



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Oct. 19, 2024

\$1.00



SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 45, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Changes coming to the HOP's rural transit

Hill Country Transit District plans to introduce a micro-transit and regional transit system in Coryell County

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

As the main form of public transportation in Coryell County and surrounding areas, Hill Country Transit District, also known as "The HOP," hopes to make riding the bus a little easier next year.

As a way to increase ridership and reduce wait times, The HOP plans to expand its rural services by introducing a micro-transit system in Gatesville and a commuter bus that travels directly to Temple. Representatives from Hill Country Transit District attended Coryell County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Oct. 8, to present some of the proposed changes.

"For those within the county that need public access to public transportation, I think it's going to be a significant movement in a positive direction," County Judge Roger Miller said. "It gives connectivity to Copperas Cove, Killeen, Belton, Temple - all of those areas within the region that have, through analysis or through ridership, demonstrated that's where folks within Coryell County, in the rural

portion, where they are going."

The micro-transit system will operate like Uber or Lyft, where riders can schedule a trip through an app or by phone as well as monitor a live feed of the bus's estimated arrival time. Micro-transit operates on a rideshare, where drivers will pick up other passengers who submit ride requests along the route.

Each county in the rural division will have at least one designated zone for the micro-transit, which will be Gatesville in Coryell County.

"We are doing a huge transition in 2025," said Darrell Burtner, assistant general manager of Hill Country Transit District. "This concept of going to micro-transit is cutting edge - I'm not going to say it's bleeding edge, because it's been around since 2019, but what happened right after 2019 was COVID. It kind of got started with some of the other cities and states, and then it kind of got back burned, and now it's come back to the forefront to move forward."

Along with micro-transit,

The HOP plans to implement a rural commuter bus that will travel from Gatesville to Temple and back. It will have a set location for pick up and drop off, so passengers do not need to schedule the trips. The stops for the commuter line have not been finalized yet, but Burtner said one option is the Santa Fe Plaza in downtown Temple.

The HOP will also continue covering the entire county through rural-demand response services but asks riders outside of the micro-transit zone to schedule their trip 24-hours in advance so bus drivers can build a more efficient route. The rural-demand service buses will drop off at predetermined stops in Gatesville, such as Walmart, HEB, or the hospital and clinics.

The micro-transit system will also offer connections to other regional commuter transits in the cities and rural counties within the district. Currently, Hill Country Transit District provides rural transit services across nine counties but plans to drop its coverage to only four of the counties in Jan.



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The HOP expects to double its ridership through an app-based micro-transit system and new commuter service.

2025. It will then provide transportation within the cities of Copperas Cove, Killeen, Harker Heights, Temple, and Belton for its urban division, and Coryell, Lampasas, rural Bell, and Milam counties for its rural services.

The HOP rolled out the micro-transit system in its urban districts and Fort Cavazos in September.

"Honestly, we're expecting our ridership to probably double in 2025 as it has

done in 2024, and maybe triple," Burtner said.

Tony Austin, director of rural operations for Hill Country Transit District, said the plan is to fully connect the region together through the rural and urban micro-transit and commuter systems.

"We want the whole district to be able to travel through the whole district," Austin said. "And that's the end goal of what we want to try to do."

Along with expanding its rural services, Austin explains that The HOP also plans to eliminate its non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) and school shuttle rides for clients in the rural division in an effort to cut organizational costs.

Following the loss of a Medicaid contract with Texas Health and Human Services in 2018, Austin

PLEASE SEE HOP | A2



COURTESY PHOTO

Lauren Mooney (right) is pictured with her nephew, Greyson, a Gatesville High School football player, at the annual Big Sting football game this past Friday. Her nephew wore her name on the back of his jersey in honor of her fight against breast cancer.

Courage and Strength: Mooney's Journey of Battling Breast Cancer

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

In every community, there are individuals who inspire others through their unwavering courage and determination to overcome breast cancer. With October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, The Gatesville Messenger interviewed a local

who battles breast cancer.

Lauren Mooney, a mom, wife, daughter, educator, and hairstylist, faces the adversity of being diagnosed with breast cancer and has shown remarkable courage and resilience.

Her journey began when she was diagnosed on April 26 of this year. After notic-

ing the entire right side of her breast felt hard, she made an appointment with her primary care doctor who then sent her for a mammogram and ultrasound. Following the mammogram and ultrasound, neither of the tests detected any breast cancer since her breast tissue was too dense.

Mooney mentioned that the doctor could feel the difference in her breast, so it was requested that she have a needle biopsy. When the biopsy came back, it confirmed that she had breast cancer, Invasive Lobular Carcinoma.

PLEASE SEE MOONEY | A2

More funds allocated toward flood study

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Following the announcement of a nearly \$2.5 million flood mitigation study and model for Coryell County in June, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) is granting around \$1.5 million more toward the project.

The additional funds will provide an opportunity to enhance emergency response services and include parts of Bell County and Fort Cavazos in the study. During a Coryell County Commissioners Court meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8, County Judge Roger Miller and President of Natural Resources Solutions (NRS) Steve Manning announced that the GLO invested additional funds into the study, which now totals nearly \$4 million.

The purpose of the study is to build an automatic flood warning system that will alert local officials of incoming flood events and citizens of life-threatening flood hazards in real-time, according to a previous article by The Messenger.

Part of the additional funds will go toward implementing new communication software and technology for first responders, including local fire departments, the Coryell County Sheriff's Office, and EMS teams and ambulances. Miller

explains this includes a new GPS system for emergency vehicles that allows first responders to view real-time updates that shows which routes are open and if other local agencies are near the scene.

"Our ambulance can pull up a map and see what is open. Law enforcement and firefighters can see a map of where people are located and get a picture of who is where," Miller said.

Miller said the technology does not only apply to flood events but can also be utilized in any emergency situation. While the public will not have access to the same technology as first responders, the flood warning system will eventually provide updates for the public that show which roads are passable during a flood event.

"The intent is to create a technology platform not just utilized by first responders but also the public," Miller said.

The flood study focuses on the Leon River and Cowhouse Creek Watersheds - areas prone to flash flooding that impacts the county and its surrounding communities. The additional funds also allowed the research groups to expand and

PLEASE SEE FUNDS | A2

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HOP

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explains that NEMT rides have become a significant expense for the transit district. He said bus drivers often wait hours for one client on NEMT trips in urban areas like Temple.

"The problem is that it costs us money to do that, and then you have a driver sitting down there two to three hours, basically out of service and not being able to perform trips for Gatesville or Coryell County," Austin said.

Austin notes that there are now alternative options for NEMT transport through other providers such as Medlift. Riders can also receive transport to doctor's appointments through the micro-transit or rural regional commuter services.

"It just means we won't be transporting, but those trips will still exist," Austin said. "Medicaid will ensure those people get to where they need to, but it just won't be at the cost of Hill

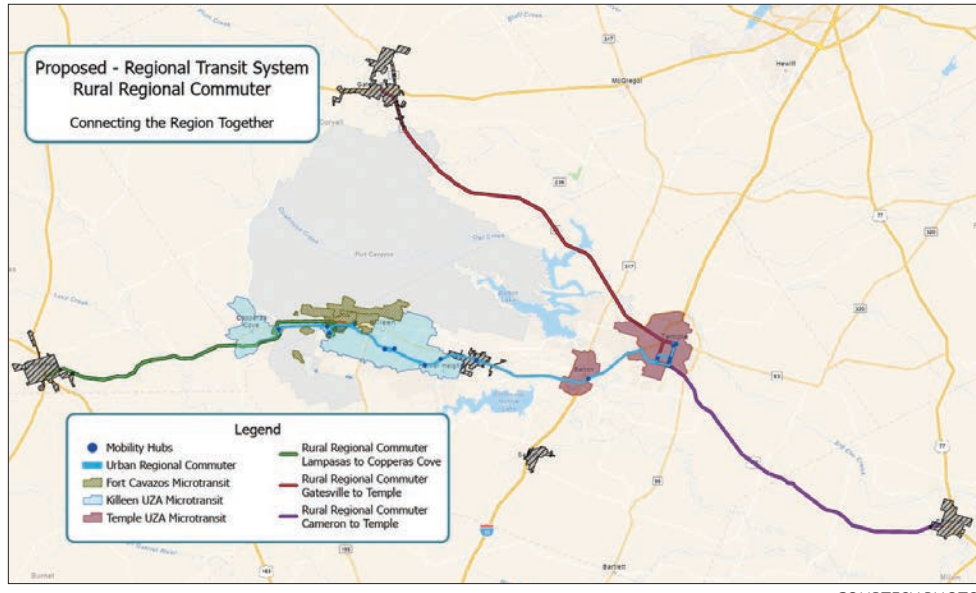
Country Transit District." Austin said that The HOP also plans to cut its school shuttle services due to limited ridership and to help free up drivers, so they are available for general public rides. The HOP's school shuttle services would provide transport that school district buses could not make, such as dropping students off at after-school daycare.

Students can also request a general-purpose ride through the micro-transit system if transportation is needed.

The HOP also plans to reinstate fares for rural transportation next year. The fares were temporarily suspended as a way to encourage ridership following a decline in numbers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposed fares for rural micro-transit zones cost \$2, county trips outside of the City of Gatesville will cost \$4, and the rural regional commuter to Temple will cost \$6.

Austin adds that the district might introduce day,



The HOP's proposed regional transit system route.

COURTESY PHOTO

weekly, or monthly passes for those who frequently utilize The HOP.

"We want to try to make it so if somebody's going to take a lot of trips, to make it feasible for them to be able to afford to take our trips with us on those passes," Austin said.

The changes come after Hill Country Transit District requested that rural

counties in the district commit local funds for its services. In Nov. 2023, Coryell County Commissioners approved a \$50,000 contribution toward HOP services for this year. The HOP also receives federal and state funding.

"For the same amount of money, we're getting more assets for Coryell County for the fiscal year

2025 budgeting period, our calendar year under 2025 services," Miller said. "I think that's a great benefit to the county."

Austin said Hill Country Transit District plans to implement the changes in early 2025.

To learn more about The HOP or to download the app, visit takeethehop.com

FUNDS

FROM PAGE A1

include all of Fort Cavazos and the Leon River Watershed in Bell County, Manning explains.

"This gives better resolution for modelling by including the downstream portion of the watershed," Manning said in an email.

The grant funds were awarded to the Texas A&M AgriLife Blackland Research & Extension Center in Temple and the American Conservation Foundation (ACF) to help prevent and plan for future flood events in the county. NRS is a consulting firm working with ACF on the project.

The study will also help develop surface and groundwater models that will use local data on lakes, creeks, and underground water sources like aquifers to help predict current and future flood events. The models will also be used to build the flood warning system.

Miller said the additional money stems from leftover federal funds from flood events in 2015 and 2016, which Coryell County is eligible for.

The flood study is a joint effort between several government agencies and regional organizations. It is of no cost to the county.

If the project is successful, Miller said the state could use it as a model for other rural counties.

"The intent is to follow up with TDEM (Texas Division of Emergency Management) and get them tied into this because it very well could be that what we're trying to develop here in Coryell County could be a model that the state could pick up and utilize for rural counties throughout the state," Miller said. "Because there is no way that the rurals can afford something like this on their own."

MOONEY

FROM PAGE A1

She expressed that she was terrified when she was first diagnosed.

"I cried a lot at first and felt like I was a walking panic attack waiting to happen while waiting to see an oncologist," she said. "I think it was not knowing if the cancer was just in my right breast or if it was anywhere else. I knew no matter what I was going to fight because I had too much to live for."

Since being diagnosed with breast cancer, she has had to change certain aspects of her daily lifestyle, which included things like food and work.

"I try somewhat to be

more aware of the food I put in my body. I listen to my body, and when I'm tired, I rest, and I take more naps," she said. "I did cut back my workload at the salon, I try to be out of the salon no later than seven during the week."

Before she was diagnosed with cancer, she would work until 8 or 9 p.m. at the salon, so having to take a step back wasn't easy.

When she received her first round of chemo, doxorubicin (also known as the red devil), her family and friends would take turns cooking for her family as well as sending care packages to show their love and support.

"My family and friends are great - I couldn't ask for a better support system; they would call

and text to check on me, especially after I would have a chemo treatment," she said.

Her treatment consisted of four rounds of doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide, which she started on May 24 and ended on July 5.

"When I received this regiment of chemo, I would go every 14 days," she explained. "Then I switched to a chemotherapy drug called Paclitaxel, which I started on July 18 and ended on Oct. 3. I went once a week to receive this regimen of chemotherapy."

She currently has a surgery scheduled to have a mastectomy for next month on Nov. 11. Following the surgery, she will need to undergo rounds of radiation. After the radiation is complete, she

will then begin planning a reconstruction surgery with her doctors.

"I'm nervous about having a mastectomy in a few weeks and having that part of my body removed, but I try to remind myself that too is temporary, and that reconstruction is right around the corner," she said. "I never realized how strong I was, and I don't let my diagnosis get me down anymore."

"The hardest part of my journey so far is feeling like my life is on hold while I fight this fight," she expressed. "Yes, my hair and gaining weight from taking steroids was hard, but all of that is temporary. My hair is growing back, and I can work at losing the weight."

When asked what advice

she has for those who are battling breast cancer, she said, "Feeling overwhelmed is normal. Try to find the good in things, such as losing your hair; you don't have to shave your legs and underarms for a while, and it cuts down on the time it takes you to get ready in the mornings, and not having to fix your hair (throwing a wig on is so much easier). Try to stay positive."

As Mooney continues her fight against breast cancer, she reminds herself each day, "Don't take life or the little things for granted, and to be thankful/grateful for all that God has given me."

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

I shall never surrender ...



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

Lots of us Texicans like to remember the letter William Barrett Travis wrote as commander of the Alamo. Knowing he was surrounded by the Mexican Army and that his demise was imminent, the brave commander proudly proclaimed he would “never surrender or retreat.”

What has been proclaimed as perhaps the most famous letter in Texas history has long stood as a testimony of the courage of the men of the Alamo and has inspired men and woman throughout our country to continue to fight,

no matter the odds. This past weekend I got a chance to witness a battle I will long remember. No, it was not a military engagement; it was a college football game between Vanderbilt and the No. 1 ranked Crimson Tide of Alabama.

I understand young men playing football does not equate to young men laying down their lives on the battlefield, but when I learned the story of Diego Pavia, the quarterback of the Vanderbilt team, I found myself enthralled. It is quite a tale, and his personal story of dedication and stubborn determination is something to be long remembered. This is a kid who had no FBS or FCS scholarship offers when he graduated high school in Albuquerque. Only two Division II schools gave him a chance to play quarterback. Pavia played two seasons at New Mexico Military Institute, a junior college, where he fought off competition from two others to win the starting quarterback job. He led his team to the NJCAA national championship and was offered a scholarship to Vanderbilt. No one else recruited him but North Texas and UTSA. Diego was

not a player anyone anticipated would be able to play exceptionally on the biggest stage of all: SEC football. Vanderbilt lost 10 straight games to finish the 2023 season, but with Pavia they started 2024 with one of the biggest college football surprises in week one by upsetting Virginia Tech in overtime 34-27. Pavia threw for two touchdowns and ran for another. The Commodores followed that victory with a 55-0 rout of Alcorn State, and then narrowly lost Georgia State 36-32. They lost to the top 10 ranked Missouri 30-27, in double overtime, and few really believed Vanderbilt or Pavia had much of a chance for season long success. Alabama had just beaten No. 1 ranked Georgia in what many have called one of the greatest games they ever witnessed. Alabama was the new No. 1, with a history as deep as the talent

on its bench. The Commodores had lost every one of their previous 60 games against top five ranked teams, and the Crimson Tide was a 22 1/2 favorite at kickoff. Vanderbilt had not beaten the Crimson Tide in 40 years, and the cumulative score in the last three meetings was 148-3. Evidently, somebody forgot to tell Pavia what he was up against. I have witnessed many an athletic contest, but I cannot remember ever seeing a single player lift his team on his shoulders and carry them to victory against such overwhelming odds. Pavia ran and he passed, and he led and did so in such a way if you have one drop of human emotion in your heart, you had to pull for him and the Commodores. He kept making one big play after the other and simply would not quit or give in. When the final whistle

blew, the Commodores from Vanderbilt had their victory, 40-35, and Pavia claimed his place in college football history and lore. It was thrilling to watch and experience the joy of watching a young man give it all against impossible odds. I became so excited for the young man; it was hard to keep from letting my emotions get carried away and tearing up. He had accomplished something special and earned his place in history. He never gave in and never gave up. He believed in himself and his teammates and had the courage to lay it on the line. Kind of makes you think the young man might have been born in Texas, huh? Thought for the day: Don't be upset with the results you did not get from the work you did not do. Until next time... I will keep ridin' the storm out!

Community health talk with Coryell Health, Oct. 23

Staff Reports

In honor of October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will host

Coryell Health for a “Lunch and Learn,” on Wednesday, Oct. 23. The class is free to the public and will be from 12 - 1 p.m. Coryell Health will

discuss the importance of annual mammograms and guide you through the steps to get one done. Carly Latham, director of marketing, will also inform

the group of the services that are provided by Coryell Health. Attendees may bring their own lunch, or you may purchase a lunch through a

link, which will cost \$20. To register or to choose your lunch, visit gatesvillechamber.com and click the “Lunch & Learn” tab. The Gatesville Chamber

of Commerce is located at 2307 South Highway 36.

Folks around town

Town Migel

Say hello to our neighbor, Migel Mata!

Migel is a local sales consultant at Spur Chevrolet and expressed that the best part about his job is seeing the smile of a customer when they get their first car. He has lived in Gatesville for many years and enjoys the close-knit camaraderie within the community. Migel reads The Gatesville Messenger and said that the newspaper has a friendly staff and publishes up-to-date stories. If you happen to see Migel around town, say hello! He is one of us!

COURTESY PHOTO



ADOBE STOCK

Early voting begins Monday, Oct. 21.

Early voting begins Monday

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Early voting for the Nov. 5 election begins on Monday, Oct. 21 and ends on Nov. 1.

Along with the presidential election and races for statewide offices, Coryell County's ballot will include races for local school boards, Gatesville Mayor, and Gatesville, Oglesby, and Copperas Cove city councils.

Below is a list of early and Election Day voting times and locations:

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:**
- Gatesville Annex, 800 E. Main St., Ste. B, Gatesville TX 76528
 - Copperas Cove Early Voting Center 508 B Cove

Terrace, Copperas Cove, TX 7652

- ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS**
- Citizens 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
- For more election information and to view local ballots, visit coryellcounty-tx.com/elections.

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A Hyde Media Group, LLC Company

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

Director of Operations
JANICE VELASQUEZ
janice.velasquez@gatesvillemessenger.com

Copy Editor
JODI MANNING
jodi@gatesvillemessenger.com

Staff Writers
DAVID SCOTT
david@gatesvillemessenger.com

KAYLEE DUSANG
kaylee@gatesvillemessenger.com

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
alex@gatesvillemessenger.com

gatesvillemessenger.com

USPS 214-840
116 South 6th St., Gatesville, Texas 76528
Phone: (254) 865-5212

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER is published at 116 South 6th St., Gatesville, Texas 76528 weekly on Saturdays. Periodicals postage paid at Gatesville, Tx. 76528.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the 116 South 6th St., Gatesville, Texas 76528. Any erroneous reflection upon character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may occur in the GATESVILLE MESSENGER will be gladly corrected once brought to the attention of publisher or editor. The publisher is not responsible for copy omissions or typographical errors that may occur other than to correct them in the nearest issue after it is brought to his attention and in no case does the publisher hold himself liable for damages further than the amount received by him for actual space covering the error. THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER is an award-winning member of the Texas Press Association, North & East Texas Press, West Texas Press and National Newspaper Association.

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Delivery to remainder of Texas:

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HYDE MEDIA GROUP

Chief Operating Officer
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

President
KIM WARE
publisher@tricityreporter.com

Vice President Operations
DARREN CLARK
darren@hcnews.com

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

Roger Vierende has created a country music legacy

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

From the time Roger Vierende was a child, he had a love for music. "When I was five years old, I was playing the guitar, and my sister and I sang together - and we sang good harmony. She was four, and I was five. We sang gospel songs. My Dad was real strict and said, 'you don't just get out there and just clown around: you be professional.' I knew what he was saying though: He just wanted us to do our best."

By the time Vierende was 14 years of age, he was singing the Kitty Wells song "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" at the Lindy Ballroom in St. Louis, Missouri. He said, "I was shaking all over." The Grand Ole Opry performers told him to just pretend he was singing on his front porch. After his song, the Opry performers invited Vierende to go on the road with them, but he declined because of his age and the fact he was still in high school. "You always shoot for the highest star, but I just missed it, I didn't have the where for all to do it," he said.

Vierende said that he can play the mandolin, guitar,

banjo, fiddle, and several other instruments. During the 1970's or 80's, Vierende was part of a gospel group. "We had a group called the 'Gospel Aires' and we travelled by bus, and we went as far as Missouri and Arkansas to perform. Mostly back then, I was connected with the Baptist Church, and we travelled to churches and did gospel music."

Vierende would go on to serve in the military. He retired from the service in 1979 in Copperas Cove. After first meeting at the Pearl Bluegrass Festival, Vierende and Mike Kuzenka became friends. The two would later collaborate and create Gatesville's Country Music Hall of Fame.

"We began in 2007. Mike Kuzenka told the city that we wanted to start a new program to have something here that would be a lasting thing and something that people would enjoy and have a great time and would be effective cost-wise; because, they don't have to pay anything to get in, it would be free," he said. "We planned to have a Hall of Fame. I said there are a lot of people in Texas

who have very good credentials toward their musical abilities, and I told him that it would be a great place for them to come and display their talents."

"I told Mike, we've got to show the city that we have good intentions in everything we do and it's got to be forthright and above board. No foul language, no drinking, no drugs: We've got to set an example for the young people, and you can't get up there on stage and sing about drugs and alcohol if you're trying to get them straightened out," he said.

Vierende said that Steve Anderson and Mike Kuzenka were the first two musicians to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007. Kuzenka passed away the following year.

Other local performers, such as former Gatesville mayor Wyllis Ament and former police chief Carroll Duke, were also inducted into the Hall of Fame. "There are many others on the Hall of Fame wall [at the city auditorium], and I'm really proud of that, because we've tried to reach out to local performers," Vierende said.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Roger Vierende points out his picture in the Gatesville's Country Music Hall of Fame display.

As of 2024, there are photos of 85 solo performers and groups lining the wall at the City Hall who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Since Mike Kuzenka's death sixteen years ago,

Vierende has become the backbone of the Hall of Fame and has coaxed many talented performers from far and near to the stage at the auditorium. He remains determined in his desire to bring clean and wholesome

shows to the Gatesville community. "I've always wanted to work with people, especially country or gospel. So, when I met Mike Kuzenka, he said, 'I think we can do it,' and we did."

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The bank is now a bar



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

A family of lawyers in Fort Stockton bought an old bank building, spent nearly two years fixing it up, and put in a beautiful two-story bar.

"Well, we ended up having to do more demolition than construction, because there were so many rooms," says Albert Valadez. "We used those commercial dumpsters, and I think we filled them 15 times. I would drive by going to my office every day, and this is a landmark and started falling into disrepair because it was vacated. I decided to purchase it, and the City offered me a good deal."

It's called the Centennial Bar and Lounge, because the building is over a hundred years old. Albert has had bars before all the while maintaining a law practice with his son Adrian and daughter

Christi. "My son, my daughter and I are all managing it." Christi says it's their second full-time job.

"We have a very good staff," says Albert. "Our staff shows up on time and they work hard."

The handcrafted bar looks like something you would find in Las Vegas. It's long and wide and hundreds of pennies decorate the top of it.

"My son and my daughter and I and my fiancé put the pennies on the bar, so we have a penny bar."

Christi says it's another reason why it's called the CENTennial Bar.

Customers play games with the pennies. The bar

tenders will say, 'ok, find a penny from 1965,' and the first person who finds that penny gets a prize.

You can get snacks and drinks at the Centennial Bar. The old bank vault is a game room. Upstairs has a dance floor, and another bar and is used for parties and meetings.

"All the window frames have the original glass, and they're over a hundred and ten years old and kind of wavy."

The walls are original marble. The drink of the day is posted on social media. A video shows how it's made.

"We post them with a video for our customers, so they actually get to see what's in it, how it's made, and I think that's what makes it even more appealing," says Christi.

You can get holiday drinks: July Fourth, red, white and blue, Halloween, and orange.

For Christmas, we made a Grinch margarita, so it's entirely green and really neat looking; people love that", explains Christi.

The building has a state historical marker and a player piano provides music.

Pecan Grove Homecoming event Nov. 3

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

After five long months of repairs and renovations to the flooded church, the members of the historic Pecan Grove Baptist Church have returned to their church "home" for worship services.

A special homecoming celebration is planned

on Sunday, Nov. 3, from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Pecan Grove Baptist Church. Special guest speaker will be Dr. Alan Lefever, director of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection and a Baylor professor. Special worship leader for the service will be Nathan Cook, of Waco.

It will be a special time

of worship, celebration, and recognition for those who helped to bring the church back from the flood. A catered lunch will be served following the service. The public is invited to attend.

Pecan Grove Baptist Church is located at 6545 FM 107, southeast of Gatesville.

Levita BBQ fundraiser to be held Nov. 1-2

Staff Reports

The Levita Volunteer Fire Department will host a BBQ fundraiser and gun raffle Friday, Nov. 1 and Saturday, Nov. 2.

The event will take place at 7 a.m. both days until everything is sold out and will be held at Ideal Self Storage, located at 1611

East Main St. 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 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 sponsored by Banard Beef Cattle Company. Tickets will be sold at \$10 each or five tickets for \$40.

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

Coryell City/Osage VFD fish fry Oct. 19

Staff Reports

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

Tickets will cost \$12 per adult and \$6 for each child

under 12 years of age. There will be a fried fish meal with all the fixings, and takeout order call-ins will begin at 5:30 p.m. To place a takeout order, call 254-248-1177.

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

tickets for \$20. Colin Dexter will also give an on-stage performance.

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

For further information, contact 254-230-8758.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

The widening of Texas Highway 36 from the Leon River Bridge to the Business 36 turnoff was projected to start around January.

A two-year investigation into the manufacturing, distribution, and possession of methamphetamines by the Coryell County Sheriff's Department's Organized

Crime Unit, with assistance from the Gatesville Police Department, led to 22 arrests.

A large crowd turned out for The Grove's Homecoming.

Gatesville High School graduate Marta (ChiChi) McGonagle was cast in the movie "Believe in Me."

Cindy Venable was hon-

ored by the Gatesville Lions Club as its "Teacher of the Month" for September.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Nichols LP Gas expanded its storage facilities to the Turnersville area.

Early voting was underway for the Nov. 8 general election.

Meredith Cummings was

selected as a recipient of a \$1,000 per semester grant from Texas Tech University.

Pizza Hut advertised their buffet for \$2.99.

Members of Gatesville High School's Class of 1944 celebrated their 50-year reunion.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

The House of Beauty

advertised a party featuring "Frills" and "Fancys" the clowns.

Leaird's Department Store advertised house coats for \$9.49.

City officials opened bids for construction of a \$100,000-gallon elevated water tank.

The unemployment rate in Coryell County dropped down to 3.7 percent. Gatesville Hornets beat Lampassas 27-6.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Establishment of a job information service in a seven-county area was be-

ing planned by the Central Texas Council of Governments.

Texas Department of Corrections was considering taking over the State School Complex.

Nela Scott Meharg was recognized as Gatesville High School's outstanding ex-student for 1974.

Howard B. Franks was elected as he new chairman of the Gatesville service unit of the Salvation Army.

Miller Motor Co. advertised the Thunderbird-inspired 1975 Ford Elite.

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Local musician opened for Aaron Watson

Submitted item

Memphis Wells, who is a senior at Gatesville High School, is an up-and-coming musician, performing cover songs of various popular country artists as well as his own originals. Wells has been performing since he was a child and picked up guitar at age nine. The very first song he learned to play was "The Prayer" by Aaron Watson. Later that year, after getting an upgraded guitar, Wells got to meet Watson at the Waller County Fair and asked him to autograph his new Fender.

When the announcement came earlier this year that Watson would be playing at Bare Bones, Wells' mother reached out to owner Chad Hill to request the opening

spot. In the background, it seemed, fans were sending Watson pictures and videos of Memphis in hopes of helping him secure the spot.

Memphis played for about 45 minutes, followed by Hayden Haddock, and then Watson took the stage. Several songs into the set, he asked his band to "play softer" and he looked out into the crowd asking, "Where's Memphis Wells, I think we've met before?" The crowd cheered to reveal Wells near the front of the stage, and as Watson claims that Memphis is "making me feel old," because when they met before he was just like a little baby and goes on to say, "You're the dude now, bro! You did good tonight, I crept over on the

side and watched you, I was in the shadows."

After the show, and after helping the crew break down and load gear, Wells and family went and met Watson where Wells asked him to sign his Taylor guitar this time.

When asked about his night, Wells said, "I've literally been a fan of Aaron Watson since I was a kid. My parents played his music all the time, and one of my favorite songs is Fence Post because he talks about his journey to Nashville and how he didn't sell out, and he's doing music his way. I hope to have a career like that, too! It was very fitting that he chose the intro of that song to give me the biggest shout out of my life, and even went on to

mention me again during the song when referring to the lyric about not wearing skinny jeans. It's a moment I'll never forget and hope to be able to do the same for young artists someday."

When asked where his name came from, Wells says that his father loves the movie "Gone in 60 seconds" where Nicholas Cage plays a character named Memphis. Who knew he'd end up pursuing a country music career and have the perfect name to go along with it, his mother says she knew though, she is also a musician and dreamt of a country music career herself but says that teaching music was her calling. However, she's prepared to do whatever it takes to help Wells be successful in the



COURTESY PHOTO

Local musician Memphis Wells

industry. Wells' sister, Paisley, is also a musician who has achieved many state-level musical accomplishments, just like her brother. They're also involved in 4-H, choir, football, cheer,

and several other school sports.

Wells is available for bookings by contacting memphiswellsmusic@gmail.com.

PEARL NEWS

Pearl Church of Christ to celebrate 129th Homecoming



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Tomorrow, Oct. 20, is the Pearl Church of Christ's 129th Homecoming. Everyone is invited. Dr. Charles Patterson will be the speaker, and there will be a catered lunch following the service.

Plaques for the longest attending member, the youngest attending that day, the oldest attending that day, the longest married couple,

and the farthest traveled that day will be given. You don't want to miss this important event. Bring family, friends, and those you

just met to Pearl Church of Christ. The friendliness of this church is unparalleled. You will be so glad you came.

The next quarterly meeting of the Pearl Community Center board will be Oct. 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the dining room of the community center. All are invited to attend.

Thank you to Rhonda, Garrett, Cooper Dickey, Susan and Tim Perkins, and Ronald Ray for your hard work during the Pearl Cemetery Workday last Saturday. You are greatly appreciated!

The Oct. 5 Bluegrass and Bookstore Day was absolutely wonderful! Everyone reported that they saw loads of old friends and made many new friends as

well. The Bluegrass Kitchen sold all of their delicious homemade food, with their chicken spaghetti being their hottest item. In fact, several people have said that this spaghetti is now famous in several counties! The Pearl Cottage Bookstore ladies said that it was such a sweet day in Pearl, especially since Mimi, the bookstore mascot, joined them. However, the ladies are a bit jealous as Mimi, adorable in her Halloween tutu, got most of the attention. Next year, the ladies said they are going to wear Halloween tutus to see if they can compete with Mimi. Did you see the group's adorable picture in their witchy hats on the front page of The Gatesville Messenger last week? By the way, if the

hat fits, ladies - don't worry, they told me to say that! The bookstore crew also asked me to extend a giant-sized Pearl thank you to Mr. Scott (aka David) and The Gatesville Messenger for always supporting Pearl, the Pearl Bluegrass event, and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore. You are all greatly appreciated!

The next Pearl Bluegrass event and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day is Nov. 2. The jamming at the Bluegrass goes on all day, and the stage show begins at 1 p.m. Admission is free. The Bluegrass Kitchen opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m., cash only. If you would like to play on the stage, just show up with your band and sign up on the board outside the kitchen. Garrett

and Chris will be glad to answer any questions you may have. The bookstore opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. There's no place like Pearl, and you don't want to miss any first Saturday event! Bring friends!

This week's Bible verse comes from John 6:68—Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life." Good News Translation

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

Revival at Pidcoke Baptist, Oct. 20-23

Submitted item

Pidcoke Baptist Church will be hosting revival meetings beginning Sunday morning, Oct. 20, at 11 a.m., continuing each evening at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 20 - Oct. 23.

Evangelists Paul and Vanessa Cherry will present enthusiastic preaching and joyful singing of both praise choruses and traditional hymns to challenge and uplift participants.

The Cherry's ministry is based out of Wolfe City and includes about 40 revivals a year as well as concerts. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, and they both are well-accomplished singers and instrumentalists.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the services as well as afterglow gatherings after each evening that will include refreshments and fellowship.

Pidcoke Baptist Church is located on FM 116 between Gatesville and Copperas Cove. It is a small, country church with a growing, loving congregation.

For more information, contact Pastor Don McConaughay at 254-299-6098. The church can also be found on Facebook where Sunday morning services are broadcast on livefeed.

Turnersville Buffalo Stampede will take place Nov. 2

Submitted item

The annual Buffalo Stampede will take place on Saturday, Nov. 2, in Turnersville. The event will be a family-friendly community fundraiser with free admission.

There will be a BBQ

lunch, vendors, kid activities, live auction and silent auction, bake sale, and a dance. From 10 a.m.-4 p.m., there will be vendors, kid activities, and the bake sale. From 11:30 a.m. until they're sold out will be the BBQ lunch for \$15

per plate. The lunch will include brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad, slaw, bread, fixings, dessert, and drink.

A live auction will start at 1 p.m. followed by a silent auction at 2 p.m.

From 7 - 11 p.m., there

will be a dance with the band Texas Connection playing. Tickets will be \$20. The dance also will include a food truck and will be BYOB.

Vendors who are interested in attending must register and pay \$20 plus \$10

for electricity for a 10X10 outdoor space. For more information, call 254-494-0010, visit their website at tvillecc.com, or email them at turnersvillestampede@gmail.com.

The center is located at 8113 FM 182.

Hidden Gem to host annual Harvest Festival Oct. 26

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

Hidden Gem Family Center has announced it will host its annual Harvest Festival Saturday, Oct. 26.

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

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.

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

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DRT VISITS STATE CAPITAL



COURTESY PHOTO

The Sam Houston Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas recently toured the Texas State Governor's Mansion in Austin. Pictured on the front row (left to right): Julia Newberry, historian; Jodi Manning, Jeannie Williford, president; Joy Hill, and Carolyn Wagner, secretary. Back row (left to right): Donna Hoskins, Hillary Hickman, vice president; Judy Tyler, registrar; and Julia Engelke.

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 carbohy-

drates.

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.

The Senior Center is located at 208 North Luteroh Avenue.

OBITUARIES

Ranzell Kirby Meeks

April 14, 1932 - Oct. 3, 2024

Ranzell Kirby Meeks, age 92, of Gatesville, peacefully passed away to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Friday, Oct. 11, at Scott's Funeral Home with Pastor Lynn Parks officiating. Burial followed at the Gatesville City Cemetery.

Ranzell was born April 14, 1932, in Waco, to Raymond and Iva Meeks. Ranzell was raised by his grandparents, R. E. and Clara Meeks on the Meeks Dairy.

A proud graduate of Gatesville High School in 1950, Ranzell was an athlete; he played football, participated in the choral club, and was a Golden Gloves boxer. Following high school, he served honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, dedicating two years of his life to his country.

After his military service, Ranzell became the athletic director at the State School for Boys and later continued to serve his community as an emergency medical technician and ambulance driver. His commitment to helping others was unwavering.

For over 48 years, Ranzell was a devoted member and deacon of Eastwood Baptist Church, where his genuine love for people was evident in every friendly conversation he initiated. In retirement, he cherished the moments spent RV traveling with his beloved wife and friends. Known for his warm smile, Ranzell was never seen without a pocket full of Werther's Originals, a toothpick, and a caffeine-free Dr. Pepper in hand.

Ranzell is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Frankie Meeks; daughter, Julie Grubb; son, John



Meeks; brother, Norris Meeks; sister, Ramona Young; granddaughter, Alex Montgomery and her husband, William; granddaughter, Elizabeth Carren; and great-grandsons, Matthew and Austin Carren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Eastwood Baptist Church.

J.B. Cooper

Nov. 1, 1934 - Oct. 9, 2024

J.B. Cooper, age 89, of Gatesville, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at Scott's Funeral Home with Minister Deral McWhorter officiating. Interment with full military honors followed at Levita Cemetery.

J.B. was born Nov. 1, 1934, in Bangs, to the late Vester and Fannie Louise Vann Cooper. He grew up in both the Ater and Levita communities. At the age of 22, he joined the United States Army and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In 1958, he transferred to the Army National Guard and served as part of the protective detail during the civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama. He honorably retired in 1994 as a

Chief Warrant Officer 4. He married Cathryn Cudd on Dec. 22, 1957, and the two lived in Kentucky for a brief time before making their home in Gatesville. He worked at M.A.T.E.S. as a mechanic, serving over 30 years before his retirement. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and working outside in his garden. He was a generous man, who spent his entire life helping anyone in need, as well as being a faithful volunteer at the Gatesville Care Center. He was a lifelong member of Live Oak Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; twin sister, Billie Young; sons, Larry and David Cooper; and great-grandson, Daniel Cooper.

J.B. is survived by his wife of 66 years, Cathryn Cooper; son, Michael Cooper and wife, The-



resa; sister, Mary Cooper; "daughters," Paula Vincent, Vickie Shaeffer, Deanna Pauley and husband, Mark; grandchildren, Justin Cooper, Virginia Rhymes, Rachel Anderson, Jacob Cooper, and Kinzie Cooper; and numerous great-grandchildren.

J.B.'s family requests that memorials be made to the Gatesville Care Center, 105 N. 7th St., Gatesville, TX 76528.

Bonnie Jean Medders

March 29, 1933 - Aug. 26, 2024

Bonnie Jean Medders, a resident of Burleson, passed away Aug. 26, 2024, at the age of 91. Bonnie was born on her parent's farm in Coryell County. She attended school in Turnersville and graduated in 1950. Bonnie was senior class officer, drum major, football sweetheart, and played basketball in her sophomore and senior years. She was also on the school paper staff. Bonnie attended TCU in 1951-1953 and lived on her own in Fort Worth. She married Rozelle Medders, and they had five children: Marc, Kurt, Brad, Suzy, and Cross Medders. They moved to Burleson in 1959. It was there that Bonnie was befriended by a neighbor, Pauline Russell, who led her to the Lord and disciplined her. Bonnie started her working career in 1955 as a bank teller in Fort Worth. She worked her way up to vice president of the Small Business Administration loan department. Bonnie retired

in 2009. After retirement, Bonnie spent time with friends and family, traveled, and joined mission trips with her Living Water Church Family.

Bonnie loved the Lord Jesus Christ and never stopped praying for her children and grandchildren to come to know him also.

Bonnie was a 30-year member of Living Water Church. She was a former member of the Women's Business Alliance and former president of the South Fort Worth Business and Professional Women's Club. She loved garage sales, and her grandchildren remember going with her. She was a collector of antique glassware.

Bonnie's children include Marc (deceased), Kurt, Brad (deceased), Bonnie Sue (deceased), and Cross Medders. Her daughters-in-law are Suzy, Kay, and Carol.

Grandchildren are Amanda Gregory, Dillon Medders, Samantha Medders, Jake Medders, Andrea Cox, Chase Medders, Vanessa



Adkins, Katherine Cuellar, Matthew Medders, Scott Medders, and Sarah Sarker.

Great-grandchildren include Ryan and Clark Gregory, Colt, Chase and Cruze Medders, Grayson Cox, Lila, Kate, and McKenna Medders, Aiden Forkner, Brooklyn Medders, Sienna, Shane, and Sydney Sarker, Jackson Miller, Michael and Olivia Medders, Caleb Hagenswald, Addie and Junior Adkins, Leighton, Lucy and McCrea Cuellar for a total of 11 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

MOUND NEWS

4-H member Thomas Belt placed 5th at state fair



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Jenson and Elli, and best friends, Maizie, Ruby, and Gunner Green. It was the Halloween theme, and they made potions and played in the mud kitchen.

Mrs. Pat Whaley, of Gatesville, was the Tuesday lunch guest of David and Pam Hopson.

Becky Coward and Kyle Coward were Sunday evening dinner guests of David and Pam Hopson.

Several people from Mound attended the Big Sting supporting those in Gatesville before the LaVega High School Varsity football game Friday evening in Gatesville at McKamie Stadium.

Those who are having birthdays this week are Lizzi Howell, Kathi Taylor, and Marcy Winters.

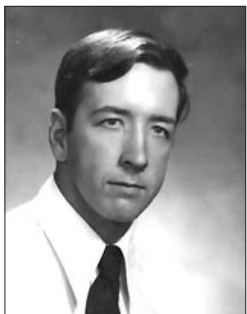
Coryell County 4H members recently celebrated National 4H Week. The livestock judging team participated in the State Fair of Texas contest in Dallas with Thomas Belt placing 5th high individual in the Senior Division with over 640 youth competing.

Susan Curtis, formally of Leon Junction, adopted a kitten this month. Susan and her new companion

are having a blast together. Molli Kinnear celebrated her 5th birthday. In attendance were her siblings,

And the umpire said,

"Let's Play Ball!"



When Bobby (Buzz) was in the hospital in Dallas, he was not strong enough and not eating as he needed to be; therefore, a liver transplant was not possible at that time.

We want to thank the family and friends who came to Dallas to see Buzz; and his friends who called faithfully checking on him, which we appreciated.

When we came home, his condition had not improved and he was admitted to Hillside. Bobby enjoyed the visits from friends and family until his death on September 15, 2024.

The family wants to thank the staff for the care that Bobby received while at Hillside Medical Lodge.

We want to thank all our friends and family who provided cards, thoughts and prayers, and for the food and flowers we received during this time.

Also, thanks to the staff at Scott's Funeral Home for the assistance and kindness from all of you during the loss of Bobby. You are a very special and appreciated group of people.

Thanks also to CCC for allowing our family to use the church building during the come and go celebration of life visitation which was held on Saturday, September 21. Thank you for allowing the viewing of Bobby's life, and the preparation and serving of the food, which was set up in the foyer for the family and friends. It was greatly appreciated.

And to all the tremendous number of friends and family members who attended the visitation, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The number of visitors were unbelievable. This outpouring of people showed what a loved and tremendous person Bobby truly was throughout his life, not only to family, but also to friends.

With all of our love:

Joan Harrington
Carey, Stephanie, and Madison Hester
Darrell Harrington

Stay safe and spooky this Halloween season

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Halloween involves a multitude of activities and events for all ages, from fall festivals and costume parties to Gatesville's annual Boozaar.

While Halloween is often a fun and memorable experience, some of its activities can come with risks. According to 2022 data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an estimated 3,200 Halloween-related injuries were treated in U.S. emergency rooms.

Ahead of the all the spooky fall events, it is important to follow a few safety tips to keep friends and family safe this year.

TRICK-OR-TREATING

Before stepping out for trick-or-treating, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) provides a few safety tips to keep children safe:

- Look both ways before crossing roads, and only cross at the street corners.
- Walk on sidewalks when possible. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.

· Travel with adult supervision and stay in familiar neighborhoods.

· Carry a flashlight or glow stick.

· Do not enter the homes of strangers and avoid homes where porch lights are turned off.

· Make sure children

know the phone number of an adult and how to call 911 in case they become lost.

· Children should avoid wearing masks that cover their eyes to allow for better visibility.

· Avoid toy guns and knives, as they could be mistaken for a real weapon.

Prior to trick-or-treating, DPS recommends visiting the Texas Public Sex Offender Registry to view a map of where registered sex offenders are in a given area.

DPS also offers tips for drivers on Halloween night:

· Look out for trick-or-treaters and other pedestrians who might not be paying attention.

· Don't drink and drive. Designate a sober driver or take a rideshare or cab.

· Stay alert while driving. Eliminate distractions, including the use of cell phones. If you need to use a GPS or map, have a passenger operate it to help keep your eyes on the road.

· Slow down and reduce speeds in traffic and bad weather.

FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY

Halloween evolves around candy, pumpkins, and other fun treats. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) recommends following a few precautions before enjoying all the snacks:

· Remind kids not to eat

candy while out before it is inspected - give them a light meal or snack before trick-or-treating to avoid the temptation.

· Do not accept or eat any treats that are not commercially wrapped or are unwrapped.

· Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

· For food allergies, check the label to ensure the allergen isn't present. Avoid eating home-made goods.

· Remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys for young children.

Avoid foodborne illnesses at Halloween parties with some of these tips, per the FDA:

· Bobbing for apples - reduce bacteria that might be present on apples and other raw fruits and vegetables by thoroughly rinsing them under cool running water. As an added precaution, use a produce brush to remove surface dirt.

· Serve and/or consume pasteurized products at parties. Unpasteurized juice or cider can contain harmful bacteria such as Salmonella.

· Avoid eating raw cookie dough or cake batter that contains uncooked eggs or unbaked flour.



ADOBE STOCK

Ahead of Halloween activities, follow a few safety tips to keep friends and family safe this year.

· Scare away bacteria by keeping all perishable foods chilled until serving time. Don't leave food out of the fridge for more than two hours or more than one hour in temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

COSTUME SAFETY

Choosing a Halloween costume is arguably the highlight of Halloween celebrations, but it also causes between 20-25% of injuries on Halloween, per the CPSC.

HealthyChildren.org offers a few things to consider before choosing a costume:

· Make sure that shoes

and costumes fit well. Costumes should be short enough to prevent tripping, getting caught on objects, or coming into contact with firepits. Hats should also fit properly so they don't slide over eyes and block vision.

· Choose "flame resistant" costumes, which is normally marketed on the label.

· Consider using non-toxic makeup and/or decorative hats as a safer alternative to masks.

· Test makeup ahead of time on a small patch of skin to ensure there are no allergic reactions on

Halloween or for an event or party. Toxic ingredients have been found in cosmetics marketed to teens and tweens.

· Avoid any sharp or long swords, canes, or sticks as a costume accessory.

· Do not wear decorative contact lenses without an eye exam and a prescription from an eye care professional. Wearing decorative contact lenses without a prescription is dangerous and can cause serious eye problems that can lead to permanent vision loss.

B&G Club haunted house open

Staff Reports

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

HAUNTED HOUSE DATES:

- Oct. 19, 7-10 p.m.
- Oct. 25, 7-9 p.m.
- Oct. 26, 8-10 p.m.

Cost is \$5 per person to enter the haunted house, and it is recommended for those ages 6 to 16 years old, although everyone is welcome.

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

First Methodist Church Annual Harvest Festival

Submitted by Sharon Sullins

First Methodist Church of Gatesville is hosting their 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.

The two-day garage sale starts on Friday, Oct. 18, and runs through Saturday, Oct. 19. Harvest Festival activities will begin Saturday morning, Oct. 19, at 7 am.

Saturday morning will start off with breakfast tacos for sale, made by Pastor Schmidt. Vendor booths will be set up as well as a Country Store featuring homemade baked and canned goods, including David and Linda

Lovelace's homemade peanut brittle.

This year's silent auction includes over 100 amazing items to bid on. Plus, find bargains galore at the huge church-wide 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, obstacle course, train rides, and much more.

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.

Admission is free, so bring friends and family to this fun-filled community event. All festival events will be held on the church grounds and Family Life Center, 2600 E. Main St.,

in Gatesville. Proceeds to 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 thru Friday

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

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 need not be present to win.

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 Aoudad hog hunt in Texas Hill Country, and more.

With over 100 items donated, the opportunity to find quality items for an amazing value awaits. Come out and bid and help us support local missions!

SILENT AUCTION SNEAK PREVIEW:
For the Adventurous:
· Aoudad and hog hunting package on 1,000 acres in Texas Hill Country: Hunt includes buyer and up to 3 guests, 3 days and 2 nights, 5-bedroom, 5- bathroom 100-year-old

ranch house - Medina, Texas. (Near Bandera) Families welcome.

· Guided Fishing Trip, ½ day, Lake Whitney, Clay Stacks - pro guide
· Lone Star Riverboat Cruise on Lady Bird Lake, Austin - four tickets
· Lake Travis Zipline Adventures - two tickets

For Everyone:
· Gift basket from "The Coop" gift shop in Evant
· Two tickets to the Nutcracker Ballet by Waco Symphony Orchestra
· Gift certificate to Fisher Street Bar & Grill, Goldthwaite
· Gift basket from Salty Senorita Gift Shop

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 Facebook Page.

American Legion presents haunted house

Staff Reports

The American Legion Post 42 is offering a haunted house experience for the community throughout the month of October.

The haunted house will be featured each weekend leading up to Halloween, Friday and Saturday from 6 - 9 p.m., with the last day being Oct. 27.

The facility will reopen Halloween, Oct. 31, at 7 p.m. for an adult costume contest at the bar.

The event is free, but a \$5 donation is appreciated. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For further information, contact 254-216-1165.

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

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Jody & Robin Thomas (254)223-2958

SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON

Oct. 16, 2024:

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Under 300 lb.	350-450
300-400 lb.	325-385
400-500 lb.	260-295
500-600 lb.	240-285
600-700 lb.	220-245
700-800 lb.	210-235
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	300-375
300-400 lb.	260-290
400-500 lb.	235-275
500-600 lb.	220-250
600-700 lb.	210-230
700-800 lb.	185-215
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	120-129
Low Yielding	100-115
Fats	110-120
Thin & Shelly	70-95
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	135-164
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	2400-2850
Young Fair	2000-2400
Aged Pairs	Split & Weighed
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
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Number of Head	1150

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, MORNING WORSHIP	11:00 AM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, EVENING WORSHIP	6:30 PM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21	6:30 PM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23	6:30 PM

Bosque Arts Center Texas Troubadour Songwriter Classic

with **JIMMY FORTUNE**
Judging & Performing

11th Annual **Texas Troubadour Songwriter Classic**

at the **Bosque Arts Center**
October 26, 2024
6 p.m.

Doors open 5 p.m. with food, soft drinks, beer, & wine for sale.

Tickets Online 9/23/24
\$25 • \$50 • \$75 • \$125

Country Music Contest & Concert: Top 5 Singer/Songwriters Compete for Texas Troubadour & People's Choice titles followed by **Jimmy Fortune & His Band**

\$3,000 in Cash Prizes for Songwriters & Singer/Songwriters
Contest Entry deadline August 20

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Coryell County

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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 a.m.; Wednesdays - Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE
912 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesdays - Children & Youth 5:30-7:00 p.m. (supper provided)
FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
Dr. Pat Korrell, 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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Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.
KING BAPTIST
Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY BAPTIST
Royce T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK BAPTIST
Pastor Matthew Hamilton; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings: Choir at 5:30 p.m., Children & Youth Activities, Adult Bible Study at 6:15 p.m.
MOUNTAIN BAPTIST
Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m.,

Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.
OSAGE BAPTIST
Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
2082 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m.
PECAN GROVE BAPTIST
6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PIDCOKE BAPTIST
Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST
Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL
One mile north of Evant, Hwy. 281; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PURMELA BAPTIST
Pastor: Brenden Hough; 875 FM 932, Purmela, TX 76566; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
SWEET HOME BAPTIST
511 N. 14th, Gatesville; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday worship 7 p.m.
SPANISH BAPTIST
Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
TRINITY BAPTIST
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor; 1506 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday - activities for adults, youth, & children 6:30 p.m.; 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.
TURNERSVILLE BAPTIST
Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.
WESTVIEW BAPTIST
Pastor: Malachi Houser; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
WHITE HALL BAPTIST
Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.
WHITE MOUND BAPTIST
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
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Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
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Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W. Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST
4605 St. Hwy. 36 S., Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
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Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.
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2413 E. Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.
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1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove; Sundays - worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays - Bible Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.
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6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
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Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.
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Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry & C3 Student Ministry.
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Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901.
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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.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday Services 9 a.m.
THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.
PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE
Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826.
MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 514 N. 13th St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesdays Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday service, 7:30 p.m.
PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
REFORMED GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday services 10:45 a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.
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Max Gunn, pastor; 254-216-1537; 10 miles west of Gatesville on HWY 84; Sundays 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; Youth Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.
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Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise & Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-4076.

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037
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045
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060
Garage Sale

DOLLAR SALE Tues., 10/22 - Sat., 10/26. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. 00031057

Lampasas Courtyard Square Garage Sale
Sat. November 2, 2024 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Downtown Lampasas - Booths \$35
Call 512-556-5434 00031083

First Methodist Church Garage Sale. 2600 E. Main St. Oct. 18 & 19, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tons of items and something for everyone. Saturday also check out activities with the Harvest Festival. Bake Sale, Silent Auction, Kids Activities, Pumpkin Patch and more! 00031095

070
Land & Lots

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

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072
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JOE GARZA
11300 N. CENTRAL EXPWY STE 530
DALLAS, TX 75243

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF HELEN CASEY, DECEASED. CAUSE NO. 24-11041, COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. HELEN BRANCH FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 2ND DAY OF JULY 2024, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION - INTESTATE SAID HELEN CASEY, DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 21ST DAY OF OCTOBER 2024, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS.

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

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2024.

JENNIFER NEWTON
CORYELL COUNTY CLERK
CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: K. TALLEY

00031098
CAUSE NO. 24-11042

IN RE ESTATE OF
LAUREN MARIE LEIHGABER
DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT
CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Lauren Marie Leihgaber, Deceased, were issued on October 9, 2024, in Cause No. 24-11042, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: Montgomery William Ray Gillis.

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

c/o: Michael E. Bourland
Attorney at Law
Witt, McGregor, & Bourland, P.L.L.C.
8004 Woodway Drive, Suite 400
Waco, Texas 76712 00031099

099
Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS:
US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LB-RANCH SERIES V TRUST
-VS-
JOHN D. HOLMES, DECEASED; ELRA HOLMES, DECEASED; ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ALL UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

Cause No.: DC-24-56073
IN THE
52ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHN D. HOLMES
9740 FM 929
GATESVILLE, TX 76528

Defendant- GREETING

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock AM on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable 52ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Coryell County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gatesville, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 08/08/2024 in the above-entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: APPLICATION SEEKING COURT ORDER UNDER RULE 736 ALLOWING THE FORECLOSURE OF A LIEN UNDER TEX. CONST. ART. XVI SECTION 50(A)(6). as in more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gatesville, Texas, this 9th day of October 2024.

Attorney for Plaintiff or Petitioner
RICHARD E. ANDERSON
4920 WESTPORT DRIVE
THE COLONY TX 75056

Clerk of the Court:
Becky Moore, District Clerk
P.O. Box 4
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Coryell County, Texas
By: Kiesha Gajdica, Deputy 00031101

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS:
US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LB-RANCH SERIES V TRUST
-VS-
JOHN D HOLMES, DECEASED; ELRA HOLMES, DECEASED; ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ALL UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

Cause No: DC-24-56073
IN THE
52ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ELRA HOLMES
9740 FM 929
GATESVILLE, TX 76528

Defendant - GREETING

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock AM on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable 52ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Coryell County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gatesville, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 08/08/2024 in the above-entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suite is as follows, to wit: APPLICATION SEEKING COURT ORDER UNDER RULE 736 ALLOWING THE FORECLOSURE OF A LIEN UNDER TEX. CONST. ART. XVI SECTION 50(A)(6). as in more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gatesville, Texas, this 9th day of October 2024.

Attorney for Plaintiff or Petitioner
RICHARD E. ANDERSON
4920 WESTPORT DRIVE
THE COLONY TX 75056

Clerk of the Court:
Becky Moore, District Clerk
P.O. Box 4
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Coryell County, Texas

By: Kiesha Gajdica, Deputy 00031100

NOW HIRING

- RN - FT & PRN: all shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
- LVN - FT & PRN: all shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
- Physical Therapist Assistant - FT & PRN
- Transportation Assistant - PRN
- COTA - FT
- CNA/NA - FT All Shifts
- CMA - FT Day Shift

****Full time sign on bonus may be available with one year commitment for specific area's lvns, cmas, cnas BENEFITS OFFERED:**
Competitive compensation • Paid Vacation • Sick time accrual • Matching 457B investments Tuition Reimbursement • Health, Dental, Life and Supplemental Insurances. EOE.

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

Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org

NOW HIRING



MED/ SURG:
• RN or LVN - Day & Night shifts available

ASSISTED/INDEPENDENT LIVING:
• CNA - FT & PRN
MEDICAL CLINIC:
• LVN
• CMA
MEDICAL CLINIC MILLS CO.:
• LVN FT
• CCMA FT
MEDICAL CLINIC MCGREGOR:
• Registration Clerk FT
• LVN FT
MEDICAL CLINIC COPPERAS COVE:
• LVN FT
• CCMA FT
MEDICAL CLINIC WACO:
• CCMA FT
• LVN FT
CULINARY:
• Patient Dining Associate
DIALYSIS:
• Charge Nurse RN
EMS:
• Paramedic - FT & PRN

• EMT - PRN
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:
• RN - FT & PRN, all shifts
HOME HEALTH:
• RN - FT
• Primary Care Attendant
ICU:
• RN - PRN, all shifts
LAB:
• Point of Care Assistant - FT
• MLT Part Time or PRN
MAINTENANCE:
• Landscaper - FT or PT
RADIOLOGY:
• CT/X-Ray Tech - PRN; TDH
MRT & ARRT W/1 yr. exp. in CT/X-Ray
SURGERY:
• Nurse Liaison/Surgery Scheduler
• Certified Scrub Tech FT
• General Surgery Circulating RN
• Certified Central Sterilization Technician PRN

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

BENEFITS OFFERED:
• Matching 457B investments
• Health, Dental, Life and supplemental Insurances
• Competitive compensation
• Paid Vacation & Sick Leave
• Tuition Reimbursement
EOE.

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

Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org

045
Services

CORNERSTONE EXCAVATION, LLC: Building Pads, Driveways, Land Clearing, Pond Construction/Repairs, Dirt/Gravel Hauling. FREE ESTIMATES! Micah Parrish, owner: 254-258-3943/mp82.010@gmail.com. "Behold, I am laying Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 1 Peter 2:6 00031037

045
Services

Dry Creek Trash Service
Weekly Pickup and Roll-off container rentals
Ofc. (254) 463-4988
Cell (254) 206-1512
drycreektrashservice.com
00031065

FERGUSON ROOFING:
Locally owned company serving all Central Texas area. Commercial and Residential. Free Estimates!
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Need to Place a Classified Ad?

Call 865-5212
116 S. 6th Street
Gatesville, TX
(on the square)



24th annual Boozaar to be held downtown Oct. 26

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The City of Gatesville's 24th annual Boozaar will be held Saturday, Oct. 26, from 6 - 8 p.m. on the Coryell County Courthouse Square.

For more than 20 years, the event has provided Gatesville with a safe and free, family-friendly Hallow-

een experience.

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

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 down-

town 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.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Oct. 9 - 15. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Oct. 9
9:39 a.m., a gas drive-off was reported in the 3300 block of E. Main Street.
12:06 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of S. 36th Street.
5:43 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1000 block of FM 1783.
9:15 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of Waco Street.

Oct. 10
10:52 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.
3:19 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
5:10 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of S. State Highway 36 Bypass.
9:47 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of FM 116.

Oct. 11
8:13 a.m., a prowler was reported in the 400 block of

N. 14th Street.
11:05 a.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of State School Road.
12:09 p.m., harassment was reported in the 500 block of Straws Mill Road.
7:58 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Old Waco Road.

Oct. 12
10:45 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
3:17 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 27th Street,
7:03 p.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of River Place West.
7:33 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1600 block of E. Main Street.

Oct. 13
12:09 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 3100 block of S. State Highway 36.
2:17 a.m., an assault was reported in the 400 block of N. 14th Street.
3:02 p.m., criminal

trespass was reported in the 2000 block of E. Main Street.
10:26 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Kim Street.

Oct. 14
12:02 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 29th Street.
1:53 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
5:32 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of FM 107.
6:48 p.m., harassment was reported in the 200 block of Old Osage Road.

Oct. 15
1:50 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2400 block of Bridge Street.
8:12 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 100 block of N. 28th Street.
11:49 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.
4:33 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 10,000 block of E. Highway 84.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Oct. 9
11:59 a.m., a grass fire was reported in the 3200 block of FM 107.
12:27 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2300 block of Bufflehead Drive.
2:59 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Linda's Lane.
3:11 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1400 block of E. Main Street.

Oct. 10
10:37 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 200 block of Julia Drive.
10:40 a.m., an assault was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
7:15 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2700 block of Willow Loop.
11:04 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of Winter Road.

Oct. 11
8:54 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1241 and County Road 423.

10:04 a.m., a theft was reported in the 800 block of Blue Stem Drive.
10:37 a.m., harassment was reported in the 800 block of Cactus Lane.
10:39 a.m., a grass fire was reported on N. Highway 36 and Henson Creek.

Oct. 12
7:46 a.m., animal (pet) found on FM 1690 and Blakely Road.
8:01 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 100 block of Legend Oaks.
5:19 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 300 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
7:25 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 1500 block of Oak Springs Road.

Oct. 13
7:42 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107 at CR 315.
8:19 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 2300 block of County Road 147.
4:06 p.m., an assault was reported in the 400 block of N. 14th Street.

Oct. 14
6:36 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Boone Avenue.
8:38 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1996 and County Road 308.
11 p.m., a welfare concern was reported on College Avenue.
11:52 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 300 block of River Oaks Drive.

Oct. 15
9:11 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 900 block of County Road 130.
12:20 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 8500 block of W. Highway 84.
4:36 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported on E. Highway 84 Westbound.
9:01 p.m., an injured animal was reported in the 8500 block of FM 182.

CLASSIFIEDS

099 Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Gatesville, in the Regular Meeting held on October 8, 2024 did pass and approve on the third and final reading the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-10:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GATESVILLE, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GATESVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 54-6. SCHOOL ZONES; DESIGNATING SCHOOL ZONES; ESTABLISHING THE PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT; AMENDING EFFECTIVE TIME PERIODS; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY OF A FINE NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED (\$200.00) DOLLARS FOR EACH OFFENSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Holly Owens
City Secretary

00031103

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Cynthia L. East Shipp, Deceased, were issued on October 10, 2024, in Cause No. 24-11066, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Kathy Dorman.

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

c/o: Kathy Dorman
929 Acorn Oaks Dr.
Austin, Texas 78745

DATED the 15 day of October, 2024.

Chuck P. Stermer
Attorney for Kathy Dorman
State Bar No.: 24094964
619 E. Main St.
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-6003
Facsimile: (254) 323-0070
Email: chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lyle Howard Spear, Deceased, were issued on October 11, 2024 in Cause No. 24-11033 pending in the County Court at Law; Coryell County, Texas, to:

Pamela K. Johnson-Weller.

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

Pamela K. Johnson-Weller c/o Ted Smith Law Group, PLLC, 660 W. FM 2410 Harker Heights, TX 76548

DATED THE 11th day of October 2024, Ted Smith, State Bar No.: 18753800.

00031105

099 Public Notices

099 Public Notices

102 Real Estate

102 Real Estate



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

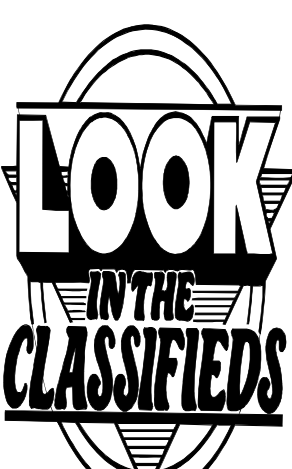
BROKER:
Calvin Burks
Bus. 254-471-5738
Cell 254-865-3601

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

To see all listings: www.burksrealestate.com

- 117 N. Rice St., Hamilton, TX, Rustic Lantern, over 7,000 sq ft, 2 stories w/ 2 staircases, kitchen area, old safe, great commercial property. \$432,000
- 520 N Rice St., Hamilton, TX. Commercial building, over 7,200 sq ft of space, two large spaces on the first floor, commercial kitchen, second story has several rooms with four full baths. \$599,000
- 3 Br 2 Ba home, 202 Liberty St., Gatesville, TX, laminate wood flooring, vaulted ceiling, fireplace, large backyard, storage shed, 2-car garage. \$275,000
- 1.603 ac., 204 ft. of Hwy 281 frontage & 300 ft. of frontage on Bell St. great location for a convenience store, strip center or any retail business. \$369,000
- 8.01 ac. Lot 54 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$150,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 44 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision. Electric & fiber optic internet service. OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE. \$125,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 39 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. Good tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet service. \$123,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 63 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, season creek, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$116,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 53 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet \$167,000
- 10.182 ac. Lot 14 Ph 3 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Langford Branch, good tree coverage, rolling terrain. Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$239,900
- 10.697 ac. Lot 9 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, seasonal branch, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$122,500
- 10.85 ac. Lot 9 Ph 5, Flint Rock Court, Evant, TX, Rio Escondido Subdivision, good tree cover, electric & fiber optic internet, gated subdivision \$119,000
- 15 ac. East of Evant, Bear Branch Rd, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across road, will need to drill water well for water. \$150,000
- 16.5 ac. Turnersville, open pasture, good views, paved CR 220. electricity across road, check w/ Coryell City Water on availability of water meter. \$206,500
- 18.1 ac. south of Evant, near Adamsville, Lampasas County, Hwy 281 & CR 2830. water well, electricity, carport, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$360,000
- 20 ac. Lot 23 Ph 1, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric available, Fiber Optic Internet \$215,000
- 20.08 ac. Lots 10 & 11 Ph 5 Rio Escondido Subdivision. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric & Fiber Optic Internet Service. \$238,000
- 24.437 ac. NW of Purnela, Tract 3 CR 182, rolling terrain, good tree cover, paved country road frontage, electricity across the road. \$205,000
- 24.98 ac. 350 Cold Road Evant, stock tank, small creek, two outbuilding, good tree cover, rolling terrain, multi-county water, septic, & electricity. \$350,000
- 25.06 ac. Pottsville, TX Lot 31 Paloma Vista Subdivision. rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, great views. electricity available. \$225,000
- 33.912 ac. near Coryell City, Coryell County, FM 929 & CR 260 frontage, rolling terrain, good views. \$275,000
- 47.332 ac. South of Ireland, TX. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, good fencing on 3 sides, southside will need to be fenced. \$350,000
- 68.9 ac. 3/2.5 rock home, 101 Mac Dr., Gatesville, approx. 2900 ft Leon River frontage, ceramic tile floors, carpet in bedrooms, vaulted ceiling, rock fireplace, granite countertops, breakfast bar, garden tub, metal building 45x24' barn, cattle pens, 1 tank, approx. 48 ac of coastal. \$1,249,500
- 129.81 ac. Purnela, TX, Coryell County, heavy tree cover, rolling terrain, one stock tank, Honey Creek, fenced on three sides, deeded access easement. \$975,000
- 210 ac. Carlton, Comanche County, Resley Creek frontage, water well, electric, cattle pens, 2 tanks, good tree cover, 48 ac. improved grass, good fences. \$1,450,000
- 620 ac. 3 Br 2 Ba home, fireplace, ceramic tile floors, covered outdoor cooking patio, 38 ft X 25 ft. building. 2 lakes, one being approx. 10 acres and the other one just under 5 acres and 3 smaller stock tanks, approx. 8500 ft of Bee Creek running through the property with 20 ft to 40 ft limestone bluffs along the creek, good rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$6,200,000

Ad1



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“MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT”

Bookstore at Coryell Museum

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Over the years, even dating back to Gatesville’s early days, bookstores in the community have come and gone...mostly gone. During the computer age, and with the creation of such devices known as Kindles, eReaders, tablets, and e-books, the need for bookstores has declined. Believe it or not, Gatesville does have a small bookstore located in the gift shop at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

The bookstore serves as a treasure trove of knowledge, offering museum visitors the opportunity to examine books that complement the museum’s exhibitions and themes.

There are approximately 100 books written by local authors or authors delving into the history of Texas. In addition to books by local

authors, there is a large selection of books penned by historians further connecting the museum to surrounding communities and showcasing regional talent.

The books in topic range from historical fiction, family cookbooks, military history, family histories, law enforcement, Texas history, and a great deal of local history books.

Beyond its role as a retail space, the Coryell Museum also serves as a gathering place for book signings, author talks, club meetings, and other literary events.

Whether patrons of the museum are seeking to expand their knowledge, support local authors, or simply enjoy a quiet moment surrounded by interesting books, the bookstore at the Coryell Museum gift shop offers a unique and

enriching experience that is not to be missed.

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

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The bookstore located inside the Coryell Museum and Historical Center’s gift shop.

RECIPE

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

HOPPIN’ JOHN

BY JEANETTE SHEPHERD

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 3 c. cooked rice | 1 T. vegetable oil |
| 1 pkg. blackeye peas | |
| 1 c. chopped celery | In large skillet, sauté celery, onions, and garlic in oil. |
| 3 ½ c. chicken broth | Place celery mixture, frozen peas, chicken broth, ham, and bay leaf in a Dutch oven. Bring to a boil. Boil for 3 minutes, reduce heat, |
| 1 c. chopped onion | |
| ½ lb. cooked ham, cubed | |
| 1 clove garlic, minced | |
| 1 bay leaf | |

cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Additional water may be needed during cooking. Remove bay leaf. Serve over hot cooked rice.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Business Directory

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OGLETREE GAP HERITAGE FESTIVAL

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Ogletree Gap Heritage Festival was recently held at the Ogletree Gap Park located in Coryell County near Copperas Cove. The festival, which began in 1984, was presented by the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce until 2008. The Copperas Cove Historical Society later brought back the festival, which included historical demonstrations in and around the old stagecoach stop and post office located in the park. The stagecoach stop, which is honored with a state historical marker, is noted as one of the oldest buildings in the Copperas Cove area. The solitary, two-room structure was built of stone by Marsden Ogletree in 1878.



Gatesville City Library remains closed as more damage is discovered

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

On Sept. 12, Gatesville City Manager Brad Hunt released a press release, which stated that the Gatesville Public Library would be temporarily closed for maintenance concerns.

In the press release, Hunt explained that a patron advised staff of apparent water damage to two books found on shelves. That discovery, along with some small areas of water damage found on some sheet rock, equated to an urgent maintenance issue and caused the temporary closure of the library.

Librarian Director Shea Harp said, "We first started noticing the leaking and we moved all the books out of the way, cleaned everything up and made sure the books were dry, and threw away books that couldn't be

salvaged."

At the Sept. 24 city council meeting, Hunt said that Lone Star Mold Testing Company (contracted by the City of Gatesville) conducted mold testing, including air testing, to determine whether mold was an issue related to the known water damage. Lone Star's air quality and other testing parameters listed in their report indicated that the library remains free of unacceptable levels of mold, and less costly and time-consuming means of abatement than would otherwise be required for "black mold" are acceptable.

Hunt continued, "Accordingly, we are taking steps to inspect all books and materials, clean all surfaces, and abate the known issues at the library. We will inspect each item prior to

restocking, as well as clean or replace all the furniture and fixtures in the building itself. Our intent is to reopen safely for limited services, at an alternate location to be announced, as soon as possible."

Concerning the financial impact on the library, Hunt said, "The total estimated assets in the Gatesville Library are valued at over \$800,000. Our preliminary estimate of loss due to damage is at about 10%." Hunt said that the cost for rehabilitation would be approximately \$250,000.

"The public needs their library back as soon as possible. We continue to work diligently on the library issues. In the past week, we have met with contractors and are working on a remediation plan and a cost estimate for repairs, as well as a timeline for re-opening

partial services for the library," Hunt said.

During the Oct. 8th city council meeting, it was reported by financial supervisor Mike Halsema that contractors visited the library for a second time and noticed that the bookshelves needed to be replaced, which also raised the proposal to another \$50,000. "It will be a lot of labor to remove, and what that will entail is the contractors will actually sub that out to a sub-contractor," he said.

The city manager said, "Remediation and the rehabilitation are two different projects, and you want to do it in the right order, so you don't put things back in an environment that is still not ideal in terms of humidity and with existing spores of mold and the temperature. It is a big puzzle at

this point."

The recommendation was to take the shelves out of the building because the environment is still not conducive for preventing mold, and, if the shelves were put back where they first were, it might grow more mold on the shelves, according to Hunt.

As of Oct. 16th, Hunt said that librarian Shea Harp reported, "These past few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity with preparing the library for contractors to come in. Library employees have finished their initial inspection of all materials in the building and have moved the passing books to their new location at the Public Works department."

Harp continued, "On Oct. 10th, the city rented a U-Haul to transport materials with the help of the Public

Works, Parks and Recreation, Building, and Civic Center departments - this was able to be completed in three days."

Harp said that several thousands of books had been damaged by the water leak and mold.

"The library is now focused on marking the damaged books in the system and moving them to their temporary offices in City Hall. Details on the new library location will come once they have moved in and have had a chance to get situated," Harp said.

It has been reported that the most heavily damaged area of the library included the children's section and the genealogy room. It was also reported that the library restoration and re-opening would be pushed to the early months of 2025.

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Standford brothers are making an impact

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

The Evant football team got a major boost heading into the 2024 season when Cash and Cooper Stanford moved into the district and joined the Elk's football team.

The Stanford brothers transferred to Evant from Aquilla High School and are the grandsons of former Evant football coach Benny Weaver.

Their mother is Benja Stanford, who recently accepted the position of girls basketball coach at EHS, and coach Brandon Young said Stanford brothers have made an immediate impact.

"Cash and Cooper bring football knowledge to the program," Young said. "They bring leadership development for the younger guys. Even though Cooper is a freshman, he brings that program mentality."

While the Stanford brothers certainly have many similarities, including their approaches to the game, there are also some differences.

Young said that Cash is quiet and tends to keep to himself.

"He will ask a lot of questions because he hates to be wrong or be unsure of something," Young said.

On the flip side, Cooper is "loud and expressive," and tends to "put himself out

there" a little more.

"Both are competitors and hate to lose," Young said. "Their work ethic and love for sports in general is the same."

Cash, 17, said there has been an adjustment period for him and his younger brother as they get used to a different environment, but said they both enjoy their new school and said he wants to be the sort of player who inspires his teammates.

"I do my best to bring motivation and leadership to the team," Cash said. "As the person with the most experience on the team, I do my best to pass on what I have learned and bring it to the team."

Coming from the sports pedigree that he and his brother do, Cash said he does feel a responsibility to uphold the family tradition at times.

"Sometimes, I do feel pressured due to the fact that my whole family has played sports from when they were little to when they were in college," Cash said. "So, it feels like they expect a lot from me."

The Evant center, who also competes in powerlifting and track and field, said that having coach Weaver as his grandfather has also helped him in his game.

"My favorite memory with my grandpa was when I

was a freshman still playing at Aquilla," Cash said. "My grandpa would come over and teach me how to fix my stances and snaps while also talking about how he coached back in the day."

Cooper, 14, has also experienced Weaver's presence. "He was on the sideline and was coaching everybody and came onto the field even though he is not even coaching," Cooper said.

The Evant guard and defensive lineman, who also plays basketball, said his objective for this season involves accomplishing one task.

"As a team, I would like to make playoffs," Cooper said. "And myself, I don't really have any other goals but making the playoffs."

Young said the Stanford brothers provide a positive influence for the Evant football program and said he is optimistic about what the future holds in store.

"I think they have fit in well with the boys that came back from last year's team and with the freshmen coming up," Young said. "Several of the other kids like to hang out at their house in town. I can tell the level of interest in the game among the underclassmen has stayed the course throughout. Now, if we can start piecing it together, we can grow the program."



COURTESY PHOTO

Brothers Cash and Cooper Stanford are said to bring leadership development to Evant ISD football program's younger athletes.

HONORARY FIRE FIGHTERS



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby Independent School District elementary students were recently visited by the Oglesby Volunteer Fire Department. Each student was able to experience riding in the fire truck and received a fire hat. The students also enjoyed using the water hose to put out a fake fire and learned about the equipment used by the volunteer firefighters.

Gatesville Hornets drop district opener to La Vega

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Rayshon Smith ran for 158 yards, and the Hornets' defense turned in a valiant effort in a 35-14 loss to the La Vega Pirates on Oct. 18.

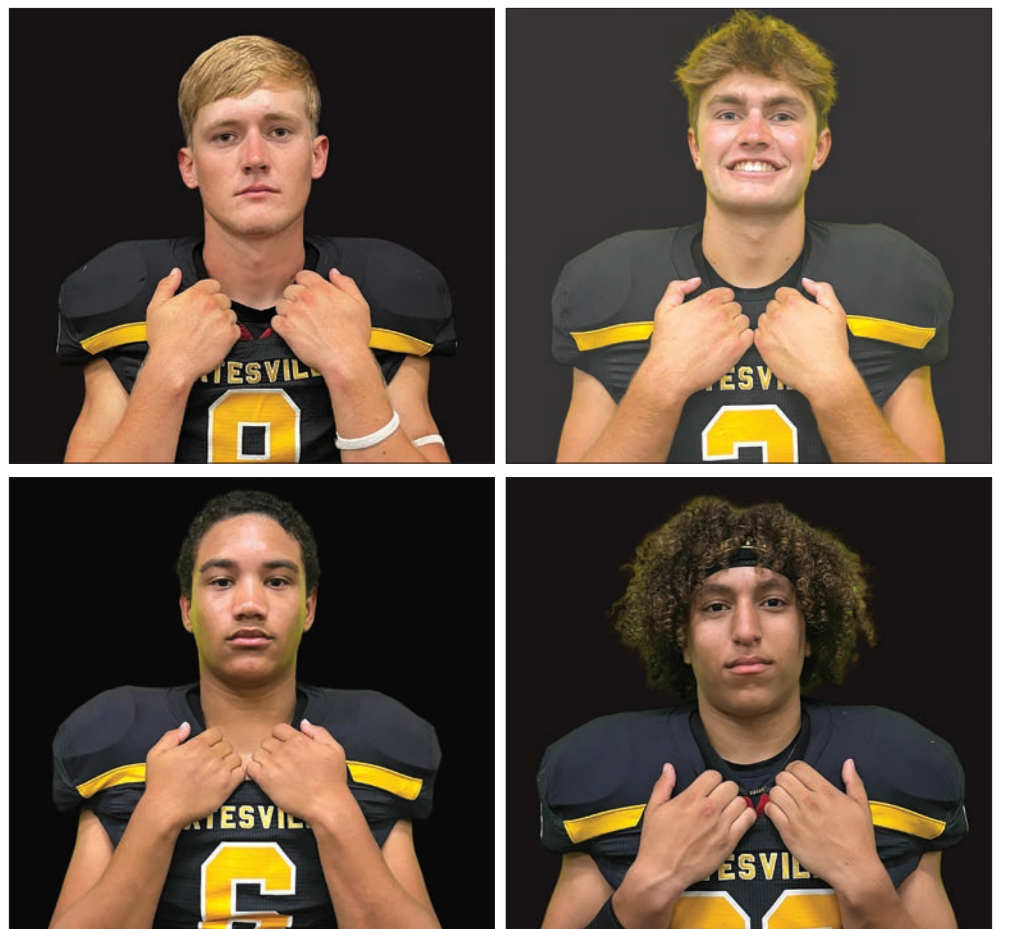
La Vega scored on their first two possessions of the game to take a 14-0 lead

less than five minutes into the game and create the appearance that the night was headed for a blowout. But the Gatesville defense dug in and played the Pirates to a near-stalemate the rest of the way.

The Pirates were shut

out for the next quarter-and-a-half before upping their lead to 21-0 midway through the third. The Hornets got on the board on the following possession when Gehrig Keeton found Dutch

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | B2



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Hornet standouts from last week's game include (from left) top row: Dutch Nielsen and Greyson Egeling; bottom row: Kamren Hendrix and Zavier Clater.

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Evant cross country takes on district meet

Staff Reports

The Evant High School and Junior High cross-country teams recently competed at the district 25-A meet this past week.

HIGH SCHOOL:
Luwi Rodriguez placed

12th with a time of 18:22. Hailey Neri placed 22nd with a time of 20:47.

JUNIOR HIGH:
Paige Thomas medaled and placed fifth with a time of 16:40.
Octavio Cardoso medaled

and placed third with a time of 15:42.

Lance Thomas placed 14th with a time of 18:00. David McMullen placed 17th with a time of 18:50. Travis Leighton placed 31st with a time of 26:40.

Mother Neff State Park to host "Fall Fest"

Submitted item

Mother Neff State Park Association will host a "Fall Fest" at the park on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Vendors and events will include the Leon River Dutch Oven Gang who will be demonstrating from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; CCC Legacy Chapter 123; Space

X; Central Texas Master Naturalists; McGregor Garden Club; Williamson County Juvenile Services; Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club; San Antonio Radio Club - Parks on the Air; Geocaching; Storybook Trail; children's crafts and activities; All Things Wild Wildlife Rehab; State Park LE Recruitment Team; Smokey Bear with Texas Forest

Service; HEB Buddy; Bud's Lemonade; Cupcake Avenue from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; and the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

Admission is free during the Fall Fest. For more information, call 254-853-2389. Mother Neff State Park is located at 1921 Park Rd. 14 in southeastern Coryell County.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby cross country medalists are pictured at the district meet held on Friday, Oct. 11.

VARSITY EAGLE CROSS COUNTRY NAMED DISTRICT CHAMPS



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro High School's girls' and boys' varsity cross country teams recently competed in their district meet where they each won district champions over the entire meet. The top finishers for the varsity girls were Lynlee Deats, 1st place; Madison Manning, 4th place; and Ella Gustin, 8th place. The top finishers for the varsity boys were Gavin Schwab, 6th place and Will Featherston, 9th place. The junior high team had two competitors at the meet as well. Landree Deats was named the champion of the girls meet, and Heiler Martinez won 4th place in the boys meet. The varsity runners are pictured after receiving their medals and being named district champions.

Oglesby cross country claw their way to regionals

Staff Reports

The Oglesby High School and Junior High girls' and boys' cross-country teams competed at their district meet on Friday, Oct. 11, where many of the runners qualified for regionals.

VARSAITY GIRLS
Caitlyn Battreal won third place and qualified for regionals, and Madison Smith won 14th place.

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS
Gracee Isaacks won first place, and Emma Sanchez won second place.

VARSAITY BOYS
David Mejia won second place and qualified for regionals, Couper Wulfkuhle won fourth place and quali-

fied for regionals, Gunner Riley won eighth place and qualified for regionals, and Rolando Gonzalez won 10th place and qualified for regionals.

JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS
The junior high girls won second place as a team. Vicky Mejia won fourth place, Malorie Renner won ninth place, Abigail Insall won 12th place, Adelyn Gomez won 17th place, Daycee Robles won 18th place, and Keelyn Riley won 22nd place.

JUNIOR HIGH BOYS
Rancher Jeffcoat won 18th place, and Caiden Brinkley won 21st place. Each regional qualifier will travel to Corpus Christi for the regional meet.



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HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

Nielsen for a 20-yard touchdown catch cutting the lead to 21-7.

After the Pirates scored again to take a 28-7 lead, Gatesville took advantage of a big kickoff return from freshman Grady Keeton and started their next drive in Pirates territory. On the first play of the drive, Smith rumbled 47 yards down to the La Vega one-yard line then punched in his 12th rushing touchdown of the season on the next play.

For Smith, it was his 12th straight 100-yard rushing effort dating back to last season. The last time the senior star didn't rush for at least 100 yards was in week six of the 2023 season when he tallied 71 yards in a win over Mineral Wells.

The three-year letterman needs 102 total rushing yards over the remaining

games to hit the 4,000-yard mark for his career.

The Hornets defense continued to battle late in the fourth quarter picking up a goal-line stop with 6:30 to go to keep it a two-score game. On second-and-goal, seniors Brayden Mills and Kamren Hendrix combined stop Bryson Roland at the goal line. On third down, a gang of Hornets dropped Roland for a loss; then Hendrix and Zavier Clater sacked Kourtney Parr and forced a fumble.

Hendrix played his best game of the season picking up 12 tackles, including five for a loss. He also had a pair of sacks. Amos Phillips led the team in tackles with 15 (nine solo and six assisted), while Greyson Eggeled had ten tackles and a sack.

Clater had two tackles for a loss, while Kaden Coff-

man also had one sack in the game; and, West Allman picked up the game's only interception on the final play of the first half.

The Hornets defense allowed 148 yards rushing in the game and is giving up just 74.5 yards rushing on the season.

Offensively, Keeton connected with four different receivers in the game. Phillips caught six balls for 67 yards. His final catch of the night was a 26-yard one-handed reception that left the Hornet ball boys in disbelief on the sidelines. Nielsen had one catch for a score, while Smith and Clark Allman each had one catch.

The Hornets played host to Lorena on Oct. 17 and will travel to China Spring for their first district road contest on Oct. 24.

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SPORTS Roundup

EVERETT MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Jonesboro Eagles (huddled) took on the Oglesby Tigers volleyball for a 3-0 victory.

It's been a good week for local athletes

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

GATESVILLE BOYS' WIN DISTRICT MEET

The Gatesville boys cross country team won the district 23-4A meet this past week, just edging out second place Robinson by one point.

Jack Armstrong was the top runner for the Hornets with a time of 16:40.90, good enough for second place overall individually.

Cameron Thompson finished sixth overall at the meet with a time of 16:56.80, while Justin Muegge took seventh place with a time of 17:17.10.

Charles McLeod finished 12th overall at the meet with a time of 17:46.50, and Roman Wallace finished 17th with a time of 18:43.10.

Malachi Olvera (18:54.00) and Mason Emigh (19:03.60) both finished in the top 25 at the district meet as well.

On the girls' side, Gatesville finished third place overall at the same meet.

Vania Martinez (12:28.10) was the top runner on the

girls' side, finishing fourth overall individually, and Riley Higginbotham finished eighth overall with a time of 12:40.60.

MariaJose Martinez Jaramillo also finished in the top 25 with a time of 14:12.80.

OGLESBY OPENS UP DISTRICT WITH VICTORY

The Tigers won their district opener in unusual fashion on Friday night, defeating Mullin by a score of 42-0 to improve their season record to 5-2 overall.

Coach Jeb Dixon said that the contest was unlike any other he had ever been a part of in his career.

"I've honestly never been in a game like the Mullin game," Dixon said. "They were short on numbers, and they forfeited toward the end of the first quarter because of too many injuries. We were up 42-0 at the time."

Dixon said, with the victory over Mullin on Friday night, he feels the non-district schedule definitely served its purpose.

"I believe the pre-district schedule prepared us well," Dixon said.

Oglesby will play at 7 p.m. on Oct. 18, at Cranfills Gap, and Dixon said it could be a similar game to the one the Tigers just played.

"Gap has been facing the same thing as Mullin—low numbers and the injury bug," Dixon said.

MCGILVRAY SHINES FOR EVANT

The Evant football team came up short against Mount Calm this past week, losing by a score of 77-42 to the Panthers.

But the Elks had a couple of strong efforts in the game, including from running back Cam McGilvray, who rushed for 235 yards on 35 carries.

"That's coming off of a 400-yard plus game last week," coach Brandon Young said. "Edgar Dominguez had two catches for 65 yards and 2 touchdowns."

Evant will play Mullin this coming week, and Young said it should be a good contest, and his team

will not take anything for granted.

"We will have to treat it like any other game," Young said. "They have some injuries, but that won't change how we prepare. Our kids are playing hard right now and starting to figure out our potential when healthy. The great thing about this week is that we are 0-0, and anything can happen if we continue to work our tails off."

EVANT VOLLEYBALL TEAM OPENS DISTRICT ON HIGH NOTE

The Lady Elks volleyball team defeated Oglesby in their district opener, 25-16, 25-19, 25-10 last week.

Standout performances in the game for Evant include the following:

Harley Weeks - 14 points, three aces, seven digs, 28 assists, four kills

Hailey Neri - five points, one ace, eight digs, assists, kills, blocks

Molly Waldrum - three points, three aces, 11 digs, 19 kills

Bree Ramirez - eight points, eight aces, 14 digs,

four assists, six kills

Luwi Rodriguez - seven points, seven aces, 14 digs, one assist, four kills

Izzy Gandy - three points, three aces, seven digs, one assist, 10 kills

JONESBORO BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS WIN DISTRICT

The Jonesboro boys and girls cross country teams won district championships this past week with Lynlee Deats (14:30.44), claiming an individual district championship on the girls' side.

Madison Manning finished fourth overall with a time of 16:31.30, and Ella Gustin was eighth with a time of 17:46.24.

Adalya Andrade, Paige Glenn, Kylee Gould, and Leonella Rodriguez rounded out the squad that lifted the Eagles girls team to victory.

On the boy's side, Schwab Gavin (22:04.94) was the top runner with Will Featherston also finishing in the top 10 with a time of 23:11.86.

Alex Van Patten, AJ Dinkleman, Camden Christel, and

Hunter Beaty rounded out the district championship team.

EAGLES DEFEAT MIAMI IN AFTERNOON CONTEST

The Jonesboro football team improved to 6-1 on Saturday afternoon with a 58-13 victory over Miami High School in the pan-handle.

Coach Eddie Gallegos said it was a good win and a great experience for his players.

"I thought we handled the overnight trip and Saturday noon kickoff well," Gallegos said. "We weren't as clean as we would like but played fast and physical after a couple of drives. We were just happy and thankful we had the opportunity to play this week. Miami High School and their community were great hosts. A lot of our kids and staff had not been to that part of the state."

The Eagles will be in their bye this week and will play Lometa at 7 p.m. on Oct. 25.

Oglesby JV football team defeats Eagle Christian, 38-19

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior Varsity (JV) Red and JV White teams combined to one team, beating the Eagle Christian Eagles, 38-19, Thursday, Oct. 10, during a home game at Oglesby.

The Tigers wasted no time in putting points on the scoreboard. Callen Webb took the second handoff 41 yards to pay dirt. Webb added another four-yard touchdown, had 11 carries for 88 yards, and

two rushing touchdowns. Webb was also 3/4 in passing including an 18-yard touchdown pass to Trey Linder.

Keegan Redford had four carries for eight yards, including a three-yard

touchdown run. Camden Webb was 2/4 in passing and had one 46-yard touchdown pass to Jayce Aaron. Webb also caught one 11-yard pass. Jaxon Botkin had one 22-yard reception to the one-yard line. Tucker

Melton was 2/3 on point-after-touchdown (PAT) kicks for four points.

DEFENSIVELY FOR TIGERS

Jayce Aaron had nine tackles and one for a 10-yard loss. Blayze Fisher had five tackles. Camden Webb

had four tackles. Callen Webb had four tackles. Javon Howard had two tackles. Paydon Garrett had one tackle. Jacob Taylor had one tackle. Keegan Redford had one tackle. Gunner Riley had one tackle.

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RICKEY PHILLIPS

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FALL SPORT UPDATES

Cross Country: GHS heads east Monday to compete in the UIL 4A-Region III championships. Regional trips have been pretty commonplace for Hornet XC teams - the girls are making that trip for the 11th consecutive year, while the boys are making their 18th regional appearance since 2000 (eighth in a row).

Football: ESPN is known for showing highlight plays from football games played across the country. Well, Amos Phillips (no kin unfortunately) made an unbelievable one-handed grab at the recent loss to La Vega that would deserve consideration. The junior was tight roping the sideline and had a defender tugging his other arm, but he still had the concentration and skill to snatch the well-thrown ball from QB Gehrig Keeton.

Volleyball: Vania Martinez does a great job of patrolling the back row. The senior four-sport athlete plays libero for GHS, and she has turned in quite a few nifty performances in helping the Hornets surpass the 20-win mark earlier in the season. Besides being among the team leaders in digs and pass percentage, she has also served an outstanding 95% clip with 22 aces this season.

Winter sports: It's been fun watching pre-season workouts for girls basketball, boys basketball and wrestling. Now, some three months into the school year, the athletes in those gyms are anxiously awaiting the chance to go up against some new faces. Coach W. Holdbrook, Coach B. Campbell and Coach R. Clater Jr., and their athletes, are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to go against someone else. Girls basketball opens the season Nov. 8, vs. Groesbeck. Boys basketball tips off Nov. 12, at Glen Rose, and wrestling makes its debut Nov. 13, at Liberty Hill.

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One of the things we constantly stress to our athletes is to "be a great student first, take care of your business in the classroom."

Our coaches do a tremendous job of monitoring this, and I can't say enough about our teaching staff that goes above and beyond

when it comes to helping students succeed. That being said, the first nine-week academic grade check is in, and GHS student-athletes registered a 95% passing rate. There are well over 400 students participating in athletics at the high school campus.

We are extremely proud of this effort from our athletes, many of whom are multi-sport or multi-activity, many have jobs, and numerous are taking college-level or advanced classes. They are busy to say the least.

NOTES AND DOTES

...Early announcement: We will be honoring the 2000 Hornet football team next season on the 25th anniversary of their class 4A state championship. Once a date is finalized, we will let everyone know so plans can be made.

...If you have not yet seen it, be sure to drive by Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium and check out the new signage on the back of the press box. Many thanks to First National Bank of Gatesville for providing that marquee, which will soon be lit at night as well. Along those lines, if your business is ever interested in any type of sponsorship, please let me know.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- Monday, Oct. 21**
Cross Country: Varsity girls-boys at 4A-Region III meet
Tennis: JV at Whitney
Volleyball: 7th-8th A-B at China Spring
- Tuesday, Oct. 22**
Volleyball: Varsity-JV-9th here vs. Robinson
- Thursday, Oct. 24**
Football: JV White, JV Gold, JV Black here vs. China Spring
Football: 7th-8th A-B at China Spring
Tennis: 7th-8th at Brownwood
- Friday, Oct. 25**
Football: Varsity at China Spring
Volleyball: Varsity-JV-9th at China Spring
Saturday, Oct. 26
Girls Basketball: Varsity-JV scrimmage here vs. Waco University and GHS Alumni Game

HORNET FIGHT NEVER DIES!
Gatesville Hornet Athletics on Facebook, FightinHornets on X, www.gatesvilleathletics.com

HALLOWEEN PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Gatesville Pickleball Club recently hosted a Halloween tournament at the Gatesville Civic Center. Players were asked to appear in costume for the event. The tournament was played inside the Civic Center where three pickleball courts were set up.

Tiger Varsity opens District with 42-0 win

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Varsity Tigers opened district play with a 42-0 win over the Mullin Bulldogs.

The Tigers started like wildfire, putting up 42 unanswered points in the first five minutes of the first quarter. Jakson Tippit took the handoff from the first play from scrimmage and dashed 45 yards for the first touchdown, while Alex Castillo added the point-after-touchdown (PAT) kick making the score 8-0, Oglesby.

Jakson Tippit, on the first defensive play, stripped the ball from the Mullin running back and dashed 40 yards for the second score of the night.

Castillo added the PAT, making the score 16-0, Oglesby.

The Tigers held on to defense as the Tigers took over offense, and Tyler Fossett took his firsthand off and went 45 yards untouched to the endzone. Castillo added a PAT kick, bringing the score 24-0, and Mullin took the ball on their 20-yard line after Castillo kicked the ball in the endzone. Mullin was unable to move the ball, and a penalty put them back to the five-yard line.

On their next play, Holdyn Goff tackled the Mullin quarterback in the end zone for a safety. Castillo added a PAT, making a score 26-0. The Bulldogs

kicked off, and Alex Castillo took the kickoff and ran it back 50 yards for the score and added a PAT, bringing the score 34-0, Oglesby. The Tigers held Mullin on their next series taking over, and Castillo pitched the ball to Fossett who weaved his way to the end zone for the final touchdown. Castillo added a PAT to bring the score 42-0, Oglesby.

Alex Castillo was perfect on the night on PAT's going 5/5 for 10 points. Castillo also added a 50-yard kickoff return for a touchdown for six additional points.

Jakson Tippit had one 45-yard offensive touchdown and one 40-yard

defensive touchdown, giving him 85 yards and two touchdowns for the game.

Kyler Fossett touched the ball twice during the game and scored on both occasions with two 45-yard touchdown runs, giving him a 90-yard total for the evening.

The top defensive performance for the evening were Jack Hendricks, Jakson Tippit, and Holdyn Goff.

Due to injuries to key Mullin players, the game was called with just under five minutes left in the first quarter.

The Tigers traveled to Cranfills Gap on Friday, Oct. 18, to play the Lions.

Oglesby JH open District with 38-18 win

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tiger Junior High football team opened the district play on Friday, Oct. 11, at home, beating the Mullin Bulldogs, 38-19.

Offensively for the Tigers, Liam Standridge had four carries for 42 yards. Standridge was 1/1 in passing and hitting Caiden Brinkley for a

five-yard touchdown pass. Standridge also scored one point-after-touchdown (PAT) run.

Hunter Insall was 3/4 in passing for 22 yards, with one touchdown pass and one PAT pass.

AJ Mafra had two catches for 20 yards, including a five-yard touchdown reception.

Caiden Brinkley had a 35-yard touchdown reception.

Rancher Jeffcoat had one touchdown reception of 15 yards.

Judson Marquez had two carries for eight yards.

Chayson Leverett had one carry for two yards.

Slayton Fisher caught one PAT.

DEFENSIVELY FOR TIGERS

Caiden Brinkley completed 12 tackles including a three for 30-yard loss. Liam Standridge had six tackles. AJ Mafra had two tackles. Rancher Jeffcoat had two tackles. Brody Martinez had one tackle. Hunter Insall had one tackle and one pick six interception.

Shorter days bring higher risk for pedestrians

Press Release

While fall and winter give Texans a much-needed reprieve from the summer heat, the change in seasons also brings fewer daylight hours, making it harder for drivers to see pedestrians and keep them safe.

October was the deadliest month for pedestrians last year, with 80 pedestrians dying in Texas traffic crashes. It was also the month that Lisa Torry Smith was killed in a crash in 2017 as she was walking her 6-year-old son to kindergarten in Missouri City. A motorist drove through a crosswalk, hitting Lisa and leaving her son with a broken leg and fractured pelvis—and without a mother.

A new law in her honor now requires drivers to stop and yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. Lisa's sister, Gina Torry, is now advocating for pedestrian safety.

Sadly, Lisa's story is just one of many. Over the last five years, pedestrian traffic fatalities in Texas increased

22%, and the Texas Department of Transportation is reminding everyone to be extra cautious and alert.

"As the fall and winter months usher in shorter days and less light, pedestrians are at increased risk on our roads," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Drivers may struggle to see pedestrians in lower-light conditions and must stay alert to avoid preventable collisions. Likewise, pedestrians can take extra precautions to be seen by drivers when walking after dark."

TxDOT is taking to the streets with its "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign during October's National Pedestrian Safety Month, reminding drivers to slow down and watch for people walking.

TxDOT's educational campaign includes TV and radio spots, billboards, and digital advertising. TxDOT will also bring 34 street teams with walking billboards, wearing safety messages, to areas that saw the greatest number

of pedestrian fatalities last year. The street teams will be deployed in places where motorists and pedestrians share the road.

TxDOT encourages everyone to follow the safety tips below to prevent a deadly crash.

FOR DRIVERS

- Stop and yield for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- When turning, yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.
- Put your phone away before you begin driving and pay attention, so you're prepared if pedestrians enter your path.
- Be cautious when passing stopped buses or other vehicles that can block your view of pedestrians.
- Follow the posted speed limit and drive to conditions.

FOR PEOPLE WALKING

- Cross the street only at intersections and crosswalks. Look left, right, then left again before crossing.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing. Don't assume traffic will stop for you.

- Follow all traffic and crosswalk signals.
- When walking, put away electronic devices that take your attention off the road.
- Stay visible. Wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.

Be Safe. Drive Smart. is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the

streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.



COURTESY OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT)

Cutline: TxDOT campaign asks people to be cautious and alert during deadliest month for pedestrians.

FNBCT HONORS LOCAL EDUCATORS AT HOME FOOTBALL GAME



The First National Bank of Central Texas recently honored two local teachers as Educators of the Week for dedicating themselves to educating the youth each day at Gatesville Independent School District. During the home varsity football game on Friday, Oct. 11, Primary School teacher Lacey Jenkins and Intermediate School teacher Kara Kouns each received \$500 cash as well as a trophy. The First National Bank of Central Texas and Gatesville Independent School District encourages the community to submit the names of local educators who have made a difference in your life or in the lives of others. Lacey Jenkins (left) and Kara Kouns (right) are pictured with their trophies and \$500 cash award. To make a nomination, visit the link www.fnbct.bank/educator-of-the-week/.

Local teen competes in HOT Fair & Rodeo Livestock Show

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Since Michella Martinez has been in the seventh grade, she has had a passion for showing animals, such as pigs, for Future Farmers of America (FFA) at Jonesboro Independent School District.

Currently, Martinez is an officer serving as the second vice president. Her duties entail assisting the vice president as needed along with aiding in the direction of the organization's work. She also competes in Career Development Events (CDE's) and Leadership Development Events (LDE's) throughout the school year.

Each year, members of FFA have the option to attend and compete at the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo in Waco to represent their school in the livestock show. Martinez has made an appearance many times before where she shows her pigs.

Leading up to her four-day trip to the livestock show, she prepared endlessly,

training with her pigs each day.

"I gave my pigs baths and walked them for about 15 minutes a piece each," she said.

Competing in the show each year means more to Martinez than just winning a ribbon.

She expressed, "I do this show because my grandma loves the HOT Fair, and she passed away two years ago, so I do this show because of her."

This year she showed her pigs once again, and although she didn't place, she expressed that she gained great advice and knowledge on how to improve for next year.

When asked about her goals for next year's livestock show she said, "My goal is to win a buckle from the country fair, and I do believe that I will accomplish this goal, because next year will be my senior year."

She mentioned that she

will continue to train with the same animals along with possibly purchasing a goat or a horse.

She also said that she is thankful for her family being there by her side throughout her journey in FFA.

"My family is very supportive of me showing pigs," she said. "It lets me know that I'm loved through thick and thin."

"It makes me proud to watch her face light up when she puts in the hard work to accomplish her goals in FFA and just daily life. When you have a child, you pray you raise them in the right way and many days you wonder if you did it right, but then you watch them set their mind to something, go accomplish it, and they are kind to the ones around them along the way," Tonya Heiler, Martinez's mother said. "Nothing makes me prouder than to watch her help others along the way. The lessons that last a lifetime."

Martinez said that she enjoyed her time this past week at the HOT Fair & Rodeo Livestock Show and is eager to compete next year.

"FFA has shown me that you have to get out of your comfort zone to learn about your projects," she said.

Not only is she involved in FFA, but she is also a member of various clubs and is active in extracurricular programs, which includes being a member of one act play, UIL, and being the junior editor for yearbook class. She also finds the time in her schedule to work full-time at The Feed Mill as a hostess during the week after school.

"Michella has blossomed and grown throughout her years in FFA. I've watched her move out of her comfort zone and try new things that she excelled in," Heiler said. "Her heart and compassion for others has grown as well, and the lessons she has learned in the barn will last her a lifetime."



Michella Martinez

Oglesby ISD to host fall festival Oct. 30

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District will host its annual fall festival for the community and its stu-

dents and faculty Wednesday, Oct. 30.

The festival will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and will include various games and

activities along with different food options.

Oglesby ISD will release more details regarding the festival closer to the event.

For further information, contact Oglesby ISD at 254-456-2271.

Evant ISD to host harvest festival Nov. 2

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District will host its annual harvest festival Saturday, Nov. 2, beginning 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 take place 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, contact Evant ISD at 254-471-5536.

SUDOKU

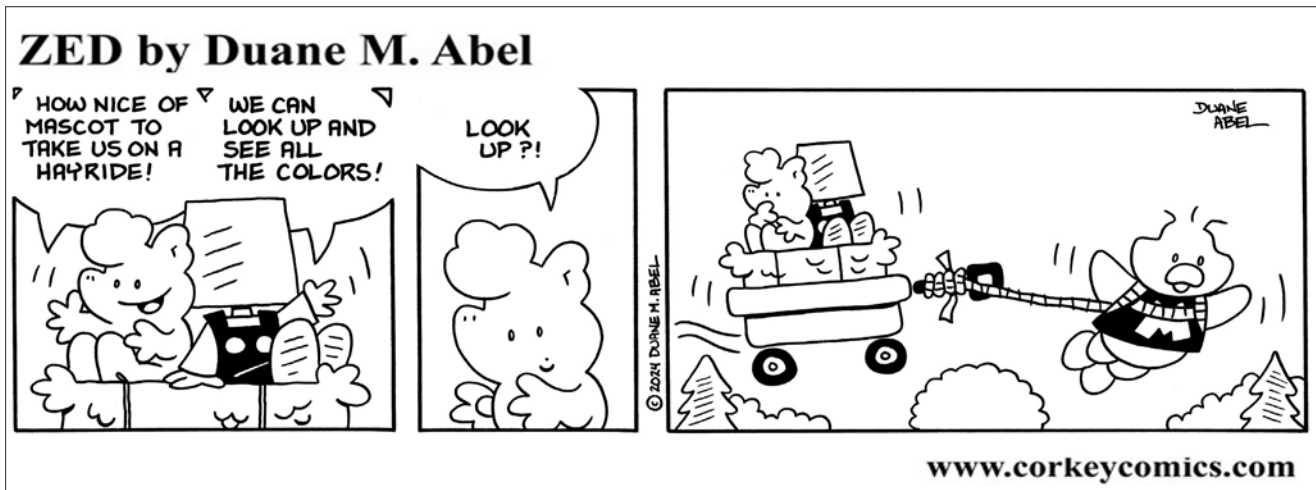
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Puzzle answers from the Oct. 12, 2024 issue.

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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Puzzle by websudoku.com



www.corkeycomics.com

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans post 2nd straight Homecoming shutout with blowout win

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State Football has played some nailbiters this season. Saturday, Oct. 12 was not one of them.

The No. 13 Texans left no doubt in their Homecoming game against Utah Tech, scoring four touchdowns in the opening quarter and cruising over the Trailblazers 42-0. This was Tarleton State's second straight 42-0 shutout on Homecoming, and this year's dominant effort boosted the Texans to a 6-1 overall mark, 3-0 in United Athletic Conference play. The Trailblazers lost their 12th straight game dating back to last season, falling to 0-7 overall, 0-3 in the UAC.

Tarleton had another strong crowd at Memorial Stadium Saturday night, a crowd that stayed through the blowout to witness a first-of-its-kind experience in Stephenville — a postgame drone show featuring 250 drones that displayed several unique Tarleton State animations. Tarleton also had a premier pregame, hosting a Bart Crow concert at Texan Alley, seeing Sgt. 1st Class Dana Bowman parachute onto the field, and the Texan

Rider returned once again to lead the team onto the field itself.

The Texans opened up a can in the first quarter, scoring their first of four first quarter touchdowns just a minute into the game. Kayvon Britten raced out to a 62-yard score for his first of three touchdowns on the night. On Tarleton's next drive, the Purple and White scored at ease again, marching 87 yards in 89 seconds. Britten scored again, this time from 18 yards out to put Tarleton ahead 14-0.

On Tarleton's third drive, the Texans jumped ahead 21-0, with their third rushing touchdown of the game. This time Braelon Bridges got in on the fun, scoring his first touchdown in nearly three years. He dashed it in from three yards out with 1:56 to play.

Tarleton State's defense forced its first takeaway of the game on Utah Tech's next drive, with linebacker Ty Rawls recording his second interception of the season. That led to an almost immediate touchdown by Derrel Kelley III, who punched it in from 10 yards out, making it 28-0 Tarleton with four rushing touchdowns.

Two plays after Tarleton's fourth touchdown, the Texans forced another take-away, this time Kasyus Kurns forcing a fumble that was recovered by Jeremiah Postell. Kurns now has three fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles on the season.

That led to Tarleton's first second quarter drive, which the Texans cashed in again. Britten scored his third touchdown of the game and his 12th of the season, boosting Tarleton to a 35-0 lead.

Shortly after, the Texans scored their sixth straight touchdown, their first through the air. Victor Gabalis dropped one into Darius Cooper's lap for a 71-yard touchdown to boost Tarleton ahead 42-0 with 9:25 in the second quarter.

Tarleton State called off the dogs after that, and neither team scored the remainder of the game. The Texans played most of their backups in the second half and several got quality playing time.

Gabalis completed 10-of-13 for 201 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Daniel Greek spelled him in the second half. The Texans scored five rushing touchdowns, three by Britten, one by Bridges and one by Kelley.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The No. 13 Texans left no doubt in their Homecoming game against Utah Tech, scoring four touchdowns in the opening quarter and cruising over the Trailblazers 42-0.

Britten had just eight carries in the game and still raced for 135 yards and three scores, averaging 16.9 yards per rush. Bridges had 55 yards rushing and Kelley 50, with Kristian Dalton contributing with 55 rushing yards of his own.

Cooper led the receiving group with 141 yards and a touchdown on four receptions. Benjamin Omayebu chipped in 33 yards on three catches.

Defensively, Tarleton

State pitched the shutout with two takeaways, three sacks and eight tackles for loss. Brandon Tolvert had 1.5 sacks and 2.0 TFL, totaling five tackles. Courtland Stephens had a sack, and AJ Owens had a half-sack and 1.5 TFL.

Adrian Guzman had a solid day punting, averaging 46.2 yards across six boots, topping out at 59 yards with two punts inside the 20-yard line.

Overall, the Texans out-

gained the Trailblazers 486 to 228 with a 282-84 rush yard advantage.

The Texans have won five straight games and 10 of their last 11, dating back to last season. They are 7-1 on Homecoming over the past eight years, and 12-3 under head coach Todd Whitten in such games.

Tarleton State now has its second bye week before heading to Austin Peay for the first time Saturday, Oct. 26, at 3 p.m. CT.

All-Texan doubles final caps off ITA Texas Regional Championships

Tarleton State University

FORT WORTH/STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Tennis finished off the 2024 ITA Texas Regional Championships with an All-Texan doubles final of the consolation draw Saturday, Oct. 12 and 13, with junior Emma Persson and senior Noelia Lorca clinching the consolation doubles draw.

Persson/Lorca defeated Ximena Morales and Maria Castano 8-6 in the doubles final of the consolation draw Monday at Tarleton Tennis Facility.

Persson also shined in singles, collecting wins over opponents from SMU and North Texas in the main draw to advance to the Round of 16. This was the second time in the Swedish athlete's career where she came up with at least two main draw wins at the ITA Texas Regional Championships. She advanced to the Round of 16 as a true freshman in 2022.

Freshman Duru Kusu secured a spot in the singles

main draw by collecting a pair of wins in the qualifying draw. Kusu did not lose a set in the qualifying draw en route to being the second Tarleton State true freshman in the last three years to qualify for the ITA Texas Regional Championships main draw.

After Persson/Lorca fell short in their Round of 64 main draw doubles match, the Tarleton State duo strung together a pair of tightly contested victories. Persson/Lorca won their next two doubles matches through the tiebreak and coasted in the quarterfinals to secure a semifinal spot. The duo defeated its opponent from UTSA to clinch its consolation finals spot.

Morales/Castano advanced to the Round of 32 and was defeated by TCU in the second round, but the duo came up with three consecutive doubles wins to reach the finals against its Tarleton State teammates. After a quarterfinals victory against the Texas State duo, Morales/Castano were

victorious against their opponents from Baylor in the semifinals to set up the All-Texan consolation doubles final.

"We had a great tournament overall. Everyone was excited for another opportunity to play and everyone competed well," head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron said. "To have Emma and Duru in the main draw and two teams in the finals of the consolation for doubles is a big deal for us. We beat some excellent players along the way and really improved our doubles through match play, which is hard to do. Our players are taking ownership of their game and you can see the hard work paying off in matches. I look forward to continuing to work hard and make even bigger improvements before spring."

Tarleton State wraps up the fall portion of the season eyeing a championship at the WAC Fall Tennis Invitational in Abilene starting Oct. 25.



Tarleton State dominated in its third event of the fall Monday, Oct. 7, going 9-1 across two matches to secure its second Texan Match Play trophy in as many years.

Tarleton State Women's Golf claims back-to-back Texan Match Play Titles

Tarleton State University

GLEN ROSE - Tarleton State dominated in its third event of the fall Monday, Oct. 7, going 9-1 across two matches to secure its second Texan Match Play trophy in as many years.

The Texans' road to victory was secured with a 4-1 win over Lamar during the morning match followed by a 5-0 sweep of Texas Southern to close things out.

The match play event featured a Ryder Cup style scoring method with the pairs competing on a per hole basis and the first to win more holes than the other with less holes remaining to play was crowned the victor.

"We are very happy to defend our victory again this year," said head coach Isabel Jimenez. "We are now halfway into the fall season and this home victory is only going to help

us to keep on going strong and motivated and finish the season on a high. I am proud of the way they are competing so far this fall season and I can't wait for what's to come"

MATCH 1 VS. LAMAR

The Texans opened their lone home event of the season in a dominant fashion taking down Lamar 4-1 to secure at least a top two finish in their third straight event of the fall.

One of the newest Texans on the roster, Louise Depadt, came away with the biggest win defeating Juliette Daviau as she was up eight with seven to go. Fellow newcomer Darianys Guzman followed close behind clinching after being up four with two to go over Amanda Davidsson.

Lou Deltombe defeated Karolina Krasova being up four with three to go. Rebeca Fernandez went on to defeat Sara Hagglund being up two with one to go.

Mathilde Brogens dropped the lone matchup falling to Lucy Bedford as the Lamar Cardinal was up one with no holes left to go.

MATCH 2 VS. TEXAS SOUTHERN

After a big opening match win, the Texans poured it on even more, sweeping Texas Southern 5-0.

Guzman defeated Miness Saime up seven with six to go. She was followed by Deltombe and Fernandez who both won up six with five to go. Deltombe defeated Azul Amezcua while Fernandez defeated Phaith Harris.

Brogens bounced back, defeating Shawnise Gregory going up five with three to go. Depadt closed things out defeating Alexa Gonzalez after going up four with three to go.

Tarleton State will return to action Oct. 20-22 as the Texans will travel to Boulder City, Nevada, for The Clash at Boulder Creek.



Tarleton State Tennis finished off the 2024 ITA Texas Regional Championships with an All-Texan doubles final of the consolation draw Saturday, Oct. 12 and 13, with junior Emma Persson and senior Noelia Lorca clinching the consolation doubles draw.

LIL' HORNETS CHEER CAMP



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville High School varsity cheerleader Jahaziel Martinez (left) is pictured with Lil' Hornet cheerleader Gracyn May. The high school hosted a Lil' Hornets Cheer Camp on Saturday, Oct. 12, for aspiring future Hornet cheerleaders to learn new chants, routines, and basic knowledge of cheerleading.



COURTESY PHOTO

The campers are gathered together while learning new skills from the varsity cheerleaders.



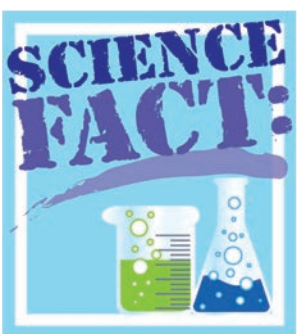
COURTESY PHOTO

Lil' Hornet cheerleaders are pictured while learning how to do a cheer routine.

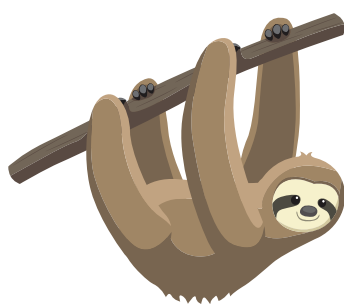
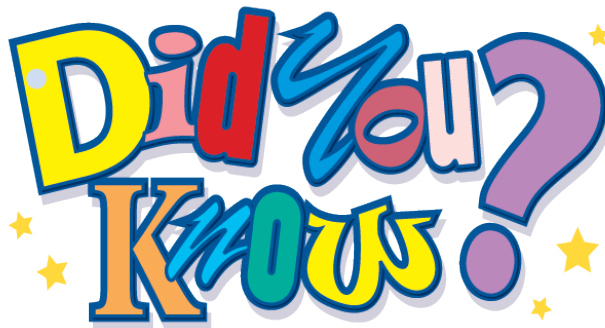


International Sloth Day

October 19, 2024



Ground sloths are a group of extinct large sloths in the mammalian superorder Xenarthra. The much smaller living sloths are called "tree sloths".



The sloth's hair is a living, breathing home to many different organisms, from microbes, insects to fungi and algae.



October 19th marks a special occasion for nature enthusiasts worldwide - International Sloth Day! It's a day dedicated to celebrating the unique charm and gentle nature of these fascinating creatures.

Sloths, with their unhurried pace and endearing smiles, remind us to slow down and appreciate the simple joys of life. International Sloth Day provides an opportunity to honor these remarkable mammals and raise awareness about their conservation needs.

Join the celebration on October 19th by learning more about sloths and their habitats. Explore documentaries, read informative articles, or visit a local zoo or wildlife sanctuary to observe sloths up close and discover the importance of protecting their natural environment.

International Sloth Day is also a time to reflect on the value of living mindfully and cherishing moments of tranquility. Whether you're taking a leisurely stroll in nature, enjoying a quiet moment of reflection, or simply admiring the beauty of the natural world, embrace the slow life and savor the serenity that surrounds you.

So, mark your calendars for October 19th and join in the festivities as we celebrate International Sloth Day. Whether you're spreading awareness, supporting conservation efforts, or simply taking a moment to appreciate these captivating creatures, let's come together to honor the charm and wonder of sloths and their habitat.



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

THE BIG STING PEP RALLY

PHOTOS BY AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

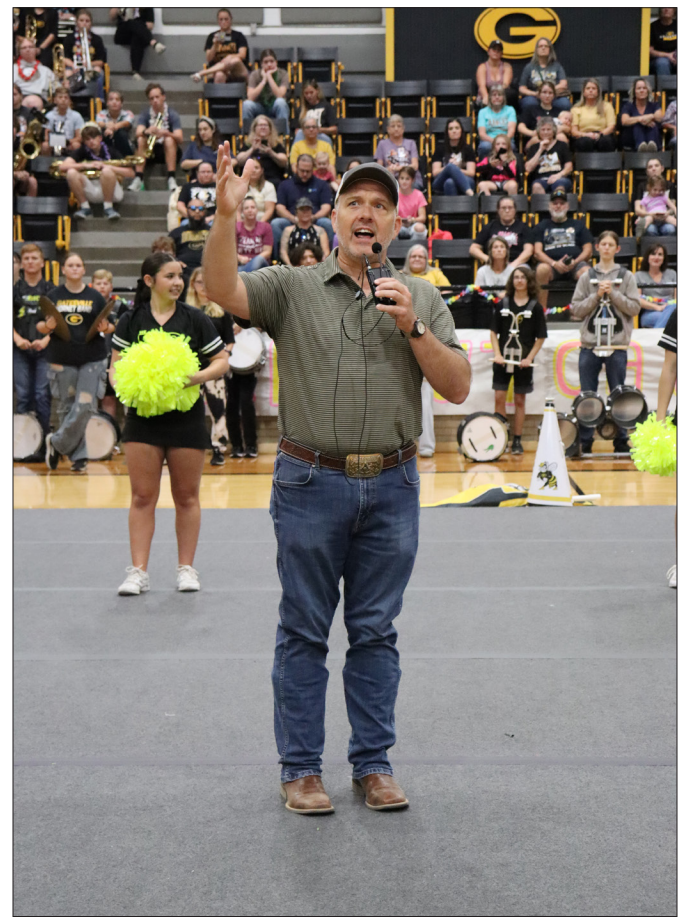
Each year since 2012, The Big Sting organization holds an event during a selected game to honor those in the community who are battling cancer. Gatesville athletes wear jerseys with the names of those in the community who have lost their lives to cancer or who are currently battling cancer. "STING" stands for Supporting Those IN Gatesville, which the organization has continued to do for over 12 years. The Big Sting organization is comprised of various board members, and everything is done on a volunteer basis. The organization has several churches, businesses, and community members that make monthly donations to The Big Sting organization. The proceeds are given back to members of the Gatesville community who have been diagnosed with cancer and are requesting help. The Big Sting's mission is to make an effort to provide immediate support for practical needs to members of the Gatesville community who are currently battling cancer.



Pictured are Addison Taylor, Madilynn Poliquin, Tiffany Koleman, Katie Hopson, and Madisan Heimbeck.



GHS Cheerleaders pump up the crowd at the Big Sting Pep Rally.



Greg Casey addresses students and faculty.



Emyrrs Robles and Ally Penrod attend Gatesville's Big Sting Pep Rally.



Dutch Neilsen addresses the crowd at Gatesville's Big Sting Pep Rally.