



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIPADVISOR

Socorro Marquez, Jr., left, and Socorro Marquez, Sr. of Gatesville's Marquez Specialty Stucco have been featured on episodes of Magnolia Network's 'Fixer Upper.' The father-son duo helped restore the 100-year old Cottonland Castle in Waco.

Local father and son business partners take on 'Fixer Upper'

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Since moving to Gatesville in the 1990s and starting his own specialty stucco business, Socorro Marquez, Sr., along with his son, Socorro Marquez, Jr., have completed a wide range of home improvement projects across Central Texas.

However, Marquez Specialty Stucco took on

one of its largest projects yet in more recent years with Magnolia Homes in Waco. In 2021, the father and son team received an offer from Chip and Joanna Gaines to help restore Cottonland Castle, a 100-year-old stone home that is considered one of the largest "Fixer Upper" projects yet.

"At that time, we felt

pretty special, because they said they wanted us to do it. I didn't believe it at first," Marquez, Sr. said.

When he first received the offer to work at the Castle, Marquez, Sr. admits he was hesitant to take on the job since he had a severe injury that left him on crutches at the time - leaving his four-to-six-person team short-

handed. However, Magnolia and its contractor still wanted his group to help restore the historic home.

"They worked with us and told us to do what we had to do because they wanted us to do the work," Marquez, Jr. said. "They worked with us through it all."

PLEASE SEE **FIXER** | A2



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the STARS program are pictured during their monthly session.

Library hosts STARS program for young adults

BY ALEX MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Throughout the month of August, the Gatesville Public Library has hosted the STARS program, which is for young adults with disabilities who are over the age of 18.

About one in 10 people worldwide have an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD), and over

30 percent are also diagnosed with a mental health disorder.

"Participation in meaningful social activities, like the STARS program, has been shown to significantly improve mental health for people with IDD," Team Gatesville Special Olympics Director Heidi Clough said. Gatesville Public Li-

brary Director Shea Harp expressed that one of her goals as the city's librarian is to create a community space, so everyone can feel as though they belong.

"For years, I have listened to parents ask about programming for their adult children with disabilities," Harp said. "They did not fit the ages for

our children's programming, and interests were not aligned with our current adult programs."

She expressed that a few months back a patron mentioned to the library about the STARS program that is held in Hewitt. Karie Bartlett, who now leads the STARS program, talked to

PLEASE SEE **STARS** | A2

Central Texas VET-RIDE program introduced in Coryell County area

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

It was recently announced by the Texas Veterans Commission that the Central Texas VET-RIDE program will soon be servicing Coryell County.

The new program will provide rides to eligible regions of Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills, Milam, and San Saba counties in Texas.

The Central Texas VET-RIDE program will provide veterans and their dependents transportation services including daily, weekly, or monthly ride-share services in local areas in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments, or other non-social events or activities.

The Central Texas Aging Disability and Veterans Resource Center in partnership with the HOP will utilize the Micro Transit Ride Share system for the TVC grant.

Transportation services will include medical appointments, grocery store visits, shopping, federal/state visits, and local offices.

The eligibility status will include veterans, a veteran's spouse, unmarried widows, veteran dependent children under the age of 18, and dependents with a documented disability over the age of 18. Those qualifying must be a resident of Texas and have a veteran status of being honorably discharged or general discharge.

To qualify for the program, contact the local office at 254-770-2342 or call toll free at 1-855-937-2372.

The Central Texas Aging Disability and Veterans Resource Center can be contacted by visiting their website at <https://ctadvrc.org/> in partnership with the HOP at <https://takeethehop.com>, which will utilize the Micro Transit Ride Share system.

This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance, which provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families.

For more information, visit www.tvc.texas.gov



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Kalyn Siebert renamed the street in front their building 'Steve Gould Way' to recognize employee Steve Gould's 46th year work anniversary.

Kalyn Siebert employee recognized with honorary street name

'Steve Gould Way' is the City of Gatesville's first honorary street name since the program's approval earlier this year.

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The City of Gatesville recently received a new street name in honor of a long-time community member and employee of Kalyn Siebert, Steve Gould.

In honor of his 46th anniversary at Kalyn Siebert this August, the City of Gatesville and Kalyn

Siebert team unveiled the honorary street name 'Steve Gould Way' along West Main Street and Avenue E. The unveiling took place on Thursday, Aug. 22 in front of the company's building, which came as a complete surprise to Gould.

PLEASE SEE **STREET** | A2



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FIXER

FROM PAGE A1

At the Castle, the Marquezes worked with a special kind of interior plaster to restore the original crown moldings and walls throughout the house. Since the task required preserving the crowns and replicating the material to replace the missing or broken ones, Magnolia needed a team that specialized in historic plaster work.

"Nowadays, it's hard finding people to do that," Marquez Jr. said.

He adds that most of the work at the Castle was done by hand, taking nearly three months to complete.

"It is much harder working for something like that because it's old, so you have to preserve as much as you can instead of going in and tearing everything down and starting new," Marquez Jr. said.

He adds that Chip and Joanna would stop by the house at least twice a week to check on their progress. "When we were at the

Castle, (Chip) was constantly checking up on us to see how we were doing," Marquez Jr. said.

The six-episode series on the Castle aired on "Fixer Upper" in 2022.

After the Castle, Magnolia asked Marquez Specialty Stucco to work on a mid-century modern Lakehouse, which was featured on "Fixer Upper" this summer. The project consisted of renovating the fireplace, kitchen, and bathroom.

After working on two projects for the Gaineses, the Marquezes said they have plans to work on more homes for Magnolia in the future.

Marquez Sr. first started Marquez Specialty Stucco in 1997. Now, it provides a variety of services for residential and commercial buildings - from interior and exterior work to stucco, lathing, plaster, and more.

The business has also worked on other historic buildings in the Central Texas area, including the Bell County Museum in Belton and the ballroom

in the Roosevelt Tower in Waco.

Marquez Sr. started learning stucco work when he was only 14 years old after moving from Mexico to the United States. After settling in New Mexico for a few years, he was led to start his construction business in Texas after a family friend asked him to work on their house in Gatesville.

"I first learned from my brother, and I started with him, but I have also worked with a lot of different people," Marquez Sr. said. "And with every different person, I have learned something different."

Marquez Jr. shares that he has worked alongside his father since he could walk. After graduating high school, he joined his father's business full time.

As both family and business partners, Marquez Sr. and Marquez Jr. say they feel blessed to work with one another.

"The day he's not there, I miss him, and the day I'm not there, he misses me," Marquez Sr. said.



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mayor Gary Chumley and Interim City Manager Brad Hunt present Steve Gould (center) with honorary street name 'Steve Gould Way' on Aug. 22.

STREET

FROM PAGE A1

"I've enjoyed being a part of Kalyn," Gould said. "It's been a part of my family, and we've always had a family out here."

Several Kalyn Siebert employees, Gould's family, and city officials attended the recognition, including Mayor Gary Chumley, Interim City Manager Brad Hunt, and Gould's wife, children, and grandchildren.

Chumley read a proclamation at the unveiling that declared Aug. 22 as 'Steve Gould Day.'

"Steve Gould, a lifelong resident of Gatesville, has been an exceptional and inspirational fixture in the City of Gatesville and has proven himself to be a valuable asset to Kalyn Siebert regarding his vast knowledge of and performance of his duties," Chumley said.

Gould began as a welder at Kalyn Siebert in 1978. He has held several roles

over the years, including welder, supervisor, product manager, sales, production manager, engineering manager, among others.

Kalyn Siebert President Matt Krock said via email that the company wanted to plan something special to celebrate his dedication and his impact on the company.

"His dedication, knowledge, attitude, and work ethic have made Kalyn Siebert what it is today, a leader in the heavy haul trailer industry," Krock said. "The entire Kalyn Siebert team thanks Steve for his dedication, mentorship, and his ability to always find a way to get the job done."

"On a personal note, I want to express how much Steve has meant to me," Krock adds. "I rely on Steve for so many things - his knowledge of our products, processes, markets, etc., is unmatched. He is always willing to help anyone who needs it."

The Gatesville City Council

approved an honorary street name policy in March. 'Steve Gould Way' is Gatesville's first honorary sign since its approval.

Krock said Kalyn Siebert started working with the city about six months ago to plan the surprise for Gould. The purpose of the honorary street name program is to provide residents with an opportunity to commemorate individuals or groups who have made a notable impact on the community.

"Steve Gould has visibly and significantly committed his efforts toward enhancing the relationship between Kalyn Siebert, City of Gatesville, and the citizens of Gatesville, Texas," Chumley said in his proclamation.

Kalyn Siebert, a global manufacturer of heavy-haul trailers and equipment for construction, oil-field, energy, and national defense, has been a part of Gatesville since the 1960s. The company is located at 1505 West Main Street.

STARS

FROM PAGE A1

the Hewitt librarian about how they operate the program and what success they have had.

"Once we knew there was interest from several families, we decided to try it out during our summer programming," she said.

When attending the STARS group, the adults are given a chance to meet others and learn about life skills. With Bartlett having experience in teaching across several disciplines, it gives the members an advantage.

During the program, it is encouraged for caretakers and parents to meet and interact as well.

Since the group was first

established, members have been able to learn about the history of video games and have had the chance to play new video games together, as well as creating different types of art pieces.

"It is important for young adults with disabilities to intermingle with each other," Harp said. "One way we can ensure this is by partnering with other local organizations."

Clough said, "The STARS program truly makes a difference by promoting inclusion, building friendships with peers, teaching new skills, and increasing self-esteem."

"A huge thank you to the Gatesville Public Library, the Friends of the Gatesville Public Library, and especially Karie and Jody

Bartlett for their hard work and dedication," Clough said. "We're incredibly blessed to have such wonderful support in our community."

"As someone who has seen the positive impact of STARS, both firsthand and from what I hear from other parents, I'd love to see this program continue to grow and thrive year-round," Clough said.

If you know of a young adult (18+ with disabilities) who would be interested, the next class will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Gatesville Public Library, located at 111 North 8th Street.

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



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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

A legend comes to life



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

This past weekend I had the pleasure of traveling to Tarleton State University and witnessing the unveiling of a 13.5 foot tall, 3,500-pound bronze manifestation of the Tarleton State mascot, the Texas Rider.

This sculpture is a welcome addition to Memorial Stadium and was created by my friend and Granbury artist Mike Tabor. Tabor styled the scul-

ture with a classic look. The rider sports a vintage haircut, neck rag, and hat creased in a 1950s style. His hat is held in one hand flung high in the air, and

the face is serious, but not scowling. Clearly, the mascot looks like he "came to play." Mike has been quoted with saying, "I hope people feel something special when they look at it. It was special for me, the first representation of the Tarleton Texan in human-like form; it's very meaningful."

Make no mistake, this was quite an unveiling. The event took place before the very first national telecast of a Tarleton football game and the dignitaries included Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp, board of regents chairman Bill Mahomes, regents John Bellinger and Jay Graham, Dr. A Dwain, and David and Lynda Mayfield. The Mayfields and their Bar M Bar Ranch provided the funding

for the artwork.

My friend and the president of Tarleton, Dr. James Hurley - and his staff - did an admirable job of keeping the overflow crowd in check and the program moving quickly in the 100-degree heat. There were alumni, students, faculty members, former "Texas Riders," cheerleaders, and supporters of Tarleton in all shapes and sizes, all present to catch a glance of history.

What I enjoyed most about the activities was watching Mike's family, especially his children and grandchildren. I have no way to estimate how many "selfies" will be taken of Mike's statue over the next 100 years, but I venture few if any students or visitors will pass by without tak-

ing out their camera and capturing this magnificent piece of art and adding it to their memory book. How cool is it for the generations of Mike's family to know he has sculpted his way to become an integral part of the very history of one of our great Texas universities. For an artist, it cannot get much better than that.

My wife taught school with Mike for several years — so many that she refers to him as her "work husband." It is through their close relationship that I met Mike and his wife, Suzy, and have seen our friendship blossom. I was so pleased to see Mike receive the recognition he deserves, but at the same time maintaining his good natured, self-deprecating demeanor

throughout the event. It was clear to everyone present that - to Mike - his work reflects upon the world in a way much greater than himself; it reflects all the good things about Tarleton University and what it stands for. What more could an artist hope to accomplish?

Congratulations to Tarleton University and to its alumni, students, and faculty! You now have a landmark that will forever stamp Tarleton onto the hearts of many. Good job, Mike! I am proud of you as I can be.

Thought for the day: The best thing about art is that the people who create it live forever.

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

TxDOT is teaming up with law enforcement to prevent drunk driving

One person is killed every eight hours in alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas

From Staff Reports

AUSTIN - The reckless act of drinking and driving could change your life forever, but it only takes a few minutes to find a sober ride.

As law enforcement increases its presence on Texas roadways leading up to Labor Day, drivers can save their own lives and the lives of others by finding a rideshare, transit, or other safe ride.

While many people enjoyed an extra day off during the Labor Day weekend last year, 14 Texas families and communities mourned the loss of a loved one. In 2023, there were 334 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes in our state over

the Labor Day holiday weekend, resulting in 14 fatalities and 35 serious injuries.

The Texas Department of Transportation wants to prevent these crashes and save lives by encouraging drivers to make the right choice this Labor Day holiday weekend and beyond. Beyond the possibility of taking a life — including your own — driving impaired and getting a DWI can result in time-consuming legal hassles and fines and fees up to \$17,000.

TxDOT is launching the "Drive Sober. No Regrets" campaign to remind motorists about the dangers of drunk driving. In partnership with local law enforcement, the campaign

urges Texans to always make the right choice and get a sober ride home — or face the consequences.

At the center of the campaign is Analicia Zarate of Edinburg, who was just 4 years old when she and her mom were headed home from church Nov. 12, 2000. A drunk driver ran a stop sign and hit their car, killing her mom (Nereida Flores Garza) instantly. Due to Analicia's own injuries from the crash, she wasn't able to attend her mom's funeral.

"Every drunk driving fatality is preventable, plain and simple," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "If you plan to celebrate Labor Day by drinking, make sure you

arrange a sober ride using a rideshare, taxi, public transit, or a designated driver.

TxDOT is working with law enforcement agencies across the state as they boost efforts to identify and arrest drunk drivers through the Labor Day holiday.

"Drive Sober. No Regrets" is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

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, September 2, celebrating Labor Day.

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

become 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

Local schools will not

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

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.

Folks around town



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Julio Salazar, Jr.

Say hello to our neighbor, Julio Salazar, Jr!

Julio has been the shipping manager at Quik Pack & Ship for 10 years and enjoys serving people in the community. He has lived in Gatesville for over 20 years and expressed that he likes the various good businesses our town has to offer.

Julio reads The Gatesville Messenger, because it keeps him updated on local events.

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

24-hour United Prayer Event scheduled to be held Sept. 7

Submitted by Joyce Talbott

A United Prayer Event will be held from Saturday, Sept. 7 at 6 a.m. to Sunday, Sept. 8 at 6 a.m.

The following churches have expressed strong support for The United Prayer event, and many are organizing prayer vigils:

Eastwood Baptist, First

Baptist Flat, First Baptist Gatesville, Jonesboro Baptist, King Baptist, Live Oak Baptist, Sweet Home Baptist, Trinity Baptist, Catholic Church, Cedar Ridge Church of Christ, Gatesville Church of Christ, St. Paul Lutheran - The Grove, CCC, First Methodist Gatesville, Grace Bible, Presbyterian, Johnny Watkins Sunday School, Grace Assembly,

Turnersville Baptist, Oglesby Baptist, Oglesby Methodist, and Harvesting Souls.

The First Methodist Church will have their doors open with prayer warriors present, and everyone is welcome to attend. Coryell Community Church (CCC) has indicated that they will have a prayer vigil as well.

Churches were given the

choice of how involved they could or would be able to participate. If your church or group is not on the above list or does not have anything organized yet, it is encouraged to implement that. Some may not physically be present but will join from wherever they may be on that day.

Don't just settle for praying during your allotted

time frame on a prayer vigil at a church, pray without ceasing. Don't wait until this specific date, pray - shine the light into darkness. Immerse yourself in scripture and pray the Word.

There will be unified prayers rising from all over this area. Pray for discernment, truth, and to know the will of God. Expect the

unimaginable. Don't stop praying!

For further information, contact Debbie Martin at 254-216-0907 or Joyce Talbott at 254-223-0032 and cjtalbott304@gmail.com.

Text PRAYGOV to 833-259-8648 for daily prayer prompts.

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County extends burn ban

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Aug. 21, Coryell County Judge Roger Miller issued a county-wide burn ban following a week of high temperatures and a rise in drought conditions.

During a regular meeting on Tuesday, the Commissioners Court voted to extend the burn ban for a period of 60 days. The ban prohibits and restricts the "outdoor burning of all substances" due to public safety risks that could be heightened by outdoor burning.

Miller said that the order comes after the Gatesville Fire Department and the county's emergency communications groups notified him about the increased risk of fires in Coryell County.

The county also reached high drought levels last week based on the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) - a drought index used to determine forest fire potential. Despite the recent rain, Miller said the county continues to remain at 600 out of 800 on the index for dry conditions.

The ban does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which includes:

- Firefighter training
- Public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations
- Planting or harvesting of agricultural crops
- Burns conducted by a prescribed burn manager and meet the standards of the Natural Resources Code
- Welding, grinding, and/or cutting metal if a spotter, serviceable fire extinguisher, and a minimum of 10 gallons of water are present
- Burning domestic waste in a barrel when using a screen with no larger than 3/8-inch holes

For more information on the burn ban, visit <https://www.coryellcounty.org/>

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Big Balls In Cowtown, Not Hail To The Chief



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

There's a guy who rides a horse around the Fort Worth Stockyards who looks, talks, and acts like John Wayne.

He also takes part in a staged gunfight by the Legends of Texas group. His name is Jack Edmondson and he is more than a cowboy. He is a scholarly historian who has portrayed Travis, Bowie, Sam Houston, and other state historical figures at The San Jacinto Battlefield, Washington On The Brazos

State Historical Site, the Alamo, and other places. He has written perhaps the most definitive book about The Alamo titled "The Alamo Story." He has also written the text for a photographic book about the stockyards simply titled "The Fort Worth Stockyards."

One story Jack wrote

about is when President Jimmy Carter went to the Stockyards in 1980 when Billy Bob's nightclub was under construction. Congressman Jim Wright had arranged for President Carter to tour Texas with stops in Houston, Brownsville, San Antonio, and Abilene before arriving in Fort Worth. Billy Bob Barnett arranged for Moe Bandy and Jerry Max Lane to provide entertainment.

Along with Jim Wright, others on the president's plane were State Senator Peyton McKnight, U.S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzales, Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby, and U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

The morning of Saturday Nov. 1, 1980 a group of Secret Service men, stockyards leaders, and others were in the White Elephant Saloon when the establishment's pay phone rang. It

was Air Force One wanting to know if Moe Bandy and Jerry Max Lane could play "HAIL TO THE CHIEF." Billy Bob conveyed the question to the entertainers. No, they did not. Barnett sent their response to Air Force One. The person on the plane said, "We'll get back to you."

They called back a short time later. Did the musicians know the song "America?" Billy Bob got a negative response from the musicians and sent it to Air Force One. They went through three or four more songs, and the musicians didn't know those either. "We'll get back to you," came the response from Air Force One. Soon the phone rang again. "What song do the musicians know that is upbeat?" When Billy Bob asked the two musicians they quickly replied, "Big

Balls in Cowtown." "We'll call you back," said the voice from Air Force One. They called back and said, "You can play "Big Balls in Cowtown," but you can't sing it."

The president's plane landed at Meacham Field, and he rode in a motorcade to the Stockyards to deliver a speech on the steps of the Exchange Building. Some 30,000 people were there to greet him. He was presented a Stetson hat. So were all the members of his entourage. As instructed, the band played an instrumental version of "Big Balls in Cowtown." But as the President approached the microphone the band defiantly started singing the lyrics. The President loved it.

Hoyle Nix of Big Spring, who wrote the song long ago, would be thrilled.

BOOK REVIEW

"Spirit Crossing" by William Kent Krueger



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Terri Schlichenmeyer writes book reviews for over 220 Newspapers and magazines around the U.S. and Canada.

Your usual chair at the table is unoccupied. Down the hall, your bed's still made, the blankets, straight.

The noises you make, the scent of you, it's all gone, missing from the places you should be. Will you return soon? Only you can be sure but, as in the new novel "Spirit Crossing" by William Kent Krueger, there are people hoping you will.

Annie O'Connor hadn't wanted to come back home for anything but the family wedding that was a month away. She hadn't wanted to leave Guatemala, though she spoke to her partner, Maria, about home in many warm ways. She wasn't afraid that she'd encounter problems for being what the Anishinaabe called "Two-Spirits," because her family was open and loving. No, Annie had another secret, and she didn't know if she'd have time to tell it.

Like a lot of 7-year-olds, Corcoran O'Connor's

grandson, Waaboo (Ojibwe-nowin for "Little Rabbit") was curious, active, and smart. Unlike his contemporaries, however, Little Rabbit knew the spirit world, and so when he seemed to speak to spirits in the woods one afternoon, his grandfather paid attention — and Cork made a grisly discovery.

Daniel English, O'Connor's son-in-law and Waaboo's father, worked as a tribal police officer and he'd been talking angrily about the large number of Native American girls who'd gone missing in northern Minnesota and how the local police did little about it.

Case in point: the young woman who lay in a shallow grave in a blueberry patch.

Daniel believed - hoped - she was one of the Lakota girls he'd been searching

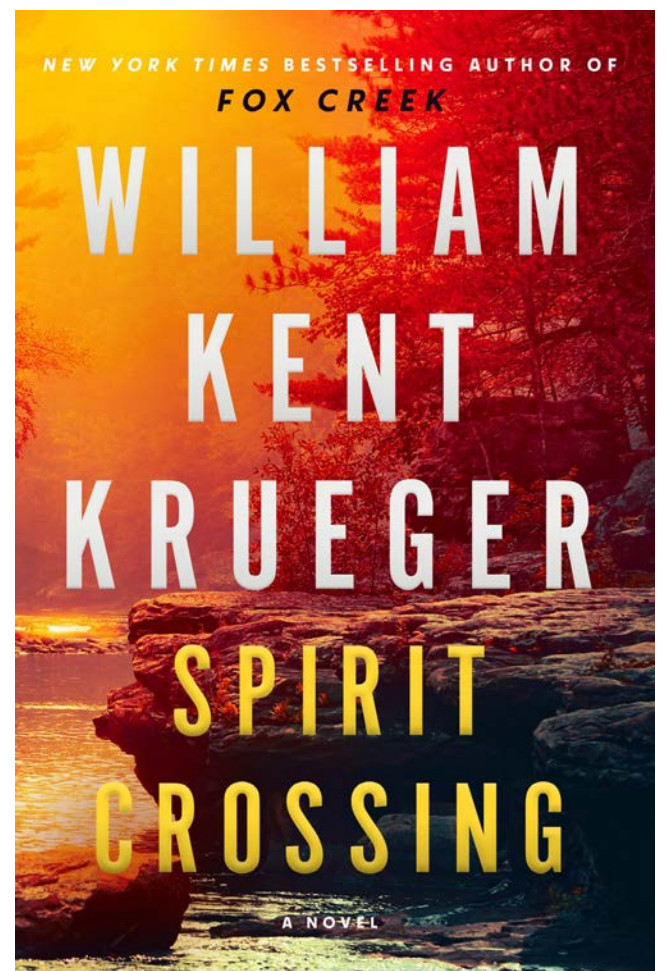
for.

But Waaboo said there were two girls whose spirits were lost. Was the other spirit that of Olivia Hamilton, a white girl whose father had money, and who the police were trying hard to find? Why were young women disappearing without a trace in northern Minnesota? And, as the county and tribal police got closer to a killer, why would someone want to murder a little boy who saw people that others could not see?

It's been a long summer, and you've missed Cork O'Connor, haven't you? Yep, so you're good and ready for another installment, and "Spirit Crossing" will make you very happy.

As you've come to expect, author William Kent Krueger pulls readers into this novel in his O'Connor series quick and easy, with characters you can't help but get involved with — including some of Krueger fans' old favorites, some recent favorites in new plotlines, and new folks you'll really want to get to know. It's like attending your hometown's small-town festival and running into new friends and people you've known for years but haven't seen in a while. You're happy to have a cold one with some of them.

Others, big jerks and troublemakers, not so



"Spirit Crossing" by William Kent Krueger, c.2024, Atria, \$28.99, 336 pages

much.

If this is your first Cork O'Connor novel, reach back a few — at least three or four novels — to get your bearings. If you're already a fan, get "Spirit

Crossing" and put the phone on silent. You won't answer it anyhow; you'll be occupied.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

Ten-year-old Erin Blanchard donated a lock of hair to the Locks of Love program.

Don's Meat Market on State School Road promoted "Fresh Made Bar-B-Q."

Jeff and Joyce Hambrick opened Ham's Short Stop in Oglesby on FM 1966.

Gary and Diane Heavin, of Mound, gifted \$2 million to George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J., to create the Gary and Diane Heavin Family Endowed

Fund.

The Drive-In movie theater offered a "Dusk til' Dawn" lineup that included five movies for \$10 a carload.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Maggie Franklin was named to coordinate local pledge operations during the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon.

The Mountain Valley Store advertised gifts, crafts, woodcraft, collectibles, and a few antiques.

Congressman Chet Ed-

wards met with concerned citizens about the proposed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's plan for 33 Texas counties to be designated a critical habitat area for the golden-cheeked warbler.

Construction at the William Elmo Powell VFW Post 8230 was completed, with a 1,000-square-foot addition to the Post Home.

"Pathways to Discovery: A Children's After School Program" was set to begin at First United Methodist Church.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

Highway 36 South was experiencing a "big boom" with the addition of Wal-Mart, Safeway, and a new apartment complex.

A plague of knee injuries felled Gatesville quarterback Darren Poe and tailback Charles Mayberry in early scrimmages.

Sonic advertised, "Come as you are and eat in your car!"

After a damaged wire led to a local house fire, City Code Inspector Walter Gaskamp reminded the public

that state law requires smoke alarms in all rental properties.

Orientation began for new students at Gatesville High School.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Gatesville was formally approved as a "Texas bicentennial community" for the commemorative celebration of the American Revolution.

Dr. William Floyd put rumors to rest that he was planning to move. He said, I plan to stay until I'm old and gray."

Dr. R.W. (Dickey) Moreland announced he was opening Fort Gates Veterinary Clinic.

J.T. Davidson, of Pecan Grove, became the first Coryell landowner to qualify for recognition under the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program.

Burglars broke into the clubhouse at the Gatesville Country Club, stealing about \$3 in pennies and some beer.

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PEARL NEWS

Tomorrow is an important day at Pearl Church of Christ



BY BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

Tomorrow is an important day at Pearl Church of Christ. The weekly service begins at the regular time of 10:30 a.m., with Dr. Charles Patterson speaking.

It's not too late to let people know of Dr. Patterson's speaking engagement in Pearl. He will be remembered by Hamilton, Bell, and Coryell folks as he was the former superintendent of Killeen ISD

from 1988 until 2004. Dr. Patterson was born in Hamilton County, and his father was the superintendent there in the 1940s. To date, Dr. Patterson lives in Corsicana, and he and his lovely wife are very active

in churches there. Following the morning service, the annual Labor Day Atchley Fish Fry and Silent Auction will begin. All proceeds from the auction benefit His Kids of Lampasas to go toward paying for His Hill Christian summer camp and their scholarships. Bidding on the auction items closes at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend all the events of the day. The fish lunch with all the trimmings is free, but you may bring a favorite dish if you would like. Your generosity in the bidding is greatly appreciated. You will have the best time with the very friendly folk at Pearl Church of Christ, and you'll want to go back again and again!

We have had several prayer requests this past week due to illness and a

nearby house fire in Izoro. Please lift up the Pearl folk during your daily prayers. The Lord will know who you are talking about. We truly believe that prayer moves mountains, and we sure need some mountains moved.

The next Pearl Bluegrass and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day is Sept. 14. The Bluegrass jamming goes on all day, and the stage show begins at 1 p.m. This is a free event. The Bluegrass Kitchen has delicious homemade food available for purchase at very reasonable prices (cash only) from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (The desserts are out of this world awesome!) The bookstore opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. Most everything in the bookstore is "buy what you want, pay what you want,"

and all proceeds go toward local charities. There are over 6,000 books in excellent condition as well as various other items. Gather your family and friends and make a day of it in Pearl. You won't regret a minute of it!

Can you believe I'm out of stories for this week? It kind of makes me sad that everyone has behaved so well and acted so...how shall I put it...normal. Really, people! That makes my job so difficult! Come on, dear ones, do something at least a little bit weird. When I have no itsy bitsy, teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini and Cat Whisperer stories, I have to make up my own fake news. I am just not feeling it at the time of this writing, sigh. Oh, hold the

phone! I better wrap this up as I just saw that I have a message from Judge McDonald. I've got to go and bail Kay and Linda out... again. (This might be fake news, but the names have not been changed to protect the innocent. However, I might should change mine.) There's no place like Pearl!

This week's Bible verse comes from Psalm 119:165—Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble. NIV
Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page, and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page. Please submit any Pearl news to betsyclark47@yahoo.com

Gatesville Senior Center to host nutrition class Sept. 16

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Senior Center has partnered with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office to host a class on Monday, Sept. 16, to discuss healthy carbo-

hydrates.

The class will begin at 10 a.m. and will feature a presentation to show how to incorporate carbohydrates into your diet.

The final session will be held on Oct. 21, beginning

at 10 a.m.

All classes are free and open to the public.

For further details, contact 254-865-8234.

The Senior Center is located at 208 North Lutherloh Avenue.

Gatesville Public Library to host Bridgerton Ball Sept. 28

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Public Library has announced that it will host a Bridgerton Ball event on Saturday, Sept. 28, which is inspired by the television series, "Bridgerton."

The ball will commence at approximately 5 p.m. and will take place at the Gatesville Civic Center,

which is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.

The sponsorship and ticket options include the Diamond Sponsorship, \$1,000; Emerald Sponsorship, \$750; Jewel Sponsorship, \$500; VIP Table, \$350; and General Admission, \$55, which includes one ticket for a meal and a drink.

Registration will be opened on Thursday, Aug. 1 and will end on Friday, Sept. 27. To register, you will need to create or use an existing account, by visiting teamsideline.com.

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

24th 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 Club.

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

Boys & Girls Club alumni dinner & celebration to be held Sept. 21

Staff Reports

The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville will host its 20th anniversary alumni dinner and celebration on Sept. 21 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The dinner and celebration will include live entertainment, alumni speakers, auction items, and a homemade meal by Boys and Girls Club Director Julie Hudson. The dinner will include chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, salad, a roll, and chocolate cake.

The Boys and Girls Club is searching for table sponsors as well as alumni to speak at the dinner. If you are interested in speaking at the dinner or

in having your photo and information displayed on a table, contact the Boys & Girls Club at 254-865-8347 or visit www.bgca.org to register as an alumnus.

Hudson expressed, "I need the community to know how much we appreciate their support

through the years."

Only 150 tickets will be sold and will cost \$25 per person. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the Boys and Girls Club, located at 2533 East Main Street, or online at <https://bgcgatesville.harnessgiving.org/events/2082>.



Righteous Roots to hold bingo night Sept. 26

Staff Reports

Local crisis resource center, Righteous Roots, has announced that they will hold a bingo night on Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Texas Station Event Center, located at 305 Old Fort Gates Road.

Doors to bingo night will open at 6 p.m., and the games will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased for \$60 on the night of the event, or

online for \$50 by visiting ticketbud.com.

Each ticket will include 10 games and three cards per game. To increase your chances of winning, additional cards will be available for five dollars each or three for \$10.

Prizes will be awarded to both men and women ages 18 and up.

There will be a concession stand provided to those attending the bingo night.

All proceeds from the event will go directly to Righteous Roots to support their facility. Righteous Roots is a non-profit crisis resource center which provides free social services to any individual suffering from trauma as a result of past or present abuse.

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

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T-ville Cemetery Association to meet

Submitted item

The Turnersville Cemetery Association will have its third quarterly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be

held in the Community Center. The burial ground served residents of the rural community of Turnersville - originally known

as Buchanan Springs. A cemetery association was formed by 1900 but disbanded in the 1930s. The Turnersville Cemetery Association reorganized

in 1953 and continues to care for the burial ground. Turnersville Community Center is located at 8113 FM 182.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXASHISTORICALMARKERS

Turnersville Cemetery Association

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Up with Parrots, Down with Whoops....



BY DR. DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. He is Texas' longest-running syndicated humorist whose column began in 2003. newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872

Uncle Mort had never heard of "support parrots," but admits he shouldn't have been surprised.

"Seems like way too many of my friends are either sued or getting sued, but none of the squabbles involve birds," he laughed. This was his jovial response upon reading recently that a New York City woman was awarded three-quarters of a million dollars when neighbors complained that her parrots were "too noisy."

The birds' owner, Meril Lesser, had lived in an apartment for several years before the legal battle started in 2015 when neighbors complained of the birds' "noisiness." No doubt Lesser and her parrots laughed all the way to the bank when the brouhaha was settled recently

Damian Williams, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said the settlement is "the largest recovery the Department of Justice has ever obtained for a person with disabilities whose housing

provider denied them their right to have assistance animals."

Mort assumes the ruling applies to fowl as well, and/or that perhaps New Yorkers lump anything that breathes into the animal category.

Anyways, the news set him to thinking about a possible "win-win" scheme that historically melts into a "lose-lose."

It's not Mort's first experience with "comfort creatures." Years ago, when he heard that whooping cranes were making a comeback, he almost helped out.

When their numbers were dangerously low, he offered a practical solution.

"Just take a bunch of 'regular cranes' and teach 'em to whoop," he suggested

Now, he envisions making fast bucks rounding

up the regular cranes down in the thicket.

Properly fed and nested, these birds could readily become support cranes, he believes. Since East Texas cranes aren't known for whooping, Mort thinks those New Yorkers will pay big bucks when he labels 'em "whoopless support cranes."

A similar ploy went afool years ago when Mort offered "support possums," which he said didn't stay awake long enough to provide much support...

While on the subject of whooping, there's bound to be "record whoops" come Nov. 30 when Texas A&M University and the University of Texas hook up in College Station to resume a football rivalry that never should have ended.

The Aggies and Longhorns played annually for 96 years, ending when A&M jumped to the Southeast Conference in 2011. For decades, the A&M/UT annual Thanksgiving showdowns were beyond memorable and featured nationally on TV.

Now, for crying out loud, the Aggie/Longhorn game has a SPONSOR - Cotton Holdings Inc. I don't even know what Cotton Holdings sells, but I'll wager we'll find out when the ads roll during the game. (Count me among those shedding tears that the game won't be played on Thanksgiving Day, but at

least on the same weekend.) I'm also in another "boo-hoo" group - the one that deeply misses amateur collegiate sports

I'm not saying he's the best quarterback EVER, but he may be the most generous athlete ever to come down the pike. The recent \$5 million gift from Patrick Mahomes to his alma mater, Texas Tech University, is one of the largest ever by an athlete. Texas Tech fund-raisers must be gleeful, already dreaming of additional projects up the road warranting Mahomes' favor.

The current gift will go toward a \$100-plus million upgrade of Jones Stadium. Don't be surprised if Buzz - the 12th steed to gallop around the stadium when Red Raider touchdowns are scored - sports a fancy saddle with NIL markings (name/identification/likeness). This could be the first-ever NIL contract with a horse.

If the Fort Worth Star-Telegram had prevailed in 1925, Texas Tech teams would have been known as the "Doggies." Late Star-Telegram publisher Amon Carter led the charge for the Texas Legislature to fund Texas Tech. In the mascot contest, however, Red Raiders won out. Maybe they were afraid too many folks didn't think the "guns up" crowd could spell "doggies."

OBITUARIES

Rob (Monkey) Wall

Nov. 20, 1973 - Aug. 21, 2024

Rob (Monkey) Wall passed away unexpectedly at home in Evant on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 26, at First Methodist Church in Gatesville with Pastor Stephen Schmidt officiating. Interment followed at Hurst Ranch Cemetery.

Rob Garth Wall was born on Nov. 20, 1973, in Waco to Graham Henry Wall and Wilma Wilson Wall. He attended Gatesville schools, graduating in 1992. Rob thoroughly enjoyed hauling cattle, which he did for many years along with helping on his father's ranch. In the evenings, he enjoyed mowing, watering his grass, and going to check the cows. When helping his dad when he was young, the trucks and trailers that came in to haul cattle always caught his attention. He would tell the story that when he went to take his driver's test for his CDL, Dwain Turner called him on the phone during the test to tell him what cuts of sale cattle to pick up that night. He had no doubt about his ability to get that CDL. Rob has backed a trailer more miles than some have driven forward. The cab of the truck was like home to him, where he sought solace during difficult chapters of life. He would tell of a time when he wore out a Linda Ronstadt tape during his many trips to Sublette, Kansas. Very few men wake up every day knowing they are going to work to do what they truly love. Rob lived that life for nearly 30 years. He could come home, take a shower, grab more clothes, and head right back out. There were times he would call to meet you somewhere with a change of clothes because he was going to be out longer than he thought. When cattle were moving, you could bet that "Wall Wagon" would be too.

Rob had many sides. Friends knew the free spirited, fun-loving, and no limits side. Customers knew him as loyal, dedicated, very well-mannered, and one who always "got 'em there safely." The family got to see the softer side of Rob with a heart so big and the best hug giver around. If given a gift, he would be more appreciative than you



would expect. If you didn't know what to get him, a flashlight would definitely do the trick!

Rob first married Melinda Booth on Sept. 18, 1999. He took Macy in as his own and later adopted her. He loved her as his own until his passing. Together, Rob and Melinda had a son, Mason Garth. He was such a proud Dad. They divorced, and Rob went on to enjoy his love for cow trucks until March 5, 2016. He went to the annual Cow Haulers Round Up and found out that Charla Kay was divorced as well. Fate had already been sealed. They met for a first date and were instantly connected. They married on May 12, 2017. His love for trucks ran so deep that they missed their honeymoon to Florida to help rebuild a motor in one of his trucks. This was always a source for a good laugh when brought up or anytime Florida was ever brought up in any conversation.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Garth and Ina Beth Wall and Tilda Wilson Rice and W. B. Wilson.

Rob is survived by his wife, Charla; parents, Graham and Wilma Wall; children, Macy Martinez and Mason Wall; bonus children, JC Harrell and Kendy Harrell; grandchildren, Amara Martinez and Arabella Rivera; bonus grandchild, Olivia Harrell; sister, Lori Edens and husband, Tommy; niece, Jordi Mitchell and husband, Lane; and great nephew, Brooks.

Memorials may be made in Rob's memory to Cow-hauler's Round Up C/O Ann Payne P.O. Box 327 Merkel, TX 79536, or First United Methodist Church 2600 East Main Street, Gatesville, TX 76528.

Billie Dean Smith Reavis

Nov. 28, 1937 - Aug. 26, 2024

Billie Dean Smith Reavis, 86, passed away on Aug. 26, 2024, in Lampasas.

Billie was born on Nov. 28, 1937 to William H. (Bill) Smith and Winnie Strickland Smith in Pidcoke. She attended school in Pidcoke until the sixth grade. It was the last grade taught at the schoolhouse, and she graduated from Gatesville in 1956. Billie then attended college in Tyler and went on to work for the Atomic Energy Commission and later at Ft. Hood where she retired after 34 years.

Billie met her best friend and love of her life, Decil Ray Reavis, and they were married at the Pidcoke Baptist Church on Dec. 16, 1961 and were married for 63 years. Billie and Decil made their home in Izoro, TX and after retirement spent many years traveling all over the United States: Alaska and Colorado were two of their favorites. Billie loved playing dominoes and visiting with her friends. She was very active in the Pearl Baptist Church where she was the church clerk for over 30 years and was also a member of the Eastern Star in Copperas Cove.

Billie was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Bobbie Jean Smith Langford; brother-in-law, Henry Langford; and her mother and father-in-law, Nadyne Toliver Reavis and



Cecil Reavis.

She is survived by her husband, Decil Reavis; daughter, Angela Rainwater and husband Jeff of Kempner; daughter, Kathy Selph and husband, Danny, of Izoro; grandchildren, Tamera Kruppa and husband Michael, Justin Rainwater, Brittany Dame and husband, Chaysen, Garrett Selph and wife, Autumn; great-grandchildren, Kylee and Kade Kruppa and Poppy Joy Dame.

Visitation will be held at Sneed-Carnley Funeral Chapel Lampasas on Monday, September 2, 2024, from 5 pm - 7 pm. Graveside services will be held at Pidcoke Cemetery on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Memorial donations can be made to the Pearl Community Community, 5685 CR 139, Gatesville, TX.

CCGS program to feature county historical sites

Submitted item

The program for the Sept. 10 meeting of the Coryell County Genealogical Society will be presented by Sherry Lawrence, who will speak on the Historical Texas Sites Atlas.

The Texas Historical Commission maintains this state-wide atlas on their website, and it is a wonderful resource for historians, genealogists, and Texas travelers. The site has historical descriptions and locations pinpointed on a Texas map, and Coryell County has over one hundred identified sites. Historical sites include cemeteries, archeological investigations, buildings, and other entities

that have received Texas Historical Markers.

While the atlas is a valuable research tool, the main purpose of the information is to provide protection to historical sites that are in proposed construction or land development areas. For this reason, the THC is updating the atlas and has solicited the assistance of the Coryell County Historical Commission. It is hoped that expanding an interest in the atlas will bring more Coryell County historical sites under the protective umbrella of state law.

The public is invited to attend this important meeting at the Gatesville Public Library at 6 p.m.

SUDOKU

Puzzle answers from the Aug. 24, 2024 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Coryell County

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Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST
Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays – Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE
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 worship 11 am; Wednesdays – supper at 5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth Group 6 p.m., Prayer meeting 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

GATEWAY BAPTIST
Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

HARMONY BAPTIST
A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.

HAY VALLEY BAPTIST
3110 Hay Valley Road; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

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
Royce 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, Adult Bible Study at 6:15 p.m.

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

Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.

OSAGE BAPTIST
Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
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 McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.

PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST
Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

PRIMERO IGLESIA 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 p.m.

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.

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

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

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

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. (English) & 12 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. & Wednesday-Friday at 7 a.m.

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.

CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD
338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.

LUTHERAN 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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2 miles north of Ireland on FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays.

EVANT METHODIST
235 US-281, Evant; Dennis Dutton, Pastor; Sunday worship 10 a.m.

FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE
2600 E. Main St.; Stephen 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.

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OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST
Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.

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
206 S. 26th St., Gatesville; Sacrament services Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.

NON-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.; 254-392-9472.

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 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.

REFORMED GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday services 10:45 a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.

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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.; 254-865-4076.

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Boys & Girls Club presents Day for Kids Sept. 21

Staff Reports

The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville will host a "Day for Kids" on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and is open to the public. The event will feature music, activities, and vendors.

The event is held on the

third Saturday of each year in September to encourage locals to get involved with activities that help kids develop and connect with their community.

Activities will include face painting, a bounce house, a popcorn machine, the teen center, the playground, and games

in the main building. The Fire Department, EMS, and a handful of soldiers will attend the "Day for Kids" and will be parked in the Elementary School parking lot.

There will be plenty of vendors as well, such as Kendra Scott, The Pink Pearl, Gussied Up, Mochi

Moon Waffles, Moonlit Customs, Riss's Slappin Sips, and Bangin Bites.

The Boys and Girls Club is currently searching for sponsors, raffle items, and door prizes from local businesses.

This is a family event and is free with no admission; there will be no

drop-offs.

The Boys and Girls Club is located at 2533 East Main Street.

For further details, contact the Boys and Girls Club at 254-865-8347.



Spurfest Raffle at Coryell Museum

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

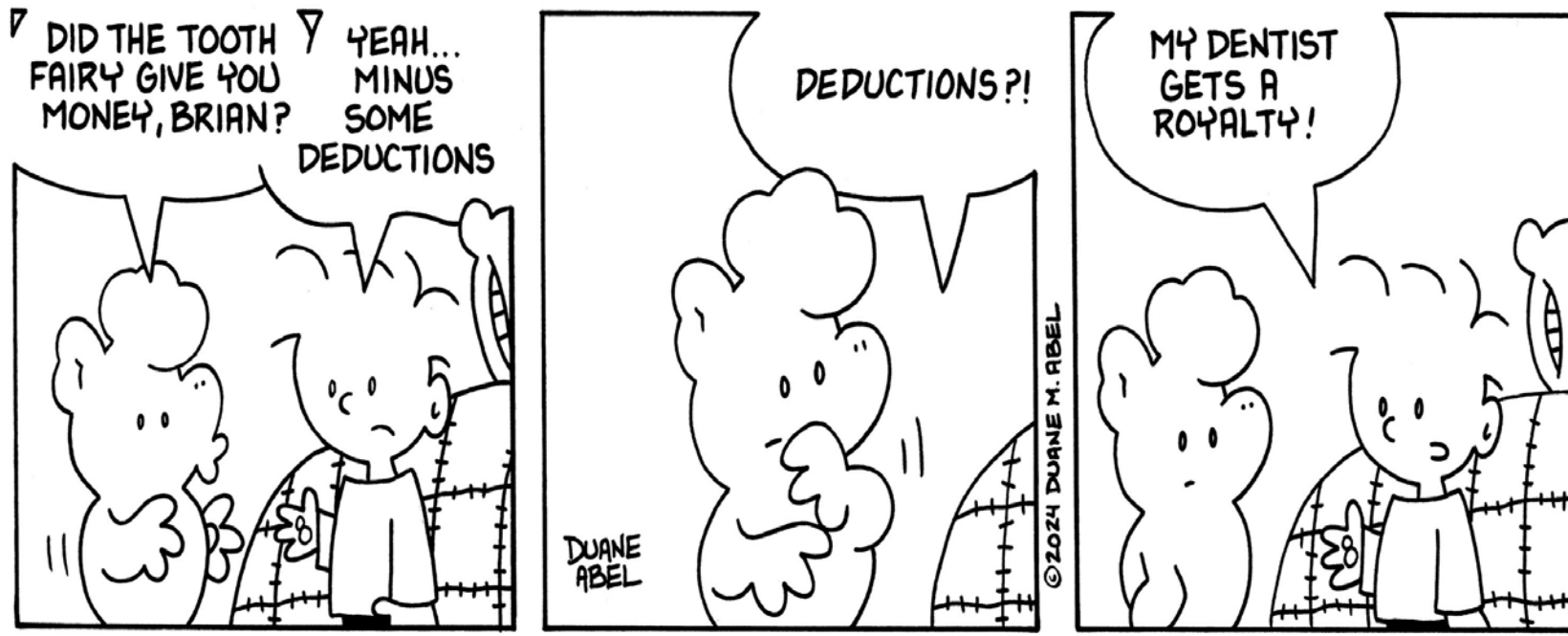
An Austin, Texas motif quilt created by Grace Dalimore and two matted and framed pointillism prints featuring the Coryell County Courthouse and Fort Gates by Jon Brown, will be raffled during Spurfest this year.

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 beginning on Aug. 12th.

Any volunteers interested in selling tickets can contact Catherine Fulton at 254-223-0014.

The drawing will take place during Spurfest on Sept. 21st.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Aug. 21 - Aug. 27. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Aug. 21
7:21 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.
8:33 a.m., harassment was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.
11:16 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
3:08 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.

Aug. 22
12:37 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 7700 block of FM 1690.
7:29 a.m., harassment was reported in the 3300 block of Royal Drive.
8:06 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
8:44 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of E. Main Street.

Aug. 23
11:27 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.
11:57 a.m., suspicious

activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 30th Street.
3:34 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
5:18 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

Aug. 24
11:47 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1700 block of Waco Street.
12:43 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Golf Course Road.
2:13 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.
4:12 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Lakewood Drive.

Aug. 25
12:03 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 3300 block of E. Main Street.
11:52 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
12:45 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1400 block of Baldrige Drive.
5:11 p.m., a theft was

reported in the 3400 block of Imperial Drive.

Aug. 26
9:13 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.
12:59 p.m., wanted person/stolen property was reported in the 2100 block of Waco Street.
2:40 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2100 block of E. Main Street.
4:32 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.

Aug. 27
11:50 a.m., wanted person/stolen property was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
1:33 p.m., a prowler was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.
8:21 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Hillcrest Drive.
9:06 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Franklin Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Aug. 21
2:28 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 1000 block of Old Osage Road.
8:51 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on S. Highway 36 and FM 1829.
12:18 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2900 block of Horseshoe Bend.
7:15 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 14,000 block of E. Highway 84 West Bound.

Aug. 22
5:42 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 800 block of County Road 324.
12:01 p.m., illegal burning was reported in the 3000 block of County Road 318.
1:55 p.m., harassment was reported in the 4200 block of County Road 107.
2:22 p.m. criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

Aug. 23
1:25 a.m., a theft was reported in the 900 block of

County Road 188.
10:30 a.m., a fire call was reported in the 7700 block of FM 1690.
2:25 p.m., a threat was reported in the 300 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
3:33 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1900 block of County Road 145.

Aug. 24
12:42 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 932 by Plum Creek.
2:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 5500 block of FM 1829.
8:12 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 100 block of West Cedar Lane.
8:49 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 14,000 block of State Highway 36.

Aug. 25
1:14 a.m., harassment was reported in the 300 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
2:31 a.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 200 block of Harrel Drive.
8:15 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on

W. Highway 84 outside city limits.
7:30 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 3400 block of W. Highway 84.

Aug. 26
7:21 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on FM 116 at Pidcoke.
8:10 a.m., animal neglect was reported in the 2900 block of Horse Shoe Bend.
2:44 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 2000 block of FM 183.
6:21 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.

Aug. 27
6:56 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 580.
7:46 a.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 3300 block of E. Rancier Ave.
10:04 a.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of W. Cedar Lane.
8:44 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1800 block of Oak Springs Road.

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

Gatesville Public Library records to be digitized

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In 2013, the Gatesville Public Library used funds donated to the library by the Jane Creel estate to purchase a new and more advanced microfilm reader to be incorporated into the genealogy room at the library.

For several years now, the microfilm reader has been out of service, which has made it impossible for researchers to view documents dealing with Coryell County history.

According to the library director, Shea Harp, "The unit's equipment has become outdated and required an older computer. It put us in a difficult position since the outdated ports required an older computer to operate. Eventually, the computer and program both went out, and we had no other way to utilize it."

Harp continued, "We tried multiple adapters and methods, but it would not talk to the new computers. Eventually, the microfilm reader just became a table decoration."

The reader is currently

in the process of being repaired at the cost of \$8,000, which is the same amount that they paid for it when it was purchased in 2013. "A brand-new microfilm reader with the same capabilities today can cost up to \$30,000 due to inflation," Harp said.

She reported that the microfilm reader, after repairs are complete, will be shipped back to the dealer in Austin. "Once it gets there, they will bring it back to us and provide training. Currently, I am the only one with experience and knowledge of working with it. The goal is making it available to the public by Oct. 1."

In addition to the reader repairs, it has been suggested that the microfilm itself should be digitized. "This will depend on the priority of projects. We have many projects and plans for the materials in the genealogy area to ensure they are preserved and available for years to come. Repairing the microfilm reader is step one of this plan," she said.

The microfilm collection housed at the library in-

cludes newspapers, census records, births, and tax rolls. They have The Gatesville Messenger from 1882, 1909, 1910, 1913, 1918, 1924 and 1933, as well as the years from 1955 until 2022. Also in the collection is the Coryell County News from 1932 until 1960.

Harp reports that some of this data is already online through different databases. "However, to get to some of these databases, you must pay for it or wait for lengthy periods for an agency to decide about sharing records," she said.

She reported that, after the Coryell County documents are digitized, there will be no charge to the public. The records will be in the library and will be available through a hard drive, just like the current genealogy records are stored.

"If we were to digitize all of our films and suddenly have an issue with the saved files, that would leave us with lost information, and without the original film, we would be in trouble," Harp said.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Public Library Director, Shea Harp, displays the many rolls of microfilm owned by the library.

She also stated that there would be no cost to the city to digitize the records since the library employees would be able to do the work themselves.

"Having a microfilm reading machine allows us to have the capability to rescan if need be. Managing digital and physical materials is a balance. The Library

of Congress recommends libraries and patrons to have a back up to their back up, and that is what we are doing," she said.

MOUND NEWS

Mound lost one of our neighbors on Aug. 20



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Mound lost one of its residents. Mrs. Vonny Allene Harris died on Tuesday, Aug. 20. Memorial services were held Wednesday at White Mound Baptist Church.

Vonny was the wife of Mr. Ronald Harris and granddaughter-in-law of Mrs. Elizabeth Harris. Vonny will truly be missed in our community.

David and Pam Hopson attended a funeral service for Mr. Robert Garth Wall on Monday in Gatesville at the First Methodist Church.

Dwight and Nancy Suson, David and Pam Hopson, Zach, Amanda, Aubree, and Olivia Long attended Montana Johnson's third birthday in Gatesville Saturday afternoon. This year, the theme was "Winnie the Pooh." The party was given by her parents, Barton and Chelsea Johnson.

Mrs. Tammy Roe, of Nemo, spent a few days in Gatesville with her mother, Mrs. Beth Haines, and visited in Mound with David and Pam Hopson.

Robert, Carolyn, and Emma Blakley went with several people from Gatesville to Fredericksburg for the weekend and went to the horse races

and went shopping.

Several people from Mound attended "Meet the Hornets" Wednesday evening at the Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium in Gatesville.

Those who had birthdays this month were Blayze Fisher, Gaylene Smith, Santanna Bay, Neil Fisher, Chris Miller, Emily Hanus, Marty Foster, Bobby McHargue, Sherry Nichols, Hian Davidson, Kathy Zacha, Frank Jaworski, Miranda Allison, Nancy Botkins, Brian McCorkle, Kyle McClellan, Jana Latham, Rene Mitchell, Sissy Leonard, Robert Fowler, Grayson Petty, Lois Fulton, Liz McCorkle, Elizabeth Schoenewolf, Shilah Heavin, Jozie Wolff, Julia Kay Dixon, and Jonathan Schoenewolf.

Barbara's Notes: HAPPY LABOR DAY WEEKEND EVERYBODY and Happy Birthday to Lillian McClellan and Reese Dixon. (They are Barbara Hopson's great nieces.)

Texas tops list of states whose residents lack health insurance

Staff Report

New data has identified the states where the highest percentage of residents lack health insurance — with Texas ranking first.

The analysis from personal injury attorneys Bader Scott examined the latest data from the United States Census Bureau, highlighting significant disparities in access to healthcare in comparison to the national average, 7.4% of uninsured residents.

Texas ranks highest, with 16.6% of the state's population without health insurance — 124% above the national average. The state continues to face significant healthcare access barriers, leaving many of its residents without essential health coverage. Georgia and Oklahoma tied for second at 11.7%.

At the opposite end of the scale, Massachusetts boasts the highest insurance rate, with 97.6% of its population covered by health insurance. Hawaii follows closely with a coverage rate of 96.5%, while Vermont is third with 96.1%.

According to the Texas Medical Association, the uninsured are up to four times less likely to have a regular source of health care and are more likely to die from health-related problems. They are much less likely to receive needed medical care, even for symptoms that can have serious health consequences if left untreated. About one-in-six Texans live at or below the poverty level. For children, the ratio is nearly one-in-five. Extending health coverage to the uninsured could improve their overall health

Rank	State	Insured rate	Uninsured rate
1	Texas	83.40%	16.60%
2	Georgia	88.30%	11.70%
3	Oklahoma	88.30%	11.70%
4	Wyoming	88.50%	11.50%
5	Florida	88.80%	11.20%
6	Nevada	88.90%	11.10%
7	Alaska	89.00%	11.00%
8	Mississippi	89.20%	10.80%
9	Arizona	89.70%	10.30%
10	North Carolina	90.70%	9.30%

COURTESY PHOTO

A graph showing the ten states with the highest rate of uninsured residents

by 7-8%. A lack of insurance also increases their dependence on Medicaid,

which could have financial consequences.

The most dangerous time of day to drive in Texas

Staff Report

New research has revealed the most dangerous times to drive in each state, with 5 - 5:59 p.m. being the most dangerous in 12 states.

The study by personal injury lawyer, Scott Vicknair, studied the latest data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality and Injury Reporting System Tool to see which times of the day saw the most fatal crashes in each state between 2017 and 2022.

In Texas, the study found that between 9 - 9:59 p.m. is the most dangerous time to drive in the state. This is because 1,409 of the 21,517 fatal

crashes recorded in the state between 2017 and 2022 occurred during that time, which is 6.55% higher than any other time in the day.

From 6 - 6:59 p.m. saw the most fatalities overall when looking at the entire nation, but only holds a majority in 10 states, with 12,813, or 5.91% of the 216,907 fatal crashes nationally occurring.

"While rush hour is the most dangerous time to drive, and all states had the most fatalities during the afternoon and evening, not a single state had its highest numbers in the morning, which is surprising," a spokesperson for Scott Vicknair said. "With earlier times of the day

Time	States where Time is Most Dangerous
5:00pm - 5:59pm	12
6:00pm - 6:59pm	10
8:00pm - 8:59pm	7
9:00pm - 9:59pm	7
4:00pm - 4:59pm	5
3:00pm - 3:59pm	5
2:00pm - 2:59pm	3
7:00pm - 7:59pm	2

COURTESY PHOTO

A graph detailing the statistics on the most dangerous times found in the study.

usually having fewer cars on the road, this doesn't mean they aren't dangerous, as often the way you

drive can make any environment you travel equally dangerous."

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Featuring KITCHENWARE Tues, 09/03 - Sat, 09/07. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Open Tuesday-Friday, 8am-5pm & Saturday, 9am-3pm

SAVE THE DATE - September 7th! Looking for a great garage sale? Gatesville is where it's at! Saturday, Sept. 7, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Rain or shine, DON'T MISS THIS! Kitchen, vintage, antique, home decor, outdoor items, tools, toys, clothes, jewelry, too much to list! 228 Reno Road, signs will be out! In case of rain use driveway, stay off grass!

072 House for Rent

3BR, 2BA on 1/2 acre. Stove, refrigerator and dishwasher furnished, CH/A, carpet, carport, storage building. Jonesboro or Gatesville ISD. No pets! 5430 FM 182. 254-216-9153.

099 Public Notice

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 sold: JoAnna Takacs, Meghan Ranaghan, Chris Bowers, Ray Ward, Denise Kleschick. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools and misc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville TX 75628, is having an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will be held at storageauctions.com beginning Monday, September 16, 2024 at 11A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Bidding sale will end on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 11A.M. Units to be sold: Taylor Ellis, Dessaray Trevino, Robin Buser, Sean Crimm, Stephanie Williams, Ciara Ocasio, Jaile Taylor, Thomas Baldwin. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools, and misc. items.

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 <U>www.coryellcounty.org.<P> 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 \$499,865.

099 Public Notice

Hamilton ISD is accepting proposals for Auto, Property, and Liability coverage. Proposals are due August 31, 2024. Please send proposals to Hamilton ISD Attn: Insurance 400 S. College Hamilton, TX 76531

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 TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Adam Herera Muniz, Deceased, were issued on 8-15-24, in Cause No. 24-11047, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Melba Ines Muniz.

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: Dori Ray Mystic Attorney at Law 907 S. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522 DATED the 22 day of Aug., 2024.

Dori Ray Mystic Attorney for Melba Ines Muniz State Bar No.: 04091800 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 Telephone: (254) 547-6000 Facsimile: (254) 547-4157 Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Richard George Sanders, Deceased, were issued on 8-15-24, in Cause No. 24-11035, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Rosa Emma Sanders.

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: Dori Ray Mystic Attorney at Law 907 S. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522 DATED the 22 day of Aug., 2024.

Dori Ray Mystic Attorney for Rosa Emma Sanders State Bar No.: 04091800 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 Telephone: (254) 547-4157 Facsimile: (254) 547-4157 Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com

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- 3 Br, 2 Ba Austin Stone Home, 378 Tom Sawyer St., Evant, renovated bathroom, dual vanities, walk in shower, large living room, all electric appliances in Kitchen, .579-acre lot, small storage shed and attached garage. \$188,000.
- 5.01 ac., Lot 62 Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Evant, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electricity at road, Fiber Optic Internet. \$155,000
- 5.01 ac., Lot 64 Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Evant, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electricity at road, Fiber Optic Internet. \$155,000
- 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
- 10.01 ac. Lot 20 Phase 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, good tree cover, great views, electricity at road, fiber optic internet service, gated subdivision. \$109,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 140 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, rolling terrain, good tree cover, oaks, mesquites, & cedar. electricity & Fiber Optic Internet. \$123,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 3 Phase 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, rolling terrain, good tree cover, stock tank, seasonal creek along the back of the property. \$130,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 12 Phase 4, Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, stock tank and road access on three sides, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, subdivision is gated with private roads. \$142,500
- 10.01 ac. Lot 41 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX., Good Tree cover, Rolling Terrain, Fiber Optic Internet. \$149,500
- 10.01 ac. Lot 49 Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Evant, TX, Langford Branch Creek Frontage, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, stock tank, water well with a solar power pump. \$175,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 18 Phase 3 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Coryell County. Langford Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electricity at road, Fiber Optic Internet. \$189,000
- 10.477 ac. 2Br 1Ba home, 6785 FM 1783 Gatesville, TX, open floor plan, recently remodeled, approx. 2400 sq. ft. living, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, 700 ft of Cow House Creek frontage. \$589,000
- 12.08 ac. Lot 23 Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Evant, Langford Branch, great views, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electricity at road, Fiber Optic Internet. You will need to drill a water well. \$260,000
- 16.64 ac. Lot N. 31 PR 2902, Hamilton TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, fully fenced, electricity at the road. \$140,000
- 16.5 ac. Lot 42 Phase 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Good elevation, great views, good tree cover, Dry Branch, Electricity at road, Fiber Optic Internet. \$225,000
- 20.02 ac. Lot 25 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. Owner Financing Available. \$218,500
- 20.02 ac. Lot 38 Phase 2 Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, subdivision is gated with private roads. \$260,000
- 22.2 ac. 4/2 Palm Harbor Manufactured Home, 812 Blakley Rd, open floor plan, large master bedroom, his & her closets, 2 living areas, 14x35' sunroom, laminate floors, ceramic floors in kitchen, laundry room & bathrooms, 8'x40' container wlean-to for a carport, outbuildings, water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$639,500
- 30.528 ac. East of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across the road, you will need to drill a water well. \$305,280.
- 41.0457 ac. Hamilton, CR 404, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, approx. 25 acres farmland, 2 tanks, & good fences. \$449,000
- 57.32 ac. 1633 CR 138 Pearl, TX, stock tank, scattered tree cover with gently rolling terrain. Multi County Water meter on property. \$372,580
- 58.51 ac. 3/2 frame home, 6630 FM 183 Evant, TX, water well, several outbuildings, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, 2 tanks. \$459,303
- 70 ac. Ireland, TX, FM 932 and CR 186, approx. 1,600 ft. of Mustang Creek with both sides of the creek, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Electricity on the property, water meter from Multi-County Water. \$875,000
- 71.572 ac. Flat, TX, CR 931. rolling terrain & scattered tree cover, several outbuildings, rural water & electric at barn, completely fenced, easements in place to preserve the agricultural & recreational resources of the land. \$590,469
- 147.567 ac. CR 136, West of Gatesville, property is divided into three pastures, one stock tank and good perimeter fencing and cross fencing. \$1,032,969
- 154.7533 ac. Hamilton, TX, approx. 2,217 ft of Cow House Creek frontage, 115 acres of farmland, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain, \$1,450,000

099 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lollie Lucille Moore, Deceased, were issued on 8-15-24, in Cause No. 24-11044, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Donald Moore and Diane Moore. 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: Dori Ray Mystic Attorney at Law 907 S. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522 DATED the 22 day of Aug., 2024.

Dori Ray Mystic Attorney for Donald Moore and Diane Moore State Bar No.: 04091800 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 Telephone: (254) 547-6000 Facsimile: (254) 547-4157 Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Timothy Ropple, Deceased, were issued on 8-1-24, in Cause No. 24-11025, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Pedra Ann Ropple-Fasold.

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: Dori Ray Mystic, Attorney at Law 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 DATED the 22 day of Aug., 2024.

Dori Ray Mystic Attorney for Pedra Ann Ropple-Fasold State Bar No.: 04091800 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 Telephone: (254) 547-6000, Facsimile: (254) 547-4157 Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com

099 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Clarence Sherman Dolin, Deceased, were issued on 7-9-24, in Cause No. 24-11008, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Carol A. Mathews.

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: Dori Ray Mystic Attorney at Law 907 S. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522 DATED the 26 day of Aug., 2024.

Dori Ray Mystic Attorney for Carol A. Mathews State Bar No.: 04091800 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 Telephone: (254) 547-6000 Facsimile: (254) 547-4157 Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. will conduct a prescribed burn sometime between September 2024 and April 2025 on Mother Neff State Park. For additional information, call (254) 853-2389.

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“MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT”

Gatesville High School Girls' basketball, one hundred years ago

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Located in the “school room” at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center, visitors will notice old photographs of various schools that were once scattered across the county. One of the photos shows the Gatesville High School girls basketball team from

the school year 1923-24, one hundred years ago. The players are standing on the steps of the school wearing their uniforms along with their coach, Mary Lou McCollum. Also on display at the museum is an original GHS uniform worn during the 1920s when girls basketball became popular at the school.

The 1920s were considered the “Golden Age of Sport” because it was the start of high-level competition sport with tremendous athletes – which was not only true for men, but for women as well.

In the early days, women were encouraged to play more “lady like” sports such as golf, tennis, swimming, and field hockey. As time progressed, women began to get more athletic freedom in sports.

During the 1920s, the new game of basketball was beginning to appear in high schools across the nation as an alternative sport for women.

Gyms during that time were much smaller than they are today – which added to the fact that the rules for girls were much different to what they were for the boys.

In those early days, it was common to see women basketball players wearing very conservative uniforms that would only show their hands, neck, and head. Players would wear bloomers or skirts, a high collar linen shirt, and woolen stockings.

Teams were distinguished by what color scarf they were wearing around their necks or by the color of their wool stockings. The Gatesville basketball players wore black long sleeve woolen blouses and black woolen bloomers. Their team was identified by the

gold ends on their scarves, wristbands, and along the collar of the blouse.

One hundred years ago, in 1924, the International Women's Sports Federation was formed, which led to a higher level for female basketball players.

That same year was the first time that the Olympics included women's basketball as an exhibition event, and women were able to participate. Before going to that professional level, most players participated in

their high school basketball teams, and that appears to be what the women in 1924 were doing at the Gatesville High School – a mere 100 years ago.

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 busi-

nesses, which includes free admission to the museum, plus four newsletters. Of course, large and small donations are welcome at all times.

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A basketball uniform worn at Gatesville High School during the 1920's is shown.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORYELL MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL CENTER

The Gatesville High School basketball team as they appeared during the 1923-24 school year. Their coach, pictured center, was Mary Lou McCollum.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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2024 CORYELL SENIOR EXPO

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The 2024 Coryell Senior Expo was recently held at the Gatesville Civic Center. The free event provides senior citizens a chance to get free health screenings and information about assisted living, independent living, long-term care, home health, hospice, aging, estate planning, senior exploitation, fall prevention, and more. Hourly information sessions are held, and vendors are on hand to give out information and gifts.



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BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Since Gatesville Junior High School has established its Care Closet, counselor Staci Pruitt and principal Susan Penrod expressed that it has made a positive impact on students and has grown into something bigger than they imagined.

The Care Closet provides clothing, supplies, and toiletry items and has several donors, including local churches and individuals who consistently help restock when supplies are low.

"Thanks to our community of donors, we outgrew the small Care Closet we had last year," Pruitt said. "We had to move to a larger space on campus because we have had so much support."

She mentioned that before the Care Closet was established often teachers and staff would provide clothes, shoes, hygiene products, and other items out of their own pockets for students.

"The Care Closet is important because some of our kids need items that parents may struggle to provide at

times," she said. "Students can let us know in confidence if they need something; if they need clothes or shoes and we don't have their size in our closet, The Boys and Girls Club help us out."

Penrod said that accessing the Care Closet is both confidential and discrete.

"In a community where the daily reality for many families is they are unable to afford clothing, ensuring that our students feel comfortable and confident in what they wear is essential," Penrod said. "It's about dignity and allowing our students to focus on their education without the distraction or embarrassment of ill-fitting or worn-out clothing."

She explained that when students have access to clothing that fits properly, it directly influences their self-concept and confidence.

"For many students, the Care Closet is a crucial resource, especially for those who may not have the means to regularly obtain new clothing," she said.

"We understand the sensitive nature of needing assistance, and we've designed the process to respect the privacy of our students," she said. "If a student requires access, they can quietly approach an administrator, counselor, nurse, or any trusted staff member."

She expressed that the junior high staff members are vigilant and often suggest the Care Closet when they notice a student might benefit from it, while always ensuring that the student's dignity is preserved.

"The Care Closet is vital for our students because it addresses a fundamental aspect of their well-being—having their basic needs met," she said.

Gatesville Junior High has created an environment in which asking for help is not stigmatized but is seen as a step toward being the best version of oneself.

"The impact of the Care Closet on our students has been profound," Penrod said. "When students walk through the halls wearing

clothes that they feel good in, there's a visible shift in their demeanor. They carry themselves with more pride and are less likely to feel the isolation that can come from being visibly different due to circumstances beyond their control."

"The Care Closet is not just about providing clothes; it's about fostering a sense of belonging and equality among our students," she said. "It's a small but powerful way we can support our students, helping them to focus on their studies and personal growth rather than worrying about something as basic as what they're wearing."

Currently, the Care Closet has plenty of clothes, however, toiletry items such as antiperspirant, body wash, socks, and undergarments are needed at the moment.

"Gatesville Junior High is so grateful to have such a supportive and giving community," Pruitt said.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Gatesville Junior High School Nurse Stephanie Streetman is pictured holding up a clothing item in the Care Closet.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left to right is Avery Meelbusch, Summer Erwin, and Marybeth Trejo.

Student photographers take on role at local newspaper

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

In an era dominated by social media, two local high school students decided to branch out from their everyday digital platforms to take photos for their local newspaper, The Gatesville Messenger.

Gatesville High School seniors Avery Meelbusch and Mary Trejo have been involved with yearbook for the past four years, taking photos of everything from school-related events to sports games.

This past year, Gatesville Messenger Publisher Sam Houston contacted the Gatesville High School year-

book teacher, Summer Erwin, to get her recommendation for two students who could take photos for the newspaper as student photographers.

"I chose Mary and Avery because they both really enjoy photography and always jump at opportunities to go take pictures at different events," Erwin said. "They are both reliable and go above what is expected of them to do the very best."

Not only does the duo capture great photos together, but they are also

best friends who do everything together, so being able to share this experience means a lot to them as well.

"To have the experience of being a student photographer with my best friend, Avery Meelbusch, has been such a blessing," Trejo said. "We're both very passionate about photography and we've grown tremendously together over the past four years. She wants the best for me and helps me grow in other parts of my life, other than photography, so to say it is the best chance

PLEASE SEE PHOTOGRAPHERS | B2

Gatesville school update

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

During the Aug. 19 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard presented a back-to-school update to the board members.

Pollard said that all five campuses had reported a very smooth start to the 2024-2025 school year. "Our students and staff have been working hard, not only on day-to-day academics, but also on the many extracurricular activities offered during the fall, he said.

Concerning outdoor activities he said, "We have paid very close attention to

the heat, and our staff has been very diligent in making sure the students get plenty of water breaks." He continued, "We have altered practice times to avoid some of the hottest temperatures. Our lower campuses avoid afternoon recess as a precaution on days that are especially hot."

Starting off the new school, GISD has employed 33 additional teachers - five at primary, six at elementary, nine at intermediate, seven at junior high, and six at the high school.

In an email, Dr. Pollard spoke about the school security and the GISD police. "We recently purchased our 4th and 5th police vehicle for the Gatesville ISD Police

Department. Thanks to a great deal by the Coryell County Sheriff's Office, Chief Styles and Officer Brown now have official police transportation. These vehicles also act as a great deterrent when parked in front of each of our campuses."

In addition to the purchase of the police vehicles, he said, "A few other financial items included the purchase of new risers for the choir program, a new Buzz mascot uniform, and new band uniforms. I think the students and the staff that participate in each of those three extra-curricular activities are excited about those much-needed purchases."

Lucy's home away from home

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Wearing her own GISD name badge, Lucy trots down the halls of Gatesville Elementary School wagging her tail and visit-

ing with students along the way. Lucy, a two-year-old Labradoodle, was first introduced to the school district last year before she and her owner moved. Lucy

returned to Gatesville to live with her current owner, Christa Hitt.

According to Hitt, "She is

PLEASE SEE LUCY | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

Lucy poses on the stage during a photo shoot at Gatesville Elementary School.

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ALL-AMERICAN BASEBALL



COURTESY PHOTO

Local athletes Holden Joiner, left, and Carl Sims received special recognition for their efforts during a recent All American Baseball Youth Tournament. Joiner received the All American Ace Pitcher award while Sims was awarded All American Defensive Wizard. Their team, Freedom, placed third in the tournament while playing other youth from all over the world.

YOUTH GOLF CLINIC HELD AT COUNTRY CLUB



COURTESY PHOTO

Local Kaylan Summers has hosted another golf clinic for our local youth to broaden their knowledge of the sport. The clinic was held Aug. 13 at the Gatesville Country Club and was targeted to incoming first graders through freshman students. Participants of the clinic focused on fundamentals, techniques, and getting familiar with the game. They were also able to obtain more reps with one-on-one attention, which offers an alternative to memberships or costly lessons.

LUCY

FROM PAGE B1

not a service dog and has not had any type of training to be a service dog. She is currently in training to be a facility dog in our district." Hitt said that there are other service dogs currently on the GISD campuses. "The original district therapy dog is Bishop. He's a five-year-old Australian Shepherd and he belongs to Joyce Cole. He works district-wide. However, he spends a large amount of time as the junior high's facility dog." She continued, "Cleo is the next addition and she

is a 3-year-old Pyrenees/Border Collie mix who also belongs to Joyce Cox. She joined us last year and currently works with Joyce throughout the district." GISD superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard, said "We love all three of our service dogs. They are all very sweet and caring toward the kids and adults. They really help to calm folks if they are stressed. They look forward to coming to 'work' every day." Hitt said that there are certain advantages to having Lucy on the elementary campus. "Over the last three years, we have had other therapy dogs for the district to come by and visit

our Dyslexia classes where the students would read to them. Having Lucy here on campus on a more consistent basis helps with the overall morale and temperament of our campus. She not only brightens the mood of the students, but the staff as well. She makes a noticeable impact on students who are having a bad day. She is also a great motivator for students to work hard." "Everyone on campus LOVES Lucy. She is so sweet and loves getting attention from the students and adults. She is like a 'celebrity' around here," Hitt said.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

FROM PAGE B1

given is an understatement." Trejo and Meelbusch take photography seriously and

hope to excel in their skills by taking photos for the newspaper.

"Capturing photos for the Messenger has really enhanced my skills, as I've had the chance to learn from professionals and boost my confidence through my travels to different towns," Meel-

busch said.

The pair has been able to commute to surrounding communities, which include Oglesby, Jonesboro, and Evant to take photos of different sports games and local events.

"Since childhood, I've admired the kindness and beauty of our community, and now, through my work, I can showcase the wonderful spirit of our town and its people through my photography," Meelbusch said.

Trejo expressed that taking photos for the Messenger has benefited her immensely, since it gives her the opportunity to work in a higher position and learn greater skills from someone who

is more experienced in the work field.

"It also makes me happy to be given this experience due to Sam Houston reaching out to my teacher, Mrs. Erwin," she said. "Mrs. Erwin knows what I am capable of, and she was confident to choose Avery and I to be a part of this team. She is an adult in my life who constantly believes in me and is the reason I got the great opportunity to develop my skills and become a student photographer for the Messenger."

Erwin expressed that she has definitely seen more confidence in both girls' skills due to the practice they have gotten working with The Messenger.

"They also feel more equipped to help their peers in the yearbook when they need help with their cameras and guidance on taking pictures," she said. "The experiences they are getting at The Gatesville Messenger provides them with more photography practice, and real-life experience if they choose to pursue photojournalism as a career."

Meelbusch explained that she enjoys photography because it allows her to preserve memories, not just for herself, but for others as well.

She hopes that her experience with The Gatesville Messenger will set her on the path to pursue her dreams in sports media.

"I am proud of them for challenging themselves to get out of their comfort zones and taking on new roles/responsibilities that expose them to more experiences than they receive in high school yearbook," Erwin said. "I am also proud of how hard they work inside and outside of school."

"I'm grateful that I can be a helping hand for our local newspaper and capture beautiful moments that happen in our town," Trejo said.



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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State staves off McNeese on national stage to start 2024 1-0

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - All eyes were on the Tarleton State Texans nationwide Saturday, Aug. 24, and all eyes witnessed a Tarleton State Texan victory to start their season Won-and-0.

The Texans (1-0) staved off McNeese (0-1) 26-23 to win the second college football game played nationally in 2024, the first on United States soil. The Week 0 contest was broadcast on ESPN2, the first time Tarleton State Football has played on linear television.

In Tarleton State's first full-fledged NCAA Division I season, the Texans started 2024 where they left off in 2023, extending their winning streak to five straight, their longest winning streak at the D1 level. This is the first time Tarleton has won five straight since beginning 2019 11-0.

"Winning's hard," head coach Todd Whitten said postgame. "We're 1-0, that's the good thing. There were some difficult conditions out there for both sides, and I thought both teams played really hard, I thought it was a really good college football game."

The Texans won their fifth season opener over the past seven seasons on the heels of a strong offensive first half and a defense that forced four turnovers.

The Texans forced a fumble on the third play of the day, as new linebacker Bam Smith stripped quarterback Clifton McDowell, and defensive back Blake Smith jumped on it to give the Texans the ball early.

Tarleton State picked up one first down on its opening drive before new kicker Michael James booted one through from 53 yards out to make it 3-0 Texans. It was Tarleton State's first 50-plus yard field goal make in 15 years (Nov. 14, 2009, at Texas A&M-Kingsville).

The Cowboys responded with a 75-yard touchdown scoring drive, a 43-yard connection from McDowell to Jamaal Levi to give McNeese the lead 7-3. The Texans



All eyes were on the Tarleton State Texans nationwide Saturday, Aug. 24, and all eyes witnessed a Tarleton State Texan victory to start their season Won-and-0.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

didn't let the Cowboys hold the lead long, or even again. Tarleton State marched 64 yards on 10 plays, punching it in from a yard out with Derrel Kelley III.

On McNeese's second play of the ensuing drive, Tarleton earned its second takeaway of the opening frame with a defensive touchdown. Linebacker Caimyn Layne forced running back Joshon Barbie to cough it up into DB Kasyus Kurns' hands, who returned it 31 yards for the score. Tarleton ended the first quarter ahead 16-7.

Tarleton didn't relent to start the second quarter on offense, taking it down 83 yards across 12 plays. Quarterback Victor Gabalis lobbed a perfect ball over a blanketing DB, and wide receiver Keylan Johnson showed off the hands to come down with a 26-yard touchdown to make it 23-7 Tarleton State.

James added a 34-yard field goal on Tarleton's next drive to make it 26-7 Texans. The Texan defense forced two more turn-

overs before the half was over, as defensive back Omar Emmons picked off McDowell around midfield, and on the Cowboys' very next drive, Kurns forced another Barbie fumble, as he recovered his second of the game.

The Texans led 26-7 at the break.

The second half was starkly different from the first half as Tarleton State lost its starting quarterback. Gabalis, who completed 11-of-18 for 140 yards and touchdown in the first half, suffered a thumb injury and didn't return.

Tarleton's offense couldn't muster much in the second half, totaling 76 yards across seven drives. Texan backup quarterback Jaden Pete spelled Gabalis and finished 1-of-8 for four yards.

"Things got a little more difficult for us when we lost Vic at halftime, there was an injury to his thumb. I think he'll be OK, I don't know how long it will be, but he couldn't grip the ball very well," Whitten said. "So

yeah, I think we were 1-of-8 throwing in the second half, so we couldn't get anything going. They got a lot of opportunities, and our defense was on the field (for a long time). To overcome adversity like we did with the injury there, I was proud of our guys."

Tarleton's defense held the Cowboys at bay nearly the whole third quarter, allowing a 36-yard field goal with 46 seconds left in the frame. That broke a seven-straight-drive stretch of the Texans blanking the Cowboys, and Tarleton State took a 26-10 lead into the fourth quarter.

McNeese started to make things interesting with just under 10 minutes to play. Cowboy running back D'angelo Durham scampered from seven yards out to make it a 26-16 game, but McNeese missed the extra point to keep it a 10-point difference.

Tarleton's running backs Kayvon Britten and Kelley powered the Texans down the field into a scoring chance, but the Texans

missed a field goal to keep McNeese alive.

The Cowboys used that spurt on the very next play, as McDowell connected with Matthew McCallister for an 80-yard touchdown. Tarleton's lead was down to just three, 26-23.

McNeese forced a three-and-out to get the ball back down three with 2:56 to play. Starting at their own 11-yard line, the Cowboys methodically drove to Tarleton's 22-yard line with 11 seconds left. In field goal range, McNeese was penalized with a false start that forced it to take its final timeout to avoid a 10-second runoff that would have ended the game. That also pushed the Cowboys back five yards, which proved to be the difference from McNeese tying the game and losing the game, as the kick sailed just wide right.

The Texan faithful released a collective sigh of relief as Tarleton State left Memorial Stadium 1-0.

Britten showcased why he was a unanimous pick for UAC Preseason Offensive

Player of the Year by rushing for 164 yards on 25 attempts, averaging 6.6 yards per carry. Kelley had 41 yards on 12 carries to go with his touchdown. Wide receiver Darius Cooper finished with six catches and 85 yards, and Johnson two catches for 37 yards and a score.

Defensively, Kurns had two fumble recoveries, a fumble return touchdown, a forced fumble, and six total tackles. Layne recorded a forced fumble and a sack, with four total tackles. Linebacker Caden Holt and defensive lineman Tramaine Chism each had a tied-team-high seven tackles. Ty Rawls had a sack and five total tackles. Bam Smith had one FF and five tackles, and Blake Smith had one FR and six tackles.

Adrian Guzman had a strong day punting, averaging 46.3 yards across his six boots, launching two 50-plus yards and two inside the 20.

McNeese's McDowell completed 13-of-19 for 242 yards, two touchdowns, an interception and a fumble lost. Micah Davey had the big game defensively for the Cowboys, recording 14 tackles and a half-sack.

The Texans have now won nine straight games when wearing their purple helmets, dating back to 2022.

It was a packed day across the board at Tarleton State, as the Texans unveiled a new Texan Rider statue in front of the Memorial Stadium Ticket Office.

Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp was part of the ceremony and was honored by Tarleton State for his service, as the retiring chancellor conducted the coin toss and was given a special commemorative football.

The Texans playing on the big stage will continue next week, as Tarleton State heads to a much-improved Baylor squad in Waco. The Texans and Bears will clash Saturday, Aug. 31, at 6 p.m. at McLane Stadium, for what will be Baylor's season opener.

Tarleton Soccer drops tight battle against Houston

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State dropped a tightly-contested 1-0 battle against Houston Sunday afternoon at the Tarleton Soccer Complex.

The Cougars earned their first victory of the season to improve to 1-2-1. The Texans (1-1-3) hold the most matches played in the nation.

Mikayla Kendall set a season high with 13 saves, the second-highest mark in program history.

Jenaya Brown led the Texans with a pair of shots, both falling on goal.

Just 10 minutes into the game, Houston fired a shot off the corner of the post, but Kendall was able to corral the loose ball and prevent any rebound opportunities.

A few minutes later, the Cougars netted the first goal of the game, but it was negated by a Houston offside call

that kept the game tied at 0. The score remained deadlocked at the end of the first 45 minutes.

In the first half, the Cougars out-shot the Texans, 8-0, with five on goal. Kendall recorded five saves.

At the midpoint of the second half, the Texans nearly pushed across the first goal of the afternoon. A flurry of Texans caused traffic in front of the goal, creating an open shot for Brown. Brown's foot nearly scored the first goal, but the Cougars keeper barely grasped the ball to keep the game even at zero.

Kendall kept the game tied at zero with a diving save five feet out of the box. After a Houston corner, the Cougars nearly took the lead, but a diving Kendall found the ball in her fingertips to keep the game, nil to nil.

In the 83rd minute, the

Cougars broke through to take a 1-0 lead. Houston's Amanda Adams dribbled down the bench side of the field and fired a shot at Kendall. The ball kicked off of Kendall's body where Ramsey Davos was able to deposit the deflected ball into the back of the net to give the Cougars the advantage, 1-0.

Nearly a minute later, Reagan Wagg streaked past the Cougars defense to make the goalie the only defense. Wagg took it to the corner and found Macy Hellwig on the opposite side post. Hellwig's header just grazed over the top of the crossbar, keeping the Cougars in the lead.

The Cougars held the advantage in shots (20-5), shots on goal (14-3) and corners (6-1). Houston's Oliva Dietrich pitched her first shutout of the season.



Tarleton State dropped a tightly-contested 1-0 battle against Houston Sunday afternoon at the Tarleton Soccer Complex.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY



AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GHS Varsity Volleyball won the Gatesville Invitational Tournament then went on to beat McGregor at home on Tuesday.

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Gatesville Wins Home Tournament

The Lady Hornets volleyball team went 5-0 at the GHS Invitational this past weekend to win a tournament championship.

Coach Janey Weber said her team struggled early on in the competition, but once it got things going they were unstoppable.

"The first day started a little slow, but on Saturday there was a change in mentality, and we kicked it into gear," Weber said. "The girls came out with a hate to lose mentality, and it showed. They weren't letting anything hit the floor, were playing as one and competed the entire way through."

Gatesville defeated Mexia, Waco, Killeen, and Harker Heights en route to the tournament championship, and Weber said it truly was a team effort.

"I am so proud of the mental toughness they

showed," Weber said. "It's been a while since Gatesville has been tournament champions at our own tournament. The girls fought hard and earned this title."

Gatesville Cross Country Has Strong Effort at Belton

The Gatesville cross country teams had a good performance at the Belton CC Invitational this past weekend, placing multiple runners in the top 10 in both the varsity boys and girls races.

Coach Phillip Martin said that it was a good effort from his teams early on in the season.

"I was pleased with our overall performance," Martin said. "We placed third with the varsity boys team with two runners in the top 10."

Jack Armstrong placed sixth with a time of 18:51.5, and Malachi Olvera placed eighth overall on the boy's side with a time of 19:21.1.

"Our girls team was well-represented also with two

top 10 finishers in the 5-6A Division," Martin said.

Riley Higginbotham finished sixth overall on the girls side with a time of 23:04.4, while Vania Martinez was seventh overall on the girls side with a time of 23:15.5.

"I'm looking forward to building on a strong performance from this meet," Martin said.

Evant Finishes Moody Tournament Strong

The Evant volleyball team struggled on Thursday, dropping two straight games before rallying to take the last three to go 3-2 overall in the Moody Tournament this past weekend.

Coach JoAnna Vaden said she was pleased with the way her team hung in there despite dropping the first two games of the tournament.

"On Thursday, we fell a little short of some our goals," Vaden said. "But came back strong on Saturday winning three straight.

The girls worked together well and worked on correcting some things."

Vaden said she had a couple of standout performances at the competition.

"Molly Waldrum stepped up with kills on Saturday," Vaden said. "Molly and Izzy Gandy both got on a roll with their serves today (Saturday) with several aces and points scored. Harley Weeks had over 47 assists Saturday alone. Bree Ramirez, Luwi Rodriguez, Jolyce Acosta, and Izzy Gandy all stepped up with their digs and serve receive

Vaden said the key to the Lady Elks success will be to continue to build that team chemistry.

"One thing about our team is that they are successful when they work together," Vaden said. "Different people stand out at different times, and they all always work hard for the team."

Jonesboro Freshman Steps Up

The Jonesboro volleyball team defeated Deleon by a score of 3-0 on Friday night and got some major offensive production from a young source.

"We have a freshman, Lacy Weaver, that we really wanted to get some reps in on varsity," coach Tori Smith said. "Our senior, Kyliegh Walker, has been having some shoulder problems so we had her serve for her, and she stepped up and did a great job."

Smith said it was especially encouraging to see Weaver's Jonesboro teammates rally around the freshman as she took on a bigger role.

"Overall, our team stepped up to help her out when she was confused about her spot in rotation," Smith said. "But it was a bit of a rocky start in that first set. Once we got the ball rolling, communication as well as serves were much better. We still have some adjustments to make before district, but the team is

constantly improving each game."

Standout performances from the Lady Eagles included Lynlee Deats, who "got some good digs," as well as Emily Turner and Julie Henderson, who had "some great blocks and hits for all three sets."

Lady Tigers Go 2-3 at Moody Tournament

The Oglesby volleyball team picked up two victories at the Moody Tournament this past weekend, defeating Holy Trinity and Hubbard to finish 2-3.

Coach Amanda Martin said her team had "some great play" at times during the three losses and said her team picked up another big win over the weekend.

"We also played Meridian on Friday and beat them in five sets," Martin said. "Standouts for the week were Caitlyn Battreal and Presley Robinson."

HORNETS NEST

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



RICKEY PHILLIPS
GHS Athletic Director

Fall sports update
GHS Cross Country: Boys finished 3rd in the 1A-4A division at the Belton meet, with Jack Armstrong (6th) and Malachi Olvera (8th) posting Top 10 finishes. In girls' running, Riley Higginbotham and Vania Martinez came in 6th and 7th respectively competing in the 5A-6A division.

GHS Football: Varsity makes its home debut here next Friday (Sept. 6) vs. Glen Rose, which is ranked No. 4 in 4A-Div. II. The Hornets likely still have a bad taste in their mouth from last year's last-second 21-20 loss to the Tigers, who advanced to the semifinals last season.

GHS Team Tennis: The Hornets begin the District 7-4A schedule here Tuesday vs. Stephenville. It will be the first of four league matches for GHS, which has won fall district titles

three times in the last four seasons and advanced to the playoffs seven years in a row.

GHS Volleyball ends its grueling 3-week tournament stretch today in Athens. The Hornets will have played some 22-23 matches in 21 days, including a championship-winning effort in the GHS Invitational that punctuated a 6-0 week.

Notes and dotes

Hornet softball has a pair of college-bound commits - Raylee Glover is headed to Weatherford College, while Kinlee Gardner will play at Navarro College. Word is there will be at least one more college commit as well from the GHS Softball fold.

GHS-ex Sydney Mundkowsky (Class of 2019) is a graduate student on the Radford University volleyball team. The Highlands opened their season last

night in Pennsylvania, and several of their games will be live-streamed on ESPN+ this fall.

Many thanks to a lot of folks and businesses that have been consistent contributors to our athletic events and programs... scoreboard sponsors, tournament donors, hospitality room providers, monetary contributors for extra needs that we might have. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated and never goes unnoticed.

Heat issues, Nutrition 101

One of the issues school districts and athletic programs across the state are always dealing with is weather, especially this time of year with excessive heat that affects workouts for sports and all outdoor extracurricular activities.

GISD athletic trainer Tatianna Navarro reported several days ago that even with a week full of 100-degree days, there were no heat-related illnesses with any GHS or GJHS workouts. Our coaches take great precaution when it comes to outdoor workouts and the extreme weather, and Coach Navarro has taken the lead in implementing UIL-recom-

mended heat guidelines for the 2024-2025 school year.

"My preparations started last school year," she admits. "As soon as the UIL released its recommendations, I reviewed their statement and sent an email to our athletic staff on the addition to our weather policy. Thankfully, this year's UIL recommendations are nothing new to our athletics department. We established their '24-'25 recommendations as our '23-'24 policy. To us, this is nothing out of the ordinary; it's a daily habit of our coaches to look at the current wet bulb globe temperature before heading out for practice and adjust accordingly."

With the threat of heat issues always present, the athletic staff has plans in place in case of any sudden emergency.

"One addition to our plan was immediate access to cold water immersion," Navarro noted. "We gave every coach access to our ice bath tubs, taught coaches how to use those ice baths, and found a quicker solution for cold water immersion for our outdoor playing fields that are over a block from the athletic training room."

And, hats off to the dozens of Hornet athletes that participated in summer speed and strength workouts and sport-specific practices. No doubt the great turnout of athletes that were involved in those

workouts helped get those kids acclimated to the heat and related early-season conditions.

Another emphasis within our program has been the approach to students' healthy living and nutrition and how important those things can be in the daily lives of athletes. With the help of a registered sports nutritionist, GISD Athletics hosted a Nutrition 101 Presentation in late July.

"The biggest challenge is getting the importance of healthy eating, staying hydrated, and replenishing electrolytes to each and every athlete," she admitted. "Whether they work out primarily outside or not, it is a vital component to exceptional performance. We have several hundred athletes between the high school and junior high. To be able to get the message to every single one is a difficult feat but as an athletic program, I would say we have done very well. And I speak to a different athlete every day to find what's missing from their nutrition habits and how they can move in a positive direction."

Besides the nutrition program and partnering with a registered nutritionist, GISD Athletics also created a discussion board in sportsYou for parents and athletes to ask questions and receive weekly tips. Coaches at all levels have dedicated time going over the information and

discussing the importance of nutrition and a healthy lifestyle with our athletes.

If you are interested in contributing monetarily to help fund a healthy snack bar for GISD student-athletes, contact me at rgphilli@gatesvilleisd.org.

Follow us on social media

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X - @FightinHornets
Web - www.gatesvilleathletics.com

Upcoming schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 3
Tennis: Varsity vs. Stephenville
Volleyball: Varsity-JV-9th at West
Wednesday, Sept. 4
Cross Country: 7th-8th at Belton meet
Thursday, Sept. 5
Football: JV-9th at Glen Rose
Football: JV White at China Spring
Tennis: JV at Stephenville
Volleyball: JV-9th in Academy tournament
Volleyball: 7th-8th A-B at Lorena
Friday, Sept. 6
Football: Varsity vs. Glen Rose
Volleyball: Varsity-JV-9th vs. Glen Rose
Saturday, Sept. 7
Cross Country: Varsity-JV at Region III Showcase
Volleyball: JV-9th at Academy tournament

**HORNET FIGHT
NEVER DIES!**

GHS 50 and 40-year class reunions to be held Sept. 21

Submitted Item

The Gatesville High School classes of 1974 and 1984 will host their 50th and 40th class reunions at Texas Station Event Center on Saturday, Sept. 21, beginning at 5 p.m.

There will be a catered meal served at 6:30 p.m., with live music to start at 7:30 p.m.

Additional informa-

tion about homecoming weekend can be found on the respective Facebook pages for each class or the Gatesville ISD website. The announcement may be updated as further details are obtained prior to the event. Texas Station Event Center is located at 305 Old Fort Gates Road in Gatesville.

Gatesville Country Club to host homecoming scramble

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Country Club will host a Gatesville Homecoming Scramble on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m.

The scramble will cost \$75 for each golfer or \$300 per team. There will be hole in one prizes, raffle items, and a silent auction.

Lunch will be served fol-

lowing the event.

All proceeds from the scramble will benefit local non-profit organization Charlie's Wags and Whiskers.

For further details, contact the Gatesville Country Club at 254-865-6917.

The Gatesville Country Club is located at 1308 Golf Course Road.



Charles Walter (middle holding helmet) is pictured at a recent Oglesby ISD board meeting.

COURTESY PHOTO

Walter honored at OISD board meeting

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Oglesby Independent School District recently had the honor of recognizing Charles Walter, also known as, "The Voice of Oglesby,"

at a recent board meeting this past week.

Walter was chosen as the community spotlight for the month of August due to his continuous support of the school district.

He has been the voice of the Tigers for over 30 years, as he has been the announcer at every Oglesby High School football game since he retired at the end of last season.

"We wanted to honor him for all his years of service to the district," Oglesby ISD Superintendent Shane Webb said.

GHS STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GISD superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard, is pictured with Nevin Benning, choir director Cherith Wells, and GHS principal, Liz Shoaf.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Dr. Pollard is pictured with the 2024 Hornet Baseball Team, their head coach, Chase Smith, and GHS Principal, Liz Shoaf.

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

During the August 19th meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, several individuals were included in the "spotlight." GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard had the following to say about these individuals:

Student Spotlight:

We want to recognize GHS Choir student Nevin Benning on being selected as an Outstanding Performer

at the 2024 UIL Texas State Solo and Ensemble Competition. On May 27th, 11 students from GHS Choir traveled to the Austin area to compete at the TS-SEC. These students were chosen from approximately 100,000 musicians from around the state who qualified for TSSEC. Each singer performs their memorized solo for a judge who gives them a rating. Additionally, each judge can designate certain spectacular perfor-

mances to receive an Outstanding Performer award. Only roughly 2% of all the performances earn this distinguished honor! In recognition of this honor, each student is awarded a gold UIL State Champion medal. Nevin Benning, a current Junior, performed "The Vagabond" by Ralph Vaughan Williams. His judge was immediately impressed and stated that Nevin should definitely study music in college. Nevin makes the

4th Outstanding Performer from GHS Choir in the past six years. Please help us recognize Nevin Benning.

Coach / Team Spotlight:

We want to honor the 2024 Hornet Baseball Team as well as their head coach Chase Smith. GHS finished with an overall record of 23 wins, 14 losses, and one tie despite playing a very demanding schedule. The Hornets tied for second place in play and ended

up advancing three rounds deep into the postseason, eventually losing to district rival Salado in a best-of-three playoff series. The team consisted of outstanding young men and were led by GHS head coach Chase Smith. Coach Smith has been at the helm of the Hornet baseball program now for four seasons. During that time, GHS has posted three winning seasons and advanced to the playoffs in three of those four years.

Smith and the Hornets have advanced to the regional quarterfinals in each of the past two seasons. He has done an outstanding job of increasing interest in the GHS program and increasing the number of players in the program. In addition, Coach Smith does a fantastic job of teaching all our business marketing classes. Please help us honor Coach Smith and the 2024 baseball team.

2024-2025 4-H year to begin Sept. 1

Submitted by Becky Coward

The 2024-2025 4-H year officially kicks off Sept. 1, with early enrollment beginning in August. Coryell 4-H of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is excited to welcome new and returning members to another year of 4-H programming and opportunity with 15 different clubs available for membership.

4-H is a club for youth ages eight to 18 in grades third through 12th. All youth can join 4-H for \$25 each and will select one or many projects to participate in from the categories of agriculture and livestock, family and community health, leadership and citizenship, natural resources, and STEM. Community service, leadership, and

scholarship opportunities are also included in the offerings of this program that reaches more than 550,000 youth in Texas each year.

"When I think of 4-H, I think of opportunities - opportunities for members, for families, for growth, for building upon interests, and more," Dr. Montza Williams, Texas 4-H Youth Development Program Director said. "One of the most exciting parts of the new 4-H year is new opportunity."

Not only do youth gain knowledge in the topic area of their choice, but life skills like communication, teamwork, citizenship, giving back, and working hard are also obtained along every step of the way.

"I always want to see us grow - grow in numbers, spirit, development of opportunities, development

of our kids," Dr. Williams said. "I also hope to see our members grow in their friendships and connections. 4-H is rich in the opportunity to make friends who are interested in the same things you are."

The new 4-H year is not only exciting for members, but for 4-H volunteers as well. The Texas 4-H program thrives on adult volunteers, with more than 30,000 registered and background-check-approved volunteers, annually.

"The volunteers are what make this program accessible to all youth," Dr. Williams said. "We are incredibly thankful for the work our volunteers do across the state and encourage adults that have a skill to share to reach out to their County Extension Office about becoming a 4-H

volunteer."

The Coryell County AgriLife Extension Office, or Becky Coward, 4-H Youth & Development Agent, can be located at 303 Veteran's Memorial Loop in Gatesville, via email at becky.coward@ag.tamu.edu or by phone at 254-865-2414. More

Information about 4-H enrollment or events can be found at coryell.agrilife.org or texas4-h.tamu.edu.

Coryell County 4-H will be having a kick-off event on Sept. 7 from 9-11 a.m. at the Gatesville Civic Center and invite local families interested in 4-H to join for the fun as we showcase clubs, project and offer Ag Olympics obstacle course.

For more information, contact Coward at the County Extension Office at 254-865-2414.



Becky Coward

COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby ISD to provide mental health services to students

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Oglesby Independent School District provides various educational programs to students and extracurricular activities as well as different avenues for those who are in need of mental health services.

"Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being that affects how we think, feel, and act and is extremely important at every stage of life from childhood through adulthood," Oglesby ISD Counselor Megan Nichols said. "It plays a vital role in a student's education and overall well-being while impacting many

aspects of a student's life."

Nichols expressed that the district is looking forward to offering Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) mental health services for the second consecutive year as well as introducing a new program for their high school students, which is called the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program.

The YAM program is offered to all high school students at Oglesby ISD and is free of charge as well as confidential.

YAM is a five-session interactive program for high school students, which will take place in November.

It is designed to improve understanding and awareness of mental health.

The Dell Medical School team at the University of Texas at Austin, also known as the YAM team, will lead each of the mental health sessions for the entirety of the program. The YAM team will provide students with an evidence-based curriculum that will focus on six main themes, which include What is Mental Health, Self-Help Advice, Stress and Crisis, Depression and Suicide Prevention, Helping a Friend in Need, and Who Can I Ask for Advice.

Students will develop problem-solving skills and build on emotional intelli-

gence through lectures, discussion, and role-playing.

Nichols explained that students will be asked to keep any personal experiences and perspectives shared by other students confidential. They will also be encouraged to continue to discuss the topics and materials of YAM with friends, family, and teachers to further their understanding of mental health.

She said that the program empowers youth by teaching them how to seek help for themselves and their peers.

"Guardians and school staff can support our students by having discussions about mental health,"

she said. "Helpful tips and conversations with students to discuss their thoughts and feelings about mental health and related topics are embedded within the curriculum provided by the YAM team."

"Self-advocacy is an important part of the development of all students, especially when preparing for the next step after high school," she said. "Self-awareness is the ability to recognize, understand, and label one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors. It allows students to find who they are, build confidence, and make the best choice for themselves; reinforcing this helps our students

identify and build upon their strengths, improve their weaknesses, concentrate on specific areas, and deal with the stress and pressure they face in today's world."

"Our students already do an amazing job being team players and looking out for one another; with this program they will be able to practice seeking help for themselves and/or friends in difficult situations," she said.

To learn more about TCHAT or YAM services, visit sites.utexas.edu/tchat.

Lil' Hornet Cheer Camp to be held Oct. 12

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School cheer program will host a Lil' Hornet Cheer Camp on Saturday, Oct. 12 for kindergarten through sixth grade students looking to strengthen their cheerleading skills.

The fall clinic will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and it will take place at Gatesville High School in the Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium, located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

Registration will be open from Monday, Sept. 2 to Wednesday, Sept. 25. Contact Cheer Directors Amber Colson by email at acolson@gatesvilleisd.org or Cassie Perez by email at cperez@gatesvilleisd.org.

RECIPE

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

SCALLOPED POTATOES

By Dorothy Lovelace

- 8 med. potatoes
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- ¾ c. canned milk
- 1 c. skim milk
- 2 T. dried onions or ½ minced onions
- 2/3 c. sour cream
- ½ c. grated cheese

Par-boil 8 medium potatoes with skins on for 20 minutes. Let it cool enough to peel skins off. Cover the bottom of a Pyrex dish with sliced potatoes and add salt and pepper to taste.

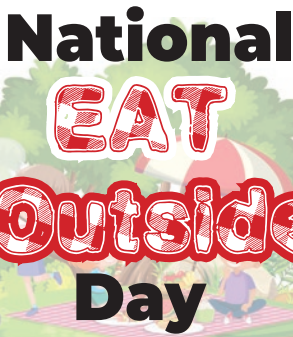
Combine and heat cream of mushroom soup, canned milk, skim milk, and onions. Heat until hot in microwave and stir well. Then add sour cream and stir. Pour over potatoes. Dot with butter and black pepper.

Cover and bake at 350 for 45 minutes. Sprinkle top with grated cheddar cheese and return to oven without lid to heat for 5 minutes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SALT & LAVENDER

Scalloped Potatoes



Aug 31, 2024

Are you ready to take your meals to new heights? On August 31st, get ready to celebrate National Eat Outside Day by enjoying your favorite foods in the great outdoors!

National Eat Outside Day is all about embracing nature, soaking up the sunshine, and savoring delicious meals al fresco style. Whether you're picnicking in the park, dining on the patio, or having a backyard barbecue, this special day encourages everyone to step outside and enjoy the beauty of nature while en-

joying good food and great company.

There's something magical about eating outside - the fresh air, the warm sunshine, and the sounds of nature all around. It's a chance to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and connect with the world around us in a meaningful way.

So, how can you celebrate National Eat Outside Day on August 31st? The options are endless!

Gather your friends and family for a picnic in the park, complete with sandwiches, salads, and refreshing drinks. Spread out a

blanket, lay out some tasty treats, and enjoy a leisurely meal surrounded by nature's beauty.

If you prefer a more casual affair, fire up the grill and host a backyard barbecue. Grill up some burgers, hot dogs, and veggies, and invite your loved ones to join you for an outdoor feast filled with laughter and good times.

Feeling adventurous? Pack a backpack with some snacks and hit the trails for a scenic hike. Find a picturesque spot along the way to stop and enjoy a picnic lunch while taking in breathtaking views of the

great outdoors.

No matter how you choose to celebrate, National Eat Outside Day is all about enjoying delicious food in the fresh air and sunshine. So grab your picnic basket, fire up the grill, or lace up your hiking boots, and let's make August 31st a day to remember!

Remember, the most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the simple pleasures of outdoor dining with friends and family. Happy National Eat Outside Day, everyone! Let's make it a deliciously memorable celebration!

Picnic

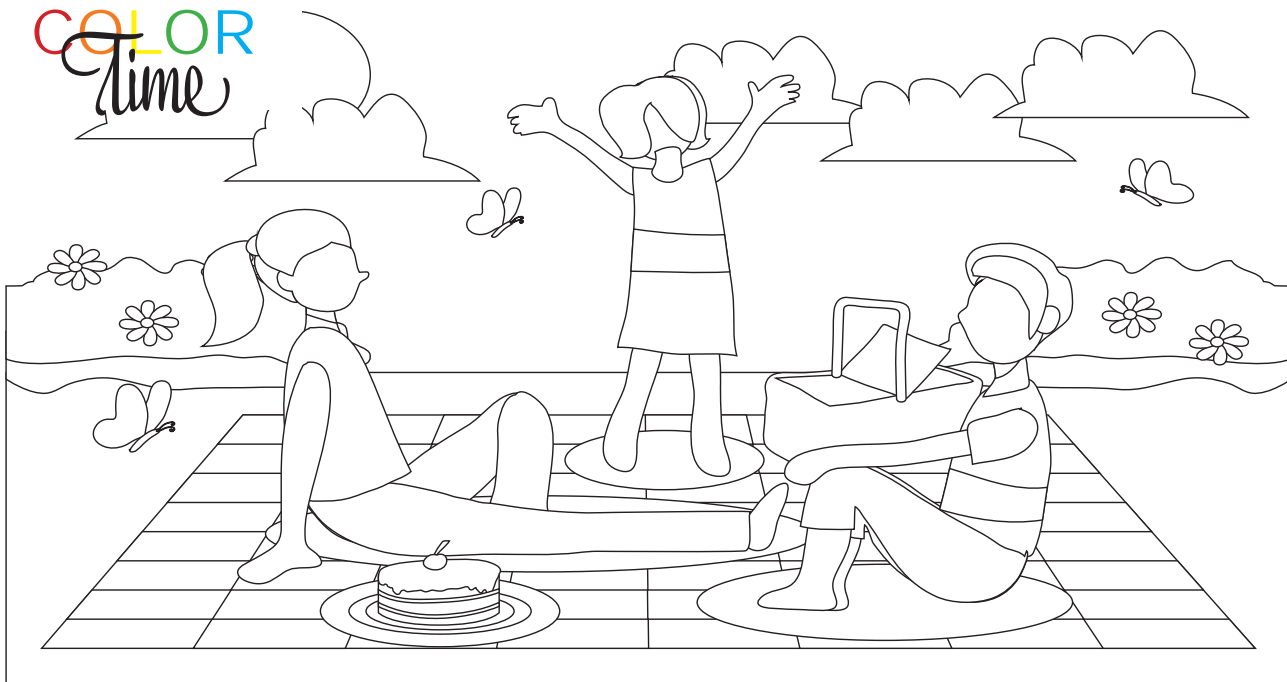
Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

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

Word Bank

- 1. nature
- 2. hiking
- 3. camping
- 4. table
- 5. basket
- 6. park
- 7. lunch
- 8. picnic
- 9. scenic
- 10. sandwich
- 11. blanket

COLOR
Time



Did You Know?



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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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MEET THE HORNETS

EVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Independent School District hosted its annual Meet the Hornets program to kick off the school year and football season on Wednesday, Aug. 21. During the evening, high school athletic teams were recognized and introduced, and performances were given by the Gatesville High School Band, the Dazzlers, and both varsity and junior varsity cheerleading teams. An ice cream social was held as well.



Happy Birthday, Barbara!

We hope you enjoy your birthday on Sept. 3.

*Love,
Your Messenger Family*



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LABOR DAY

Celebrate working men and women

Labor Day is a bit of a misnomer. While it may seem like a day devoted to work, many workers in the United States and Canada don't work at all on Labor Day.

Labor Day is much more than the unofficial end to summer. Labor Day weekend tends to be the last big travel weekend before the holiday season, benefitting towns and businesses that cater to tourists. But while road trips and backyard barbecues are now staples of Labor Day, the origins of the holiday bear little resemblance to the celebrations of today.

Labor Day in the United States dates back to the 19th century, though its origins are still debated by historians. According to the United States Department of Labor, recent research supports the idea that Labor Day was the brainchild of machinist Matthew Maguire, who supposedly devised the idea in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. Others attribute the holiday to Peter J. McGuire, a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor and general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

Historians say the first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York. This was based on plans from Maguire's Central Labor Union. Other states and cities would eventually adopt the first Monday in

September as Labor Day. As labor unions grew, other cities started celebrating Labor Day, which McGuire suggested should be a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

Soon the popularity of Labor Day grew and recognition by the government followed. By 1885, municipal ordinances recognizing Labor Day had been passed, and they inspired state legislation. While Labor Day was first celebrated in New York in 1887, the state of Oregon became the first state to officially pass a law recognizing the first Monday of September as Labor Day. New York, along with Colorado, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, implemented Labor Day observations soon after.

On June 28, 1894, Congress officially passed an act that declared the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday. This applied to all states as well as the District of Columbia. Labor Day also is celebrated on the first Monday of September in Canada, where the day celebrates workers and the labor union movement.

It's important for people living in North America to recognize both the significance and the history of Labor Day, which is about far more than backyard barbecues and the last of summer jaunts to the beach.















Fastest Growing occupations

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified these 20 occupations as the highest projected percent change of employment between 2022-32, along with their median pay:

Wind turbine service technicians	45% Growth Rate	\$61,770 per year
Nurse practitioners	45% Growth Rate	\$126,260 per year
Data scientists	35% Growth Rate	\$108,020 per year
Statisticians	32% Growth Rate	\$104,110 per year
Information security analysts	32% Growth Rate	\$120,360 per year
Medical and health services managers	28% Growth Rate	\$110,680 per year
Epidemiologists	27% Growth Rate	\$81,390 per year
Physician assistants	27% Growth Rate	\$130,020 per year
Physical therapist assistants	26% Growth Rate	\$64,080 per year
Software developers	26% Growth Rate	\$132,270 per year
Occupational therapy assistants	24% Growth Rate	\$67,010 per year
Actuaries	23% Growth Rate	\$120,000 per year
Computer and information research scientists	23% Growth Rate	\$145,080 per year
Operations research analysts	23% Growth Rate	\$83,640 per year
Solar photovoltaic installers	22% Growth Rate	\$48,800 per year
Home health and personal care aides	22% Growth Rate	\$33,530 per year
Taxi drivers	21% Growth Rate	\$34,680 per year
Personal care and service workers, all other	21% Growth Rate	\$36,980 per year
Veterinary technologists and technicians	21% Growth Rate	\$43,740 per year
Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers	20% Growth Rate	\$36,440 per year

* Last date modified: April 17, 2024

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