



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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City gives first look at Faunt Le Roy flood damage

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH AND KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writers

Broken trees, cracked roads, and a washed-out riverbank are traces of extensive flood damage that caused Faunt Le Roy Park to permanently close its gates nearly five months ago.

Severe flooding in early May and June caused an estimated \$3 million in damage to the surrounding property and the banks of the Leon River. At a regular Gatesville City Council meeting on Tuesday, City Manager Brad Hunt and Parks and Recreation Director Seth Phillips provided the council and citizens with a first-hand look at how the storms affected the lower portion of Faunt Le Roy Park, and their plans to one day reopen it to the community.

"We would have been all the way underwater right now - it was at least 8 feet deep where we are standing," Hunt said at the entrance to the park, which is now fenced off.

The tour led the city council to approve a visit from FEMA in early October where they will assess 17 areas across the city that received storm damage. The total cost of citywide repairs is estimated to be more than \$4 million.

Out of all the ruined areas, Faunt Le Roy Park was hit the hardest by flooding.

"On the back side, we have lost a lot of ground," Phillips said. "On the very end of the park, it is just

a complete drop off down there, and every time it floods it just takes out more of it, and it has really done it along the whole bank on both sides."

Phillips notes other areas that FEMA will need to assess in the park.

"The cracking of these roads is some of the stuff that we are going to show FEMA," Phillips said. "Besides the bank itself, this kind of stuff adds up."

Just one month before the flood waters hit, the RV park was full of visitors staying in Gatesville for the total solar eclipse. Now, Phillips said most of the electrical work for the hook ups will need to be replaced.

"The electrical outlets or panels were covered by the flood waters and there is corrosion in a lot of those panels," Phillips said. "I am not saying that some of those panels were perfect before, but because of the corrosion they are a lot worse now, and that's also something that FEMA will be looking at."

Severe storms in the spring worsened the already existing damage the park received from flooding in 2018. Hunt discussed different options that would allow them to safely reopen portions of the park, such as the area from the gated entrance to the bathroom area. One idea would be to fence off sides of the road around the loop to make

parts of the grassy area available.

"All of those options are, of course, going to cost money and materials, time and fencing, and weeding out these dead trees inside where we will have people recreating," Hunt said. "So, we will be coming up with some proposals to the council in the near future on how to get reopened as we did after 2018."

Phillips said the city is in the process of obtaining estimates for a fence that can be placed around the perimeter of the park, but there is still plenty of work that needs to be done to clean up the area.

"When you walk around, you can see the trees have lost limbs, and there are dead limbs hanging and different things, so we wanted to get a good assessment of that and get those cut out before we open it, and there are some trees that are going to have to be completely removed," Phillips said.

Phillips explains that they are still weighing possible mitigation strategies that would help protect the park from future flood events.

"We don't know, and that is why we ask for experts' advice," Phillips said. "If we go in here and we riprap this, the next time that it floods it's going to move back, and we think that now this next section is going to be in the river."



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Severe flooding in early summer washed away parts of the road around Faunt Le Roy Park.

PLEASE SEE **DAMAGE** | A2

Coryell County Clerk's Office announces new property fraud protection program

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Coryell County Clerk's Office recently implemented a program, which will help with the ever-growing property fraud that is sweeping across the nation.

This is a free service provided by the Coryell County Clerk, Jennifer Newton, through EDOC Technologies Inc., with the goal of reducing fraudulently recorded documents that could affect property ownership. To sign

up for this service, property owners will need to visit the county website at coryell-countyclerk.com and click on "Property Fraud."

"We did this so that property owners could go in and sign up with their name, address, phone number, or email address, and then if anyone files a document in your name, it will send you a text or email letting you know. It really gives you an advantage if someone files

PLEASE SEE **FRAUD** | A2



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF AMCCO PROPERTIES

Don't forget to register to vote

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The United States general election on Tuesday, Nov. 5, is quickly approaching, and the deadline for voter registration as well as early voting begins in October. Here are a few dates to keep in mind:

Voter registration

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 7. Texas law requires that eligible voters register at least 30

days before Election Day. Register to vote by filling out a voter registration application on VoteTexas.gov. Residents can update their voter registration information online or when renewing their driver's license.

Residents can check their registration status or change their name or address by visiting the 'My Voter Portal' through the

PLEASE SEE **VOTE** | A2

One killed in deadly wreck on FM 116

DPS says "evidence of impairment" was observed during the crash investigation

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) investigators confirmed that one man died in a head-on crash between Pidcoke and Coperas Cove on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 19.

The fatal collision occurred on FM 116 and

Lonesome Road around 4:25 a.m.

According to DPS, a 2015 GMC Acadia, driven by a 34-year-old man from Coperas Cove, was traveling southbound on FM 116. The lead DPS trooper said the GMC failed to stay within its lane and crossed into

the northbound lane.

Manuel Moreno of Coperas Cove was driving northbound in a 2020 Nissan Altima toward the GMC. DPS said the GMC then collided head on with Moreno's vehicle, causing "extensive damage."

"Evidence of impairment"

was observed during the crash investigation, according to DPS.

DPS said Moreno was killed upon impact and pronounced deceased by Justice of the Peace Bill Price. Next of kin have been notified.

Authorities shut down FM

116 at Whispering Oaks in both directions at the time of the crash, according to the Coryell County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

The driver of the GMC was transported for non-fatal injuries. The crash investigation is still active and open.

"Texas DPS would like to remind drivers of the dangers of intoxicated and impaired driving," DPS said in a press release. "Driving impaired is deadly and endangers everyone on Texas roadways."



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Second service at 11:00 a.m.

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DAMAGE

FROM PAGE A1

To riprap the entire park, which involves building a structure that would protect the shorelines from future erosion and flooding, the park would need to lose some of the trees that are currently

keeping the banks intact, he adds.
 "That is why it has been so tricky," Phillips said. "And I think we are finally in a good spot, and we are finally going to be able to do something, and we have followed the right steps. Funding will be available to do something, whether that be to fix this or to do something else.

The city began the application for FEMA assistance in July, which would help cover losses from severe weather events. If approved, federal funding would cover 75% of the overall cost and the city would match 25%.
 FEMA will conduct an on-site visit to Faunt Le Roy Park and other damaged areas in Gatesville

between October 2-5.
 "You can also see why it is so important to our community. I mean, where else in Gatesville do you have a public access area where you can come and enjoy this type of scenery," Phillips said. "This is an important place."



Top photo: Trees and other debris litter the Leon River around Faunt Le Roy Park, left behind from flooding in May and June. Bottom photo: City of Gatesville Financial Supervisor Mike Halsema (left) and Councilman Greg Casey assess the damage to the roadway around the park as a result of the river bank deteriorating.

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

FRAUD

FROM PAGE A1

[fraudulent documents]," Newton said.
 When signing up, it is important to ensure that your contact information is accurate and current. If your name, cell phone number, or email address changes, please register again.
 Regarding property fraud, Newton said, "It's only happened once here, but it's becoming a huge problem. Dallas has been hit hard and Travis County. There was a man in Dallas that did this seven times before they caught him - he would transfer titles into his name, do an online notary, file it

into the records, sell the home, went through closing and everything. When the buyers took possession (of the home) they found out it wasn't valid. Then it turns into a court battle to get the property re-established to the original owner."
 Now, Coryell County property owners can go online, sign up, and be notified if anyone tries to file anything in their name. "A lot of people are signing up using both their email address and cell phone. I recommend using both," Newton said.
 "I knew property fraud was out there, but I didn't realize until recently just how bad it has become," she said.

VOTE

FROM PAGE A1

Texas Secretary of State's website or VoteTexas.gov.
 To be eligible to vote in Texas, you must be a United States citizen, a resident of the county where you register, and at least 18 years old on Election Day, according to the Texas Secretary of State.
 Further directions on how to vote and how to update existing voter registrations can be found at VoteTexas.gov.
Early voting dates and times
 · Oct. 21-25, 2024: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 · Oct. 26, 2024: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 · Oct. 27, 2024: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 · Oct. 28-31, 2024: 7 a.m. - 7p.m.
 · Nov. 1, 2024 (last day of early voting): 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Early voting polling locations in Coryell County:
 · Gatesville Annex, 800 E. Main St., Ste. B, Gatesville, TX 76528
 · Copperas Cove Early Voting Center 508-B Cove Terrace, Copperas Cove, TX 76522

Election Day polling locations
 Residents can vote at any county-wide location on Election Day (November 5) regardless of the precinct. Voting locations will open on Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 · Copperas Cove Civic Center - 1206 W. Ave. B, Copperas Cove
 · Holy Family Catholic Church - 1001 Georgetown Road, Copperas Cove
 · Eastside Baptist Church - 1202 ML King Jr. Blvd., Copperas Cove
 · Gatesville Civic Center - 303 Veterans Memorial Loop, Gatesville
 · Evant City Hall - 598 E. Highway 84, Evant
 · Flat Community Center - 159 CR 334, Flat
 · Oglesby Community Center - 118 Main St., Oglesby
 · Turnersville Community Center - 8115 FM 182, Gatesville
 To learn more about local voting locations and times visit, <https://coryellcounty-tx.com/elections/>
 For official information, including registration and vote-by-mail deadlines, visit VoteTexas.gov, or call 1-800-252-VOTE.

Coryell Health Saturday Sports Injury Clinic

ATTENTION All Central Texas Athletes

Saturday Sports Injury Clinic:

Saturdays
10 AM - 12 PM
Coryell Health Medical Clinic, Building 2

Coryell Health Saturday Sports Injury Clinic provides prompt access to an orthopedic specialist during the designated sports clinic hours without needing a prior appointment.

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Saturday Sports Injury Clinic Practitioners



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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

A generational relationship with music



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

I think it was in the fall of 1974 when my roommate in college introduced me to the music of Jerry Jeff Walker. Some of you will recognize his name immediately as the singer songwriter of the iconic tune Mr. Bojangles and one of the founders of the music which has come to be known throughout the world as the Outlaw Sound.

He and his musician friends Ray Wylie Hubbard,

Guy Clark, Jimmy Buffet, Michael Martin Murphy,

Gary P. Nunn, Willie Nelson, Townes Van Zandt, and others created a sound and feel which was unique and immensely popular. Based out of Austin, it is still popular today.

I have been listening to Jerry Jeff for 50 years and know all his songs by heart. His cassette tapes wore out long ago, but I have managed to download most all his work, which I listen to regularly. I never seem to tire of hearing his music.

It is hard for me to explain why Jerry Jeff means so much to me. Something about his lyrics simply connect to my heart, and, in so many ways, they tell the story of my life, too. There is a connection I felt when I first heard his music, and it still burns bright.

I have been to see Jerry Jeff in concert perhaps 20 times, and only God knows how many iced cold Adolphus C. Coors I consumed. I had the pleasure of booking one of his concerts, and, over the years, had several chances to sit down and visit with him and learn firsthand just a little about the man behind the music. Unfortunately, Jerry Jeff died a couple of years ago due to complications from cancer. I sure do miss going to a concert hall and seeing my old compañero, but he lives every time I turn on his music.

This past weekend, I went to see Django Walker in concert. He is the son of Jerry Jeff. I had heard good things about Django, but I had never had a chance

to see him in person. I was curious what the experience would be like, and I was certainly not disappointed. In fact, I was thrilled.

Django has a very nice voice, and his songs carried the same sort of interesting, heart touching lyrics his dad was famous for. At one point in the show, Django sang a song he wrote about his famous father, and the air in the room got very heavy. It was apparent the crowd was pleased and touched somewhere down deep. It was a good feeling for all of us and something special.

After the show, I got backstage and introduced myself to Django and found him to be a very nice and open sort of person. I told him how much his dad had

meant to me and the difference his music had made in my life. I also told him that I knew his dad was proud of him ... and then I shook his hand and told him, "I am proud of you, too, son." He looked me in the eye, and we nodded heads. There wasn't anything else to say but, "so long..." However, for the instant, we both knew we shared something. And it was special. I don't know of anything but music that can do that ... and isn't that special?

Thought for the day: "One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain" Bob Marley.

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

Pipeline discussed during visit by Federal Regulatory Commission

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recently welcomed Coryell County residents to a public "scoping session" to gather information from the public about the proposed pipeline. The meeting took place at the Windmill Hill Venue.

It was announced that the primary goal of these scoping sessions is to have the public identify specific environmental issues and concerns that should be considered in the environmental document. Individual oral comments were taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter. This format was designed to receive the maximum amount of oral comments in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted.

James Martin, a representative of the Federal Regulatory Commission, said

"What we're doing is asking the public their input on the project - we're evaluating the project, and we want the public to comment about the process. The stage we're in right now is to help educate us and also educate DeLa. We're hoping to get some comments and feedback from the people attending."

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 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 to the Commission in Washington, DC were accepted until Sept. 23. Comments should have focused 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.

The Federal Regulatory

representative James Martin continued, "After the application is made (by DeLa), we go through a process of analyzing comments from people. Once we feel that we have enough information, we will proceed from there."

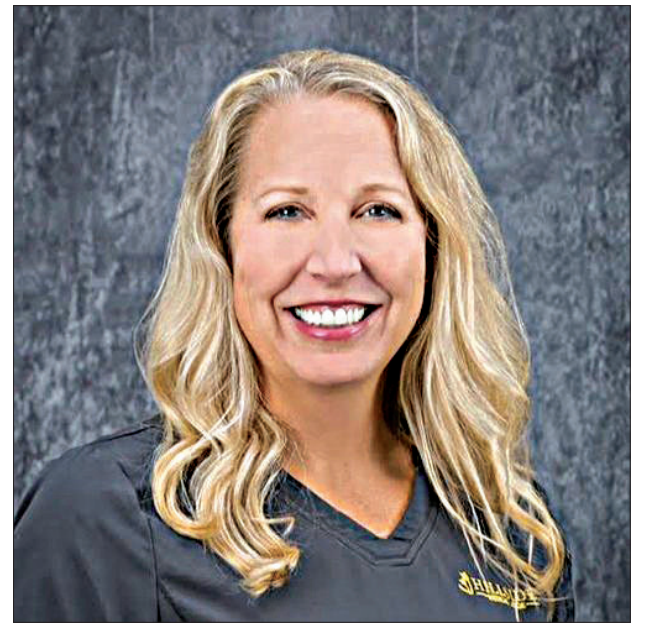
Additional information about the project is available from the Federal Regulatory Commission's Office of External Affairs at 866-208-FERC or their website www.ferc.gov



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Anxious landowners check maps to discover if their property would be affected by the proposed pipeline.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Jennifer Boyd

Say hello to our neighbor, Jennifer Boyd!

Jennifer Boyd has been the Director of Rehabilitation at Hillside Medical Lodge for over 16 years. Boyd first began her journey with the facility in March of 2008 and expressed that the best part of her job is developing relationships with her patients and helping them achieve their goals. She was born and raised in Gatesville but left following high school graduation to pursue her education. She then returned to her hometown with her husband, Dusty, in 2003. "My favorite thing about Gatesville is my relationships within the community," she said. "People that have known me since I was little, people that share stories about my grandparents and parents, and the new relationships I have developed through work, church, and my children's activities."

Jennifer reads The Gatesville Messenger and said, "The Gatesville Messenger allows me to read about people from young to old in our community doing great things."

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

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OUR MISSION: The Gatesville Messenger shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

Gideons Auxiliary Meets to Form New Chapter

Submitted by Joyce Talbott

Dora Dyson hosted and served a brunch for the Gideon's Auxiliary women from both Copperas Cove and Gatesville on Saturday, Sept. 21.

The Gideons International provides a unique way for Christian businesses and professional men to see people come to Christ. Officially, the role of an Auxiliary (wife of a Gideon) is to assist her Gideon husband in this mission through prayer, personal testimony, personal work, association for service, and placing, as well as distributing God's Holy Word in approved areas.

Yet, the role of the Auxiliary is even more significant considering the partnership of holy matrimony. The wife of a Gideon brings encouragement, support, and gentleness.

The Gideons International is an association of Christian men and their wives whose purpose is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others through joining together for service, sharing personal testimony, and through providing Bibles and New Testaments in hotels, hospitals, schools, senior living facilities, and prisons.

Gideon Tom Creek was instrumental in beginning the Gideons in Gatesville, functioning with guidance and support and being a part of the Copperas Cove Gideons. Over time, the numbers have grown, and a separate Gatesville Unit will soon be established. Creek leads a men's group that meets separately from the Gideon's Auxiliary.

Copperas Cove Auxiliary members Celia Holman, Josie Mendez, and Brenda Titus gave a program defin-

ing the purpose of the Auxiliary and the GideonCard ministry. GideonCards can be found in local churches, but also online at sendtheword.org.

Anyone can be a missionary from the comfort of your home by sending a Gideon Card that will provide Bibles to reach someone in the world. Donations of five dollars for each Bible are sent to Gideon Camps and you can use cards to notify the recipients of your donation in their honor.

Gideon Card categories include: In Memory, In Recognition, Ministry Appreciation, Thinking of You, Christmas Cards, and Thank You Cards.

Women attending the meeting, under the leadership of Dora Dyson, participated in an Auxiliary Prayer Meeting while lifting up global, state, and local organizations and churches as



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left to right are Celia Holman, Josie Mendez, Brenda Titus, Dora Dyson, Sue Vernon, Jan Waldrip, and Donna Page.

well as personal requests. A brunch was provided where attendees visited each

other. Dora Dyson gifted each Auxiliary member with a potted chrysanthemum when the meeting adjourned.

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Serious stuff from a funny lady



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

A woman in Crowley calls herself Z, the first letter of her first name. "My first name is Zandra," she says. "When I was born, my mother went to see a Tarzan movie, "Tarzan and the Amazon Woman."

The head Amazon honcho woman, the big strong girl who ran all these women on this island, was named Zandra, and that's where my name comes from."

She's a writer and goes by the name Z. Mink Fuller. Her father was named

Oscar Mink.

"My daddy was an old country preacher from Appalachia and he used to say, 'I am what every woman desires. Everybody would love to win an Oscar and they would love to have a mink, and with me they get them both.'"

She had fun growing up. "I was just a tom boy and such a hippie kid running around you know, had my hands in paint or mud or something, always doing something crazy."

When she was a young woman, she did clown work.

"When you put on that grease paint and make-up, you can become someone else."

Z and her dog, Peaches, are all over social media.

"I've got a little bit that I do called "Ruby Pearl and Peaches Southern Wit and Wisdom."

She presents short little glimpses of everyday life. Here's an example: "Hey there my lovelies, it's Ruby Pearl here. It's 98 degrees, and I swan I've got the vapors. I tried to find a cool place today to write, just didn't happen. Peaches is takin' a nap, so I'm goin' to grab some sweet tea, sit on

the veranda 'til big daddy gets home."

Her poetry, essays, and other writings have been published nationally. She's working on an anthology of her work. She wrote a hardback children's book titled "Hope and Hollyhocks."

"It's about imagination and fantasy, and, in the middle of it, I have pages where they can color and draw their own stories and draw the characters the way they want to create them. It's sold at Wal-Mart, Barnes and Noble, and Half Price Books"

All profits from the book go to help abused children and adults through missions, such as Rapha International based in Missouri.

"Feed, clothe, educate them, you know, give them a better life."

SUDOKU

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Puzzle answers from the Sept. 21, 2024 issue.

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

A DAY FOR KIDS

COURTESY PHOTO

The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville hosted a "Day for Kids" event on Saturday, Sept. 21. "Day for Kids" 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. The event featured music, activities, and vendors. Activities included 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 attended as well. There were also raffle items and door prizes from local businesses.



Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

Michael Pitts, a former correctional officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, was sentenced to two years in prison after entering a no contest plea to indecency with a child.

Catherine Ferguson-Gilbert was sworn in as a new assistant district attorney for Coryell County.

An antique spinning wheel was among the demonstrations featured at the 4th Annual Spurfest.

The Jonesboro Independent School District was in the process of replacing three route buses.

Many of the 150 vehicles entered in the annual Leon River Fun Run participated in the annual '50s night at the drive-in theater.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

A pair of convicted felons escaped from the Alfred Hughes Unit in Gatesville but were quickly apprehended by TDCJ and local law enforcement officials.

Don Edwards, former Gatesville Primary School principal, was presented the Bill Duncan "Friend of the Child Award."

The Gatesville ISD board of trustees put forth a \$7.5 million bond package.

Students and teachers at Gatesville Primary School participated in Circus Day and enjoyed entertainment by clowns and cotton candy.

First United Methodist Church advertised for that

fall's Harvest Festival.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

Wal-Mart advertised a 20-portrait collection for \$9.

The county's new Headstart Center was dedicated. The faculty was set to provide medical screening and psychological care.

McGregor beat Gatesville's Fightin' Hornets 24-8.

A \$500 check was presented to the Jonesboro Volunteer Fire Department by representatives of the

Jonesboro Craft and Friendship Club.

Wayne's Fried Chicken was reopened by Dusty and Virginia Rhodes.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Powell Chevrolet advertised the 1974 Malibu, Caprice Classic, and Monte Carlo.

The new Evant school building was in the finishing-up stage.

The City of Gatesville won a special citation for its outstanding pedestrian safety

program in the American Automobile Association's 35th annual Pedestrian Safety Survey.

Gatesville City Council approved an ordinance requiring dog and cat owners to keep their pets in fenced yards.

Mrs. Oscar Bratton released her newly published book entitled "The History of Pidcoke Baptist Church."

PEARL NEWS

Come out to our free Pearl Bluegrass event Oct. 5



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

The next Pearl Bluegrass event and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day takes place on October 5th. Jamming at the Pearl Community Center takes place all day long on Saturday, and the stage show begins around 1 p.m.

This event is a free event! The Bluegrass Kitchen opens at 11 a.m., and you can purchase homemade lunch items and delicious desserts for very reasonable prices (cash only). Remember, when you purchase food from the kitchen, you are helping to support the

Pearl Community Center. The money goes toward bills and upkeep and maintenance of the building. We want to keep this building up and running for years to come so that people can enjoy future bluegrass events and other community functions in this wonderful, his-

toric building. You can also rent the building for family reunions, weddings, etc. To play on the stage during the bluegrass event, your band can sign up on the board in the hallway that day. If you need any help, you can find Chris Ray or Garrett Dickey in the building, and they'll be glad to answer any of your questions. The Pearl Cottage Bookstore opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. There are over 6,000 books in the store as well as various and sundry other interesting items. Kay and Corlisa will be glad to help you! Most purchases are by donation (buy what you want, pay what you want), and the all the money goes toward local charities. You may enter as a stranger in the bookstore, but you will leave as a friend! There's no place like Pearl, so let's be sure and support these events...and tell others about the magic of Pearl!

Mark your calendars for

Oct. 20 for the Pearl Church of Christ 129th Homecoming! Dr. Charles Patterson will be the speaker, and there will be a catered lunch following the service. Plaques for the longest attending member, the youngest attending that day, the oldest attending that day, the longest married couple, and the farthest traveled that day will be given. You don't want to miss this important event! Bring family, friends, and those you just met to Pearl Church of Christ. The friendliness of this church is unparalleled! You will be so glad you came!

The beginning of the fall season prompted Linda and Kay to reminisce about fun times in the past last week. One event they talked about was a community hayride on Halloween several years ago. As Linda and Kay were riding along with the kids on the hay trailer, the kiddoes spotted a ghost!

However, one of the kids said, "Oh, it's not a ghost. That's just Mrs. Adams. I recognize her shoes." Mrs. Maureen Adams had joined in the fun to scare the kids, but she just didn't realize how recognizable her shoes were. Mrs. Adams worked at the Evant School for more years than I can count, and she was loved by all! Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Alma Ray were two of the most beloved Evant School staff members in the history of that school, and all of us who were blessed to know them cherish their memories forever! Well, that's not the only funny thing that happened during that hayride. At some point, Linda and Kay got the hay trailer in the Pearl Cemetery. They had their flashlights, or thought they did, and had plans to scare the kids. Somehow, though, the trailer left the cemetery without them, taking the ladies' flashlights with it.

Linda and Kay had to walk back in the dark. I guess it just wasn't a good night to be ghost that Halloween. I wonder if Linda and Kay would consent to a replay this coming Halloween. Maybe the itsy bitsy, teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini could join in the fun this year? Who knows! There's no place like Pearl!

This week's Bible verse comes from Isaiah 41:10—So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. NIV

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page! Please submit any Pearl news to betsyclark47@yahoo.com.

Boys & Girls Club celebrated its 20th anniversary

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville has followed a path of consistent growth and progress throughout the years leading up to its 20th anniversary, which was Sept. 21.

Julie Hudson, director of the local Boys & Girls Club, has seen plenty of changes since she took on her role with the organization in 2005.

"Prior to the Boys & Girls Club I had worked with kids for 10 years in my home," Hudson said. "I decided to take on the job as branch director of the club, because it offered an opportunity for me to be with my own kids while also being there for other kids."

The club occupied four different locations temporarily before moving to its permanent location, which is located at 2533 E Main St. "When I look back on

where the Boys & Girls Club began and where it is now, I am so proud of our community and the support they have shown the club through the years," she said. "So many people stepped up and into roles that made our club what it is today."

Currently, the organization has a total of 12 staff members who help with the various kids that are in and out of the building each day.

"Our ADA varies throughout the year depending on other things that may be going on," she said. "After school that number is about 175-210."

During the summer months, the average attendance of kids ranges anywhere from 150-165 kids daily.

With three buildings on site, including the original building, a gym, and a teen

center, keeping the children entertained with activities is important for the club.

"Club programs promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles," she said. "In a Harris Survey of alumni, 54 percent said the club saved their lives."

The organization also offers various opportunities for local youth. Every year, the club seniors have an opportunity to apply for a four-year, full-paid scholarship to college and many other scholarships to help pay for their education.

Additional funds for the operation of the club come from donations, proceeds from the Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, and a grant from the Office of Juvenile Programs (OJP). The OJP grants help with materials that aid children with learning and reinforce good behavior.

The proceeds from the resale shop are a consistent financial lifeline for the Boys & Girls Club.

"For me, the club is important because it offers a safe place for youth to come after school and during school breaks," she said. "I remember being that family with four kids and trying to figure out what I would do with my kids if I got a job. Where would they go? How could we possibly afford it? It's honestly why I took the job at the Boys & Girls Club almost 20 years ago."

"Twenty years ago, there really wasn't a place for youth to go after-school if they didn't have family to step in and help out," she said.

For further information, to donate, or to sign up your child for the club, contact The Boys & Girls Club at 254-865-8347.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Boys and Girls Club is located at 2533 E. Main St.

Coryell City/Osage VFD to hold annual fish fry Oct. 19

Staff Reports

The Coryell City/Osage Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual fish fry on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 6 - 9 p.m., and will be located at 301 CR 255 in Coryell City.

Tickets will cost \$12 per adult and \$6 for each child under 12 years of age.

There will be a fried fish meal with all the fixings, and takeout order call-ins will begin at 5:30 p.m. To

place a takeout order, call 254-248-1177.

A silent auction will be held as well, and tickets will cost \$5 each or six tickets for \$20.

Colin Dexter will also give an on-stage performance.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Coryell City/Osage VFD.

For further information, contact 254-230-8758.

Levita BBQ fundraiser to be held Nov. 1 & 2

Staff Reports

The Levita Volunteer Fire Department will host a BBQ fundraiser and gun raffle on Friday, Nov. 1 and Saturday, Nov. 2. The event will take place at 7 a.m. on both days until everything is sold out and will be held at Ideal Self Storage, located at 1611 East Main Street.

The gun raffle will have 100 tickets available for purchase at \$20 a ticket or three tickets for \$50 for a Henry Brass Lever Action

.30-30. The drawing will be held on Saturday. All participants in the raffle must be at least 18 years of age or older and must pass a background check.

There also will be a raffle for a two-person hog hunt, which is sponsored by Banard Beef Cattle Company. Tickets will be sold at \$10 each or five tickets for \$40.

To purchase tickets for either raffle event, contact Jason Shepherd at 254-223-2126.

Pearl Country Church to host Fall Festival

Staff Reports

Pearl Country Church has announced that it will host a Fall Festival to benefit Disaster Relief for Texas on Saturday, Oct. 5.

The festival will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and fried fish and ribs will be

served as the meal with fresh fixings and dessert. There will be various activities, featuring a junk and disorderly sale, a cake walk, a bounce house, and an auction.

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

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

TABITHA HENSON RECEIVES A.C.E. AWARD



COURTESY PHOTO

Coryell Health recently awarded Tabitha Henson, a clinic team member, (middle with certificate) with an A.C.E. award. She was nominated by a patient for always being helpful, friendly, and accommodating. The patient expressed that Henson made them feel comfortable, at ease, and cared for during their clinic experience.

MOUND NEWS

It's birthday month in Mound



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Jennifer Eberlein spent this week in McKinney helping with Andrew and Alexandra Eberlein's twins, Maeve and Nora.

Anna Lee Terrell came over to visit with baby Hank, of Grapevine, on Tuesday.

Dave and Netta Westrup of Longview, WA spent three days visiting in Mound at the home of Mrs. Martha Ann Lawhorn and family.

The Oglesby Varsity Football Team beat Waco Methodist Home 60-12.

Amber Tippit celebrated her birthday on Sept. 14, and her son, Jackson's was Wednesday, Sept. 25.

Several people of Mound attended the 2024 Homecoming Festival with vendors and booths at the Gatesville Independent School District Cross Country/walking path, live music, featuring Memphis Wells, 2024 GHS Seniors Walk up Marshall Street, pep rally with band, cheer and dance at Cross Country/walking path, and the lighting of the GHS.

This year, the GHS Homecoming King and Queen were Roman Perez and Mary Trejo who were crowned during halftime. Gatesville High School Band performed after the homecoming game Friday evening. Several of the GHS classes had their annual reunions Saturday evening in Gatesville.

Several people of Mound

attended the 23rd Annual Spurfest at the Coryell Museum and the 38th Annual 2024 Cruzin Cruzers Car Show in Gatesville Saturday afternoon.

Several people of Mound attended the funeral service of Mr. Bobby Gene Harrington on Saturday at Coryell Community Church in Gatesville.

Several people of Mound attended the funeral service of Mr. F.B. (Smitty) Smith in Gatesville at Scott's Funeral Home. Mr. and Mrs. F.B. Smith used to live in the Mound Community. They both will truly be missed.

Those who had birthdays in this month were Pat Fry, Chris McHargue, Mistire Madrid, Kathy Smith, Billie Wallace, Barbara Hopson, Teristen Byrd, Billy Martin, Lyle Bomar, Diane Stovall, Cindi McDonald, Opal Smith, Dani Jo Wood, LeAnn Webb, Miles Dahl, Mitchel Dahl, Amber Tippit, Lisa Barnard, Jaryn Poynter, Mason Jones, Judy Belt, David Wasserman, Randy Belt, Diane Heavin, Courtney Shoaf, Patrick Hopson, Margaret Hopson, Harrison Crum, Donna Smith, Caleb Magee, Kenneth Dixon, Elizabeth McCorkle and Lindy Miller.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Sept. 18 - Sept. 24. 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. 18
7:41 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2200 block of Waco Street.
4:07 p.m., a fight was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
5:37 p.m., harassment was reported in the 500 block of Straw Mills Road.
8:02 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of Old Osage Road.

Sept. 19
10:43 a.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.
10:49 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
11:23 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.
4:30 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.

Sept. 20
8:17 a.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of S. 5th Street.
8:39 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of N. 28th Street.
2:13 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
8:06 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.

Sept. 21
1:21 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
11:14 a.m., harassment was reported in the 300 block of Valley View Drive.
11:59 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1900 block of E. Main Street.

2:36 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.

Sept. 22
12:05 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1300 block of Westview Drive.
12:28 a.m., harassment was reported in the 300 block of Andrews Street.
3:05 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of College Street.
4:30 p.m., illegal dumping was reported in the 1900 block of Saunders Street.

Sept. 23
9:24 a.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of Golf Course Road.
3:56 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
5:53 p.m., an assault was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
8:44 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the 14,000 block of E. Highway 84.

Sept. 24
12:14 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1300 block of Westview Drive.
2:22 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1700 block of E. Main Street.
2:27 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
6:16 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.



CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sept. 18
1:43 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 4100 block of FM 116.
11:41 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2900 block of Horseshoe Bend Road.
12:49 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 6400 block of FM 932.
8:04 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of Old Osage Road.

Sept. 19
8:02 a.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 400 block of Ranier Road.
1:41 p.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 3700 block of Sunflower Lane.
5:08 p.m., suspicious activity was reported at Pearl Community Center.

Sept. 20
9:50 a.m., a road hazard was reported on N. Highway 36 and Hay Valley Road.
10:29 a.m., an injured deer was reported in the 4100 block of FM 1113.
12:56 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 9000 block of FM 929.
2:43 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 800 block of Wagon Wheel Drive.

Sept. 21
9:30 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 3000 block of County Road 127.
9:47 a.m., a minor accident was reported on Highway 190.
10:06 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on FM 1783 approaching FM 116.

4:47 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W. Highway 84 and County Road 130.

Sept. 22
7:19 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 9000 block of FM 107.
2:43 p.m., a dog bite was reported in the 3100 block of County Road 152.
7:41 p.m., vandalism was reported in the 11,100 block of N. State Highway 36.
9:38 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107.

Sept. 23
7:16 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 9200 block of FM 107.
9:56 a.m., an escort was reported in the 5200 block of FM 1829.
6:28 p.m., stolen property was reported in the 1700 block of Greenbriar Road.
6:55 p.m., burglary of a habitation was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.

Sept. 24
8:22 a.m., an assault was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
8:36 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of W. FM 217.
11:30 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1700 block of Greenbriar Road.
2:06 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2300 block of Greenbriar Road.



Education Foundation to host Mother and Son Movie Night, Oct. 19

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District's Education Foundation will host a mother and son movie night at the Last Drive-In Picture Show on Saturday, Oct. 19, featuring a new movie called "The Wild Robot."

Movie showing times will be separated into two age groups. Prekindergarten through second grade will begin at 4:30 p.m. and third through sixth grade

will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will cost \$25 each and will include two popcorns, two drinks, and access to mini golf. For any additional mothers or sons, it will cost \$10 each.

The Last Drive-In Picture Show is located at 2912 TX-36 in Gatesville.

For further information, contact the Gatesville Education Foundation by email at educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org.

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OBITUARIES

Hulon Abbott

March 4, 1943 - Sept. 22, 2024

Hulon Abbott, age 81, of Gatesville, went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.

Graveside services were held Thursday, Sept. 26, at Ater Cemetery with Pastor Chris Post officiating.

Edgar Hulon Abbott was born on March 4, 1943 in Norman, Oklahoma to the late Barney Hulon and Mary Myers Abbott. He grew up in the Ater community and attended school in Jonesboro, graduating from Jonesboro High School in 1961. He went to work as a Machinist for Oil Well Division of U.S. Steel in Garland and retired in 1988. He married Elizabeth Alexander on June 29, 1974, and the couple made their home in the Dallas area before moving to Gatesville in 1988. Hulon owned and managed the Red Barn Restaurant in Jonesboro until his second retirement in 1997. He also drove a school bus for twelve years for the Jonesboro Independent School District before retiring for the third time in 2011. He was a member of the Gatesville Masonic Lodge #197 A.F. & A.M. and received a 50-year service award in 2016. Hulon enjoyed bowling, playing golf, going to the casinos, playing dominoes, and watching TV and horse racing. He never met a stranger and always enjoyed being around people, visiting, and talking. He was a member of the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church for 36 years.

Hulon was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Connie Abbott; infant brother, John Abbott; sisters, Patsy Dougherty, and Martha Haase; infant great granddaughter, Chesa Abbott; and nephew, Bo Timmons.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Eliza-



beth; sons, Earl Abbott and wife, Sharon, Robert Abbott and wife, Seantelle, and James Abbott and wife, Deb; grandchildren, Brandon Abbott and wife, Ara, Heather McCullough and husband, Josh, Justin Abbott and wife, Brenda, Spencer Abbott and wife, Michelle, Taylor Deatherage, Logan Abbott, Lucy Abbott, and Laynee Abbott; great grandchildren, Kayla Abbott, Audrey Abbott, Seth Clement, Declan Clement, Liam Abbott, Lyla Abbott, Amelia Abbott, Kathran Abbott, and Kairi Abbott; nieces and nephews, Ginger Dossman, Wendy Suggs and husband, Guy, Rockie Swain and husband, Robert, Penny Timmons, Gene Morgan, Kathy Morgan, Billy Morgan, Tracy Barrett and husband, Bret, Nathan Alexander and wife, Sarah, Joseph Alexander and Marissa, Timothy Alexander and wife Tiffany, Hannah Alexander and Arturo, Peter Alexander and wife, Sara, and Elizabeth Alexander; and numerous great nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, P.O. Box 86, Jonesboro, Texas 76538, Jonesboro ISD Alumni Association, 14909 TX 36, Jonesboro, Texas 76538, or any charity of your choice.

F.B. (Smitty) Smith

Sept. 9, 1936 - Sept. 17, 2024

F.B. (Smitty) Smith, age 88, of Gatesville, left his worldly home and walked into the arms of Jesus on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Scott's Funeral Home with Dr. Danny Crosby officiating and Pastor Matthew Hamilton, leading congregational hymns. Interment followed at Pearl Cemetery.

F.B. was born on Sept. 9, 1936, to the late Albert Oscar and Anna Murrah Smith. He graduated from Pearl High School in 1955 and was voted the most handsome and most athletic. F.B. married Dorothy Ellen Cox on March 15, 1969, and she passed away July 31, 2007. FB enlisted in the United States Army and worked for General Dynamics in Ft. Worth where he retired. He also was an active member of the Army National Guard and retired after 20 years of service. During his retirement, he worked part time for his dear friend Daren Moore at Scott's Funeral Home. He later married his longtime friend JaQue Manos on January 26, 2013, after reuniting with her in Pearl at a school gathering.

Smitty was a long-time member of Live Oak Baptist Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher, Royal Ambassador leader, and grounds keeper. He was devoted to his church and was active with the youth, having the youth building dedicated to him and his wife, Dorothy. He loved to share Jesus with anyone who would listen, everyone loved Smitty, and his greatest desire was for everyone to love the Lord. JaQue recalls that they



would often be at the store or in town and someone would come up to her and mention that Smitty led them to the Lord.

Smitty loved to play golf, camp, and work in the yard. He was a true Baylor Bears fan and was a season ticket holder to all the Lady Bear basketball games that he attended with his friends.

F.B. was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Albert Gervase Smith, Daniel Bryan Smith, Oscar Duayne Smith; sisters, Cynthia Neatherlin and Carolyn Brooks.

He is survived by his wife, JaQue Smith; son, Tracy Lynn Smith and wife, Colleen; his loving grandchildren, Lauren Smith, Lindsey Muncy and husband, Bryan, and Lacey Smith; great-grandchildren, Lexi Mori and Loki Reaves; brother, James Richard Smith and wife, Linda, and sister, Gwendolyn Fleming; extended children, Misty Grimm and husband, Rick and Slade Manos and wife, Suzanne and their families.

In lieu of flowers, memorials have been designated to Live Oak Baptist Church, 113 FM 107, Gatesville, TX 76528.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Rolf and Beate Sieker on stage at the Gatesville City Auditorium where they performed to a large audience.

Siekers appeared at the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 20, Rolf and Beate Sieker performed live on stage at the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame at the City Auditorium.

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.

STPA scholarship now open through April 4

Staff Reports

The South Texas Press Association has announced that it will be giving two students, who are looking for careers in journalism, scholarships worth \$1,500.

There is a scholarship available for college students who are pursuing

a journalism or communications degree, and the other is for high school students who are seeking a career in newspaper journalism.

All scholarship applications must be turned in by April 4, 2025.

To apply, visit www.southtexaspress.com/scholarships.

Installing car seats isn't rocket science

Press Release

A car seat can be a lifesaver, but only if it's installed and used correctly.

Whether you're going to school or taking a family trip, knowing how to properly install a car seat is absolutely vital. To help spread the word about the importance of car seat safety, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is partnering with former NASA rocket scientist Shayla Rivera to launch the "Save Me With a Seat" campaign during National Child Passenger Safety Week, Sept. 15 to 21.

"It's extremely important that parents schedule a car seat check today," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Ensuring car

seats are installed correctly is one of the most important things a parent or caregiver can do to protect their children in a crash."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly half (46 percent) of all car seats have been installed incorrectly.

TxDOT encourages parents to schedule a free car seat safety check, by visiting SaveMeWithASeat.org and entering their code to find the nearest TxDOT traffic safety specialist in their area. TxDOT offers free car seat safety checks year-round.

During September, the "Save Me With a Seat" campaign will make stops in eight Texas cities and showcase the "Are You

Ready for Takeoff?" interactive educational experience.

Parents, caregivers, and their kids will get a chance to learn how to properly buckle up and be secure in their car seats before a simulated journey into space. The campaign also features retired NASA rocket scientist Shayla Rivera. A native of Puerto Rico and a mother herself, Rivera focuses on the importance of keeping kids safe and secure in their car seats.

Texas law requires all children under the age of eight or shorter than four feet, nine inches, to be in a car seat when riding in a passenger vehicle. Failure to properly restrain a child can result in a ticket of up to \$250.

In 2023, 47 children younger than eight years old were killed in Texas traffic crashes, and 320 were seriously injured.

"Save Me With a Seat" is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, which is a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, like wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving, or driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

#EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths.

For further information, visit txdot.gov.

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION
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Exchange/Lions Club golf tournament results

Submitted by Alan Mathis

Gatesville's Exchange and Lions Clubs recently hosted their 24th Annual Golf Scramble on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Gatesville Country Club.

Team prizes, based on a 14-team field, were \$500 for first place, \$400 for fourth place, and \$200 for eighth place.

This year there were 19 teams competing for three cash prizes.

The first-place team was Landon Cole, Wayland Pruitt, Carson Gerdel, and Dylan Densman shooting 54 for the 18 holes.

In fourth place, Team

Stuard, included Austin Stuard, Braden Luensmann, Rhett Mitchell, and Nathan Johnson.

In eighth place, Team Matthews, included Kyle Matthews, Sy Sheets, Zach Lynch, and Holden Seward.

Additionally, four Army teams from North Fort Cavazos participated in the tournament. Local sponsors paid for all the entry fees for the soldiers.

The golfers enjoyed a hearty lunch of brisket cooked by Dr. Britt Clay, sausage, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, along with all the fixings and desserts.



COURTESY PHOTO

Local golfers enjoyed participating in Gatesville's Exchange and Lions Clubs 24th annual golf tournament.

Nearby theater awaits restoration

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In nearby McGregor, the Texas Theater, which has been closed since 1983, might be re-opened in the next few years.

The building dates to 1912 when it first opened as an opera house. It was reported that "Cowboy Stars" would occasionally perform on the stage – sometimes on horseback.

When the building received its present name of the Texas Theater in 1936, movies had begun to be shown there. It was also reported that new seats had been installed downstairs.

The Library of Congress mentioned that, with the advent of television, the theater gradually became a weakened operation. It was also mentioned that on July 12, 1975, to kick off the nation's bicentennial year,

then owner Henry Smith ran a nostalgic 10-cent movie price and sold 10-cent popcorn and a soda.

In 1982, lacking customers to stay open, Smith closed the doors of the 70-year-old theater.

The long, dark Texas Theater has the distinction of being the oldest standing specifically-built motion picture and vaudeville theater structure in the state.

Ownership of the Texas was conveyed to the Texas Museum of Theatre and Broadcast by the generosity of the Henry "Red" Smith family in 2007. The Smith family were the owners and operators of the theater since it was built in 1912.

The Texas Museum of Theatre and Broadcast is an educational and community service, non-profit institution. Its purpose is to document and preserve the

past, record, and educate in the present, and provide perspective and inspiration for the future through the collection and exhibition of objects of scientific, historic, and artistic value to the theatre and broadcast industries and the free enterprise system.

Located in the Texas Theater, the original 35mm projection systems are still in place and ready for use. Additionally, the booth will be equipped to project motion pictures with the new and current digital technology. With some donations, the theater's roof has been sealed, stopping the incursion of water and halting deterioration. The deteriorated and crumbling "air cooler" building on the back of the theater was demolished. Vintage theater seating has been obtained and the restoration process has



COURTESY PHOTO

The Texas Theater as it appeared during its construction in 1912.

been completed on many seats by the skilled local artisans of the Southern Furniture Company.

The vision for the Texas is to restore the theater and

to enhance its capabilities to not only present motion pictures, but also to be an event and performance venue to serve the community. To learn more about

the restoration process of the Texas Theater, visit their website at <https://savethetexas.org/>

Copperas Cove PD issues warning of rabies exposure case

A feral kitten tests positive for rabies after being attacked by a skunk in Copperas Cove.

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The Copperas Cove Police Department is warning citizens about a recent rabies exposure case in the area, according to a press release distributed by the agency.

On Monday, Sept. 16, Copperas Cove Animal Control responded to the 900 block of Marilyn Drive in Copperas Cove about a skunk attacking a feral kitten. The release says that the kitten's mother scared the skunk away. Animal Control officers were unable to capture the skunk after it escaped to a nearby wooded area.

Animal Control officers took the injured kitten for humane euthanasia before testing it for rabies at the Texas Department of Health Laboratory in Austin. Fol-

lowing the test, Copperas Cove Animal Control was notified on Thursday, Sept. 19 that the kitten was "infected" with rabies.

Copperas Cove police released another statement on Wednesday about finding a deceased skunk that tested positive for rabies. The dead skunk was found by a citizen on Monday at the 800 block of Massengale Circle in Copperas Cove.

Animal Control was notified by the Texas Department of Health Laboratory that the skunk was also infected with rabies. The statement does not say whether this was the same skunk that attacked the feral kitten.

Police warn citizens not to approach, touch, or have any contact with wild animals, and to keep their pets

from having contact with wild animals. Steps should be taken to safeguard outside areas by covering garbage cans and not leaving pet food outside.

Signs of rabies infection in humans include but are not limited to fever, headaches, fatigue, respiratory difficulties, possible paralysis or hyperactivity, and/or coma. In pets, signs of rabies infection may include fever, chewing at site of infection or bite, erratic behavior, walking aimlessly, restlessness, skin irritability, sensitivity to light, and abnormal aggression.

The state of Texas requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies by 4 months of age, according to Texas Health and Human Services. Although not required by law, it is recom-

mended that livestock that have frequent contact with humans to also receive the rabies vaccination.

Copperas Cove police ask citizens to contact Copperas Cove Animal Control at 254-547-5584 if they believe they, their pet, or any other animal or person have had recent contact with a skunk or wild animal in the area. For after hours, contact the Copperas Cove Police Department at 254-547-8222.

In May 2023, the Gatesville Police Department confirmed two cases of rabies in raccoons near the city limits, according to a former press release published on Facebook. No contact with pets or humans were suspected in those cases.

Rabies infection is most common in bats, coyotes,

raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Authorities ask anyone who observes a wild animal acting strangely to contact Animal Control immediately.

The number for Gatesville Animal Control is 254-865-2226.



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- 71.572 ac. Flat, TX CR 931. rolling terrain & scattered tree cover, several outbuildings, rural water & electric, 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
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099 Public Notices

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the
Estate of Elfriede Mainville, Deceased, were granted to Ange-
la Rushton on September 9, 2024 by the County Court at Law
of Coryell County, Texas under cause number 24-11054. All
persons having claims against said estate are hereby required
to present the same within the time frame prescribed by law
to: Angela Rushton, c/o Pamela Welch, Attorney, 12900 Pres-
ton Rd., Ste. 602, Dallas, TX 75240..

00031012

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration with
Will Annexed upon the Estate of Raymond C. Mainville, De-
ceased, were granted to Angela Rushton on September 9,
2024 by the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas
under cause number 24-11056. All persons having claims
against said estate are hereby required to present the same
within the time frame prescribed by law to: Angela Rushton,
c/o Pamela Welch, Attorney, 12900 Preston Rd., Ste. 602, Dal-
las, TX 75240.

00031014

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Gatesville, in the Regular Meet-
ing held on September 24, 2024 did pass and approve on the
third and final reading the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-06:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GATESVILLE, TEXAS, AMEND-
ING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET OF THE CITY OF
GATESVILLE TO ALLOW FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE GEN-
ERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, EACH IN THE
AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS
(\$690,000.00); DECLARING A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE; PRO-
VIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS
CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Complete text of this ordinance is available for inspection,
during regular business hours, at City Hall, 803 E. Main Street.

Holly Owens
City Secretary

No. 24-11039

IN THE ESTATE OF CARL RUDOLPH DROSCH, DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Carl Rudolph Drosche, deceased, were is-
sued on July 31, 2024, in Cause No. 24-11039, pending in the
County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to Timmy Sohns.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are required to present them to
the undersigned within the time and in the manner pre-
scribed by law.

James Zeigler
Attorney at Law
620 E. Leon St.
Gatesville, TX 76528

DATED the 18th day of September, 2024.

James K. Zeigler
Attorney for Timmy Sohns
State Bar No.: 24098654
620 E. Leon St.
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-7255
Fax: (254) 865-6925
James.Zeigler@coryellcounty.com

No. 24-11022

IN THE ESTATE OF GRETCHEN CONNELL PATTON, DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for
the Estate of Gretchen Connell Patton, deceased, were is-
sued on July 31, 2024, in Cause No. 24-11022, pending in the
County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to Thomas Jerome
Patton III.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are required to present them to
the undersigned within the time and in the manner pre-
scribed by law.

James Zeigler
Attorney at Law
620 E. Leon St.
Gatesville, TX 76528

DATED the 18th day of September, 2024.

James K. Zeigler
Attorney for Thomas Jerome Patton III
State bar No.: 24098654
620 E. Leon St.
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-7255
Fax: (254) 865-6925
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MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

She left her spurs in Gatesville....

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Few people realize that a well-respected equestrian just happened to be one of the most illustrious First Ladies in the United States and has a little piece of her history deposited in the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, better remembered as "Jackie,"

was married to the 35th president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, in 1953. She served as First Lady from 1961 to 1963.

Her love of horses began at an early age. Growing up with a love of riding, she first competed in horse riding events at the age of five. Through her college years, she continued to ride and compete in various events.

Following her marriage and being thrust into the political spotlight, she continued to ride when time permitted. Being a horsewoman, and being raised by a horsewoman, it was only natural that she would introduce horses to her own children. Ponies would often be seen trotting across the White House lawn.

When the Coryell Mu-

seum received the generous donation of well-over 6,000 spurs, it came with a pair which belonged to Jackie Kennedy - making them one of the more valued pair of spurs in the collection that Lloyd Mitchell amassed.

The Kennedy spurs are among the thousands of spurs on display at the museum.

Visitors are welcome to drop by the museum located at 718 E. Main to view the massive spur collection. Coryell Museum and Historical Center is open Wednesday through Saturday, as is the gift shop. Yearly, Coryell Museum memberships are \$20 for singles, \$30 for families, and \$40 for businesses, which includes free admission to the museum, plus four newsletters. Of course, large and small donations are welcome at all times.

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Spurs belonging to former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy are on display at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

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

APRICOT-PINEAPPLE SALAD

BY CHRISTON HAYDON

- 1 (8 oz.) can crushed pineapple, not drained
- 1 (8 oz.) carton cream cheese
- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. apricot Jello
- 1 (9 oz.) carton frozen whipped topping
- ¾ c. sugar
- 1 c. pecans
- 2-4 (3.4 oz.) jars apricot baby food

Combine pineapple and Jello in a small saucepan. Stir over low heat until Jello dissolves. Remove from heat. Add sugar, baby food, and cream cheese. Mix well, but do not beat. Chill until slightly thickened. Fold in whipped topping and soon into 8" pie pan. Sprinkle with pecans and chill until firm.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TASTE OF HOME

Apricot-Pineapple Salad



Business Directory

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SPURFEST & CRUZIN CRUZERS 2024

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The 23rd annual Spurfest took place last Saturday at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. Many of those visiting the museum were there to see the massive spur collection, which is said to be the largest spur collection in the world. Visitors touring the museum were also entertained by the Karem Shrine Cowboys from Waco who demonstrated “wild west shoot-outs” in the museum courtyard and one near the historic 1854 log jail. At the same time Spurfest was taking place, the courthouse square was “revin” up with classic cars during the Cruzin’ Cruzers Car Show. Various makes and models of cars from all over Central Texas were on display around the square and spilling off onto side streets. The vehicles ranged from century old Model-T’s to more contemporary models. Crowds filled the streets to get a glimpse of the large variety on display.



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Gatesville routs McGregor 59-14 for homecoming win

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Gatesville piled up 513 yards of offense, and the Hornets' defense held McGregor to just 47 yards on the ground en route to a 59-14 homecoming win on Sept. 20.

Rayshon Smith ran for 173 yards and scored four rushing touchdowns while adding a 35-yard receiving score. Cy Burns also had his second straight 100-plus yard rushing night, finishing with 126 yards on ten carries.

While the bulk of the offense came on the ground, it also featured the best passing night of Gehrig Keeton's brief varsity career. Keeton finished the game 12 for 16 for 210 yards and three touchdown passes with half of his completions going to Amos Phillips. Phillips caught six balls for 90 yards and two touchdowns.

It all added up to a convincing win against a McGregor team that upset

Gatesville 21-17 on homecoming in 2023. According to head coach Aaron Hunter, talk of payback didn't come up much throughout the week.

"Very little. I brought it up a little bit because I didn't want to take them lightly," he said. "But for the most part, I don't talk about our opponent at all. I try not to bring up other teams every week. It's on us. We have to handle our business."

Gatesville more than handled business against the Bulldogs. The 59 points scored is the most they have scored since Hunter took over as head coach in 2022.

Grady Keeton scooped up a loose ball on the Hornets' opening kickoff, and three plays later Smith rumbled home from 12 yards out for a 7-0 lead. Smith caught a 35-yard touchdown pass from Keeton to give Gatesville a 14-0 lead then scored again on a 14-yard run for a 21-0 lead.

Gatesville capped their first quarter offensive onslaught when Keeton connected with Phillips on a 15-yard scoring strike and a 28-0 first quarter lead.

"Gehrig came out of his shell a little bit. We knew they were going to load the box to try and stop Ray and we got Gehrig started and set him up for success," said Hunter. "He has taken control of the offense. He understands it, knows what we are trying to do, and his blocking is something we don't talk about. He's done a really good job at that which goes unnoticed."

Smith scored again in the second quarter to push the lead to 35-7 and Keeton found Phillips for another score before the half for a 42-7 lead.

In addition to his spectacular offensive night, Phillips also had two sacks and three tackles for a loss on the defensive side further showing why he is one of the better



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
GHS Standouts from Friday's game against the McGregor Bulldogs include Brody Brown, Cy Burns, Gehrig Keeton, Amos Phillips, and Rayshon Smith.



two-way players in 4A football.

"He's so natural. The difference between this year and last year is that he is more comfortable. He is a

captain and plays with a ton of excitement," said Hunter. "You have to stop No. 11 offensively, but I'd also keep an eye out for No. 10."

Phillips and his defen-

sive mates have been stellar against the run in 2024, allowing just 55.3 yards per game on the ground. Hunter

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro High School football team kicker, Layden Nichols

JHS kicker Layden Nichols is as good off the field as on it

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

A strong kicker is a valuable commodity for any high school football team. An all-state-level kicker is a luxury that can mean the difference between a last-second victory and a heartbreaking defeat. For the Jonesboro High School football team, kicker Layden Nichols definitely holds it down.

A first-team TSMCA all-state selection on special teams last season, Nichols gave the Eagles an added dimension that many programs can only envy. But, coach Eddie Gallegos said that even though Nichols brings a lot to the playing field, it's not his most impressive quality.

"The first thing I think of when I think of Layden Nichols is character," Gallegos said. "He is a high-character guy. Excellent work ethic and a tremendous teammate to all...from the freshman up to the seniors. He will stay

behind and help clean up the bus after late road trips."

Jonesboro advanced to the state semi-finals round of the post-season in 2023 before losing to Gordon, the eventual state champion. Nichols said that while he was pleased with Jonesboro's playoff success, he felt it could have done better against Gordon. "I think that we under-performed during our last game, and I would like to know how things would've gone if we played to our fullest potential," Nichols said. "But I was still very proud of what we had accomplished during the season."

Nichols said his objectives heading into the season are to give it his all every day and to set a good example. "I also hope that we can play for something greater than us this season," Nichols said. "I believe this will get us far."

Nichols is "very involved"

PLEASE SEE **NICHOLS** | B3

Gatesville's Youth Tackle Football takes athletes from beginner to varsity players

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

One of the best ways for young students to grow their athletic skills is through participation in a youth sports program.

President of Gatesville's Youth Tackle Football program, Kent Ford, shares how the league helps prepare kids to play varsity sports in junior high, high school, and beyond.

"Just helping them to learn how to tackle, because when you get to seventh grade, you really don't have a lot of time," Ford said. "The coaches have maybe three weeks with them to get everybody together to see who can tackle, see who can block, see who can catch, see who can throw. But if they've already been in a little league, then they already know how to do all of those things, so they're pretty much ahead of the other kids."

Gatesville's youth league includes three divisions

of tackle football and one division of flag football. The divisions are split by ages 12-and-under, 10-and-under, and 8-and-under for tackle football, and 6-and-under for flag football.

Ford, who also coaches the 12U team, shares how youth football leagues help students learn important aspects of the sport before they play in junior high, such as the calisthenics players do before a game and how to properly tackle.

"We try to teach them because we know what they're going to do in seventh grade," Ford said. "And then the right ways to tackle. The wrong ways to tackle. Keep your head up, because if you keep your head down, you can break your neck. So, just the basic fundamentals, especially with football being a sport that is more physical. The main thing is being physical in the right way."

Although flag football is non-contact, the sport gives

students the foundational skills that allows them to move into a tackle football team.

"We let them play flag first - get the basics, the fundamentals - and then at 8 years old they can move up," Ford said.

Gatesville's youth league originally started about 15 years ago, but the current program has just entered its second year. This year, the program also introduced cheerleading teams for 4-year-old to 12-year-old students. Ford said they have about 16 cheerleaders this year.

"They come cheer for us at the games," Ford said. "I think (the coach) sometimes splits them up, we have one cheer for the 8U team game, one cheer for 10U game, and one cheer for the 12U game."

The league plays nine other teams this season, which include McGregor, Salado, Rosebud-Lott, Academy, Moody, Chilton, and

Hewitt. All of Gatesville's youth football practices and home games take place at the fields in McKamie Stadium.

Even though the program focuses on football, Ford emphasizes the importance of exposing kids to different kinds of sports.

"I tell parents: don't just focus on one sport, because you might want (your kids) to be a baseball star, but they might not be a baseball star," Ford said. "They can play football and very well get a scholarship in football, get a scholarship in basketball, or get a scholarship in track - you never know."

According to statistics on Project Play, regular sports activity provides children with several health, social, and emotional benefits, from improving cognitive abilities and mental health to helping build muscles and bones.

"I think at a young age, a

PLEASE SEE **YOUTH** | B3



PHOTO COURTESY OF CREDIT CENTEX SPORTS LENS

Gatesville's 10U team at their Sept. 14 home game against Falls County United Sports (FCU).

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AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Hornet Jeret Burks hoists up Amos Phillips while celebrating a touchdown by Phillips at Friday's homecoming game against McGregor. The Hornets won, 59-14.

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Oglesby Wins Big Against Methodist Children's Home

The Tigers football team defeated Methodist Children's Home by a score of 60-12 on Friday night to even its season record at 2-2.

Coach Jeb Dixon said it was a good effort from his team but added that there was still room for improvement.

"The kids played hard," Dixon said. "We have had several players out sick this week, but they battled through. The defense played well for the most part, but we gave a couple big plays for touchdowns."

Kyler Fossett rushed for 269 yards and five touchdowns in the game for Oglesby.

Jakson Tippit added a rushing touchdown, and Hunter Ewing caught a touchdown pass for the Tigers.

Oglesby will host Coolidge

at 7 p.m. on Sept. 27, and Dixon said he expects his team to be in for a challenge. "Coolidge is an athletic, well-coached team," Dixon said. "They have a couple really good backs that we will need to contain."

Jonesboro Struggles Against Lady Indians

The Jonesboro volleyball team lost to Riesel by a score of 3-0 last Friday night.

Coach Tori Smith said it was a tough loss for her team in more ways than one, but said it was also a great learning experience.

"I felt like Riesel going into the game would've been a really good match up for us," Smith said. "We struggled going into the first set. We've got a young one at the net who was just a bit nervous but will help us on the front row in the long run. Performance wise, our serves weren't the best, and we made some bad decisions on serve/receive."

In the second set, Jonesboro's setter Kyleigh Walker sustained an injury as well. "All things considered, Riesel was exactly what we needed to see competition wise," Smith said.

Despite the loss, Smith said there was a bright spot in the game for the Lady Eagles.

"We lost all three sets and have some adjustments to make, but Lynlee Deats really stood out for me," Smith said. "She got after it and had some great digs, and, as our Libero, she really stepped up when we had our setter go out with her injury. In the second set, we had her switch jerseys to play all around, and all things considered she did a heck of a job. This will be a good motivation for our girls before district."

Elks Get Off to Strong Start, But Come Up Short Against Kopperl

The Evant football team

looked good early on this past Friday night, but ultimately lost to Kopperl by a score of 77-28.

Coach Brandon Young said his team has been banged up as of late, and said this game was no different.

"We started out really well, scoring 28 first quarter points, but injuries started to plague us after that," Young said. "We struggled to move the ball and make stops in the second quarter."

Young said he did have a standout performance in the game against the Eagles. "Cam McGilvray had a good night running the ball but struggled with a shoulder injury and had to be pulled," Young said.

Evant will be in its bye this week, and Young said there will be a couple of areas of focus for his team.

"The next two weeks, we need to work on some of the little things and possibly add a few new wrinkles in order

to be ready for district play," Young said.

Jonesboro Defeats Granbury GCA

The Eagles football team beat Granbury Grace Classical Academy by a score of 54-6 on Friday night to improve to 3-1 on the season.

Coach Eddie Gallegos said it was a strong performance for his team and provided him the opportunity to have most of his players get playing time.

"I'm pleased with our effort," Gallegos said. "We were able to get a lot of kids the ball."

Jonesboro will play at Stephenville Faith at 7 p.m. on Sept. 27, and Gallegos said his team will need to come prepared.

"Stephenville Faith is a young team this year," Gallegos said. "But we expect a strong game plan, and their kids to come out with purpose."

Evant Volleyball Continues to Win

The Lady Elks Volleyball team defeated Rochelle on Saturday morning, earning its 20th win of the non-district season and sixth straight victory in a row.

Evant won the match 25-14, 25-22, 25-12 and has not lost a match in the month of September.

Standout performances in the game include the following:

Harley Weeks - 10 points, 2 aces, 6 digs, 26 assists, 2 kills

Hailey Neri - 5 points, 3 aces, 5 digs

Molly Waldrum - 3 points, aces, 5 digs, 18 kills

Bree Ramirez - 11 points, 6 aces, 8 digs, 3 assists, 4 kills

Luwi Rodriguez - 7 points, 2 aces, 5 digs, assists, 6 kills

Izzy Gandy - 7 points, 2 aces, 6 digs, assists, 4 kills

Daritzta Escamilla - 2 digs

CARDOSO PLACES 8TH



PHOTO COURTESY OF COACH B. STANDFORD

Evant ISD eighth grader Octavio Cardoso recently competed at the Dublin cross country meet on Wednesday, Sept. 18. Cardoso earned eighth place overall and medaled with a time of 13:35.

Oglesby Tiger cross country runners claw their way to the finish line



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN NICHOLS

The Oglesby Junior High boys' and girls' cross-country team is pictured at a recent meet in Crawford.

Staff Reports

Oglesby High School and Junior High School cross country teams recently competed in a meet located in Crawford, where each runner obtained a personal record time.

Varsity Girls

Caitlyn Battreal won 11th place.

Junior Varsity Girls

Emma Sanchez won first place.

Grace Isaacks won second place.

Junior High Girls

The junior high girls won third place as a team.

Individually, Vicky Mejia won fourth place, Abigail Insall won 11th place, Malorie Renner won 21st place, Adelyn Gomez won 23rd place, Daycee Robles won 26th place, and Keelyn Riley won 28th place.

Varsity Boys

David Mejia won fourth place.

Couper Wulfkuhle won ninth place.

Rolando Gonzalez won 22nd place.

Gunner Riley won 25th place.

Junior High Boys

Rancher Jeffcoat won 33rd place.

Caiden Brinkley won 37th place.

HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

credited defensive coordinator Jose Aguirre and his speedy front line for the success.

"Coach Aguirre and they understand who we have. We have a lot of athletic kids up front. Dutch (Nielsen) pound-for-pound is the best athlete in our program. When you put him on the d-line with Kaden Coffman, Brayden Mills, Brody Brown,

and Grayson Eggeling and that speed they are going to win a lot of those battles."

In the third quarter, Smith ripped off his longest run of the night by going 73 yards for a score and a 49-7 lead.

Senior quarterback Roman Perez - named homecoming king at halftime - led the Hornets' final scoring drive. Burns took a toss from Perez and went 87 yards for

a score in the fourth quarter for a 59-7 lead. Gatesville has had at least one rushing score of 60 yards or more in each game this season.

Smith upped his season total to 840 yards rushing - an average of 210 per game while Burns has racked up 239 yards and four touchdowns in his last two games.

"Ray has vision. He sees things and sets up blocks,

and Cy has an explosive-ness. If Cy gets untouched to the second level, I don't think many people are catching him. I am proud of him."

Jack Erwin had three catches for 49 yards in the win, while Grady Keeton hauled in two passes for 36 yards.

Brody Brown had a pair of sacks and forced a fumble in

the win, while Mills and Logan Biggs had tackles for a loss. Clark Allman broke up a pass and Larry Schwertner had one pass pressure.

Gatesville finishes the non-district schedule on Sept. 27, at Burnet. The Hornets will have a bye this week. They will open the district schedule on Oct. 4 at home against La Vega.



RICKEY PHILLIPS

Athletic Director
Gatesville ISD
@RickeyPhillip12 on X

Fall-sport news

Cross Country: GHS will host the District 23-4A meet here Oct. 7. Regional berths for teams and individuals will be on the line.

Football: Varsity gets next week off before, a much-needed break before the rigorous 5-week grind in district play. That starts here Oct. 11 vs. La Vega.

Team Tennis: GHS has already clinched its 7th-straight playoff berth with still one league match to be played.

Volleyball: GHS is off and running in the 23-4A schedule, as the Hornets look to extend their current 21-year playoff streak.

Notes and notes

...Avery Streetman has spent countless hours navigating the fairways and greens of the Gatesville Country Club and other golf courses. She has been rewarded for all of her time and efforts with a scholarship opportunity to continue her playing career at LeTourneau University.

...GHS' spiker Emma Polard recently reached 1,000 kills in her varsity career. The junior middle blocker is a 3-year member of the Hornet varsity, and that kill career total is going to keep climbing and climbing.

...There are a lot of great, hard-working students in Gatesville ISD, and one of those groups happens to be the athletic student trainers at GHS. Coach Tatianna Navarro, who does an incredible job herself, has a solid group of young ladies that have been busy up here since early August. Their jobs and duties might go unnoticed by some, but not by those who see and feel their impact every day. Hats off and thank you... Chesney Riddle, Lily Salter, Olivia Baker, Callie Smith (9th) and Annie Silva.

GHS Homecoming

There are varying opinions out there, but I like everything about Homecoming week.

That week, more than any other, seems to get more people interested, involved and taking part. Each GISD campus has its own dress-up and theme days, and that attracts students from across the board. The newly-born Thursday night Festival has grown each year...food trucks, GHS group booths, Senior Walk, Lighting of the G this year due to drought conditions again. Friday at the high school campus is fun...period...kids excited and pumped, mums taller than some students drag the floors.

There's so much that goes into the planning and actual unfolding of all of this during GHS' Homecoming

Week, and I appreciate those staff members that handle all of their planning and execution. It's a long, long week for them.

One of my favorite parts of the whole week might just be the Homecoming pep rally and getting the chance to meet and visit with many of the exes in attendance. Who were some of the first ex-students in the doors that Friday morning? It was several members of the GHS Class of 1959, which was the last class to graduate from then old Gatesville High School on College Hill above Raby Park. There were 8-9 of them that showed up, and they were celebrating their 65-year class reunion. Loved those commemorative t-shirts by the way!

Volleyball got the first ball rolling with a sweep of Whitney, then football followed with a rout of long-time rival McGregor.

There are always hordes of fans and exes on hand for the GHS Homecoming game, but this year's turnout was simply unreal. Bleachers packed, fans sitting in chairs 35-40 yards along the north hill, south hill ramp crowded as always, and the usual mixer crowd near the concession stand and front entrance.

Then, you get the chance to honor a humble guy like former Hornet running back LaShon Thayer, who ranks No. 2 all-time in GHS career rushing yards. LaShon could not believe he was being honored and was sure no one would remember him from his playing days in the early 2000's. He got a nice ovation from the Hornet faithful...and well-deserved.

All of this made for a great week for Hornet Nation.

Get ready GHS Class of 1980: The big 45-year reunion is next fall.

Upcoming schedule

Monday, Sept. 30
Volleyball: 7th-8th A-B at Connally.

Tuesday, Oct. 1
Volleyball: 9th-JV-Varsity at Lorena.

Wednesday, Oct. 2
Football: 7B at Brownwood.

Thursday, Oct. 3
Football: 7th-8th A-B vs. Brownwood.

Tennis: Varsity at Lampasas, JV here vs. Lampasas.

Friday, Oct. 4
Volleyball: 9th-JV-Varsity at Robinson.

Hornet Fight Never Dies!
Gatesville Hornet Athletics on Facebook, @Fightin-Hornets on X, www.gatesvilleathletics.com

OHS JV White team falls to Eagles

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers JV White football team hosted the Eagle Christian Eagles in a hard-fought game, eventually falling to the eagles, 30-25.

The Tigers were moving the ball up and down the field as time expired.

Offensively for the Tigers

Abram Shaw had nine carries for 150 yards rushing and two touchdowns. He also had one pass reception for 32 yards and ended off the night with 182 total yards.

Treyton Linder had seven carries for 97 yards rushing and caught one 10-yard reception for a total of 107 yards and one touchdown.

Tucker Melton was three for three in passing for 47 yards total. Gunner Riley had one reception for five yards and scored one point-after-touchdown (PAT).

Defensively for the Tigers

Abram Shaw had six tackles, Javon Howard had three tackles, Jacob Taylor had three tackles, Gunner Riley had two tackles, Treyton Linder had three tackles, and Rolando Gonzalez had two tackles.

There is no game scheduled for next week at this time.

GHS FOOTBALL PROGRAM RECEIVES CHECK FROM THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left is Kaitlyn Smith, marketing consultant for The Gatesville Messenger, presenting GHS head football coach Aaron Hunter with a check during the Sept. 23 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees. For the past 19 years, The Gatesville Messenger has partnered with the Gatesville High School football program and local advertisers to create the Gatesville Hornets football poster. Within that time frame, the football program has received over \$60,000 in contributions from their joint efforts.

OHS JV Red football drops close game to Panthers

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers Junior Varsity (JV) Red football team played host to the Abbott Panther JV team on Thursday, Sept. 19.

The Tigers played well but dropped a close game to the Panthers, 20 to 6. The game was closer than the score indicated as the Tigers had the ball at one time on the five-

yard line, but the Panther defense had a goal line stand, which prevented the Tigers from scoring. The Tigers moved the ball up and down the field but were only able to reach pay dirt one time on a 21-yard touchdown jaunt by Keegan Redford for the Tigers only score.

Offensively for the Tigers
Callen Webb had 13 carries for 97 yards and was

4/9 passing for 13 yards for 110 total yards. Keegan Redford had four carries for 30 yards, including a 21-yard touchdown run. Redford finished the night with 30 total yards. Camden Webb had one carry for two yards and caught four passes for 13 yards.

Defensively for the Tigers
Gunner Riley had eight tackles, Callen Webb had four tackles, Camden Webb

had three tackles, Keegan Redford had four tackles, Ranger Dalton had two tackles, and Jayce Aaron had two tackles.

On Thursday, Sept. 26, the JV Red team traveled to take on the Coolidge Yellow Jackets. The results will be published in the Saturday, Oct. 5 edition of The Gatesville Messenger.

Oglesby Junior High football falls to Abbott, 62-26

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Tiger football team fell to the Abbott Panther junior high football team by the score of 62 to 26 on Thursday, Sept. 19.

There were several bright spots for the young Tigers, who managed to put up 26 points against the older, more physical Abbott Panther team.

Brody Martinez had an excellent night for the Tigers and carried the ball

eight times for 96 yards rushing, including a 75-yard touchdown run from the first-place scrimmage. Martinez added a point-after-touchdown (PAT), making the score Abbott 8 and Oglesby 7. He also added a 50-yard kickoff return for another Tiger touchdown. Plus, an extra 25-yard kickoff return to put the ball in Panther territory. Martinez ended the night with 173 total yards, 2 touchdowns, and one PAT.

Caiden Brinkley was

close behind, carrying the ball six times for 125 yards rushing, including one 45-yard touchdown run. Brinkley added a 40-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and ended the night with 165 total yards and two touchdowns.

Liam Standridge scored one PAT.

Hunter Insall had one carry for five yards.

Defensively for the Tigers
Caiden Brinkley had two tackles, AJ Mafra had two

tackles, Brody Martinez had two tackles, Liam Standridge had one tackle, Ranger Jeffcoat had one tackle, and Hunter Insall had one tackle and one fumble recovery.

The Tigers traveled to Coolidge on Sept. 26 to play against the Coolidge Yellowjackets. Results from the game will be published in the Saturday, Oct. 5 edition of The Gatesville Messenger.

YOUTH

FROM PAGE B1

lot of parents think 'my kids are going to get hurt or their bones are not developed,' but I've been doing this for 15 years, and we've only had one kid get hurt," Ford said.

Although injuries are rare

in youth football, Ford said EMS teams attend the games in case someone gets hurt.

Ford adds that he enjoys getting to watch the former students he coached as kids grow up to play football or other sports on varsity teams. Gatesville ISD athletes in junior high and high school also volunteer to help coach the youth football teams.

"I love it, just seeing them, especially those that excel and even go to not just play football, but go on to do other things," he said.

More than anything, he appreciates the opportunity to help young athletes learn how to work together and be a part of a team.

"I love the joy of trying to, basically, help young boys become young men," Ford

said.

Gatesville's Youth Tackle Football program plays under the Small Town Youth Football League, where Ford serves as a board member. The season starts every year in August, and they hold the playoffs and championship games in November before Thanksgiving. The playoffs will take place on Nov. 9, in Gatesville this year.

Ford adds that he is grateful to the program's board members who assist at every practice and game. "We are always looking for other board members, especially with people who are coming on and maybe have a six-year kid," he said.

The cost for youth tackle football is \$150 per player, and includes a helmet, shoulder pads, and a game

uniform. The fee to play flag football is \$80 per player. The cost for cheerleading is \$180 and includes a uniform.

To learn more about Gatesville's youth sports, visit <https://www.gatesvilletacklefb.org/>

NICHOLS

FROM PAGE B1

in his church and also plays baseball, basketball, and runs track at JHS.

He even runs a small lawn care business called Skinny Puma Lawn Care.

The Jonesboro senior said, despite the success the Ea-

gles have enjoyed in recent years, it has been challenging at times to continue to suit up year in and year out. "I'm not gonna lie, as much as I love the game, all of the 100-degree football practices and sprints were tough, to say the least," Nichols said. "But I think that these things teach you more than just how to play a game. I believe they teach you how to be a

better person overall."

Nichols said his fondest memories from last season involved teammate Kayden Craft, who would "say something crazy," on a regular basis. "For example, he once tried to reach through the glass case that held the hot food at a gas station and asked the cashier 'Is it ready?'" Nichols said. "He never failed to crack me up."

The Jonesboro senior said if the Eagles want to repeat the kind of success they enjoyed last season, it will take one thing. "To make the run that we want this year it's going to take a lot of hard work," Nichols said. "But I believe that we have the talent and the unity to pull it off. A state championship would mean the world to our team and the community,

and although our school has made it to the championship before, it would be nice to finish the job."

Gallegos said for 2024, his expectations for Nichols are simple. "The goals for him are to be himself and to continue growing as a player and person," Gallegos said.

Nichol's Favorites

Favorite Athlete: Noah

Lyles

Favorite Sports Team: Dallas Cowboys

Favorite Food: Mimi's spaghetti

Favorite Movie: Shrek 2

Favorite TV Show: The Office

Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: The Bible

Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Cody Johnson

Blanco takes on leadership role in PAL program

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville High School is home to many great programs, including the high school Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) program.

PALs is designed to provide support and mentorship to the younger students in the community. It typically consists of a group of selected high school students who are trained to serve as mentors and peer advisors. These student leaders undergo specialized training that gives them the skills and knowledge needed to provide support in various areas such as academics, social interactions, mental health, and personal development.

One of those special students is senior Audrey Blanco, who has been in the PALs program since her junior year of high school. She is assigned to Mrs. Caffey's class at the Elementary School this year and gets to visit with her students four days a week, Tuesday through Friday.

"I usually help them with their assigned activities, ensure they stay on task, and engage in conversations about their day,

hobbies, likes and dislikes, and after-school activities," Blanco said.

Her responsibilities as a PAL go further than just keeping her students focused during school. She ensures that she is a good listener, a supportive companion, welcoming, shows kindness, and gives her full attention to her students.

"I believe the PALs program is beneficial because it provides essential peer support, helping them feel more comfortable and confident in their school environment," Blanco said. "For teachers, the program offers an extra hand in assisting students and helps keep them focused on their work."

She expressed that being in the PALs program is important to her because it has taught her very valuable lessons as well as opening her perspective toward others.

"PALs has allowed me to develop skills and encouraged me to think in other people's shoes," she said.

"Starting this program, I realized that I am participating in something greater than myself, and because of this, I want to try my best



Audrey Blanco is pictured with her students in Mrs. Caffey's and Mrs. Leech's class at the Elementary School.

COURTESY PHOTO

and give it my 100 percent." "I hope to make an impact

on my students by showing support, being welcoming,

and being a good listener, so they feel appreciated and

know that they matter," she expressed.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Oglesby Tigers played against the MCH Bulldogs on Friday, Sept. 20, where they won, 60-12.

Oglesby Tigers overpower Bulldogs, 60-12

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers defeated the Methodist Children's Home (MCH) Bulldogs, 60 to 12, on Friday, Sept. 20 at Bulldog Stadium in Waco.

The Tigers were hit by the flu bug early in the week, but managed to recover by Friday and were able to play and get a Tiger win.

The Tigers marched the ball up and down the field and took control early and never relinquished the

lead throughout the night. Kyler Fossett took control early as the fleet-foot back weaved his way to five touchdowns. Fossett had 18 carries for 269 yards rushing, three receptions for 47 yards, was 1/2 passing for nine yards, and had a total of 325 total yards for the night.

Jakson Tippit had eight carries for 26 yards and one touchdown.

Aiden Oxford had four carries for 39 yards.

Holdyn Goff was 5/5 passing for 55 yards and

one touchdown pass to Mason Marquez.

Hunter Ewing caught one nine-yard touchdown pass in the end zone from Kyler Fossett.

Alex Castillo was 6/7 on point-after-touchdowns (PAT) kicks for 12 points and had a 39-yard kickoff return.

Defensively for the Tigers

Jack Hendricks led with 12 tackles, Jakson Tippit had eight tackles and one fumble recovery, Alex Castillo had seven tackles,

Aiden Oxford had three tackles, Holdyn Goff had three tackles, Kyler Fossett had two tackles, and Mason Marquez had one tackle.

Hendricks, Ewing, Goff, and Tippit provided great blocking throughout the game.

The win brings the Tigers season record 2-2 on year.

The Tigers hosted the Coolidge Yellowjackets on Friday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. The results will be published in the Saturday, Oct. 5 edition of The Gatesville Messenger.

GATESVILLE JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL RESULTS



7A vs. Mexia	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Gatesville	14	0	8	0	22
Mexia	0	0	0	0	0

Leading Rushers: Mason Davidson - 8 for 105, 1 TD (47-yard run); Lucas Elliot- 4 for 88, 1 TD (68-yard run); Layne Cockrell- 6 for 24, two 2 pt conversions

Kade Shelton- 1 for 22; Remington Tyroch- 2 for 18; Kaeson Stretton- 1 for 10

Leading Receivers: Kaeson Stretton- 1 for 13, 1 TD; Izaak Casas- 1 for 10

Leading Tacklers: Lucas Elliot- six tackles (3 TFL); Landon Turner- six tackles (1 TFL); Remington Tyroch- three tackles; Caden Waters- four tackles (1 TFL)

8A vs. Mexia	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Gatesville	14	7	7	6	34
Mexia	0	0	8	0	8

Leading Rushers: Bennett Eggeling- 8 for 93 yards, 2 TD; Sebastian Hubik- 4 for 25, 1 TD, Braxton Adcock- 4 for 40; Balin Whyte- 1 for 5, 1 TD

Leading Passer: Preston Barron- 2/3 for 23 yards

Leading Receivers: Jaxson Franks- 2 for 23

Leading Tacklers/ Defensive players: TayShon Evans- five tackles; Sebastian Hubik- four tackles (1 TFL); Bennett Eggeling- four tackles (1 TFL); Balin Whyte- four tackles (1 TFL); Braxton Adcock- two tackles, one INT; Max Jacobs- one tackle, one INT; Kicking- Eric Vega- 4/4 on extra points

8B vs. Mexia	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Gatesville	8	8	0	0	16
Mexia	0	0	6	0	6

Leading Rushers: Channing Hardcastle- 9 for 134, 1 TD, two 2 pt conversions

Leading Passers: Brayden Warren- 1 for 1 22 yards, TD

Leading Receivers: Guy Webster- 22-yard TD catch
Leading Defensive players: Hardcastle, David Owens, Braxton Bell, Zachary Poliquin

7B vs. N. Belton	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Gatesville	0	0	6	0	6
N. Belton	0	0	0	0	0

Defense: Interceptions by Jett Teague and Colt Brittan. 40-yard TD run by Hunner Albin

FNBCT HONORS LOCAL EDUCATORS AT FOOTBALL GAME



COURTESY PHOTO

The First National Bank of Central Texas recently honored two local teachers who dedicate themselves to educating the youth each day at Gatesville Independent School District. During the Friday, Sept. 20 home varsity football game, Madelline Necessary and Jason Moffett each received \$500 cash as well as a trophy. The First National Bank of Central Texas and Gatesville Independent School District encourages the community to submit the names of local educators who have made a difference in your life, or in the lives of others. To make a nomination, visit the link www.fnbct.bank/educator-of-the-week/. Madelline Necessary (left) and Jason Moffett are pictured with their trophies.

Pickleball Club to host Halloween tournament Oct. 12

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Pickleball Club has announced that it will host a Halloween pickleball tournament on Saturday, Oct. 12.

The tournament will take place at the Gatesville Civic Center and will be from 1:30 - 7 p.m. Halloween costumes will be judged at

3 p.m.

There will be three pickleball courts set up inside of the center for the event.

Upon entry to the event, all participants must sign a waiver.

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

GONZALEZ NAMED OHS HOMECOMING QUEEN



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby High School celebrated Homecoming on Friday, Sept. 13. During halftime, it was announced that senior Jayda Gonzalez (pictured back row with crown) was selected as the 2024 Homecoming Queen. Gonzalez participated in Future Farmers of America (FFA), welding, basketball, track, cheerleading, and volleyball during high school. She has also received top student awards in both art and graphic design. She plans to attend McClennan Community College (MCC) to pursue her dream of becoming a dental hygienist.

GJHS HORNET GOLD OFFICERS NAMED



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Junior High's Hornet Gold 4-H group, led by educator Wendy Bye, recently elected its 2024-2025 officers. Pictured in the back row from left to right is MaKayla Attaway, reporter; Chelsea Johnson, president; and Allie McPherson, secretary. In the front row is Zojie Wolff, vice president. The group meets each Monday during Prime Time and is open to all 4-H junior high students.

Johnson named National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist

Staff Reports

Senior Alex Johnson of Gatesville High School was recently named as a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist due to a whopping 35 on the ACT and 1460 on the SAT.

Johnson is no stranger to recognition, as he was ranked near the top of his class and is a member of the National Honor Society. During his high school career, he was named as the

All-Star Cast during a One-Act Play competition. The College Board designated him with the National Rural and Small-Town Award (NRSTA) as well.

He is the president of the student body and the senior class and is a member of the Senior Homecoming Court this year. He has been the drum major for the Fighting Hornet Band for the past two years.

On top of being involved in extracurricular activi-

ties, Johnson also takes the most rigorous courses available at Gatesville High School. In addition, he has participated in debate class, academic UIL, student council, and the PALS program.

Last year, he was a UIL District Champion in Current Issues and Events.

He also finds time in his schedule to work to earn extra money.



COURTESY PHOTO

Alex Johnson is pictured with his mother, Crystal Whalen.

National Public Lands Day
September 28, 2024

Did You Know?

THE U.S. HAS DESIGNATED SOME 840 MILLION ACRES AS PUBLIC LAND SET ASIDE FOR ALL.

New Word

Public Lands: Public lands are areas of land and water that today are owned collectively by U.S. citizens.

Mark your calendars for September 28th as we celebrate National Public Lands Day, a special occasion dedicated to recognizing the importance and beauty of our public lands. This day serves as a reminder of the invaluable natural resources that belong to all of us and offers opportunities for volunteering, outdoor recreation, and conservation efforts.

National Public Lands Day presents a chance for everyone to connect with nature, explore the great outdoors, and contribute to the preservation of our public lands. Whether you're hiking through a national park, camping in a forest, or enjoying a picnic in a wildlife refuge, there are countless ways to celebrate and enjoy these treasured landscapes.

Volunteering for a local clean-up or restoration project is a meaningful way to participate in National Public Lands Day. Join fellow nature enthusiasts to improve trails, plant trees, remove invasive species, and help maintain the natural beauty of our public lands for future generations.

Take advantage of free admission to many national parks and other public lands on National Public Lands Day. Pack a picnic, lace up your hiking boots, and embark on an adventure to discover the scenic beauty and diverse ecosystems that our public lands offer.

National Public Lands Day also serves as a time to reflect on the importance of conservation and environmental stewardship. Whether you're learning about the history of our public lands, advocating for their protection, or simply enjoying their beauty, National Public Lands Day is a reminder of the invaluable natural resources that belong to all of us.

Throughout the day, various events and activities are held across the country to celebrate National Public Lands Day. From guided hikes and educational programs to volunteer opportunities and community festivals, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

One of the most significant aspects of National Public Lands Day is the opportunity to connect with others who share a passion for the outdoors and environmental conservation. Whether you're volunteering alongside friends, bonding with family members over a shared love of nature, or meeting like-minded individuals in your community, National Public Lands Day fosters a sense of camaraderie and stewardship.

Participating in National Public Lands Day not only benefits the environment but also provides numerous personal benefits. Spending time in nature has been shown to reduce stress, improve mental well-being, and increase physical activity levels. Whether you're exploring a scenic trail, observing wildlife in its natural habitat, or simply enjoying the peace and tranquility of the outdoors, National Public Lands Day offers a chance to recharge and reconnect with the natural world.

As we celebrate National Public Lands Day on September 28th, let's come together to honor and appreciate the incredible landscapes, habitats, and recreational opportunities that our public lands provide. Whether you're volunteering, exploring, or simply enjoying the great outdoors, there's no better way to show your appreciation for these treasured places than by spending time on our public lands. Let's join forces to protect, preserve, and enjoy these natural treasures for generations to come!

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

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Britten's record-breaking night propels TSU to road win at UNA in UAC opener

Tarleton State University

FLORENCE, Ala. – Senior running back Kayvon Britten's 273 rushing yards with four touchdowns set the single game program rushing record to lift Tarleton State Football to a 28-14 road win at North Alabama in its United Athletic Conference opener Saturday, Sept. 21 at Braly Stadium.

Britten, who averaged 13 yards per carry Saturday, broke a nearly 20-year-old record set by Derrick Ross Sept. 10, 2005, against Western New Mexico. He was

just four yards shy of his career-high set during his time at Arkansas Pine-Bluff Oct. 16, 2022.

Tarleton State's defense, which was tied for third in the country for most takeaways entering Saturday, came up with two more in the win against North Alabama. Senior defensive back Kasyus Kurns collected his fourth takeaway of the season with a fumble recovery in the third quarter while junior defensive back Blake Smith obtained his first interception of the season in the fourth quarter.

Looking to strike first on

the opening drive, North Alabama began the first quarter by setting up its offense on Tarleton State's five-yard line. After Tarleton State forced the Lions into a combined two rushing yards on their next two plays, the Texans prevented North Alabama from getting in the end zone on third down. North Alabama scored the only points of the first quarter with a 20-yard field goal and carried the 3-0 lead through the end of the first quarter.

After Tarleton State was forced to punt for the second time in the second

quarter, the Texans' defense came in clutch. The Texans forced the Lions into another punting situation after junior defensive back Dabari Hawkins broke up North Alabama's pass on third down. The Lions looked to make life difficult for the Tarleton State offense, with their 41-yard punt pinning the Texans back to their own 4-yard line.

The Texans, however, bulldozed their way through the length of the field.

With the powerful Tarleton State offensive line creating holes for the run game, Britten took advantage and gave the Texans the lead with a 96-yard touchdown. Britten's 96-yard touchdown was the longest running play by a Tarleton State player in the Division I era.

North Alabama looked to respond on its final offensive drive of the first half, setting up first and goal after a 10-yard reception. The Lions came knocking on the door with an 8-yard run, but the Texans prevented the touchdown by forcing an incomplete pass on third down following a tackle for loss by Smith. A 22-yard field goal allowed the Lions to cut the deficit to 7-6 going into halftime.

The Texans were forced to punt on their opening drive of the second half but got the ball right back thanks to

their special teams. North Alabama muffed the punt return, allowing Kurns to recover the fumble and put Tarleton State's offense on the Lions' 19-yard line. The Chicago native was tied for first in the nation in fumble recoveries heading into Saturday.

Tarleton State quickly took advantage, with Britten gaining all 19 yards off five rushing attempts en route to his second touchdown of the game. North Alabama responded by marching down the field to set themselves up in the red zone following a 31-yard pass and catch. The Lions got in the end zone thanks to a 10-yard run and tied the game 14-14 by converting the two-point conversion.

The tie would be broken just two plays later, with Britten going 65 yards untouched for his third touchdown of the game to give the Texans a 21-14 lead. Junior defensive lineman Brandon Tolvert sacked the North Alabama quarterback on third down of the Lions' final offensive drive of the quarter, allowing Tarleton State to keep its lead.

North Alabama looked to tie the game on its first drive of the fourth quarter, marching the ball to the red zone. While the Lions completed three consecutive passes, the Texans' defense forced

North Alabama into a turnover on downs. Tarleton State's defense once again prevailed in the Lions' second offensive drive of the fourth quarter, forcing the Lions to go three and out.

Tarleton State continued to feed Britten, who gained 33 yards before junior quarterback Victor Gabalis connected with senior wide receiver Darius Cooper for a 34-yard gain. Gabalis and Cooper successfully set up Britten's fourth touchdown that extended Tarleton State's lead 28-14.

Getting the ball down to Tarleton State's 19-yard line in the closing minutes, North Alabama looked for a shot in the end zone. The Texans spoiled North Alabama's hopes of a comeback, with Smith coming down with the interception to put the ball back in Tarleton State's hands.

With the win, Tarleton State has started 3-1 for the third consecutive season. The win at North Alabama marks the third consecutive year the Texans have opened conference play victorious.

Tarleton State returns to Memorial Stadium this weekend after being on the road for a month. The Texans will face Southeastern Louisiana in their final nonconference game of the season on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. for Family Weekend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Senior running back Kayvon Britten's 273 rushing yards with four touchdowns set the single game program rushing record to lift Tarleton State Football to a 28-14 road win at North Alabama in its United Athletic Conference opener Saturday, Sept. 21 at Braly Stadium.

Texan Volleyball wins TSU Invitational with five-set thriller against ULM

Allison Bryant named tournament MVP

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE – Tarleton State Volleyball won its third and final match of the Tarleton State Invitational, earning the crown with a five-set victory against Louisiana Monroe Saturday, Sept. 21 at Wisdom Gym.

The Texans (5-8) notched their fourth consecutive victory, all at Wisdom Gym over the Warhawks (4-8). Tarleton fell behind, 2-1, but outlasted ULM winning the final two frames for the five-set victory, 25-20, 23-25, 16-25, 25-14, 15-9. The Purple and White were crowned the Tarleton State Invitational champions as the only team to have three victories over the weekend.

Allison Bryant was named the invitational's MVP as she led the Texans with 13 kills in the final match of the weekend. Bryant also achieved her third double-double of the season during the win (13 kills, 11 digs).

Emma Halcomb and Megan Hodges were named to the All-Tournament team as well. During Saturday's match against Louisiana-Monroe, Halcomb led the team with 26 digs, which broke her

career high of 25. Halcomb broke her own record atop of the WAC single-match leaderboard and added to her conference-leading season dig total. Halcomb also tied her season high for assists with six for the third time this year. Across the weekend, Hodges' 67 assists led the Texans including 23 against the Warhawks.

Yuna Ansquer led the match in assists with 27, which shattered her previous career high of 24 against McNeese Sept. 17.

The first set was a testing battle between both teams. The Texans led 20-19 before the Texans went on a 4-0 run fueled by back-to-back kills by LaNeah Lara. The Purple and White notched the first set victory, 25-20.

Tarleton found themselves on the wrong side of a rally in the second frame. The Warhawks overtook the Texans in the middle of the set on a 10-5 run. ULM never looked back and won the second stanza, 25-23.

Louisiana Monroe controlled the third set from the beginning. The Texans were unable to stop the rolling Warhawks en route to their

25-16 third-set victory.

However, the Texans responded in the fourth set. They went on a 5-0 run midway through the set thanks to back-to-back kills from the MVP Bryant and two aces from Hodges. Tarleton kept its momentum rolling, clinching the fourth period on back-to-back aces from Tatum Busch. The Texans recorded eight service aces in the fourth set alone, their most in a single set this season.

In the fifth and final set, Tarleton finished on a 7-2 run to win the tournament. The final point was capped off by an emphatic kill from Tatum Busch with the set from Ansquer.

2024 Tarleton State Invitational All-Tournament Team

MVP: Allison Bryant, Tarleton State
Emma Halcomb, Tarleton State
Megan Hodges, Tarleton State
Ariana Brown, Louisiana-Monroe
Cameron Rogers, Louisiana Monroe
Audrey Pearce, Houston Christian



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Soccer ended its nonconference slate on a high note with a 2-1 victory the morning of Thursday, Sept 19 against the Southeastern Louisiana Lions at the Tarleton Soccer Complex.

TSU Soccer notches sixth victory to end nonconference slate

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE – Tarleton State Soccer ended its nonconference slate on a high note with a 2-1 victory the morning of Thursday, Sept 19 against the Southeastern Louisiana Lions at the Tarleton Soccer Complex.

The Texans (6-3-3) notched their second home victory in their final nonconference home game against the Lions (1-4-1). The victory ties the Texans for the most wins since their inaugural season, 2022.

Sam Liaty found the back of the net for her second goal of the season in the 58th minute. Junior Kaitlyn Flanagan also notched her second goal of the year just a few minutes later.

Keeper Mikayla Kendall notched three saves increasing her season total to 56.

In the 26th minute, the Texans nearly broke

through first. Jaycie Bass found a loose ball bouncing around the box and fired a point-blank shot at the Lions keeper, that was just in her reach.

With less than 10 minutes remaining in the half, Zoë Lam found herself with a shot to tie the game, but her shot fell just wide. Bass found a ball less than a minute later and rifled a second shot on goal but the Lions keeper was able to keep the score deadlocked at one.

In the first half, the Texans led with five shots to the Lions' four. Both teams registered a pair on goal with two saves for each keeper.

The Texans jumped on the board first scoring in the first 15 minutes of the second half. Julia Bell brought the ball down the opposite sideline of the benches and sent a cross to the middle of the box. Una

Hlynsdóttir one-touched it for Liaty where she knocked in her second goal of the season.

Just six minutes later, Kaitlyn Flanagan scored her second goal of the season off the corner by Bass. After Bass' corner was headed into the keeper, Flanagan found the loose ball and swiftly put it in the back of the net.

In the 72nd minute, the Lions cut their deficit in half. Halli Roe knocked in the ball in the front of the net assisted by Nicole O'Neil.

Both teams recorded eight shots and four on goal. Tarleton edged Southeastern Louisiana in corner kicks, 8-5.

The Texans will start their WAC slate Saturday, Sept. 28 at home against Utah Valley. Kick is slated for 12 p.m. from the Tarleton Soccer Complex.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Allison Bryant was named the invitational's MVP as she led the Texans with 13 kills in the final match of the weekend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORYELL COUNTY 4H

Coryell County Commissioners and Judge Roger Miller received a visit from the county's 4-H students and ambassadors for the proclamation of National 4-H Week.

Coryell County Commissioners Court honors youth during National 4-H Week

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the Commissioners Court honored several high school students with Coryell County's Texas A&M AgriLife extension of 4-H by declaring the week of October 6-12 as National 4-H Week. County Judge Roger Miller read the proclamation for National 4-H Week in the county, which highlights the importance of the program for youth across Texas. "Whereas the Coryell County Commissioners Court is proud to honor the Texas 4-H Youth Development

Program of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 115 years of providing experience-based education youth throughout the Lone Star State," Miller said. "And whereas this admirable program, which seeks to provide learning experience for all youth through their head, heart, hands, and health helps young Texans to acquire knowledge and develop life skills and form attitudes to enable them to become self-directed, productive, and contributing members of our society."

For this year's National 4-H Week theme of "Beyond Ready," Coryell County 4-H extension agent, Becky Coward, asked students from freshman to seniors to share a highlight of their accomplishments inside and outside of the program. "The theme this year is 'Beyond Ready.' Our 4-H kids have been empowered to be leaders throughout the county, but they've also been encouraged to do career investigations, to do job shadowing, to be ready for the next step," Coward said.

Each high school senior with 4-H told the Commissioners Court which universities and programs they have either been accepted to or plan to attend, which include major state institutions like Texas A&M University. The entire group of students and ambassadors from ninth through 12th grade also shared the variety of leadership projects they are involved in through 4-H. Coward said she aims for the students to be recognized for their role in leading and guiding the program's diverse community

service projects. On average, the students participate in over two or three events per month that serve the community, she adds. "Look for us at the community events, helping serve and develop those servant-leadership hearts as we pursue futures for these guys in an excellent way," Coward said. "I think they're 'beyond ready,' and 4-H has done that for them." The 4-H program is the largest youth development program in Texas that offers various projects and activities for ages 5

to 18 years, including agriculture, family and community health, STEM, leadership, and more. As the Coryell County extension, the local 4-H team represents communities throughout the county. "I appreciate all of the leadership that we have within the county that pour into these guys," Coward said. "We can't do it without our volunteers and the support that comes from Commissioners Court – commissioners and the judge – we appreciate you very much."

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GATESVILLE CELEBRATES HOMECOMING

PHOTOS BY JULIE GARDNER, ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH AND AVERY MEELBUSCH

Gatesville High School seniors had a walk-in entrance with the Fighting Hornet Band, Dazzlers, and cheerleaders, as they made their way to the lighting of the "G" festivity held on Thursday, Sept. 19, in honor of Homecoming. On Friday, Sept. 20, Hornet nation celebrated Homecoming with a pep rally at the Gatesville High School and a 59-14 victory against McGregor that evening. The Homecoming court was introduced before the football game, and other activities included performances by the Dazzlers, cheerleaders, and the band. The National Anthem was performed by Nevin Benning. Members of the Homecoming court named King and Queen were Roman Perez and Mary Trejo.

