Lampasas County on Aug. 14 has left five people dead – two from Copperas Cove and a family of three from Leander, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Texas DPS Troopers responded to the incident at 5:45 a.m. on U.S. Highway

281.

According to a Texas
DPS crash report, a 2004
Cadillac CTS, driven by
31-year-old Jacinto Gudino
Duran, of Copperas Cove,
was traveling southbound
on U.S. 281 at milepost 406.
The vehicle also contained
23-year-old Yosilu Gasman
Martinez-Lopez, of Copperas Cove.

At the same time, a 2024

Kia Telluride, driven by 45-year-old Arvind Mani of Leander, was traveling northbound on U.S. 281. The two passengers of the Kia were identified as 40-year-old Pradeepa Arvind and 17-year-old Andril Arvind.

According to the investigating trooper, evidence at the scene revealed that the rear right tire of the Cadillac had a blowout. Witness accounts reported that the Cadillac had passed them at a "very high rate of speed," the report states.

The blowout caused the Cadillac to lose control, enter a side skid, and cross into the northbound lanes and into the path of the Kia. The Kia then collided into the passenger side of the Cadillac in the inside

northbound lane, causing extensive damage to both vehicles.

Texas DPS confirmed that all passengers and drivers in both vehicles were pronounced dead at the scene. The next of kin have been notified.

According to a report by the Austin-American Statesman, the occupants of the Kia left one surviving immediate family member, 14-year-old Adiryan Arvind, who was not in the vehicle with them at the time of the crash.

A GoFundMe page has been created for Adiryan following the loss of his family, which has raised over \$800,000.



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Second service at 11:00 a.m.

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# BUDGET

ey and you don't plan for that future – that expense continues," Matthews said.

Commissioner Scott Weddle noted that accommodating for an overspend in the jail's prisoner board budget and recent countywide flooding in May and June also heavily impacted the budget in 2024.

Most of the expenses for the flood recovery came out of the county's Road and Bridge Department, which had to identify, close, and repair several damaged roads and crossings.

"If you will, we almost started out at almost \$2 million in the hole that we're trying to catch up on with the extra expenditures with Road and Bridge and the jail boarding," Weddle said.

Although the county has applied for a FEMA public assistance grant to help offset the costs of flood repairs, it is still unknown when they will receive the funds

"They (Road and Bridge) probably expensed at least \$1.5 million either with the repairs or clean up," Matthews said. "But when do you get that money back? It may be in 2025 (or) it might be in 2027."

Despite the increase, Matthews said that he believes the county could cut the proposed tax rate by up to two cents, which would require cutting around \$2 million from the proposed budget.

"I've already worked through it, but it takes a cooperative effort from the entire court to go through and agree that this needs to be cut," he said. "If we can cut it to .45 cents versus (.4737 cents), well that's only an 8% increase instead of a little over a (10% increase)."

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate is set for Sept. 5 at 9 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom at 800 E. Main Street.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

During a regular meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 13, the commissioners court approved a major adjustment to the county's employee health plan but rescinded the vote at Monday's meeting.

The vote on August 13 adopted a new coinsurance

plan through Baylor Scott & White. County employees expressed concern over the change, as it would include a deductible and a larger out-of-pocket expense for employees on family or dependent plans.

"I don't know what that means in dollars, but it's going to be a major change for my employees to go from what they currently have as a benefit to what you're about to give them with no warning," Coryell County Tax Assessor Collector Justin Carothers said at the August 13 meeting.

The county's current health insurance plan covers a single employee at no cost but covers 60% for those on a family or dependent plans. It does not include a deductible and has a smaller out-of-pocket pay.

On Monday, county commissioners rescinded the coinsurance plan and instead opted to renew the current health insurance with a lower plan, dropping it from 60% to 50% coverage.

County Treasurer Randi McFarlin said she did not have enough time to study how the coinsurance plan would have fully affected the employees ahead of open enrollment for the upcoming year, so she recommended that the county renew the current health plan at the lower rate.

"Now, it's back to what we currently know and what we've had for the past few years," McFarlin said. "They've taken that high option away, which was just a broader range of doctors that we could see."

The adjustment comes after an initial 19% increase to the renewal of the county's health insurance. During Monday's vote, Weddle said the county found a way to drop the increase by 15% as well as find cuts in other areas of the budget to cover the additional expense.

"There were some pretty heavy negotiations going on, and I think everybody in this room knows that we're in some very strange times here with rising costs," Weddle said.

### **SALARY INCREASES**

If approved, the county's proposed budget would also give clerical positions in the county an approximately 16% salary increase, Matthews said. Clerical positions include county clerks and executive

assistants across various departments.

The raises mainly target the base pay of the positions for new hires, but current employees will also see an increase. For example, some of the clerks could receive a raise from \$25,800 to \$31,000.

"Anytime we raise our salary schedule, that is going to positively impact our existing employees, because they get the difference between what was on the old salary schedule and what is on the new schedule. That's the base pay," Weddle said.

However, County Attorney Brandon Belt said he doesn't believe the adjustments fully match current market values.

"If ya'll think that less than \$16 an hour is going to attract folks to put in applications for a clerk's position in Coryell County, I'm afraid y'all are a touch detached in the current market," Belt said.

Weddle responded that the court has had to raise salaries gradually to avoid raising the tax rate even further.

"This county rock and rolled along for many, many years at a pretty low pay, so we've been really trying to get up," Weddle said. "We know that the market has gone crazy, but the fact is we have to do this incrementally."

Matthews said the salary increases for clerical positions make up less than 1% of the county's overall budget

According to a public notice filed by the county, the proposed budget also contains salary increases for the county's elected officials, ranging from \$3,000 to \$15,000.

The total cost for the elected officials would come out around a total of \$70,000 if approved.

The court will address employee salary schedules again at its next meeting on August 27.

The \$3,000 would go to the salaries of the county commissioners, justices of the peace, and constables. Carothers, McFarlin, the District Clerk, and County Clerk will also receive \$3,000.

County Judge Roger Miller will receive a raise of \$7,000, and Belt will receive a \$15,000 increase.

# FIREFIGHTERS FROM PAGE A1

said. "There are a few who make the majority of all the calls – 75% to 85% of the calls – and they get quite a bit. But the guys who work during the day out of town, and are just available for night calls, they end up not getting a lot."

The raise in the incentive pay was brought to light during a reading of the city's proposed budget at a Gatesville City Council meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 13. It is part of the fire department's annual operating budget from the city, which is proposed at nearly \$373,000 for 2025.

The fire department currently boasts around 36 volunteer firefighters, but only a small majority can show up at every call since many of them also hold full-time jobs or work outside of the county. Vaden hopes the incentive pay will encourage a larger group to show up for minor calls that often occur in the middle of night.

"If we could just double

our participation at night, we would be in really good shape," he said.

The fire department normally gives incentive pay to firefighters twice a year, Vaden explains. Each volunteer is required to make at least 15% of the calls to receive the pay. At \$25,000, he said most firefighters receive around \$500 each per year, while those who make the majority of the calls receive up to \$2,000 each. With the proposed increase to \$50,000, their incentive pay could double for the year.

"It gives them something to look forward to, a little extra money," Vaden said. Interim City Manager Brad Hunt said the incentive pay is a way for the city to help support the volunteer

"We understand the vital role these volunteers play in keeping our city and the surrounding communities safe," Hunt said in an email. "We encourage volunteerism and hope this increase will help Chief Vaden continue to meet his emergency response needs and goals in the coming

year."

The fire department makes about 800 calls per year, an average of around two to three calls a day. Vaden told the city council that the calls have steadily increased over the years, therefore, requiring volunteers to put in more time to respond to emergencies.

"They have to balance their home life with fire department life. It is what it is," Vaden said. "Anything we could do to encourage them to be here - that's what we're going to have to do. If you don't, you're going to have to hire a fire department."

The Gatesville Fire Department saves the city approximately \$2 million each year by remaining as a volunteer department.

The station covers approximately 287 square miles of Coryell County. It also receives help from partnerships with other county volunteer fire departments and the paid fire department in Copperas Cove.

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# Inside out or upside down, life goes on



### BY SAM HOUSTON

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

taught an older adult Sunday School class for several years. It consisted of people primarily between the ages of 60 and 90, many who were widows or widowers.

The class was not named the "older adult class," but it clearly was. The previous Sunday School teacher had moved to west Texas to be near his children, and the group had approached me to teach the class. I am very certain they did not pick me for my wealth of biblical knowledge but rather because they envisioned me bringing life to a class,

which over time had lost its forward momentum. Taking the role has been one of the great pleasures of my life.

One of my favorite class members was Earlene. She was a widow with a big personality and love of life. She always had a smile on her face and was the kind of person who made you smile when you saw her walking toward you.

When my mother died, her funeral was 300 miles away, and I nearly fell out of my chair when Earlene walked through the funeral home door on the night of Mom's visitation. She and a friend had driven all that way because she thought I might need her. She was right.

One night, months later, I was having a dinner party at my home for about 10 people, and, of course, Earlene was on the invitation list. The night we gathered she arrived looking like a million dollars. Her hair was freshly done, as was her makeup, and she was wearing a matching ensemble that gave her an elegant appearance.

As guests arrived and assembled in the living room, I happened to look down and noticed the most peculiar sight. Evidently Earlene had been in a rush when she got dressed because the shoes she was wearing did not match! I immediately pointed out the error to her and good naturedly kidded her for the rest of the evening. Earlene explained that she tried on both shoes because she wanted to see how they looked with her outfit. She somehow had left the house without making the final decision.

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I kept kidding Earlene throughout the evening. Finally, without anger or angst, she looked at me and said, "Sam, I am 84 years old, and I do silly things all the time. It is part of getting older." She went on to say, "I just hope that in about 15 years when you do something silly, you can hear my voice up in heaven laughing at you saying, 'I told you your day was coming." It was a fun evening and a memory I will never forget.

This past week had been a long one for me. I had started early and stayed late all week at work. On Friday, I decided instead of going to work at the crack of dawn as I usually do, I would treat myself to breakfast at the local café. I was giving

myself a chance to relax a little bit before I started the last day of the week.

I jumped out of bed, showered and shaved as usual, but since it was Friday, I decided to dress a little more casual than usual. I slipped into some jeans and grabbed a golf shirt off a hanger and was out the door. My wife had been a little under the weather the prior couple of days, and I was trying to be quiet and not wake her. For whatever reason, I did not take a glance in the mirror before I shot out the door.

When I arrived at the café, I sat down, and the attentive waitress brought me a first cup of coffee. I immediately put the cup up to my lips and took a slow, satisfying sip, only for the silence to be interrupted by the voice of my server saying, "your shirt is inside out."

It took me a second to let the words soak in. It did not make sense, and then I looked down and could see

the shirt I was wearing was inside out! Evidently, when I did laundry and hung the shirt up, I had placed it on the hanger inside out. When I dressed that morning, I had slid the shirt on and never took a second to check how I looked in the mirror. I had merely bounded down the steps, jumped in the car, and drove to the café.

I was mortified and sheepishly thanked the waitress and retired to the restroom to switch my shirt around.

Walking back to my table, I could hear a voice in my head, laughing away at my self-induced embarrassment. Earlene, I am glad I could make you smile. I bet it isn't the last time.

Thought for the day: If you learn to laugh at yourself, you will be entertained for a lifetime.

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

# FROM PAGE A1

In between rodeos, he broke horses for the French during World War I. In 1918, he went to Spokane to enlist in the United States Navy and was stationed in Brementon.

Following his time in the military, he travelled to Los Angeles for a rodeo and decided to "winter" in Hollywood where he met many screen personalities.

Legendary western screen actor Tom Mix, who himself had started in rodeos, invited Canutt to be in two of his movie pictures. Mix added to his flashy wardrobe by borrowing two of Canutt's two-tone shirts and having his tailor make 40 copies of the shirts. Canutt got his first taste of stunt work in a fight scene on a serial called "Lightning Bryce" and soon afterward left Hollywood to compete in the 1920 rodeo circuit.

Movie actor Douglas Fairbanks would use some of Canutt's stunts in his films, and the two became fast friends. Canutt would later take small parts in films to get experience.

Prior to 1928, movies were silent films - no sound, only captions below. After 1928, the "talkies" were coming out, and although he had been in 48 silent films, he knew his career was in trouble since his voice had been damaged from the flu while he was in the Navy. At that point, Canutt began taking on bit parts and stunts, realizing that he could do more with action films.

When rodeo riders invaded Hollywood, they brought a massive amount of rodeo techniques that Canutt would expand on and improve, including horse falls and wagon wrecks.

He first met John Wayne while doubling for him in 1932. Wayne greatly admired Canutt's agility and fearlessness, and Canutt respected Wayne's willingness to learn and attempt his own stunts. He taught Wayne how to fall off a horse. The two worked together to create a technique that made onscreen fight scenes seem more realistic. The duo pioneered stunt and screen fighting techniques that are still in use today.

In 1940, Republic Studios offered him the chance to direct the action sequences in the film "Dark Command," starring John Wayne.

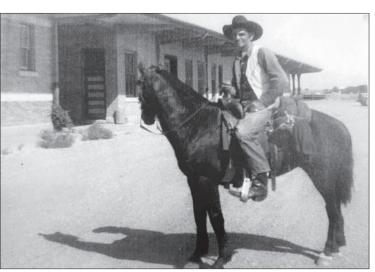


PHOTO COURTESY OF CORYELL COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

A photo of Yakima Canutt that hangs in the Coryell County Courthouse Annex. He is pictured on horseback in front of the Cotton Belt Railroad Depot.

Later, in 1943, while doing a film with Roy Rogers, Canutt broke both of his legs after falling off a wagon. He would eventually recover from his injuries and continue to write stunts and supervise the action scenes for many

other films. In 1959, Canutt staged a chariot race with nine teams of four horses in the film "Ben Hur" starring Charlton Heston - teaching Heston to do his own charioteering.

Canutt also worked on other notable classics such as "Westward Ho," "The Swiss Family Robinson," and "Old Yeller."

In 1985, Yakima Canutt appeared as himself in 'Yak's Best Ride," directed by John Crawford. His final screen credit was as a consultant for the stunts in "Equus."

On May 24, 1986, Yakima Canutt died of cardiac arrest at the age of 90 in North Hollywood. His ashes were scattered in California's Garden of Remembrance at Valhalla Memorial Park Cemetery.

The mysterious photo of Yakima hanging in the Coryell County Courthouse Annex may never be explained, but it is known that he did tour in the rodeo circuit in Texas where he won three years in a row at the Fort Worth Rodeo - which became known as "Yak's Show."

# Folks, around town



Felicia Inman

# Say hello to our neighbor, Felicia Inman!

Felicia is the Program Director for Mission Righteous Roots and has been with the agency for almost two years now. She mentioned that there are so many aspects of her job that she loves. "My favorite part of this job is seeing lives transformed and restored by the power of Jesus Christ; there is no greater reward than witnessing someone come broken and without hope, yet leave with joy and expectation of the future, and by no means is it because of us, but it is all Him and I am honored to be a part," she said. She describes herself as a hometown girl that loves Jesus and people and someone who is passionate about making a difference and helping others discover their God-given gifts and eternal purpose. She was born and raised in Gatesville and her favorite thing about our town is when we come together as a community to support those in need. "I also enjoy the close connections and familiar faces,' she said.

Felicia reads The Gatesville Messenger and said, "I love the Gatesville Messenger because it provides essential and wholesome coverage of important community news that encourages readers to become active and builds a stronger community. The Gatesville Messenger has been the leading voice for many businesses and organizations, and I am grateful for their support throughout the years."

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

# Offices to close for Labor Day holiday

Staff Reports

Businesses and governmental offices across Coryell County will join the rest of the nation on Monday, Sept. 2 in celebrating Labor Day

Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and became a federal holiday in 1894. The holiday also became

synonymous with the end of summer.

Closings in the immediate area include:

### **GOVERNMENT** The City of Gatesville,

City of Oglesby, City of Evant, the Coryell County Courthouse, and the Farm Service Agency will be closed on Monday.

# **SCHOOLS**

No local schools will

hold classes, and administrations offices will be closed on Monday. The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville will be closed as

# **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Extraco Bank, Cadence, Educators Credit Union, The First National Bank of Gatesville, The First National Bank of Evant, and The First National Bank

will be closed on Monday.

### **POST OFFICES** All local post offices will

be closed on Monday. **LIBRARY** The Gatesville Public

Library will be closed on

### Monday. **NEWSPAPER**

The Gatesville Messenger will be closed on Monday.



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TUMBLEWEED SMITH

# Tourists have discovered iceland



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

'asked my wife where she wanted to go this summer. She said, "Someplace cool." So, we went to Iceland, the western most part of Europe.

The capital city of Reykjavik is the most northern capital city in the world. In preparing for the trip, we watched several videos, but none were as beautiful as the sights we saw.

Dallas has a direct 7-hour flight to Reykjavik, a city full of young people, interesting narrow and curving downtown streets with shops, bars, hotels, and much construction. The feeling is very similar to what we've found in Montreal or Ouebec or other cities that have street performers, strolling musicians, and lots of activity.

Iceland is a small country about the size of Colorado. Half the population of 330,000 live in or near Reykjavik. Fishing is a major industry, and fish is the number one export item. There are small fishing villages all along the coastline. Some have less than a hundred residents. We heard about one that had 240 people living there and 60 of them are in the same family.

Iceland had a major financial crisis in 2008 but

rebounded quickly. One of the 300 volcanoes erupted, causing major air traffic problems all over the western hemisphere. But it put Iceland on the map, and the traveling public became curious about the country. Tourism soared and is now a big part of the country's economy. There is a volcano eruption every 3 years, up from every 6 years a while back.

We saw spectacular waterfalls, clouds of steam, lakes, glaciers, whales and green mountains. The temperature in early August was around 60 degrees, and we had sunshine every day. We were expecting rain, wind, and cold and brought plenty of winter clothes. Didn't need them, thank goodness. We took long hikes and had delicious food. Lots of fish. We cruised around the entire island stopping at Seydisfiordur. Akurevri. Isafiordur, and Grundarfjordur. Our cruise ship, the Star Breeze, part of the Windstar fleet, presented us with certificates indicating we had crossed the Arctic Circle.

A lot of people drive the ring road around the entire island (the last part of it was paved while we were there). Gas is 8 dollars a gallon. Another popular activity is to take a hot soak in the Blue Lagoon thermal baths. Some of the spots we visited were in remote areas with dirt roads. Suddenly, we would see dozens of tour buses at the site, letting passengers view the waterfalls, glaciers, or steam clouds. Our captain stopped the ship so passengers could see 18 whales playing around the ship. He was as excited as the passengers. He had never seen anything like this before even though he had been at the spot many times.

Iceland is a surprising place. It is an emerging country just now becoming an important destination. It dates back to the late 800's when settlers came from Norway and Denmark. The country got its independence from Denmark in 1944.

# **SUDOKU**

Puzzle answers from the Aug. 17, 2024 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

# Annual Golf Scramble to be held Sept. 14

Staff Reports

Gatesville's Exchange and Lions Clubs will be hosting their 24th Annual Golf Scramble on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Gatesville Country

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., and there will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

Team prizes, based on a 14-team field, will be \$500 for first place, \$400 for fourth place, and \$200 for eighth place. Those interested can form their own

for a team list, which will be \$200 per team or \$50 per member. The price includes green fees, golf cart, and

There will be a \$5,000 Hole-in-One contest plus three other Hole-in-One prizes, which are sponsored by the First National Bank.

For more information, contact Alan Mathis at 254-289-1651 or Linda Klontz at 937-206-6418.

The Gatesville Country Club is located at 1212 Golf Course Road.

# four-person team or sign-up

# County battles two fires over the weekend

BY KAYLEE DUSANG Staff Writer

Local fire departments worked together to respond to two fires over the weekend of Aug. 17, according to a Facebook post by the Coryell County Sheriff's Office.

Flat, Oglesby, and Gatesville fire departments responded to a structure fire on South State Highway 36 across from the Flat Post Office.

Evant, Copperas Cove, and Gatesville fire departments were also on-scene at a brush fire on Harmon Road.

Fire Chief Billy Vaden said in an email that the structure fire in Flat occurred after an electrocuted bird fell from a power line onto the ground, causing grass and trash to burn under someone's back porch.

The grass fire on Harmon Road came from a flying ember of cardboard that caught fire for an unknown reason, Vaden said.

The Coryell County Sheriff's Department updated the social media post on Aug. 17 saying both fires had been extinguished and that units have cleared the scenes.

# Elderly honored on National Senior Citizen Day

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Aug. 21, the Gatesville Senior Center recognized their congregation and local seniors with a potluck party in honor of National Senior Citizen's Day.

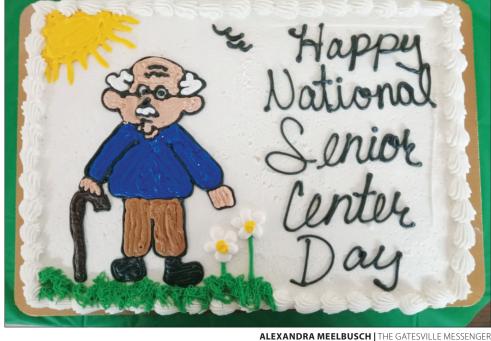
The Senior Center is known throughout the community for being the spot for elderly folks to enjoy a meal, partake in activities, or to attend a

"We offer daily meals and companionship." Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph said. "We also offer bingo on Tuesdays and Thursdays, movies on Wednesdays, and quilting on Tuesdays and Wednes-

Throughout the month of August, the Senior Center has hosted Treadway Hearing to provide free hearing screens and Coryell Health to offer health screenings. The facility also offered a variety of classes through Texas AgriLife Extension.

The classes are educational seminars that host different hospice companies, nursing homes, and insurance companies as well as evidence bases classes to enrich the seniors' lives.

"I am planning our first field trip, hopefully, in October," Rudolph said.



Pictured is the cake, which was made in honor of National Senior Citizen's Day.

"One goal I have is to bridge the gap between the meals on wheels clients and feeling like they are isolated," she said. "We recently launched a software system that will help with that where I can send out mass broadcasts letting all clients know about closures and send out reminders or seasonal greetings."

With Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge serving 250 to 300 meals each week for her clients, the Meals on Wheels program

is one of the center's main priorities.

"Meals on Wheels is very important, because the purpose is to deliver meals to seniors who are shut in, cannot drive, or leave their home as well as giving our clients a sense of purpose," she said. "Camilla and I have worked very hard here; we were recently acknowledged for serving over 1,700 meals in one month- that's something to be proud of."

"The congregation is important to me because I can sit with them and discuss their lives. I can visually check on them and make sure they are ok," she said. "The center as a whole gives me the opportunity to utilize my previous work experience to ensure these folks are getting the best quality of care and life enrichment services."

"Every day at the senior center is Senior Citizen's Day to me," Edge said.

# Whatever happened to ...

# 20 YEARS AGO (2004)

School enrollment was up for Gatesville ISD and Jonesboro ISD.

Nominations were being accepted for the Norris Graves Award, an award presented annually to the individual who best exemplified the spirit and tradition of Gatesville High School.

The Boys and Girls Club

moved to a temporary location at Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church on 14th Street.

The Gatesville Public Library, in conjunction with the First United Methodist Church, began offering ESL (English as a second language) and SSL (Spanish as a second language) literacy programs for the public.

Approximately 100 area

residents participated in the annual "Prayer Walk" at Gatesville High School.

# 30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Hundreds crowded into the Coryell Activities Complex for an intensive briefing on the golden-cheeked warbler critical habitat area.

"The Lion King" was showing at the Drive-In movie theater.

Western Auto was offer-

ing portrait packages for \$6.99.

Wal-Mart advertised 12-packs of Dr Pepper cans for \$1.98.

Dairy Queen offered Blizzard treats for .99 cents.

# 40 YEARS AGO (1984)

The Gatesville City Council met in special session and set Sept. 11 as the date for their public hearing on the sale of \$4 million in municipal bonds for the Lake Belton water pipeline.

Gatesville Hornet football players prepared for an upcoming scrimmage with

Midway

Leaird's Department Store advertised Jelly shoes for

Powell Supply advertised

a VCR for \$799. The Rescue Squad got a

new vehicle with air conditioning and power steering.

# 50 YEARS AGO (1974)

The site for a new jail was going to cost Coryell County \$20,000.

Jamie Erwin, Curtis Logan, and Jerry (Nub) Donaldson purchased the local Cable Vision firm.

Casual Fashions on Main

Street offered "magic double-knit fabrics from Encron Polyester plaids and

solids." Mrs. Patsy Wheat, then member of the Gatesville public school's faculty, received a Master of Education degree in secondary education from Tarleton State University.

The county commissioners passed an order, setting a 3-mph speed limit on Barton Lane.





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# Russell to be recognized with dedication Aug. 30

Staff Reports

A dedication will be held on Friday, Aug. 30 to recognize Ronnie Russell at the Gatesville Independent School District transportation office. The service will begin at 2 p.m.

Ronnie Russell graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1967 and attended Howard Payne University on a baseball scholarship. He played semi-pro baseball even after his college graduation.

In 1973, he began a career in education, which lasted 50 years. He spent his initial year at the State School for Boys, while the rest of his career was dedicated to the students at Gatesville Inde-

property taxes in the state.

Coach Russell predominantly worked with sixth

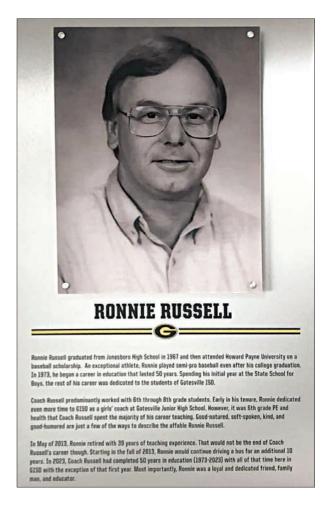
pendent School District.

through eighth grade students. Early in his tenure, he dedicated his time as a girls coach at Gatesville Junior High School. However, it was sixth grade P.E. and health where he spent the majority of his career teaching.

In May of 2013, he retired with 39 years of teaching experience. Although, this would not be the end of his career since he continued driving a bus for an additional 10 years.

In 2023, Coach Russell completed 50 years in education with all his time served at Gatesville ISD.

Ronnie Russell's plaque is displayed in the GISD transportation office.



Form 50-876

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §26.06(b-2)

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

> PROPOSED TAX RATE 0.560000 per \$100 NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE 0.539678 per \$100 0.563779 **VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE** per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is	the tax rate for the	2024	tax vear that w	rill raise the same amount
of property tax revenue for	0.1717.0.5	(current tax year)	from the same	
	tax year and the	taxing unit) 2024 tax (current tax year)	year.	
The voter-approval tax rate is the an election to seek voter approv			ESVILLE	may adopt without hold
The proposed tax rate is greater to increase property taxes for the A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE F	e	tax year. WILL BE HELD ON	CITY OF GATE (name of taxing 09/10/2024 05:30 PM (date and time)	is proposing
The proposed tax rate is not gre to hold an election at which vote opposition to the proposed tax rate.	ers may accept or reject	the proposed tax rate. Howe	(name of taxing unit ver, you may express	')
CITY OF GATESVILLE (name of taxing unit)  YOUR TAXES OWED UN	at their offices or by attended to the components and the components are also below, showing how each	ending the public hearing me  RATES MENTIONED ABOV  x rate ) x ( taxable value of your voted on the proposal to consider the tax	office responsible for admininationed above.  E CAN BE CALCULA	ATED AS FOLLOWS:
AGAINST the proposal:			y	
PRESENT and not voting:		Gary Chumle	•	

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by \_

to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence homestead by

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.560000	\$0.560000	0% increase
Average homestead taxable value	\$160,269.00	\$174,767.00	9.04% increase
Tax on average homestead	\$897.50	\$978.69	9.04% increase
Total tax levy on all properties	\$3,035,173.00	\$3,193,400.38	5.21% increase

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the Tax Assessor for the City of Gatesville at 254-248-3152 or tac@coryelltax.com, or visit www.coryellcountytax.com

PEARL NEWS

# Dr. Patterson to speak at fundraiser



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

The annual Pearl Church of Christ Atchley Fish Fry and Silent Auction benefiting His Kids of Lampasas will be held on Sunday, Sept. 1.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., the speaker will be Dr. Charles Patterson, former Superintendent of Killeen ISD and a Hamilton native. After the church service, you can enjoy a free fish dinner with all the trimmings. Feel free to bring your favorite dessert or side if you wish. The closing of the auction takes place after lunch. Bidding is now open at the church, so go by and peruse the many, many items and place your bids on the accompanying bid sheets. Be sure and check out the pictures of the available auction items on the Pearl Church of Christ Facebook page. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as all proceeds go toward scholarships and the summer Christian camp program for the kiddos. Be sure and let your Killeen friends know that Dr. Patterson will be in Pearl that day. Everyone is invited to attend. Visitors are always welcome at Pearl Church of Christ.

I was so blessed to enjoy a wonderful birthday weekend last week. Of course, too much great food was enjoyed by all. However, the best part was spending time with family and friends. One of the best parts of this year's celebration is that I found out that I'm a year vounger than I thought For most of this past year, I thought I was hitting a huge milestone before a major milestone. I've dreaded that. As it turns out, I should have been more worried about my ability to do math.

Actually, I'm just glad that I'm a retired teacher now as teaching math might not be one of my strong suits any longer. Please tell me it's

not all downhill from here! I hear that Kay is enjoying weekly outings with friends and that their favorite thing to do is to meet at a local restaurant to enjoy time together. She will never want to leave the big city to go back to country living after all the fun she's been having. (Okay, to us Pearlites, Gatesville is the big city.) However, I have also heard that Kay and her companions have come close to being evicted from the premises due to their raucous behavior. How can sweet little ladies in the 30+ age range (or thereabouts) cause such a commotion, and what in the world is so funny? The locals say that the giggling rattles windows and nearly bursts eardrums! If they don't watch it, they are going to get a reputation ... and they will all want one of those itsy bitsy, teeny weeny, turquoise greeny,

Kay's! This week's Bible verse comes from Mark 8:36-What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? NIV

stringy bikinis just like

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@ vahoo.com

**MOUND NEWS** 

# Welcome, babies!



last year

this year.

CITY OF GATESVILLE

BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

'rs. Annalee Eberlein Terrell announced the arrival of their son, Hank Thomas Terrell, on July 25. Annalee and her husband, Caleb, live in Grapevine.

Andrew and Alexandra Eberlein live in McKinney, and they announced the arrival of their twin girls on Thursday, August 15. The babies' names are Maeve Connor and Nora Day Eberlein.

These are Christopher and Jennifer Eberlein's very first grandchildren. All three

grandchildren are thriving. Mr. Jakson Tippit has started his senior year at Oglesby High School and played in his first football scrimmage of this year on Friday against Aquilla.

Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch together in Gatesville on

Emma Blakley visited Sun-

day in Pearl with Mrs. Bettie Blakley.

Robert and Carolyn Blakley had lunch in Waco on Sunday and while there they did some shopping.

Martha Lawhorn was a Friday lunch guest in Gatesville with Mrs. Doris Hoff.

Ray, John, and Melba Stephens attended Rick Stephens birthday party in Southlake on Saturday. Mrs. Melba Stephens is

spending a few days with Ray and John Stephens. Those who have birthdays

this coming weekend are Mrs. Eric (Liz) McCorkle and Elizabeth Schoenewolf, and also a Happy Anniversary to Eric and Liz McCorkle.

# Coryell County United Prayer Day to be held Sept. 7

Submitted by Joyce Tal-

There will be a United Prayer Day from Sept. 7 at 6 a.m. to Sept. 8 at 6 a.m. throughout Coryell County. Prayer vigils are being organized in area churches, but all are encouraged to join from wherever you are. Spread the word.

### **PRAY THE WORD**

John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'

Harness the power of prayer to address our nation's spiritual challenges, particularly as we approach the upcoming elections. True change will come not from election results, but from a spiritual revival.

### **PRAY - SHINE THE LIGHT INTO DARKNESS**

John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

As we navigate the trou-

bling issues of this election cycle, we must pray for our own discernment, for truth to be revealed, and for the knowledge of God's will. Our spiritual foundations are under threat, making prayer more urgent than ever. The word "community" contains "unity," which is precisely what we need now.

### **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING**

1 Thess. 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

United Prayer Day is Sept. 7 at 6 a.m. to Sept. 8, 6 a.m., but we encourage all to pray scripture up to this date and beyond Text PRAY-GOV to 833-259-8648 for daily prayer

prompts. Those desiring more information can contact Debbie Martin at 254-216-0907 or Joyce Talbott at 254-223-0030 or by email at cjtalbott304@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYCE TAI BOTT

Cutline: Children are pictured at the FMC during Vacation Bible School while reading the Gospel of John using flashlights.

# First Baptist Church offers Wednesday youth programs

Submitted Item

The First Baptist Church of Gatesville would like to inform the public of their youth and children's programs on Wednesday evenings.

The youth program is a growing and vibrant group dedicated to discovering their identity in Christ through guidance of the

Holy Spirit in God's Holy Word. They enjoy good friends and have fun playing games, worshiping through music, and diving deep into God's Word.

The children's group, the "Kidz" Club, also meets to spend time learning about how to share God's love with others through Bible stories and fun learning activities. Their study for

this school year is called

"Walk This Way." Wednesday nights for each group will begin with supper at 5:30 p.m. and

will conclude at 7 p.m. For more information, call the First Baptist Church of Gatesville at 254-865-2014.

# **OBITUARIES**

# Ioe Hal Carothers

March 31, 1943 - Aug. 11, 2024

Joe Hal Carothers, age 81, of Kempner, passed away Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024, at his home.

Joe was born March 31, 1943, in Big Springs to Joseph William and Sarah Carothers. His family later moved to Coryell County where he grew up on the family farm with his three siblings, Bobby, Carol Ann, and Gary.

Joe was a gifted athlete at Gatesville High School. He was named Most Valuable Back, 2nd team all-state quarterback, and 3rd team all-state defensive back for football in 1960. In the regional finals playoff game against Taylor, Joe earned the nickname "Golden Toe Joe" after kicking the game winning field goal with time expired. Joe and the entire 1960 football team were inducted into the Gatesville Hall of Fame in 2021

He graduated from Gatesville High School with the Class of 1961. After High School, Joe attended Texas Christian University on a football scholarship later transferring to Tarleton State University in Stephenville and then to Baylor Law School where he received his Juris Doctorate in May of 1972.

Joe opened his first law practice in Kingsland in 1973. He moved his firm to the Copperas Cove area in 1974 where Land Exchange Abstract & Title and his law practice have served the area for the past 50 years. In 1981, Joe opened Land Exchange Abstract & Title in Killeen venturing into the Bell County market. Joe valued and appreciated his customers, the realtor community, and the homebuilders he was able to serve over the years.

Joe was an exceptional leader for all his employees; he loved and appreciated their dedication and commitment.

Joe was also a homebuilder and land developer in the Central Texas area. Joe served as the presiHomebuilder's Association in 1979 where he also served on the board of directors. He also served as the secretary for the Copperas Cove Industrial Foundation and as a board member for 20 Years.

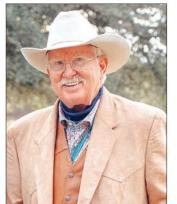
He was a lifelong outdoorsman who loved hunting, boating, and fishing. He tried his hand at many things in life, including riding bulls at the age of 17. In his younger years, Joe traveled to Colorado and broke horses. His love of equine continued throughout his life on the Oakalla ranch. He was a lifetime member of the Texas Thoroughbred Association and the American Quarter Horse Association. He spent many years perfecting his thoroughbred breeding program where he produced many championship bloodlines.

He was a published poet and a member of the Academy of American Poets. He had an extensive library where he researched some of his favorite topics such as ancient history, gemology, and herbology. He also enjoyed having fun with his family, playing shuffleboard, listening to music, and dancing with his wife, Nancy, in the ranch game room. Joe could really "cut a rug" and have a good time, earning him the title of "Cocktail Mixologist Extraordinaire" from friends.

On July 2, 1998, Joe married the love of his life, Nancy Sisco. This union blended their families into a beautiful new chapter. His role expanded from father of six to "Papa" of nine grandchildren that he adored.

His parents; a son, Joshua H. Carothers and a sister, Carol Ann Dillard, preceded Joe in death.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife Nancy Sisco-Carothers, of Kempner; two sons, Joe Keith Carothers and his wife, Nicole, of Kempner; Jason Hedlund and wife, Tara, of Austin; three



lan and husband, Mark, of Kempner; Kristin Williams and her husband, James, of Lampasas; and Kara Hedlund and her husband, Kevin Wilson, of Austin; two brothers, Bobby Carothers and his wife, Nelda, of Gatesville, and Gary Carothers of Washington State; nine grandchildren, Tiffani Walthrop, Xander Walthrop, Bella Grasso, Colton Carothers, Gia Grasso, Luca Grasso, Sovi Williams, Finn Hedlund, and Freyja Hedlund.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 19, in the Chapel of Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home in Copperas Cove. Joe was laid to rest on the family ranch in Kempner.

Serving as pallbearers were Xander Walthrop, Colton Carothers, Skyler Carothers, Canyon Carothers Connor Carothers, Jason Hedlund, Mark Mc-Millan, and James Williams. Honorary pallbearers were Finn Hedlund and Luca Grasso.

For those that desire, the family respectfully requests that memorial contributions be given to the Copperas Cove Education Foundation in memory of Joe H. Carothers, P.O. Box 943, Copperas Cove, TX 76522

Words of Comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordbowersfuneralhomecopperascove.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care of Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home in Copperas Cove.

# Elsie Schuster Hornung

March 21, 1944 - Aug. 17, 2024

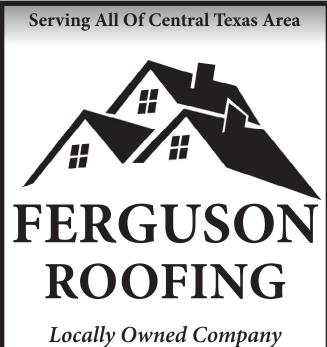
Elsie Ann Schuster Hornung, age 80, of Gatesville, passed away on Aug. 17, 2024.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24, at St. John Lutheran Church in Marion, Texas with Pastor Bryan Dziadik-Willingham officiating. Burial will follow at

St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Elsie Ann Schuster Hornung was born Tuesday, March 21, 1944, in Converse, Texas to the late Norma and Albin Schuster. Elsie was raised on a small family farm just outside of Converse when the world was going through many





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changes including the cold war, man's first step into space, and the birth of rock and roll. Rock and roll and baseball, which Elsie played in school, were two of her biggest loves in life. Elsie was a child of God and lived life on her terms, never allowing anything to lessen the experience.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Norma and Albin Schuster, and brother, John Schuster.

Elsie is survived by her two sons, Herbert and Ronald Hornung; brothers, Ernie and Larry Schuster; grandchildren, Cory and Shelby Hornung; nephews, Ricky, Jeff, Chris, Michael, and Curtis; nieces, Jeanie and Cindy; and many friends who loved her.



# Jansky presented with Entertainer of the Year award

BY DAVID SCOTT Staff Writer

On Friday, Aug. 16, country music artist Clifton Jansky was awarded with the honor of "Entertainer of the Year" during his performance on stage at the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame at the City Auditorium.

Jansky commented, "The first time I performed in Gatesville was when I was inducted into the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame in 2012."

Coming back to Gatesville to perform, he said, "It's just awesome."

Jansky said that he's been performing for at least 61 years.

"From Amarillo by Morning to Amazing Grace" is not just one of Jansky's single releases in Christian country music, but it is his life story. One of the lines in the song says, "Little did I know, God had a plan that was bigger than Tennessee.'

As a young boy growing up in South Texas, Jansky's dream was to stand on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry with the big boys and sing. He had his first band at the age of eleven and recorded his first record at the age of seventeen. He was so successful in South Texas that country music was his sole source of income for 22 years. As a

mainstream country artist, he had twelve records on country radio including a regional hit on "Amarillo by Morning" four years before George Strait.

Jansky has opened shows for Gary Morris, Lee Greenwood, Tanya Tucker, Eddie Rabbitt, Willie Nelson, Randy Travis, Ricky Skaggs, Sara Evans and the Oak Ridge Boys. It seemed as if he was one song away from really hitting the big times but, in reality, he was one prayer away from changing his life and his dreams

Though Jansky has been singing and entertaining all of his life, he is a new-

comer to Christian country music. He released his first single "Heart Transplant" to Christian country radio in Aug. 2000, and it became his first #1 Song. In November 2001, Clifton stood and sang on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium at the Christian Country Music Association Awards Show in Nashville. God fulfilled his dream as a six-year-old boy to sing on that stage and a few minutes later, he was awarded with the 2001 CCMA New Artist of the Year. Clifton has since been awarded 2002 CCMA Male Vocalist of the Year, 2004 CCMA Entertainer of the Year as well as 2005 CCMA Songwriter of the Year. He has had six number one singles in Christian country music and looks at the success as a door that God has

opened to allow his mes-

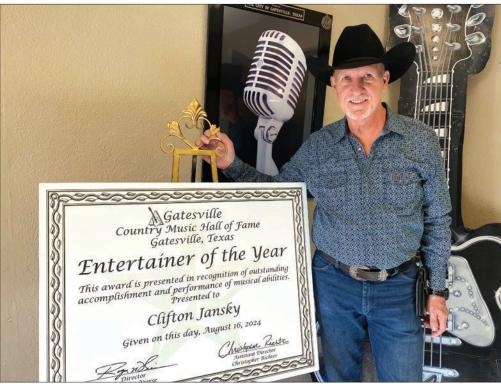
sage and music to be heard by a large number of radio listeners across the country and around the world through the internet.

Jansky is on the road and in the air for Jesus. He sings and speaks wherever God rings his phone to go. He has traveled overseas with International **Evangelist Sammy Tippit** to England, Macedonia, Siberia, and Scotland and has also sung in three different languages in stadium crusades in Romania and the former Soviet Union. He has ministered for 22 years in the prisons and jails of this land with Bill Glass Ministries, as well as doing revivals, concerts, banquets, and rodeos for everyone who rings his phone. Jansky stated, "I am now doing what God created me to do. My heart is to go where the

people are and share God's love through my music and my life so that they can take the ride From Amarillo by Morning to Amazing Grace just like me."

Jansky continues to reside in San Antonio. He has been in full-time ministry for over 28 years now and has committed his life to going where the people are and giving them the opportunity to give their lives to the Jesus who has totally and dramatically changed his life.

Since he first started in the music industry, when asked if his music has changed over the years, Jansky responds, "Everybody's music changes, but I'm still a classic country guy and now I do Christian and country music as well."



**DAVID SCOTT |** THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Clifton Jansky poses next to the certificate presented to him as Entertainer of the Year by the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame.

# The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Aug. 14 - Aug. 20. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

### **CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# Aug. 14

1:43 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.

2:54 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 3400 block of Jewell Drive.

3:22 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 600 block of Park Street.

8:24 p.m., a threat was reported in the 400 block of N. 14th Street.

# Aug. 15

10 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 600 block of State School Road.

12:13 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street. 5:48 p.m., a threat was

reported in the 600 block of Lover's Lane.

# Aug. 16

12:23 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.

1:25 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2000 block of Saunders

5:10 p.m., a threat was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.

8:47 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2500 block of Business Highway 36.

# Aug. 17

12:43 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2000 block of E. Main

1:52 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.

2:35 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 10,000 block of S. State Highway 36.

6:05 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main

# Aug.18

10:08 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.

12:10 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.

1:50 p.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of N. 27th Street.

10:49 p.m., harassment was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.

# Aug. 19

10:10 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2900 block of E. Main Street.

11:52 a.m., harassment was reported in the 600 block of Park Street.

12:09 p.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 100 block of Petsick Drive.

1:47 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of N. 27th Street.

9:15 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.

9:28 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of Bridge Street.

10:18 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 200

block of S. Lover's Lane. 4:14 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main

### **CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

12:04 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2700 block of Tanglewood

6:54 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 400 block of County Road 320.

9:01 p.m., an assault was reported in the 400 block of County Road 320.

6:04 a.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 200 block of Hempel Drive.

8:26 a.m., a theft was reported in the 4200 block of E. Highway 84.

11:33 a.m., a scam was reported in the 1200 block of Collins Avenue.

1:03 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 400 block of County Road 56.

# Aug. 16

1:58 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1900 block of S. Highway 281.

5:15 a.m., stolen vehicle was reported on McKelvain Street and Boone Avenue.

12:16 p.m., criminal mischief was reported on County Road 226 just off FM 215.

7:52 p.m., harassment was reported in the 4400 block of FM 1113.

# Aug. 17

9:17 a.m., road blocked was reported in the 4500 block of County Road 224.

9:48 a.m., harassment was reported in the 700 block of Winter Road.

1 p.m., a fire call was reported in the 7100 block of Harmon Road.

2:36 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 9700 block of S. Highway 36.

# Aug. 18

6:56 a.m., illegal dumping was reported in the 2000 block of Bald Knob Road.

1:44 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2600 block of Arrowhead Drive.

4:31 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on FM 1783 and County Road.

3:21 a.m., a theft was reported in the 5500 block of FM 1829. 1:17 p.m., criminal tres-

pass was reported at 1st National Bank of Evant. 4:37 p.m., a theft was re-

ported in the 1100 block of Lutheran Church Road. 4:45 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1100 block

# Aug. 20

of E. Omaha Street.

8:45 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1100 block of Slatter Road. 3:07 p.m., a fire call was

was reported in the 200 block of County Road 330. 10:03 p.m., harassment

was reported in the 4200

block of County Road 107.

reported in the 1200 block of County Road 311. 7:54 p.m., a stolen vehicle Total tax rate (per

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §26.06(b-2). NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit. PROPOSED TAX RATE NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE \$ 0.47376 per \$100 of property tax revenue for \_\_\_\_\_\_CORYELL COUNTY from the same properties in both The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that \_\_\_\_\_CORYELL COUNTY an election to seek voter approval of the rate. The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that \_\_\_\_CORYELL COUNTY\_\_\_ is proposing to increase property taxes for the \_\_\_\_\_\_ tax year. A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON \_\_\_\_\_ The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, \_\_\_\_\_CORYELL COUNTY \_\_\_\_ is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the \_\_\_\_\_ CORYELL COUNTY \_\_at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above. The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of DIODEY NURSTAKES SHEED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS: The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by operty ) / dolarell county (List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, ICORYEMBOROMNETabsent, indicating absences) to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence nomestead by

<b>le/.g53.99</b> opertyTaxes t <b>⊛nyesteachtaxab</b> j <b>e</b> n			on which you can easily access information regardled public hearings of each entity that taxes your 12.37% increase
ax on average omestead	\$698	\$996	42.6% increase
otal tax levy on Il properties	\$14,039,207	\$18,707,140	33.24% increase

(Include the follo	owing text if these no	o-new-revenue	maintenance and op	erations rate a	adjustments apply fo	or the taxing unit,
No-New-Revenu	e Maintenance and C	perations Rate	Adjustments			
State Criminal J	ustice Mandate (cou	nties)				
The	Coryell		_ County Auditor cert	ifies that	Coryell	County ha
spent \$	(county name) 304,070		County Auditor cert in the previous	us 12 months f	(county name) or the maintenance a	nd operations cos
(amount m	ninus any amount received from	state revenue for such	costs)			
of keeping inmate	es sentenced to the Te	xas Department	of Criminal Justice.		Coryell	Count
Sheriff has provid	ded	Coryell	Co	unty informatio	n on these costs, min	us the state
	ed for the reimburseme	(county name)				
This increased th	ne no-new-revenue ma	intenance and o	perations rate by	0.00518	/\$100.	
ndigent Health	Care Compensation	Expenditures (d	counties)			
The	CORYELL COUNTY (name of taxing unit)	spent	\$340,224 from Ju	uly 1 <sup>202</sup>	3to June 30	2024
on indigent health	(name of taxing unit) h care compensation p	rocedures at the	(amount) e increased minimum	(prior ye eligibility standa	ear) ards, less the amount	(current year) of state
assistance.						
For current tax ye	ear, the amount of incr	ease above last	year's enhanced indig	gent health car		-117,522 (amount of increase)
This increased th	ne no-new-revenue ma	intenance and o	perations rate by	0.00000	/\$100.	
	e Compensation Exp					
- Γhe	CORYELL COUNTY	snent s	\$ 816,768 from li	ılv 1 202	3 to June 30	2024
o provide appoin	CORYELL COUNTY  (name of taxing unit) ited counsel for indiger	nt individuals in	(amount) criminal or civil procee	(prior) edings in accord	year) dance with the schedu	(current year) ule of fees
adopted under Ar	rticle 26.05, Code of C	riminal Procedur	re, and to fund the ope	erations of a pu	blic defender's office	under Article
26.044, Code of 0	Criminal Procedure, le	ss the amount o	f any state grants rece	eived. For curre	ent tax year, the amou	int of increase
above last year's	enhanced indigent de	fense compensa	ation expenditures is \$	248,805		
	ne no-new-revenue ma			(amount of incre	ease) /\$100.	
Eligible County	Hospital Expenditure	es (cities and co	ounties)			
The		spent	\$ from J	uly 1	to June 30	
on expenditures t	(name of taxing unit) to maintain and operat	e an eligible cou	unty hospital.	(prior y	ear)	(current year)
or current tax ye	ear, the amount of incr	ease above last	year's eligible county	hospital expen		
This increased th	ne no-new revenue ma	intenance and o	perations rate by		/\$100. (amount o)	increase)
If the tax assess	sor for the taxing uni	t maintains an	internet website)			
or assistance wi	ith tax calculations, ple	ase contact the	tax assessor for	С	ORYELL COUNTY	
		ortac		or vieit 3://v	e of taxing unit) www.coryellcountytax.com/#	/property/calcula
at	ne number)		(email address)	, 01 ¥1311	(internet website addr	ess)

(If the tax assessor for the taxing unit does not maintain an internet website)

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for

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**COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST** Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & EASTWOOD BAPTIST

Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville: Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50

**FIRST BAPTIST EVANT** Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' & youth Bible study

FIRST BAPTIST FLAT 9775 TX-36, Gatesville; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays -Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE** 912 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesdays -Children & Youth 5:30-7:00 p.m. (supper provided) FIRST BAPTIST

**OGLESBY** Jeremy Sanders, Pastor; 120 College Ave.; Sunday School 10 a.m.. Sunday worsnip i i am; Wednesdays - supper at 5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth Group 6 p.m., Prayer meeting 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST **PURMELA** 875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. **GATEWAY BAPTIST** Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7 p.m. HARMONY BAPTIST

A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m. **HAY VALLEY BAPTIST** 3110 Hay Valley Road; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. AWANA children's ministry Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible Study for men & women on

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. JONESBORO BAPTIST Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.

KING BAPTIST Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. LIBERTY BAPTIST Royse T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville;

Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. LIVE OAK BAPTIST Pastor Matthew Hamilton; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings: Choir at 5:30 p.m., Children & Youth Activities,

**MOUNTAIN BAPTIST** Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville;

Adult Bible Study at 6:15

Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday. **OSAGE BAPTIST** Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. PEARL COUNTRY

2082 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. **PECAN GROVE BAPTIST** 6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. PIDCOKE BAPTIST Donald McConnaughhay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.

**BAPTIST** Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. PRIMERO IGLESIA

**PLEASANT VALLEY** 

**EMANUEL** One mile north of Evant, Hwy. 281; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m

**PURMELA BAPTIST** Pastor: Brenden Hough; 875 FM 932, Purmela, TX 76566; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

**SWEET HOME BAPTIST** 511 N. 14th, Gatesville; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday worship 7

SPANISH BAPTIST Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m. TRINITY BAPTIST

Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor; 1506 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday activities for adults, youth, & children 6:30 p.m.; 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041. **TURNERSVILLE** 

BAPTIST Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.

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

**MOUND COWBOY CHURCH** 

Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.

CATHOLIC **OUR LADY OF LOURDES** CATHOLIC CHURCH Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (Énglish) & 12 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. & Wednesday-Friday at

**CHURCH OF CHRIST CEDAR RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST** 

Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. **EVANT CHURCH OF CHRIST** 

Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W. Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. FORT GATES CHURCH

**OF CHRIST** 4605 St. Hwy. 36 S., Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

**GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST** 

Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m. LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO 2413 E. Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos. MIDWAY CHURCH OF

**CHRIST** 

1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove; Sundays - worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays - Bible Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559. **PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST** 6790 FM 183; Sunday

worship 10:30 a.m.

<u>CHURCH O</u>F GOD CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD 338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.

UTHERAN **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN** David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922

Lutheran Church Rd. Copperas Cove; Sunday Bible Study 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m. ST. PAUL LUTHERAN Rev. John Heckmann. pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday School 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.

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Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD (during school year): Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children & Adult Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:30 p.m. 254-865-2520. GATESVILLE UNITED

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PIDCOKE METHODIST Rev. Pete Harris; Hwy. 116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday worship service 10 a.m.; 254-677-6242.

**MORMON CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS** 

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**DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN LIFE** CHURCH Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday services 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7 p.m. CORYELL COMMUNITY **CHURCH** Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115

N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry & C3 Student Ministry. **CORYELL FELLOWSHIP** CHURCH

Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901. **COVER2COVER MINISTRIES** 

Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.,

Wednesdays 6 p.m. 407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5, Gatesville. **GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER** 

Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.; 2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-**GRACE ASSEMBLY** 

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH** Wray Nunn, pastor; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday worship 6:30 p.m.; Gateway Learning Center, 2315 Osage Rd., Gatesville. HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL **CHURCH** 

Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th St., Gatesville; 865-6222. Sunday worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC & state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6 p.m. JOHNNY WATKIN'S **MEN'S SUNDAY** 

SCHOOL CLASS Sundays, 8:30-9 a.m. aqui se reune La Iglesia de Cristo, in the 2400 Block of E. Main St., Gatesville. **LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP** 

Pat Cole, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.; Tuesday OWLS Kid Group 6-8 p.m. MOTHER NEFF FAITH **TABERNACLE** 

William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

PEARL COMMUNITY **FELLOWSHIP** 6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday Services 9 a.m. THE HOUSE THAT GOD **BUILT** 

Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL **TABERNACLE OF PRAISE** 

Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826. **MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN** CHRIST

Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 514 N. 13th St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesdays Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday service, 7:30

**PRESBYTERIAN** THE PRESBYTERIAN **CHURCH** Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat,

pastor; 1110 É. Main, Gatesville: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

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Bible fellowship Sundays 10 a.m.; 4995 FM 929 INTER:

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**COWBOY CHURCH** Max Gunn, pastor; 254-216-1537; 10 miles west of Gatesville on HWY 84; Sundays 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; Youth Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.

**HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH** Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise & Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-

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Best Chicken

Best Coffee

Best Desserts

Best Drinks

Best Donuts

Best Food Truck

Best Chicken Fried Steak

Best Chicken Wings

Best	Hair Stylist
Best	Insurance Agent
Best	Law Enforcement Officer
Best	Massage Therapist
Best	Mechanic
Best	Optometrist/Ophthalmologist
Best	Photographer
Best	Real Estate Agent
Best	Teacher/Educator
Best	Veterinarian
Best	Waiter/Waitress

Best Happy Hour

Best Ice Cream

Best Margarita

Best Pasta

Best Pizza

Best Salad

Best Salsa

Best Mexican Food



Contest Rules: 1. One entry per person. Entries must be on original newspaper ballots, no machine copies will be counted. Ballots must be at

least 50% completed. Name, address and phone number must be filled in to be counted. Multiple ballots that appear to be from the same person will not be counted. 2. Final decisions on ballots, categories and winning entries

will be made by the Gatesville Messenger. 3. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, Sept. 2. 2024. (A random drawing of entries will determine the \$50

Best Sandwich

Best Shrimp

Best Steak

Best Tacos

Best Snow Cone

Best Sweet Tea



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5-Family Garage Sale! 304 Mulberry Ave. Sat., 7 a.m. -? Name-brand clothes, furniture, household items, project items, and kids stuff. Garage clean-out! 00030992

Garage Sale! Sat., Aug. 31st, 7a.m.-Noon. 304 Virginia Drive, River Oaks Addt., 71 Gates. Electric fireplace, furniture, heat press, craft supplies, antique mantel, toddler bed, lots of misc. 00030993

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### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the ing an online auction. The isfy a landlord's lien. The sale tions.com beginning Monday, M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Bidding sale will end on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 11A.M. Units to be sold: Taylor Ellis, Desseray Trevino, Robin Buser, Sean Crimm, Stephanie Williams. Household goods, clothing, tools, and misc. items.

00030982

# CITY OF GATESVILLE

The City of Gatesville is soliciting proposals to award a Food and Beverage Service Contract at the City of Gates-

ville Sports Complex for one year, with an option to extend the contract for two (2) more one-year contracts upon mutual agreement with the selected Concessionaire and the City of Gatesville. Copies of the RFP are posted on the City Webpage: www. gatesvilletx.com. proposals to City of Gates-803 E. Main Street, Gates-

ville Attn: Wendy Cole, ville, TX 76528. The Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the title "SEALED PROPOSAL -RFP FOR FOOD & BEVER-AGE SERVICES" along with Proposer's name, address, and contact information. Proposals must be received by the City no later than 3:00 p.m. on September 9, 2024 to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or businesses that submit proposals. Area businesses are encouraged to

Hamilton ISD is accepting proposals for Auto, Property, and Liability coverage. Proposals are due August 31,

Please send proposals to:

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# www.gatesvillemessenger.com

# **PUBLIC NOTICES**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 425 SH-36 Bypass N, Gatesville, TX 76528, is having an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at storageauctions.com beginning Friday, September 13, 2024 at 11A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Bidding sale will end on Friday, September 20, 2024 at 11A.M. Units to be Ranaghan, Chris Bowers, Ray Ward, Denise Kleschick. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools and misc.

00030981

Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville TX 75628, is havproperty is being sold to satwill be held at storageauc-September 16, 2024 at 11A. Ciara Ocasio, Jaile Taylor, Thomas Baldwin. Inventory:

# REQUEST FOR PROPOS-

Submit submit proposals.

Attn: Insurance 400 S. College

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### Home For Sale by owner: NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Wayne Roland Goodwin, Deceased, were issued on August 16, 2024, in Cause No. 24-11040, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Robin Adair and Michelle Alsobrook.

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

c/o: Chuck P. Stermer Attorney at Law 619 E. Main St. Gatesville, Texas 76528

DATED the 16th day of August, 2024.

Chuck P. Stermer Attorney for Robin Adair and Michelle Alsobrook State Bar No.: 24094964 619 E. Main St. Gatesville, Texas 76528 Telephone: (254) 865-6003

Email: chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com

Facsimile: (254) 323-0070

### sold: JoAnna Takacs, Meghan REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CITY OF GATESVILLE

The City of Gatesville invites statements of qualifications for qualified, fully licensed, and insured architectural firms teamed with or including qualified, licensed, and insured engineering and design firms necessary to provide services related to the construction of the police facility on one of two sites.

One site would involve design, engineering, and construction of an entirely new facility and the other site would involve design, engineering, remodel, and expansion of an existing facility. Please submit your proposal via US Mail or other carrier service to City of Gatesville, Texas, c/o Interim City Manager Bradford Hunt, 803 Main Street, Gatesville, Texas, 76528. Proposals must be received by the City no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 12, 2024 to be considered.

The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s).

Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals.

The City of Gatesville is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC **HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on the proposed budget for Coryell County Fiscal Year 2025 will be held on September 5, 2024 in the County Commissioners Court, 800 E Main, Suite A, Gatesville, Texas at 9:00 AM. A copy of the proposed budget is on display in County Clerk's office in Gatesville and the Tax office in Copperas, and can be found on the County website at www. coryellcounty.org. The proposed budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$4,393,452.91, which is a 33.24% increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property add to the tax roll this year is

# LAND & LOTS

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**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:** All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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### To see all listings: <a href="https://www.burksrealestate.com">www.burksrealestate.com</a> 117 N. Rice St., Hamilton, TX, Rustic Lantern, over 7,000 sq ft, 2 stories w/ 2 staircases, kitchen area, old safe, great commercial property for restaurant, office

520 N. Rice St. Hamilton, TX. Commercial building with over 7,200 sq ft of space, two large spaces on the first floor, with a commercial kitchen, second story has several rooms with four full baths. \$599,000 3 Br, 2 Ba home, 202 Liberty St., Gatesville. Laminate wood flooring, vaulted ceil-

1.603 ac., 204 ft. of Hwy. 281 frontage & 300 ft. of frontage on Bell St. Great location for a convenience store, strip center or any retail business. \$369,000 5.01 ac., Lot 63 Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Evant, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electricity at road, Fiber Optic Internet, \$155,000

ing in living room, fireplace, large backyard, storage shed, 2-car garage. \$275,000

8.01 ac. Lot 54 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electricity at road. Fiber Optic Internet \$150,000 10.01 ac. Lot 44 Phase 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision. electricity at road, fiber optic

10.01 ac. Lot 39 Phase 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. good tree cover. electricity at road. Fiber Optic Internet service, \$123,000 10.01 ac. Lot 63 Phase 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, season creek runs through the middle, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, subdivision is gated

internet service. OWER FINANCING AVAILABLE. \$125,000

with private roads, \$128,000 10.01 Ac. Lot 53 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electricity at road. Fiber Optic Internet \$167,000 10.182 ac. Lot 14 Ph 3 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Langford Branch

good tree coverage, rolling terrain. Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$239,900 10.697 ac. Lot 9 Phase 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, small seasonal stream through the property, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, subdivision is gated with private roads, \$122,500

10.85 ac. Lot 9 Phase 5, Flint Rock Court Evant, TX Rio Escondido Subdivision. good tree cover, great views, electricity at road, fiber optic internet service, gated subdivision. \$119,000

15 ac. East of Evant on Bear Branch Rd, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across road, will need to drill water well for water. \$150,000 16.5 ac. Turnersville, open pasture, good views, paved CR 220. Electricity across road, check w/ Coryell City Water on availability of water meter. \$206,500

18.1 ac. south of Evant, near Adamsville, Lampasas County, Hwy. 281 & CR 2830. Water well, electricity, carport, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$260,000 20 ac. Lot 23 Ph 1, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Good tree cover rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric available, Fiber Optic Internet. \$215,000

tree cover, rolling terrain. Property is fenced, multi-county water, on-site septic electricity on the property. \$350,000 25.06 ac. Pottsville, TX, Lot 31 Paloma Vista Subdivision. rolling terrain, scattered

24.98 ac. 350 Cold Road Evant, stock tank, small creek, two outbuilding, good

tree cover, great views. Electricity available, you will need to drill a water well for water. \$225,000 33.912 ac. near Coryell City, Coryell County, FM 929 & CR 260 frontage, rolling

terrain, good views. \$275,000 39.378 ac. W. of Gatesville, Hwy. 36 frontage, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain. Good fences, water meter on property, electric available, Jonesboro ISD. \$395,000 47.332 ac. South of Ireland, TX. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, good fencing or

3 sides, southside will need to be fenced. \$350,000 68.9 ac. 3/2.5 rock home, 101 Mac Dr., Gatesville. Approx. 2900 ft. Leon River frontage, ceramic tile floors, carpet in bedrooms, vaulted ceiling, rock fireplace, granite countertops, breakfast bar, garden tub, metal building 45'x24' barn, cattle

pens, 1 tank, approx. 48 ac of coastal. \$1,249,500 129.81 ac. Purmela, TX, Coryell County, heavy tree cover, rolling terrain, one stock tank, Honey Creek, fenced on three sides, west boundary line will need to be fenced, deeded 40 ft. access easement. \$975,000 210 ac. Carlton, Comanche County, approx. 5000 ft. Resley Creek frontage

small cabin, water well, electricity, cattle pens, 2 tanks one approx. 2.4 ac, good tree cover, 48 ac. improved grass, good exterior & interior fences. \$1,450,000 620 ac. 3 Br, 2 Ba home, fireplace, ceramic tile floors, covered outdoor cooking patio, 38 ft X 25 ft. building. 2 lakes, one being approx. 10 acres and the other one just under 5 acres and 3 smaller stock tanks, approx. 8500 ft of Bee Creek running through the property with 20 ft to 40 ft limestone bluffs along the creek good rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$6,200,000

### **MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT**

# Mammoth fossils on display at Coryell Museum

www.gatesvillemessenger.com

**BY DAVID SCOTT** Staff Writer

Approximately 65,000 years ago, Coryell County was home to Columbian Mammoths like those found in recent years near Waco. Columbian Mammoths roamed through Central Texas until they went extinct around 10,000 years

Standing as tall as 14 feet and weighing 20,000 pounds, they are often referred to as "ice age giants." The Mammoths were large, hairy mammals that

were part of the elephant family and had long, curved tusks. They were similar to elephants in their eating habits and had ridged molars for grazing on grasses.

It is thought that the Mammoths disappeared due to a combination of factors, including climate change and/or disease.

In nearby Waco, a fossilized nursery herd of Mammoths was discovered, which prompted the creation of the Waco Mammoth Site that opened to the public in 2009. Six years later,

in 2015, President Barack Obama signed an executive order creating Waco Mammoth National Monument.

The Coryell Museum and Historical Center has many fossils on display in two second floor display cabinets. Included among the fossils is part of a Mammoth tusk, which was found in the Leon River near Mound. On display with the tusk is a fossilized Mammoth tooth, which contains evidence of striated roots. The tooth weighs a whopping 5 pounds.

Visitors to the museum can view the Mammoth tusk and tooth along with several other unique fossils, which were all located in Coryell County when it was once part of a vast inland sea, which contained marine life.

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, which includes free admission to the museum, plus four newsletters. Of

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.

# SPURFEST RAFFLE AT CORYELL MUSEUM

course, large and small



**DAVID SCOTT |** THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell Museum board members Jann Dworsky and Hal Davidson display the prizes that will be raffled off on Sept. 21st during Spurfest, which include an Austin, Texas motif quilt created by Grace Dallimore and two matted and framed pointillism prints featuring the Coryell County Courthouse and Fort Gates by Jon Brown. Tickets will be sold at \$20 each. Each ticket will give the purchaser three chances to win. Tickets can be purchased from museum board members, at the Coryell Museum, or at The Gatesville Messenger. Any volunteers interested in selling tickets can contact Catherine Fulton at 254-223-0014.



**DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER** 

On display at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center are a prehistoric mammoth tusk found in the Leon River as well as a mammoth tooth.

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**DIRECTORY DISPLAY RATES** 

# "The Poison Lady" and her nation-wide notoriety

**BY DAVID SCOTT** Staff Writer

Luci Zahray, a retired pharmacist with a master's degree in toxicology from Texas A&M, has earned the reputation as "The Poison Lady" and seems to enjoy her title.

Zahray, who was born in San Antonio, moved to Gatesville with her parents when she was in fifth grade and spent the rest of her childhood in the community until graduating from Gatesville High School in 1974.

She said she didn't know what she wanted to do after graduation from high school. She went to Baylor University to start off and soon came home after her freshman year and told her parents she wanted to study genetics. According to Zahray, her parents told her that no one had heard of genetics, and she would never be able to get a job. "They desperately wanted me to go to pharmacy school, because you could always get a job - there was an extreme shortage [of pharmacists] when I graduated.'

She continued, "They really wanted that for me, because my mother grew up in the late 1940's and early 1950's when women could only be a schoolteacher, nurse, or secretary, so she wanted that for me.'

"When I was in pharmaceutical school, there were only three women - the school was still very dominated as a male profession," she said.

Zahray graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in Pharmacy and later received her master's degree in toxicology from Texas A&M. "I enjoyed my years at A&M," she said. "I had a blast."

She would use her degree wisely and worked as a

licensed pharmacist for 40 years until her retirement.

Her interest in poisons and mystery stories began when she was about seven years of age when her grandmother gave her a book about Sherlock Holmes. "It was a complete Sherlock Holmes, and I read it through pretty fast. It was a Christmas present.

Zahray continued, "I loved to read, and my grandmother knew I read above my grade level and she thought that would be just the ticket. We lived here in Gatesville, and I had ready everything at the library and I was inspired to go to bookstores and find books on more topics.'

"My mother thought I was strange. About the time I was graduating from high school, Sherlock Holmes became somewhat of a big national thing, and, eventually, my mother looked at me and said, 'I guess vou weren't as weird as I thought you were."

Years later, she began speaking at mystery authors' conventions about poisons. At one such convention, the lady in charge couldn't remember Zahray's name and started referring

to her as "The Poison Lady," and the name stuck. "Then everybody started calling me that, and it spread rapidly. That became so much my name that I answered to it," she said.

Zahray receives emails, phone calls, and text messages from mystery authors from all across the United States and abroad to tap into her knowledge about poisons and murder methods that can be used in their books. She has also been consulted by researchers in Hollywood.

These days, she heads up the Mystery Book Club at the Gatesville Public Library. The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss mystery books and to have Zoom meetings with mystery authors across the United

Recently, Zahray had to erect a tombstone for her departed mother. While completing that task, she decided to have a tombstone installed for herself. "On mine it says 'The Poison Lady.' A hundred years from now, people are going to be looking at it and saying, 'there's got to be a story there."



**DAVID SCOTT I** THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

"The Poison Lady," Luci Zahray, holding a book by well-known mystery author, Agatha Christie, which deals with poisons and is titled "Sparkling Cyanide."







### **CARA BRADFORD** SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

A great employee is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have. We are indeed lucky to have Christin Nations as a nurse at our facility and we are honored to announce her as our employee of the month. Keep up the great work, Christin, and keep reaching for the stars! Thanks for all you do for our residents and patients!

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# SPORTS

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SATURDAY, Aug. 24, 2024

# Returning players, talented newcomers leave Coach Hunter optimistic

**BY CHRIS ALLMAN** 

Contributing Writer

Fresh off a bi-district title in 2023, Gatesville head coach Aaron Hunter is pretty candid about his 2024 Hornet football team. He doesn't sound like a guy who is trying to hide his own expectations or lower the expectations of others.

"This is by far the best team we have had top-tobottom since I have been here. We have pieces we have not had in a long time, and we have a bunch of do-right guys who just do their job," he said.

For Hunter, there is plenty of reason for the optimism and confidence. A combination of elite returning players, a slew of talented but not-yet-known newcomers, and the best fall camp they've had in three years, has meant good vibes at McKamie stadium since practice started in early Au-

When talking about elite, the list begins in Gatesville with senior Rayshon Smith

and junior Amos Phillips. Smith and Phillips were first-team all-district picks in 2023 and were both named to the Waco-Tribune Herald's Super Centex team following last year's bi-district title winning season.

"Those two are bell cows for sure," said Hunter.

After running for 1092 yards as a sophomore in 2022, Smith picked up 1680 yards on the ground in 2023. He's scored 28 touchdowns over his two seasons in the backfield and could top the 4000-yard mark for his career in 2024.

"Rayshon, he runs with a different engine," said Hunter. "He's grown up so much, and his offseason set him apart this year. His confidence level is good, and he knows that this is his time to shine."

Phillips, arguably the best athlete currently walking the halls of Gatesville High School, had 152 tackles (10 for a loss) and six sacks in 2023 on defense. He also led the team in receiving with four touchdown catches while averaging 12.8 yards per catch.

"Amos is Amos. He is so athletic, but his ball skills are unbelievable. He has size. He has mass. And he's explosive and athletic. But he's also a competitor. He's mild-mannered but he has the "it" factor," said Hunter.

Phillips' "it" factor will be

what's counted on to replace Lawson Mooney - Gatesville's two-time all-state safety and all-time leading tackler - as the leader on the defensive side. But he is far from the only returner who

will lead a defense that Hunt-

er considers a clear strength. "We are really athletic and really fast back there. Our linebackers are fast, and our d-line is explosive and fast as well," he said. "This is their third year in the defense and

that continuity matters."

Zavier Clater and Logan Morgan return for the Hornets at linebacker and are joined by seniors Cam Hendrix and junior Larry Schwertner while senior Dutch Nielsen and junior Kaden Coffman are back anchoring the defensive line. Nielsen had five sacks in 2023 to go along with six tackles for a loss. Senior Brayden Mills, junior Grayson Eggeling, and sophomore Brody Brown will make up the rest of the Gatesville defensive front.

Gatesville also brings back their top cover man in Logan Biggs (ten pass break-ups, 1 interception in 2023) and he will lead a secondary filled with fresh faces such as juniors Dylan Watt, Clark Allman, Colt Heath, and freshman Grady Keeton.

Coffman, Eggeling, Watt, Allman, Heath, Schwertner, Cy Burns, and Gehrig Keeton are part of a junior class that helped lead the Gatesville junior varsity to a 10-0 record and a district title in 2023.

"The JV and their success last year and the junior class's cohesion is huge. You can see how close those guys are," Hunter said. "That junior class just knows how to play. They know how to play together, and they are going to show up every day and work hard. The grind doesn't get to them."

Keeton will take over the reins as the Hornet quarterback on Friday nights.

"Gehrig is just a grinder. He is the kind of kid you want as quarterback," Hunter said. "He gets up here when no one is here and just works. He will only get better, and he will help us win big games. He just needs to get the ball to our weapons."

Those weapons include a receiving corp of Phillips, Daniel Gonzalez, Jack Erwin, and West Allman. Gonzalez will stretch defenses with his speed, and Allman caught a pair of touchdown passes in Gatesville's scrimmage against Lampasas. Erwin

shined in Gatesville's 7-on-7 season and has continued to improve and produce this fall according to Hunter.

In 2023, Gatesville leaned on an experienced offensive line and racked up 501 rushing attempts on the season. Only Gabe Pollard returns from that unit with Jarret Burks taking over the center

"Pollard is a three-year starter that is really strong and powerful. He's such a solid guy and never gets too high or too low. That's what allowed him to have so much success for three seasons," Hunter said. "Burks at center is a smaller guy who's not as powerful as others but he is so smart. He gets guys on the same page ever play and he anchors it all."

The rebuilt offensive line and senior fullback Brayden Saunders (six touchdowns in 2023) will be tasked with opening holes for Smith and Burns, who offer two different styles of runner. While Smith runs to and through contact, Burns offers more burst through the front line of the defense.

"The good thing about this year is that now we have big play potential all the time. Cy is probably more explosive

than Ray - just not as big and strong. They are going to be a great duo," said Hunter.

Hunter noted his excitement about his team's versatility on offense. He believes that they can win games on the ground or in the air.

"It will be game-by-game. If we can line up and run the ball, we will. Whatever we need to do to win we will do. But the thing is we have to execute. That is what we are trying to get our guys to understand".

UIL realignment has put Gatesville back with old district mates Waco La Vega, China Spring, Robinson, Lorena, and Waco Connally. Before the Hornets start their district schedule, they will play Taylor, Glen Rose, Mexia, McGregor, and Burnet in non-district.

Hunter has said that the fall has prepared them to hit the ground running and be good from the first snap of the season.

"It's probably been our best fall camp to be honest. Our practices have been great. We have more installed than we have in the past. We have got to be ready to play week one."

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BY JOHN ENGLISH

Contributing Writer

### JONESBORO REACHES GOLD **BRACKET AT MERIDIAN**

The Jonesboro volleyball team advanced to the gold bracket of the Meridian Tournament this past weekend, with 2-0 victories over Gustine and Zephyr.

The Eagles came up short against Valor Prep (2-0), the eventual champion, and lost a close match to Evant (2-1) to finish 2-2 overall for the competition.

The tournament gave coach Tori Holt the opportunity to see what she's working with this season.

"Senior Emily Turner (our team captain) is great about keeping up morale and motivating her team," Holt said.

"Emily and Sophomore Ally Thorman are definitely our power hitters. Freshman Landri McFarlin is young but knows volleyball and reads the court very well."

The competition came on the heels of a victory over Strawn last Tuesday to open the season.

### LADY HORNETS HOLD THEIR **OWN IN TOUGH TOURNEY**

The Gatesville volleyball team won three games in the Jason Landers Invitational this past weekend, defeating Rivera, St. Andrews, and Mc-Callum High School.

The Lady Hornets ranked 15th out of the 37 teams competing in the tournament, most of which were 5A and 6A programs.

Coach Janey Weber said

the effort her players put forth in the tournament makes her hopeful for the teams' chances this coming season.

"We met a lot of good competition at the Jason Landers Invitational," Weber said. "Our team learned what we are able to do, and how we can go compete...I am so proud of the way the girls played this past weekend and am looking forward to this season."

### **EVANT RALLIES TO WIN TOURNAMENT RUNNER-UP**

The Evant volleyball team bounced back from an early loss to Lipan last week to take second place in the Meridian Tournament.

Coach JoAnna Vaden said her team showed great perseverance throughout the competition.

"They lost the first match to Lipan," Vaden said. "But fought extremely hard to come back and compete in the championship.'

One of the victories to reach the championship game came in a rematch with Lipan.

In the rematch, Bree Ramirez led the team in scoring with 13 points, while Harley Weeks added 15 as-

Molly Waldrum picked up 11 kills in the game, and Ramirez also had 11 digs.

### **OGLESBY EARNS TWO WINS** IN COVINGTON TOURNAMENT

The Oglesby volleyball team defeated Iredell and Coolidge last week to take two wins from the Covington Tournament.

Covington was good preparation for the coming district season, and coach Amanda Martin said it was a promising effort from her team.

"The girls had a great first tournament and we are excited for the upcoming season,' Martin said.

In the 2-0 victory over Coolidge, Andrea Licea Perez finished with 15 assists and 1 ace, while Caitlyn Battreal had 9 kills for the Lady Tigers.

Against Iredell, a match Oglesby also won 2-0, Licea-Perez - 2 aces and 10 assists.

Jonesboro Looking to Pick Up Where it Left Off The Jonesboro

football team wrapped up a 2023 campaign that saw the Eagles reach the state semi-finals before losing to the eventual state champion Gordon Longhorns.

Jonesboro finished 4-0 in district and 12-2 overall on the season, and coach Eddie Gallegos said that things are shaping up well for the coming season.

"We feel good about this group, a good strong senior class with a quality junior class sprinkled in," Gallegos said. "We are still looking to see where kids will fit in, but they do bring back a lot of experience in big games. We feel there is a lot of versatility with this group."

The Eagles return two of-

PLEASE SEE ROUNDUP | B4



Editors note: Rickey Phillips is the Athletic Director for Gatesville Independent School District. He was the volleyball head coach from 2001-2019, became interim athletic director in 2019, and assumed the athletic director's position full-time in spring 2020. He is a native of Gatesville and a 1980 graduate of Gatesville High School. His wife, Charlotte and their three daughters, Caitlin, Kelsey, and Janey are all educators as well. Rickey will be writing a weekly column reporting on Gatesville ISD sports.



**RICKEY PHILLIPS** 

GISD Athletic Director

### Fall sports update

...GHS Cross Country has had a couple of outings so far this fall, one coming at Caldwell's Mud, Sweat & Cheers event last Saturday. The team of Jastin Muegge, Cameron Thompson, Malachi Olvera, and Charles McCleod won bronze in the 4 x 2400 meter race. GHS teams will compete at Brownwood next Wednesday.

...GHS Football has had a couple of scrimmages and now sets its sights on the 2024 season opener. The Hornet Varsity will travel to Taylor on August 30 to kick off the 2024 season. The Hornets will also face Glen Rose, McGregor, Mexia, and Burnet in non-district before navigating the treacherous waters of District 12-4A starting in early October.

...GHS Team Tennis is now less than two weeks from the start of District 7-4A play. Varsity will host Waco University on Tuesday, then face Stephenville in the league opener Sept. 3. GHS has been a fall playoff qualifier for seven consecutive seasons.

...GHS Volleyball wraps up its annual invitational tournament today, then completes the first 3-week tournament trifecta at Athens next week. Varsity recently finished 15th in the 37-team field at the Austin ISD, facing a slate of 5A-6A foes in every outing. The Hornets will host McGregor here Tuesday night.

### **Notes and dotes**

...On the radar: GHS senior Vania Martinez has the chance to become GHS' first four-time individual state qualifier in cross country. The senior multi-sport standout has been a fixture at the state meet in Round Rock in each of her first three seasons donning the Black & Gold.

...GHS senior Jack Armstrong has always been involved, and this year he's taking it to the extreme. Jack will compete in six sports during the 2024-2025 school year – cross country, football, team tennis, soccer, spring tennis, and track.

...There are 730+ students participating in high school and junior high athletics right now, which represents 62% of the student enrollment of those two campuses.

### GHS Exes at the next level

Four recently-graduated GHS exes set their sights on collegiate careers this fall – Barrett Boyd (track, U.S. Air Force Academy), Lawson Mooney (track, Dallas Baptist University), Laura Trejo (volleyball, Arlington Baptist University) and Bralen Veazey (baseball, Temple College).

In a recent conversation with Boyd, she mentioned how "the accountability and high standards of GHS Athletics helped prepare me for the demands and rigorous training at the Air Force Academy." Our coaches work hard to prepare our student-athletes for life outside the walls of Gatesville High School.

We wish the best of luck to all four of these ex-Hornets and to all of the other GHS ex-athletes still competing at the collegiate level. You can check out that list at <a href="https://www.gatesvilleathletics.com">www.gatesvilleathletics.com</a>, click on We are, GATESVILLE.

### Upcoming schedule

Aug. 26 - Volleyball JH vs. Connally

Aug. 27 - Tennis Varsity vs. University

Aug. 27 - Volleyball HS vs. McGregor Aug. 28 - Cross Country HS-JH at Brownwood

Aug. 29 – Football JV-9th vs. Taylor

Aug. 29 - Football JV-W at Lake Belton

Aug. 29 - Tennis JV vs. Waco High Aug. 29 - Volleyball Varsity in Athens tourney

Aug. 30 - Football Varsity at Taylor

Aug. 31 - Volleyball Varsity in Athens tourney

### Live-stream of home games

GISD Athletics will again offer live-streaming of numerous home events during the 2024-2025 school year.

All home football and soccer games will be livestreamed, as well home volleyball and basketball games played in the GHS Sidney L. Pruitt Gym or GJHS Mary Bishop Gym.

I also want to mention that Hornet Radio will also be providing live-stream audio and video of numerous Hornet competitions as well. We appreciate Lee Jaynes for continuing to make this available to our athletic program and Hornet Nation fans.

### Follow us on social media

Besides being heavily promoted within the pages of The Messenger each week, you can also follow GISD Athletics via these threads:

Facebook - Gatesville Hornet Athletics X - @FightinHornets

X - @FightinHornets Web - <u>www.gatesvilleathletics.com</u>

**Hornet Fight Never Dies!** 



AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Jonesboro Eagles kicked off their 2024-25 football season with a scrimmage against Blum on Aug. 15 followed by another scrimmage Aug. 22 against Abbott. The Eagles will fly into game action starting Aug. 30 in Abilene against the Abilene Christian Panthers.



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# **ROUNDUP**

fensive starters and three defensive starters, and players to watch for the Eagles this season include Layden Nichols, Austin Massingill, Luke Stephenson, Eric Thorman and Truett Foote

The Eagles rank fourth in the state according to Dave Campbell's Texas Football headed into the season, and Gallegos said to have a successful season, it boils down to continually improving execution.

"I think we just need to get better every rep every day at practice," Gallegos said.

Jonesboro will open the season at 7 p.m. on Aug. 30 at Abilene Christian.

### **ELKS LOOKING TO BOUNCE BACK**

For the Evant football team, the only way is up, and 2024 should be a better season for the Elks.

Coach Brandon Young said he is optimistic about how his team is progressing so

"I feel good about where we are," Young said. "We are young with a lot of inexperience, but it's coming together."

Players to watch for Evant include Dylan Price, Wyatt Hitt and Cam McGilvray.

To have a successful season, Young said his team will need to stay healthy and be able to adapt.

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"We have to stay injuryfree," Young said. "As of right now, we have a few more players than in the past. That is crucial in keeping our kids healthy throughout the year. That means our young guys we have coming out this year will have to fill some big roles and learn quickly in order to do that."

Evant opens the season at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 30 at Three Way.

### **TIGERS HAVE UNFINISHED** RUSINESS

The Oglesby football team finished 13-1 and reached the state championship last season before coming up short in the state championship game.

The Tigers are looking to get back to state this season and finish the deal.

Oglesby returns running back Kyler Fossett, who rushed for 2,857 yards and 56 touchdowns last season to lead the way offensively for the Tigers.

Other players to keep an eye on include Jakson Tippit, Hunter Ewing, Jack Hendricks, E.J. Aviles and Alex Castillo

The Tigers return four offensive and four defensive starters this season, and host Abbott at 7 p.m. on Aug. 30 in its season opener.

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### **SHOES TO FILL**

The Hornets football team reached the post-season in 2023 and won a playoff game, but coach Aaron Hunter lost four starters on his offensive line and will be looking for younger players to step up to fill those roles

and have an impact. Gatesville finished 7-5 overall last season and defeated Gonzales by a score of 34-31 in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

Hunter said his team is

starting to click early on and said enthusiasm is high.

"I think we've had the best practices we have had since I got here," Hunter said. "The guys are doing really well, and we're excited."

The Hornets return five offensive starters and six defensive starters and Hunter said he has several other players returning with significant game experience from last year.

Among the players to watch for Gatesville this season are Rayshon Smith, Amos Phillips, Dutch Nielsen, Gabriel Pollard and Logan Biggs.

To pick up where they left off last season, the Hornets will need to focus on a few different facets of the game.

"We just need to continue to work on the little things,' Hunter said. "We need to play our standard of football and practice the right way. We need to handle ourselves in the classroom and on the field. Doing things the right

way is going to allow us to put ourselves in a position to be successful. We have some tough opponents, but we can't worry about that. We have to worry about usto trust in our schemes and trust in our process and find a way to have one more point than they do at the end of the night. That's the goal.'

Gatesville will open the regular season at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 30 at Taylor.



Pictured are the Jonesboro Lady Eagles Varsity volleyball team.

COURTESY PHOTO

# Jonesboro Lady Eagles ready to soar through the season

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

Jonesboro High School is

home to its Lady Eagle Varsity volleyball team, which is led by coaches Tori Smith

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and James Turner. At the moment, the Varsity team has seven play-

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**QUOTES** 

ers, with six of the seven athletes being returning starters. Turner expressed that he believes there will be a couple more girls who

some roles.

"We are looking forward to a great year," Smith said. "We are competitive and

will step up to help fill in

have a lot of potential to make some dynamic moves on the court.

Smith expressed that the Lady Eagles have several power hitters, which include Senior Emily Turner and Sophomore Ally Thor-

"I feel really good about this year's team," Turner said. "We have a solid core group that work hard at getting better each and every day; couldn't ask for a

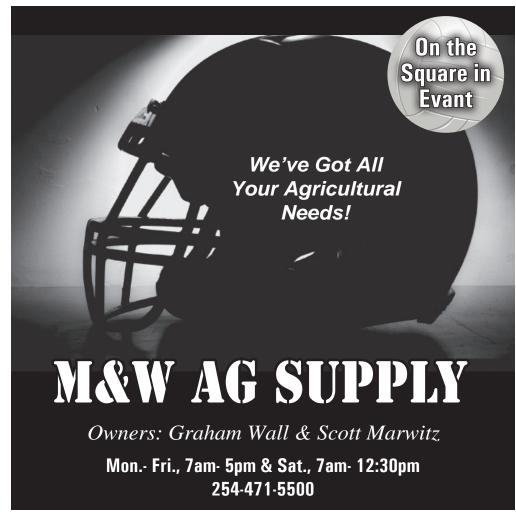
better group of girls." Lynlee Deats will be the returning libero this year. "She reads the floor very well and can adapt when we need her to," Smith said. "She is an all-around great

athlete.' Smith also mentioned that Landri McFarlin, freshman,

PLEASE SEE **JONESBORO** | B8









Gatesville High School Marching Band. Ready for the 2024-25 season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HITT PHOTOGRAPHY

# Gatesville High School Marching Band tunes up for the new school year

**BY DAVID SCOTT** Staff Writer

Jose Sanchez, who is in his ninth year of Director of Bands at Gatesville Independent School District, is also celebrating his 16th year of band directing in the Central Texas area.

This school year, with 105 students participating in band, Sanchez reported that the number has increased from last year due to a great freshman class and a stellar senior class.

With the beginning of the new school year, Sanchez was asked about his goals for the new students entering the band program. He replied, "As always, we want our students to give their best for every performance. The students have set their own goals for this year, and they are posted throughout the band hall." He continued, "As a competitive band, we want to be at the top of our class for every contest. Our goals are to top the last two years of historic runs. We, as directors, feel that it is important to make each performance better than the last. The rest will take of itself."

When asked about his expectations for the new students, he replied, "We expect our current students to welcome new friends into the band with open arms and help get them up to speed with our procedures and expectations of operations. We ask that new members simply try their best and approach each and every day with a positive attitude. This process and approach continues to set students up for a successful and rewarding first year of marching

Realizing the importance of rehearsals, Sanchez said, "Once the school year begins, our students have

rehearsals about 40 minutes before the first period of class in addition to one rehearsal on Monday night from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Returning as assistant directors this school year include Michael Hamilton, who has been at GISD since 2021; Corbin Myers, who has been at GISD since 2022; and Johanna Reynolds, who has been with GISD since 2023. Sanchez reported that the new addition this year to the band staff will be Alexa Sanchez.

Considering how well the band did during competitions last year, he said, "We want to continue to push the envelope with our expectations. We hope to win our area this year and make school history and make finals at the State Marching Contest." Sanchez reported that their competition season begins on Sept. 21st in Round Rock and will hopefully conclude in San

Antonio at the UIL State Marching Contest finals.

About working at Gatesville ISD, Sanchez related, "Gatesville is a very special place. We have started to develop the direction of the marching band as well as achieve lots of success through the entire program 6th through 12th grade."

Last vear, Sanchez commented, "The music chosen each year is selected directly after the end of the previous marching season. "We listen to hours of music and talk through the strengths and weaknesses of the anticipated members of the band as well as what we want to convey to our audience.'

"The support from the community and the administration has been fantastic, which has made all the difference in the world," Sanchez said.

# GHS Cheer is ready to power through the school year

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

The Gatesville High School cheerleading program is ready to begin a new season with both its varsity and junior varsity (JV) teams.

"I am really excited for this year's groups; they have all worked extremely hard in previous years to prepare for this season," Varsity Cheer Coach Amber Colson said. "We have nine seniors who are a huge asset to the team; they show great leadership qualities and have a tremendous work ethic. They are really wanting to go out with a bang and leave their mark on the program to help it continue to be successful in years to come."

Both squads attended cheer camp over the summer and performed extremely well.

"They overcame many obstacles both physically and mentally to come out and perform some really great routines on the final day," Colson said. "I have already witnessed them grow in so many ways and I know they are going to accomplish great things.'

Junior Varsity Cheer Coach Cassie Perez said that both squads learned too many dances to count, and that they each have several cheers and chants to use at the game. The varsity squad also has a variety of different band dances that they will perform when the band is playing their stand tunes. Varsity will also perform five different routines, one for each pep rally, that will include tumbling, dance,

and various levels of stunt-

. "We were the smallest team at camp," she said. "That did not stop them from going all out during each session. We had to make some adjustments while at camp, and they handled that extremely

Perez expressed that the junior varsity team has also been preparing for the season by doing heat acclimation practices after school and our normal practices in the mornings before school starts

"Our JV team is small this year, but they have done an amazing job so far. I tell them all the time they may be small, but they are mighty," she said. "They are willing to try new stunts and have learned to trust one another. I am excited to see them grow throughout the year and to help get them ready for Varsity cheerleading.'

Since camp, junior varsity has been working on getting ideas and plans in place for pep rallies. Mascot Kari Dudik practices with the team to learn their cheers, chants, dances, and routines, but is able to add her own "Buzz" personality

The cheer program will attend all varsity football games. They will also be attending the home district volleyball games on Tuesday nights, home district basketball games for both boys' and girls' varsity teams, and compete in at least three cheer competi-

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# Lady Elks begin successful season with a 6-2 record

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

The Evant High School varsity volleyball team has begun their season under the guidance of coach JoAnna Vaden. This will be her fourth year at Evant Independent School District.

"I am very excited for this year with this group of girls; they had a great season last year," Vaden said. "We are all working hard to repeat and improve on last year's accomplishments."

Last year, the team was comprised of 10 ladies, and this year there are nine returners.

"I have had the privilege and opportunity to coach this year's seniors since they were freshmen on varsity," Vaden said. "I love the sport and enjoy watching girls who participate in the sport learn the skills it takes to compete and, hopefully, they will fall in love with the sport as well."

Vaden expressed that the girls reached the regional semifinals last year, and that the team is working to get to that point again this year to exceed that goal as well.

The Lady Elks recently played in a tournament held at Meridian Independent School District last Thursday, Aug. 15.

During the tournament, the team defeated Gustine 25-12, 25-14.

The stats include: Harley Weeks, six aces, 19 assists, and two digs; Jolyce Acosta, two aces, 1 kill, and three digs; Molly Waldrum, six aces, 11 kills, and one dig; Bree Ramirez, two kills, one assist, and three digs; Luwi Rodriguez, four kills and seven digs; Izzy Gandy, one ace, four kills, and two digs.

The Lady Elks also defeated Jonesboro 25-20, 25-18.

The stats include: Harley Weeks, one ace, six kills, 16 assists, and five digs; Jolyce Acosta, one ace and four digs; Molly Waldrum, three aces, nine kills, and nine digs; Bree Ramirez, one ace, three kills, one assist, and seven digs; Luwi Rodriguez, one kill, one assist, and 10 digs; Izzy Gandy, two aces, five kills, and four digs.

In the last game of the Meridian tournament, the ladies defeated Zephyr 25-15, 25-18.

The stats include: Harley Weeks, four kills, 13 assists, and seven digs; Jolyce Acosta, one ace and three digs; Molly Waldrum, five aces, four kills, one assist, three digs, and one block; Bree Ramirez, six aces, six kills, one assist, and five digs; Luwi Rodriguez, one kill, two assists, and eight digs; Izzy Gandy, five kills and nine digs.

On day two, the Lady Elks lost their first game to Lipan 16-25, 21-25. Regarding day two of the tournament,

Head Volleyball Coach JoAnna Vaden expressed, "The girls lost the first match of the day but worked extremely hard and made their way back into the championship game."

The team came back and defeated Ionesboro 18-25. 25-20, 15-11.

The stats include: Harley Weeks, 11 points, four aces, two kills, and four digs: Jolyce Acosta, nine points, three aces, and 12 digs; Molly Waldrum, nine points, four aces, 14 kills, and nine digs; Bree Ramirez, two points, two aces, three kills, and seven digs; Daritza Escamilla, one point and four digs; Izzy Gandy, five points, six kills, and 13 digs.

The ladies also defeated Lipan 25-16, 25-20 and lost to Valor Prep 16-25, 21-25.

Both junior varsity and varsity volleyball competed in Waco at Bishop Reicher on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Junior varsity lost to Bishop Reicher 17-25, 12-25.

The stats include: Maya Reynolds, one ace, one kill, one assist, and two digs; Lexis King, one kill and three digs; Bella Kolajo, two digs; Eloisa Garza, four aces, one kill, and two digs; Madison Barron, one ace, one kill, one assist, and one dig; Daisy Morales, two aces and two digs.

The varsity Lady Elks won against Bishop Reicher 25-13, 25-15, 25-15.

The stats include: Harley Weeks, six points, one ace, three kills, 21 assists, and six digs; Jolyce Acosta, 13 points, two aces, one kill, and seven digs; Molly Waldrum, eight points, five aces, 14 kills, five digs, and one block: Bree Ramirez. seven points, six kills, three assists, and eight digs; Luwi Rodriguez, three points, two aces, two kills, one assist, and 17 digs; Izzy Gandy, five points, one

ace, six kills, and 16 digs; Daritza Escamilla, one dig.

Varsity will travel for a tournament which will be held in Moody from Thursday, Aug. 22 through Saturday, Aug. 24. To date, the varsity record for the Lady Elks is 6-2.

The Lady Elks will attend practices four to five days a week, depending on tournaments and how many games are played during that time.

"I believe that they can learn so many things from volleyball that they can use their entire life," Vaden said. "Hard work, sportsmanship, teamwork, dedication, and commitment are all qualities that we strive to develop and achieve in our program."

The Lady Elks have set the tone for their season with a 6-2 record and will play in a tournament held in Moody from Aug. 22 to Aug. 24.

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY<sub>TM</sub>

# Public invited to celebrate 125 Years of Excellence at Tarleton State University

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY.



YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - TarletonState University will celebrate 125 Years of Excellence Sept. 3 with a commemorative ceremony followed by an anniversary celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. in Heritage Park.

The public is invited to join in the family-friendly campus festivities in Heritage Park and the O.A. Grant

Green Space, which will feature inflatables, games, food trucks and cupcakes.

The celebration kicks off a season of activities honoring the history and cherished traditions of the university and its esteemed visionary, John Tarleton, who founded the institution in 1899. Upcoming events include the football home opener against McNeese

State at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Family Weekend Sept. 27-28 and Homecoming Week Oct. 6-12. The anniversary celebration aligns with the first year of NCAA Division I championship eligibility as well as the 89th Texas Legislative Session.

Tarleton State has stood as a beacon of academic excellence and community engagement for 125 years,

weaving a rich tapestry of tradition and innovation. Through its commitment to student success, research and service, the university continues to shape the future, honoring its past while embracing the challenges and opportunities of

For more information, visit https://www.tarleton.edu/125years/.

# Students return to Tarleton State with array of events

Tarleton State University

 ${\tt STEPHENVILLE-Tarleton}$ State University welcomed students back to campus with more than 10 days of food, music and events during Transition Week (T-Week) Aug. 18-21, with Week of Welcome (WOW) running Aug. 22-29.

"It's an exciting time to be a Texan," said Lathes Towns, executive director of campus life and family engagement as a part of the division of student engagement and success. "As we start the school year with enthusiasm and curiosity, each day is a new opportunity for growth. Together, we create a community for students and families, fostering a supportive and nurturing environ-

18 at the Dugan Soccer & Track Stadium.

ment where every student can thrive, and student support staff can connect."

New students begin their college experienced during T-Week with various events and activities to help learn and adopt the traditions of Tarleton State. From rallies on Rudder Way to lighting their candle at Convocation, new Texans were welcomed to campus in a way designed to form memories and connections that last.

WOW Week began Thursday, Aug. 22, the first day of school. Information tents are stationed around campus to help students find their way, and an involvement fair will take place where students can discover organizations and resources available to them.

A concert with performances by DJ Quan, Josh Abbott Band and Roger Creager took place Friday,

The Texan football team then hosts McNeese State Saturday, Aug. 24. Kickoff is slated for 2:30 p.m. from Memorial Stadium, with the contest airing live nationally

Other events throughout the week include DJ on the Lawn, The Big Feed, Black Student Union Cookout, Sundae on Sunday, Meet the Greeks, Texan Bingo and Splash Bash.

The fun is not be confined to Stephenville, with several WOW Week events taking place at the Tarleton State campuses in Fort Worth, Waco and Bryan.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State University welcomed students back to campus with more than 10 days of food, music and events

# Tarleton Soccer earns second draw of season to end opening road trip



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State earned its second draw on the season, a scoreless 0-0 tie at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Aug

Tarleton State University

CORPUS CHRISTI -Tarleton State earned its second draw on the season, a scoreless 0-0 tie at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Aug 18 at the Dugan Soccer & Track

With the draw the Texans (0-0-2) and Islanders (0-0-2) both start out their 2024

slate with a pair of draws. Reegan Wagg led the Purple and White with three shots, two on goal. Nicole Fels drew a pair of shots. Goalkeeper Mikayla Kendall earned six saves to improve

her season total to 10. Neither team was able to push across anything in the first half. The Texans led the way with five shots and three on goal. Tarleton's Wagg had the best scoring chance

of the half firing back-toback point-blank shots at Islanders' keeper Zoe Theriot. She took the original shot from the side close to the benches and followed up for the kick back finding the chest of Theriot for the second consecutive time in the 33rd minute.

In the second half, the Islanders took control of the momentum firing three shots on goal, but none past Tarleton goalie Kendall. None of the Texans' three shots fell on goal, other than a Jessica Baires near-goal in the 67th minute which was disallowed after a Texan

In the final 15 minutes of play, the Islanders executed one of their best scoring chances of the night. After a

long ball in toward the goal, Kendall leaped up drawing contact to swat the ball away and keep the game scoreless heading into the final 10 minutes of play.

Neither team was able put any shots on goal in the final 10 minutes. Jenaya Brown found the ball on her foot with five minutes remaining off a corner, but connected high and wide right, leaving the game tied at 0.

The Islanders were given a trio of yellow cards in the contest despite the Texans committing 16 fouls to TAMU-CC's eight fouls.

Tarleton out-shot the Islanders, 8-7 with the Islanders holding the advantage on goal, 6-3. The Texans kicked six corner kicks to the home team's four.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the Gatesville High School Varsity cheer squad.

# **CHEER**

"We are also hoping to branch out and support more programs from Gatesville High School," Colson said. "Our goals are to attend a marching contest, district cross country, and even a couple of games for soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, and the track meet."

She explained that the program really wants to help establish a true home field/court advantage for all our programs and increase crowd engagement.

"As far as our team goals, we are working hard to ensure a successful competition season with the hopes of being the first GHS cheer team to reach the state finals," she said. "We also want to leave a positive impact on the school and community, so the Gatesville cheer program continues to grow and thrive in the future."

Perez expressed that she is very excited to work with

Buzz, Kari Dudik, this year.
"She is an All-American

mascot with amazing energy, skills, and experience. Although she is our only mascot, she is a huge part of the Varsity team," she said. "We were also able to get her a brand new, custom mascot costume that matches our logo with the help and generosity of our community and local businesses. We are so excited for Hornet Nation to see her in action."

"Coach Amber and I have huge expectations for our program this year; we have a lot of talent and experience, as well as a lot of kids willing to work hard to reach their goals," she said.

She said that although she and Colson both have high expectations, they want both teams to have fun and enjoy their time in the GHS Cheer Program.

"They invest a lot of time and money to be a part

of the program, and we want it to be memorable for them," she said. "I have really enjoyed getting to know the cheerleaders from the JV and Varsity teams. Being a counselor and former teacher, building relationships with students is my favorite part of being in education. It's been a lot of fun learning their strengths and helping them work through challenges. I also love coaching with Amber; she has been a great mentor to me, and I am excited to be in this with her."

"I have been with some of the cheerleaders multiple years, and it has been extremely rewarding to watch them grow both in and out of the cheer world," Colson said. "Gatesville is truly blessed with some of the best kids around, and I am so thankful that I get to experience that firsthand."

# GHS Dazzlers are ready to kick off the season

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

Gatesville High School is home to a dance team known as the Dazzlers and is under the guidance of Director Helen Gonzales, who began her journey with the Dazzlers 11 years ago and has continued to transform the team in many ways.

Gonzales teaches the Dazzlers very early on that wearing the uniform is a personal time and energy investment as well as a privilege that carries a great deal of responsibility.

"Our uniform is a great source of pride for every member of the team," she said.

There are currently 13 members on the team this year with three seniors, five sophomores, and five freshmen. There is no preset number, so team size varies from year to year.

"This year's team is very young and inexperienced but extremely eager to learn and excited to be a part of the Dazzlers," Gonzales said. "Their enthusiasm is something that gets me excited for this year."

The process to become a Dazzler entails a two-week training period that is hosted by current members hoping to gain an officer position. Tryouts are held annually in the spring, during the end of the school year with judges from different areas.

Once the team is selected, season preparations will begin. In July, the Dazzlers began their season with an Encore Team Camp held at the high school. The team worked

hard during multiple days of intense workouts that included stretching, conditioning, dance and kick technique, team bonding activities, and four dances.

"My goal every year is to provide the girls with an opportunity to be part of a team that they take great pride in and to guide them toward our common goal of producing great halftime and pep rally entertainment for our school and community," Gonzales said.

In the beginning of June, Gonzales took two Dazzler officers to an Encore Officer camp in Frisco. The ladies spent over four days learning two full routines, participated in technique workshops, attended Master Dance Classes, worked in leadership sessions, and were evaluated and given verbal critiques on both dances learned at camp.

On July 1-2, Encore sent two staff members, who are both former Kilgore College Rangerettes, to host a private camp for the Dazzlers.

Encore has been a key part in halftime performances for the Dazzlers each year since Gonzales has been with the team.

"Over those two days, we learned one pep rally and three field routines that we will be doing for game day performances this season," she said. "I select music, and they choreograph custom dances specifically for us."

Since July 8, the Dazzlers have been practicing and will continue learning more dances under the leadership of their officers.

"By the time we start on Aug. 30, we will have learned a total of nine dances to use throughout the season. We will be doing Jazz, High Kick, Pom, Stylized Country Western, and Hip Hop. We will use both streamers and large hoops," she said. "Our goal is always to present a precision performance where the group of 13 dances as one. My favorite part of directing the team is working them toward that goal."

A typical football season practice schedule includes morning marching practice and a Monday night marching rehearsal on the football field. Dazzler practices are held three days a week along with "run through" practices after school on Fridays before football games.

When football season concludes, the Dazzlers will perform at the Christmas parades in Gatesville and Salado. During the spring, the team will travel and compete with surrounding high school dance teams in several competitions.

"I do hope to take the team into contest season this year. Dance competitions run from the last week of January through the month of February," she expressed. "In order to compete, we will need to have three competition routines learned and ready to work on, clean, and get competitive before Thanksgiving."

After the Februard competition season, the Dazzlers immediately begin

PLEASE SEE **DAZZLERS** | B8

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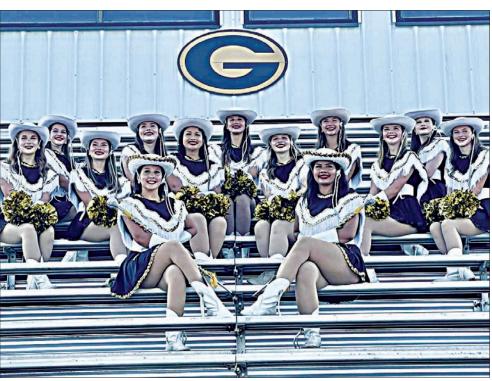
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Pictured are the Gatesville High School Dazzlers.

COURTESY PHOTO

# **DAZZLERS**

the tryout process to choose a team for the next

"I strive to make this a confidence- and characterbuilding organization

where responsibility for themselves and to their team is a character trait learned quickly and becomes second nature," she said. "I expect a great deal

from every member of the team, and we get to create high school memories they carry with them for a lifetime.'

# **JONESBORO**

**FROM PAGE B4** 

is no stranger to the court and will help the team out a lot this year.

"Overall, our seniors, Kyleigh Walker, Emily Turner, and Julie Henderson have stepped up and helped build moral for the younger athletes," Smith

Turner mentioned that as far as practicing goes, the team is limited to three good days during the week due to a lot of traveling early in the season.

"The game was overwhelming to them at times last year, and I've seen a major change in the mental aspect of the game," Turner said. "Learning to play together as a team and not trying to do to much as individuals."

"I think the main goal in any sport would be to win a state championship," Turner said. "The other goals would be to improve each and every week and win district and make the playoffs. We are not satisfied with last year's results and plan on doing everything possible to have a successful season with a playoff run."



Jonesboro Lady sched-Eagles are uled to play in their next game on Tuesday, Aug. 27 in an away game against Coolidge at 5 p.m.

# **EVANT HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS**

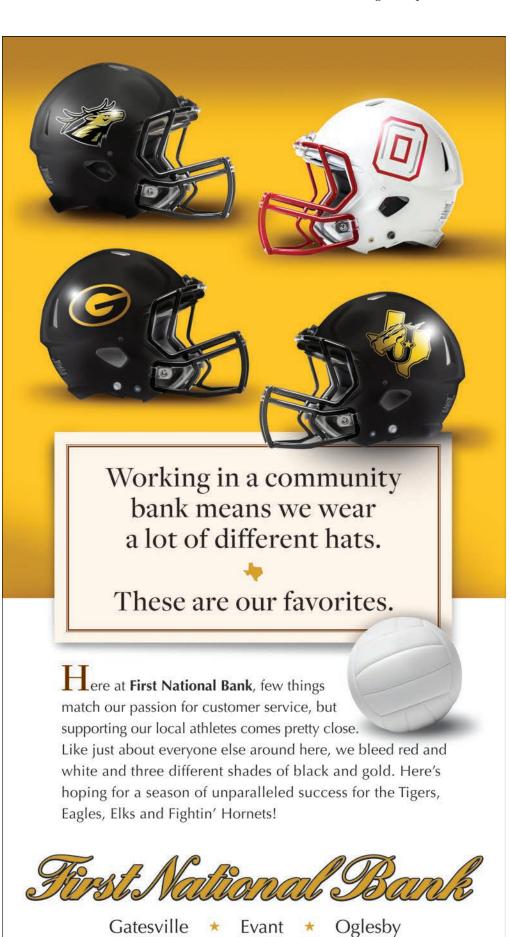


The Evant High School 2024-2025 Varsity cheerleading team, pictured from left to right is Daritza Escamilla, Mariela Zarate, Bella Kolajo, Maya Reynolds, Brinlea Bates, and Adriana Garcia. Reynolds was selected as the varsity cheer captain and Zarate was chosen as the mascot. The Lady Elks are led by cheer director Destiny Shuler.

# OGLESBY HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS



The Oglesby Lady Tiger cheerleading team pictured from left to right is Zarah Wiseheart, Caitlyn Battreal, Autumn Meyers, Marlee Henderson, Taetym Sanders, Kelsey Ritchie, Gracee Isaacks, Maddison Smith, and Delany Mafra. Sanders was chosen as the 2024-2025 Varsity cheerleading captain. The team is led by cheer director Cassie Meyers.



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