



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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## Gatesville Public Library's

SOCIETY PAPERS



EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY NEWS.



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left: Bridgerton Ball guests Gisi Irlas, Kristina Herzog, and Ada Borges were among the esteemed members of fashionable society who made an appearance for the evening's festivities. Pictured right: Molly and Scott McLeod enjoy an evening of Regency revelry.

## Gatesville had a ball at Bridgerton-themed event

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

Several members of the town donned their finery for the Gatesville Public Library's Bridgerton Ball on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Gatesville Civic Center. Inspired by the popular television show and book series set in Regency era England, Library Director Shea Harp said the idea came from other libraires in Texas that were also throwing Bridgerton-inspired balls. "I have employees who are fans of it, and I saw that

Gatesville was a big fan of it," Harp said. "I thought it would be fun to have our own here - so we did one. If anyone wanted to travel and go to one, they didn't have to go very far." The evening included a variety of activities inspired by the show and the time period, such as tables where guests could practice calligraphy with fountain pens, silhouette painting, dance lessons, and a game where attendees guessed the identity of the night's very own Lady Whistledown.

Gatesville Parks and Recreation also helped assemble an indoor croquet game, a popular activity for nobility in 19th century Britain. The event served as a fundraiser for the library, raising around \$3,000. Harp said the funds will help support the library's next fundraising event. "We thought that it would be a great fundraising idea to maybe go toward something bigger in the future," Harp said. "Essentially, it's to start off small,

PLEASE SEE BALL | A2

## National Mounted Warrior Museum open to the public

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Nearly a decade after its first conception, the National Mounted Warrior Museum experienced its grand opening with heavy fanfare on Sept. 11 in Killeen. The museum, located just outside the main gate of Fort Cavazos, was designed to commemorate the history of what was first known as Camp Hood.

The National Mounted Warfare Foundation built the world-class museum in the heart of Texas next to Fort Cavazos. This museum honors our mounted soldiers and shares the untold stories of their service to our nation. The National Mounted Warrior Museum features various immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, and educational programs for visitors of

all ages and brings history to life. Visitors can discover how mounted warfare evolved through hearing personal stories from soldiers, learning about Fort Cavazos' history, gaining insight through simulations, uncovering the military's role in peace-keeping and disaster-relief missions, and much more.

PLEASE SEE MUSEUM | A2



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The National Mounted Warrior Museum that recently opened in Killeen.

## Local man indicted on four counts of financial exploitation

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

A Gatesville man who was arrested last year for the alleged financial exploitation of four elderly individuals, due to overcharging for his pest control services, was indicted by a Coryell County grand jury on Saturday, Sept. 26.

David Claude Bullard, 59, was indicted on four counts of exploitation of a child, elderly, or disabled person for overcharging his services due to the person's age and vulnerability, according to a true bill of

indictment. The offense is a third-degree felony under Texas Penal Code 32.53 (c). According to previous reporting by the Messenger, Bullard appeared to target older adults between the ages of 70 and 90 years old and would charge them

between \$1,800-\$3,200 for basic pest control services. The cases listed in the indictment and four filed complaints occurred between March and July 2023. In March 2023, an 87-year-old woman contacted Bullard's business,

Spiderman Pest Control, for a flea extermination service at her residence, which should only cost between \$200-\$300. He charged more than \$3,200 for the treatment, according to the complaint. That same month, Bul-

lard attempted to charge a 78-year-old woman more than \$2,800 to spray for roaches at her house, a service that costs between \$100-\$600. To treat a more severe infestation would cost \$1,000 on average.

PLEASE SEE INDICTED | A2

**Harvest Festival at First Methodist Church**  
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# Yocom brings awareness to mental health with L.I.V.E. Fest Oct. 19

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

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

Yocom's son, Isaac Bueno-Yocom, took his own life on Aug. 2, 2015, after experiencing bullying at school.

"He came home very upset; I had no clue he even knew what suicide was. I started L.I.V.E. FEST for that reason," she said. "I want to educate and bring awareness to the community. If I didn't know, I know there are others who do not know.

Now, she uses her son's story to help other parents and the community to recognize and bring awareness to the signs of bullying and suicide. She said that it is important to educate people on mental health.

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

"I hope to reach the community on the importance of reaching out to help parents know how to speak to

their child about suicide," she said.

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

She will host her third annual L.I.V.E. Fest event at Freedom Park in Gatesville on Saturday, Oct. 19, which will begin at 10 a.m. and is free to the public.

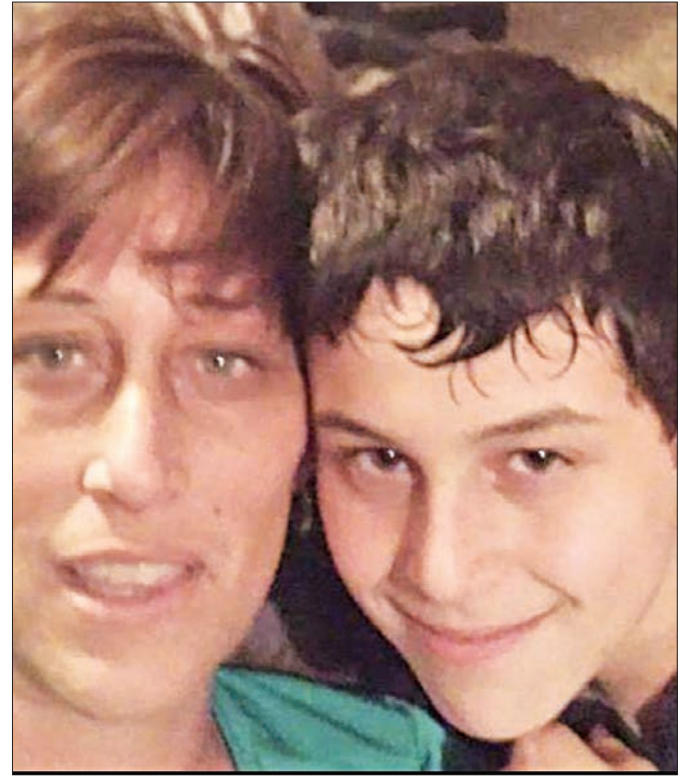
The event will feature informational booths from various organizations, as well as guest speakers, performers, family-friendly activities, and a comedian.

Vendors will also present items to sell that bring awareness to the cause.

There will be an obstacle bouncy house for the kids as well.

"The impact I hope to make is awareness to both bullying and suicide and how mental health plays a role in both," she said.

"My main goal is to bring awareness at a family friendly event, and to reach the community on the importance of it," she said. "I don't want other parents to live this life, and I want others to reach out."



COURTESY PHOTO

Kara Yocom is pictured with her son, Isaac Bueno-Yocom.

## MUSEUM

FROM PAGE A1

The museum offers over 12,000 square feet of permanent gallery space, over 1,000 square feet of temporary exhibit space, and a 4,900-foot rotunda. The construction of the building was completed in Nov. of 2021 and was gifted to the U.S. Army from the National Mounted Warfare Foundation in January of 2022. The facility sits on 17-acres adjacent to the 1st Cavalry Division Horse

Detachment.

Fort Hood, now known as Fort Cavazos, dates its foundation to Camp Hood, which was created in 1942. The Army post was originally built to test tank destroyers and train their crews for service in World War II.

The museum's exhibits progress through the heavy tanks of World War II to the helicopter operations in Vietnam and

continuing to recent history involving Afghanistan and Iraq.

A small exhibit in the museum is dedicated to the displaced communities in Coryell County that were removed during the creation of North Fort Hood and the POW camp that was located just south of Fort Gates. Approximately 470 families were forced to abandon more than 20 Coryell

County communities in 1942 to make way for a tank destroyer range at Camp Hood, later called Fort Hood.

The National Mounted Warrior Museum is open to the public at 10 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday. It is located next to the Fort Cavazos Visitors Center at 105 Trooper Lane. Admission to the museum is free.

## BALL

FROM PAGE A1

and then go big, eventually."

A professional photographer also donated their time to take photos of guests in their period-inspired costumes in front of a Regency manor backdrop, so they could have their own Bridgerton portrait to bring home.

Gatesville ISD's culinary arts students prepared the appetizers and drinks for the evening. Dishes and beverages included a toasted cucumber spread, chicken and

bacon tortilla wraps, stuffed strawberries, macarons, mini cupcakes, tea, and lemonade.

Like at any ball, the evening received a grand entrance from the queen, who was Gatesville's own community member Deborah Ament.

"Bridgerton is such a fun, fun thing right now," Harp said. "It's not a whole lot, but it's a good experience, and it's a fun experience."

## INDICTED

FROM PAGE A1

Another case involved an 85-year-old woman who contacted Bullard's business on two separate occasions between April and May 2023. She requested a treatment for carpenter ants in her home and to spray her yard for fleas.

The complaint states that Bullard charged Wright \$2,800 for both services combined, which should have only cost \$300-\$400 total.

The final case involved an 89-year-old woman who contacted Bullard for a ro-

dent extermination service at her home in July 2023. He charged her \$1,895 for a service that normally costs between \$200-\$300 and proceeded to spray her home for insects, according to the complaint.

In all four cases, Bullard

attempted to offer additional services for more money, but the four women refused.

Bullard was arrested in July 2023 and released on bond after each arrest.

According to the Texas Department of Family and

Protective Services (DFPS), financial exploitation of an elderly person is the illegal or misuse of a person's money or property for personal or financial benefit. People can report suspected financial exploitation, abuse, or neglect of older

adults to DFPS' Texas Abuse Hotline at (800) 252-5400.


*An indictment is not a statement regarding the guilt or innocence of a defendant. All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# You can never wade into the same stream twice



**BY SAM HOUSTON**

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is also an author, actor, playwright and entertainment producer and promoter. sam@hcnews.com

Something I rarely do is take time off from work. The past few weeks I could tell my tank was running out of gas, and I decided to “disappear” for about three days.

Nothing was wrong; I simply needed some alone time where I could think through some issues, which had been weighing on me and set some goals for the next six months. I needed a change of scenery and an opportunity to recharge my batteries.

The first question was where I wanted to go. This was not a “get on the plane and go to Vegas” kind of trip. I wasn’t seeking time to go have fun or blow a

bunch of money on the dice tables. I contemplated all sorts of destinations including traveling to where I grew up, but it was simply too far away. I did not want to be sitting in the car for 10 hours a day for two of the three days. Such a long trip would sort of defeat the whole purpose of trying to refresh.

After careful consideration, I chose to go to Oklahoma City. It was the first place I lived when

I graduated college and where I moved into my first apartment. It was my home base when I worked in the oilfield during the day and went to post graduate school at night. Once I moved away, I still regularly visited to conduct business. I have fond memories of the time spent in Okla City - it is relatively close by, and it seemed like a good place to go.

My taste buds have a keen memory, and there were restaurants in Oklahoma that I longed to revisit such as Chileno’s Mexican, Cattleman’s Steakhouse, and JW’s Onion Hamburgers. I also wanted to spend some time reminiscing and stopping by some of my old haunts. Not sure anything conjures up memories and emotions like going to see places which were once important to you.

During my drive to get there, I crossed over the Arbuckle Mountains and revisited the open prairie of the Sooner state. I began reflecting on the first time I drove into Okla City. That

would have been 1978, and the oil boom was in full force. The economy was hot, and the city was growing but it was not sure of how it wanted to grow, or in what direction. Good paying jobs were plentiful, and the average working man was doing well. It was a time of prosperity. Over the next 40 years, I was in Oklahoma City at least once a year. On this trip, I came to realize I had not been there but once in the last four years and maybe only twice in six or seven years. Sadly, when I arrived last week, things really seemed to have changed and not for the better.

The clean, cute neighborhood where I rented my first apartment for the enormous price of \$175 a month (fully furnished) did not look the same. It had been surrounded by well-kept working-class homes. The yards were maintained, the houses were painted, and people waved to one another. Now, there were weeds in the cracks of the sidewalk, the yards were

unkept, and the neighborhood seemed to be overtaken by quick loan shops, tattoo parlors, vape shops, and tire repair places.

I did go to some of my old favorite restaurants, and the food was pretty good - maybe not as good as I remembered it - but good. I was sad to see Jimmy’s Egg on May Avenue gone. I had eaten a thousand breakfasts there over a lot of years, but now it was knocked down, and the only thing which remained was an empty lot.

I drove down to the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial and remembered how years ago the many times I had been in and out of the Murrah building and the folks lost that fateful day. And I remembered being at the site two or three days after the bombing to get a “looksee.” There were hundreds of people on the sidewalk trying to get a glimpse of the damage, and each time a fireman or policeman walked by and crossed the barrier leaving the bombing site, people

would spontaneously applaud and cheer. I might fault “Okies” for a lot of things, but I will flat out tell you they showed me a lot of class that day.

The trip did not last as long as I planned. I left a day early and headed home. It was good to cross that old Red River and know I was back in God’s country. I was back to the place where I had lived the bulk of my life and made my home.

When I had left a few days before, I thought I needed a change of scenery to get my thoughts together. What I learned is that memories are precious, but the world never stands still, and things seldom stay the way you remember them. The trip also confirmed there is no place like home.

Thought for the day: Going home is what everybody is trying to do from the day they are born to the day they die.

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

## Local closures to observe Columbus Day

Staff Reports

Columbus Day is a holiday that commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492.

Although Columbus Day is no longer a mandated state or federal holiday in Texas, many businesses and governmental offices

will observe Monday, Oct. 10, in celebration of Columbus Day.

Closings and openings in the immediate area include:

**GOVERNMENT**

The city offices of Gatesville, Oglesby, and Evant will be closed on Monday.

The Coryell County Courthouse will be closed on Monday.

The Farm Service Agency will be closed on Monday.

**SCHOOLS**

All local schools will be closed on Monday.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Cadence, Educators Credit Union, and The First National Bank of Gatesville, Evant, and Oglesby will be closed on Monday.

**POST OFFICES**

All local post offices will be closed on Monday.

**SENIOR CENTER**

The Gatesville Senior Multi-Service Center will remain open on Monday.

**NEWSPAPER**

The Gatesville Messenger will remain open on Monday.

## GISD trustees unopposed for school board seats

BY DAVID SCOTT

Staff Writer

During the Sept. 23rd meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, one of the agenda items concerned the expiring terms of Charles Alderson and Linda Maxwell.

At the July board meeting, the trustees called for an election to be conducted on Nov. 5, 2024 for the purpose of electing two

trustees for full three-year terms. During the July 22 to August 19 sign-up period, only the two incumbent candidates, Alderson and Maxwell, filed for a place on the ballot. No challengers filed for a place on the ballot, so there was no need for an election.

GISD superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard, said, “To initiate the cancellation process, I hereby certify that Charles Alderson and

Linda Maxwell are unopposed for election to office for the election scheduled to be held on Nov. 5.”

Pollard continued, “Given that the board has received and accepted the certification that Charles Alderson and Linda Maxwell are unopposed, I recommend that the board issue an order declaring the election cancelled and the unopposed candidates elected. The board voted in favor of

cancelling the election.

Speaking of the two trustees, Pollard said, “Running unopposed is a testament to how exceptional they are as board members. I think the community trusts these long-time educators to always make the best decisions possible for students and staff, and their track record proves that.”

Certificates of election will be issued at the November board meeting.

## Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Angie Pearson

### Say hello to our neighbor, Angie Pearson!

Angie is in her first year as the principal at Gatesville Intermediate School. Prior to her time as principal, she took on the role of assistant principal. She also worked for Temple ISD as an educator and Copperas Cove ISD as an interventionist. “The people are the absolute best part of my job! We are blessed with a phenomenal staff that I am fortunate to get to work alongside each day. I love being able to greet students as they arrive each day off the bus and hear about their lives outside of school as well as in school,” she said. “During the day and at dismissal, I try to take every opportunity to interact with our students. I also enjoy collaborating with parents and staff to develop individual plans for student success. I am so very appreciative of the support we get from families; the partnership between school and home is crucial in student success.” She is a life-long resident of Gatesville and graduated from Gatesville High School in 1994. “My favorite thing about Gatesville is the way we take care of one another. I am so proud to be a part of a community that will band together to help others in times of need,” she expressed. “With working at other school districts, the thing I realized I was missing was the connection I have found to my community here in Gatesville. To get to be a part of the lives of my friends’ children and grandchildren is an honor and I am so thankful that my journey led me here. This is home, and I am thrilled to be in Gatesville.”

Angie reads The Gatesville Messenger and said, “I appreciate that The Gatesville Messenger focuses on the positive in our community. While all the news may not always be “good,” The Messenger works to balance out the negative by highlighting all the wonderful events and people in our community.”

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

## Monday marks deadline 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 Monday, 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 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. - 7 p.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 (Nov. 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-tax.com/elections/>

For official information, including registration and vote-by-mail deadlines, visit VoteTexas.gov, or call 1-800-252-VOTE.

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**New Morris Federation Officers: Sue Vernon, Yvonne Dutschmann, Marcelle Parrish-Russell, Velva Riddle, Marsha Lee, and Helen Munday.**

## Morris Federation holds first meeting

Submitted by Marsha Lee

Members of the Morris Federation enjoyed their first meeting for the 2024-2025 year. It was held in the James Coryell Room at the Gatesville Museum and Historical Center.

New officers were introduced: Sue Vernon, Treasurer and Parliamentarian; Yvonne Dutschmann, Secretary; Marcelle Parrish-Russell, Historian; Velva Riddle, President; Marsha Lee, Vice-President; and Helen Munday, Reporter. Application for membership of Elaine Romancheck was approved.

New Yearbooks for 2024-2025 were distributed by Marsha Lee. She outlined programs for the coming year. On Oct. 12, Martha Jane (M.J.) Wofford will present a program entitled "The REAL Maria Von Trapp" (from "The Sound

of Music"). "Music for the Holidays" will be featured on Nov. 9, with Mary Kafer and Charles Ament. Dec. 14 will feature Charles Ament with two to three of his piano students in a program he entitled "Playing the Piano ... Simple ... and Not So Simple." It will involve three necessary components of becoming proficient at playing the piano. Nancy Garvin will also read one to two Christmas stories. Afterward, members will enjoy Christmas refreshments. The Jan. 11 program will be on "The History of the Coryell County Courthouse and Plans for its Future." Then on Feb. 8, Jann Dworsky will join members for a program on "The History of the Telephone." Karen Wheelless from Evant will join the group on March 8, with a program on "Designing Your Own Note Cards

and Other Hand Crafts." April 12 will feature Santana Bay, GHS Horticulture instructor, with a program on "Flower Arranging and the Art of Working with Plants." Then May 10 will finish out the year with former history teacher and Pastor of King Baptist Church Charles McKamie speaking on "Experiences Gained from Traveling Abroad." A 'pot-luck luncheon' will follow.

After "The Collect," the meeting was adjourned. Members then had time to enjoy refreshments provided by this year's officers. They had an opportunity to visit with one another and also to look through a book published on the history and activities of the Morris Federation 1913-2016. The book will be updated in a few more years.



**Betty Bartlett, Marcelle Parrish-Russell, Mary Ann Leib, Joy Cummings, and Yvonne Dutschmann enjoy refreshments.**

## Morris Federation Program to Feature M.J. Wofford as "The REAL Maria von Trapp"

Submitted by Marsha Lee

The Morris Federation will meet on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m. in the James Coryell Room at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. The program will be presented

by Martha Jane (M.J.) Wofford. Many have seen her performances about Dale Evans Rogers and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. In this program, she will be speaking about "The REAL Maria von Trapp" (Maria from the movie, "The Sound of

Music"). Members who did not get their Yearbooks at the September meeting may pick them up at this meeting. Also, members need to remember to pay their dues to treasurer Sue Vernon.

## SUDOKU

Puzzle answers from the Sept. 28, 2024 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

## Dan McBain is a multimedia artist



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Dan McBain started teaching at Harlingen High School three years after graduating from there.

He didn't want to look like a student so he grew a beard. He has had one ever since. He got married while

teaching art at Harlingen High School. Dan had shown his paintings at a few events, but, all of a sud-

den, he needed to do more with his art.

"I got married in 1977, and my wife had three beautiful children," says Dan. "All of a sudden, I needed some cash flow, so I opened my art studio and started doing more art shows, street shows, mall shows. The Valley has thousands of people, but they're sprinkled throughout in small to medium-sized cities so you can show in different towns. People will come to see a big art show and have a wonderful time and allow the artist to make a lot of money. When people would see murals that I did on the walls of

restaurants and banks and so forth, they would say 'where did you get that done? Did you ship somebody in from a big city? And they'd say Oh no, he's local. Well, I want a phone number.' So, I'd get another job."

He has worked in fabric collage.

"I would do batik fabric where I'd wax and dye cotton fabric, cut it up in little strips, fray the edges and glue them to another piece of fabric that I'd hand dyed underneath it. I made huge collages for commercial work mainly and word would get around that you could have that done. I did

dentist's offices, banks, other places in Harlingen, and other cities.

Some of his paper collages look like paintings of people. But they're all just scraps of paper.

"My favorite thing now, at this age, is humans. I love painting humans. When people look at human figures, they see themselves and they relate to it. If there's emotion in that painting, they feel it."

He uses professional models when he teaches life drawing classes.

"Professional models know how to pose, they know how to use a break, and they know how to

use a bathrobe. When you take a break, you get that bathrobe on, and you walk through the crowd and look at what they've done. That way the model gets inspired because there's art happening."

Sometimes, he'll photograph his models outside. "Sunlight is the best light for human beings. It gives your skin the most vibrant color."

These days, Dan takes people on tours of his studio and gallery that is in his elegant and well-appointed home in San Antonio.

"I love to make coffee, bake cookies, and be ready for a guest."

## Whatever happened to ...

**20 YEARS AGO (2004)**  
Local Kelly Hopper was on the reality TV show "Fear Factor."

Several handicap accessible ramps along Main Street were redone to bring them up to code.

Oglesby volunteer firefighters sold barbecue and held an auction to raise money for the Oglesby Fire Department.

Local Girl Scout Troop 5151 collected items to

send to soldiers serving in the armed forces.

Gatesville High School senior Lyndsie Latham was crowned the 2004 Gatesville High School homecoming queen.

**30 YEARS AGO (1994)**  
The U.S. and Wildlife Service critical habitat plan for the golden-cheeked warbler was shot down by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

The Gatesville ISD board of trustees passed an of-

ficial resolution calling for a bond election.

The Movie Shop of Gatesville advertised three-day movie rentals for \$1.49.

First Presbyterian Church of Gatesville hosted the quarterly Grace Presbytery for the first time. Over 500 delegates gathered at the Coryell Activities Complex.

A dance for senior citizens was set to be held at the Coryell County Activities Complex.

**40 YEARS AGO (1984)**

Mark Schnorrenburg, Terry Hale, and Stephen Norris, of Gatesville, and Randy Nini, of Jonesboro, were named to the 1984 edition of the Outstanding Young Men of America.

Area churches sponsored "Church Day at the Bloodmobile."

Coryell Memorial Hospital had its annual Rummage and Bake Sale.

Vesta Leonard, Coryell

County Treasurer, attended the 36th Annual Texas County Treasurers' Conference in Amarillo.

Wal-Mart advertised men's fashion sweaters for \$12.

**50 YEARS AGO (1974)**

Gatesville State Schools for Boys closed the Riverside unit.

The Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department invited the public to an open house to observe Fire Prevention

Week.

Mrs. Ray Hines, of Oglesby, was appointed to the board of directors of the Coryell County Youth Fair Association.

Gatesville High School seniors John Zeigler and Brian Foote were named Merit Program Commended Students.

Drake Furniture advertised two- and three-piece living room suites starting at \$129.95.

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PEARL NEWS

# Today is the day to be in Pearl



**BY BETSY CLARK**  
*Pearl News Correspondent*

**T**oday is the day! Go to the Pearl Community Center and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore. Hurry!

You do not want to miss a great time with loads of friendly people, tons of wonderful live bluegrass music, and fabulous shopping in the friendliest bookstore in Texas. The stage show starts at 1 p.m., and the bookstore

opens at 9 a.m. Admission to the bluegrass event is free, free, free! You can even sign your band up to play on the stage by just putting your name on the board in the community center hallway. Jamming goes on all day both in the

outside areas and in the many rooms of the center. Did I mention it's free? And there's pie! Go to the Bluegrass Kitchen for very reasonably priced lunch items and desserts (cash only). Purchases from the kitchen help to support the community center. You can also make a donation on the table just outside of the kitchen to help with costs associated with keeping this wonderful, historic building up and going and continuing the bluegrass events. Purchases at the Pearl Cottage Bookstore are mostly by donation only—the motto is "buy what you want, pay what you want." All monies received go toward local charities. There are over 6,000 books in excellent condition in the bookstore. There are

also many new items this month, so be sure and check them out—jewelry, a full and twin headboard, a gorgeous mirror that matches the headboard, and many glass and knick knock items. Kay, Linda, and Corlisa will love seeing you. Please support Pearl by attending these awesome events. You will be investing in the future 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. Update on "The Cat Whisperer." It has been reported that Mr. Cat Whisperer's people are now in negotiation with Mrs. Ray's people concerning the future employment and salary of said Whisperer a.k.a. Mr. R. McDonald. I cannot validate such claims, however, as I cannot find the people—anyone's people. It could be that the people either quit, got fired, or it could be that there were never really any people in the first place. It could also be that this might be fake news. I never really know with all

of these, uh, people. What can I say? Only in Pearl, and there's no place like it. This week's Bible verse comes from Titus 2: 11-13: "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ..." NIV Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page, and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page. Please submit any Pearl news to betsyclarck47@yahoo.com.

## Gatesville Senior Center to host nutrition class Oct. 21

**Staff Reports**

The Gatesville Senior Center has partnered with

the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office to host a class on Monday, Oct. 21

to discuss healthy carbohydrates. The class will begin at 10

a.m. and will feature a presentation to show how to incorporate carbohydrates

into your diet. The class is free and open to the public.

For further details, contact 254-865-8234 or visit 208 North Lutterloh Ave.

## Remembering "Miss Orpa"

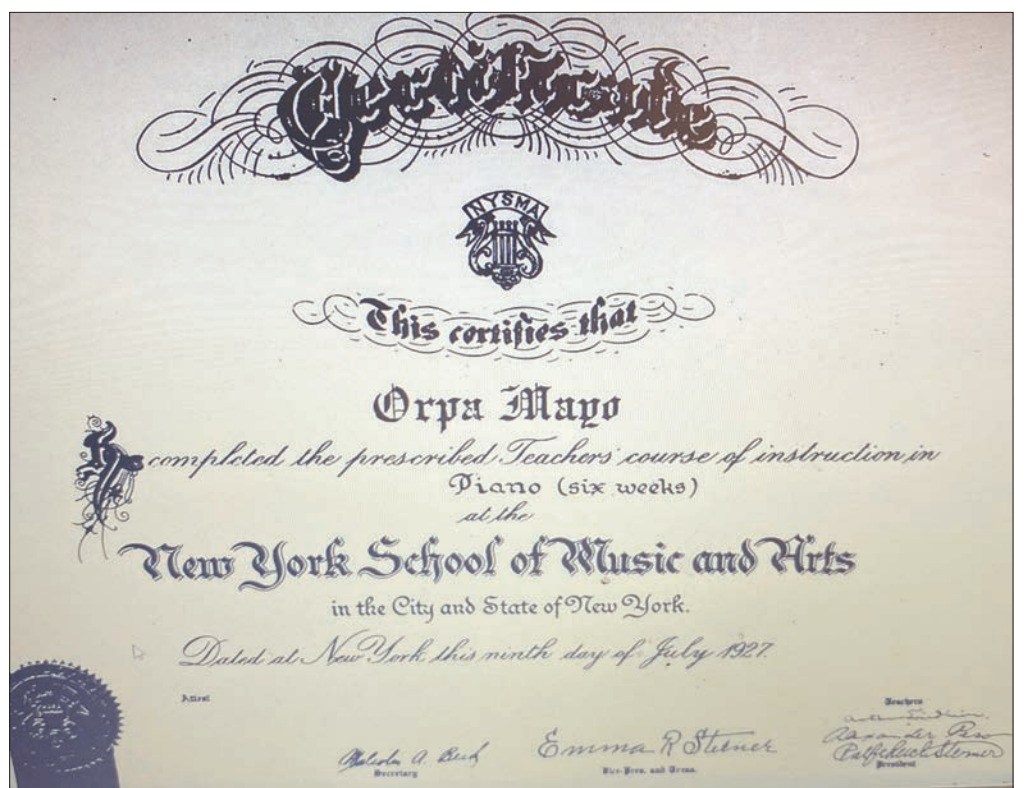


**BY DAVID SCOTT**  
*Staff Writer*

She was known for decades in Gatesville as one of the most experienced piano teachers in Central Texas. Later in life, her students would often reflect on her inspiration and devotion to giving piano lessons and her intense love of music. "Miss Orpa," as she was referred to by her students, was born Orpa Abigail Mayo in 1897 and grew up in Gatesville where her family had settled in 1903. Early in life, after she graduated from high school, she would attend Baylor University in Waco where she graduated with a degree in music in 1916. While at Baylor, she studied with music professor Albert Wells from 1914 to 1916. Her desire to further her music education led her to travel back east where she attended the New York School of Music and Arts in New York City. She enrolled in a six-week course of instruction, which would enable her to teach piano. While there, she became a

student of Arthur Friedheim who was a Russian-born concert pianist and composer. One of Friedheim's students was Rildia Bee O'Bryan Cliburn, the mother of 20th-century piano virtuoso Van Cliburn. Mayo graduated from the New York School of Music and Arts in July of 1927 and returned back to Texas to continue her studies and to teach piano in her hometown of Gatesville. For a brief period, she became a pupil of Silvio Scionti at Baylor University. Scionti was an Italian-born pianist and teacher and was well respected among pianists. Back in Gatesville, she returned to her two-story Victorian home on Leon Street (which is still in existence) and began to give piano lessons. In her childhood home, referred to as the "mansion" by her students, she had a stage constructed in the living area where her students could conduct piano recitals. Gatesville native, Jeffery Arnold, who was a devoted piano student of Miss Orpa's from 1967 until 1977, once stated, "I don't mind saying that Miss Orpa was, without a doubt, one of the most brilliant musicians I ever knew. Her influence upon my life and career was tremendous. She was a very fine pianist trained in the 'German Tradition.' Her works were original and inspired, and she unselfishly passed this great tradition on to her pupils. She was a delightful personality." Longtime GISD educator and former Mayo piano student, Charles Ament, said, "I remember Miss

Orpa as a brilliant scholar and accomplished pianist. In the 1950s and 60s, her studio was in her home on Leon Street where she often had as many as 30 students who saw her twice weekly for lessons." Ament continued, "She was an icon who insisted on practice and lectured her students on how to be great in character. Her end of year recitals of duets, trios, and quartets will be ever etched on our fond memories of her." Miss Orpa died at the age of 88 in December of 1985. Shortly after her demise, a letter appeared in The Gatesville Messenger from Paul Henslet, who wrote: "I know that Orpa was well loved and respected by all the community because of her gift of music she gave to all of us, who benefitted by her talents at the piano in both the Presbyterian Church and in the Methodist Church for so many years. I spoke with her nephew, Pat Mayo Holt, and we agreed it would be fitting and the proper thing to do to include performances at the piano by Orpa's students in connection with the memorial service. The musical part of the memorial service will be called 'Orpa's Last Recital.'" A memorial service was held in her honor in March of 1986 at the First Presbyterian Church in Gatesville. As per her wishes, her ashes were scattered over the grave of her father in the Gatesville City Cemetery. Her musical legacy lives on in the lives of her former students.



**Top photo:** The Mayo home located on Leon Street where Miss Orpa would give piano lessons. **Bottom photo:** The diploma Orpa Mayo received upon graduating from the New York School of Music and Arts in New York City.

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## BARTON HONORED WITH A.C.E. AWARD



COURTESY PHOTO

Coryell Health recently awarded Carey Barton, information technology (IT) member, (middle with certificate) with an A.C.E. award. She was nominated by a coworker for always being helpful, pleasant, and accessible. The nominator described how Barton recently used her skill set to fix a problem that was occurring with the phone system.

## MOUND NEWS

# Jakson Tippit with birthday party



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Mr. Jakson Tippit was honored on his birthday on Sept. 25. Given by his parents, Cody and Amber Tippit, there was pizza and cake.

Those attending were Pam Hopson, Margaret Hopson and grand-daughter, Dani Jo Wood, Melissa Wells, and Jessica and Raizylinn Hartmann.

Jakson received a Texas 1A Fans helmet sticker at Friday night's game against Coolidge, where Ogleby won 54-8. The sticker is presented to a player who shows several of the following characteristics on the field: Leadership, sportsmanship, effort, attitude, and good play on defense and/or offense.

Robert and Carolyn Blakley celebrated their anniversary on Monday, Oct. 7.

Jennifer Eberlein spent the weekend with the twins, Maeve and Nora Eberlein, in McKinney. Jennifer also saw their parents, Alexandra

and Andrew. On Saturday afternoon, Annalee Terrell came to visit with her grandson, Hank.

Elli, Jenson, and Molli Kinnear attended the 11th birthday party for Jake Watts on Friday, Sept. 27, at Ranchers Steakhouse.

Elli, Jenson, Molli, and Jenson Kinnear traveled to Salado to celebrate the birthday of Payton and Parker Zimmerman on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Those who have birthdays this coming week are Olivia Long, Chrissy Franks, Kathryn Warren, Amanda Long, Allie McPherson, Chelsea Ayres, Daniel Wood, Sherry Hopson, Desiree Dixon, and Richard Mitchell.

## Coryell City/Osage VFD to hold fish fry

### 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 perfor-

mance.

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 Ba-

nard 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.

# The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Sept. 25 - Oct. 2. 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 254-865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 254-865-7201.

### CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Sept. 25**  
12:20 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.

5:57 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Tanglewood Drive.

8:48 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of College Street.

11:45 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1300 block of W. Main Street.

**Sept. 26**  
8:01 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of S. Lovers Lane.

8:36 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of N. 34th Street.

9:28 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1300 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.

7:15 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of E. Leon Street.

**Sept. 27**  
10:01 a.m., harassment was reported in the 1200 block of W. Main Street.  
2:02 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.

2:07 p.m., wanted/stolen property was reported in the 1200 block of W. Main Street.

7:54 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.

**Sept. 28**  
10:54 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of College Street.

1:04 p.m., wanted/stolen property was reported in the 1000 block of W. Leon Street.

5:55 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

10:43 p.m., harassment was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36, Lot 15.

**Sept. 29**  
12:31 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.

1:32 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of Golf Course Road.

4:28 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1600 block of E. Main Street.

6:56 p.m., family violence was reported in the 300 block of Baize Drive.

**Sept. 30**  
6:27 a.m., an accident was reported in the 200 block of

State School Road.  
8:12 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

3:18 p.m., wanted/stolen property was reported in the 900 block of E. Leon Street.

6:27 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

**Oct. 1**  
6:28 a.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Lark Street.

9:24 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of Osage Road.

10:55 a.m., a threat was reported in the 1100 block of W. Main Street.

2:46 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 900 block of Lovers Lane.

**Oct. 2**  
8:41 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.

12:44 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1400 block of FM 116.

7:09 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2500 block of Business Hwy. 36.

8:35 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Airport Road.

### CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Sept. 25**  
10:35 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 113 and Slater Road.

1:19 p.m., animal neglect was reported in the 5100 block of E. Highway 84.

3:32 p.m., road blocked was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.

8:25 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 100 block of FM 1996.

**Sept. 26**  
11:06 a.m., trespassing was reported in the 3100 block of N. FM 116.

2:04 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Bobcat Lane.

3:15 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Julia Drive.

3:50 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 4000 block of FM 107.

**Sept. 27**  
8:15 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1600 block of County Road 3640.

3:42 p.m., suspicious persons were reported on Cactus Lane and FM 116.

6:06 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported

on FM 116 just before Bald Knob Road.

7:02 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.

**Sept. 28**  
12:34 a.m., trespassing was reported in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.

2:25 a.m., an assault was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

4:26 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of E. Walker Avenue.

8:29 p.m., a noise complaint was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.

**Sept. 29**  
2:59 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2700 block of Willow Loop.

12:09 p.m., burglary of a habitation was reported in the 9500 block of S. State Highway 36.

4:13 p.m., suspicious persons were reported on Bea Powell Road.

8:15 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 5000 block of Slater Road.

**Sept. 30**  
12:29 a.m., trespassing was reported in the 200 block of County Road 320.

11:47 a.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported

in the 4700 block of Watcherproof Drive.

4:34 p.m., a rabid animal was reported in Coryell City.

10:32 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of McKelvain Street.

**Oct. 1**  
8:48 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 900 block of Old Osage Road.

2:54 p.m., a scam was reported in the 200 block of Valley View Drive.

5:56 p.m., an animal complaint was reported on Moccasin Bend Road.

7:42 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 400 block of Circle Drive.

**Oct. 2**  
7:03 a.m., shots fired were reported in the 7500 block of FM 929.

9:57 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 2300 block of FM 215.

11:33 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet Drive.

1:24 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.

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**FOR INFO: 254-865-2226**

# County addresses \$10 county records fee for preservation

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

The Coryell County Commissioners Court unanimously approved the renewal of a \$10 county records archive fee that goes toward the preservation and restoration of historic records.

Although the fee has been in place since 2003, County

Judge Roger Miller and County Clerk Jennifer Newton explained the purpose of it at a regular Commissioners Court meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

With the fee, the Coryell County Clerk's Office is able to preserve all historic records in the basement of the courthouse that date as

far back as 1854.

"If any of you have ever taken the opportunity to visit the basement of the courthouse, you will see some of the results and the effects of those fee funds, and some of the advances that have been made in preserving this fund," Miller said.

Newton said that the fee started out at \$5 in 2003 and increased to \$10 in 2015. The fee is attached to property records filed with the County Clerk's Office.

The clerk's office is currently in the middle of transferring the old records into an electronic format, and then will preserve them

in a way that protects them from the light and elements.

"We began our project last year, and we just got the first portion of it back, and they were able to archive 120 books, which turned into 175,000 documents," Newton said. "Those are all now in elec-

tronic format, and we will begin phase two in November."

A public hearing was held for the fee, but no one from the public provided a comment.

The fee is state-mandated and covered under Local Government Code 118.011(f) and 118.025.

# Gatesville ISD senior reflects on 4-H leadership, community experience

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Staff Writer

As a senior Coryell County 4-H ambassador, Jeret Burks shares how his experience in 4-H has shaped his leadership skills and prepared him for his future.

Burks started his 4-H journey in the third grade when he first got involved with the Coryell County Youth Fair. When he became an ambassador during his freshman year of high school, his involvement grew beyond the county fair to participation in several community service and leadership projects within the state's program.

"Just being an ambassador, we do so much community service and leadership just in the county - it's probably the biggest part of 4-H that I've done so far," Burks said.

As an ambassador, he has traveled to different parts of the state for competitions and leadership development events, such as the Texas 4-H's District 8 Surge leadership camp, the Texas 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl, and the State 4-H Roundup.

For his senior year, Burks was recently elected to serve as a 4-H District 8 officer, which provides ambassadors with opportunities to practice and share their leadership skills as well as assist in planning district events and activi-

ties.

"4-H's most important impact on me has been leadership development," Burks said. "I think that can be really good for a lot of kids in school around the state."

Burks shares how the 4-H program has also cultivated his public speaking skills through state speaking competitions on a chosen educational topic. He said he has placed third and fourth place in the competitions and plans on participating one more time for his senior year.

"Growing up, I was a very, very shy kid," Burks said. "I didn't like to talk to anybody, to get out, or anything, but being an ambassador and being forced into these positions where I have to talk, it's been amazing."

From picking trash up off the side of the road to assisting at community events, Burks shares how the county's 4-H ambassador team serves their local communities throughout the year. This includes unloading and sorting the donated foods at Gatesville's Food for Families, helping out at the Hidden Gem Harvest Festival and the Pee Wee show at the county fair, among others.

Out of all his experiences in 4-H, he said he most enjoyed the Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Program

at Texas A&M University, which brings together a group of 4-H members from across the state. The course teaches students how to become advocates for agriculture.

"We went through an advocacy training deal on how we need to speak to people about agriculture, because it can typically be portrayed bad by some media members," Burks said. "So, how we needed to put a brighter face to that - a more positive face to agriculture."

Burks recently received his acceptance letter from Texas A&M University where he plans to study civil engineering. He said his 4-H experience inspired him to attend Texas A&M, where Texas 4-H's State Roundup and livestock ambassador program is held every year.

"Before 4-H, I wanted to go to Texas Tech, and I wanted to be a lawyer. I've got a lot of family up there, but going to State Roundup every year and seeing what a good campus they have, having the competitions and then when I had that livestock ambassador course, I was like, 'yes, this is where I want to go,'" he said.

Along with being a 4-H ambassador, Burks is also involved in Gatesville's FFA program and plays on the Gatesville High School football team.

Sunday marks the first



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County 4-H Ambassador and Gatesville ISD senior Jeret Burks.

day of National 4-H Week, which runs through Saturday, Oct. 12. Coryell County 4-H extension agent, Becky Coward, highlights how this year's theme "Beyond Ready" demonstrates how 4-H students are more likely to contribute to their communities.

"They are two times more likely to participate in science programs outside of school and two times more likely to make healthier choices," Coward said.

"And, a lot of that stems from the big five project areas that we teach - agriculture and livestock, fam-

ily and community health, leadership and citizenship, natural resources, and STEM."

Although Texas has the largest 4-H program, National 4-H Week is celebrated throughout the nation. 4-H youth across all 50 states participate in a variety of service projects during the week.

While most people might think 4-H's main contribution is the county fair, Coward strives for 4-H to also be recognized as a youth service organization.

"I still maintain that a lot of people don't understand

what we're about," Coward said. "They stereotype us as an agriculture youth organization, which indeed we are, but we're just so much more than that."

Burks also appreciates the involvement and growth Coward encourages in the county's 4-H ambassador team.

"She (Coward) is just really good in helping develop us more than just base 4-H officers," Burks said. "She tries to take it a step forward and help us become the best potential we can be in 4-H and as leaders."

# Texan's Rights to free speech under attack....again!

Submitted Item

Americans' right to speak their minds is considered sacred, which is why we must fight to protect the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Citizens Participation Act. Both measures were carefully written with protection of the individual - the "little guy" - in mind. They're designed to give a David a fighting chance if he finds himself in a legal duel with a Goliath.

Unfortunately, the Texas Citizens Participation Act is under attack once again. The Legislature is being lobbied fiercely by well-heeled business interests and law firms who want the law either repealed or gutted. On Wednesday, Oct. 2, the Texas House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence will conduct a

hearing to consider whether to gut the TCPA or stand up for a good law that's been giving David a fair shot since legislators passed it 13 years ago.

It appears that Committee Chairman Jeff Leach, R-Plano, who has taken aim at the TCPA over the last several legislative sessions, wants to make sure Goliath's side gets multiple shots at David. The panel of witnesses Leach invited to testify at his Wednesday hearing includes three witnesses from business and legal interests who have been opposed to the TCPA and one lonely First Amendment attorney.

Ironically, that same First Amendment attorney is also representing Leach in a lawsuit in which Leach is accused of defamation, and Leach has used the TCPA as part of his defense. It seems

that even the chair of one of the most powerful committees in the Texas House finds himself feeling like David at times.

When they were omitted from Leach's invitation list, at least eight organizations who support the TCPA requested the opportunity to testify. They were all turned down. Among those denied the opportunity to testify are Texas Right to Life, the Young Republicans of Texas, the General Counsel for the Tarrant County Republican Party, and the Protect Free Speech Coalition.

Regardless of his political persuasion, few things are more dangerous to a David than a defamation lawsuit filed against him by an angry Goliath with deep pockets. David may have the truth, the law, and the man upstairs on his side, but Goliath can afford an army

of lawyers to fight all the way to the Supreme Court. In the process, he can be bled to death financially from the thousand cuts of discovery and depositions that come with a lawsuit.

If he can get the court to grant a motion to dismiss the suit, David is off the hook. The odds of David winning a motion to dismiss a nuisance suit are higher in an appeals court than they are at the local trial court level, however.

Without the current stay in the TCPA, David would have to pay lawyers to appeal his denied motion while simultaneously paying lawyers to handle the discovery and deposition tasks that are necessary before trial. With the TCPA in place, the discovery and depositions come to a halt until the appeals related to the motion are exhausted. This makes

it faster and less expensive for David to win, which is why the angry plaintiffs who sue their Davids don't like the law.

Here's a fringe benefit that often goes unmentioned but should not be: The dismissal of a groundless suit not only helps the defendant but removes a case from the perennially overcrowded court docket. That makes it a win not just for David, but for judges and taxpayers.

The bottom line: The TCPA protects Texans from lawsuits designed to chill their First Amendment rights. It makes our court system more efficient. And most importantly, it assures that while free speech may not always be free, it should never be something that the Davids among us - which is most of us - cannot afford. The Texas House Com-

mittee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence would do well to remember that. So would the entire Texas House, the entire Texas Senate, and the Governor of Texas.

Signed:  
Texas Press Association



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Elder Hugh Montgomery,  
pastor; 4555 FM 1690,  
Gatesville; Worship 4th  
Sunday of each month at  
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.  
**CALVARY BAPTIST**  
Steven L. Bogan, pastor;  
Hwy. 84 & FM 116;  
Sunday Bible study 10  
a.m., Sunday worship 11  
a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
**CANAAN BAPTIST**  
Jim Keever, senior pastor;  
177 Coryell City Road,  
Crawford; Sunday School  
9:30 a.m., Sunday worship  
10:30 a.m., Wednesday  
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST**  
Bob Phillips, pastor;  
Sundays - Sunday School  
10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. &  
5:30 p.m.  
**EASTWOOD BAPTIST**  
Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518  
East Main, Gatesville;  
Sundays - Sunday School  
9:45 a.m., worship 10:50  
a.m.  
**FIRST BAPTIST EVANT**  
Dane Barron, pastor; 200  
Live Oak Street, Evant;  
Sundays - Sunday School  
9:45 a.m., worship 11  
a.m., adult Bible study 6  
p.m.; Wednesday services  
- kids' & youth Bible study  
6 p.m.  
**FIRST BAPTIST FLAT**  
9775 TX-36, Gatesville;  
Sunday School 9 a.m.;  
Sunday Worship 10:15  
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Prayer & Bible Study 7  
p.m.; Youth Group & Kid  
Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first  
Wednesday of each month  
at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast  
second Saturday of each  
month at 7:30 a.m.

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912 E. Main St., Gatesville;  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,  
Sunday Worship 10:45  
a.m., Wednesdays -  
Children & Youth 5:30-7:00  
p.m. (supper provided)  
**FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY**  
Jeremy Sanders, Pastor;  
120 College Ave.;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 11 am;  
Wednesdays - supper at  
5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth  
Group 6 p.m., Prayer  
meeting 6 p.m.  
**FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA**  
875 FM 932, Purmela;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
**GATEWAY BAPTIST**  
Michael Bragdon,  
Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36,  
Gatesville; Sunday School  
10 a.m., Sunday worship  
11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.;  
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.  
**HARMONY BAPTIST**  
A.C. Painter, pastor;  
1750 FM 215, Gatesville;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
& 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday  
evening worship 6:30 p.m.  
**HAY VALLEY BAPTIST**  
3110 Hay Valley Road;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
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Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible  
Study for men & women on  
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

**JONESBORO BAPTIST**  
Matt Dossey, pastor;  
11420 N. State Hwy. S;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 10:50  
a.m.  
**KING BAPTIST**  
Charles W. McKamie,  
pastor; 6730 FM 1783,  
Gatesville; Sunday School  
10 a.m., Sunday worship  
11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
**LIBERTY BAPTIST**  
Royce T. Cockrell, DMin.,  
Pastor; Corner of FM 107  
& HWY 36, Gatesville;  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,  
Sunday Service 11 a.m. &  
1 p.m., Family Bible Study  
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.  
**LIVE OAK BAPTIST**  
Pastor Matthew Hamilton;  
113 FM 107, Gatesville;  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 10:30  
a.m., Wednesday eve-  
nings: Choir at 5:30 p.m.,  
Children & Youth Activities,  
Adult Bible Study at 6:15  
p.m.  
**MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**  
Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor;  
6319 US-84, Gatesville;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,

Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
& 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7  
p.m. Wednesday.  
**OSAGE BAPTIST**  
Chris Thomas, pastor;  
7505 FM 185, Gatesville;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
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Sunday worship 10 a.m.  
**PECAN GROVE BAPTIST**  
6545 FM 107, Gatesville;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
**PIDCOKE BAPTIST**  
Donald McConaughay,  
pastor; 11125 FM 116,  
Gatesville; Sunday School  
10 a.m., Sunday service  
11 a.m.  
**PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST**  
Chris Post, Pastor; CR  
301, Jonesboro; Sunday  
school 10 a.m., Sunday  
worship 11 a.m.  
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One mile north of Evant,  
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10 a.m., Sunday worship  
11 a.m.  
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875 FM 932, Purmela, TX  
76566; Sunday School  
10 a.m., Sunday Worship  
11 a.m.  
**SWEET HOME BAPTIST**  
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Sunday worship 11 a.m.;  
Wednesday worship 7  
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**SPANISH BAPTIST**  
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113 Veazy Dr., Gatesville;  
Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 11  
a.m., Wednesday Prayer  
Meeting 6 p.m.  
**TRINITY BAPTIST**  
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor;  
1506 W. Main, Gatesville;  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,  
Sunday worship 8:15 a.m.  
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Sunday worship 11 a.m.,  
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Pastor: Malachi Houser;  
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Sunday Bible Study 9:30  
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10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.,  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7 p.m.  
**FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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worship 10:30 a.m.  
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services 10:30 a.m.;  
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p.m.; Adult Bible Study,  
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**MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE**  
William Bertelsen,  
Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy.  
236; Sunday worship  
10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.;  
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**PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP**  
6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sun-  
day Services 9 a.m.  
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**MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor;  
514 N. 13th St., Gatesville;  
Sunday School 9:45  
a.m., Sunday worship 11  
a.m., Wednesdays Bible  
Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.,  
Wednesday service, 7:30  
p.m.

**PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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Monty & Tammy VanHorn,  
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<b>a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)</b>			
		2016	1850
<b>b. Paid Circulation (Net)</b>			
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		171	115
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies) and Outside the Mail		933	912
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail (including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS)		732	746
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		0	0
<b>c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b(1), (2), (3), and (4))</b>		1836	1773
<b>d. Free or Nominal Rate</b>			
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		10	10
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(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		0	0
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<b>e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d(1), (2), (3) and (4))</b>		15	15
<b>f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)</b>		1901	1788
<b>g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 page #3)</b>		115	62
<b>h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)</b>		2016	1850
<b>i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15h times 100)</b>		99	99

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
<b>a. Paid Electronic Copies</b>			
		105	106
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<b>c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)</b>		2006	1894
<b>d. Percent Paid (Both Print &amp; Electronic Copies) (16a divided by 16c times 100)</b>		99	99

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Janice A. Hester Date: 9-25-24

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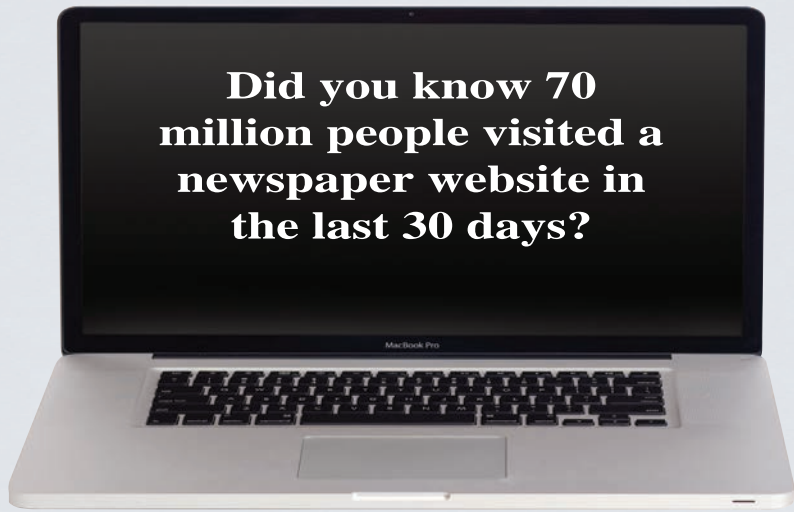
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# First Methodist Church brings back Harvest Festival

Submitted by Sharon Sullins

Celebrate the bounty of the season at our Annual Harvest Festival. This year's festivities have been expanded to a two-day event with a variety of activities for all ages, including delicious food, games, crafts, garage sale, silent auction, vendors, live music, and much more.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, start the day off with breakfast tacos made by Pastor Schmidt or sample something tasty from one of the other food booths available. Do not forget to visit the Country Store featuring mouthwatering homemade baked and canned goods just in time for the Thanksgiving season.

Included in the Country Store, and a customer favorite, is David and Linda Lovelace's homemade peanut brittle. It sells out fast, so come early! You will definitely want to participate in this year's Silent Auction located inside the Family

Life Center.

Fill your Christmas list early with over 100 amazing items to bid on. Plus, find bargains galore at the huge two-day garage sale. Kids young and old will enjoy the many games and activities planned for the day. The KidZone of the festival will feature a cookie walk, pumpkin decorating contest, a craft and story time, a bounce house, train rides, and much more.

Finally, the patch is back. Fall into the spirit of the season by visiting our colorful Pumpkin Patch located on the front lawn of the church with over 1,000 pumpkins to choose from in assorted sizes and shapes. There is something for everyone.

Admission is free, so mark your calendar and bring friends and family for this fun-filled community event. All festival events will be held on the church grounds and Family Life Center at 2600 E. Main St., in Gatesville. Proceeds will benefit missions within our

local community including Backpacks for Kids, Ministerial Alliance, Care Center, School Supplies for Kids, Adopt a Campus, Church Camp, and more.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

**PUMPKIN PATCH**  
Sept. 28 - Oct. 31  
1 - 7 p.m., Sunday-Friday  
9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday

**GARAGE SALE**  
Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES**  
Saturday, Oct. 19, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
(breakfast tacos, country store, KidZone, vendors, live music, silent auction, food trucks, and more)

**SILENT AUCTION**  
Oct. 19, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
You do not have to be present to win.

Auction items include: gift baskets, jewelry, lodging packages, tools, woodwork, artwork by local artists, photography, legal services, chiropractic

services, massage services, books by local authors, tickets to special events, fan gear, home décor, lawn and garden, truckload of sand, gift cards, Visa cards, pickleball equipment, automotive services, zipline adventures, guided fishing trip, and more!

**SILENT AUCTION PREVIEW**

- 14 K white gold diamond cross ½ pendant (30 CT TW diamonds) donated by Hines Jewelers
- Half day guided fishing trip on Lake Whitney for 2 - clay stacks, pro guide
- 2 tickets to Lake Travis Zipline Adventures
- Milwaukee PACKOUT rolling toolbox, 250 pounds
- 2-night stay Coach's Quarters - treehouse lodging, Waco, \$545 value
- Over 100 more items available.

For more information about this year's festival, visit First Methodist Church Gatesville Facebook page. A link to preview all Silent Auction items is pinned to the top of the church Face-



COURTESY PHOTO BY MARY KAUFER

Volunteers helped to move hundreds of pumpkins onto the front lawn of First Methodist Church to create a "pumpkin patch" in preparation for the church's annual Harvest Festival.

book page for your convenience. We look forward to seeing you!

## Pearl Church Fall Festival Oct. 5

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 dis-

orderly sale, a cake walk, a bounce house, and an auction.

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

## JISD to host fall carnival Oct. 10

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District's Athletic Booster Club will host a fall carnival on Thursday, Oct. 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The carnival will feature a petting zoo, food trucks, vendors, a mechanical bull, a pie contest, live music, and more.

To become a vendor for the event, contact Jones-

boro ISD at 254-463-2111.

All proceeds will benefit the high school Athletic Booster Club.

Jonesboro ISD is located at 14909 South State Highway in Jonesboro.

## Oktoberfest to be held Oct. 12

Staff Reports

Oktoberfest 2024 will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, in Crawford at the Tonkawa Falls Events Center. Doors will open at

5 p.m., a German meal will be served at 6 p.m., and a dance will follow at 7 p.m. Music will be provided by Enzian Buam. There will also be a silent auction. The event is BYOB.

Tickets will be \$20 per person. For more information, call 254-486-2366 or 254-749-4878.

The center is located at 8540 E. 4th Street in Crawford.

## Halloween Pickleball 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, located at 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

It 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 the center for the event.

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



**THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER**

# Business Directory

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# Hidden Gem to host annual Harvest Festival Oct. 26

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

One of Gatesville's local non-profit organizations, Hidden Gem Family Center, has announced that it will host its annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The festival will be held at the Gatesville Civic Center, located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission will be free, and there will be tickets for activities available to

purchase.

Activities will include a pet palooza/costume contest, adult bingo, a scavenger hunt, a bounce house, a nerf war, axe throwing, a talent show, concessions, baked goods contest, and various vendor booths.

The pet palooza/costume contest will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include an entrance fee of \$10. The categories will be Best Dressed, Most Talented, and Cutest Breed. To sign

up for the event, visit [hiddengemfamilycenter.org](http://hiddengemfamilycenter.org) to pay the fee and be sure that your email is added as well so a form can be sent to your inbox.

There will also be an adult bingo game for the community which will begin at 10 a.m. There will be prizes for each winner.

Founder of Hidden Gem Family Center Jenny Featherston said, "We are adding the Gatesville Has Talent Show for anyone who would

like to participate," she said. "We will have a concession stand that we did not have last year as well."

Gatesville Has Talent will take place at 1 p.m. and is open to all ages. Contestants will be divided into age groups, which will be Kids, 0-12 years old; teens, 13 to 19 years old; adults, 20 and up.

There will be a \$25 entry fee for each act, and all entries must be either individual or group acts.

All entries should be family appropriate as well as the costume and clothing used in the act. Acts will be no longer than four minutes, and each individual/group will receive a wireless microphone, which can be handheld or on a stand.

Awards will be presented in each age division, although, there will be one overall winner who will be invited to perform at the Boozaar that evening.

Featherston expressed

that she believes the Harvest Festival is important, because it promotes the Hidden Gem Family Center's non-profit organization as well as including the entire community in an event at a reasonable cost.

For more information, contact Jenny Featherston by cell phone at 254-216-3160.

# 24th annual Boozaar to be held Oct. 26 on downtown square

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

With Halloween upon us, that means that Gatesville's annual Boozaar is just around the corner as well. The 24th Annual Boozaar will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 6 - 8 p.m. on the Coryell County Courthouse Square.

The Boozaar is the community's annual Halloween festival on the square. For more than 20 years,

the Boozaar has provided Gatesville with a safe and free family-friendly Halloween experience.

There is no admission charge, and most treats and attractions are free. There are always vendors selling food and drinks if you choose to take advantage of some of the items that are available.

In the past, around 70 businesses and organiza-

tions have participated in handing out candy and providing games for local children.

In 2000, the City of Gatesville, along with local businesses and organizations, came together to provide treat stops and game booths for kids of all ages. Now, a tradition within the community, the Boozaar is the most well-attended event of the year.

Treat stops are businesses located on the square or the Boozaar route that encompasses several blocks around the downtown area. They hand out treats to kids as they make their way around the route.

Treat stations will also be provided, which are businesses and organizations who are not located downtown but set up booths around the square to

provide free candy, games, and activities for families. There is no charge to set up a treat station.

Vendors can host a food booth, sell Halloween related items, or charge for a game or activity. To become a vendor, register at <https://www.teamside-line.com/.../Gat.../content/33897/BOOZAR>.

In addition, there will be a costume contest with

categories for all ages with more details to come soon.

Sponsors for the event are currently needed. If interested, contact Librarian Shea Harp at the Gatesville Public Library at 254-865-5367.

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

## Boys & Girls Club to host annual haunted house during October

Staff Reports

The Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville will host its annual haunted house event throughout the month of October to celebrate Halloween.

**Haunted house dates:**

- Oct. 18, 7 - 9 p.m.
- Oct. 19, 7 - 10 p.m.
- Oct. 25, 7 - 9 p.m.

• Oct. 26, 8 - 10 p.m.

It will cost \$5 per person to enter the haunted house, and it is recommended for those six to 16 years old, although everyone is welcome.

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

## American Legion Post 42 presents haunted house

Staff Reports

The American Legion Post 42 will host a haunted house for the community throughout the month of October.

The haunted house will be featured each Friday and Saturday leading up to Halloween.

The facility will reopen on Halloween, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. and will include

an adult costume contest at the bar.

A \$5 donation per person is recommended.

If a child is under the age of 12, they must be accompanied by an adult.

For further information, contact 254-216-1165.

The American Legion Post 42 is located at 214 Watts Lane.

## Evant ISD to host annual harvest festival Nov. 2

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District will host its annual harvest festival on Saturday, Nov. 2. It will begin at 5:30 p.m.

From 5:30 - 7:15 p.m., there will be games located in Evant High School's new gymnasium as well as barbeque plates served as the meal.

From 5:30 - 7 p.m., voting will begin for the

harvest festival duke and duchess as well as the king and queen. The winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m. in the old gymnasium during a coronation.

There will also be a haunted house for the community, which will be from 8 - 10 p.m.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant. For further details, call 254-471-5536.



# Harvest

## FESTIVAL

**Friday, Oct. 18**

7AM-3PM

**Garage Sale & Pumpkin Patch**

**Saturday, Oct. 19**

7AM-3PM

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MARY TREJO | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, the Evant Varsity Girls Volleyball team won their match against Zephyr High School by a score of 3-0. The Lady Elks also recognized its seniors before the game started for senior night. Pictured are Evant Lady Elk Luwi Rodriquez with her family.



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville varsity Hornets pictured left to right, are Amos Phillips, Rayshon Smith, and Xavier Clater.

## Hornets fall to Burnet in final non-district game of season

BY CHRIS ALLMAN  
Contributing Writer

Gatesville fell into an early hole and could not climb out in dropping their final non-district game of the year 23-17 at Burnet on Sept. 27.

Burnet got on the board quickly - scoring on their fifth offensive play to take a 7-0 lead. They added a field goal early in the second, then scored on a trick play to head into halftime with a 17-0 lead.

The Hornets got on the board late in the third quarter thanks to a nine-yard touchdown run from Ray-

shon Smith that cut the lead to 17-7.

Burnet came back with another scoring pass to up their lead to 23-7, but the extra point was blocked by Xavier Clater - his second block of the season.

Smith scored again from 19-yards out on Gatesville's next possession, and then Gehrig Keeton ran in the PAT to make it 23-15 in favor of the Bulldogs.

An Amos Phillips interception on Burnet's next drive put Gatesville in a position to tie the game, but they were unable to score. The Hornets defense held

again on the next possession, but their final drive ended with a turnover.

On Burnet's last drive of the game, their punter opted to run 52-yards back through the Bulldogs end zone for a safety that provided the final 23-17 score.

The Gatesville defense performed admirably once again allowing just 78 yards rushing and 252 total yards. The 252 yards allowed is their second-best performance of the season. They are allowing just 59.8 yards rushing on the season.

Phillips (12), Dylan Watts (11), and Colt Heath (11) all

had double-digit tackles. Dutch Nielsen had eight tackles, and Clater picked up one tackle for a loss. Kaden Coffman was credited with three quarterback pressures.

Smith led the offense with 108 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Cy Burns picked up 85 yards on 17 carries. Phillips caught four passes for 55 yards, and Brayden Saunders had one catch for seven yards.

The Hornets had a bye on Oct. 5 and will open district play against La Vega at home on Oct. 12.

## Henderson's light helps lead the way

BY JOHN ENGLISH  
Contributing Writer

As the Jonesboro volleyball team prepares to make a run at a post-season in 2024, it will need players like Julie Henderson to step up and help lead the way.

Affectionately dubbed "JuJu," by her coaches and teammates, Henderson was an all-district selection in 2023, and coach Tori Smith said that Henderson is exactly the type of player that coaches want on their teams.

"She is such a bright light with a positive energy," Smith said. "She is always smiling and such a great team player. She is an outstanding outside hitter, and her serves are hard to receive."

Smith said that Henderson has improved immensely since last season and sets a great example for her younger teammates. "She has gotten stronger and giving 100% effort hasn't ever been a problem with Julie," Smith said.

The 2023 campaign was the inaugural season for the Jonesboro volleyball program, and Henderson said that while she was proud to be a part of that first team and of what the Eagles were able to accomplish, she still felt it could have gone better.

"Last year we played very well for it being our first year to have volleyball," Henderson said. "But I also knew we were better than how we performed."

Henderson, 17, accepts the responsibility of being a team leader on the Jonesboro volleyball team and said her objectives for the 2024 season revolve around fulfilling the responsibilities of that role.

"My goals are getting my team together and pushing ourselves to perform our best to make a better year than last year," Henderson said.

The Jonesboro senior said that taking on those responsibilities is not without its difficulties.

"My biggest challenge is keeping the girls in line and taking responsibility to be the bigger person," Henderson said.

The Jonesboro senior also plays basketball and softball at both the high school and club level.

To earn a trip to the playoffs at the end of this season, Henderson said she believes her team will need to do a few things.

"It will take a good leader, hard practices, hustle, teamwork, and a positive attitude," Henderson said.

Smith said she has a couple of expectations of her own for Henderson this season.

"I would like Julie to read the court a little better, so that she can spot hit and serve as well as work on quickness and footwork," Smith said.

Henderson plans to attend Texas A&M University and to pursue a career in mechanical engineering.

### Henderson's Favorites

- Favorite Athlete: Amanda Scarborough
- Favorite Sports Team: Texas A&M University Softball
- Favorite Food: Steak
- Favorite Movie: Scream
- Favorite TV Show: Vampire Diaries
- Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: Twilight
- Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Eminem



COURTESY PHOTO

Senior Julie Henderson was an all-district selection for Jonesboro in its inaugural volleyball season last year.

## Buzz takes on new look to further school spirit at GISD

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

Gatesville High School's mascot Buzz has been a pillar of school spirit for many years and has recently received a new look.

The cheer program began raising funds for its new Buzz costume earlier this year in April and reached their goal in July. It only took around four months with the community's sup-

port.

"It was important for us to purchase a new costume for many reasons, but one of the main goals was to get a costume that matched our current school logo," Cheer Coach Cassie Perez said.

Perez mentioned that past coach, Holly Redford, was able to get the process started last year and asked various people for their

input regarding the new costume.

"She and coach Amber were able to collaborate with the company to finalize the details of what was needed," she explained. "Coach Amber and I also worked tirelessly trying to find the best color gold to meet our needs. We surveyed countless alumni, current staff, and many

others to gather their input."

Choosing the perfect costume for Buzz was important to the cheer program. Perez said that mascots help promote school spirit and entertain people of all ages.

"We have received a lot of positive feedback from

PLEASE SEE BUZZ | B3

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AVERY MEELBUSH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Hornets narrowly lose to Burnet, 23-17, in last week's matchup in Burnet.

BY JOHN ENGLISH  
Contributing Writer

**Tigers Handle Coolidge to Move to 3-2**

The Oglesby football team defeated Coolidge on Friday night by a score of 54-8 to improve to 3-2 in the non-district season.

Coach Jeb Dixon said, despite the score, he was impressed with how the Yellow Jackets competed.

"Coolidge has a good group of kids that play extremely hard," Dixon said. The Oglesby coach said he did have a number of strong performances in the game from his team.

"Defensively Jakson Tippit had a big night," Dixon said. "Jack Hendricks was steady on defense as well. Offensively (Tyler) Fosset had four rushing touchdowns, one receiving touchdown and one kickoff return."

The Tigers will play at 7 p.m. on Oct. 4 at Faith Academy, and Dixon said his team will have its work cut out. "Faith has been to the

TAPPS state championship recently, and they have a really good program," he said. "They run a spread offense and throw the ball well."

**Jonesboro Has Solid Effort Against Bluff Dale**

The Jonesboro volleyball team came up a little short against Bluff Dale on Friday night, but coach Tori Smith said, for the most part, her team did well.

Jonesboro lost the game 3-2, but Smith said her team showed some signs of what it can accomplish when it plays to its potential.

"We performed very well," Smith said. "We added a new rotation and struggled a bit adjusting in the first set but played strong and saw a glimpse of that drive we have been missing the last couple of games. We struggled on our serves back-to-back, and that killed us."

Smith said one player did especially well in the game. "Ella Gustin, our setter, had a really good game and read the floor really well,"

Smith said.

**Gatesville Opens District with Big Win**

The Gatesville volleyball team opened district with a bang on Friday night, defeating Connally 3-0.

Coach Janey Weber said she was pleased with the way her team competed in the game.

"Connally was our first district game this season, and the team came ready to play," Weber said. "We were focused and ready to start district the right way."

The final score was 25-6, 25-10, 25-16, and Weber said the victory makes her optimistic about how Gatesville will compete in district this coming season.

"I'm very proud of the way the girls performed," Weber said. "I'm excited to see what we do in district."

**Jonesboro Cruises Against Stephenville Faith**

The Eagles had little trouble with Stephenville Faith last Friday night, defeating

the Knights by a score of 58-0 to improve to 4-1 on the season.

Coach Eddie Gallegos said his team took control of the game fairly early on and never let up.

"I thought we played really well early and set the tone for the rest of the night on special teams," Gallegos said. "I was really pleased with our start."

Gallegos said his players were functioning well as a unit but added that he did have a couple of guys really step it up.

"It was a total team performance," Gallegos said. "But Pate and Truett Foote applied a lot of pressure early on their quarterback."

Jonesboro plays McLennan County Challenge Academy at 7 p.m. on Oct. 3, and Gallegos said for this game, his team will be in uncharted territory.

"We are unfamiliar with them but hope to be able to make adjustments in game," Gallegos said.

**Evant Loses Tough Match to Hico**

The Evant volleyball team fought until the very end last Friday but came up just short to Hico by a score of 3-2.

The Lady Elks lost 20-25, 25-22, 25-14, 13-25, 12-15, and coach JoAnna Vaden said she was proud of the way her team persevered in the game.

"Even though we did not win, all the girls played their hearts out," Vaden said. "It was a great team effort."

Standout performances in the game included the following:

- Harley Weeks - 13 points, 3 aces, 10 digs, 30 assists, 2 kills
- Hailey Neri - 12 points, 4 aces, 17 digs
- Molly Waldrum - 7 points, 1 ace, 15 digs, 19 kills, 4 blocks
- Bree Ramirez - 6 points, 2 aces, 12 digs, 2 assists, 11 kills
- Luwi Rodriguez - 6 points, 24 digs, 1 assist, 8

kills

- Izzy Gandy - 6 points, 14 digs, 5 kills
- Daritza Escamilla - 4 digs, 2 kills

**Hornets Cross Country Has Solid Outing in Marble Falls**

The Gatesville cross country team competed in the Leo Manzano / Rick Edwards Memorial XC Invitational this past weekend, and both varsity teams had solid efforts.

The boys team finished fifth overall with three runners finishing in the top 20.

Jack Armstrong (18:02.40) took second place overall at the competition individually, while Cameron Thompson finished 13th with a time of 18:38.00, and Justin Muegge finished 18th with a time of 19:18.30.

The girls team was sixth overall as a team, with Vania Martinez finishing 10th overall with a time of 12:29.00 and Riley Higinbotham finishing 14th overall with a time of 12:47.80.

*American Legion Post 42*

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# HORNETS NEST

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



**RICKEY PHILLIPS**

Athletic Director  
Gatesville ISD  
@RickeyPhillip12 on X

**Fall-sport updates**

**Cross Country:** Regional berths will be on the line here Monday when GHS hosts the District 23-4A meet. The races begin at 8:30 a.m. at the GISD cross country/walking path. Come out and support these kids...They would love to see you there and have you cheer them on.

**Football:** Coming off a bye week, the GHS Varsity begins league play next week here vs. La Vega. The Hornets catch LV, Lorena, and Robinson at home and will travel to China Spring and Connally. GHS will be seeking its 5th-consecutive playoff berth.

**Team Tennis:** Varsity heads into the playoffs next week and will be making its 7th-straight appearance in the team tennis postseason.

**Volleyball:** After playing its first three league games on the road, GHS will play its next five games in the friendly confines of the Sidney L. Pruitt Gym. Hope to see you there Tuesday night when China Spring comes to town... great music, throw shirts.

**Notes and notes**

...Another GHS senior student-athlete has made a verbal commitment - Kallie Featherston made official her acceptance to play softball at Nelson University (Waxahachie). Kallie has launched a few balls out of the park the past couple of seasons and has devoted a lot of time to playing the game. She becomes the 3rd Hornet softball player to commit and is the 5th member of the GHS Class of 2025 to make a collegiate commitment so far this fall.

...The GJHS girls' 7th-8th grade cross country team is a perfect 4-for-4 in meet titles so far this fall. They will try to make it a season sweep at Monday's District 23-4A meet here.

...Again, really want to say thanks to the many local businesses that support our athletic program...from sponsorships, hospitality rooms, facility improvements, and camps. Our community has always been and continues to be unbelievable in this regard.

...The GHS Athletics' 2024 Hall of Fame Banquet will be held Oct. 19. Next week, we take a look at the individuals and teams being inducted with the Class of 2024... such a great and well-deserving lineup.

**Every spot matters**

It's hard for young athletes to understand that everyone has a role on a team, and that every spot matters, regardless of whether you are a starter or role player.

Case in point from last week's GHS Tennis match vs. Brownwood, which had a lot at stake for both teams as they head to the playoffs. Jahaziel Martinez is a senior member of the Hornet squad and may not always grab the limelight, but it was his decisive victory for GHS' 10th match win that night that proved to be the difference. And Martinez's match went to a tie-breaker set, where he won a 19-17 marathon. If you know Jahaziel, you know he is relentless in anything he does...and that proved to be an asset in that lengthy match.

**The Big Sting**

There is one certainty about Gatesville and our community: The people here are always there for anyone in need. It does not matter if it's the Food for Families drive or any tragedy that might hit our town - the folks here come through for their friends and neighbors.

One of those events takes place here next week, as The Big Sting will be held prior to Friday's Hornet-La Vega varsity football game on Oct. 11. Local residents that are battling cancer will be recognized during this ceremony, with jerseys and shirts donning the names of those courageous warriors.

But it doesn't stop there. The Big Sting also provides financial assistance to those in our community that are dealing with cancer. They've been doing this for 10-plus years, and at last count had helped more than 215 individuals. The Big Sting has raised more than \$505,000 to help this cause. Simply, unbelievable.

**Upcoming schedule**

**Monday, Oct. 7**

Cross Country: Gatesville hosts the District 23-4A HS-JH meets

Volleyball: 7th-8th A-B teams here vs. Lorena

**Tuesday, Oct. 8**

Golf: GHS Girls at Burnet tourney  
Volleyball: GHS here vs. China Spring

**Wednesday, Oct. 9**

Football: JV White here vs. Lake Belton

**Thursday, Oct. 10**

Football: JV Gold-JV Black at La Vega, JV White here vs. Lake Belton

Football: 7th-8th A-B teams here vs. La Vega

Tennis: JV here vs. Waco University

**Friday, Oct. 11**

Football: Varsity here vs. La Vega  
Volleyball: GHS here vs. La Vega

## Hornet Fight Never Dies!

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

## BUZZ

FROM PAGE B1

GISD employees, the community, and students of all ages," she said. "Everyone has been really impressed with it. This costume is comparable to many college level mascot suits."

The current mascot is senior Kari Dudik, who is in her fourth year in the role of Buzz. She happens to be a four-time All American mascot as well.

"This year we have witnessed Kari really take on more of a leadership role in our program; not just as a mascot, but in so many ways," Cheer Coach Amber Colson said. "She has helped choreograph several of our routines for pep rallies and helped new members on varsity and JV with material and anything they may need. She has gone above and beyond not only as a mascot but as a teammate as well."

Perez expressed that Dudik is very outgoing, a go-getter, and works well with the cheer team, while also having the ability to do her own thing when

needed.

"She wants to be the best and puts in the work to make it happen," she said.

Dudik attends practice with the cheer squad twice per week before school.

"Kari is actively involved throughout practice learning the cheer routines as well as preparing for her parts during the pep rally," Perez said. "We also spent a lot of time with her during the summer helping to plan and prepare as much as possible ahead of time."

She also is involved in the community and has attended grand openings for local businesses.

"Buzz is a great link between past and current students," Perez said.

"Kari truly has a passion for being a mascot," Colson said. "She carries the persona in and out of costume. She takes pride in portraying Buzz and always goes the extra mile for not only her team but children in the community as well."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMBER COLSON

Buzz is pictured with an elementary school student after welcoming her to school for the day.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby High School varsity and junior varsity girls and boys cross country teams are pictured at their district meet in Hamilton.

## Tiger cross country competed in district meet

**Staff Reports**

The Oglesby Tiger high school and junior high cross-country teams recently competed in a meet at Troy Independent School District where over 544 runners attended.

The girls junior high team won fifth place as a team. Individually, Vicky Mejia won sixth place, Malorie Renner won 26th place, Adelyn Gomez won 36th place, Daycee Roberts won 46th place, and

Keelyn Riley won 49th place.

**Junior Varsity Girls**

Grace Isaacks won sixth place.

Emma Sanchez won 12th place.

Caitlyn Battreal won 58th place for the varsity girls' team.

Rancher Jeffcoat won 63rd place for the junior high boys' team.

**Varsity Boys**

David Mejia won 36th

place. Couper Wulfkuhle won 53rd place.

Rolando Gonzalez won 75th place.

On Wednesday, Oct. 2, the Oglesby varsity and junior varsity girls' and boys' teams traveled to Hamilton for their district meet.

Caitlyn Battreal won 37th place and Maddison Smith won 56th place for the varsity girls.

Grace Isaacks won sec-

ond place and Emma Sanchez won eighth place for the junior varsity girls.

**Varsity Boys**

Couper Wulfkuhle won 20th place and obtained a personal record (PR) time.

David Mejia won 21st place.

Gunner Riley won 42nd place and obtained PR time.

Rolando Gonzalez won 51st place and obtained PR time.

## Oglesby JH falls to Coolidge Yellowjackets

BY TOM NORRELL  
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Tigers football team traveled to Coolidge on Thursday, Sept. 26 to play the Coolidge Junior High Yellow Jackets.

The Tigers scored the first 13 points of the game, however, a strong come-

back by the Yellowjackets put Coolidge in front for a 25-13 victory.

Brody Martinez had nine carries for 80 yards and one 11-yard touchdown run as well as one point-after-touchdown (PAT). Martinez also had a 75-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

Rancher Jeffcoat had two carries for 21 yards. Hunter Insall had one 30-yard touchdown pass. Judson Marquez had one carry for five yards.

**Defensively for Tigers**

Brody Martinez had seven tackles. Hunter Insall had five tackles. AJ Mafra

had six tackles. Rancher Jeffcoat had two tackles. Caiden Brinkley had four tackles. Dexter Veranz had two tackles. Slayton Fisher had one tackle and one fumble recovery.

There are no games listed for the week of Oct. 3, currently.

## Oglesby JV White football team falls to Vanguard

BY TOM NORRELL  
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tiger JV White football team played host on Thursday, Sept. 26 to the Vanguard Vikings. Both teams were able to move the ball up and down the field and score often. However, in the end, the

Vikings came away with a 26-20 win.

**Offensively for Tigers**

Treyton Linder was the workhorse for the Tigers, carrying the ball 13 times for 141 rushing yards with three touchdown runs of 55 yards, 40 yards, and 12

yards.

Gunner Riley carried the ball six times for 79 yards. Riley scored a point-after-touchdown (PAT) on a pass from Tucker Melton.

Tucker Melton, quarterback, was 2/10 in passing for 24 yards. Melton also scored a PAT run and

passed to Riley for another PAT.

Javon Howard had one catch for 12 yards.

**Defensively for Tigers**

Treyton Linder had six tackles, one interception, and two fumble recoveries. Javon Howard had six

tackles.

Gunner Riley had six tackles.

Jacob Taylor had five tackles.

Tucker Melton had four tackles and one sac for a five-yard loss.

Rolando Gonzales had four tackles.

Sam Ortiz had one tackle.

The Oglesby JV White team hosted the Milford Bulldogs on Thursday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. The results will be featured in the Saturday, Oct. 12 edition of *The Gatesville Messenger*.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY TOM NORRELL

Pictured left: Oglesby's defensive line go head to head with Coolidge. Pictured right: Oglesby's Kyler Fossett runs the ball.

# Tigers crush Coolidge, 54-8, in home game Sept. 27

BY TOM NORRELL  
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tiger varsity football team played host to the Coolidge Yellow Jackets on Friday, Sept. 27.

The Tigers dominated the Yellow Jackets throughout the entire contest, and ended the game 54 to 8 on a 30-yard touchdown pass as time expired from Holdyn Goff to Jaxon Markum.

The Tigers also played great defense tonight, controlling the game from start to finish.

Kyler Fossett zigged and zagged his way to the end zone all night, proving each game that he is among the most elite running backs in the state. Fossett carried the ball 13 times for 168 rushing yards, had four

touchdowns, 68 yards receiving, and one touchdown 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. Fossett ended the night with 338 total yards and six touchdowns.

Aiden Oxford carried the ball seven times for 53 yards. Abram Shaw had three carries for 15 yards. Jakson Tippit had one carry for 11 yards. Alex Castillo

passed 2/5 for 68 yards and had one touchdown. Castillo was perfect on point-after-touchdowns (PAT's) kicking 6/6 for 12 points. Holdyn Goff went 2/3 passing for 30 yards and had one touchdown. Jaxon Markum had one 30-yard touchdown reception.

Defensively for Tigers Jakson Tippit had his best

defensive game of year with 12 tackles and a tackle behind the line of scrimmage for a loss. Jack Hendricks had 12 tackles. Holdyn Goff had 11 tackles and one interception. Mason Marquez had four tackles. Alex Castillo had three tackles. Abram Shaw had three tackles. Aiden Oxford had two tackles.

The Tigers improved their record to 3-2 on year and traveled to Marble Falls to play the Marble Falls Faith Flames on Friday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. The results of the game will be featured in the Saturday, Oct. 12 edition of *The Gatesville Messenger*.

# Oglesby High School's JV Red team loses to Eagles, 55-6

BY TOM NORRELL  
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Red JV Red Tiger football team traveled to Jonesboro on Thursday, Sept. 26 to play the Jonesboro Eagles. The Tigers faced a very tough Jones-

boro Eagle team. The Eagles beat the Oglesby tigers in a convincing 55 - 6 win. The Tigers played hard but were outmaneuvered by the Jonesboro Eagles.

**Offensively for the Tigers**

Callen Webb had eight carries for 12 yards. Webb was 6/12 passing for 41 yards, including a 16-yard touchdown pass to Camden Webb. Keegan Redford had four carries for 14 yards and two pass receptions for

six yards. Camden Webb caught six passes for 31 yards including a 16-yard touchdown reception.

**Defensively for the Tigers**  
Camden Webb had two tackles. Blayze Fisher had

two tackles. Keegan Redford had one tackle. Ranger Dalton had one tackle and one fumble recovery. Couper Wulfkhule had one fumble recovery.

The Oglesby Red JV team traveled to Aquilla to take

on the Cougars on Thursday, Oct. 3, at 6:30 p.m. The results will be published in the Saturday, Oct. 12 edition of *The Gatesville Messenger*.

## World Teachers Day

October 5, 2024

**There are approximately 3.8 million teachers Teachers in the united states as of the 2023-2024 School year.**

**World Teachers' Day**, celebrated annually on October 5th, is a time to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of educators worldwide. This special day serves as a reminder of the vital role teachers play in shaping the minds and futures of students and society as a whole.

Teachers are the unsung heroes who inspire, motivate, and empower individuals to reach their full potential. They dedicate their time, energy, and expertise to nurturing young minds, fostering a love for learning, and instilling valuable skills and knowledge that last a lifetime.

On World Teachers' Day, we express gratitude to teachers for their tireless dedication, passion, and commitment to education. It's an opportunity to thank them for their hard work, patience, and unwavering belief in the potential of every student.

This year's World Teachers' Day theme, "Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery," highlights the crucial role teachers play in helping communities navigate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite unprecedented disruptions to education, teachers have shown remarkable resilience, creativity, and adaptability

in ensuring continuity of learning for students.

As we celebrate World Teachers' Day, let's reflect on the profound impact teachers have on shaping the future of our world. Whether in traditional classrooms, virtual settings, or informal learning environments, teachers inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and a thirst for knowledge.

World Teachers' Day is also an opportunity to advocate for the rights and well-being of teachers worldwide. Ensuring that teachers receive adequate support, resources, and professional development opportunities is essential for creating a conducive

**learning environment** and promoting educational excellence.

This World Teachers' Day, let's celebrate educators' dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to shaping the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers. Whether through heartfelt appreciation, thoughtful gestures, or acts of kindness, let's show teachers that their efforts are valued and appreciated every day, not just on October 5th. Together, let's honor and uplift educators who continue to make a difference in the lives of students and communities around the globe.

*How they SAY that in...*

**ENGLISH:** Teacher

**SPANISH:** Maestro

**ITALIAN:** Insegnante

**FRENCH:** Professeur

**GERMAN:** Lehrer

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



# SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



Left photo: pictured left to right, Dr. Barrett Pollard, Pam Williams, and Michelle Martin. Right photo: pictured left to right, Dr. Barrett Pollard, Alex Johnson, GHS principal Liz Shoaf, and GHS teacher Bonnie Latham.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured left to right, Bentley Goff, Gypsie Browning, and OISD co-principal Keegan Webb.

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

**Staff Spotlight**

During the Sept. 23 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, two staff members were placed in the spotlight - Michelle Martin and Pam Williams. Dr. Pollard had the following to say about them: "Michelle Martin and Pam Williams have made community outreach their main priority at GISD. From holding shot clinics to dental clinics to Christmas on Marshall, Pam and Michelle spend countless hours each week trying to help needy children and their families. For example, the annual Back-to-School Bash grows in size every summer. This past summer the

following items were given to children: 347 pairs of shoes, 350 backpacks with supplies, 150 lunch kits, 75 haircuts, 46 physicals, and 45 vision/hearing screenings. Michelle and Pam help with other similar events throughout the school year. For example, they have scheduled dental screenings for Sept. 23-25. Their biggest initiative now is to grow a school supply room that will help teachers and students who are in need. Michelle and Pam have spearheaded several trips to World Vision and the Welman Project, whereby staff are able to get free supplies ranging from small items to even classroom furniture. Best of all, they have enlisted the help of our high school

transition students to act as employees in our supply room."

**GISD Student Spotlight**

During the Sept. 23 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, GHS student Alex Johnson was featured in the monthly spotlight. GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard had the following to say about Johnson:

"Alex Johnson was recently named a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist due to a whopping 35 on the ACT and 1460 on the SAT. Alex is no stranger to recognition. Ranked near the top of his class, he is a member of the National Honor Society. During his school career he has been

named All Star Cast during the One Act Play competition. The College Board designated Alex with the National Rural and Small Town Award (NRSTA). Alex is the Student Body and Senior Class President and a member of the Senior Homecoming Court this year. He has been Drum Major for the past two years in the Fighting Hornet Band. Alex quite possibly takes the most rigorous schedule of courses available at GHS. In addition, he has participated in Debate, Academic UIL Student Council, and PALS. Last year, he was a UIL District Champion in Current Issues & Events. Alex also finds time to work to earn extra money."

**Staff Reports**

Last week, Oglesby Independent School District held its monthly board meeting for September. The board honored Bentley Goff and Gypsie Browning

as the Student Spotlights due to giving 100 percent in the classroom. Pictured from left to right is Goff, Browning, and OISD Co-principal Keegan Webb.

## Gatesville Primary to raise funds for new playground

**Staff Reports**

Gatesville Primary School has announced that it is currently raising funds to help build a universally inclusive playground for Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) students. The playground will allow children of all physical and cognitive abilities safe and easy access to play. The primary school is asking local businesses and families to help contribute to build the much-needed playground by

donating money through its tiered pricing options.

**Tiered pricing options include**

- Gold Tier, \$750
  - Silver Tier, \$500
  - Bronze Tier, \$250
- To make a donation, be sure to write a check and make it out to "Gatesville Primary School - ECSE." For further information, contact 254-223-0351, [kstory@gatesvilleisd.org](mailto:kstory@gatesvilleisd.org), or [jschuman@gatesvilleisd.org](mailto:jschuman@gatesvilleisd.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

GISD Choir members who participated during the TMEA SSC All-Region Choir auditions

## GISD Choirs hosted TMEA All-Region Choir auditions Sept. 28

Submitted by Cherith Wells

On Saturday, Sept. 28, the GISD Choirs hosted the TMEA SSC All-Region Choir auditions for nearly 200 neighboring students and directors. GHS had 15 students who participated in this first round audition with nine making the TMEA

All-Region Choir and six who placed high enough to qualify for the second round, which is Pre-Area in December.

Numerous judges commented that this was the highest level of quality they've heard in a long time.

**Soprano:**

Katie Hopson, (3rd Chair) Region Choir & Pre-Area  
Callie Smith, Region & Pre-Area alternate

**Alto:**

Lillie Mann, Region Choir

**Tenor:**

Paisley Wells, (4th Chair) Region Choir & Pre-Area  
Eli Alvarez, Region Choir & Pre-Area

**Bass:**

Memphis Wells, (4th Chair) Region Choir & Pre-Area  
Devyn Ayala, Region Choir & Pre-Area  
Charles McLeod, Region Choir & Pre-Area  
Nevin Benning, Region Choir

## "Learning the ins and outs of our internet" presented by GISD

**Staff Reports**

Gatesville Independent School District's English as a Second Language (ESL) department will host an event in regard to "Learning the ins and outs of our internet," on Tuesday, Oct. 8.

The meeting will be held at the Gatesville Junior High School Library from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Librarians Candice Garvin and Shea Harp will discuss how to access and help your child with google classroom assignments as well as tips on local library tools available for families and students.

Junior High School Principal Suzy Penrod will

speak on various topics.

**Those topics will include:**

- How to help your child with assignments and failing grades.
- When and whom to contact for assistance.
- EOC's and graduate requirements.

**Guidance Counselor**

Christa Hitt will discuss the dangers of the internet for children as well as different cyber topics.

For further details, contact ESL Coordinator Julia Martin at 254-223-0442 or Kari Patterson at 254-865-7262.

Gatesville Junior High School is located at 307 South Lovers Lane.

## Education Foundation to host Mother & Son Movie Night fundraiser 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 popcorn, 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](mailto:educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org).

**Staff Reports**

The Gatesville High School Athletics Department will host its 2024 Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Gatesville High School.

Doors to the banquet will open at noon. The program will begin at 1 p.m. and will be held in the high school cafeteria.

Tickets will be available at the entrance and will cost \$10 each, and children 5 years old and under will be admitted for free.

The class of 2024 induct-

ees will include athletes Judy Kafer Hurst and Jim Saunders, coach Guy Dean, the 1950-51 boys' basketball state semifinalists, and the 2009 softball state semifinalists.

Other individuals who will be honored include Billy Anderson, Kurt Apel, Roy Cowart, Don Curry, Gordon Jones, Bernard Knapp, Gip Lovejoy, David Sellers, and Carroll Shirley.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Texans improve to 4-1 for 3rd straight year, fend off Lions in front of Family Weekend record crowd

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Family Weekend always brings a strong showing to Memorial Stadium, and the best Family Weekend crowd in Tarleton State history enjoyed a Texan Football Victory on Saturday, Sept. 28.

No. 16 Tarleton State (4-1, 1-0 UAC) improved to 4-1 for the third straight year with its 36-33 win against Southeastern Louisiana (1-4, 0-0 SLC) in Stephenville. The Texans won in front of a Family Weekend record crowd, as 22,312 fans were on hand to witness Tarleton's first game at Memorial Stadium in over a month.

The Texans and Lions played neck-and-neck throughout the contest, and Tarleton State clawed out a narrow victory for the second straight year in this meeting, the first two matchups in series history. This was Tarleton's final non-conference regular season game of the year, as the Texans finished the slate 3-0 against Southland Conference teams. Tarleton has won seven straight non-conference games against non-FBS opponents dating back to 2022, and 13 of their last 14 dating back to 2021.

The Texans have won eight of their last nine games.

Tarleton WR Darius Cooper had his best game of the season with nine receptions for 80 yards and a pair of touchdowns. The reigning FCS National Offensive Player of the Week Kayvon Britten raced for 173 yards and a touchdown on 28 carries (6.2 YPC). Victor Gabalis completed 15-of-26 for 203 yards, three touchdowns and an interception.

Defensively, Blake Smith ended the game with an interception as the Lions faced a 4th and 10 their own 47-yard line with 1:05 to play. Ty Rawls helped Tarleton change the game in the third quarter with a forced fumble and fumble recovery three plays after Tarleton retook the lead, which the Texans then followed up with a touchdown on the next play to go up 29-19. Rawls also had seven tackles and a TFL. Bam Smith finished with a team-high nine tackles and two quarterback hurries, and Donta Stuart added seven tackles.

It was a true nailbiter, back-and-forth contest throughout on Saturday. The first quarter ended without a score, with the first five drives combined ending in

punts. The Texans got things going from there, stringing together a 12-play, 90-yard drive that ended in a Britten 2-yard rushing touchdown, his sixth TD of the season.

The Lions answered with their own long drive, a 12-play, 75-yard march that ended on a fake field goal rushing touchdown by Justin Dumas to make it 7-7. Tarleton turned it over two plays later, and the Lions took advantage with an Antonio Martin Jr. 3-yard touchdown rush. The Lions missed the extra point to make it 13-7 SLU.

The Texans settled down and responded with a 75-yard scoring drive to take the lead back. Gabalis capped it with a 27-yard touchdown to Cody Jackson with 47 seconds remaining in the half.

SLU moved quickly down the field to take the lead into the locker room, booting a 20-yarder through as the first half clock expired. The Lions led 16-14 at the break.

Southeastern Louisiana started its offensive footing in the second half with a field goal to go up 19-14 before Tarleton started to take control back. The Texans retook the lead after a 9-play, 83-yard drive, which Derrel Kelley III bulldozed his way



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Football's 2024 schedule has been altered, with four changes announced June 10 to the previously announced campaign.

through on for an 11-yard touchdown. Tarleton State succeeded on its two-point conversion, Gabalis to Benjamin Omayebu, to make it 22-19. Rawls then forced the turnover, and Gabalis found Cooper for their first of two scoring connections, this one from 23 yards out to put Tarleton ahead 29-19.

SLU's running back Martin broke free for a 57-yard touchdown run to stop the bleeding for SLU. Tarleton took a 29-26 lead into the fourth quarter that was

quickly erased by Martin's third touchdown rush of the game, this one from two yards out to put the Lions up 33-29.

Down four, the Texans marched down to take the lead for good, covering 75 yards on 11 plays, ending on a 4-yard Cooper touchdown catch from Gabalis.

Tarleton's defense held firm on SLU's final two drives, as the Texans forced a three-and-out and forced the turnover to end the game.

Martin finished with the big game for SLU, recording 206 yards and three touchdowns on 32 carries (6.4 YPC). Southeastern Louisiana quarterback Eli Sawyer completed 17-of-27 for 155 yards and an interception. KK Reno had a team-high 11 tackles for the Lions.

Tarleton State will hit the road for a single game, with only conference play remaining in the regular season for the Texans. Tarleton will play at Southern Utah on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m.

## TSU welcomes texans back with week of homecoming traditions

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Homecoming is one of the most treasured times of tradition at Tarleton State University, with many generations of Texans returning to campus Oct. 6-12 for a week of celebratory events.

This year's festivities are highly anticipated, with the university also celebrating

125 Years of Excellence.

"Tarleton Homecoming is about alumni returning to campus to reconnect with their Tarleton family," said Brian Warner, Tarleton Alumni Association President. "Together, alongside current students, we share our Tarleton stories and honor our traditions while embracing new traditions that this generation of

Texans holds dear. It's all about coming together as one Texan Nation."

Celebrations will kick off Sunday evening, Oct. 6, with the Memorial Homecoming 5K and the Lighting of the Smokestack. Other events throughout the week include the Silver Bugle Hunt, Launching of the Ducks, Purple Pancakes, Yell Contest, Snake Dance,

the L.V. Risinger Memorial Bonfire and the Homecoming Parade.

Many first-year students have excitedly prepared for their initial homecoming experience since Duck Camp, where they learn about the many Tarleton State traditions celebrated during this week.

"When looking for a college, I knew I wanted a place

with traditions and a cool history. Tarleton State is just that," said first-year kinesiology major McKenna Green. "I am so excited that homecoming is almost here, and I'll finally get to experience all the super fun traditions. The one I am most excited about is the bonfire because I have heard it will be fun and full of Tarleton spirit." Because homecoming is

such an essential part of the Tarleton State community, the outreach campuses located in Fort Worth, Waco and Bryan will also celebrate cherished traditions such as the Launching of the Ducks and Purple Pancakes.

For the schedule of events and more information on Tarleton State Homecoming, visit [www.tarleton.edu/homecoming/](http://www.tarleton.edu/homecoming/).



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Men's Golf senior Alvaro Huidobro had his fifth career top 20 finish, shooting 6-under-par to claim 14th in the Texans' second tournament of the season at the Mark Simpson Invitational on Monday, Sept. 30.

## Huidobro collects fifth career top 20 finish to lead TSU Men's Golf in Mark Simpson Invitational

Tarleton State University

ERIE, Colo. - Tarleton State Men's Golf senior Alvaro Huidobro had his fifth career top 20 finish, shooting 6-under-par to claim 14th in the Texans' second tournament of the season at the Mark Simpson Invitational on Monday, Sept. 30.

Huidobro shot an even par in round one and followed that up for a season-best 4-under-par 68 in the second round in Monday's 36-hole day. The Spaniard completed play with five birdies to obtain a two-under par 70 in Tuesday's final round, lifting him into the top 15.

Huidobro reached the top 10 lowest in the program in the Division I Era for lowest 36-hole score (140) and 54-hole score (210).

The Texans finished 11th as a team with a 54-hole score of 860, the fourth-lowest in program history in the Division I Era. Tarleton State's first round team score of 284 and its 36-hole score of 572 both cracked the top 10 lowest in the program in the Division I Era.

Senior Carson Gallaher shot a season-low 1-under-par 215 54-hole score, including a pair of 2-under par rounds.

After making his collegiate debut in Tarleton

State's first tournament of the season, freshman Kellen Young shot a 4-under-par 68 in Monday's first round and compiled a total 54-hole score of 218. Young's first round of 68 matches the lowest score for a round by a Tarleton State freshman in the Division I Era.

Senior Cristobal Sepulveda compiled a 54-hole score of 221 while sophomore Juan Ballester came up with a 225 54-hole score in his second tournament with the Texans.

Tarleton State goes back on the road next week, competing in the Oregon State Invitational Oct. 7-8.

## Tarleton State men's rodeo team takes second straight dominating win

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University's men's rodeo team amassed 665 points in last weekend's National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Southwest Region stop at Sul Ross State in Alpine, taking a commanding first place for the second consecutive week.

The effort was led by first-place finishes from bareback rider Tucker Carricato and saddle bronc rider Coleman Shallbetter. Carricato topped

the 80-point mark on both his broncs, earning an 83.5 in the long-go, then adding an 85 in the championship finals. Shallbetter's 164 two-head total came on rides of 79 and 85 points.

Roedy Farrell and Bailey Small each contributed second-place finishes in Alpine. Farrell's runner-up effort included rides of 75.5 and 83 points on bareback broncs for a 158.5 tally. Small posted a 79-83-162 in saddle broncs.

Teammate Waitley Sharon was fourth in saddle bronc

riding with a 158 on scores of 78 and 80 and Teel Sikes was third in steer wrestling on the strength of his 4.2-5.2-9.4 performance.

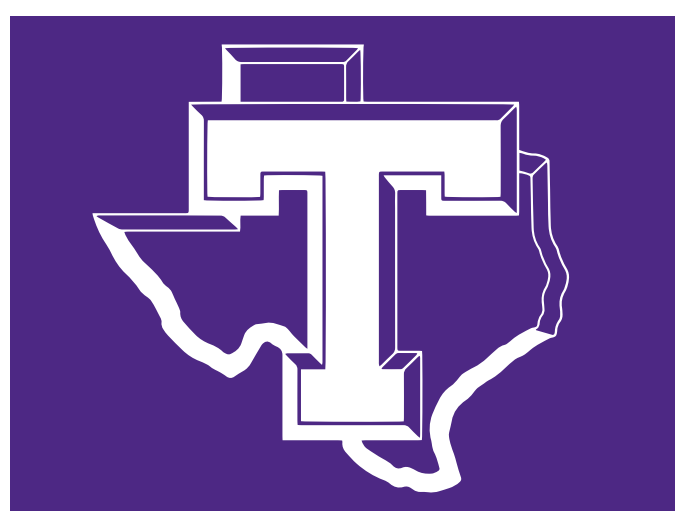
On the women's side, Tarleton State barrel racers Hadley Tidwell, Rylee Abel and Jordan Driver captured the top three spots in the event and paced the team to a third-place finish.

Tidwell topped the field with her first-place 15.91 in the preliminary round, then added an event-best 15.59 in the finals for a two-run 31.5, followed by Abel's 15.95-

15.82-31.77 and a 15.92-15.93-31.85 from Driver.

Shyanne Bauerle took the goat tying crown at SRSU flashing with a 6.2-7.3-13.5. Kayla Garza wound up third in the event on runs of 6.7 and 7.9 and teammate Cidney Estes' 2.1-3.3-5.4 was good for fifth in breakaway roping.

Both squads continue NIRA Southwest Region action Oct. 10 at the Clarendon College Rodeo.



# FIRE SAFE



## Be Aware & Prepared.

Take time during **Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12**, to check smoke alarms, review safety tips and create a fire escape plan for your home.

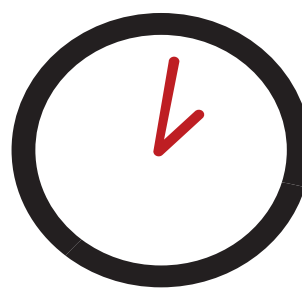


**371,500** Residential Fires Annually

**2,695** Residential Fire Deaths Annually

**10,825** Residential Fire Injuries Annually

U.S. Fire Administration 2017 Data



**2 Minutes**

The time it takes for a fire to become life-threatening

**5 Minutes**

The time it takes for a residence to become engulfed in flames

Ready.gov U.S. Department of Homeland Security

### Prepare & Protect

1. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, as well as inside and outside of every sleeping area.
2. Create and practice a fire escape plan.
3. Sleep with your door closed.
4. Go to [ready.gov/home-fires](https://ready.gov/home-fires) or visit [nfpa.org](https://nfpa.org) for detailed fire prevention tips and fire escape plan guidelines!

**600°**

The temperature a room on fire can reach at eye level

Ready.gov U.S. Department of Homeland Security

## Facing Danger. Protecting Lives. Thanks, Firefighters.

During Fire Prevention Week, we salute the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect ours as firefighters. We are grateful for their selfless service, their constant courage, and their dedication to making our community and our country a safer place. May they always return home safely.



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# GATESVILLE CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

National Night Out recently took place at the Gatesville Sports Complex. National Night Out is designed to heighten drug and crime awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partners, and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. This event was a fun-filled for all ages. There was free food, vehicle and aircraft displays, safety demonstrations, educational materials, fun games, local city/ county information, free giveaways, and a chance to visit with local first responders.



**VETERANS DAY**

HELP US HONOR OUR LOCAL VETERANS



We're running a special section in November to honor our local veterans.

**HURRY! Deadline to submit is Monday, October 14th.**

Submit your veteran's photo to our website: [www.gatesvillemessenger.com](http://www.gatesvillemessenger.com)

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

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