



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Public shares concerns on county's tax rate increase

After the public hearing, Coryell County Commissioners passed a 7.5 cent tax rate increase of .44824 cents per \$100 valuation - a reduction in the proposed rate - to fund the budget for fiscal year 2025.

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Several residents spoke out about a proposed 10-cent tax rate increase during a Coryell County Commissioner Court public hearing on Thursday, Sept. 5.

County commissioners originally approved a proposed tax rate of .47370 cents per \$100 valuation,

a nearly 30% increase from last year's tax rate. During the public hearing, the Commissioners Court presented an amended budget that lowered the proposed tax rate by 2.5 cents.

Coryell County residents, Krisna Isham and Rephenia Graham, attended the meeting with two of their friends to share their concerns and, hopefully, make a differ-

ence.

"We felt like they were taxing us without giving us any information - timely information - or opportunities to help them rethink it," Isham said in an interview with The Messenger.

Residents asked the Commissioners Court for explanations about what led to the increase, including one who questioned how the

budget became so "bloated" that the county needed additional funding.

Commissioner Scott Weddle noted that one of the largest impacts on the budget comes from salary increases. Most of the raises targeted clerical positions such as county clerks and executive assistants. He said county clerks would receive a raise from \$25,800

to \$31,000.

County Judge Roger Miller added that at least 10 new positions were also added to the budget this year, but three of them are funded by grant money out of Senate Bill 22.

"I hope that helps kind of maybe explain what would be called the 'bloating of the budget,'" Weddle said. "But a vast area, I believe

last time I looked at our total expenses, 65-70% (is) of salaries (and) the rest is operating costs. So, people are very important, and they're also very expensive."

During the meeting, Graham shared that she agreed with giving raises to clerks or those in lower-level positions but felt that some of

PLEASE SEE **TAX** | A3



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A pecan tree located on the courthouse lawn has branches overloaded with pecans. Some branches are so loaded and heavy that they touch the ground.

Spring rains bolster pecan crops

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

This year, Texas pecan growers should see improved production due to the rainfall across the state.

"Agriculture is so deeply tied into the weather, but this year all the rain has been beneficial to a lot of areas in Texas. Its

recharged aquifers and reservoirs and all the irrigation water what's needed," said Blair Krebs, executive director of the Texas Pecan Growers Association.

"Texas pecan growers should see improved production this year thanks to all the rainfall across much of the state," she said.

Krebs said that several

years of drought and lack of available irrigation led to significant loss of pecan trees in the state. "We have seen tree loss, significant tree loss, particularly in the northern Central Texas area. We're thinking maybe even about 10% of some of the trees," she said.

Krebs remains hopeful that pecan growers will see

an increase in yield for this year's pecan crop. "The last two years have been tough, and we're hoping with all of this rain, this will continue and produce a good crop that is needed for these producers. We hope the market gets a bit stronger."

Pipeline through Coryell County to be discussed

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission invites Coryell County residents to a public scoping session to gather information from the public about the proposed pipeline. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Windmill Hill Venue located at 1808 Bridge Street in Gatesville.

The primary goal of these scoping sessions is to have the public identify specific environmental issues and concerns that should be considered in the environ-

mental document. Individual oral comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter. This format is designed to receive the maximum amount of oral comments in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted.

DeLa Express plans to construct and operate an approximately 645.5-mile-long, 42-inch-diameter natural gas transportation mainline pipeline originating in Winkler County, Texas to a termination point in

PLEASE SEE **PIPELINE** | A2

POW camp in Coryell County

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

During World War II, it was announced by Camp Hood (now known as Fort Hood or Fort Cavazos) that approximately 4,000 prisoners of war would be interned in the Gatesville area as of May 15, 1943.

Some 3,000 prisoners were assigned to the northern area of Camp Hood, just south of Gatesville in a prisoner of war camp, which included German and Italian prisoners. According to the Geneva Convention, prisoners had to be placed in the same climate and geographical terrain as where they were captured. Texas was a favorite area for POW camps since most of the prisoners that were transported to Coryell County were captured in North Africa and Italy, so the Southwest was an ideal location for their camps.

In The Gatesville Messenger in January of 1943, it was announced that "World War II would be coming a little closer to home" with the creation of the internment camp.

The internment camp was constructed in less than five months in a remote area of Coryell County. It was described as having barracks, latrines, shower buildings, an infirmary, mess halls, PX, recreational areas, store houses, workshops, and other facilities necessary to conduct the day-to-day affairs of a POW camp.

In addition, it was reported that there was one remote section that included a cemetery to accommodate the prisoners that died during their stay on Texas soil. One prisoner, Kurt Winkler, was buried

PLEASE SEE **CAMP** | A2



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Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor

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Second service at 11:00 a.m.

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CAMP

FROM PAGE A1

in the cemetery on June 9, 1944, after he was reported to have drowned in the Cowhouse Creek while on a work detail.

It was later reported that evidence remained of the German cemetery, which contained flat pieces of sandstone to mark the graves, while other graves were marked by cedar posts about 18 inches high. Other reports mention that some of the German soldiers were buried at nearby Pleasant Grove Cemetery, but due to anti-German sentiments, they were buried outside the fence which surrounded the cemetery.

It was written that the prisoners escaped regularly, and that "Gatesville residents had to cope with German prisoners seeking freedom to the south in Mexico."

Joe White, a former Coryell County sheriff, once said, "They would walk off from their work details while the guards weren't looking. They never gave any trouble to the civilians in the area though, and I don't recall any of them ever breaking into buildings or stealing autos."

White continued, "Nearly all of them could speak English and I would have

some interesting conversations with them while taking them back to the camp. Most of them just wanted to return home, and every one of them I ever talked to firmly believed that Hitler would come to rescue them and win the war."

In June of 1943, four prisoners escaped while on work duty. With the help of bloodhounds and FBI involvement, the men were eventually captured - one of which Hans Massoueur, age 21, who was apprehended by three citizens of Flat.

A few months later, in September, it was reported in the newspaper that Bloodhounds from the State Training School were thrown into an intensive manhunt, which resulted in the capture of two escapees "who were quickly taken into custody and hurried back to the Camp Hood stockade."

When the prisoners arrived at the POW camp in Coryell County, a headline appeared in The Gatesville Messenger which read, "War Prisoners Can Be Employed for Local Farm Labor." With so many of the "local boys" overseas fighting in World War II, farms were in dire need for farm laborers.

Conditions were placed on the work program - farmers must furnish transportation and live within 30 miles of the prison camp. In

addition, it was a rule that not less than 15 prisoners were to be sent out at one time to a farm, since a smaller number would necessitate too many guard details. Three guards were sent with a group of 15.

Feeding the workers, as well as guarding them, was the responsibility of the internment camp. Food was prepared and served by prisoners of war labor. It was also reported that the employer would pay prevailing wages for free labor - in no case was the amount paid to be less than 80 cents a day, plus the cost of an Army ration, which was then 64 cents.

According to the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners, it said provided that their labor could be used for purely non-military purposes, and that the type of work done should not be dangerous or degrading.

Unwilling though they were, the German laborers were welcomed by farmers and ranchers in Coryell County to help restore life on the farm with so many young men who had been plucked from their homes and transformed into soldiers.

Walter Mack, who was a civilian guard, said, "Most of them [the prisoners] were very upset about being held in that camp, and they all wanted to go home, of

course. There were all kinds in there, well educated and not-so-well educated, just like you find in any Army. They came from all walks of life and were all just soldiers, just like out boys that happened to get captured."

In addition to farm laborers, some of the prisoners exhibited craftsmanship in various fields they were employed back in Germany. The Gatesville Museum and Historical Center has two items that were handcrafted by German craftsmen. A wooden chest of drawers is located in the museum, which was first purchased by Weldon and Ida Lee Rogers in the 1940s. They were told that it had been made by German POW's at Camp Hood. Some of the prisoners, who as civilians prior to the war, had made furniture.

Another item at the museum with ties to the Camp Hood internment camp is a painting, which was recently donated to the museum by the Scott family. The painting, which is 11x14 in size, depicts a "prayer station" with the Swiss Alps shown as a backdrop. Although it cannot be distinguished exactly who the German artist was, it appears to be someone named "Rudolph."

Following the war, the internment camp fell victim to the rapidly-growing brushland, however, when



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A painting created by a German POW at the internment camp near Gatesville. The painting was identified as a "prayer station" in the Swiss Alps. The painting was recently donated to the museum by the Scott family.

the prisoners were moved out of the area in the mid-1940s and returned to their homeland, after the last Germans had departed, according to records found at Fort Hood, the camp became known as the Southern Branch of the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks where

law-breaking American soldiers replaced the sons of Germany that had come to know the climate of Central Texas so well.

PIPELINE

FROM PAGE A1

Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The project would also consist of six lateral pipelines (totaling 139 miles). The DeLa Express Project would provide about 2 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas transportation from the Permian Basin in

West Texas to Gulf Coast markets between Jefferson County, Texas and Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

Central Texas counties that will be affected by the pipeline include Coryell, Hamilton, McLennan, and Bell. The Commission will use this environmental document in a decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience

and necessity.

Public comments may be submitted to the Commission in Washington, DC on or before 5 p.m. Eastern time on Sept. 23, 2024. Comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Commission staff will consider all written or oral comments

during the preparation of the environmental document.

An informal meeting was hosted by DeLa Express in June of this year so that residents of Coryell County could learn more about the proposed pipeline and how it might impact area properties. Some residents expressed some opposition to the proposed pipeline: They stated that it would

destroy portions of their property, hurt land values, and, sometimes, impede access to and from their homes.

A representative of DeLa Express said that they would file their application for the pipeline in February of 2025 and probably get the permit in the first or second quarter of 2026. The representative said that construction of the pipeline

would begin about 2026 and is projected to be in operation in 2028.

Additional information about the project is available from the Federal Regulatory Commission's Office of External Affairs at 866-208-FERC or their website www.ferc.gov

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Saturday Sports Injury Clinic Practitioners



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HELP US HONOR OUR LOCAL VETERANS

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Include name of veteran, branch of service, years served, and a photo.



SUBMIT YOUR VETERAN HERE



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

And just like that ... it was fall

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

As I arrived at the newspaper early Saturday morning and got out of my car, the first crisp breath of autumn swept across the landscape and was inhaled deep into my lungs.

The sensation came out of nowhere, and that single cool breath told me the world had begun a magical transformation. The sweltering hot days of summer were being pushed into winter hibernation. The summer sounds of boating on the lake, or the revelry heard from the neighborhood swimming pools, were being silenced. A change was underway.

While the process for summer to completely disappear will take weeks, it is inevitable. Of course, in Texas, there will always be the late fall dose of

“Indian Summer,” where the temperatures jump into the high 80s as summer fights to survive for just a few more days. But despite a last minute “hurrah,” summer’s end is as certain as death and taxes. It is part of the natural order of things.

The coming of fall brings a unique sensory experience. The air becomes cooler and carries a distinctive crispness. The smell of fallen leaves and wood smoke fills the atmosphere as people start using their fireplaces or outdoor fire pits. Meanwhile, the ground is often covered in

a blanket of fallen leaves, creating a satisfying crunch underfoot. I appreciate the immediate and striking transformation of foliage as trees don their autumn coats of gold, crimson and amber, creating a breathtaking panorama and eliminating any doubt of the presence of a higher being in our lives.

Autumn’s culinary offerings are a highlight of the season. Pumpkin spice, which has become a cultural phenomenon, makes its grand return in everything from lattes to pastries. Apples are in their prime, leading to a resurgence of apple pies, cider, and crisp, fresh apple slices. Sweet potatoes and root vegetables start appearing in hearty stews and roasts. These seasonal ingredients not only highlight the flavors of fall, but also inspire cozy, comforting recipes. I will wager that 90% of stew and chili is consumed from October through February.

Fall is a time rich with festivals and traditions. Halloween kicks off the season with a celebration of all things spooky and fun. From carving pumpkins to dressing up in costumes

and attending haunted houses, Halloween is a time for creativity and community. Shortly after, Thanksgiving offers a moment to gather with loved ones and reflect on gratitude, featuring traditional meals centered around turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce. These holidays are deeply woven into the fabric of autumn and bring people together in celebration and reflection.

As the temperatures drop, there is a noticeable shift in activities. Outdoor pursuits such as hiking are more popular, with cooler weather making it pleasant to explore trails and enjoy the changing scenery. Football season kicks off, bringing communities together to cheer on their favorite teams. The shorter days and longer nights also encourage indoor activities like reading, knitting, or watching movies by the fireplace.

Fall fashion is characterized by layers and textures. The arrival of cooler weather means swapping out summer wardrobes for cozy sweaters, scarves, and boots. Earthy tones and rich fabrics like wool

and flannel come into play. Home decor also undergoes a transformation as people embrace autumn-themed decorations. Wreaths made of leaves, pumpkins, and warm-toned candles add a seasonal touch to homes.

Finally, fall serves as a poignant reminder of the passage of time. The shortening of days and lengthening shadows evoke a sense of reflection and transition. It’s a period that encourages people to slow down, appreciate the moment, and prepare for the coming winter. It makes many of us stop and think about the “autumn” of our lives and savor the time before the bell tolls.

Fall is a season of transformation and transition. From the spectacular

display of nature’s colors to the shift in activities, food and fashion, autumn is a time rich with experiences that engage the senses and invite reflection. Whether you’re reveling in the seasonal flavors or enjoying the crisp air, fall offers a unique and cherished chapter in the annual cycle of life. Enjoy it while it lasts because just as certain that it is coming, it will soon end.

Thought for the day: There are two types of people in the world: those who enjoy watching football while enjoying a bowl of chili and a cool libation, and those who are wrong and have no sense of taste.

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

**TAX**

FROM PAGE A1

the costs needed to come off the “top” areas that hold most of the expenses.

“I don’t think anybody in that meeting was not behind giving them a little bit of a raise,” Graham told The Messenger. “I think what every one of us was behind was taking something off the top instead of the bottom.”

Residents called out elected officials who approved salary increases for themselves – \$3,000 for the commissioners and other elected officials, \$7,000 for the county judge, and \$15,000 for the county attorney.

Commissioner Ryan Basham noted at the meeting that he denied his raise.

“There’s a requirement of the state statute that the commissioner’s court vote on those elected officials’ salary increases,” Miller said. “There was a meeting held, discussions held, and those salary increases as they relate to the elected officials were adopted by this court.”

Isham said one of her biggest concerns was the spending of grant money that appears to have led to the budget’s increase. “When you get grant money, it’s temporary, and you don’t make permanent positions with grant money,” she said.

In a previous public meeting, Commissioner Kyle Matthews explained that the largest factors in the proposed budget increase is the county not planning for the depletion of around \$14 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds that were distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The county used the money

to fund salaries, county departments, broadband technology, and more.

Some residents also called out that the proposed tax rate fell just below the voter approval rate, leaving some to wonder if the county was attempting to avoid an election. The first proposed tax rate (.47370 cents) fell just under the voter-approval tax rate of .47376 cents; therefore, the county was not required to hold a special election where voters can approve or reject the rate.

Miller responded to the concerns.

“With respect to the voter approval rate, the proposed budget did come in under the voter approval rate, and I knew in submitting that proposed budget (that) it was very, very likely that expenditures were going to be reduced, which would in fact reduce the property tax increase,” Miller said. Another attendee, Matt Dossey, asked the court why the hearing was held in the morning rather than the evening when more members of the public could attend and provide input.

“This is the one level where citizens should have a say in their local government, and, I think the way the citizens are feeling right now, is that they don’t have a say,” Dossey said.

In an interview with the Messenger, Miller blamed part of the increase on two major construction projects that went over their initial budgets – the jail expansion and new 440th District Court building. He said almost three cents of the tax rate increase is to offset the overspend.

“The taxpayers are having

to absorb the tail end of our over expenses in construction projects,” Miller said.

The county used about \$7 million in ARPA money to help fund the two projects.

“When people are asking ‘Where did this ARPA money go? Well, more than half of it went to this project down here,’” Miller said.

BUDGET AND TAX RATE APPROVAL

The Commissioners Court eventually approved the amended budget and a tax rate of .44824 cents per \$100 valuation at the end of the meeting, which will raise taxes by 7.5 cents, an approximate 22% increase from last year’s tax rate of .37328 cents.

At first, Matthews made a motion not to adopt the proposed budget so the commissioners could make additional cuts. However, County Attorney Brandon Belt referred to a local government code 111.008 that requires the court to approve a budget following a public hearing.

Before approving the budget, the Commissioners Court made last-minute cuts to funds in several areas, including in the Coryell County Sheriff’s Office and Road and Bridge Department budgets.

The largest cut was in the emergency management fund, a position that has been vacant for about two years and was budgeted for nearly \$116,000 in the county’s original proposed budget for fiscal year 2025. With the amendment, the space now holds \$10,000.

The funds in emergency management were previously used for the recent flood disaster and preparations for the total solar

eclipse. Miller, who oversees emergency management, opposed defunding the department, claiming that it saves the county only 1/5 of a penny.

“From my standpoint, it impacts me directly, and it will be a decrease in the level of service to the county,” Miller said. “What we’re saving from a financial standpoint, I think we are losing tremendously.”

The amended budget passed by a 3-2 vote, and the tax rate passed by 4-1. Basham voted “no” to both the budget and tax rate, while Miller voted “no” to the budget.

The first proposed budget raised more revenue from property taxes by \$4.3 million, which is about a 33.24% increase from last year. Matthews said the new, approved tax rate reduced revenue by about \$1.1 million.

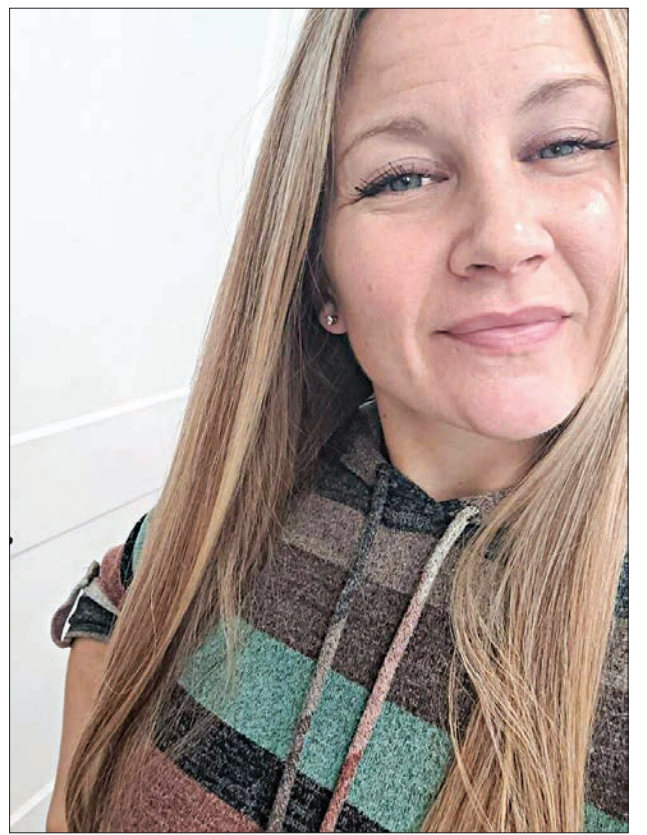
Weddle said, during the meeting, that any additional cuts in the budget would go to the county’s reserve fund, which serves as a savings for any unexpected costs.

Despite the increase, Graham and Isham told The Messenger that they appreciate the county’s effort in listening to the public trying to cut spending where possible.

“I’m really happy that our appearance made a difference,” Isham said.

“I appreciate the work that they did to get it down that far, but 22% is still a pretty hefty amount.” Graham adds.

As of press time, the approved budget for fiscal year 2025 has not been filed yet on the Coryell County Clerk website.

Folks
around town

COURTESY PHOTO

Heather Gribble

Say hello to our neighbor, Heather Gribble!

Heather has been the full-time manager at local family-owned restaurant J&M’s Hill Country Bar-B-Q for 20 years. She expressed that there are many reasons why she loves her job, but she is most thankful that she gets to work with some of the greatest people whom have become her best friends. “I also have some pretty special customers,” she said. “Most importantly, I love that I have the opportunity to continue the legacy my father started by giving back and serving the community.” She has lived in Gatesville since 1996 and enjoys how the community comes together to help each other out through tough times. “We’re basically one big family,” she said.

Heather reads The Gatesville Messenger and said that she likes reading, “Whatever Happened To...”

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



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Community unites in 24-hour prayer vigil ahead of national election

Submitted Item

The community came together in a powerful display of unity and faith, lifting up prayers for our nation and various needs. Youth and leaders from the First Methodist Church (FMC) gathered at midnight, joining a continuous stream of church members who began praying in the sanctuary at 6 a.m. this past Saturday.

The vigil was a testament to unwavering commitment, which was extended through the night and concluded at 6 a.m.

Coryell Community

Church (CCC) also opened its doors for a 24-hour prayer vigil, welcoming its congregation and others to participate in this time of prayer. In a spirit of collaboration, CCC and FMC used a shared prayer guide that emphasized several key elements. The elements included confession, where participants acknowledged their sins and sought forgiveness; praise, reflecting on the nature of God; thanksgiving, recognizing God's work in their lives; intercession, praying on behalf of others and specific situations; and petition,

where individuals prayed for their own needs, guided by the Lord's Prayer.

Other churches across the area participated in their own ways, with many individuals joining the prayer vigil from wherever they were and whenever they could.

As the nation approaches the upcoming election, now just 58 days away, the community is encouraged to continue in prayer. The National Day of Prayer invites everyone to receive daily prayer prompts by texting PRAYGOV to 833-259-8648.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYCE TALBOTT

Members of the youth group at First Methodist Church (FMC) are pictured with leaders while meeting in the sanctuary to pray at midnight for the 24-hour prayer vigil.

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The fiddle maker doesn't play



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Robert Lewis, of Colorado City, collects bottles, arrowheads, and coins. But, of all his hobbies, there is one he likes the best. He makes fiddles. Each one takes a year to complete.

His living room is decorated with fiddles he has made from scratch.

"I'll tell you a little secret about making fiddles," says Robert. "If you're not in the mood to work on a fiddle, don't go out to the shop. If you're in the mood to work on it, you'll do good. But, if you aren't, you're going to mess up something."

His daddy made a fiddle, and Robert thought that was cool.

"I had my grandfather Lewis's old fiddle, you know. So, I went to the lumberyard and got me a white pine board wide enough so I could draw that fiddle off with a pencil. I made my first fiddle with just a pocketknife and coping saw 'cause I didn't

have any other tools. I bought a book for \$3: 'How To Make Your Own Violin.' He made that first fiddle in 1966.

Robert worked in the Mitchell County Road and Bridge Department for 23 years. He retired in 1995 at the age of 62.

"When I was working for the county, I'd go to dump grounds and get coffee tables and stuff that had pretty good wood and make them out of that."

He has made 24 fiddles, one from cedar, another from mesquite. Most are from fine woods. He bought his first batch of good wood from a violin-maker in Abilene.

"I went over there when I retired from the county and asked if he would sell me wood to make a fiddle. He said, 'naw I wouldn't sell you wood to make just one fiddle, but I'll sell you enough to make 10.' So, I asked how much, and he said a thousand dollars.

And that was just boards in the rough. But it was wood that you're supposed to use."

He says a fiddle has 52 parts. He makes all of them by hand from his wide selection of tools. He has sold only two of his fiddles. He put a price tag of \$2,000 on each one. Both customers thought it was a bargain.

"I didn't make them to sell. It's just a hobby. I don't know how to play one other than to just plink around on it."

Robert has a bunch of granddaughters.

"I thought I'd give them as wedding presents. A handmade bow and fiddle in a case."

He is quick to point out the difference between a violin and a fiddle.

"I make fiddles. They carry a violin in a case. They carry a fiddle in a gunny sack."

SUDOKU

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

Puzzle answers from the Sep. 7, 2024 issue.

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

TDCJ accepting applications for Citizens' Academy in Gatesville

Press Release

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) is now accepting applications for its first Citizens' Academy in Gatesville. The Citizens' Academy offers a unique opportunity for community members to gain an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at one of the country's largest departments of corrections.

"TDCJ looks forward to bringing the Citizens' Academy to the community members in and around Gatesville," said Amanda Hernandez, Director of Communications. "Attendees will gain valuable insights into our daily operations, initiatives, and our unwavering commitment to public safety and the rehabilitation of those within our care."

The Citizens' Academy aims to foster meaning-

ful partnerships with the citizens of Gatesville and surrounding counties, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of the various functions of the TDCJ. The program will feature special presentations and tours by leadership from different agency departments.

CLASS INFORMATION

The academy consists of four sessions, held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 8 p.m., at various TDCJ sites in Gatesville. The classes will commence on Oct. 22, 2024 and conclude with a formal graduation ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024.

QUALIFICATIONS

This unique opportunity is open to adults aged 18 and older, and participation is completely free of charge. Interested individuals can apply by visiting the

Citizens' Academy webpage and completing the online application form.

TDCJ has hosted two Citizens' Academies in Huntsville and is excited to expand it to the Gatesville community. Here are testimonials from a few past participants:

"Having grown up in Huntsville, I knew a lot about TDCJ, but I realized I only knew a certain 'slice' of the agency. Highlights were meeting directors and deputy directors, touring facilities, hearing from inmates, and visiting the Walls Chapel," Huntsville resident Bridget Maloney said.

"I wanted to see what other community members thought of it and what I could bring back to the families as the Executive Director of the Texas Inmate Families Association (TIFA)," said Sharon McKin-

ney, TIFA executive director. "Seeing that there is truly an effort going on, like the 2030 plan and trying to get everyone a job, all those things are amazing, and I felt everything was very transparent."

"As a criminal justice student at Sam Houston State University and living in Huntsville where there are many prisons around, I was motivated to participate in the TDCJ Citizens' Academy to gain knowledge in my future career field and to experience an inside view of what plays a vital role in the city of Huntsville-prisons," SHSU student Alena Trawick said. "Coming out of the program, I learned that TDCJ is so much more than just prison cells and inmates. There are so many moving parts within the department that help achieve the ultimate mission of public

safety. I highly recommend the TDCJ Citizens' Academy to anyone interested in gaining further knowledge in our Texas correctional system. You won't be disappointed!"

For media inquiries, contact TDCJ Deputy Director of Communication Hannah Haney at 936-577-6052 or Hannah.Haney@tdcj.texas.gov



PHOTO COURTESY OF TDCJ MEDIA SERVICES 2013

In-service cadets spend hours in the Academy classroom receiving core curriculum instruction.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

Wal-Mart was building a new store in Gatesville on S. Highway 36.

Graves Florist advertised Homecoming mums.

Gregg Catalano, known as the "Physician of Phun," entertained children and adults at a Coryell County Republican fish fry.

The Grove Community held a garage sale at Leonard's Country Store.

Hillcrest Family Health

Center's Gatesville Clinic held a grand opening.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Sonic advertised two corndogs, cheese tater tots, and a medium drink for \$2.25.

Dozens of classic automobiles were in town for Gatesville's Cruzin Cruzers 8th annual Fun Run.

A reading improvement program, "Reading with Reaves," advertised assis-

tance with phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Plans were underway by the Gatesville ISD board of trustees to add additional classroom space to the system's campuses.

Congressman Chet Edwards and Coryell County Farm Bureau President Neil Walter joined with Farm Bureau leaders to announce legislation to fight the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

Wholesale Foods advertised peanut butter for 89 cents.

The Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department commemorated a century of service with a big centennial celebration.

Contractors' bids on the construction of a 24-unit apartment complex for the elderly were due.

Leaird's Department Store advertised London Fog

outerwear.

The Gatesville Messenger Football Contest was underway.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

The Gatesville Independent School District received funds to conduct adult education and educationally disadvantaged adults training programs.

Cindy J. Byrom, of Gatesville, earned "Distinguished Student" ranking at Texas

A&M University.

Sheriff's officers were searching for a local man suspected of stealing a pickup truck and burglarizing a service station in Gatesville.

Glenn Rabb was chosen outstanding Stingette of the week.

Bennett's Department Store advertised polyester knit pants for \$10.98.

City council approves budget and tax rate

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Gatesville City Council voted unanimously to pass the proposed budget and tax rate for the fiscal year 2024-2025 during a regular meeting on Tuesday.

Approved at \$28.5 million, the budget decreases

spending by approximately \$1.7 million from last year's budget. The tax rate is set at 0.5600 cents per \$100 valuation - the same tax rate as last year.

Although the tax rate remains the same, it will raise taxes by approximately 3.77% since it is higher than the no-new revenue

rate of 0.539678 cents. The Coryell County Tax Assessor Collector calculates the no-new revenue rate, which is determined by property values.

This year's budget includes wage adjustments for most employees.

"My staff, department heads, and I appreciate

Mayor Chumley's and all of Council's input and support in the budget process," City Manager Brad Hunt said in an email.

Hunt shared the city's goals for the upcoming fiscal year, which include:

- Improve service levels as funding allows within a

balanced budget.

- Ensure employees are adequately compensated and ensure retention and recruitment goals are met.

- Maximize grant funding to improve city infrastructure and community resources.

- Ensure the city planning, permitting, and

zoning functions align with potential growth opportunities, both short - and long term.

The budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year will begin on Oct. 1 and end on Sept. 30, 2025.

PEARL NEWS

We're jamming all day in Pearl so come join us!



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Today is the day for the Pearl Bluegrass Event and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore. The stage show for the bluegrass event begins at 1 p.m., but jamming goes on all day.

If you are a band and would like to play on the

stage, all you have to do is to show up and put your

name on the board in the Community Center hallway. If you have questions, you can see Chris Ray or Garrett Dickey, and they will be happy to help you. Don't forget that there is delicious, homemade food in the Bluegrass Kitchen at very reasonable prices. They are open from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The remaining days for this year are Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7. Be sure to attend all of these days if you possibly can. You will love being in Pearl!

I was just told that one of Linda Ray's friends, now ex-friend, sent her an inappropriate birthday card about her driving. I'm detecting

a little bit of resentment in Linda's voice. She did not know that you had to use your turn signal in Pearl. Mr. McDonald, you'd better watch out! You know what they say about a woman scorned!

Now, Mr. McDonald, on the other hand, may get a chance at revenge as he was just fired by Mrs. Ray for not showing up on what she thought was his assigned day at the church. What was on the schedule, I do not know. I suspect it might have had something to do with heavy lifting in the early September heat. However, Mr. McDonald still wants his check, but Mrs.

Ray suggested that he stand by his mailbox and wait. (Something was mentioned about flying a kite.) We have a feeling that this is not the end of the story.

During the Annual Atchley Labor Day Fish Fry and Silent Auction for His Kids, Kay Pruett bought just about every flower in the sale. How she keeps Pearl (the overgrown puppy that thinks Kay is her personal possession) from digging up all of the pretty things in her yard is a mystery to me. Kay needs to be proclaimed, "Gardener of the Year!"

This week's Bible verse comes from Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to

them and said, "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. 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 betsyclarck47@yahoo.com

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 avail-

able 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.

Gatesville Public Library to host Bridgerton Ball

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.

Annual Spurfest set for Sept. 21 at the museum

Staff Reports

The annual Gatesville Spurfest will return to the Coryell County Museum and Historical Center on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The festival pays homage to the renowned Lloyd and Madge Mitchell Spur Collection with a variety of

entertainment and activities, including:

- Games, such as a scavenger hunt through the museum
- Book signings from local authors
- Cornhole contest
- Wild West show from Karem Cowboys
- Food samples
- 'Guess the beans'

contest

- Photo opportunities
- Medieval arts show

Most of the activities will take place inside the museum or on the square. Admission to the museum is free.

Tickets for the ongoing Spurfest raffle can be purchased at the Coryell Museum or at The Gatesville

Messenger. The drawings for the raffle will take place during the festival. Tickets are \$20 each.

Raffle prizes include an Austin motif quilt created by Grace Dallimore and two matted and framed pointillism prints featuring the Coryell County Courthouse and Fort Gates by Jon Brown.

Texas vehicle inspection changes coming soon

Staff Reports

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) has recently announced that beginning Jan. 1, 2025, Texas vehicle owners will no longer be required to obtain a safety inspection prior to vehicle registration.

House Bill 3297, passed during the 88th Legislature in 2023, abolishes the vehicle safety inspection program for non-commer-

cial vehicles.

The new law maintains the annual \$7.50 safety inspection fee under a new name, which is the Inspection Program Replacement Fee. The state will collect the fee at the time of vehicle registration. Owners registering a new vehicle will pay a \$16.75 Inspection Program Replacement Fee to cover the first two years.

State law requires vehicle emissions inspections in

17 counties prior to vehicle inspection which include Brazoria County, Collin County, Dallas County, Denton County, El Paso County, Ellis County, Fort Bend County, Galveston County, Harris County, Johnson County, Kaufman County, Montgomery County, Parker County, Rockwall County, Tarrant County, Travis County, and Williamson County.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles registers

and titles motor vehicles, license motor vehicle dealers, credentials motor carriers, issues oversize/overweight permits, investigates complaints against dealers and motor carriers, and awards grants to law enforcement agencies to reduce vehicle burglaries and thefts.

For further details, visit www.txdmv.gov.

Fall Festival at Pearl Country Church, Oct. 5

Submitted item

A Fall Festival will be held at Pearl Country Church on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. An all-you-can-eat fish fry and fried ribs are on the menu with all the fixin's and desserts.

The festival will include a cake walk, a bounce house, an auction, and a junk & disorderly sale.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit Disaster Relief for Texas to help those who suffered during the fires and tornado in the Panhandle of Texas.

Pearl Country Church is located at 6795 FM 183 in Pearl.

For more information, contact Aline Perry at 214-212-1612.

Harvest Festival to be held Oct. 18 & 19

Submitted item

The First Methodist Harvest Festival 2024 in Gatesville will take place on Oct. 18 - 19 from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A garage sale will take place along with a silent auction on Oct. 19 from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Silent auction bidding will end at 2 p.m.

The festival will include a cakewalk, pumpkin patch, bake sale, breakfast tacos, a bounce house, children's activities, corn hole, and much more.

First Methodist Church is located at 115 N. 29th Street. They can be reached by calling 254-865-2524.

Senior Center to host nutrition class

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 carbohydrates.

The class will begin at 10 a.m. and will feature a presentation to show how to incorporate carbohy-

drates 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.

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OBITUARIES

Travis Tallent

May 9, 1991 - Sept. 3, 2024

Travis Tallent, age 33, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024. He lived a life marked by love, laughter, and generosity. His heart was as big as his smile. He was always ready to care for others with unmatched kindness and compassion.



Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, at Scott's Funeral Home, with his uncle, Bob Jones, officiating. Interment followed at Straley Cemetery in Adamsville.

Travis Ryan Tallent was born on May 9, 1991, in Killeen. He grew up in Gatesville and graduated from Gatesville High School in 2009. In 2010, he moved to Austin with his cousins, Christiane and Courtney, and worked for ten years at Peoples Pharmacy. As manager, he looked out for his employees as a trusted mentor. He later changed his career path in nursing to focus on patient care. He graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Texas State University in December of 2021. He was Pinned as a Registered Nurse in May of 2023 from the University of Texas and was working toward his master's degree as a Nurse Practitioner. While attending UT, he was working at Ascension Seton Medical Center in Austin.

A man of incredible wit, Travis had a unique gift for finding humor in everyday life. His laughter was infectious and his ability to bring joy to those around him was truly remarkable. Whether through a clever joke or lighthearted story, he knew how to lift spirits. But, beyond his humor, Travis was a deeply caring soul. He had a way of making everyone feel seen and valued, offering a listening ear, a helping

hand, or a shoulder to lean on whenever needed. His love for his family, friends, and patients was evident in every action and he found joy in the simple act of caring for others. Though his time with us was far too short, the impact that Travis made will last a lifetime. He leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, laughter, and sass that will forever be cherished by those who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Shelba Jones, Darrell Jones, Gilma Jones, Donald Tallent; aunt, Rosemary Jones; and cousin, Mason Van Zandt.

Travis is survived by his parents Kim McDonald and Jason McDonald, and Donovan Tallent; grandparents, Jeanne Tallent, Larry C. and Lou McDonald; brother, Landon Tallent and wife, Renee; sisters, Morgan Tallent and Jaymie Breckenridge, and husband, Ethan; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorials be made in Travis's honor to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, AFSP Central Texas at <https://afsp.org/chapter/central-texas>

Rilla Smith

Nov. 20, 1936 - Sept. 9, 2024

Rilla Yvonne Smith, age 87, of Gatesville, passed away Sept. 9, 2024, in Waco. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. at the Gatesville Church of Christ.



Rilla Yvonne Smith was born to Buster and Oleta Mullin on Friday, Nov. 20, 1936, in an old farmhouse in Parnell. Her father (Buster) was a farmer, car salesman, barterer/haggler deluxe... and preacher.

She graduated from Ballinger High School in 1954 and married Delbert Lee Smith in the same year. Yvonne followed Delbert as he went into the Air Force and, later, into ministry, serving many congregations over the years. After raising 4 mostly wonderful children and making a wonderful family home, she worked and volunteered in Gatesville schools. After Delbert died in 2002, she became involved in teaching women's Bible studies at one of the Gatesville women's prisons, at her church, and at The Oaks (a retirement village). She also hosted Bible studies in her neighborhoods over the years. She loved her family well, loved her Lord Jesus most of all, and

also the people around her. She was a mighty woman of prayer, of Scripture, and had a steady faith.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Buster and Oleta, and her husband, Delbert Smith.

She is survived by her sister, Sandy Lane, as well as her four children: Ken and Christina Smith, Mitzi Smith, Tad and Sherry Smith, and Robin and Karen Smith...and by her beloved 14 grandchildren: Micah, Christopher, Joy, Judah, Cora Beth, Eliot, Evan, Grace, Amos, John-Philip, Gabriel, Lincoln, Libby, and Oaks Smith, as well as her 13 great-grandchildren.

To God be the glory!

After the flood waters subside...

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In the early morning hours of May 5, raging flood waters from nearby Coryell Creek entered the 95-year-old house of worship known as Pecan Grove Baptist Church. Lifelong members of the church said that it was the highest the water had ever been in the building. Pews, hymnals, church furnishings, and the pulpit were all displaced in the raging flood waters.

Since the church was flooded, Sunday services have been held in the Oglesby Community Building until the church can be repaired.

A second blow came after the flood when a thunderstorm with high winds blew through the area and uprooted a large pecan tree on the grounds of the church. "It was the largest pecan tree on the property, and it fell on and crushed one corner of the historic tabernacle," said Pecan Grove pastor Jeff Huckeyby.

Since the time of the flooding and the damage to the tabernacle, funds have been pouring into the church for the restoration project. After a Go Fund Me page appeared on the internet, a long-time church member stepped

forward and donated \$50,000 to cover the cost of whatever was needed to repair and restore the church. Prayers were answered.

Since last May, Huckeyby reported that repairs on the church are progressing. He said that, a few weeks ago, the repairs had been made to the roof of the tabernacle by Lyle Bomar, but it still needed some electrical repairs.

"Because the church's entire electrical system had to be repaired, the Heart of Texas Coop had to come out and set a new power pole behind the church," he said.

Huckeyby continued, "The walls and floors have been repaired and repainted. All the interior and exterior doors have been replaced. Electrical, plumbing, and HVAC repairs are close to completion. The kitchen repairs in the fellowship hall are close to being completed. The replacement chairs for the fellowship hall and new pew cushions should be arriving in a few weeks."

Huckeyby concluded by saying, "Once the repairs are complete, we plan on having a true homecoming celebration."



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured above: The historic Pecan Grove Baptist Church tabernacle, which was damaged during the May flooding, recently had part of its roof replaced and restored by Lyle Bomar, of Gatesville.

Pictured right: Inside the bare sanctuary of pecan Grove Baptist Church, the walls and floors have been repaired and repainted, Rev. Huckeyby reported.



MOUND NEWS

Sebastian Allman is headed to Japan



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

James and Polly West, and Christopher and Jennifer Eberlein had a family gathering in Waco at the home of Todd and Alison Moffatt last weekend to celebrate Jennifer's nephew, Sebastian Allman, who is about to spend a year in Japan for an intensive language course.

Mrs. Polly West and Christopher and Jennifer Eberlein drove to McKinney on Sunday. They were able to visit with Andrew and Alexandra Eberlein at their home. Great-grandmother Pollyanna West met the

twins, Nora and Maeve, for the first time. Caleb and Annalee Terrell also came over with their baby, Hank, to visit.

Miss Kinsley McPherson was awarded the 4-H Gold Star at the banquet. This

is the highest honor any 4-H member can receive at the county level.

Miss Sterlynn Johnson was baptized Sunday, Sept. 8, at Mound Cowboy Church. She is the daughter of Barton and Chelsea Johnson. Family and friends attended.

Paul Robertson and Stormy Caldwell were also baptized Sunday, Sept. 8, at Mound Cowboy Church. Family and friends attended.

Debbie Mettlach of St. Louis, MO is spending several weeks with her mother, Mrs. Mary Gann.

Sue Jones visited with Mary Gann and Debbie Mettlach Sunday afternoon. Carolyn and Emma Blakley attended a birthday party for Kim Cummings on Saturday afternoon.

Ashley VanBibber and Carolyn Blakley had lunch together in Gatesville on Friday.

Reed, Katelyn, and Riley

Griffith, of Montgomery, spent the weekend at the home of Robert and Carolyn Blakley.

Barbara Hopson was honored on her 64th birthday with a coffee break last Tuesday morning, Sept. 3, in Gatesville at the Caf-friends attended.

The coffee break was given by Barbara's nieces, Sara Poynter, Kari Belt, Amanda Long, and Kelli McPherson and Barbara's sister-in-law, Pam Hopson.

Delecia Reynolds treated her friend Barbara Hopson to lunch in Gatesville for her birthday on Wednesday at the New Rodeo Mexican Grill restaurant.

Several people of Mound attended the funeral service for Mr. Donald Wayne Warren on Wednesday in Gatesville at Scott's Funeral Home.

Barbara's Notes: Happy Birthday to Mrs. Janice Velasquez

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Country Music Hall of Fame to welcome Siekers

Submitted item

Roger Vierser is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated return of the renowned musical duo, Rolf and Beate Sieker, to the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame. The celebrated performance will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20, at the Gatesville City Auditorium, located at 110 N 8th St., in Gatesville. Rolf and Beate Sieker,

who launched their professional music careers in Berlin, Germany, have been a significant force in the country music scene. Over the years, the Siekers have graced many stages across Germany and Europe, appearing on numerous TV and radio shows, and recording five successful albums—two in Nashville and three in Berlin. In 1997, Rolf and Beate

made a pivotal move to Nashville and have called Austin their home since 2000. Their contributions to the world of music were further recognized when they were honored with the keys to the city of Bryan/College Station in 1997 and they were inducted into the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008. This special return to Gatesville promises an

unforgettable evening filled with the heartfelt melodies and vibrant performances that have endeared the Siekers to fans worldwide. Admission is free.

Join them for a night to remember as Rolf and Beate Sieker bring their unique blend of country music back to the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame.



COURTESY PHOTO
Music duo, Rolf and Beate Sieker will perform at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Girl Scouts to visit Mother Neff State Park

Submitted item

On Saturday, Sept. 14, Girl Scouts will discover the secrets to Dutch oven cooking at an expert-led demonstration event at Mother Neff State Park.

Celebrate Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend with a morning of adventure and fun. The public is invited to drop in any time from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. to learn about this form of outdoor cooking.

Girl Scouts should sign in at the activity table to

receive a free Girl Scouts Love State Park patch. Other Girl Scouts Love State Parks events at the same time at Mother Neff State Park include Birding 101 and Geocaching 101.

State Park entrance fees are \$2 per day per person age 13+. Children 12 and under are free. To make camping or day pass reservations, please visit: <https://texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com/>.

Mother Neff State Park is located in Moody, Texas, and is 32 miles from Waco.

It is one of Texas' earliest state parks. Park activities include exploring 3.5 miles of hiking trails, picnicking, camping, and observing nature. Explore the interactive displays at the visitor center to learn more about Mother Neff State Park. Kids aged four to 12 can become a junior ranger; complete a set of activities to earn a badge and certificate. Learn more at the park headquarters.

This is not a drop off event. Adults are required to remain with their Girl

Scouts. As required by Volunteer Essentials and Safety Activity Checkpoints, adults attending this event are responsible for their troop or individual Girl Scout's behavior. All adults participating with a troop or registered to volunteer at the event are required to have a current/eligible background check (CBC), to be a registered Girl Scout adult volunteer, and to have complete GSCTX youth protection training.

Registration is not required for this event.

Righteous Roots to host DWTS Latino Style

Staff Reports

Local non-profit organization, Righteous Roots, has announced that it will host its third annual Dancing with the Stars (DWTS) event, which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Gatesville Civic Center.

This year's dance will be themed as "Latino Style" to celebrate and honor

Latin culture while giving recognition to the establishment's culturally specific programs.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and will feature a guest speaker along with entertainment given by Arthur Murray Austin and Roy Lozano's Ballet Folklorico de Texas.

Ages 13 and up are wel-

come to attend the event, and the dress code will be dressy but not formal.

A dinner will be provided, which will include fajitas, beans, rice, dessert, beverages, and more.

Tickets will go on sale starting on Sunday, Sept. 15 and can be purchased by visiting the website, RighteousRoots.org and looking

under the tab, "Upcoming Events."

Table sponsorships for the event should be secured by Sunday, Sept. 15. To register for a table, contact Righteous Roots at 254-651-3600.

The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

KEENEY TO BE ORDAINED



COURTESY PHOTO
The public is invited to attend the ordination service for Gatesville native Talon Keene, who is the Tri Rivers Associate Director in Hico. On Sunday, Sept. 15, the ordination council will meet at 5 p.m., and the ordination service will begin at 6 p.m. at the Fairy Baptist Church. The church is located at 19255 FM 1602.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Sept. 4 - Sep. 10. 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

Sept. 4
9:30 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy 36.
11:08 a.m., harassment was reported in the 500 block of N. 32nd Street.
5:51 p.m., an assault was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.
8:52 p.m., an assault was reported in the 1200 block of W. Main Street.

Sept. 5
12:51 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 8th Street.
10 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of FM 118.
3:07 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2700 block of S. State Highway 36.
9:13 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of Mulberry Avenue.

Sept. 6
1:37 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of Bridge Street.
6:36 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.
9:27 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Bridge Street.
12:37 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.

Sept. 7
6:53 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 4800 block of S. State Highway 36.
7:55 a.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of S. State Highway 36 Bypass.
7:29 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of N. 27th Street.
11:33 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 200 block of N. 7th Street.

Sept. 8
12:03 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the

300 block of E. Leon Street.
1:27 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
2:38 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1700 block of Bridge Street.
9:34 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 600 block of Park Street.

Sept. 9
7:34 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 1400 block of W. Main Street.
5:25 p.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of S. Lovers Lane.
6:24 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of N. 14th Street.
10:06 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 3400 block of Jewell Drive.

Sept. 10
9:40 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 3200 block of S. State Highway 36.
10:59 a.m., harassment was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.
12:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of

S. State Highway 36 Bypass.
11:30 p.m., harassment was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sept. 4
11:16 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 600 block of County Road 323.
11:49 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 3800 block of FM 116.
3:27 p.m., an injured deer was reported in the 200 block of Oak Ridge Road.
11:20 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 100 block of Clarke Road.

Sept. 5
10:23 a.m., a stolen gun was reported recovered in the 1500 block of Waco Street.
2:18 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported recovered in the 800 block of S. First Street.

5:09 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1000 block of County Road 127.
7:06 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.

Sept. 6
7:14 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 100 block of FM 107.
11:08 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Baird Street.
3:45 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of Western Ridge Road.
8:39 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1700 block of Oaksprings Road.

Sept. 7
10:14 a.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1400 block of FM 1996.
5:22 p.m., a major ac-

cident was reported in the 1600 block of FM 183.
5:55 p.m., a fire call was reported in the 5900 block of FM 929.
7:56 p.m., a burglary of a vehicle was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.

Sept. 8
4:20 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1100 block of Sierra Vista.
6:08 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Clark Road.
12:36 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 3400 block of Jewell Drive.
6:51 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported at FM 932 and Plum Creek.

Sept. 9
8:33 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 200 block of Coletan Drive.
1 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 500

block of Lawson Lane.
5:34 p.m., stolen property was reported in the 300 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
6:03 p.m., deadly conduct was reported in the 9800 block of Greenbriar Road.

Sept. 10
7:30 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 120 block of FM 1996.
8:12 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107 and County Road 310.
12:27 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 3400 block of County Road 318.
1:30 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported on Highway 84 and McKenzie Lane.

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CALVARY BAPTIST
Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 & FM 116; Sunday Bible study 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
CANAAN BAPTIST
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. AWANA children's ministry Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible Study for men & women on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

JONESBORO BAPTIST
Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.
KING BAPTIST
Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY BAPTIST
Royse T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK BAPTIST
Pastor Matthew Hamilton; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings: Choir at 5:30 p.m., Children & Youth Activities, 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.
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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.
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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
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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.

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Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
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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.
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PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST
6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

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338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.
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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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6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday Services 9 a.m.
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 Tile, sheetrock, painting,
 decks, fences, flooring,
 windows, siding, roofing,
 texturing. Cecil Woodson,
 254-216-3835. 00031025

Jason Paul Constuction:
 Painting, Decks, Roofs, Tex-
 ture, Flooring, Windows,
 Sheetrock, Porches, Add
 Ons, Metal Buildings, Trash
 Haul Off and Dump Trail-
 er Rental. 254-383-3305
 00031028

060 Garage Sale

DOLLAR SALE Tues, 09/17 -
 Sat, 09/21. The Boys & Girls
 Club Resale Shop, 1706 E.
 Main. Open Tuesday-Friday,
 8am-5pm & Saturday, 9am-
 3pm 00031006

MOVING SALE: Sept. 20 & 21,
 8 a.m.-Noon, 612 Fieldstone
 Drive. Furniture, dishes,
 books, clothes, holiday de-
 cor, & more! 00031035

ESTATE SALE
304 Stoneridge Dr.
Sept. 13-15
Fri.-Sat. • 8am-3pm
Sun. • Noon-3pm
 House and shed full,
 Native American items,
 tools, furniture, dolls,
 kitchenware & much more.
Hardbargain Estate Sales

074 Houses for Rent

3BR, 2BA on 1/2 acre. Stove,
 refrigerator and dishwash-
 er furnished, CH/A, carpet,
 carport, storage building.
 Jonesboro or Gatesville ISD.
 No pets! 5430 FM 182. 254-
 216-9153. 00031008

099 Public Notices

JENNIFER NEWTON
 CLERK OF THE COUNTY
 COURT AT LAW
 P.O. BOX 237
 GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FIL-
 ING CAUSE
 DORI RAY MISTIC
 907 S. MAIN ST.
 COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN
 HEIRS
 UNKNOWN ADDRESS
 UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTER-
 ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF
 CHRISTENE PETTY MARTIN,
 DECEASED. CAUSE NO 24-
 11063, COUNTY COURT AT
 LAW OF CORYELL COUN-
 TY, TEXAS. NANCY MARTIN
 BARKER FILED IN THE COUN-
 TY COURT AT LAW OF CORY-
 ELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE
 30TH DAY OF AUGUST 2024,
 APPLICATION TO DETERMINE
 HEIRSHIP SAID CHRISTENE
 PETTY MARTIN, DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL
 BE HEARD AND ACTED ON
 BY SAID COURT ON OR AF-
 TER THE FIRST MONDY NEXT
 AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF
 TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF
 POSTING THIS CITATION, THE
 SAME BEING THE 23RD DAY
 OF SEPTEMBER 2024, AT THE
 COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN
 GATESVILLE, TEXAS.

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

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND
 AND THE SEAL OF THE
 COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF
 CORYELL COUNTY IN GATES-
 VILLE, TEXAS THE 10TH DAY
 OF SEPTEMBER 2024.

JENNIFER NEWTON
 CORYELL COUNTY CLERK
 CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: K. TALLEY, DEPUTY CLERK

00031038



**You never
 know what
 you might
 find...**

**CARS -- TRUCKS
 BOATS -- PETS
 FURNITURE
 JOBS -- TOOLS
 HOUSES -- PETS
 RV's -- PLUMBERS
 CARPENTERS**

070 Land & Lots



**30.24 Acres in
 Paloma Vista
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Tranquil Rangeland Retreat with Breathtaking Views!
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070 Land & Lots

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



102 Real Estate

BURKS
REAL ESTATE
 715 E. U.S. Hwy. 84, Evant, TX 76525
 "Committed to Excellence"

BROKER:
 Calvin Burks
 Bus. 254-471-5738
 Cell 254-865-3601

102 Real Estate

BURKS
REAL ESTATE
 715 E. U.S. Hwy. 84, Evant, TX 76525
 "Committed to Excellence"

AGENTS:
 Lindy Burks 254-206-0643
 Johnny Burks 254-223-0833

- For complete listings: www.burksrealestate.com**
- 3 Br 2 Ba Austin Stone Home 378 Tom Sawyer St. Evant, renovated bathroom, large living room, all electric appliances in Kitchen, small storage shed, 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 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, good tree cover, great views, electric & 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 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, rolling terrain, good tree cover, stock tank, seasonal creek. \$130,000
 - 10.01 ac. Lot 12 Ph 4, Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, stock tank, road access on three sides, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, 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, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, stock tank, water well w/solar pump. \$175,000
 - 12.08 ac. Lot 23 Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Evant, Langford Branch, great views, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$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 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. good elevation, great views, good tree cover, Dry Branch, Electric & 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 Ph 2 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$260,000
 - 24.326 ac. NW of Purnela, Tract 2 CR 182, 1 stock tank, rolling terrain, good tree cover, paved country road frontage, electricity across the road. \$199,000
 - 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, Mustang Creek, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Electric & 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
 - 89.89 ac. 3 Br 2 Ba home, 1723 FM 591 Dublin, TX, Comanche County, open floor plan, laminate wood floors, covered front & back porches, 2-car attached carport, 1 well, 2 stock tanks, metal building, 40 ft storage container, good tree cover, rolling terrain, 20 to 25 ac. of farmland. 22 KW Generac Home Generator. \$1,100,000
 - 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, \$1,547,533
 - 5.078 ac. 369 PR 305 Lane, Gatesville, TX, Greenbriar Ranch Estates, Lot No. 4. North Greenbriar Creek running through the property, has good tree cover along the creek, rolling terrain. The lot is ready to build on with electricity and water at the road. \$120,000.

NOW HIRING

ch Coryell HEALTH REHABILITATING AT THE MEADOWS

- LVN – FT & PRN; All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
- RN – FT & PRN; All Shifts for Charge Nurse & Nursing
- Occupational Therapist – FT
- COTA- FT
- Physical Therapist Assistant – PRN
- CNA/NA – FT All Shifts
- CMA/CNA – FT All Shifts

****FULL TIME SIGN ON BONUS MAY BE AVAILABLE WITH ONE YEAR COMMITMENT FOR SPECIFIC AREA'S LVNS, CMAS, CNAS**

BENEFITS OFFERED:
 Competitive compensation • Paid Vacation • Sick time accrual • Matching 457B investments
 Tuition Reimbursement • Health, Dental, Life and Supplemental Insurances. EOE.

APPLY IN PERSON OR DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FROM WEBSITE:
 110 Chicktown Rd. off: (254) 404-2500
 Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
 humanresources@coryellhealth.org Job summaries at www.CoryellHealth.org

NOW HIRING

ch Coryell HEALTH

- ASSISTED/INDEPENDENT LIVING:
 - CNA – FT & PRN
- MEDICAL CLINIC:
 - Clinic Registration Supervisor
 - LVN
 - CCMA
- MEDICAL CLINIC MILLS COUNTY:
 - LVN – FT
 - CCMA – FT
- MEDICAL CLINIC MCGREGOR:
 - Registration Clerk – FT
 - LVN – FT
- CULINARY:
 - Patient Dining Associate
 - Cook
- DIALYSIS:
 - Charge Nurse RN
- EMS:
 - Paramedic – PRN
 - EMT – PRN
- EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:
 - RN – FT Night Shift
 - PRN – All Shifts
- HOME HEALTH:
 - RN – FT
- HOUSEKEEPING:
 - Housekeepers – FT and PT
 - Housekeeping Supervisor – FT
 - Laundry Attendant – FT
 - Floor Janitor – FT
- ICU:
 - RN – FT All shifts
- LAB:
 - Point of Care Assistant – FT
- MAINTENANCE:
 - Landscaper – FT or PT
- MED/ SURG:
 - Night Shift House Supervisor
 - RN or LVN – PRN Day & Night Shifts Available
- RADIOLOGY:
 - CT/X-Ray Tech - PRN; TDH MRT & ARRT W/1 yr. exp. in CT/X-Ray
- SURGERY:
 - Pre-op/PACU RN – FT
 - Cath Lab Tech – PRN
 - Certified Scrub Tech – FT
 - General Surgery Circulating RN

SOME POSITIONS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR SIGN ON BONUS. ASK FOR DETAILS.

BENEFITS OFFERED:

- Matching 457B Investments
- Health, Dental, Life and supplemental Insurances
- Paid Vacation & Sick Leave
- Tuition Reimbursement EOE.

APPLY IN PERSON OR DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FROM WEBSITE:
 1507 W. Main St. off: (254) 248-6386
 Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
 humanresources@coryellhealth.org Job summaries at www.CoryellHealth.org

CLASSIFIEDS

099 Public Notices

099 Public Notices

099 Public Notices

PIPELINE NOTICE

NOTICE OF SCOPING PERIOD REQUESTING COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FOR THE PLANNED

DELA EXPRESS PROJECT, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING SESSIONS

PUBLIC MEETING

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024
4:30 - 6:30 P.M.
Windmill Hill Venue
1808 Bridge Street
Gatesville, TX 76528**

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document that will discuss the environmental impacts of DeLa Express Project involving construction and operation of facilities by DeLa press LLC (DeLa Express) in counties including Coryell, Hamilton, McLennan, and Bell. The Commission will use this environmental document in decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

The Commission will use input from the public and interested agencies regarding the project, as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments may be submitted to the Commission in Washington, DC on or before 5:00pm Eastern Time on September 23, 2024. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written or oral comments during the preparation of the environmental document.

For ways to file public comment or for assistance, call (866) 208-3676 or email FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

Grace under pressure: Mastering life's daily challenges



BY MICKY SHEARON

Contributing Writer
mickey@hcnews.com

Everyday life is full of little challenges that can catch us off guard and drain our energy. From dealing with a difficult co-worker to facing unexpected traffic on the way to an important appointment, these moments can trigger negative reactions that make us feel overwhelmed, stressed, or even angry. But what if there was a way to handle these situations with grace, preserving our energy and staying true to our best selves?

At the heart of our reactions to these daily annoyances are deep-rooted, subconscious fears that stem from our evolutionary past. These fears are part of the fight-or-flight response, which was essential for survival when our ancestors faced real dangers like wild animals or hostile environments. Today, however, these responses are often out of place, leading us to overreact to situations that aren't life-threatening.

But there's good news! By recognizing these ingrained responses and applying a few simple strategies, we can navigate life's challenges with grace and ease. Here are five powerful tips to help you maintain your composure and stay positive, no matter what life throws your way.

1. Ground yourself: Calm the storm within

The first step in dealing with any challenge is to ground yourself. When you feel the stress rising, pause and take a few deep, slow

breaths. This simple act sends a signal to your brain that you are safe, allowing your body to calm down and switch off the fight-or-flight response. Deep breathing helps to bring your focus back to the present moment, making it easier to assess the situation calmly and rationally.

Try this quick exercise the next time you're faced with a stressful situation: Breathe in slowly for a count of four, hold for four, and then exhale for a count of four. Repeat this cycle three or four times, and you'll notice a significant reduction in your stress levels.

2. Think of your ideal self: Aspire to be the best version of you

When challenges arise, it's easy to slip into a negative mindset, but this only adds to your stress and frustration. Instead, take a moment to think of your ideal self — the person you want to be in these situations.

This could be someone who is patient, kind, and understanding, even when faced with difficulties.

Focusing on your high-end potential can help you shift your mindset and respond in a way that aligns with your values. This not only helps you avoid feelings of guilt and regret later but also promotes personal growth. Over time, consistently striving to be your ideal self in challenging situations will become a natural habit.

3. Appreciate the goodness in others: Let go of grudges

In the heat of the moment, it's easy to focus on the faults of others, especially when they seem to be the cause of our problems. However, holding onto grudges only keeps you stuck in a negative loop. Instead, try to see the goodness in others, even in difficult situations.

Recognizing the strengths and positive qualities in those around you can help you to let go of anger and resentment. This doesn't mean you have to ignore bad behavior, but rather that you choose to focus on the positive aspects of the person. This shift in perspective can make a huge difference in how you feel and how you respond to challenges.

4. Embody grace: Align your actions with calmness

Physical responses to stress, such as clenching your fists or tensing your muscles, can reinforce the feeling of being overwhelmed. To counter this, consciously align your body language with the grace you want to embody. Relax your shoulders, soften your facial expression, and move with calm, deliberate actions.

When your physical state reflects calmness, it helps to create a sense of inner peace and control. This not only affects how you feel, but also how others perceive you, often leading to more positive interactions and outcomes.

5. Open up to the world: Connect and contribute

Humans are social creatures, and connecting with others is essential for our well-being. When faced with challenges, it can be tempting to withdraw, but this often makes things worse. Instead, open yourself up to the world — reach out to others, share your experiences, and contribute to something larger than yourself.

Whether it's volunteering, joining a community group, or simply offering support to a friend, these connections help to fulfill our innate need for belonging and purpose. When we feel connected to others, our problems seem smaller, and we gain a broader perspective on life's challenges.

Conclusion: Turning challenges into opportunities

Dealing with everyday challenges gracefully is not about avoiding difficulties or pretending they don't exist. It's about recognizing our natural responses and choosing to react in a way that reflects our best selves. By grounding yourself, aspiring to be your ideal self, appreciating the goodness in others, embodying grace, and connecting with the world, you can turn daily challenges into opportunities for growth and positive change.

With practice, these strategies will become second nature, helping you to navigate life's ups and downs with grace, composure, and a sense of inner peace.

JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CORYELL §

BY VIRTUE OF ORDERS OF SALE issued pursuant to judgment decrees of the District Court of Coryell County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter numbered and styled causes, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on the 28th day of August, 2024, seized, levied upon, and will on the 1st day of October, 2024, at the at the Courthouse Steps, at 10:00 am on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, as provided for by the TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE.

All of the following properties being located in Coryell County, Texas and each property being more particularly described on an instrument recorded in the Volume and Page reference (V/P) or document number of the Deed Records, Coryell County, Texas. The approximate property addresses reflected herein are the addresses on the tax records and may or may not be completely accurate.

PROP #	CAUSE #	STYLE	PROP DESCRIPTION, ADDRESS, ACCT #	MIN BID
1	CTX-14-03135	Coryell County v Tim Sullivan	Lot 5, Block 6, Town of Leon Junction (V468/P37 DR) CR 347 Acct #116464	\$18,164.71
2	CTX-22-03771	The County of Coryell v Jessica Ann Carpenter, et al	Lot 1, Block 8, Grandview Addition, (#200592) 2001 St Louis St Acct #112595	\$2,447.08
3	CTX-23-03815	The County of Coryell v Luis Pardo	Lot 18, Block 10, Bluestem Estates, 2nd Unit, (#104555 & #104704) 771 Bluestem Dr Acct #117353	\$10,211.12
4	CTX-23-03824	The County of Coryell v Stacy Blackman, et al	A Manufactured Home only, Label #PFS07S8989, Serial #TXFL212A407180012, 15.015 ac, more or less, J. M. Logan Survey, Abstract 671, 435 Greenbriar Rd Acct #129535	\$16,133.40
5	CTX-23-03830	The County of Coryell v Eric Vogt, et al	Lot 34 & Lot 35 Oak Land Acres Subdivision, (#337255 OPR) 501 Ranier Rd Acct #113680 & Acct #113681	\$4,171.94
6	CTX-23-03840	The County of Coryell v Danny W. Wilson, et al	A Manufactured Home only, Label #NTA0608777, Serial #HOTX08804987, 22.14 ac, more or less, J. Burns Survey, Abstract 49, 875 CR 216 Acct #100813	\$3,763.55
7	CTX-23-03849	The County of Coryell v Laura Daniels, et al	5.00 Acres, more or less, Thomas Marshall Survey, Abstract 688, (#290747OPR) 250 CR 207 Acct #106104	\$5,083.69
8	CTX-23-03852	The County of Coryell v Kathy Brase	16.943 ac, more or less, W. M. Cummings Survey, Abstract 1157 (#151931 S & E #197022 and # 317687) 485 County Road 385 Acct #109934	\$8,020.39

This sale will be conducted to satisfy the judgment(s) for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interests due on the properties described herein, and for all costs of court and sale.

I do hereby verify that true and correct copies of the foregoing Joint Notice of Sale have been delivered by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and by regular mail, to each of the Defendants named in each of the numbered and styled causes.

DATE: the 28th day of August 2024, at Gatesville, Texas

SCOTT WILLIAMS
Sheriff, Coryell County, Texas

You may contact the attorney for the taxing units at (254) 756-7755.

099 Public Notices

099 Public Notices

Cruzin Cruzers members reflect on 38 years

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

For nearly four decades, the Cruzin Cruzers car show has become a staple gathering for car enthusiasts and for the entire community of Gatesville.

Wayne Martin reflects on how the car show has grown since he founded it with his friend, Terry Schmalreide, in the 1980s. After traveling to different car shows together, they wanted to see if they could bring a similar group to Gatesville.

"In the last part of '85, Terry and I decided we're just going to get a bunch of people together and see if we could have a little cruise in down at Walmart," Wayne said.

When 25 to 30 cars showed up at Gatesville's Walmart, Wayne saw an opportunity to bring a bigger car show and car club to the community.

"We were going along and having a pretty good day and everything, and I looked at Terry and I told him, 'I think we need to have our own car show,'" Wayne said. "I think we can make our own car show work. And he looked at me like he said, 'are you crazy?' I don't think we can do this. That's a lot of work."

With the help of Wayne's roommate and Terry's wife, the two friends spent the rest of 1985 raising money and making plans to open their first car show.

In September of 1986, the first Cruzin Cruzers car show was held at Faunt

Le Roy Park with 22 car entries. Now, the annual show receives 200 plus cars per year at the courthouse square every September. In 2019, the Cruzin Cruzers moved from Faunt Le Roy Park to the square due to needing more space.

"It's really amazing how far it's gone; it really is," Wayne said.

This year's event, which takes place on Sept. 21, includes food, vendors, music, and more.

Lavinia Shelton, who helps organize the Cruzin Cruzers event, explains how the show brings in a variety of visitors and locals, whether they frequently attend car shows or not.

"It's a lot of fun. People congregate because they go from one car to the club to the other or show to the other, and so they meet each other, and we all get together and visit," Lavinia said. "We've made several friends over the years just by going to different shows."

The car show accepts cars of all makes and models - from classic to brand new. The oldest car the club members said they have seen is a Ford Model T from the 1920s.

"If you can drive it off the parking lot with paper tag on it, bring it," Wayne said.

The show receives entries from all over Texas - and even other parts of the country. Lavinia shared that a couple once drove all the way from California in a vintage car to enter the

show. "They had been here before and moved to California, and somehow I got to them, and they drove all the way over here from California in that car," she said.

Since its start in 1986, the money raised from the show always goes back to the club to help prepare for next year. With the upcoming 40th anniversary, the club members are already planning ahead.

"By the time we finish this show, we're starting on the next show," Lavinia said.

The car show also raises money for scholarships for students pursuing trade school or careers in the automobile industry. Lavinia said members raise the money through a silent auction and a raffle held at the show. The tip jar at the concession stand also goes into the scholarship funds.

Lavinia explains that the students apply for the scholarship. "They have to write a little deal about themselves and what they're going to do, and some of it's heartbreaking, because some of these kids don't have much," she said.

Some of the participants also donate money when they enter the show, she adds. This year, they have already raised around \$300 from donations.

Cruzin Cruzers gives out 65 award plaques and a trophy for the 'Best of Show,' which are determined by judges from the club. While 'Best of Show' is the top award, the club also hands



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Entries from last year's Cruzin Cruzers car show.

out other awards such as 'Ladies Choice' and 'Club Choice.'

"The best of show will stand out," said Annette Eary, a long-time member of Cruzin Cruzers. "Of all the vehicles, you will know. By walking around, you will know what is best of show."

Eary said the largest number of cars that she remembers entering the show was around 304 when the show was still held in the park.

Cruzin Cruzers appreciates the community of Gatesville and all of the

support they give to the show, Lavinia adds.

"We just want everybody to have a good time," she said.

Wayne said the Cruzin Cruzers' 21 club members are what makes the show special every year.

"Everybody gets along. We've got a hell of a club," he said.

While the deadline for pre-registration ended on September 1, those who are interested in showcasing their car can still register in-person on the day of the

show for \$30.

The Cruzin Cruzers car show will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the courthouse square.

For information about joining the car club or the show, visit the Cruzin Cruzers website at cruzincruzers.com, or email the car club at cruzincruzers@yahoo.com.



Business Directory

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SENIOR CENTER HONORS FIRST RESPONDERS ON PATRIOT DAY

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

In observance of Patriot Day, the Gatesville Senior and Multi-Service Center recently hosted a luncheon to honor local first responders and to remember those who have fallen due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in 2001. The senior center provided hot dogs, sausage wraps, chips, beverages, and a cake, which was prepared by Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge. Patriot Day occurs on Sept. 11 of each year to honor the memory of the victims and first responders who lost their lives due to the terrorist attacks in 2001. The attacks, carried out by the extremist group Al-Qaeda, resulted in the loss of nearly 3,000 lives and left a profound impact on the nation and the world. As Patriot Day continues to be observed each year; it serves as a reminder to never forget the events of Sept. 11, to honor the victims and heroes of that day, and to strive for a future where peace, justice, and mutual respect prevail.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Top left: Leah Furrh and Melea Butler of Coryell Health EMS stopped by the Senior Center for lunch and handed out goodies to the center's members while they were there. Above right: Coryell County Sheriff's Department Patrol Lt. Chad Summers, Gatesville Senior Center Director Pamela Rudolph, Coryell County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Conrad Scott, And Gatesville Senior Center Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge all pose for a photo at the center's Patriot Day luncheon. Bottom left: Edge serves lunch to senior center members. Below right: Members of the center congregate on Patriot Day.



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GISD heightens security after notice of non-credible threat

The school district says the threat was most likely created by a bot.

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Gatesville Independent School District increased security at all of its campuses on Tuesday after receiving a notice about a social media threat that targeted schools across the country.

The school district's statement said the threat was deemed not credible and "likely generated by a bot." Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard said the Gatesville Police Department first received the threat before

notifying Gatesville ISD on Monday night.

"Given the times we live in, we have to take all of these comments seriously no matter how abstract or vague," Pollard said. "I believe the threat was for Monday, but we did not find out about it until Monday evening. However, we did ask for additional law enforcement for Tuesday. These messages are basically a form of terrorism, because they create fear and hysteria."

Pollard said Gatesville ISD did not directly receive the threat.

"I did not see the actual message this time, but the Gatesville Police Department apparently saw something and reported it to us," Pollard said.

Meridian ISD received a similar warning by local law enforcement on Monday, according to the school's Facebook page. The school also increased its security following the notice.

"There is no credible evidence to suggest that this is a legitimate threat toward MISD or any other school in the nation," Meridian ISD said in the Facebook post.

Gatesville ISD's actions come after a rise in online threats targeting school districts in Texas and other states this week, with some leading to arrests.

East Texas police arrested a juvenile accused of making online threats against a school in Longview, CBS 19

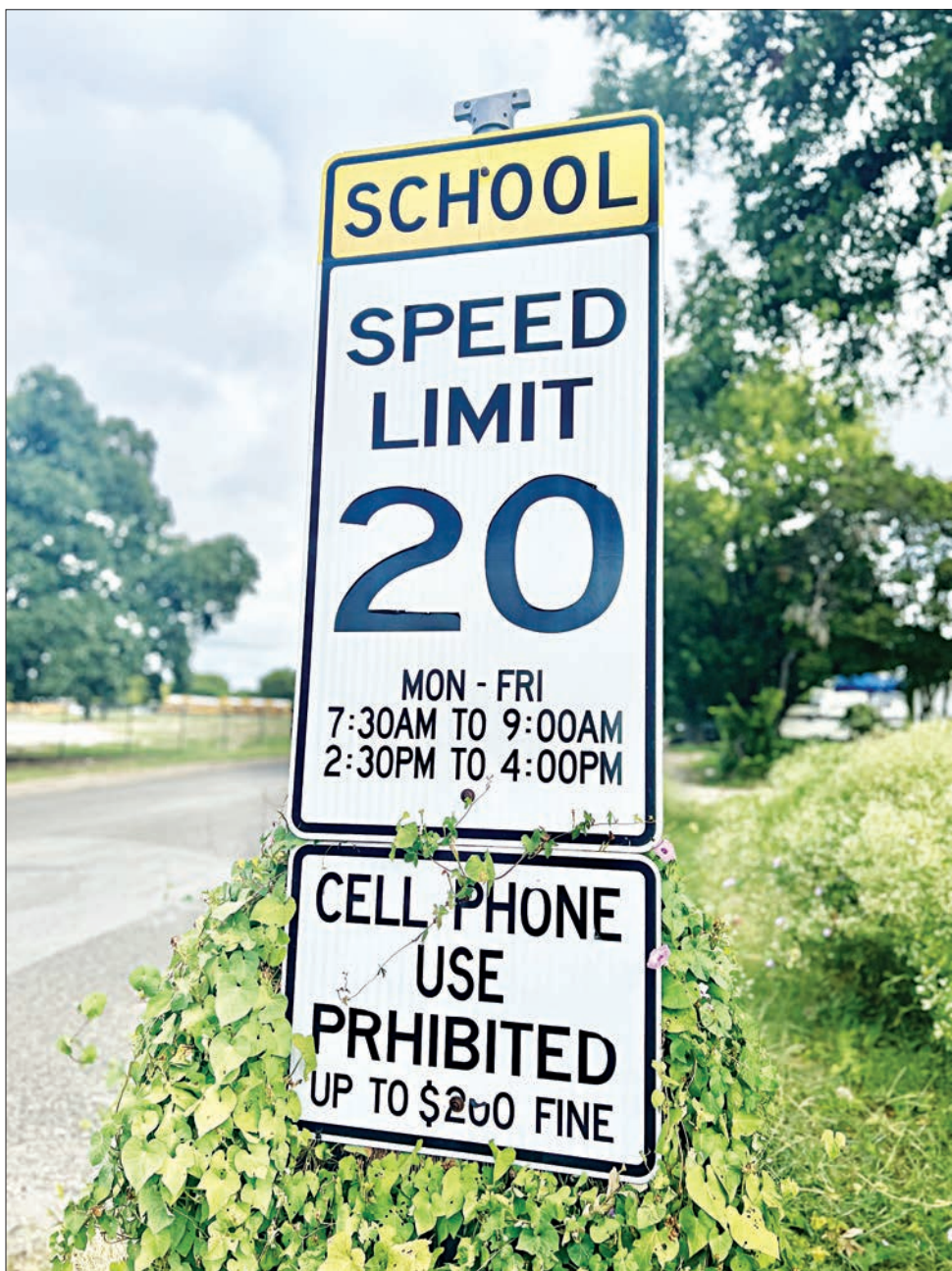
reported on Monday. A similar situation occurred at an Austin high school on Sunday, Sept. 8, where a student faces charges for making threats via Snapchat, according to KXAN.

In Atlanta, police arrested multiple students for making hoax threats following a school shooting that killed four people at a high school in Winder, Georgia on Sept. 4, according to FOX 5 Atlanta.

CBS news reported that au-

thorities arrested a 14-year-old student on Sept. 7 in Broward County, Florida over online threats that targeted several schools in the area. According to the article, the threats were "intended to be a joke."

This is not the first time Gatesville ISD has been warned of allegedly fake threats, Pollard notes. In December, several Central Texas schools received a threat that originated from a "known bot."



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

Current speed limit sign inside a Gatesville ISD school zone

Hunt expressed concern for school zones at recent City Council meeting

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

In a regular City Council meeting held on Tuesday, Sept. 10, Gatesville City Manager Brad Hunt discussed an ordinance adopting and designating school zones within the city limits to update the proper speed limits and times.

Hunt expressed that the staff at City Hall, Gatesville ISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard, Gatesville ISD Police Chief Gary Stiles, and Interim Police Chief Georg Cleverly all had input on the proposed changes of the school zones and agree that it is important to get them updated.

"They are outdated and need replacement," he said. He explained that the changes could be related to the streets around Gatesville having changed some recently.

"As you may know, when you drop off or pick up

your child during school hours, there are certain zones that say different times, because it made sense at the time for the school pick up and drop off times for the particular schools in the past," he said. "However, it is confusing to the general public to know exactly when it is a school zone at cross streets.

It was proposed by Hunt to authorize additional signage on the cross streets coming off Bridge Street and Lovers Lane, before you turn onto Business 36 and if you are coming off North Streets, such as 28th and 29th streets, located by Studebakers.

Hunt expressed that this is to warn people that a school zone is pending on the street they are about to turn onto, which would be Main Street and Business 36, because those school

zones are so long, and the lights could see some improvement.

"Main Street and Business 36 have the flashing lights from TxDOT, and those work pretty well," he said.

The street department will place new signs and poles in certain locations in Gatesville, which is estimated to cost under \$1,000.

The speed limit designated for school traffic zones will be effective only on school days, when students are in attendance, which includes 7 - 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Twenty-miles-per-hour school zones:
South 27th Street from U.S. Highway 84 and East Main Street to Business 36.
North 26th Street from Jackson Drive to U.S. Highway 84 and East Main Street.

PLEASE SEE ZONES | B2

Oglesby ISD will once again make school history by adding softball to athletics program

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Next spring, for the first time in history, Oglesby High School will field a softball team.

Discussions have been underway for the last two years since OHS first introduced its baseball program, but the number of players necessary to comfortably fill out a roster was simply not there.

That all changed this school year, and coach Bo Wideman was named the team's first head coach.

"I was brought on specifically to start up the softball program," Wideman said. "In addition to coaching, I am teaching a handful of classes and serving as a paraprofessional, supporting other teachers within the faculty."

Originally from Lufkin, Texas, Wideman is a graduate of Tarleton State University and a veteran of the United States Navy.

He has coached baseball and softball at every level in travel ball all around Texas and nationally, and for the past couple of decades, he has coached travel softball specifically.

Wideman said the reaction to the new program has been overwhelmingly positive.

"All of the students I've talked to are very excited about the addition of softball to our athletic program," Wideman said. "Even the younger kids in elementary have approached me and told me how excited they are to one day be able to play high school softball."



COURTESY PHOTO

OISD softball jersey.

Wideman said he thinks the introduction of softball is something that "people have wanted for some time and - to hear that it's finally happening - has them hyped with anticipation."

For Wideman, being asked to serve as the school's first head coach is special as well.

"It means a lot to me," Wideman said. "It shows that our superintendent and athletic director trust me and value my experience and vision. I'm honored to have been asked to start up this softball program."

Wideman said his main objective for the coming season is to establish a team culture by setting clear goals and expectations for what it means to be a team.

"Learning the game and emphasizing the little things within the game," Wideman said. "I expect any team I coach to be fundamentally sound, and that's something that we will focus on heavily throughout the first season."

Wideman, who has also worked as a private hitting and pitching instructor around Central Texas for 20 years, said building a program from scratch is not easy, but he believes he has the athletes to compete, and that he is the man for the job.

"The major challenge will be coaching a team that doesn't really have much softball experience," Wideman said. "While all of the neighboring schools have rich softball traditions and established programs, we will be building ours from the ground up. I know that I have some athletic kids within the program and I'm looking forward to the challenge of teaching them how to play softball."



COURTESY PHOTO

OISD Head Softball Coach Bo Wideman.

A successful season for the Lady Tigers in 2024-25 could take a couple of different forms, but for Wideman, the most important thing is to learn what it takes to establish the foundation of what it will take to become a strong and successful program.

"I think when you're starting something like this you have to redefine what success really is and work feverishly toward that," Wideman said. "If it's a goal as simple as 'limit our strikeouts and errors to X amount this game' or 'be more aggressive during our at-bats.' It's attacking the smaller things within the game and celebrating the learning that's involved game by game."

As the Lady Tigers gear up for their inaugural season, Wideman said he would like for them to understand a couple of things.

"I want my players to know that while this is going to be very challenging, it can also be very rewarding and fun," Wideman said. "They are going to be a part of a special group that's starting our softball program. They'll be able to carry that with them for the rest of their lives. It's a unique experience, and, someday, they'll reflect on this and understand that they were an integral part of establishing the team culture and traditions of Oglesby Softball."

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Oglesby Tigers fall to May Tigers, 66-45

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Varsity Tigers football team traveled to May for the battle of the Tigers on Friday, Sept. 6.

The game kept fans on the edge of their seats, as both teams were very physical and played with intensity. Both Tiger teams were able to move the ball and score. However, in the end, the May Tigers were able to come away with a 66-45 win.

#1 Kyler Fossett was the workhorse for the Tigers as usual, putting up the normal numbers on offense and defense.

Coach Dixon opened up the offense for Tigers, as several players got in on offensive action. Fossett led the offense, carrying the ball 25 times for 156 yards and one rushing touchdown. He set the tone for passing, going five for seven for 153 yards and three touchdowns, but Fossett was not finished after catching two passes for 26 yards and another Tiger Touchdown. Fossett ended the night with 335 total yards and was in on five touchdowns.

#7 Alex Castillo went 11 for 17 passing 123 yards and one touchdown. He also had two catches for 60 yards and a touchdown reception. Castillo ended the evening with 163 total yards and was four for six on point-after-touchdown's (PAT's) for eight points.

#20 Jack Hendricks, the big end, hauled in eight receptions for 122 yards and one 50-yard touchdown grab. #5 Hunter Ewing provided great blocking from his center position and had two receptions for 18 yards, including a 13-yard touchdown catch in the end zone. #8 Jakson Tippit snagged a 16-yard touchdown reception. #4 Holdyn Goff caught two passes for 39 yards, including a 20-yard reception for a Tiger first down. Goff was one for two, passing for seven yards. #14 Aiden Oxford had one carry for one yard.

Defensively for Tigers, #20 Jack Hendricks led the tackles with 11 tackles. #4 freshman Holdyn Goff was second with six tackles and completed one interception in the end zone to halt a May Tiger scoring drive. #1 Kyler Fossett had five tackles. #7 Alex Castillo had five tackles. #10 Kayson Campbell competed five tackles. #8 Jakson Tippit had four tackles. #14 Aiden Oxford had one tackle.

The Oglesby Tigers will prepare for their Homecoming game, which will be held on Friday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the Oglesby High School Homecoming court.

OHS announces Homecoming nominees

Submitted Item

Oglesby Independent School District will host its Homecoming on Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. The game will be held at Butch Goodwin Stadium in Oglesby against Gholson.

Coronation activities will take place at half time.

Homecoming court nominees include:

ROSELYN RITCHIE: Ritchie's involvement in her high school career includes volleyball, track, welding, UIL, and time with family and friends. Filming girls' basketball games is also something she has done for the athletics department. Her future plans include attending McLennan Community College (MCC) to become a phlebotomist.

MARLEE HENDERSON: Henderson has been involved in cheerleading as both a cheerleader and as the Tiger mascot; she was also an elected Beta Club member all four years of high school, a UIL participant in academics, a member of the Student Advisory committee, and was involved in floral design. She plans on entering the medical field to be a sonographer.

BLISSANY RAMOS: Ramos has academic awards, including A/B honor roll throughout high school, as well as awards in both math and art as a top student. She is currently completing dual enrollment courses through Tarleton. After high school, she plans to attend Tarleton State University to pursue a major in nursing.

ALEXAH BATTREAL: Battreal has participated in volleyball, basketball, track, cheer, and, currently, softball for Oglesby athletics. She also has enjoyed participating in various art and floral design projects for her classes. She plans to attend MCC after high school to pursue a career as a phlebotomist.

JAYDA GONZALEZ: Gonzalez participated in Future Farmers of America (FFA), welding, basketball, track, cheerleading, and volleyball during high school. She also has received top student awards in art and graphic design. She plans to attend MCC (MacLennan Community College) to become a dental hygienist.

JULIANNE RUDOLPH: Rudolph has been active in FFA and floral design during high school. She also volunteers outside of school at the Gatesville Senior Center. After graduation, she plans to enter the workforce in hopes of becoming an entrepreneur.

JOLYNN WHITELEY: Whiteley has been involved in basketball, track and field events, as well as the varsity drill team. Her achievements include capturing second place district in track and field discus, completion of advanced placement classes, and dual enrollment classes through Tarleton University. She plans on pursuing a career in cosmetology.



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Hornet standouts from Friday's game against Glen Rose are pictured, left to right, Amos Phillips, Jack Erwin, Rayshon Smith, and Zavier Clater.

Gatesville Hornets fall to state-ranked Glen Rose

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Following Gatesville's 28-12 loss to Glen Rose, Aaron Hunter was okay hearing about his team's effort, fight, and defensive execution in falling to the No. 2 ranked Tigers. But he didn't want to be congratulated.

"I don't like hearing that just because we stayed close or won the first half. I want to finish those games and win those games, and that is what we are going to do," he said.

Glen Rose's vaunted offense, led by quarterback Canyon Evans, scored 45 points in their week one win and went 14 plays on the opening drive to take a 7-0 lead.

It looked to be a continuation of their week one offensive fireworks, but the Gatesville defense dug in

and the offense methodically moved the ball and kept the Tigers offense off the field.

Gatesville capped their opening drive with a 33-yard field goal from freshman Leonardo Leon to cut the lead to 7-3. Quarterback Gehrig Keeton connected twice with receiver Jack Erwin on the drive, while Rayshon Smith did damage on the ground.

Smith finished with 212 yards on 20 carries and scored Gatesville's only touchdown. It was his second straight 200-yard rushing effort and the fifth of his career. He now has 3,259 career rushing yards and moved into third place in career rushing yards behind Taurean Henderson (6,340) and Lashon Thayer (5,336).

"He's patient, and you think, 'OK, we got him,'"

Glen Rose head coach Cliff Watkins told the Waco Tribune-Herald after the game. "And then all of a sudden he bursts through the hole, and he's got a quick burst but he's so big and strong, (he's) hard to bring down."

The Tigers would not score again in the first half. On their second possession, Dutch Nielson brought down Evans with a sack on fourth down. Then the Hornets forced a punt on Glen Rose's third possession.

On the tenth play of the ensuing drive, Smith went 47-yards around the right end and scampered into the end zone for a 9-7 lead. Smith had gains of 61, 47, and 24 in the game.

Glen Rose lined up for a 47-yard field goal in the closing seconds of the half, but Zavier Clater

split a pair of blockers and blocked the kick to preserve the 9-7 halftime lead.

For the second week in a row, Gatesville held their opponent to less than 80 yards rushing. Taylor had 34 yards rushing in week one, while Glen Rose had 77.

Clater had ten tackles in the game, including three for a loss. He had two sacks and two quarterback pressures. Amos Phillips led the Hornets defense with 23 tackles (nine solo), while Dylan Watts had 13 tackles. Cam Hendrix and Logan Biggs each had ten tackles apiece, while Logan Morgan had nine tackles and a sack. Kaden Coffman had Gatesville's other sack.

"The defense has been playing really good football, and I like where we

are defensively," Hunter said. "Clater played lights out football the other night."

Evans threw his first touchdown pass of the night to give Glen Rose a 14-9 third-quarter lead, but Gatesville cut into the lead when Leon drilled a 38-yard field goal to make it 14-12.

In the fourth, Glen Rose added a pair of short rushing touchdowns to seal the 28-12 win.

On offense, Keeton completed seven passes on the night including four to Erwin, two to Phillips, and one to Daniel Gonzalez. He also rushed for 19 yards in his second varsity start.

Gatesville travels to Mexia to take on the Black Cats on Sept. 13 before returning home for a homecoming contest with McGregor.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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ZONES

FROM PAGE B1

Hornet Way from U.S. Highway 84 and East Main Street to Highway 36.

North Lovers Lane from Jackson Drive to U.S. Highway 84 and East Main Street.

South Lovers Lane from U.S. Highway 84 and East Main Street to Business 36.

Thirty-miles-per-hour

school zones:

U.S. Highway 84 and East Main Street: The entire portion of U.S. Highway 84 and East Main Street from the intersection of North 28th Street, westerly to .07 miles past the intersection of Lovers Lane.

Business 36: The entire portion of Texas State High-

way Business 36 from the intersection of South 27th Street, westerly to .07 miles past the intersection of South Lovers Lane.

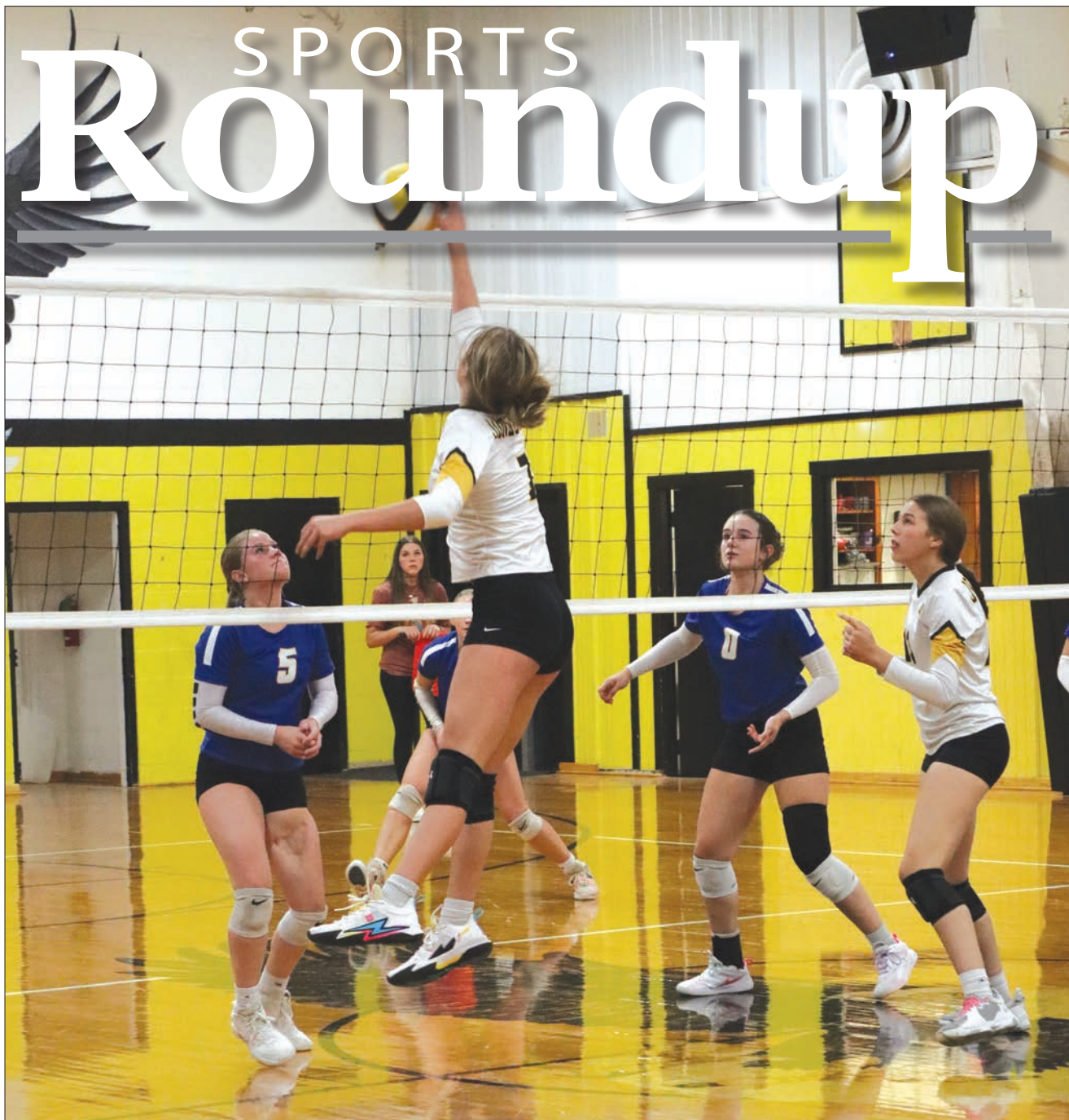
Any person who is found violating the provisions of the ordinance will be guilty of a Class C Misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200 per

offense.

"I think the additional signage will be good," Mayor Gary Chumley said. "I have had some complaints for that very reason of people coming off the side streets and realizing they are in a school zone."

Hunt expressed that upon the third reading, if

the ordinance is approved, it will go into effect immediately, and there will be an education period with the school's police department along with the school district and the Gatesville Police Department to go over the changes that will take place.



AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jonesboro volleyball vs. Lipan

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Event Comes Up Just Short Against Waco Christian

The Evant football team had a strong effort against Waco Christian on Friday night but came up a little short losing by a score of 62-55.

Coach Brandon Young said he is seeing progress from his young squad.

"I thought the team played with a lot of heart," Brandon said. "We have a young team that is having to develop very rapidly in order to compete, but they are handling it well. We just need to fix the small things like holding on to the ball or not breaking coverage and leaving zones open.

"But those are mistakes I expect them to make at this juncture. The key is do we learn from those mistakes and fix them before district play."

Young said he had a couple of standout performances in the game.

"I thought that Austin Price... made some key tackles for us on defense that kept us in the game," Young said. "Cam McGilvray started in his first game since his injury last year and ran the ball extremely well."

Evant will play at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 13, at Blanket.

Lady Elks Defeat Zephyr in Three

The Evant volleyball team defeated Zephyr 25-18.

25-22, 25-16 in a game that coach JoAnna Vaden said her team demonstrated excellent team chemistry.

"They worked well as a team," Vaden said. "One of their biggest attributes is that they pull together as a team. Their success is in their teamwork."

Harley Weeks stepped up with 34 assists to the hitters and 11 digs, and Vaden said she had a couple of other players come through in big ways as well.

"Jolyce Acosta also contributed to the defense and hustled for 15 digs," Vaden said. "Bree Ramirez served up 12 points and Izzy Gandy served up 9. Molly Waldrum and Luwi Rodriguez added 19 and 12 kills to today's efforts."

May Too Much for Oglesby
The Tigers lost to May on Friday night by a score of 66-45 and moved to 0-2 for the season.

Despite the slow start to the non-district season, coach Jeb Dixon said his team has faced stiff competition and continues to show signs of improvement.

"We played another really good football team," Dixon said. "We are getting better every week. Half of our roster are freshmen and sophomores, and I expect improvement every week. Jack Hendricks had a good night receiving. We have some growing up to do and we are still searching for an identity."

Hendricks finished the game against May with 122 yards receiving and a touchdown.

He also had 11 tackles in the game.

Kyler Fossett rushed for 156 yards and a touchdown and passed for 153 yards and 3 touchdowns. Oglesby will host Gholson at 7 p.m. on Sept. 13.

Gatesville Boys Finish Fourth

The Gatesville boys cross-country team finished fourth at the Midway Hewitt Kiwanis Invitational this past week.

Justin Muegge (17:03.50), Jack Armstrong (17:04.40), Malachi Olvera (17:20.30) and Cameron Thompson (17:25.10) all finished in the top 25 runners at the meet.

The field included 19 teams in Gatesville's division.

In the girls competition, Gatesville finished fifth overall as a team.

Vania Martinez was the top runner on the girls side with a time of 12:38.70, and right on her heels was teammate Riley Higginbotham with a time of 12:45.00.

Jonesboro Beats Meridian

The Jonesboro volleyball team beat Meridian by a score of 3-0 on Friday night.

Coach Tori Smith said that she was happy with the win but saw room for improvement.

"We honestly didn't play

our best against Meridian," Smith said. "We've had several out sick and trying to get back to 100 percent health has been difficult, but we still easily came out on top winning all three sets."

Smith said she had a few standout performances in the game.

"Julie Henderson and Emily Turner really helped us out at the net with tips and blocks, and our Libero, Lynlee Deats, had some great serves against Meridian," Smith said.

Eagles Fall Short Against Westbrook

The Jonesboro football team came up short against Westbrook by a score of 68-36 on Friday night to move to 1-1 on the season.

Coach Eddie Gallegos said he knew his team would have its hands full heading into the game.

"This was a game circled on our calendar," Gallegos said. "We felt like we missed a couple of opportunities in the first half to finish drives. Our kids played extremely hard and extremely physical. We'll learn from this and get better."

Gallegos said it was an important game for several of his upperclassmen.

"All of our juniors played in their first heavyweight fight," Gallegos said. "But senior Eric Thorman made some big plays in a big game."

HORNETS NEST

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



RICKEY PHILLIPS

GISD Athletic Director
@RickeyPhillips12 on X

Another commitment, record books

...GHS senior tennis player Kasey Fitzer has verbally committed to play collegiately at Hardin-Simmons University (Abilene). She is a 4-year Varsity letterman and 2-year regional qualifier.

Kasey follows in the footsteps of her brother, Stephen, who played football for HSU from 2020-2023.

She becomes the third GHS senior student-athlete (there are more coming) to verbally commit so far this fall. And, like the others, her opportunity to play college ball is not by accident. She (and her family) have put in countless hours of extra time and preparation on the tennis courts.

...Senior RB Rayshon Smith recently climbed into the No. 3 spot on the GHS career rushing yards leaderboard. Smith, who rushed for 255 and 212 yards in the team's first two games, now has 3,252 career yards, a total that will keep climbing the remainder of the 2024 season.

He trails only Taurean Henderson (6,340 yards, 1998-2000) and Lashon Thayer (5,336 yards, 2001-2003) in the record book.

Gatesville has had plenty of talented and versatile running backs over the decades of Hornet football, so Rayshon is in some pretty great company. And I bet he would tell you pretty quickly that all of this was aided by some tough ol' offensive linemen that have cleared the path for him on fall Friday nights the last three seasons.

GHS Homecoming Week

Gatesville High School will celebrate its 2024 Homecoming next week, and there are several events taking place to help celebrate the week.

Thursday, Sept. 19

GHS Homecoming Festival with games, live music, and food trucks begins at 6 p.m. at the Methodist Church field located east of the stadium.

The GHS Class of 2025 will march up Marshall Street at 7 p.m., with a pep rally and "Lighting of the G" to take place at the GISD cross country/walking path.

Friday, Sept. 20

GHS Homecoming pep rally at 11:10 a.m. in the GHS Sidney L. Pruitt Gym. Honored classes will be recognized at the pep rally.

Volleyball will host Whitney starting at 4:30 p.m. Football will host McGregor at 7:30 PM. The GHS 2024 Homecoming Queen will be announced at halftime.

Notes and notes

...GHS-ex spiker Sydney Mundkowsky recently set a new Radford University record with 30 kills in the Highlanders' season opener vs. Temple. She was also selected as the Big South Conference's Player of the Week for two weeks in a row.

Upcoming schedule

Monday, Sept. 16

Volleyball: 7th-8th A-B vs. China Spring.

Tuesday, Sept. 17

Football: 7B vs. Brownwood.
Tennis: JV at Groesbeck.
Volleyball: Varsity-JV-9th at Troy.

Wednesday, Sept. 18

Cross Country: 7th-8th at Robinson.

Thursday, Sept. 19

Football: 7th-8th A-B vs. McGregor, 9th-JV at McGregor.

Friday, Sept. 20

Cross Country: Varsity-JV at Round Rock McNeil.
Football: Varsity vs. McGregor (GHS Homecoming).
Volleyball: Varsity-JV-9th vs. Whitney.

Hornet Fight Never Dies!

Gatesville Hornet Athletics on Facebook, @FightinHornets on X, www.gatesvilleathletics.com

OHS JV White team falls to Riders, 25-19

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tiger JV White football team played in the Fort Worth THESA against the Riders in Covington on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The JV White Tigers played a hard-fought game, holding the lead throughout the game, before falling in the end to the Riders 25-19.

Offensively for the Tigers, Treyton Linder was the leading rusher for the night with nine carries for 91 yards and one point-after-touchdown (PAT). Abram Shaw had seven carries for 53 yards and two touchdowns. Shaw's longest was a 29-yard run to paydirt. Tucker Melton had two carries for 10 yards and was two for five passing to Javon Howard,

including a 60-yard touchdown pass, and a 16-yard reception. Howard finished with two catches for 75

yards and a touchdown.

Defensively for the Tigers, Gunner Riley had one solo tackle and seven

assists for a total of eight tackles. Shaw had three solo tackles and five assists for eight tackles.

Howard had two solos and three assists for five tackles. Rolondo Gonzales had one solo and six assists for seven tackles. Aiden Aviles had two solos and one assist for three tackles. Linder had one solo, one assist, two tackles, and one fumble recovery. Jacob Taylor had two assists. Howard and Riley had two sacks for one loss.

Other Tigers seeing action were Landry Riley, Josue Rodriguez, and Sam Ortiz. The JV Tiger White Team traveled to Gholson, Thursday, Sept. 12, for a 6 p.m. contest. Results will be featured in the Saturday, Sept. 21 edition of The Gatesville Messenger.



OHS JV Red football team vs May Tigers

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tiger JV Red football team played host to the May Tiger JV football team on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The young Tigers played hard but fell to the bigger May Tigers by the score of 47-0. May started out strong and never let up, holding the Tigers to just 26 yards of total offense. Callen Webb carried the ball 14 times for 24 yards. Keegan Redford had one carry for two yards.

Defensively for the Tigers, Jayce Aaron let all tacklers with six solos and two assists for a total of eight tackles. Callen Webb had two solos and two

assists for a total of four tackles. Camden Webb had two assists. Keegan Redford had one solo and one assist. Ranger Dalton had one solo tackle. Blayze Fisher had one solo tackle.

Other Tigers seeing action were Jaxon Boykin, Couper Wulfkhule, Ashton Thompson, Paydon Garrett, and Akram Abdulwahab.

The Oglesby JV Red Team will play host to Eagle Christian on Thursday, Sept. 12, following the Tiger Junior High team. Results will be featured in the Saturday, Sept. 21 edition of The Gatesville Messenger.

Spur Tennis Club hosts Labor Day Weekend Roundup Tournament

BY SLONE EARLY

The success of Spur Tennis Club and the Labor Day Weekend Roundup Tennis Tournament brings a lot of joy to my heart. In the tennis world, we have "UTR," which stands for Universal Tennis Rating. Players compete in verified UTR tournaments to improve their UTR, and having a better UTR is absolutely necessary for junior players looking to be recruited to play college tennis and for better seeding at district, regional, and state tournaments.

Back when I played tennis for Gatesville High School, UTR tournaments were everywhere, and I could go to one basically every weekend. After I got home from my summer college classes, I was trying to find tournaments for myself to join, and I quickly realized that most of the tournaments I used to go to were no longer

happening! So, I thought to myself, "I could do that," and one month later, the verified UTR Labor Day Weekend Roundup Tournament took place with 47 players across singles and doubles divisions.

My goal with Spur Tennis Club is to provide adults and juniors of all skill levels and ages more high-quality opportunities to play tennis in Central Texas, and I feel that the Labor Day Weekend Roundup accomplished just that. I've had a number of people from all around the area tell me things like, "this was the only place having a tournament!" or "I'm so glad you're having this tournament, you saved us a trip to Austin!" and hearing that is exactly what I've set out to do with Spur Tennis Club.

It was awesome seeing former high school play-

ers, college students, high school athletes, junior high athletes, and more compete in my tournament. I could not have done it without my amazing parents, Sam and Se'Vette Early, who extensively helped and supported me every step of the way through this process and put in so much work behind the scenes. I learned everything I know about event organizing from watching their barrel races that they put on through Rafter E Productions.

I would also like to give another huge thank you to Ricky Phillips, the athletic director of Gatesville High School, for allowing me to use the Glenn and Sue Vernon Tennis Courts.

The next tournament will be the Pumpkin Palooza and will take place on Oct. 5-6.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS:



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

2023 GHS graduate, Slone Early, was the originator of the Spur Tennis Club.

Eric White / Madelynn White - 1st Place - Armadillo Draw Doubles
Kaden Slider / Kinley Slider - 2nd Place - Armadillo Draw Doubles
Laina White / Caroline White - Consolation Champions - Armadillo Draw Doubles
Lucas Garcia / Jackson Neumann - 1st Place - Bronco Draw Doubles
Brandon Ingraham / Thad

Vincent - 2nd Place - Bronco Draw Doubles
Jack Armstrong / Asa Hardcastle - Consolation Champions - Bronco Draw Doubles
Dylan Nguyen - 1st Place - Armadillo Draw Singles
Somboduornng Vol - 2nd Place - Armadillo Draw Singles
Tanner Sheldon - Consolation Champion - Armadillo Draw Singles

Ben Mabry - 1st Place - Bronco Draw Singles
Calvin Ford - 2nd Place - Bronco Draw Singles
Aiyhana Cleto - Consolation Champion - Bronco Draw Singles
Syan Patel - 1st Place - Coyote Draw Singles
Emery Cepeda - 2nd Place - Coyote Draw Singles
Emersyn Bruce - Consolation Champion - Coyote Draw Singles



GHS 45th class reunion to be held Sept. 20

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School alumni who are coming up on their 45th class reunion is invited to attend a reunion event at Texas Station Event Center on Friday, Sept. 20.

This will be a day long event from noon to 11 p.m. and will include fellowship, appetizers, a food truck,

and more. Be sure to bring your own beverages.

The classes of 1978 and 1980 are also invited to the reunion as well as any teachers that taught for the class of 1979.

There will be pictures taken during the reunion at Texas Station beginning at 7 p.m. and once more following the football game.

All alumni are welcome to attend the Gatesville High School Homecoming pep rally at 11:40 a.m. as well as the football game, which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

For further information, contact Kathryn Warren at 254-223-2708.

Texas Station is located at 305 Old Fort Gates Road.

GHS 50th & 40th 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 information 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 following 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 Club is located at 1308 Golf Course Road.

GHS cheer & mascot alumni event to be held Sept. 20

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School cheer program is searching for all cheerleading and mascot alumni of the district to attend the homecoming pep rally on

Friday, Sept. 20.

The pep rally will begin at 11:05 a.m. in the Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium at Gatesville High School.

During the pep rally, all mascot alumni will join Buzz for a skit, and all past

cheerleaders will get to perform the "Two Bits" chant for the community.

For further information, contact cheer director Amber Colson by email at acolson@gatesvilleisd.org.

Boys & Girls Club presents Day for Kids set for 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., which 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 Slapping 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.

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

Staff Reports

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

Lil' Hornet Cheer Camp set for Oct. 12 at high school

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. - 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.



MEMBER
2024

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Five Texans score, defense holds HCU at bay as Tarleton State turns Husky Stadium purple

Tarleton State University

HOUSTON - On their third starting quarterback in their third game, the Texans needed a quarter to get going offensively. When things started to click in the second quarter, paired with a strong defense, there was no stopping No. 20/21 ranked Tarleton State Saturday, Sept. 7.

The Texans (2-1) had five different players score a touchdown, including three in the second quarter, to knock off Houston Christian (0-2) at Husky Stadium in Houston 35-18. This was the first time Tarleton State played at HCU, and the Texans left their purple imprint, improving to 2-0 in the series with a total 84-25 margin of victory.

Tarleton rushed for 267 yards on the night, led by the dynamic duo of Kayvon Britten and Derrel Kelley III. Britten raced for 152 yards on 26 carries (5.8 YPC) and his first touchdown of the season, while Kelley ran for 108 yards on 23 carries (4.7 YPC) and his second touchdown of the year. Tarleton last had two players rush for 100-plus yards in the same game by these same two players less than a year ago, when the two combined for 289 rushing yards at Eastern Kentucky Oct. 14. This year, Britten has 384 yards on 64 carries (6.0 YPC). Kelley,

who had 239 rushing yards and two touchdowns in Tarleton's 49-7 win over HCU in 2022, now has 347 yards rushing and three touchdowns in two games against the Huskies all-time.

Quarterback Daniel Greek got the nod under center, Tarleton's third starting QB through three games. Since at least 2008, this is the first time Tarleton has utilized three starting quarterbacks in the span of an entire season. Greek was efficient in his first Texan start, completing 15-of-22 for 179 yards, three touchdowns and one interception. He found three different receivers in the end zone, connecting with Cody Jackson from 24 yards out, Mikey Henderson from 22 yards away and Darius Cooper from nine yards away. Greek became the third QB in Tarleton's NCAA Division I era to throw three touchdowns in his first career start.

Tarleton's defense was firm all night, starting with a scoreless spot in the opening quarter. HCU drove 47 yards on the first drive of the game, but the Texans stood tall to force a turnover on downs. After Tarleton returned the favor, the Texans forced three more empty possessions, going punt-punt-interception, with defensive back Donta Stuart picking off his first ball as a member of the Purple and

White.

Stuart's interception immediately followed the first points of the game scored with 13:28 remaining in the second quarter. The Texans marched on an 11-play, 84-yard drive, capping it off with Kelley's 9-yard TD scamper. Two plays later, the Texans got the ball right back, and two plays after that, they made it 14-0 Tarleton State with the Greek-to-Jackson score over the middle.

HCU didn't fold though, and found its offensive footing with a 66-yard drive on eight plays to cut the deficit in half, 14-7. Champ Dozier had the score with a 3-yard rushing touchdown.

The Texans then made it three straight touchdown scoring drives as they chewed up over seven minutes of clock with a 13-play, 75-yard drive that ended in a Britten 2-yard score on the ground. Tarleton State led 21-7 at the break.

Tarleton had a rare turnover to open the second half, just its second of the season, as HCU's Xavier Toliver picked off Greek and returned it 41 yards to the Tarleton 15-yard line. The Texan defense didn't give in though, forcing a 23-yard field goal to make the score 21-10.

The Texans opened the floodgates with back-to-back touchdown scoring drives,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans (2-1) had five different players score a touchdown, including three in the second quarter, to knock off Houston Christian (0-2) at Husky Stadium in Houston 35-18.

the first being Henderson's 22-yard score to cap off a 15-play, 75-yard drive, followed by a seven-play, 70-yard drive that led to Cooper's 9-yard TD reception to make it 35-10 Tarleton State.

HCU added a late touchdown and two-point conversion with 3:17 to play (AJ Wilson 11 yard connection from Cutter Stewart), but the game was well in hand for Tarleton State. Texan DB Dabari Hawkins sealed the deal with an interception with 1:39 left to boost the Texans to a 2-1 start to the season.

This is the third straight year the Texans have start-

ed 2-1 on the season. The Texans have won six of their last seven games overall and have won five of their last six road games against FCS opponents.

Cooper finished with six catches for 71 yards and a TD, while Henderson tallied five receptions for 66 yards and a touchdown. Defensively, Stuart and Hawkins each had an interception, and Brandon Tolvert and AJ Owens each had a half-sack. Tolvert had a tied-team-high seven tackles, sharing the team-lead with Bam Smith.

The Texans had just two punts on the day. Adrian

Guzman pinned the Huskies at the 1-yard line on the last one with a nice save out of the end zone by Kasyus Kurns. However, an unsportsmanlike penalty on the Texans moved it from the 1-yard line to the 16-yard line.

Tarleton State outgained HCU 446-289 and led the time of possession 40:43 to 19:17. The Texans won the turnover battle for the third straight game to start the year, now plus-six overall.

Tarleton will play at fellow United Athletic Conference member North Alabama in Florence on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m. CT.

TSU Soccer closes weekend with a victory

Tarleton State University

GRAMBLING, La. - Tarleton State Soccer notched its fifth shutout of the season with a 2-0 victory over Grambling State Sunday, Sept. 8 at the GSU Soccer Complex.

The Texans (4-2-3) handed the Tigers (2-4-2) their first home defeat of the season in their 2024 home opener.

Jaycie Bass and Adelaide Wyrzynski each notched their first goals of the season. Bass got the Texans on the board with the first goal of the game, her first this season and second in her career. Freshman Reegan Wagg earned the first assist of her career finding Bass. Wyrzynski found the back of the net in the 73rd minute for the Australian's first goal of her collegiate career.

Mikayla Kendall earned her third solo shutout and fifth total shutout of the season. Kendall earned her fourth win of the season in goal, and the 14th of her career. The junior notched five saves in the contest, increasing her season total to 45.

In the 38th minute, the Texans had their best scoring opportunity of the first half. With the ball in the middle of the attacking third, Wyrzynski cut toward the goal and fired off a pair of shots that the Tigers goal made a pair of diving saves. Nicole Fels was on the opposite side and nearly deposited in the deflection of the keeper, but the Grambling goalie was just able to get her hands on it to keep the game scoreless.

Just two minutes later, Jessica Baires found herself at the left corner of the goal but the keeper knocked it out to thwart the attack and give the Texans a corner. The ensuing corner kick landed in the box but was unsuccessful for Tarleton.

In the 60th minute, Una Hlynsdóttir knocked a low shot but the Tigers keeper was in the middle of the goal to make her first save of the second half.

The Texans broke through off the foot of Bass in the 63rd minute. Wagg brought the ball into the corner of the attacking third, then

placed a perfect ball in the center of the box where Bass swiftly placed it in the back of the net to give the Texans a 1-0 lead. Bass found open space above the Tigers keeper for her first goal of the season.

Less than 10 minutes later, the Australia native Wyrzynski broke away for her first collegiate goal. Wyrzynski found an outlet pass and midfield and dribbled down the sidelines with a pair of defenders. Once she neared the left corner of the goal, she passed her defenders and fired a strong shot past the keeper, to give the Texans a 2-0 advantage.

Tarleton accounted for seven shots, all on goal. Grambling also notched seven shots with five on goal. The Tigers registered six corner kicks to the Texans' three. The Tigers tallied 13 fouls, the Texans earned seven.

On Sunday, Sept 15, the Texans play at Houston Christian at 1 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

As Tarleton State University celebrates its 125th anniversary, preliminary numbers indicate record enrollment of approximately 18,000 students, including the largest freshman class ever.

Record enrollment announced as Tarleton State celebrates 125 years

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — As Tarleton State University celebrates its 125th anniversary, preliminary numbers indicate record enrollment of approximately 18,000 students, including the largest freshman class ever.

The university's commitment to research, student success and infrastructure enhancement has sparked record enrollment in each of the past five years.

The Class of 2028 exceeds 3,000 students for the first time, up 11% from the previous high and a 45% spike dating back to 2019.

"By all accounts, Tarleton State University is thriving," said President James Hurley. "As we celebrate our 125th anniversary, our story is being told more loudly and

broadly."

At the start of the new academic year, more than 3,000 high school students, a 64% increase, are participating in Tarleton Today. The university's dual enrollment program that launched last fall allows students to earn university credit in agricultural and STEM areas while completing graduation requirements at Texas high schools.

In pursuit of earning recognition as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, fall enrollment for Hispanic students is around 24%. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes non-profit two- and four-year postsecondary schools with an undergraduate Hispanic student population of at least 25% (50% Pell Grant eligible).

Beyond enrollment successes, the university has exceeded its research expenditure record for the fifth consecutive year and has over \$550 million of construction projects underway across all campuses.

Tarleton State also continues to expand its Fort Worth footprint with the opening of an Interprofessional Education Building and 24 new undergraduate programs available for first- and second-year students.

"Our strategic plan is to ensure the next 125 years of excitement, growth and excellence," said Hurley. "With a keen focus on student success, teaching and research, our vision of becoming the premier comprehensive university in the nation remains unwavering."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Soccer notched its fifth shutout of the season with a 2-0 victory over Grambling State Sunday, Sept. 8 at the GSU Soccer Complex.

RECIPE

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

CHICKEN MARSALA

BY MARCIA STRIEBER

4 4oz. chicken breasts	1/8 tsp. pepper
1 c. fresh mushrooms	1/8 tsp. salt
1/3 c. Marsala wine	2 T. olive oil
1/2 tsp. dried thyme	2 tsp. cold water
1 tsp. fresh rosemary or 1/4 dried	1 tsp. cornstarch

Pound chicken breast out until a little thinner (they cook better and are more tender). Season chicken with salt and pepper then sauté in olive oil until golden brown on each side. (Cook at fairly hot temperature so you don't over cook to get them browned). Add mushrooms and other ingredients except cornstarch and water and cook until chicken is just tender, not dry and overdone. Mix the cornstarch and water together. Remove the chicken breast from the pan, add the cornstarch mixture until thickened, then replace the chicken in the sauce and serve with pasta.



Chicken Marsala

PHOTO COURTESY OF MODERN MEAL MAKEOVER

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Someone call security ...



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's contraptions and inventions usually are "far-fetched." Finally, he's come up with one that is "near-fetched."

Stephen Cox is not an imposing figure. Still, he has the countenance and features to be a Clark Kent look-alike, even if considerably smaller in stature.

You remember Clark, right? He's the guy who morphed quickly from his role as a reporter for a large metropolitan newspaper into Superman, the movie and comic book figure who flew around Gotham City beating the daylight out of the bad guys.

Cox, now 30-something, even has eyewear like Kent's. The distinguished San Antonio music educator appears to be much younger than his actual age, but he — like Kent — remains super cool in all circumstances, though never donning a cape, leaping over buildings in a single bound, or putting the hurt on anybody ...

He's so genteel, always careful to give others the

benefit of doubts.

Cox has long been known as the kind of mentor whom students remember fondly for the rest of their lives. Beloved by his wife, children, and a host of others, he has been a "hit" wherever he has struck up the band. If Mr. Holland had not preceded him, there easily could have been a "Mr. Cox's Opus."

By all measures, he is simply the best ...

Such respect is heaped on him by acclamation; no vote is needed. He's "Mr. Wonderful" — one of the last guys on the planet one would expect to run afoul of airport TSA personnel.

Obviously never having laid eyes on this simple musical instrument, the agent didn't initially believe Cox's explanation about the kazoo in his pocket detected by x-ray. To him, it looked lethal. To Cox, it was a joke, since everyone can play kazoos easily if they have breath and "sing" such syllables as doo, too, who, or vrrr into the kazoo.

Unflappable, Cox told the agent about the music convention he'd attended, then details about the simple instrument. He remained calm and wasn't asked to play his kazoo. Isn't there a poem admonishing us to keep our heads about us when others are losing theirs? Soon, he was allowed to board, his kazoo in hand ...

My, how things have changed, particularly airport security. I recall boarding a plane in Dallas, long before 9-11.

En route to Amarillo for a speaking engagement, I was unaware that pheasant hunting season began with the next sunrise. Dozens of boarders placed their shotguns in overhead bins, counting the hours until dawn.

"Those guns aren't loaded, are they?" flight attendants joked ...

I had a Stephen Cox experience shortly after 9/11. My wife and I were returning from a trip to Alaska,

where she purchased ulu knives to gift our sons-in-law come Christmas. They were miniature versions of ulu knives that are used largely in Alaska.

One might guess them to be "pizza-slicers" if seen on kitchen counters in the US of A.

As we prepared to leave, suitcases filled quickly, so she stuffed the knives into her carry-on bag ...

At security check, a mean-spirited woman who looked capable of playing tackle on an NFL team lectured us sternly about dimensions, weights, and what could NOT be included in our carry-ons. I yawned, thinking that no such items were in my pouch.

Wrong! My wife — weary as her carry-on bag became "too heavy" — innocently extracted the ulu knives and stuck them into my bag, unbeknownst to me. To this day, she swears she considered them to be Christmas gifts, not dangerous weapons.

"What do we have here?"

the agent sneered. "They're going to stay with me." I tried to explain that Brenda thought they'd be nice Christmas gifts. I also failed to feign Cox's innocence, hopeful that the tears streaming down my cheeks would help. The agent, however, wasn't buying it. I could only hope the confiscated knives wound up under Christmas trees of young Eskimos who dreamed that Santa would somehow avoid security checks as his sleigh flew throughout the world on Christmas Eve ...

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is one of the nation's longest-running syndicated humor columns. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

Hearing what we mean: mastering effective communication



BY MICKY SHEARON

Contributing Writer

In today's world, where everyone seems to be talking but few are genuinely communicating, mastering the art of effective communication is more crucial than ever. As Simon Sinek aptly says, "Communication is not about saying what we think. Communication is about ensuring others hear what we mean." This statement reminds us that the essence of communication lies in understanding and being understood.

UNDERSTANDING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Effective communication is more than just exchanging words. It involves understanding the emotions and intentions behind the information being conveyed. According to HelpGuide.org, true communication requires active listening, where one not only hears the words but also grasps the feelings and intentions behind them. This approach helps make the other person feel heard and understood, fostering deeper connections and reducing misunderstandings.

KEY COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

- Active listening:** Engaging fully with the speaker, showing genuine interest, and providing feedback that confirms understanding. This goes beyond merely hearing words to interpreting and responding to the emotional undertones of the conversation.
- Nonverbal communication:** Our body language, facial expressions, and gestures play a significant role in how our messages are received. Inconsistent body language can create

confusion, while positive nonverbal cues can enhance the clarity and impact of our communication.

- Clarity and conciseness:** Clear and concise communication reduces the risk of misunderstandings. According to SkillsYouNeed.com, effective communicators are adept at choosing the right words and avoiding unnecessary jargon that might confuse the audience.
- Empathy:** Understanding and acknowledging the feelings and perspectives of others can significantly enhance communication. Empathy allows us to tailor our messages in a way that resonates with the audience, making them more receptive.

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO COMMUNICATION

Several barriers can impede effective communication, including stress, lack of focus, and negative body language. Stress can lead to misinterpretation of messages and reactive responses. Therefore, it is essential to manage stress and remain calm during interactions to maintain clear communication.

Distractions, such as multitasking or checking your phone, can also hinder effective communication. Staying focused on the conversation and avoiding distractions can help in fully

understanding the message being conveyed.

Moreover, body language that contradicts our words can lead to distrust and confusion. Ensuring that our nonverbal cues align with our verbal messages is critical for effective communication.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

- Practice active listening:** Focus on the speaker, avoid interrupting, and provide feedback that shows you are engaged and understand the message.
- Pay attention to nonverbal signals:** Be mindful of your body language and facial expressions. Ensure they are consistent with your words to reinforce your message.
- Be clear and concise:** Use simple and straightforward language. Avoid unnecessary details that might distract from the main message.
- Show empathy:** Try to understand the other person's perspective and respond with empathy. This builds trust and openness in communication.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CPAPRACTICEADVISOR

- Manage stress:** Stay calm and composed during conversations, especially in high-stress situations. This helps in thinking clearly and communicating effectively.

- Ask questions:** Clarify any doubts by asking questions. This shows you are interested and ensures you fully understand the other person's message.

- Provide constructive feedback:** Offer feedback that is specific, helpful, and encouraging. This helps in improving future communication.

CONCLUSION

In an era where effective communication is more critical than ever, focusing on ensuring others hear

what we mean can transform our personal and professional relationships. By practicing active listening, paying attention to nonverbal signals, and showing empathy, we can overcome common communication barriers and connect more deeply with others. As we navigate a world filled with constant chatter, the ability to communicate effectively stands out as a vital skill for success and harmony.

For more insights and tips on effective communication, visit resources like HelpGuide.org, SkillsYouNeed.com and DaveFleet.com. These platforms offer comprehensive guides and practical advice on honing your communication skills.

BOOK REVIEW

Fall political history books by various authors



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

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

Well. It hasn't happened yet. We're a handful of days from the election, and you're not tired of politics yet.

You're still an avid news-watcher, you still thrill at the polls, and "debate" might just be your middle name. So why not reach back in history and learn about politics in years gone by, with these great books ...

How did we get to where we are, politically speaking? Historians and fans of 20th-century politics will love finding out in "Reagan: His Life and Legend" by Max Boot (Liveright, \$45), a book about our 40th president.

One look at this book will assure readers that not much has been missed in telling about Ronald Reagan's life. Boot starts out with Reagan's youth, his early career as a sports announcer, and his days in Hollywood with yesterday's stars. Politics, of course, features very highly inside this biography, and it starts earlier than you might expect.

Fall is the perfect time to tackle a book this size, especially if politics is your thing right now. It's

perfect for voters on both sides of the fence.

Readers who look askance at the partisanship that seems to have taken over politics these days will want to read "America's Deadliest Election: The Cautionary Tale of the Most Violent Election in American History" by Dana Bash with David Fisher (Hanover Square Press, \$32.99). It's a book about the 1872 election, including allegations of corruption, dirt-throwing, violence, and more mayhem. The media got involved with a war of words; white supremacists went on a killing spree, which led to the birth of the Ku Klux Klan; and it was general chaos all over America for longer than anyone wanted to see — except, perhaps, the perpetrators.

It all leads to a cautionary tale that resonates even today and could give readers a sense of foreboding, urging you to act with your vote or your voice. This book is

a great read for anyone who knows that history repeats itself, and that's not always good.

And finally, for business-minded readers who know you can't totally separate business from politics, there's "The Power and the Money: The Epic Clashes Between Commanders in Chief and Titans of Industry" by Tevi Troy (Regnery History, \$32.99), a book about how business leaders and presidents worked together — and didn't — and how the many relationships between the most powerful man in America and the most powerful man in any given boardroom ultimately shaped business, infrastructure, overseas relations, economic issues, and policy over and over throughout history. It's a fascinating book and a great mixture of subjects if you love business and politics or both.

And if these books aren't enough to whet your political appetite, be sure to check with your favorite librarian or bookseller. They've got books on their shelves that will take you back, politically, in any direction, or forward with opinion, fact, thought, or ideology. You'll see where we come from, where we've been, and perhaps where we're headed. Look for these great books. They'll get your vote.

YARD OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER



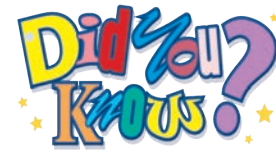
COURTESY PHOTO

Local organization, Keep Gatesville Beautiful, has recently recognized the First National Bank of Central Texas with its Yard of the Month award for September. The newly built bank was first opened in March of 2024 with Will Coward as the Branch President. Coward expressed that Creighton Bennet and Associate Landscaping was used to install the landscape, and Vincent Garcia currently maintains it. The bank's landscaping features Crepe Myrtles, Oak, Texas Mountain Laurel, Aromatic Aster bushes, Texas Sage, Nandina bushes, Red Yucca, daylilies, and dianthus. The establishment also includes a pavilion, which is open for public use. Branch President Will Coward (middle) is pictured with his bank staff. The bank is located at 209 East Main Street.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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There are 120 Shades of Crayons. Officially, there are about a dozen more, but they are impossible to get your hands on because they're retired or special edition

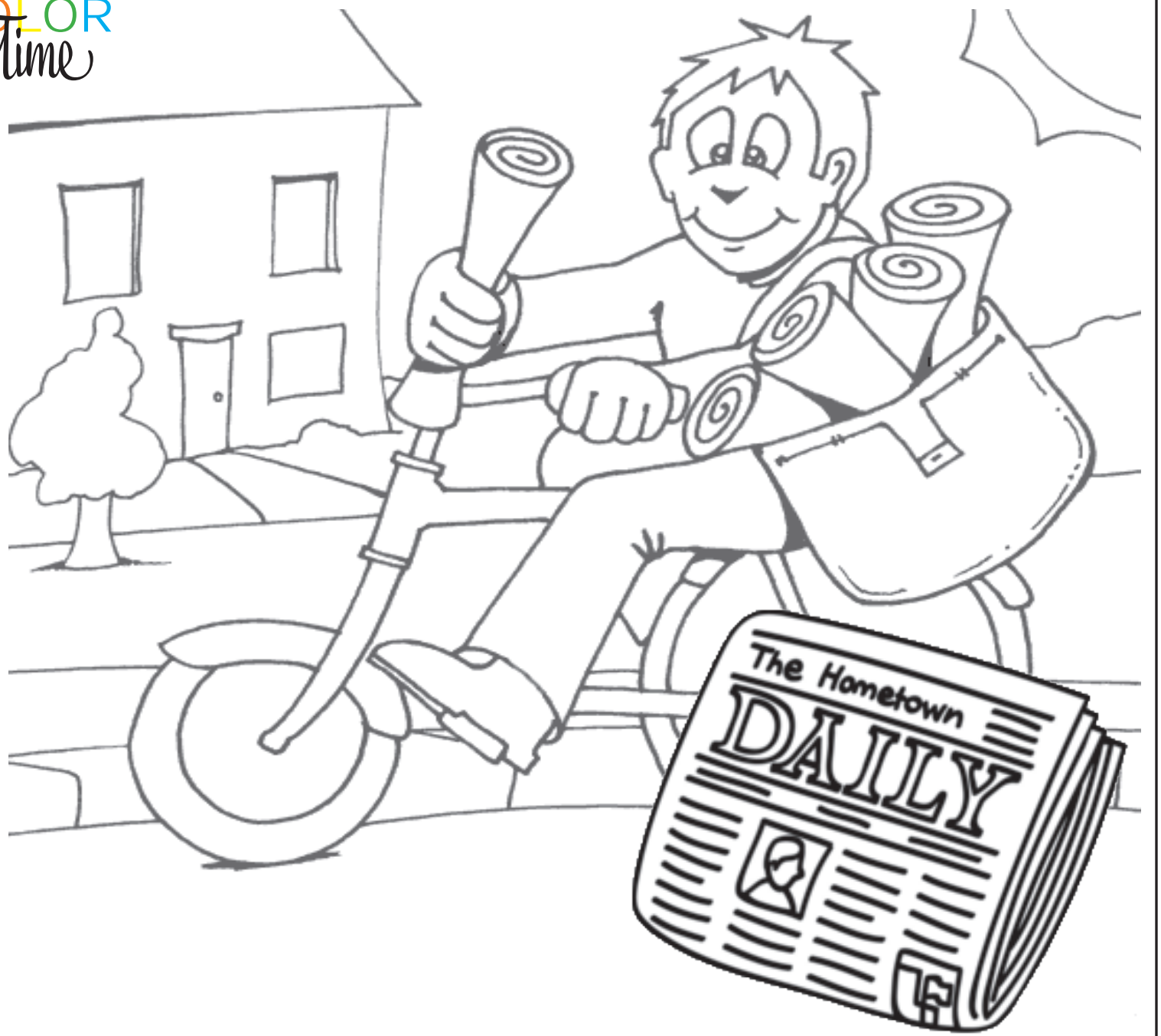
On September 14th, let your imagination run wild as we celebrate National Coloring Day! It's a day dedicated to embracing creativity, relaxation, and self-expression through the art of coloring.

Grab your favorite coloring books, crayons, markers, or colored pencils, and get ready to add some color to your world! Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, National Coloring Day is the perfect opportunity to unwind and let your creativity flow.

Coloring isn't just fun - it's also a fantastic way to de-stress and practice mindfulness. So take some time for yourself on September 14th and indulge in the therapeutic activity of coloring. Whether you prefer intricate designs or simple patterns, there's something for everyone to enjoy on National Coloring Day!

So, dust off your coloring supplies and get ready to let your colors shine on September 14th. Whether you're coloring solo or with friends and family, National Coloring Day is a chance to celebrate your creativity and add a little bit of color to your day!

COLOR Time



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

Central Texas Hospitality House provides support for families with incarcerated loved ones

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

With over 80,000 people a year traveling to Gatesville prisons to visit their incarcerated loved ones, the Central Texas Hospitality House makes it their mission to provide support and to become a bridge of trust between prisoners and their families, as well as to the churches of the community.

The Central Texas Hospitality House was first established in 2014 with inspirations from the late Charlie Wise and his wife Mary Alice Wise, who still volunteers her time and donates to this day.

"How it all happened was a miracle, and, if you believe in miracles, then I've never seen one like this," Mary Alice said.

Many years ago, when the Board of Directors first began searching for a building to provide a hospitality house to the area, Mary Alice recalled when she received a phone call from a local pastor at Grace Bible Church. The pastor informed her that the church unanimously voted to donate their land to the hospitality house.

When Grace Bible Church donated their land, it paved the way for the hospitality house to finally begin their journey in constructing their new facility.

"This whole house is a miracle and everything in it is, too," Mary Alice said. "It started out having nothing."

Kay McCleary, a member of the board of directors, said that each piece of furniture in the house has been donated. She also mentioned that a friend of Charlie Wise's had three to four estates for sale, and the directors were able to go through and pick out whatever they wanted for the hospitality house at no charge.

Once the hospitality house was finished being furnished and built, a ribbon cutting was held in September of 2014.

The current directors are Pat and Charles Howard, who began their journey in June of 2023. Pat expressed that she believes being in-

involved with the hospitality house is important.

"When you help families stay in touch with their imprisoned loved ones, it helps keep the family bond strong," she said.

She mentioned that the house is able to hold up to 22 people and provides 10 bedrooms.

There are two rooms with queen-size beds, one room with two full size beds, and the rest of the rooms have half-size beds. Located on one side of the building there are four bedrooms, with two of the rooms each connected with a door for large families traveling together.

Each room in the house is themed based on the life of an incarcerated individual or their family, an inspirational quote, or a Bible verse.

There is one room that was specially designed to honor the life of Karla Faye Tucker, who was incarcerated for 14 years at the Mountain View Unit. Before her execution in 1998, she found the Lord and was also able to personally touch Mary Alice's heart, which led to the room being recognized in her name.

"Everybody in the United States knew about her because she got interviewed, and it was a new thing that a woman was going to be executed," Mary Alice said. "I was one of the ones that got to go in and be with her and see her; Charlie and I both did."

"You would be surprised how the Lord worked through all of that, and it helped us because Karla had no fear at all," she said. "She knew that she would become a Christian even though she had been about the worst person before."

Within the house, there are various signs displayed with uplifting Bible verses on the walls, which were made by past board member Trae Kendrick; this is just one of the ways the hospitality house tries to make their visitors feel at home.

"When the guests come and stay here, everything is provided for them," Board

Director and Public Relations Liaison Helen Munday said. "Seventy-five percent of the visitors that come to the prisons are children, and they are the silent victims of their parents' mistakes."

Various volunteers visit the house each Monday to help with housekeeping or to donate meals for the weekend.

Many of the members of the Board of Directors, including Munday and McCleary, take time out of their day to volunteer at the hospitality house as well, whether that be to do laundry, wash dishes, sweep and mop, or take out the trash.

The hospitality house will typically have visitors every weekend throughout each month, only housing guests on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Each week, the Howard's begin preparing the house early on Friday mornings and are present throughout the weekend to make sure their visitors have everything they need.

"This is a good mission, and I love being around people and taking care of people," Pat said.

One of the only requirements for prisoners' families to stay at the hospitality house is that they must live at least 250 miles away from the facility.

McCleary expressed that a lot of people who come to visit their loved ones in prison tell her that if they did not have the hospitality house then they would be staying at the park inside of their car.

"A lot of people in the free world ostracize them because they have a family member in prison, but you don't get that here. Even people who have a lot of money who can afford a hotel room will stay here for that reason, and they will get the love and support they need," she said. "It's rewarding to be here, and I hope they get a sense of understanding, love, and acceptance."

Munday mentioned that there is a specific Bible verse which the members of the house live by. "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me; I was in prison and you came to visit me," Matthew 25:35-36.

Since the Central Texas Hospitality House is run on donations only and has no outside funding, the facility accepts donations such as food, beverages, cleaning supplies, or children's toys, as well as monetary donations. To donate, contact the Central Texas Hospitality House at 254-404-2260.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured is the children's playroom at Central Texas Hospitality House.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured from left to right are Kay McCleary, Helen Munday, and Mary Alice Wise, members of the board of directors.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Central Texas Hospitality House Directors Charles (left) and Pat Howard.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured is the living room at the hospitality house.

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