



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Meet and greet for police chief candidates, Nov. 7

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Local residents will have an opportunity to meet the three finalists who have applied to become the next police chief of the Gatesville Police Department.

The City of Gatesville will hold a community meet

and greet with the candidates on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the Gatesville City Council Chambers on 110 North 8th Street. Residents can speak with the candidates, as well as provide input to City Manager Brad Hut.

Out of the 17 initial

candidates and eight semifinalists, Hunt and the selection committee reviewing the applicants have chosen the following finalists:

Jeffrey Clark

Clark is currently a deputy chief at the Temple Police Department, a posi-

tion he has held since 2016. He has over 31 years of experience in law enforcement, with over 12 in a command-level position.

Clark has spent his entire career in Temple. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from American Military University, is a Certified

Public Manager graduate from Texas State University, and has attended several law enforcement leadership courses, including the FBI National Academy (Session #255).

Douglas Rude

Rude is currently a lieutenant at the Plano Police Department, a position he has held since 2016. He has over 32 years of law enforcement experience, with over eight in a command-level position. He spent eight years in Plano.

Rude has a bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University, and has attended several law enforcement leadership courses, including the FBI National Academy (Session #288), 93rd ILEA School of Supervision, and Law Enforcement Management Institute

of Texas (Class #91).

Brian Wyers

Wyers is currently a deputy chief at the Copperas Cove Police Department, a position he has held since 2017. He has over 29 years of law enforcement experience, with over 13 in a command-level position.

Wyers has spent his entire career in Copperas Cove. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tarleton State University and has attended several law enforcement leadership courses, including the Bill Blackwood LEMIT Command College.

Hunt plans to announce the chosen candidate the week of Nov. 10, at a city council meeting.

An article covering the community event and interview with the candidates will be published online at gatesvillemessenger.com.

Bewitching Boozaar

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Wrenley Pruitt, all dressed up in her witch costume, was caught snacking on popcorn at the City of Gatesville's annual Boozaar. The 24th annual event was held on the courthouse square, where hundreds of people gathered for trick-or-treating, a costume contest, games, giveaways, and more. See more photos from the event on B8.

Don't forget to turn back the clock: daylight saving time ends on Sunday

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The time has come once again to receive one extra hour of sleep as clocks "fall back" to mark the end of daylight saving time.

Twice a year, Americans adjust their clocks to either "spring forward" or "fall back" by one hour to make better use of daylight and save energy. Daylight saving time officially ends on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 2 a.m. in the United States this year, meaning there will be more sunlight in the mornings and less light in the evenings.

The yearly fall and spring clock adjustments have been under debate and scrutiny in recent years.

Sleep experts have voiced concern about the dangers of seasonal time changes, especially the switch back to daylight saving time in March.

The loss of one hour in the spring has been linked to increased health and safety risks, such as motor vehicle accidents, cardiovascular events, mood disturbances, strokes, and hospital admissions, according to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM). Survey data from AASM show that 63% of respondents were in favor of a fixed, year-round time rather than seasonal time changes.

Most of the United States observes daylight saving time, except for Hawaii,

PLEASE SEE **CLOCK** | A2



FALL BACK
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

JEREMIAH FLORES

Americans will gain an extra hour of sleep and extra morning sunlight for the fall and winter months.

GISD to host Veteran's Day Ceremony Nov. 11

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District has announced that it will host a district-wide Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 11, to honor Veterans

within the community.

There will be a free veteran's day breakfast in the high school culinary classroom from 7 to 9 a.m. and all veterans are invited. Breakfast attendees may

park in the high school's front parking lot.

The ceremony will be from 10 to 11 a.m. and is open to the community. It will be held at McKamie Stadium, and Gatesville ISD

encourages all veterans in attendance to sit on the field in the honorary seating section.

For further details, contact Gatesville ISD at 254-865-7251.



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DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RAISES AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Staff from the Coryell County District Attorney's Office and community members wore purple on Friday, Oct. 25, in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to showcase their commitment to support survivors and help end the cycle of abuse.

CLOCK

FROM PAGE A1

most of Arizona, and several U.S. territories. In recent years, several states have pushed to end the twice-a-year clock change. The Senate unanimously passed the Sunshine Protection Act in 2022, a bill making daylight saving time permanent nationwide, but it did not pass through the U.S. House of Representatives.

History of daylight saving time


Although its history varies, many sources credit Benjamin Franklin as the first person to propose a time change in the 18th century, so he could save in candle usage by making better use of daylight. In the 19th century, New Zealand scientist George Vernon Hudson and British builder William Willett are also recognized for suggesting that the public adjust their clocks, but their plans were never enacted.

According to CBS News, daylight saving time was officially put into place during World War I, when Germany adopted the time shift to conserve fuel. In 1918, the U.S. started to also use daylight saving time under the Standard Time Act, but it was repealed one year later in 1919.


While it was briefly re-established during World War II, it did not become a federal law in the United States until 1966 when the Uniform Time Act standardized the use of daylight saving time as Americans know it today.

Daylight saving time begins on the second Sunday of March and ends on the first Sunday of November every year.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

In the game of life, you may never get to spike the football



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

It is the opinion of many that football has overtaken baseball as America's favorite pastime.

Though I have been a lifelong baseball fan, I tend to agree with the conclusion. It makes no difference whether it is high school, college, or pro, football has a huge following, and its audience only seems to grow. People also seem to like the raw emotion of football. The touchdown celebration is certainly a fan favorite with explosive cheering from the audience coupled with the exuberance of the

player spiking the ball in the end zone upon scoring. It denotes an accomplishment: a "score" which can lead to "winning." This past weekend I had an interesting discussion with a young musician friend of mine named Joseph Neville. I met him several years ago during the production of a show which had a theme like some of the national talent shows you have watched on TV,

like "The Voice" or "America's Got Talent." There were 10 shows over a span of months, and each show had a winner selected by a panel of judges. At the end of 10 shows, those 10 winners competed in a championship show. We were lucky to have some extraordinary talent compete in those productions. Andrew Sevener, who won the competition, later went on to finish third on "The Voice." Joseph was one of the finalists, and though he did not win I have always had a warm spot in my heart for him. He is a wonderfully kind and sweet man that I think almost anyone would like to call "friend," but primarily he is a talented musician with his own style and a unique voice. His looks remind me of Lyle Lovett, but his skills and demeanor have a contemporary James Taylor sort of vibe. Since our first encounter, I have kept track of Joseph's progress. He had

taught school, but he gave up his job to work at music full time. He gave up his apartment for the road and spent the night on the sofa at friends' houses or slept in his car. He suffered through the shutdowns of Covid. He played wherever he could, for whatever they would pay him, but he invested in himself and learned his trade. He grew and developed, matured, and became musically "seasoned." He learned the subtleties of performing live, of how to connect to an audience, and the importance of making an audience not only hear his sound, but to also "feel it." His progress has been steady and his growth inspirational. This past weekend, Joseph was the entertainment at a VIP event of a prominent art show. It was great to hear him perform and spend some time with him. I commented on how much he had grown and evolved and how proud I was to see his growth. At one-point,

Joseph turned to me and said, "I have learned that it is important to keep working and to not get caught up in little 'wins' and milestones I may accomplish. I have seen my friends in the business have a big moment, and then they want to rest on their laurels only to find they have lost their momentum and learn they may never get the momentum back. I have come to realize that, to be successful, it takes work and commitment, dedication, and never being satisfied with what you have accomplished but always asking for more from myself." I responded by affirming his thoughts. In the game of life, there is never a time where we get to spike the football, and the game is won. Each day is a new challenge, and we must prove ourselves to the world around us. It is important to show that we belong and deserve what we seek. We are entitled to sit on the lofty porch of success, but

that entitlement only comes by paying the price to get there. The coin of the realm is dedication and hard work. All too often people say they "deserve" success, or they should be able to have what they want merely because they desire it, not because they have earned it. I am proud of my young friend Joseph and relish the joy I receive seeing him grow, learn, and earn his place in life. Joseph may have yet to "spike the football," but I sure would not bet against him. If you get the chance to hear him and appreciate his talents, you will not bet against him either. He has what it takes, on stage and in life. Thought for the day: Some people dream of success while others wake up and work hard at it; those folks succeed on purpose. Until next time ... I will keep ridin' the storm out!

Veterans Day closings for Nov. 11

Staff Reports

Veterans Day closings will occur on Monday, Nov. 11 to honor our veterans. The closings will include the following:
GOVERNMENT
The City of Gatesville, the City of Oglesby, and the

City of Evant will be closed on Monday, Nov. 11. The Coryell County Courthouse will also be closed.
SCHOOLS
All surrounding school districts will remain open on Monday.
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Extraco Bank, Cadence Bank, Educator's Credit Union, and the First National Banks of Gatesville, Evant, and Oglesby will be closed on Monday.
POST OFFICES
All local post offices will be closed on Monday in the surrounding area.

SENIOR CENTER
The Gatesville Senior & Multi-Service Center will be closed on Monday.
NEWSPAPER
The Gatesville Messenger will remain open on Monday.

Coryell Health's Lunch and Learn: Dr. Horrocks to address lower back pain

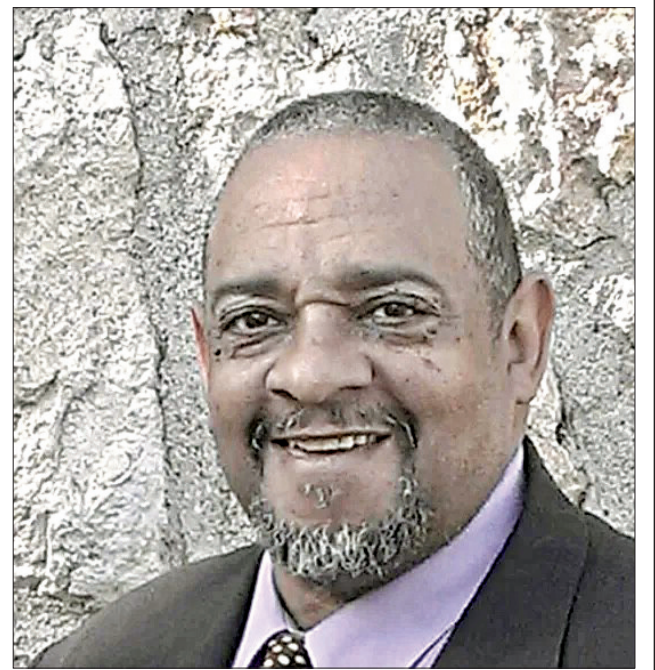
Submitted Item

Coryell Health is hosting a "Lunch and Learn" on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 12 p.m., with Dr. Austin Horrocks, who will be presenting a Coryell Community Health Talk on Eterna spinal cord stimulation (SCS) system. Eterna is currently the smallest implantable and rechargeable spinal cord stimulator on the market for treating chronic pain.

For those who suffer from post-operative back and/or leg pain after back surgery or nonsurgical back pain (NSBP) and want relief without taking medication or attending physical therapy, spinal cord stimulation therapy with Abbott's Eterna SCS system is a viable solution. The meeting will take place at Coryell Health in the Public Meeting Room on

Floor 2. A free lunch will be provided by Luby's Culinary Services. Registration is required at <https://coryellhealth.org/lunch-learn-eterna/>. This event topic is specifically for individuals struggling with low back pain and their loved ones. Dr. Austin Horrocks is board certified in both pain management and anesthesiology by the American Board of Anesthesiology. With extensive experience treating sports injuries, arthritis, joint pain, compression fractures and more, one of his favorite parts about specializing in pain management is seeing his patients enjoy their favorite activities again.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

WRAY NUNN

Say hello to our neighbor, Wray Nunn!

Wray has been the pastor at Grace Assembly Christian Church for over 28 years. He is also approaching his 43rd anniversary of sharing the Gospel with the community. He expressed that the most fulfilling part of his job is witnessing people come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. He also said that it is fulfilling to see the hurt be healed and many others being encouraged and helped as well. He has lived in Gatesville for 48 years and enjoys the close-knit community of people wanting to help people. Wray holds the Bible verse, Matthew 28:18-20 very close to his heart. "Matthew 28:18-20 inspires me because it's an assignment to everyone who follows the Lord Jesus Christ to go proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and that's good news," he said. Wray reads The Gatesville Messenger and said that it is very informative for the community. If you happen to see Wray around town, say hello! He is one of us!

WACO CARDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Andrew Day, M.D., F.A.C.C.
will be seeing patients every month at the **Coryell Specialty Clinic**

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www.WacoCardiology.com

Coryell City Water Supply District
Annual Customer's Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.
Coryell City/Osage Volunteer Fire Department

301 CR 255, Gatesville, TX 76528
(10 miles East of Gatesville off of FM 929, across from St. John Lutheran Church)

CCWSD will host a meal and the Annual Board Meeting.
For information call (254)865-6089 or Email: info@coryellcitywater.com
www.coryellcitywater.com

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TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The Notrees, Texas reunion



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

It was kinda like a play. Reminded me a little bit of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town."

Kerry Peacock served as stage manager and related stories about Notrees and then called on various members of the audience to share some of their experiences growing up in the small oil field town with an unusual name. As more stories were told, the years rolled back to a simpler time.

My favorite story was from Betty Lovell. "When we were in the fifth grade, a boy named James Orr brought a magnifying glass to school. At recess, he somehow pinned a grasshopper to the ground so it wouldn't move, shined

the sun's rays through that magnifying glass, fried that grasshopper, and ate it." You just can't find stories like that every day.

It was a congenial group. Many of the 40 in attendance had remained friends since attending the six-room schoolhouse in Notrees. The school had one grade per room. After the sixth grade, the students were bussed to Odessa for junior high and high school.

There were stories about Jerry, the school bus driver, about Chief, a ranch foreman and about Charlie Brown, who named

the town and was its first postmaster when the post office was established in 1947. Oil activity had picked up in the region and oil companies established groups of houses called camps for employees and their families. The houses were on blocks so they could be easily moved from one location to another. Some windows were painted shut to keep out the blowing sand but some still sifted through. Soon Notrees had a grocery store, a welding shop, two churches, a gas station and a couple of cafes. Shell Oil had a gas plant that started the growth of the town. At its peak Notrees had 700 residents. As the oil companies began to leave the school started using only three rooms, with two grades per room. Now the school and post office have closed, there are no stores and only about five people live there.

Summertime, girls would leave home with a sack lunch and be gone all day walking around the fields, laughing and playing, coming home in

time for supper. Boys hunted jackrabbits and sold them for fifteen cents each to companies that made mince meat. There were stories about horned toads, coyotes, rattlesnakes, tarantulas, and other critters. They told about going to popular landmarks: Shiprock, Blue Mountain and The Willows. The more stories, the more laughter. This was genuine entertainment, better than some shows that charge admission.

The daylong event (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) took place at Odessa's Kellus-Turner Park in a building that once served as the Notrees Community Center. The walls seemed to reverberate from the howls of laughter the audience provided while listening to the storytellers. It was so much fun and an enriching experience. People came from all over Texas and beyond to attend. The gathering reminded me of a line from "Our Town": "This is the way we were."

SUDOKU

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

Puzzle answers from the Oct. 26, 2024 issue.

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

Breaking records is what you do best

Submitted by Deral McWhorter

How in the world can it possibly happen time and again? How do seemingly insurmountable records crumble? Only because the people of Gatesville, from Oglesby to Evant, from The Grove to Turnersville, and points in between love to shatter their previous year's record, and to be generous in making sure the hungry get fed. I have been asked by people from other communities at different times how we do this. I always respond by saying "heart." I will just tell you when and where Food for Families is taking place and watch you shine. So, this year's day to shine will be Friday, Nov. 22. We will be at the Gatesville Fire Station from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Let me tell you about your shining. Our total number of pounds for the last three years is 2,118,947. That averages 706,316 pounds per year. Now, I know that is insurmountable. It just can't be done again. Oh, wait a minute! We are talking about this record being placed in the hands of the people of this immediate area. We are talking about their heart, their wanting to feed the hungry, and to set their own record. You know the time and place. I'm getting excited about your shining.

Our numbers are growing in families being fed (approximately 400 each month); our numbers of brand new families coming in to get help are growing (170 plus families this year), and with food prices increasing and making it

extremely hard for those in need, the demand is great to have a great food drive again.

There's no way to express thanks for all you do each year. My co-director, Debbie Blanchard, and I personally thank you for all your sacrifice and for you being so excited about this event every year. You might be interested in knowing that you have the option to donate online by going to KWTX-Food for Families-Financial Support and select Gatesville Care Center. You can choose to pay via PayPal or Venmo, or you can use the QR code to donate. Thanks again for your heart.

Deral McWhorter and Debbie Blanchard Care Center Co-Directors



Pay with PayPal



Pay with Venmo

RECIPE

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

EASY CHICKEN CASSEROLE

BY ADELLE TODD

- 1 can white chicken or 2 cups cooked chicken breast
- 1 ctn. sour cream
- 1 can cream of mushroom or cream of celery soup
- 1 pkg. Ritz crackers crushed (one roll)

Mix the sour cream and cream of mushroom soup. In a medium-sized baking dish, spread some of the cracker crumbs on the bottom, and then spread the chicken over that. Then spread the sour cream mixture over the chicken. Cover with the remainder of the Ritz cracker crumbs. Place in a 350 oven and bake until it bubbles. Serves 4 to 6. You can add pimentos or onions if desired.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)
Students in the Gatesville Independent School District were collecting used shoes for children in Iraq.

The Girl Scout Bluebonnet Council held a ceremony to dedicate two benches at Camp Kachina to the memory of Barbie Thomas.

The Texas Department of Transportation completed a project to seal cracks on Main Street.

Don's Meat Market offered "fresh meats cut daily."

"The Incredibles" was showing at the Drive-In.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)
"Wyatt Earp" was showing at the Drive-In.

Plans were underway to renovate Gatesville High School.

TDCJ inmate Jennie Ruth Butler, an escaped inmate in

for cattle theft, was caught at a livestock sale barn.

Senator Bill Sims was seeking another term as Coryell County's senator.

The Gatesville Public Library was accredited as a member of the Texas State Library System.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)
Coryell Memorial Hospital's Employee of the Month was Aline Morgan.

The Hill Country Action Association made plans to expand its transportation services to Coryell City, Flat, Levita, Mound, Pearl, Purmela, The Grove, and Turnersville.

The Coryell County chapter of the American Heart Association was set to stage their second annual "Turkey Walk" at Faunt Le Roy Park.

Hy Davidson was a can-

didate for re-election as county commissioner for Precinct 3.

Gilmore & Davis advertised king-sized Sealy Posturepedic mattresses for \$389.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

The Windmill advertised "good looks" in clothes and accessories.

Wayne Blanchard and sons began operating Gate-

way Texaco Service Station at Fort Gates.

Heavy rains flooded the Leon River from Hay Valley to Lake Belton.

Miss Karen Powell was the featured Stingette during that Friday's football game.

Plans were underway for the annual carnival at Jonesboro schools.



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PEARL NEWS

Come out today to Pearl's Bookstore and Flea Market event



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Today is the day to be in Pearl for the Pearl Bluegrass event and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Flea Market Day. That's right, you heard it here.

The bookstore is re-starting the Flea Market this Saturday, and it will continue to be held every

first Saturday henceforth. This is an opportunity for the folks interested in selling their items to set up a

booth around the Gazaway Cabin next to the bookstore for \$5. That amount goes to the Community Center fund for upkeep and maintenance of the building. Someone from the bookstore will collect your money. Also, the Bluegrass Kitchen opens at 11 a.m., and their delicious homemade food is available at very reasonable prices. That money also goes toward the building maintenance and upkeep. These vital services help to ensure that the Community Center will be able to be home to not only the Bluegrass event, but also will be in good shape to host various community events. The building can be

rented for things such as reunions and other family-type events. Garrett Dickey and Chris Ray can tell you more about that. Just look for them in the Community Center as they are glad to answer your questions. For more information on the Flea Market or Bookstore event, contact Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or Kay Pruett at 254-965-5864. Now, head on out to Pearl. You will be so glad you did!

There will be a community lunch at the Pearl Community Center on Nov. 10, celebrating Thanksgiving. Mexican food will be served. A church service with Jimmy McPherron will begin at 10:30 a.m., and lunch will

follow. Everyone is invited to attend and bring their favorite Mexican food dish.

Hmmm, everyone in Pearl seems to be "being have," as my grands say. It's so strange to not have any reports of strange behavior this week. Even Kay and The Cat Whisperer have kept a low profile. Maybe it's the unusual heat wave or the lack of rain. Maybe we should pray for fall to finally appear and for rain to mend those cracks in the ground, so that our colorful characters feel more like getting out and about and causing at least a small amount of chaos. Seriously, though, do pray for rain as Linda tells me that the

cracks in the ground at Pearl Church of Christ are wide enough to swallow up a small child! No good can come from that. In the meantime, let's thank the good Lord that the size of the cracks may be slightly exaggerated...I hope.

This week's Bible verse comes from Romans 12:12—Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. NIV

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page, and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page. Please submit any Pearl news to betsyclarck47@yahoo.com



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Levita Volunteer Fire Department is holding a BBQ fundraiser and gun raffle.

Levita BBQ fundraiser, Nov. 1-2

Staff Reports

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

All participants in the raffle must be at least 18 years of age or older and must pass a background

check.

There also will be a raffle for a two-person hog hunt sponsored by Barnard 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.

Buffalo Stampede slated for 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. 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.

Turnersville Community Center is located at 8113 FM 182.

KGB to host library cleanup on Nov. 2

Staff Reports

Keep Gatesville Beautiful has announced that a cleanup will be hosted on Saturday, Nov. 2, for the grounds of the Gatesville Public Library.

The organization is

currently searching for volunteers to help with the cleanup, and the public is welcome to join anytime from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The main goal will be to pick up litter, pull weeds, help with flower bed beautification, and to aid in

landscaping.

If you are unable to physically help, donations will also be accepted such as trash bags and gloves.

For further information, visit www.keepgatesvillebeautiful.com.

Willie Taylor announces run for Gatesville City Council

Submitted Item

Willie Joe Taylor has authorized The Gatesville Messenger to announce his candidacy for the Ward 2, Place 6 City Council seat in the upcoming Nov. 5 city council election.

"My name is Willie Joe Taylor, and I am running for Ward 2, Place 6 seat on the Gatesville City Council."

Gatesville has been my home for the last 27 years, leading me to become owner and operator of B&W Services. I have served as a volunteer firefighter with the Gatesville Fire Department for 25 years. Before operating B&W Services, I worked for Gossett Wrecker Service and the City of Gatesville. I enjoy serving others and I am not afraid of putting in a good day's work. My wife, Kim, and I have vested interest in our community. It is my home as well as yours. The

opportunity to serve my neighbors and do what is best for our community would be an honor. I hope to continue the growth of Gatesville while retaining our small-town values. Our community is known for coming together in both the good and the tough situations that we have encountered. My wish is to continue these close bonds while we welcome newcomers into our community.

As our city continues to grow, I want to help nourish the growth with a sound plan. Some of the infrastructure issues I hope to address alongside the city council are the deteriorating water main system, the repairs to our city streets, and ways to upgrade the community's Internet delivery system. I believe we also need to focus efforts on marketing our community to companies and industries that will help us grow



COURTESY PHOTO

Willie Joe Taylor

and enrich our tax base. Thus, bringing valuable tax dollars without placing a greater burden on our citizens. I am a down-to-earth family man who will listen to all sides of the conversation. I will strive to make decisions for our community based on what will be best for us as a whole. I ask for your support in the upcoming city council election on Nov. 5, 2024. I welcome any and all questions or concerns."

Pecan Grove Baptist Homecoming event scheduled set for 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. A 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.



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save the date – November 1, 2025.

OBITUARIES

Royce Van Pennington

March 30, 1933 - Oct. 28, 2024

Royce Van Pennington, affectionately known as "Brother Royce" by those who loved him and attended his ministry, age 91, of Gatesville, went home to be with the Lord on Oct. 28, 2024.

Born on March 30, 1933, in Gatesville, Brother Royce spent his early years playing and working on the family's dairy alongside his five cousins. Their adventures were numerous and legendary as they helped deliver milk to Gatesville residents during the Great Depression and World War II, forging lifelong bonds and memories.

Brother Royce lived a life dedicated to faith and service. Ordained to preach at Oglesby Baptist Church on Oct. 1, 1950, his calling led him to Southwestern Theological Seminary, where he graduated on Oct. 20, 1966, after also earning a degree from Baylor University. His ministry spanned several Southern Baptist churches across Central and East Texas, including those in Corrigan, Pennington, Blanchard, and the Gatesville and Oglesby areas during his early years. Even after retiring from full-time ministry, he continued to serve as an interim pastor for various churches in East Texas, dedicating nearly seven

decades to the ministry he cherished and showing love and compassion to all who knew him.

Brother Royce also served as moderator for the Unity Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention, and was instrumental in promoting involvement in Vacation Bible School, enriching the summer experiences for countless children. His commitment to youth programs fostered unity and belonging within the church community, and he worked closely with the Piney Woods Baptist Encampment to ensure meaningful summer camps for young people.

In addition to his pastoral work, Brother Royce volunteered for the draft during the Korean War, serving as a chaplain and demonstrating his dedication to his God and country.

An avid fisherman and hunter, Brother Royce cherished the outdoors as much as he loved serving his community. To his family, he was a loving husband, father, and grandfather—his unwavering support a constant source of strength. He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Carilyn Pennington; his children, Tim Pennington (Debra), Art Pennington (late wife Irene), and



Zachary Pennington (Eileen). He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Elizabeth Meeks; his father, Van Otha Pennington; and his sister, Johnnye Roberta Hoover.

Brother Royce's legacy of faith, compassion, and service will continue to inspire all who knew him. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 2, at 3:30 p.m. at the Cochran Funeral Home Chapel in Livingston with a reception to follow. Visitation will take place on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the fine caregivers at Choice Hospice for their compassionate care during dad's final few weeks on earth.

Lenabell Eileen Sohns

Dec. 13, 1931 - Oct. 25, 2024

Lenabell (Lyn) Eileen Sohns was born on Dec. 13, 1931, at The Grove. Jesus received her home, Friday morning, Oct. 25, 2024, a few weeks short of her 93rd birthday. Daughter of Karl Rudolf Drosche and Frieda (Tolkmitt) Drosche, she was baptized Dec. 27, 1931, at St. Paul Lutheran Church at The Grove. She was confirmed April 15, 1946, also at St. Paul. Her early education included St. Paul Lutheran School and The Grove High School. She married Rev. Dr. Wilbert J. Sohns on June 9, 1957, also at St. Paul Lutheran Church. She was "sent" by God as a devoted pastor's wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

God gave her many ways to be sent and to serve in congregations. It was exemplified as a Sunday School teacher, mid-week school-teacher, Bible classes, Altar Guild, LWML, LLL, quilting groups, etc. Her role as a pastor's wife and District President's wife allowed her to shine as a hostess, mentor, and a partner with her husband. She was well known for hospitality with lay people, pastors/wives, district presidents, missionaries, and national leaders of the LCMS. She was appreciated for her humble attitude of service and wry sense of humor as she served in Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Illinois, and Texas.

Her love of mission included engaging with her husband in visitation of congregations, overseas mission fields and partner churches, as well as being a co-founder of The Jesus is Lord Mission Society (2002). Most recently, she lived out her sending as a resident of The Meadows Nursing Home. She developed relationships with residents and staff, sharing Jesus' love through caring for and encouraging them as she had with so many others throughout her life. Among her family, she was

beloved for providing a loving home, home-baked goods, Wendish noodles, and many favorites that included Onion Rye Bread. There was always a quilt or an embroidery project in process around the home. Her willingness to play dominos, cards, or other games with children and grandchildren provided hours of fun, which helped develop loving and deeper relationships.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Rev. Dr. Wilbert (Will) J. Sohns; sons, Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Sohns and wife, Ursula, of Spring, and Michael A. Sohns and wife, Julia, of The Grove; six grandchildren: Aaron Sohns, Benjamin Sohns and wife, Jessica, and David Sohns all of Spring, Kristen Bristow of Georgetown, Nicole Lam and husband, Jeff, of Waco, and Connor Sohns of Gatesville; great-grandchildren, Lincoln and Lenabell Bristow, Adam and Lauren Lam; siblings, Ella Nora Sohns, Louise Drosche, and Iona Knoernschild, and sister-in-law, Joan Sohns; nephews, Jimmy Sohns and wife, Sharon, Tim Sohns and wife, Stephanie, Robert Sohns and wife, Cheryl, Rick Sohns, Jeff Knoernschild, and niece, Paula Weinberg and husband, Harold; and numerous great-nieces and nephews.

Lenabell was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Carl (Sonny) Drosche, and brothers-in-law, Ralph Sohns, Lawrence Sohns, and Edwin Knoernschild.

She lived out her life reflecting her Confirmation verse from Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." The hymn, "Let us Ever Walk with Jesus," was sung at her own wedding and at confirmations and weddings of her own children, grandchildren and other family members. A special memory will always be of



singing that same hymn to her at her bedside shortly before she moved from this life of struggle into the loving arms of her Savior. Throughout her life, she truly experienced walking with Jesus, suffering with Jesus, dying with Jesus, and now, living with Jesus.

Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death,

From our soul's destruction, frees us,

Quickens us with life's glad breath.

Let us mortify, while living,

Flesh and blood and die to sin;

And the grave that shuts us in

Shall but prove the gate to Heaven.

Jesus, here I die to Thee

There to live eternally.

To God be the Glory.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday,

Oct. 30, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in The Grove, with Rev. Ken Hennings and Pastor John Heckman officiating. Interment followed at St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are encouraged to be directed to the Memorial Fund at St. Paul Lutheran Church for memorial trees to be planted on the church grounds. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 220 The Grove Rd., Gatesville, TX 76528.

Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville was in charge of arrangements.

Cathryn Cooper

Feb. 3, 1936 - Oct. 17, 2024

Cathryn Cooper, age 88, of Gatesville, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, at Scott's Funeral Home with Minister Deral McWhorter officiating. Interment followed at Levita Cemetery.

Cathryn Lavina Cooper was born Feb. 3, 1936, to the late John and Clovie White Cudd in Henrietta. She grew up and attended school in Blum, graduating from Blum High School in 1954. After graduation, she attended Texas Women's College in Denton. On Dec. 22, 1957, she married the love of her life, J.B. Cooper, in Rio Vista. They lived in Kentucky briefly before making their home in Gatesville. Cathryn was a homemaker, raising three

boys and making sure that her family was well cared for. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, camping with family and friends, reading, and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a lifelong member of Live Oak Baptist Church where she sang in the choir and played piano during Sunday School. Cathryn was a simple but humble woman.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 66 years, J.B. Cooper; sons, Larry and David Cooper; brothers, John and Kenneth Cudd; and great-grandson, Daniel Cooper.

Cathryn is survived by her son, Michael Cooper, and wife, Theresa; brother, Lloyd Cudd; "daughters," Paula Vincent and husband Jay, Vickie Shaeffer and



husband, Leslie, Deanna Pauley and husband, Mark; grandchildren, Justin Cooper, Virginia Rhymes, Rachel Anderson, Jacob Cooper, Kinzie Cooper, Trista Suttles, Paige Butcher and husband, Jeff, and April Blancett; and numerous great-grandchildren.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

Obituaries can be submitted to The Gatesville Messenger online at www.gatesvillemessenger.com/obituaries. Advance payment is required.

Obituaries should come from the funeral home. Obituaries placed by next of kin must be verified with a death certificate or by the facility handling the body. You must provide the contact information for verification when submitting the obituary.

The Gatesville Messenger deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. Tuesday for the Saturday paper. Deadlines are subject to change during holidays.

Ronald Duggan

Feb. 13, 1959 - Oct. 22, 2024

preceded him in death June 1, 2006.

During his life, he enjoyed deep sea fishing on the gulf coast, listening to "ole school" rock and roll music, and enjoying an ice-cold Coors Lite.

Also preceding him in death was his father.

Survivors include a daughter, Angela Spoor; stepson, John Bellett; two brothers, Thomas Duggan, David Duggan; three sisters, Doreen Anderson, Linda VanLengen, Patricia Planas; grandchildren, Rayne Spoor, Connor Spoor, Presley Spoor, Finley Spoor, Wayne Bellett, Wilson Bellett; and numerous beloved nieces and neph-



ews. He was almost a great-grandfather to baby boy Ramirez, due in November.

For those desiring, the family has suggested St. Jude Hospital for memorial contributions.

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Mother-daughter duo serves elderly at Senior Center

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville's Senior Center recently experienced a positive change this past July after hiring their very own senior worker, Ruthie Cole, who also happens to be Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge's mother.

The idea of having a senior worker sprouted from a training seminar that Director Pam Rudolph and Edge attended earlier this year.

"People kept talking about their senior worker, and I didn't know what that was, so I had someone explain it to me, and we immediately started the process of getting one," Edge said.

The program is called the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which was established through the U.S. Department of Labor to help seniors offset their income.

Cole began working at the Senior Center as a Dietary Aide because she was looking for a job and the opportunity arose. She expressed that she was grateful for how it all played out.

"I had nothing to do with her getting this job. I am proud because she applied

and did it all on her own," Edge said.

Cole works Monday through Friday at the Senior Center and explained that she usually tries to get to work 30 minutes early to help Edge get everything prepared to be one step ahead.

"It sure has made getting the meals out easier, because I worked all by myself before, so I was responsible for getting everything ready along with cooking the meals," Edge said.

Cole has many responsibilities such as making sure the coolers are filled for Meals on Wheels volunteers, plating the desserts, preparing ingredients, packaging, a serving the congregation, and much more.

"These are things that I know I have to do every day," Cole said.

"Since my mom started working here, I don't feel as stressed as I was because I usually come earlier, so I have from 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m. to get the meals out of the door and I always felt like I was lacking," Edge said.

"Now that I have my mom to get the coolers packed and do the desserts, I feel

less overwhelmed."

Cole expressed that since Edge is a "cook's cook" and she is a "country cook" that it balances things out in the kitchen when it comes to planning meals each week.

"My daughter, in my opinion, has followed in my footsteps and she wanted to know how to cook and please people," she said. She explained that the way to please people is through their stomachs.

Serving people has always been in Cole's blood. She spent 22 years as a cook for the military on Fort Hood, and now gives back to the elderly each week.

Working together means more than just sharing a job for both Edge and Cole.

"Growing up, I was always a kid who was in the kitchen," Edge said. She expressed that her grandmother taught her how to cook along with learning various recipes from her mother.

"It was a generation thing, my grandmother taught me, and her mother's mom taught her," she said.

She also expressed that her mother-in-law, Zella Davis, took part in teaching

her cooking skills as well.

Cole explained that her grandmother taught her how to cook and that she will always remember her cooking since she passed on.

Edge said that she feels grateful to be able to work alongside her mother since she now gets to see her each day, when before she wasn't able to.

"We needed this," she said. "We have learned not to take things personal."

"We bump heads all the time, and our ways are exactly the same, so I am learning to do things the way she does them," Cole said.

"My mom working at this job with me has helped me get to know my mom as an adult," Edge said. "We have a different relationship now, and it is kind of stronger, because I am not a kid anymore; I am an adult and it's nice to get to know my mom at a different level and at this age."

The mother-daughter duo prepared 1,840 meals in September and have already surpassed their goal for October.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Camilla Edge (left) is pictured with her mother, Ruthie Cole, who is also the Dietary Aide at the Senior Center.

MOUND NEWS

Rev. Bruce Cox honored Sunday



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Rev. Bruce Cox was honored with a Pastor Appreciation Sunday on Oct. 27. White Mound Baptist Church and Mound Cowboy Church held a joint service at 10 a.m. at Mound Pavilion.

There was a fish fry following the service with about 200 people in attendance.

The Oglesby Varsity Football Seniors held a pep rally at the last home game. Several friends and family came from all over Texas to be there to support Jackson Tippit. Oglesby beat Priddy, 68-0.

On Sunday, Cody and Amber Tippit took their son, Jakson, to cast his vote for the first time for the 2024 presidential election.

David and Pam Hopson visited on Saturday afternoon in Gatesville with Mrs. Margaret Winters.

Several people from Mound attended the Gatesville Intermediate School's annual Fall Festival Tuesday evening.

Several people from Mound attended the an-

nual Harvest Festival at the First Methodist Church of Gatesville last Saturday evening.

Several people from Mound attended the City of Gatesville's 24th Annual Boozaar on Saturday evening at the Coryell County Courthouse Square.

Trinity Baptist Church is having their Fall Festival Saturday afternoon in Gatesville with free admission! It will have games, candy, a maze, bounce house, petting zoo, and much more.

Barbara's Notes: It's time to set your clocks back (Sunday) at 2 a.m., Nov. 3, or set them (Saturday night) Nov. 2.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Oct. 23 - 29. 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. 23
11:18 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
2:33 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Old Waco Road.
4:54 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
8:40 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of S. 26th Street.

Oct. 24
6:02 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Straws Mill Road.
9:32 a.m., a theft was reported in the 16,200 block of FM 107.
12:46 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 700 block of County Road 109.
5:23 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

Oct. 25
10 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 900 block of FM 116.
11:36 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of E. Main Street.
5:31 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.
6:23 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.

Oct. 26
3:06 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
3:20 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3000 block of E. Main Street.
4:33 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of Saunders Street.

4:55 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of S. State Highway 36 Bypass.
Oct. 27
2:04 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Gateway Circle.
8:53 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Business highway 36.
5:50 p.m., harassment was reported in the 600 block of N. Lovers Lane.
6:38 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

Oct. 28
1:21 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2900 block of S. State Highway 36.
5:41 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2000 block of Rhett Rhoad.
10:25 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.
11:47 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2200 block of S. Business Highway 36.

Oct. 29
6:27 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the block of Fennimore Street.
9:33 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 200 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.
11:25 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of State School Road.
1:33 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1900 block of E. Main Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Oct. 23
6:26 a.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 184 and East Range Road.
8:30 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 269 and FM 185.
12:48 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in

the 8600 block of FM 182.
4:22 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 3500 block of County Road 108.

Oct. 24
2:47 p.m., a minor accident was reported on I-14 and Clark Road.
3:33 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107 before Fort Gates Road.
4:34 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 200 block of Tom Sawyer Street.
4:37 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 6000 block of FM 116.

Oct. 25
5:33 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107 before Fort Gates Road.
4:51 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 2700 block of E. Main Street.
5:37 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 7000 block of N. FM 116.

Oct. 26
7:35 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 5000 block of FM 1241.
10:35 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1900 block of Moccasin Bend Road.
12:45 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1100 block of Sierra Vista Drive.
3:42 p.m., an animal complaint was reported on Old Pidcoke Road.

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Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST
Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays – Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
EASTWOOD BAPTIST
Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville; Sundays – Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST EVANT
Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sundays – Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' & youth Bible study 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST FLAT
9775 TX-36, Gatesville; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays – Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE
912 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesdays – Children & Youth 5:30-7:00 p.m. (supper provided)
FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
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.
AWANA children's ministry Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible Study for men & women on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
JONESBORO BAPTIST
Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.
KING BAPTIST
Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY BAPTIST
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 McConnaughay, 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.
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Pastor: Brenden Hough; 875 FM 932, Purmela, TX 76566; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
SWEET HOME BAPTIST
511 N. 14th, Gatesville; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday worship 7 p.m.
SPANISH BAPTIST
Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
TRINITY BAPTIST
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor; 1506 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday – activities for adults, youth, & children 6:30 p.m.; 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.
TURNERSVILLE BAPTIST
Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.
WESTVIEW BAPTIST
Pastor: Malachi Houser; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
WHITE HALL BAPTIST
Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.
WHITE MOUND BAPTIST
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
CATHOLIC
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Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. & Wednesday-Friday at 7 a.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
CEDAR RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
EVANT CHURCH OF CHRIST
Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W. Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST
4605 St. Hwy. 36 S., Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.
LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO
2413 E. Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10–11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.
MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove; Sundays – worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays – Bible Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.
PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST
6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
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CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD
338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.
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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd., Copperas Cove; Sunday Bible Study 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday School 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.
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2 miles north of Ireland on FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays.
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235 US-281, Evant; Dennis Dutton, Pastor; Sunday worship 10 a.m.
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2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD (during school year): Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children & Adult Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:30 p.m. 254-865-2520.
GATESVILLE UNITED METHODISTS
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OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST
Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.
PIDCOKE METHODIST
Rev. Pete Harris; Hwy. 116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday worship service 10 a.m.; 254-677-6242.
MORMON
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
206 S. 26th St., Gatesville; Sacrament services Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH
Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday services 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7 p.m.
CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry & C3 Student Ministry.
CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901.
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Susanne Caparco were issued on October 1, 2024, in Cause No. 24-11029 pending in the County Court at Law Number of Coryell County, Texas, to John Caparco. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:
c/o John Caparco
Independent Executor
308 Skyline Dr.
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522
DATED the 24th day of October 2024.
Joshua C. Tisdale
Attorney for Anna Wall
Texas Bar No.: 24075164
The Tisdale Law Firm, PLLC
1216 S. 31st St.
Temple, TX 76504
Tel: (254) 634-8600
Fax: (254) 554-6686
Email: legal@thetisdalelaw-firm.com 00031125

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Margaret Rose Miller, Deceased, were issued on 10-15-24, in Cause No. 24-11073, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Sharon Lea Miller.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
DATED the 28 day of October, 2024.
Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Sharon Lea Miller
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com 00031127

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marcel George Gresko, Sr., Deceased, were issued on 10-11-24, in Cause No. 24-11076, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Marcel George Gresko. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
DATED the 28 day of October, 2024.
Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Marcel George Gresko
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
00031129

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Angelika Veronika Mefford, Deceased, were issued on 10-16-24, in Cause No. 24-11062, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Regina Nelly LeRue.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
DATED the 28 day of October, 2024.
Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Regina Nelly LeRue
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Facsimile: 9254) 547-4157
Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com 00031128

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gwendolyn R. Harris, Deceased, were issued on 10-16-24, in Cause No. 24-11060, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Sima R. Hafer.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
DATED the 30 day of October, 2024.
Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Sima R. Hafer
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-4157
Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com 00031130

JENNIFER NEWTON CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW, P.O. BOX 237 GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528 ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE, DORI MISTIC 907 S. MAIN ST., COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522 TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS UNKNOWN ADDRESS UNKNOWN STATE THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CORYELL TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MENISE SASA, DECEASED. CAUSE NO. 24-10958, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. SERITA K. SASA FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 10TH DAY OF MAY 2024, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SAID MENISE SASA, 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 11TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW 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 AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2024. JENNIFER NEWTON, CORYELL COUNTY CLERK, CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS BY: K. TALLEY 00031126

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010914001

APPLICATION. City of Oglesby, 120 Main Street, Oglesby, Texas 76561, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010914001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0100854) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 50,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located a 190 Boone Avenue, in the city of Oglesby, in Coryell County, Texas 76561. The discharge route is from the plant site to an unnamed tributary; thence to Pew Branch; thence to the Leon River Below Proctor Lake. TCEQ received this application on September 17, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Oglesby City Hall, front desk, 120 Main Street, Oglesby, in Coryell County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.513611.31.415833&level=18>

ALTERNATE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternate language notice in Spanish is available at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list, for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Oglesby at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Michael Homan, Wastewater Operator, at 254-749-7810.

Issuance Date: October 18, 2024

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DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A sign advertising Meeks Café, which was originally located on the courthouse square, was recently donated to the Coryell Museum.

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

Meeks Café sign donated

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Early residents of Gatesville remember the Meeks Café, which was located on the courthouse square and where many memories were made.

An iconic part of Gatesville history, a large sign advertising the café was recently donated to the museum by Lillian Hannah. The sign reads, "Meeks Café, Air Conditioned, Always Open."

According to a written history of the café, Leonard Meeks and his wife, Inga Christene (Bakke) Meeks, established the café in August of 1931 on the southeast corner of the courthouse square, where it served the community for over four decades.

Meeks Café was considered to be Gatesville's first ice cream parlor. In a 1974 interview, Leonard Meeks told a Waco newspaper reporter, "It was ice cream that made the café. I just thought

of it one day, made a freezer of it, and it sold like hot cakes, no, better than hot cakes. We had so many coming back that we sometimes had employees turning a handle 24 hours a day. After a while, they started coming back to eat." Leonard and Inga Meeks lived at the rear of the café.

According to a history of the café written by Bob Meeks, Leonard and Inga Meeks made the operation of the café a profession, not just a job, and people responded by continued support. "It met the needs of early risers, late workers, was an ideal place for lunch for businesspeople and courthouse workers, hosted Saturday shoppers, and was the place to meet after church for Sunday dinner," he wrote.

On March 12, 1974, following the death of his wife, Meeks locked the doors of the café for the last time and, after 43 years of

service, "Meeks Café was no more."

In the drugstore exhibit of the Coryell Museum, visitors can view a menu from the café as well as a few photos. The museum plans to hang the recently donated Meeks Café sign in the same area.

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

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

GOING PINK AGAINST BREAST CANCER



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Coryell County employees recently showed their support for breast cancer awareness by dressing in pink. Every October, people all over the world show their support for those affected by breast cancer. According to Coryell Health, one in eight women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. The American Cancer Society recommends women begin receiving annual screening mammograms at age 40.



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Gatesville's famous drive-in reflects on growth, history

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

As one of Gatesville's most iconic attractions, The Last Drive-In Picture Show continues to provide a unique experience for the community after nearly 75 years.

Owner Gene Palmer sold the first ticket at Gatesville's drive-in when it first opened in 1950 as the Circle S Drive-In, which was formerly owned by the Skelton brothers. The Palmers purchased the drive-in in 1964, and the family has owned the business ever since.

Despite the closure of drive-ins across the United States over the years, The Last-Drive-In Picture Show holds to its name by remaining one of the oldest operating drive-in theaters in Texas.

"All the drive-ins started closing down, and it got to where I think Gatesville was the only drive-in theater in the country that was open full time," Gene said. "There were a few that just opened in the summer, but they had closed in the fall, winter, and spring."

Drive-in movie theaters started popping up across the country in the 1930s and reached their peak in the 1950s and 1960s, according to the New York Film Academy. However, drive-ins started to experience a loss in the 1970s and 1980s, especially as the mass production of televisions and VCR tapes allowed more people to watch movies at home.

"That was during the time

of the Vietnam (War) and the days when it was hard to run a business, especially drive-in theaters," Gene said.

He adds that the rise in property costs also forced many drive-ins to close.

"The drive-in theaters were having to close and sell the property and move away from town, so that's about what closed a lot of them down," he said. "They really hadn't made a comeback, but there have been some new ones built that are doing pretty good."

The Palmers eventually changed the name to the "The Last Drive-In Picture Show" during a period when other drive-ins around the nation started to close.

Drive-ins have made a small comeback in recent years, especially after the outbreak of COVID-19 when less people visited indoor movie theaters to maintain social distancing. Although the film and entertainment



Owner Gene Palmer when the drive-in first opened.

COURTESY PHOTO

industry took a hit during the pandemic, it exposed a little more people to the retro-style movie theater.

"The best part was that we did get to provide the community with something to relieve a stressful situation, so it gave them something to take their mind off of things and get to be a community again from a distance," said Natalie Palmer, Gene's daughter.

The Last Drive-In also provides a full indoor screen that seats 175 people. Natalie adds that the drive-in still has a viewing room, which drive-ins historically offered for people who did not have a vehicle but still wanted to watch the film. This is a favorite spot for local students who cannot drive yet, which Natalie said is known as "the box."

"We try to provide family-friendly entertainment for people at a reasonable price, so that all the families can enjoy it," Natalie said.

The drive-in also provides mini golf on the property, a full snack bar, and meal options.

The Last Drive-In will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year. Natalie said some of the upcoming plans include a t-shirt contest where the community gets to design the shirt for the anniversary.

Natalie adds that they are also working on adding a birthday party room to the property for those interested in private events.

"We do offer birthday parties now for the cinema,



COURTESY PHOTO

The Last Drive-In Picture has provided the Gatesville community with an outdoor theater experience since the 1950s. Their putt putt golf course also provides entertainment before the movies start.

and we have a couple different packages," Natalie said.

"The birthday parties are usually a movie, mini golf, popcorn, a drink and you get the cinema to yourself, so it's like a private birthday party. But we're working on getting a room together so that they can have the room, and they can have different packages available for them."

Natalie said they also try to be involved with local schools, including hosting their field trips. During COVID, they provided unique

graduation opportunities for the students.

"They made their own movie about graduation, and the video (showed) the kids walking and stuff, and then everybody came out in their cars, and we played it for them," Natalie said. "Basically, we had graduation from your car."

Natalie adds that she has enjoyed watching the students who work with them grow over the years.

"It's fun to watch them in high school and watch them grow up in all the stuff that

they do," Natalie said.

They also host Mother & Son Movie Night to help raise money for Gatesville ISD's Education Foundation.

Despite the changes to drive-in movie theaters over the years, the Last-Drive-In Picture not only serves entertainment for Gatesville, but also draws numerous visitors from out of town.

"The drive-in at Gatesville, probably every year, brings more people to Gatesville than anything that I can think of happening (here)," Gene said.

Local author traces her origins to South Africa

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Local author, Helen Munday, began writing and composing songs on her guitar as a child in South Africa. Little did she realize at the time that years later she would be residing in the small town of Gatesville and authoring books.

She was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and later related in her book, "My Dream, America," that growing up was a happy, loving, neighborly experience, but we were oblivious to the international indignation of South African's policy of Apartheid. As a family, we feared the police interaction around us and, tragically, many hundreds of people died in violence."

Munday would call South Africa home for 21 years. She reflects, "I was raised to speak English, Afrikaans, and Dutch, and I loved to learn and speak Zulu."

Always hoping to come to America, she didn't have the means to. Her dream was finally realized in 1977. In an interview with the Killeen Dailey Herald, she recalled, "I came to America with \$1,600, a visa for three months, and a ticket for a year."

She recalled travelling to New York, Canada, and Florida – not realizing how vast the United States was. Munday became a U.S. citizen in 1983.

After venturing across the United States, Munday made her way to Gatesville in 2011 as a Nursing

Home Administrator of Hillside Nursing and Rehab and later the administrator of Rehabliving at the Meadows. "I was a Nursing Home Administrator for 40 years. I was a registered nurse (RN) and midwife in South Africa," she said.

Her literary career started near the end of 2007. Her father's memoirs inspired her to write. "I had asked my dad permission to write his World War II memoirs, which he had written and sent to me from England. He gave me written consent, and it took me a year and a half to publish his story, 'The War has Ended, but the Memory Lingers On.'" Munday said that the book is entirely nonfiction and covers a five-year span. "He was a Dutch secret agent. His story of unremitting toil to overtake an unrelenting enemy is stirring, inspiring, and unforgettable. He received the Silver Cross from the Dutch Queen Wilhelmina," she said.

Munday said that her second book, "My Dream, America," is also a nonfiction book and relates the story of her journey to America. "It is a story of hope, strength, struggles, and tenacity about a young girl's dream of coming to America. I fell in love with the United States of America and had no idea how vast and diverse this country was. I wanted to tell my story to give hope and dreams to anyone at any age. I had no preconceived idea what America was. To never give up," she said.

Her third book, "The Best of Eve,"

includes recipes from around the world and contains a short story about her mother as well.

"All of my books are nonfiction, but the book I am working on now is fiction – 'The Perfect Farmer's Wife,'" she said.

When asked about who her literary inspirations were, Munday replied, "I've had many literary inspirations, including Winston Churchill and, recently, Kristin Hannah and Charles Martin. Kristin Hannah writes fiction but does an amazing amount of research on all her books."

Munday said that the last time she visited her birthland of South Africa was in 1990. "Near the end of 1993, I brought my mom, sister, brother-in-law, and two nieces (ages nine and eleven) to the USA. They were 13 years on the waiting list to become American citizens. Today, we are all United States citizens and we all love the USA," she said.

In her autobiography, Munday reflects on her childhood in South Africa. She writes, "Sometimes, my heart cries for the life of South Africa, the sounds, the earth, the smells, the beauty, and my friends. Africa touches and buries deep in one's heart and soul, and no one can take South Africa away from me. It remains etched in my heart."

Munday's books are sold at the gift shop at Coryell Museum, 1854 Mercantile, Gussied Up, and on Amazon.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Local author, Helen Munday, held a book signing during the Harvest Festival at First Methodist Church in Gatesville.

Join the Red Kettle: Ringing Hope, Love, and Unity

Submitted by Joyce Talbott

The Gatesville Unit of the Salvation Army is excited to announce the start of the 2024 Bell Ringer Season.

Last year, our community came together with hope, love, and unity, raising \$19,000 through volunteer efforts and generous donations. This year, the season will begin earlier, on Nov. 18, due to the shorter time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. A brief break will be taken on Nov. 27 and 28 to observe Thanksgiving, and the bells will resume ringing at both entrances of Walmart on Nov. 29, continuing through Dec. 23.

Bell ringing shifts are

Monday through Saturday: 12-2 p.m., 2-4 p.m., and 4-6 p.m.

Our volunteers last year were exceptional, representing all segments of our community. We saw people unite in love and generosity to support those in need. While our goal is to raise funds, our mission goes beyond that—we strive to bring the community together in love and hope to make a real difference. Seeing this unity in action is truly a blessing, and we are grateful to live in such a wonderful community.

The local Salvation Army works in partnership with many charitable organizations throughout the year. The main office is at

the Senior Citizen Center, located at 208 Lutterloh, where clients can apply for emergency assistance with utilities, prescriptions, and temporary lodging. The office is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Organizations such as Coryell Community Church (CCC), Trinity Baptist Church, the Ministerial Alliance, and Righteous Roots also work closely with the Salvation Army to address community needs, including offering counseling and support.

The Care Center handles basic necessities like food and clothing, allowing us to focus on other needs. We encourage everyone to support the food drive, as the

demand is significant.

Every penny donated to our Red Kettle stays in our local area, helping those in need here at home. Although Copperas Cove is also in Coryell County, it operates as a separate entity. Importantly, no funds are sent to the Texas Salvation Army, though we receive tremendous support from Nimchie Alce, our Region 2 Service Extension Agent. This summer, through a partnership with Julie Hudson and Brittany Romero of the Boys and Girls Club, 16 local youth were able to attend Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian with total cost covered by the Texas Salvation Army.

Volunteers are a criti-



cal part of the success of the Red Kettle campaign. While the kettle collects donations, we need people to ring the bells. Several churches such as CCC, Trinity Baptist, and the First Methodist Church have already committed to covering time slots.

If you or your organization would like to help, please contact Joyce Talbott by email at cjtalbott304@gmail.com.

The organization will provide chairs, music, Santa hats, reindeer ears, and plenty of gratitude for your time. To sign up as an individual or group, visit <https://signup.com/go/XrtXriz>.

The need in our community is great and growing. Together, we can make a difference.

Team Gatesville competes in Bocce Competition

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Team Gatesville athletes recently showed off their Bocce ball skills at the Area 12 Special Olympics Bocce Competition on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Korompai Soccer Complex in Temple.

The eight athletes who participated in the competition took home several gold and silver medals. In the Bocce singles, Olivia Aguilar, Caitlin Clough, Haley Garcia, Hope Lacefield, Tristen Tidrick, and Addison Van De Water received silver medals, and Jon Hannold and Kaisen Robinson received gold medals. Tristen Tidrick and Caitlin Clough also took home gold medals in the Bocce doubles.

"The coaches of Team Gatesville would like to congratulate our athletes on their dedication, sportsmanship, and success at area competition," Team Gatesville Coach Heidi Clough said.

Clough said the team competes in the Bocce ball meet every year, and it is a favorite sport among all the athletes.

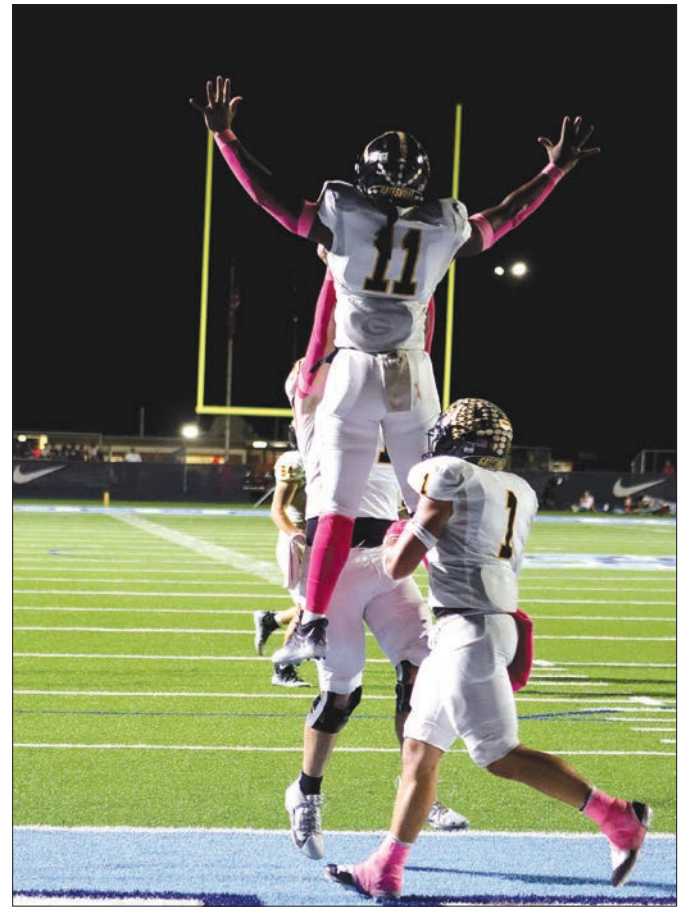
Team Gatesville athlete Olivia Aguilar, 14, competed in her first ever Special Olympics competition on Saturday. She said the best part of the Bocce competition was getting the opportunity to take a picture with the Chick-fil-A cow.

"I really like playing Bocce ball, and my favorite part is



COURTESY PHOTO

PLEASE SEE **BOCCE** | B2 Athlete Olivia Aguilar took a break from playing Bocce ball to pose with the Chick-fil-A cow.



AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left: Gatesville's Rayshon Smith runs the ball into the end zone during Friday night's game against China Spring. Pictured right: Jeret Burks hoists Rayshon Smith into the air to celebrate another touchdown run.

Gatesville tops China Spring for first district win, Rayshon Smith tops 4,000 career yards

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Gatesville used big catches, big special teams play, and a big night from Rayshon Smith to topple China Spring 35-28 and pick up their first district win of 2024.

Smith scored four touchdowns - including the game-winner with 12 seconds left - as the Hornets picked up their first win over the Cougars since 2018. Smith etched a spot in Hornet history in the win.

On his fourth carry of the night, he rumbled 18 yards and surpassed the 4,000-yard mark for his career. His 189-yard effort against China Spring gives him 4,155 rushing yards in his 31 career games - the third-best career total in program history. Only Taurean Henderson and LaShon Thayer rushed for more yards in their careers.

"It's been pleasant to see him grow, and he has grown

up so much since his sophomore year. He has been a huge part of our turnaround. He's big time," said head coach Aaron Hunter. "For sure Ray goes down as one of the best backs to ever come through here."

Gatesville dominated the first two quarters taking a 14-0 lead into halftime. They scored on their opening drive when Gehrig Keeton hit Brayden Saunders for a ten-yard touchdown catch and a 7-0 lead. Smith's first touchdown pushed the lead to 14-0 early in the second quarter.

While the first half lacked drama, the second more than made up for it as the two teams combined for 49 points in the half.

Smith scored again on a 12-yard run on the Hornets' first possession to up the lead to 21-0 before China Spring mounted a comeback. The Cougars scored 21 unanswered points over the third

and fourth quarters to tie the game with 6:28 to play.

The Hornets snatched back the momentum on the ensuing drive thanks to the first of two huge special teams plays down the stretch. Clark Allman returned the kickoff 49 yards to the Cougar 30-yard line and - after converting a 4th-and-1 - Smith scored his third touchdown to give Gatesville a 28-21 lead.

But China Spring needed just two plays to tie the game at 28 with 2:18 to play in the game. That's when Hunter rolled the dice.

After China Spring's initial kickoff sailed out of bounds, Hunter opted to have the Cougars re-kick as opposed to taking the ball at the Hornet 40-yard line. The second kick sailed toward the China Spring sideline and into the arms of Logan Biggs - who ran seven yards before throwing back across the field to Grady Keeton.

Keeton took the catch at the 22-yard line, then raced 42 yards to the China Spring 35-yard line.

"Clark had just had the big return, so I knew they weren't going to kick over there. I told Logan (Biggs) that, if we get it, you have to execute it," Hunter said. "It's risky because a lot of things can go wrong. My heart was about to explode when I called that."

A penalty on the first play of the drive gave the Hornets 1st-and-20, but a scramble from Gehrig Keeton set up 3rd-and-10 and another bit of trickery from the Hornets.

Keeton took the third down snap and handed to Smith who scooted left then flipped the ball to Jack Erwin. Erwin tossed the ball back to Keeton then threw his body in the way of the China Spring rush. Keeton released the ball just before contact and found Dutch Nielsen who made a tre-



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Hornet standouts for last week's game against China Springs include Dutch Nielsen, Rayshon Smith, Brayden Saunders, and Zavier Clater.

mendous tip-toeing sideline catch for a gain of 21 yards. One play later, Smith scored

the game-winning touch-

PLEASE SEE **DISTRICT** | B2

Andrea Licea-Perez makes perfect team captain

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby volleyball team found itself in the thick of the playoff hunt at the end of the regular season last week, and team captain Andrea Licea-Perez was a big part of the reason why. The Oglesby junior has

been a big contributor for the Tigers this season, and coach Amanda Martin said she could not be happier with the leadership she has shown.

"Andrea has had a great season this year," Martin said. "She has become a huge team leader, and I am proud

of the improvement she has made this season. Andrea's setting abilities have improved every season she has played for me and she is performing wonderfully—top-notch right now."

The Oglesby volleyball coach said perhaps Licea-Perez' biggest contribution

to the court is the way she motivates her teammates.

"She truly is a huge team leader and pushes everyone on the team to be their best at all times, whether it be at practice or during our games," Martin said.

Licea-Perez said the 2024 campaign has been one of

steady progress.

"I am pleased with the way this season is unfolding," Licea-Perez said. "We have had our ups and downs, but we are working as a team and are going to continue to improve."

Also active in the Beta Club at OHS and a part of

the media team, Licea-Perez is also a member of the worship team at her church.

Licea-Perez said she tries to bring a couple of things to the team.

"As a captain, I always attempt to bring tranquility

PLEASE SEE **CAPTAIN** | B4



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the Perry Weather monitoring and alert system, which is used by hundreds of school districts and colleges across Texas as well as nationwide.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The First National Bank of Gatesville recently sponsored a new press box signage for McKamie Stadium. Along with the new sign, the local bank also made a monetary donation to further support the Gatesville Independent School District athletics department program. "We are extremely grateful to Ronnie Sullins and the First National Bank of Gatesville for this new signage at our stadium," Athletic Director Rickey Phillips said. "They have been a friend of our athletic program for many years, and this signage and their monetary donation are much appreciated. It's a great way to further honor the legacy of Tommy Davidson and Mr. McKamie, both day and night with lights that adorn it."

GISD Athletics introduces new weather monitoring & alert system

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville Independent School District has recently announced its latest weather safety upgrade with the addition of a Perry Weather monitoring and alert system.

Located at the Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium, the new weather and siren system provides current temperature, Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) and wind speed, and it monitors incoming rain as well as lightning and severe weather conditions.

"In the event of excessive heat conditions, a lightning or severe weather delay, the siren system will provide our outdoor facilities with a message for athlete and spectator safety," Athletic Director Rickey Phillips said.

Phillips mentioned that

the warnings can be heard as far away as the baseball field, the cross country/walking path, and the tennis and softball complex.

All coaches, sponsors of extracurricular groups that practice outdoors, and several district administrators will now have access to the Perry Weather app to utilize at their campuses as well.

According to Phillips, there have been two to three weather-related incidents in the past three seasons where teams and spectators had to be sheltered during Gatesville ISD hosted athletic events.

"Student and spectator safety is always a big concern when it comes to severe weather," he said. "This new system will be beneficial in helping us achieve that goal."



COURTESY PHOTO

Team Gatesville at the Area 12 Special Olympics Bocce Competition on Oct. 26 in Temple. Front row, left to right: Caitlin Clough, Addison Van De Water, Olivia Aguilar, and Kaisen Robinson. Back row, left to right: Coach Michelle Robinson, Tristen Tidrick, Jonathan Hannon, Hope Lacefield, Haley Garcia, and Coach Heidi Clough. Missing: Spencer LaPoe.

BOCCE

FROM PAGE B1

going to practice with the team every week," Aguilar said.

Clough said the athletes prepare for the annual competition by not only practicing sport knowledge, accuracy, and physical fitness,

but by also socializing and building camaraderie with their teammates.

"It is a privilege to be able to coach such outstanding athletes," Clough said. "We are incredibly grateful to our families, volunteers,

and the Gatesville community for their continued support and love."

The Area 12 Bocce Competition is part of Special Olympics Texas, an organization that holds more than 300 competitions annually

at area, regional, and state levels.

To learn more about Team Gatesville, visit the Team Gatesville Facebook page or email teamgatesville12@yahoo.com.

DISTRICT

FROM PAGE B1

down from 14-yards out.

For Nielsen, a full-time anchor on the defensive line, it was just his second catch of the year. The senior captain has responded to a charge from his head coach.

"Dutch was unanimously voted captain this year. I challenged him and the other captains this year about mid-year to step up and he has. He and Logan Morgan have been leaders. There is no doubt those two are in charge," Hunter said.

The win snapped the first three-game losing streak of Hunter's tenure and has reinvigorated his team at just the right time.

"It's huge. We needed it as a program number one. Just because of what we have been going through the last couple of weeks grinding and trying to find a way to win. I thought our kids played hard and executed well," said Hunter.

Hunter also saw the win as a marker in the progress of

the Hornets program.

"I didn't like how we gave up big plays in the second half, but for us to respond like we did - we have been in that spot a lot in this program and it was the first time I thought we finished the game and made plays that they didn't," he said.

"We could have shanked the throwback on the kickoff return. Dutch's catch and (Gehrig's) ball on the third-and-long reverse pass was huge. And then on the last

play we were just trying to center the ball, and Ray just busted tackles and scores. For us to finish that thing was big. I think it can be a big momentum boost going forward."

The win not only keeps the Hornets' playoff hopes alive, but also keeps alive a scenario where they can be the district's number two seed with wins against Robinson and Connally. Gatesville hosts Robinson on Nov. 1, then finishes the regular season on

Nov. 8 at Connally.

Cy Burns had 42 yards on eight carries, and Saunders had 22 yards rushing and 16 yards receiving. Gehrig Keeton completed seven passes to five different receivers. Saunders and Grady Keeton each had two catches, while Ervin, Smith, and Nielsen had one catch apiece.

Zaviar Clater had a pair of sacks in the win pairing his team-leading total to six for the season. He also had two other tackles for a loss.

Kam Hendrix, Dylan Watts, and Larry Schwertner each had tackles for a loss. Kaden Coffman had a fumble recovery on China's Spring's last-ditch effort to tie the game.

Amos Phillips had 16 tackles, while Watts followed with 13. Hendrix had eight in the game, while Grayson Egeling had eight in the game and Morgan had six.

Coryell County Sports Roundup

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Tigers on 7-Game Win Streak Heading into Bye

The Oglesby football team improved to 7-2 on the season this past Friday night with a 68-0 victory over Priddy.

Coach Jeb Dixon said it was a solid effort from his team and said he was pleased with the way his players competed.

"We played a pretty clean game for the most part," Dixon said. "The kids played hard."

The running back tandem of Kyler Fossett and Aiden Oxford combined for 184 yards rushing and five touchdowns for the Tigers, and they were not the only ones getting it done.

"The defense played well and created several turnovers," Dixon said.

Oglesby is heading into its bye week before wrapping up the regular season on Friday, Nov. 8 against Evant, and Dixon said it is pretty much going to be business as usual for his team.

"We are just going to keep working over the bye and try

to get better," Dixon said. "Our scout team gives us a very good look."

Evant Nearly Cracks 100 Points, Could Qualify for Playoffs with a Win

The Elks defeated Cranfills Gap by a score of 98-53 on Friday night in a game in which coach Brandon Young said his team was firing on all cylinders offensively.

"We had a good week of practice," Young said. "Right now our kids are dialed in and focused. Gap came out with a strong game plan. Took us a good half quarter to get adjusted defensively. Our offense kept the ground and pound run game going. We won the turnover battle which really helped us out."

Young said he had a couple of players really step it up in the game.

"Edgar Dominguez came in in the second half and gave us a dual threat at running back," Young said. "He's got really good vision. Tanner Manville, our quarterback, I thought had one of his better games. His ability to sell the play action keeps defenses guessing. Defensively, Aus-

tin Price continues to defy the odds for a little guy. His foot work has improved so much over the season."

Evant plays at Priddy at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 1, and Young said it should be a tough game.

"Priddy will be good, just like everyone else," Young said. "We'll continue to prep like we always do. It's just another game that we want to win. This one a little more, because the winner moves on."

Jonesboro Handles Lometa

The Jonesboro football made it six wins in a row last Friday night with a 54-8 win over Lometa.

Coach Eddie Gallegos said his team had to shake some rust off, but ultimately was able to pull away.

"After only playing one game the past three weeks, we started a little slow," Gallegos said. "But I thought we got in sync and were very pleased how we finished the game."

Gallegos said the win was a "total team effort."

Jonesboro will host Santa Anna at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1, and

Gallegos said he expects a good game.

"Coach Luna does a good job, and they will play hard," Gallegos said.

Eagles And Tigers Play Each Other Tough

The Jonesboro volleyball team edged Oglesby on Friday by a score of 3-2 in what turned out to be a dog fight between the district opponents.

The final was 25-21, 23-25, 25-23, 23-25, 15-13

"I thought the girls played one of the best games they had this season, even with the loss," Oglesby coach Amanda Martin said.

A victory over Lometa would clinch a playoff berth for the Tigers on Tuesday night.

Presley Robinson (four aces, 29 serve receptions, and eight digs), Andrea Licea-Perez (one ace, 20 assists, and four digs), and Zarah Wisheart (three aces, nine kills, 27 serve receptions, and two digs) stood out for Oglesby in the match.

For Jonesboro, coach Tori Smith said she saw some room for improvement from

her team, but said she did have some strong individual efforts.

"We didn't have our best game, but we have an athletic group of girls that were determined to pull off this win," Smith said. "Our libero Lynlee Deats had a great game and really made some amazing saves for her team. Ella Gustin had some great hits and Ally Thormon made it look easy with her coverage on defensive blocking the net."

The Eagles have secured a spot in the playoffs and were 4-1 in district with the win against Oglesby, with an overall record of 19-9.

Gatesville Comes Up a Little Short Against China Spring

The Gatesville volleyball team lost a close one to China Spring last Friday by a score of 3-1.

The game was 17-25, 29-27, 17-25, 16-25 for the Hornets, but coach Janey Weber said she saw some good things from her team in the loss.

"Our defense and serve receive did an outstanding job in our game versus China

Spring," Weber said. "It was probably the best we have done in that phase of the game all year."

Elks Defeat Lometa

The Evant volleyball team beat Lometa by a score of 3-0 last Friday and continues to play well.

The final was 25-10, 25-2, 25-7, and coach JoAnna Vaden said one player had an exceptionally strong night.

"Harley Weeks had a record number of points at 31," Vaden said.

Other good efforts include the following players:

Hailey Neri - six points, four aces, six digs, one kill
Molly Waldrum - four points, four aces, nine kills, two blocks
Bree Ramirez - five points, three aces, one dig, three assists, seven kills
Luwi Rodriguez - two points, three digs, one assist, two kills
Izzy Gandy - 10 points, six aces, two digs, one kill

Oglesby Junior High wins, 46-14, against Pirates

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Tiger football team remains perfect in district at 3-0, beating the Priddy Pirates, 46-14 on Thursday, Oct. 24, in Priddy.

The Tigers moved the ball well and played well on defense to clinch the win for the Tigers.

Offensively for the Tigers
Brody Martinez led all the rushers, carrying the ball nine times for 166 yards, scored one touchdown, and scored one point-after-touchdown (PAT).

Liam Standridge had six carries for 100 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

Judson Marquez carried the ball four times for 59 yards and scored one touchdown.

Caiden Brinkley had two carries for 18 yards and scored two touchdowns.

Hunter Insall was 1/1 in passing, hitting Brinkley

on a touchdown pass of 60 yards.

Slayton Fisher had two PAT's, one rushing, and one pass reception.

AJ Mafra had one PAT reception.

Defensively for the Tigers
Rancher Jeffcoat had six tackles and one fumble recovery.

Caiden Brinkley had four tackles and two fumble recoveries.

AJ Mafra had four tackles.

Hunter Insall had four tackles and one interception.

Liam Standridge had three tackles.

Brody Martinez had three tackles.

The Oglesby Junior High Tigers have a bye game next week and will play their final game of the year against the Evant Elks for the District Championship on Nov. 7, at home at 6 p.m.

Tigers "Give no Quarter" to Pirates in 68-0 win

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers hosted the Priddy Pirates on Friday, Oct. 25. The Tigers wasted very little time finding the end zone in about every way possible. The young Pirates put up a valiant effort but were no match for the Tigers.

The Tigers run their district record to 3-0, allowing no points by their opponents in district contests. The Tigers are idle during the week of Nov. 1.

Offensively for the Tigers
Kyler Fossett only needed to touch the football three times for three touchdowns and had 100 yards rushing.

Aiden Oxford carried the ball three times for 84 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

Jakson Tippit had one carry for a 33-yard touchdown run.

Jack Hendricks had one nine-yard reception for a touchdown.

Alex Castillo was 1/2 in passing and had a nine-

yard touchdown pass. Castillo was 7/9 in kicking on point-after-touchdowns (PAT's) for 14 points.

Defensively for the Tigers
Holdyn Goff led in with nine tackles and had one interception for a 55-yard touchdown.

Jakson Tippit had seven tackles.

Jack Hendricks had seven tackles.

Mason Marquez had seven tackles and one defensive strip of the ball for a 45-yard defensive

touchdown.

Alex Martinez had four tackles.

Kayson Campbell had four tackles.

Joseph Escamilla had four tackles.

Abram Shaw had two tackles.

Jaxon Markum had two tackles.

The Tigers are idle during the week of Nov. 1. The team will travel to Evant on Friday, Nov. 8 to play the Evant Elks in the final district contest of the year.

touchdown.

Alex Martinez had four tackles.

Kayson Campbell had four tackles.

Joseph Escamilla had four tackles.

Abram Shaw had two tackles.

Jaxon Markum had two tackles.

The Tigers are idle during the week of Nov. 1. The team will travel to Evant on Friday, Nov. 8 to play the Evant Elks in the final district contest of the year.

Oglesby JV White football team falls, 26-21

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby JV White football team traveled to West to play the Eagle Christian Eagles on Thursday, Oct. 24. The Tigers dropped a nailbiter, 26-21 to the Eagles. The Tigers were able to move the ball well on the Eagles, but in the end, the Eagles got the

victory.

Offensively for the Tigers
Trey Linder had 12 carries for 154 rushing yards and scored two touchdowns. Linder added a 10-yard pass reception bringing his total yards to 164 for the night. He also scored one point-after-touchdown (PAT).

Javon Howard carried the ball nine times for 47 yards and scored one touchdown.

Tucker Melton was 8/8 in passing for 70 yards and threw two PAT conversions.

Jacob Taylor caught two PAT conversions.

Defensively for the Tigers
Javon Howard had four

tackles.

Trey Linder had four tackles.

Jacob Taylor had two tackles.

Tucker Melton had one tackle.

Sam Ortiz had one tackle.

At this time there is no game scheduled for next week.

Oglesby JV Red team falls to Aquilla Cougars, 36-13, on Oct. 24

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior Varsity (JV) Red football team traveled to Aquilla to play the Aquilla Cougars JV on Thursday, Oct. 24. The

Tigers put forth a good effort but fell to the Cougars, 36-13.

Offensively for the Tigers
Callen Webb scored on a 10-yard touchdown run.

Camden Webb added a 53-yard touchdown run.

Payden Garrett added a point-after-touchdown (PAT) reception.

The Cougars were tough

to move the ball on, but the Tigers managed to score twice on the Cougars.

Defensively for the Tigers
Jayce Aaron had five tackles.

Kegan Redford had five tackles.

Camden Webb had three tackles.

Callen Webb had one tackle.

Blayze Fisher had one tackle.

At this time, there is no game scheduled for next week.

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Thank You to our Sponsors

The Oglesby Livestock Booster Club extends our heartfelt thanks to all our incredible sponsors and participants who supported our 2024 Annual Fish Fry, Dinner / Auction. Your generosity and involvement make it possible for us to continue serving our youth and community.

Since 2017, the Oglesby Livestock Booster Clubs (501c3) fundraising proceeds have supported Oglesby ISD group member students by providing funds through add-ons that directly assist these students with expenses related to raising/feeding their animals and/or building their projects to show at the CCYF.

A special thank you to **Casey Bomer**, whose auctioneering expertise brought energy and excitement to our event. Without the support of dedicated individuals and contributions from local businesses and community members like you, our organization could not thrive.

We are truly grateful for your continued commitment and support.

Sincerely,
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GHS Athletics Hall of Fame held Oct. 19

Staff Reports

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

The program began at 1 p.m. and was held in the high school cafeteria.

The class of 2024 inductees included: athletes Judy Kafer Hurst and Jim Saunders, coach

Guy Dean, Don Curry with the 1950-51 boys' basketball state semifinalists, and the 2009 softball state semifinalists team.

Other individuals who were honored at the ceremony included Billy Anderson, Kurt Apel, Roy Cowart, Don Curry, Gordon Jones, Bernard Knapp, Gip Lovejoy, David Sellers, and Carroll Shirley.

emony included Billy Anderson, Kurt Apel, Roy Cowart, Don Curry, Gordon Jones, Bernard Knapp, Gip Lovejoy, David Sellers, and Carroll Shirley.



COURTESY PHOTO

Don Curry, a member of the 1950-51 basketball semi-finalists team, attended the ceremony 73 years after his memorable season.



COURTESY PHOTO

Guy Dean



COURTESY PHOTO

Judy Kafer Hurst



COURTESY PHOTO

Jim Saunders



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the 2009 softball state semi-finalists are pictured at the event.

CAPTAIN

FROM PAGE B2

when we mess up by trying to uplift the team and saying my favorite phrase 'It's okay, make it up,' Licea-Perez said. "Also, as a setter, I oversee the court and direct traffic."

Licea-Perez said it is not always easy for her. "My biggest challenge as a volleyball player, on and off the court, has been being confident in what I do," Licea-Perez said. "As a freshman barely knowing volleyball positions and rotations, I did not believe in myself or the things my coach said I was capable of doing."

"I learned to be coachable and therefore earned 'Setter

of the Year' my sophomore year because I was sure of my abilities. Having overcome that challenge, I have been self-confident in all aspects of my life."

The Oglesby setter said continuing the trend toward improvement will require a couple of things from her and her teammates.

"To enhance our chances of success, we need to be consistent and focused in what we do and always look for ways to adapt and improve," Licea-Perez said. "We are a solid team all around, but we need to ensure that we always put the ball in the court."

The Oglesby junior said looking toward 2025, Licea-Perez already has some ideas about what she would like to accomplish.

"Next season, I aim to build a strong team inside and outside of volleyball," Licea-Perez said. "In addition, I want us, as a team, to be able to adapt to the losses of players and the gaining of new ones."

Martin said she wants to see Licea-Perez keep providing the same level of leadership she has been.

"My goal is that she continues to play at the highest level possible," Martin said. "She was the Setter of the

Year last season, so I have expected a lot out of her, and she has come through on all accounts."

Licea-Perez's Favorites:

- Favorite Athlete: Ella Swindle
- Favorite Sports Team: UT Volleyball team
- Favorite Food: Tamales
- Favorite Movie: Princess and the Frog
- Favorite TV Show: Jessie
- Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Grupo Linaje



RICKEY PHILLIPS

Athletic Director
Gatesville ISD
@RickeyPhillip12 on X

Fall, winter sport updates

Girls Basketball: I'm really liking the mentality and work ethic in the gym...kids are working hard, absorbing the coaching, and getting better each day. They also will welcome back some additional veterans once the cross country and volleyball postseasons have ended. They won't make their 2024-25 debut until Nov. 8.

It was good to see some of the ex-players at last week's Alumni Game. Those exes might have aged a little, but they showed they still have some fundamental skills and technique. For young players reading these words...those ladies could hoop it up back in the day.

Football: It's been a long time since I have ever witnessed a quarter of football like last week's GHS win at China Spring. It was a whirlwind, up and down, and exciting as heck to say the least. Fans on both sides were loud - we had a smaller crowd, but they were vocal and doing everything they could to help.

After seeing a pretty comfortable 21-0 third quarter lead disappear, the Hornets didn't panic or lose control, they simply kept making plays. The offensive line kept mashing like they had done all night. Rayshon Smith toled the rock and had numerous yards after contact, and Clark Allman had a nifty kick return. On the final, game-winning drive, GHS shocked the entire stadium with a throwback on a kickoff. Then, Dutch Nielsen made a brilliant catch on the sideline to keep the final drive alive. Black & Gold was not going to lose, plain and simple.

Thinking back to how GHS had lost some wild affairs at China Spring over the last two decades, this victory was S...W...E...E...! Afterward, I celebrated in my own way... with a bottle of Coke and salted peanuts on the drive home.

Volleyball: GHS will step into the playoffs Tuesday night as it faces Burnet in the Class 4A bi-district round. It has been fun to watch this still-young team mature and get it done on the court and to watch the contributions of different players on varying nights. If you have been to any of their games or watched their game/highlight videos on social media, you can see how those guys celebrate big with their teammates after good plays and wins.

Hornet Volleyball will be making its 22nd-straight playoff appearance, a streak that started long before any of the current players were born. That in itself is pressure enough for current GHS players trying their best to keep alive the streak that began in 2003.

THSCA Coaches Day

Yesterday (Nov. 1) was Texas High School Coaches Day as designated by the THSCA (Texas High School Coaches Association), the largest organization of its kind in the country.

I can't say or brag enough about our coaching staff... the men and women that go above and beyond to help shape and mold our student-athletes that make each and every program/sport a big deal and that spend countless hours away from their own families each week to make sure our teams are prepared and ready for success.

To our coaches, thank you so much for everything you do on a daily and year-round basis for Hornet Athletics.

Notes and notes

...There are so many things that go into hosting an event, especially athletics events that draw large crowds of onlookers. We are so fortunate to have great custodial and maintenance staff that prep and take care of our facilities, as well as make sure things run smoothly on those game nights. We are also grateful for the dozens of folks that help work our games, from admin to press box to gates to sidelines to concessions. It takes everyone.

...If any business is interested, we still have ad spots on GHS Athletics' Weekly Calendar that reaches hundreds of viewers and readers through our Gmail distribution, sportsYou accounts for each sport, and Athletics' Facebook and X threads. The spots can be rented once or on a long-term basis. Contact me at rgphilli@gatesvilleisd.org if you have any questions.

Upcoming schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 5

- Boys Basketball: Varsity-JV scrimmage at Lampasas
- Tennis: GHS hosts JV tournament

Thursday, Nov. 7

- Football: JV Gold-JV Black here vs. Connally, JV White here vs. Lake Belton
- Football: GJHS at Connally
- Tennis: GHS hosts Varsity tournament

Friday, Nov. 8

- Girls Basketball: GHS here vs. Groesbeck
- Football: Varsity at Connally

Saturday, Nov. 9

- Wrestling: GHS intrasquad scrimmage

Hornet Fight Never Dies!

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

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OISD first nine-week award winners named

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District recently held its awards assembly this past week to honor students who have gone above and beyond during the first nine weeks of the school year. The awards include:

Prekindergarten
 Perfect Attendance: Benjamin Balderas and Axel Chastain
 Math: Ford Seymour and Axel Chastain
 Reading: Ford Seymour, Axel Chastain, Kayne Key, and Stormi Frillou.
 Kindness: Isabella Shumake
 Respect: Ford Seymour
 Responsibility: Kayne Key

Kindergarten
 Perfect Attendance: Kolt Beard, Ivy Earle, Parker Hess, Blakely Rodriguez, and Na/Ryah Smith.
 Math: Laikyn Goff
 Reading: Christopher Bass
 Kindness: Harley Russell
 Respect: Jasiah Cromer

First Grade
 Perfect Attendance: Ramsey Beard, Kinley Brinkley, Keagan Campbell, Fielding Gann, Eloise Hebner-Richardson, Gracie Hess, Kyle Kenny, Logan Licea, Kenadie Mainez, Kye Martinez, Noah Mata, Za'Riyah Smith, Finley Stanridge, Tucker Taylor, and Alex Williamson.
 Math: Kye Martinez
 Reading: Grayson Mainez
 Kindness: Gracie Hess
 Respect: Eloise Hebner
 Responsibility: Alex Williamson

Second Grade
 Perfect Attendance: Noah Crell, Jordan Gann, Stran Hill, Anderson Hopkins, Jon Key, and Annaya Smith.
 Math: Brooks Seymour
 Reading: Jordan Gann
 Kindness: Anderson Hopkins
 Respect: Madilynn Miller
 Responsibility: Noah Crell

Third Grade
 Perfect Attendance: Fiona Hebner-Richardson, Ranger Jeffcoat, Chad Kasting, Kayden Kenny, Lucas Licea, and Brazos Regan.
 A Honor Roll: Dixon Bond, Cole Cockrell, Xander Goff, Fiona Hebner, Brennen Hill, Breelee Isaacks, Ranger Jeffcoat, Chad Kasting, Max Martinez, Saylor McGovern, Crystal Mejia, Brazos Regan, Brody Smith, Jaylynn Taylor, and Freddy Vandiver.
 A/B Honor Roll: Kayden Kenny, Lucas Licea, and Christian Tamayo.
 Kindness: Brennen Hill
 Respect: Brody Smith
 Responsibility: Fiona Herber

Fourth Grade
 Perfect Attendance: McKynzlynn Brand, Maddie Chapman, Ariel Crell, Caymbri Fisher, Kinzlee Gray, Madilynn Hopkins, Maverick Hughes, Kynnidee Martin, Briley Martinez, Jaxon Melton, Radlee Nichols, and Kimberly Uribe.
 A Honor Roll: Ariel Crell, Kinzlee Gray, Braxton Herry, and Thomas Riley.
 A/B Honor Roll: McKynzlynn Brand, Lakota Browning, Maddie Chapman, Seattle Donaldson,

Caymbri Fisher, Madilynn Hopkins, Maverick Hughes, Kynnidee Martin, Briley Martinez, Jaxon Melton, Radlee Nichols, Ansley, Riley, and Kimberly Uribe.
 Kindness: Briley Martinez
 Respect: Kimberly Uribe
 Responsibility: Ariel Crell

Fifth Grade
 Perfect Attendance: Colton Anderson, Abram Gomez, Caden Henderson, Ethan Robles, Hudson Seymour, Allie Thompson, and Judd Wulfkuhle.
 A Honor Roll: Gypsie Browning, Bentley Goff, Abram Gomez, Barrett Miller, and Allie Thompson.
 A/B Honor Roll: Colton Anderson, Caden Henderson, Grayson Hopkins, Jayden Howard, Ethan Robles, Hudson Seymour, and Judd Wulfkuhle.
 Kindness: Jayden Howard
 Respect: Grayson Hopkins
 Responsibility: Gypsie Browning

Junior High
 Perfect Attendance: Kristy Anderson, Arell Augeri, Jayden Hopkins, Savana Lanham, Judson Marquez, Rylee Portman, Abigail Insall, Hunter Insall, Chayson Leverett, A.J. Mafra, Tana McKee, Daycee Robles, Scarlet Aaron, McKynlee Bailey, Rancher Jeffcoat, and Malorie Renner.
 A Honor Roll: Joseph Hamilton, Savana Lanham, Rylee Portman, Abigail Insall, Hunter Insall, Scarlet Aaron, Malorie Renner, and Allisyn Smith.
 A/B Honor Roll: Kristy Anderson, Slayton Fisher, Brook Hamilton, Jayden Hopkins, Aubree Jaccard, Judson Marquez, McKayla Regan, Gracie Thompson, Fernando Uribe, Brinlee Benton, Ali Chrisner, Perla Coca, Jacob De La Torre, Adelyn Gomez, Brylee Griffith, Chayson Leverett, A.J. Mafra, Adilynn Margoitta, Brody Martinez, Tana McKee, Vicky Mejia, Kee-lynn Riley, Kayden Watson, McKynlee Bailey, Rancher Jeffcoat, Caiden Brinkley, and Brynley Puryear.

High School
 Perfect Attendance: Cierra Ingram, Callen Webb, Camden Webb, Couper Wulfkuhle, Caitlyn Battreal, Allisyn Uribe, Jack Hendricks, David Mejia, and Blissany Ramos.
 A Honor Roll: Holdyn Goff, Callen Webb, Camden Webb, Evan Williamson, Couper Wulfkuhle, Caitlyn Battreal, Alisa Contreras, Jaxon Markum, Autumn Meyers, Presley Robinson, Abram Shaw, Allisson Uribe, Duda Martinez, Andrea Licea, Taetym Sanders, Hunter Ewing, Drake LeBlanc, and Kyler Fossett.
 A/B Honor Roll: Akram Abdelwahab, Sydeny Felan, Hannah McFadden, Aiden Oxford, Kelsey Ritchie, Nathan Watson, Zarah Wisehart, Hadley Glass, Kaylee Stanford, Alexah Battreal, Alex Castillo, Gracee Isaacks, Blissany Ramos, Landon Robinson, Julianne Rudolph, Jolynn Whitley, and Jayda Gonzalez.



Oglesby ISD's fifth grade class is pictured after receiving an Assembly Tiger Pride Award for having the most Tiger pride during the awards assembly.

COURTESY PHOTO



Pictured from left to right is Alan Mathis, Katie Hopson, JoAnn Sugg, Alex Johnson, and Dutch Nielsen.

COURTESY PHOTO

Exchange Club honors local Students of the Month

Staff Reports

During the Gatesville Exchange Club's weekly meeting on Oct. 24, three local Gatesville High School students were

honored by being named Students of the Month. The meeting was held at Junction on Route 36 where a presentation was held to announce the Students of the Month for

September and October.

September recipients
 Dutch Nielsen
 Alex Johnson
October recipient
 Katie Hopson

If you are interested in learning more about the Exchange Club of Gatesville, visit the Junction on Route 36 on Thursday mornings for breakfast at 7 a.m.

GHS Theatre to perform "Peter/Wendy" on Nov. 16

Submitted item

The Gatesville High School Theatre Department announces its fall show "Peter/Wendy" written by Jeremy Bloom. It is the familiar tale of Peter Pan, his friend Wendy, and the adventures in which they partake in Neverland. As Wendy grows to learn responsibility, Peter fully refuses to grow up. The audience will cheer as they see the familiar characters of Tinkerbell,

Captain Hook, Smee, and many others. The show will be performed on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m. in the GHS Auditorium, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Admission to the show is \$3 for students with an ID, military personnel, and senior citizens. All other attendees' tickets are \$5, with children 5 and under attending for free.



Freshman Reagan Lea researches hair and makeup ideas for the GHS Fall Show "Peter/Wendy" by Jeremy Bloomberg.

COURTESY PHOTO

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

TSU knocks off reigning UAC champs, sets new D1 era longest winning streak

Tarleton State University

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. - If there were still any doubters, Tarleton State Football surely silenced them with a road win at the defending United Athletic Conference champions Saturday, Oct. 26.

The No. 8 Texans (7-1, 4-0 UAC) set their longest winning streak in their NCAA Division I era at six games with a 27-17 win at Austin Peay (3-5, 2-3 UAC) at Fortera Stadium in Clarksville, Tennessee. Tarleton State has now won 11 of its last 12 games, with 11 straight wins over nonFBS opponents. The Texans last lost to a nonFBS opponent more than a year ago, Oct. 14, 2023.

Saturday was a bit of an uncharacteristic win for the Texans, who lost the turnover battle for the first time this season, and they averaged just 4.0 yards per rush. They entered No. 2 in the nation in average turnover margin (plus-1.57) and No. 19 in the country at 5.1 yards per rush.

On brand, however, was Tarleton's big-play ability on offense, forcing takeaways on defense and limiting the Governors to just 17 points on the day.

Quarterback Victor Gabalis connected with wide receiver Darius Cooper for a 75-yard touchdown to erase a short Tarleton deficit in the second quarter. Caden Holt recorded his first interception, AJ Owens and Donta Stuart tag-teamed on a fumble take-away, and the Texans forced three straight turnovers on downs to seal the game. Tarleton forced the Govs to just 62 rushing yards as a team, an Austin Peay unit that entered at 180.1 per game, 29th best in the FCS.

Saturday marked Tarleton's first game in the



If there were still any doubters, Tarleton State Football surely silenced them with a road win at the defending United Athletic Conference champions Saturday, Oct. 26.

COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

state of Tennessee in program history and its first matchup with Austin Peay. The Governors won the United Athletic Conference last year at 6-0, going 9-3 overall with a run to the NCAA FCS Playoffs.

This was Austin Peay's homecoming game. Tarleton is now 3-1 on the road over the past two seasons when playing at an opponents' homecoming game.

Gabalis, who improved to 14-3 as the starting quarterback at Tarleton State, completed 17-of-30 for 264 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions. Kayvon Britten rushed 30 times for 106 yards and a touchdown, reaching the century mark for the seventh time in eight games this season. Cooper finished with 112 yards

and a touchdown on three receptions, while Benjamin Omayebu recorded nine receptions for 84 yards.

Holt had six tackles and a TFL to go with his interception. Owens had six tackles and a sack to go with his forced fumble, and Stuart also had six tackles to go with his fumble recovery. Brandon Tolvert had a team-high eight tackles and two tackles for loss, with one sack, his team-leading fourth of the season. Devin Sterling returned from a three-game absence to post a sack, 1.5 TFL and seven tackles.

In the kicking game, Corbin Poston went 2-for-2 on field goals and 3-for-3 on extra points, and punter Adrian Guzman booted a pair, both inside the 20-yard line, including a 70-yarder

that pinned the Governors on their own 1-yard line.

To start the game, Tarleton put together a solid drive that stalled near the endzone. After a false start pushed the Texans from 4th and 5 at the 25 to 4th and 10 at the 30, Austin Peay forced the turnover on downs to get its first possession. The Govs marched down and sneaked a 53-yard field goal inside the right upright to lead 3-0 halfway through the first quarter.

The Texans marched down the field again on their second drive and punched it in this time, with Britten scoring his 12th rushing touchdown over the past five games and his 13th on the season. The Texans' running back scored from two yards out to push Tarleton ahead

7-3, a score that remained at the first quarter break.

With about 10 minutes to play in the second frame, Austin Peay's Jesse Johnson III picked off Gabalis, and later fumbled (Cody Jackson forced) but the Govs recovered at the Tarleton 13-yard line. Romon Copeland Jr. scored a 2-yard rushing touchdown to give the Governors their second lead of the day, 10-7.

On Tarleton's first offensive play after throwing the interception, the Texans went right back to the air and soared one deep to Cooper, who hauled it in and took it the rest of the way for a 75-yard touchdown. That gave Tarleton a 14-10 lead.

Several punts ensued over the remainder of the first half until the very end, with

Poston splitting the uprights on an 18-yarder to put Tarleton ahead at halftime 17-10.

Austin Peay had some juice coming out of halftime and put together a solid drive that was spoiled on a trick play. The Texans had sniffed it out, with Stuart breaking up a pass after a handoff and Holt coming down with the ball. But Tarleton threw its own interception just two plays later, and the Governors took advantage, finishing with a La'Veil Wright 2-yard touchdown to tie the game 17-17 at the 9:31 mark in the third quarter.

The Texans drove to the Govs' 6-yard line before having to settle for a field goal, which Poston made from 23 yards out. Tarleton led 20-17 after three quarters.

One of the most pivotal plays in the game came with 12 minutes to go. Austin Peay had crossed midfield, but Owens forced Austin Smith to fumble and Stuart came up with the football. Tarleton turned that take-away into points to go up two possessions, leading to a Braelon Bridges 11-yard rushing touchdown. The Texans led 27-17, which ended up being the final score, as Tarleton forced three straight turnovers on downs to leave Fortera Stadium 7-1.

The Texans have continued their best D1 start to a season. They last started 7-1 or better in 2019, when they were 8-0.

Tarleton State has four regular season games remaining, with three at home at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville. That's where the Texans will be as they host Eastern Kentucky Saturday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. for their Military Appreciation Game.



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Men's Golf completed the fall portion of its season at the Monterrey Collegiate Classic Saturday, Oct. 26.

TSU Golf completes fall season at Monterrey Collegiate Classic

Tarleton State University

MONTERREY, Nuevo Leon, Mexico - Tarleton State Men's Golf completed the fall portion of its season at the Monterrey Collegiate Classic Saturday, Oct. 26.

The Texans had two top 20 finishes individually, with seniors Alvaro Huidobro and Carson Gallaher shooting 3-under-par to finish tied for 20th. Tarleton State finished 11th as a team with a 54-hole score of 873. North Dakota State won the team title with a 54-hole score of 838.

Huidobro shot 3-under par through his first 36 holes before shooting an even-par to close out his tournament. The Spaniard collected his second top 20 finish of the season and the sixth top 20 finish of his career.

Gallaher, who competed in the Monterrey Collegiate

Classic as an individual, came up with an eagle on day one of the event en route to a 3-under-par first round. He shot 2-under par in his next 54 holes before finishing the third round with an 18-hole score of 74.

Sophomore Juan Ballester collected his best finish of the fall as a Texan, finishing 35th with a 54-hole score of 220. Junior Cristobal Sepulveda finished just behind Ballester at 41st with a 54-hole score of 221.

Freshman Drew Ironside compiled a 54-hole score of 224 in his first event in the Tarleton State lineup. Fellow freshman Kellen Young had a 54-hole score of 225 in his fourth event for the Texans.

Tarleton State begins the spring portion of its season Feb. 10 at the Bentwater Intercollegiate in Montgomery.

Tarleton State Tennis' Noelia Lorca clinches inaugural WAC Tennis Invitational Singles Title

Tarleton State University

ABILENE - Tarleton State senior Noelia Lorca captured the first-ever WAC Tennis Invitational singles championship by defeating UT Arlington's Ana Paula Jimenez in three sets 7-6 (3), 1-6, 6-4 in Sunday's final at John TL Jones Tennis Center.

Lorca, who won four matches Oct. 25-Oct. 27 as the No. 5 seed, is the WAC's singles qualifier for the 2024 ITA Conference Masters Championship Nov. 7-10 in Rome, Georgia. The Spaniard will be one of 32 singles players fighting for four automatic bids to the NCAA Singles Championship Nov. 19-24 in Waco.

"Noelia is a fighter," head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron said. "She continues to impress me every time she competes. She came into this tournament with one goal in mind: to win. It wasn't the prettiest tennis, but it was exciting. She gained more confidence with every match and proved she is the grittiest player in the WAC. She goes down in history as the first-ever WAC Singles Champion and that will be something she will remember forever."

Lorca earned her trip to the singles final by clinching two wins Friday and knocking off the No. 1 seed Lamija Avidic (Seattle) Saturday.



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State senior Noelia Lorca captured the first-ever WAC Tennis Invitational singles championship by defeating UT Arlington's Ana Paula Jimenez in three sets 7-6 (3), 1-6, 6-4 in Sunday's final at John TL Jones Tennis Center.

After winning her quarter-finals match in three sets, Lorca came up with a bagel in set one of the semifinals en route to winning in straight sets to reach the championship match.

Going back-and-forth in set one, Lorca clinched the ninth game to take a 5-4 lead. Jimenez bounced back to win the next two games, but Lorca responded by taking the 12th game to force a tiebreak. Lorca closed out the tiebreak victorious and took the first set.

After Jimenez won the second set 6-1, Lorca answered the bell by breaking serve in set three. The senior

took advantage and led set three 3-0.

"I wanted to win so bad," Lorca said. "I knew it was going to be a hard match because I already played against (Jimenez) two times and it was two tough matches and two long matches. I knew I was going to have to go through that again and I knew it wasn't going to be easy."

Jimenez answered Lorca's firepower and strung together a string of games won in the third set, but the senior was unfazed. Lorca clinched the seventh game to clinch the advantage and came up with a critical

clinging point to put her one game away from the title.

Lorca seized the moment and came out on top in the final game to grasp the third set and the conference's fall singles title.

"In this final, I had to win it and give it everything because it's my last fall semester," Lorca said. "I wanted to finish it the best I could for me, my team and my coaches. I am really, really happy."

Lorca and the Texans await the singles draw for the ITA Conference Masters Championship in Rome, Georgia starting Nov. 7.

DRESS UP DAYS, TRUNK-OR-TREATING, AND HALLOWEEN FUN



COURTESY PHOTO

Many dressed up for Halloween at the ice cream social held for Coryell Museum volunteers.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County Clerk employees dressed up in The Wizard of Oz costumes.



COURTESY PHOTO

First National Bank of Evant employees at the Gatesville branch took Halloween as an opportunity to dress up like VP Chris Bergman (pictured in the center).



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Above photo: Trick-or-Treaters stopped by CCC for candy at their Trunk-or-Treat event, including Jillian Smith (left) and son, Daniel, and Jaci Velasquez and her daughter, Jocelyn.



Left photo: Trick-or-Treaters lined up in costume at Gatesville Church of Christ's Trunk-or-Treat event.

CORYELL Kids

National Bison Day



COLOR Time

National Bison Day, celebrated annually on the first Saturday of November, honors the iconic American bison, also known as the buffalo. This majestic creature holds profound cultural, historical, and ecological significance and plays a vital role in the heritage of the United States.

Bison, once numbering in the millions and roaming freely across the plains of North America, were integral to the survival and way of life of Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. These resilient animals provided food, clothing, and shelter, and their presence shaped the landscapes they inhabited.

However, by the late 19th century, unregulated hunt-

ing and habitat loss led to a dramatic decline in bison populations, bringing them to the brink of extinction. Thanks to conservation efforts and the establishment of protected areas such as national parks and reserves, bison populations have rebounded, although they remain a symbol of conservation and restoration efforts.

National Bison Day serves as a reminder of the bison's enduring legacy and the need to continue working towards their conservation and preservation. It's a day to celebrate the resilience and strength of these magnificent creatures and to recognize their importance in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

On National Bison Day, individuals and organi-

zations come together to raise awareness about bison conservation, promote sustainable practices, and celebrate the cultural heritage associated with these iconic animals. Events such as educational programs, guided tours, and community gatherings offer opportunities for people to learn more about bison and their role in the natural world.

Additionally, many zoos, wildlife refuges, and national parks host special activities and presentations on National Bison Day, allowing visitors to observe these magnificent animals up close and learn about ongoing conservation efforts.

Beyond their ecological and cultural significance, bison also hold a special

place in the hearts of many Americans as symbols of strength, resilience, and freedom. Their majestic presence on the prairie evokes a sense of awe and reverence, serving as a reminder of the natural beauty and diversity of the American West.

As we celebrate National Bison Day, let us recommit ourselves to ensuring the continued protection and preservation of these iconic animals. By supporting conservation initiatives, advocating for responsible land management practices, and raising awareness about the importance of bison, we can help secure a brighter future for these magnificent creatures and the landscapes they inhabit.

Did You Know?

BISON, A KEYSTONE SPECIES, HELP CREATE HABITAT ON THE GREAT PLAINS FOR MANY DIFFERENT SPECIES, INCLUDING GRASSLAND BIRDS AND EVEN MANY PLANT SPECIES.



ANIMAL FACT:



STANDING 6 FEET TALL, THIS ANIMAL IS THE LARGEST MAMMAL TO CALL NORTH AMERICA HOME.

ANSWER: AMERICAN BISON



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

FALL FESTIVALS AND BOOZAAR FUN



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The City of Gatesville hosted their 24th annual Halloween Boozaar last weekend on the courthouse square.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Primary School hosted its Fall Family Night on Thursday, Oct. 24, at the primary playground. The festival included a book fair, activities, games, and arts and crafts for students and their families. The Nipa Food Truck was also in attendance at the event.



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- 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. \$399,000
- 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. OVER 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
- 25.06 ac. Pottsville, TX Lot 31 Paloma Vista Subdivision. rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, great views. electricity available. \$225,000
- 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 45'x24' 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



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Hidden Gem Family Center hosted its annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 26. The festival was held at the Gatesville Civic Center and included various activities such as 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. Pictured left: Ramona Willingham-Romero (left) and Brittany Romero (right) are pictured with their booth while displaying items from their small business, Country Cottontail Market. Pictured right: Adult Mental Health Services professionals attended the festival to raise awareness for mental health.