



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Three dead after vehicle pursuit ends in fatal wreck

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

A vehicle pursuit that started in Woodway ended in a fatal crash that killed three in Coryell County on Wednesday, Nov. 20. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, a Gatesville man

driving a 2019 Chevrolet Malibu was fleeing from police in Woodway and waving a firearm out the window. The driver of the Chevrolet, 31-year-old Michael Scott Hughes, entered Coryell County on FM 929. While driving westbound

on FM 929 at a high rate of speed, Hughes lost control and crossed into the eastbound lane where a 2023 Volkswagen SUV was driving eastbound at the same time. Hughes' vehicle collided with the Volkswagen, and he was killed

upon impact. Hughes was the only occupant in his vehicle.

The Volkswagen contained a 61-year old male passenger who was ejected from the car during the crash and pronounced dead at the scene. A 68-year-old

female passenger in the Volkswagen was transported to the emergency room and died at the hospital.

The driver of the Volkswagen and two other passengers were all transported to the emergency room for injuries.

Texas DPS said investigators did not clear the scene until 5:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 21.

The crash investigation is currently open. Next of kin have been notified.

IN THE SEASON OF GIVING



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Salvation Army volunteers will be stationed at Walmart with their red kettles Monday through Saturday each week leading up to Christmas. The Salvation Army is currently in need of local volunteer bell ringers. Visit <https://signup.com/go/XrtXriz> to sign-up to volunteer as an individual or with a group.

Gatesville raises 480,000 pounds for Food for Families

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Once again, Gatesville and its surrounding communities answered the call to help feed local families and individuals in need at the 35th Food for Families drive at the Gatesville Fire Station on Friday, Nov. 22.

As of Monday, Nov. 25, Gatesville has raised a total of 481,553 pounds of food and monetary donations. This number will continue to rise after a final count is determined on Nov. 30.

"Once again, a fabulous drive, and once again I am thankful for Gatesville and the surrounding area," Gatesville's Care Center Co-Director Deral McWhorter said. "We have yet to count the HEB totals and what we will receive until Nov. 30."

In 2023, Gatesville raised a total of 661,624 pounds during Food for Families. With inflation and the increase in food prices, McWhorter said food banks changed how they calculated pounds this

year. The new formula calculates \$1 per two pounds of food instead of two and a half pounds.

"If we were using the same formula as in all the previous years, we would be rather close to last year's total," McWhorter said. "So, way to go people. You continue to shine."

The annual one-day food drive collects non-perishable food products and helps stock the shelves of area food banks and pantries beyond the holiday season. All local donations will remain at the Care Center to serve the hungry in Coryell County. What the Care Center raises during Food for Families will help support their food bank until the next food drive.

"I want to thank everyone who contributed," Care Center Co-Director Debbie Blanchard said. "Every can, every dollar helped to get us to our total of 481,553,

PLEASE SEE **FOOD** | A2



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

KWTX news anchor Gordon Collier (left) is pictured interviewing Deral McWhorter during the annual Food for Families. See more photo on A16.

Property fraud protection offered by Coryell County Clerk's office

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

On Sept. 12, Coryell County Clerk's Office implemented a property fraud alert system that will help with the ever-growing property fraud that is sweeping across the nation.

This is a free service provided by Coryell County Clerk, Jennifer Newton, through EDOC Technologies Inc., with the goal of reducing fraudulently

recorded documents that could affect property ownership.

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

portant to ensure that your contact information is accurate and current. If your name, cell phone number, or email address changes, please register again.

"I do believe that if we can continue to spread the word, we will have more people sign up. I highly encourage everyone to protect their most precious

PLEASE SEE **FRAUD** | A2



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Remembering a Coryell County midwife

"It never got too cold or too dark for her to go when called..."

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Midwifery has a long history in the State of Texas. As late as 1900, more than half of all births in Texas were attended by midwives.

The midwife practice has been traditionally a combination of letting nature take its course and assisting the mother with emotional support and a variety of home remedies as well as herbal remedies.

Most midwives in early day Texas were traditional-lay midwives and practiced in homes long before hospitals were in existence.

A pioneer midwife of great renown and unwavering spirit in Coryell County was known as Sarah Hannah Bates. She

came to Coryell County with her husband, William Alexander Bates, and settled near Shoal Creek on a land patent containing 160 acres. A native of Missouri, she was 36 years old when she first set foot in Coryell County in 1878.

In the Coryell County Families book, published in 1986, Sarah's granddaughter, Mary Etta Franklin, remembered, "My grandmother was not only a wife and mother, but also a 'woman doctor.' Legally licensed or not, it is recorded that she delivered 1,074 babies between 1874 and 1904 when she died. It never got too cold or too dark for her to go when called."

It is certain that Sarah

Bates faced many challenges in the late 19th century that stretched far beyond the birthing room. There were struggles with isolation; the weather could turn fierce, and the dirt roads that crisscrossed Coryell County often became impassable after rains. There were nights when she must have travelled through thick fields, lantern in hand, to reach a mother in need.

Word of Sarah's remarkable skills as a midwife quickly spread throughout Coryell County. She became much more than just a deliverer of babies; she was a confidante, a healer, and a pillar of strength for the women of the community. Many came to her

not only for her midwifery, but also for her knowledge of herbal remedies, allowing her to care for ailments far beyond childbirth.

Since her first arrival in the county, years rolled by as she continued her work. The next generation of women began to look upon midwives such as Sarah Bates and they realized her deep-rooted passion to help others.

Sarah Bates died on May 5, 1904, in Coryell County at the age of 61. Whether it was through storms or celebrations, the legacy of love, compassion, and the midwifery of Sarah Bates would endure for the generations that followed.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pioneer midwife Sarah Hannah Bates

FRAUD

FROM PAGE A1

asset by signing up for this program. It is a completely free program for the citizens, and it only takes about two minutes to sign up for it. I also encourage people to sign up with a cell phone number and an email address. If anyone needs help signing up, we

will gladly sign them up in the office. Don't wait until it's too late-sign up today and secure your property," Newton said.

As of today, Newton reported that a little over 400 property owners in Coryell County have already signed up for the system.

Regarding property fraud, she said, "It's only happened once here, but it's becoming a huge problem. Dallas has been hit hard and Travis County. There was a man in Dallas that did this seven times before they caught him - he would transfer titles into his

name, do an online notary, file it into the records, sell the home, went through closing and everything. When the buyers took possession (of the home) they found out it wasn't valid. Then it turns into a court battle to get the property re-established to the origi-

nal owner."

"I knew property fraud was out there, but I didn't realize until recently just how bad it has become. I am trying to stay ahead of this ongoing issue and provide as much protection for the citizens of Coryell County that I possibly can,"

she said

To sign up for this service, property owners will need to visit the county website at coryellcountyclerk.com and click on "Property Fraud."

FOOD

FROM PAGE A1

and we are still counting."

For those who were not able to donate on Friday, the Care Center is accepting donations through Nov. 30.

Gatesville's donation site received generous support from the community. Numerous local churches,

schools, businesses, organizations, and community members across Coryell County donated thousands of pounds to this year's food drive.

Many local groups showed up to help volunteer at Friday's event,

including Gatesville ISD students and the Texas Army National Guard (MATES).

"I want to also thank all of our volunteers for the time they gave," Blanchard said. "It takes a team, and our team is a winner."

Food For Families is

the largest food drive in Central Texas with sites set up across nine counties.

It is sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America, HEB Grocery Company, and KWTX News 10.

As of Friday, Nov. 22, KWTX reported that pre-

liminary numbers show that Central Texans raised nearly 2 million pounds of food for Food for Families this year. All donations at each site serve the people in the county where it is collected.

The 2024 Gatesville Food

for Families food drive was held in honor of J.B. Cooper, also known as "Deral's right-hand man," who committed 23 years of volunteer service to the Care Center.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Thanksgiving Day tradition revisited



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

Families seem to have certain traditions when it comes to the holidays. Some clans gather at Grandma's house to eat the same meal, year after year.

People seem to want and need to have the same meal. They want the green bean casserole, the candied yams, and the holiday pies, which most of us eat at no other time of the year. The consistency of the celebration is comforting in the ever-changing world in which we live. Knowing you will see the same faces around the table and remi-

nise over the same family stories while watching football before or after the meal is something that can be counted on. We depend on it, crave it, and seek it.

For the years I was in the horse business, I would spend Thanksgiving in Oklahoma City at the National Reining Horse Futurity. The futurity has traditionally been the

sport's biggest event with people traveling from all 50 states and some 25 different countries to participate. Because of the size of the show, the event starts Thanksgiving Day, which means all the vendors, participants, and fans are far away from home on that special day. Many tend to their horse show responsibilities and then come together for a mass dinner, which the NRHA arranges. While I think it was a great idea to have a dinner catered on the grounds, I would always leave the fairgrounds and go to Furr's Cafeteria.

I was far away from my kids and folks on these Thanksgivings. They understood I was working, and it was necessary for me to be gone, but part of me always wished we could all be together. From this loneliness, I started my own tradition of going to Furr's and "finding a friend." By that I mean I would go to Furr's,

go through the line for food, and then find someone who was sitting alone and ask if I could sit with them. I know that sounds a little crazy, but then again, maybe not.

I would scour the room looking for someone who was older and alone. The room was always full of families eating, but there would be several people who would be sitting by themselves. The first year I approached an elderly lady and asked if she would mind some company. Maybe it was my cowboy hat, the smile I gave her, or even the tone of my voice, but she instantly smiled and said, "Why sure, are you alone, too?" I explained why I was in Oklahoma City and how I was taking a break from the horse show to eat a Thanksgiving meal. She informed me she was a widow with no children, and, while friends had asked her to come eat for the holiday, she felt like she

would be intruding on their family meal, so she had decided to eat her Thanksgiving meal by herself.

She told me about her husband, how they had moved around the country as he had served in the military, and they had finally settled in Oklahoma. She had been an elementary school teacher and regaled me with one story after the other of her humorous and sometimes ornery students. We visited for almost an hour-long after our food was gone. I picked up her check with mine and told her I wanted to treat her to her meal. She asked me why I would buy a meal for a stranger, and I told her, "You're not a stranger. Now we're friends."

I continued this tradition for nearly 10 years until my fortunes changed and I left the horse business. For each of those years, my "new friend" had their own unique background and story which was unknown to

me before I sat down. The brief moments we shared will always be treasured. I believe all those folks were lonely and in need of some simple human companionship. I came away with an appreciation of the lives lived by others and feeling like a person's Thanksgiving had been made better. My new friends also filled a void in my heart.

I sure do miss some traditions.

Thought for the day: Sometimes reaching out to someone is the beginning of an amazing journey and on other occasions, it allows others to enjoy your journey.

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

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Maranda May

Say hello to our neighbor, Maranda May!

Maranda has been the Administrator at RehabLiving at the Meadows for over a year now and has been a licensed Nursing Home Administrator for over 18 years. She expressed that she loves her job, and said, "Knowing that I can promote positive change in the lives of our post vulnerable population is the best part of my job." For the past year, she has commuted from Lorena to Gatesville but hopes to relocate soon. "I grew up in a small town, and I love the small-town feeling," she said. "Gatesville has great people and businesses; everyone has made me feel welcome."

Maranda reads *The Gatesville Messenger*, and said, "I love that *The Gatesville Messenger* promotes activities of all ages, supports our schools and businesses, and enjoys bragging about our town as much as I do."

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

Managing seasonal depression

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

The holidays often symbolize a time of joy and celebration, but for many, it becomes a difficult season for mental and emotional health.

Dr. Jantzen Malti, a family medicine physician at Coryell Health, explains that there are many reasons why people might struggle with feelings of depression or anxiety around the holidays. One factor is known as seasonal affective disorder (SAD), which tends to occur during fall and winter when less daylight puts a strain on one's emotional wellbeing.

"For folks who have chronic depression and were in a stable remission for the rest of the year, it can be very common to see that flare up where it was stable just a few months ago," Malti said.

A recent survey by the American Psychological Association (APA) shows that nearly 89% of adults claim something causes them stress during the holidays, while 41% say it increases their stress compared to other seasons. One of the top stressors found in the survey includes financial wellbeing as the pressure increases to spend money on gifts. Excess stress is often associated with increased feelings of depression and anxiety, according to the APA.

Since holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas often revolve around family gatherings, Malti said it can also trigger feelings of stress, grief, or loneliness if one is experiencing a family conflict or loss.

"I think the reality for most people is some of those relationships may be strained for one reason or another and can create a difficult time for folks (during a time) meant to be spent with your family,



ADOBE STOCK

Holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas are challenging for some.

friends, and loved ones," he said. "A number of us may have a mother, father, or loved one who has passed away, and the memories of previous Christmases or Thanksgivings spent at a grandmother's house or grandfather's house are no longer here due to a loss in the family."

Malti said that seasonal changes not only affect those with a history of depression and anxiety, but also those who might not normally struggle with a mental illness.

Some of the signs of depression include chronic fatigue, loss of interest in activities once found enjoyable, and changes in sleeping and eating patterns. While depression and anxiety might present similar symptoms, anxiety also includes excessive worrying, fear, and irrational thoughts.

"I discuss this a lot with my patients, but if you feel like you're struggling with any new feelings of depres-

sion or any anxiety, often times that can come in very subtle ways," Malti said.

When it comes to managing one's mental health around the holidays, Malti provides a few recommendations that might help with symptoms:

- Remain active with aerobic exercise for about 30 minutes four to five days a week, such as walking or using an elliptical machine to work large muscle groups and elevate the heart rate.
- Get enough sleep each night. Malti recommends keeping a consistent sleep schedule to keep the circadian rhythm in check.
- Stay engaged with others. If family or friends live far away or are no longer around, find activities or ways to get involved in the community.

"Especially during the holidays, both community outreach and church programs usually have a number of things going on to bring people together

that may not have a lot of close family or friends that they are able to visit or are no longer alive, so it still allows people to have that sense of family they may not have anymore," Malti said.

Malti emphasizes the importance of seeking medical help if one is struggling with any signs of depression, anxiety, or their overall mental health.

"Historically, depression has been stigmatized, but it's a very common thing we see and manage in a doctor's office," Malti said. "I encourage anybody to be open about the way that they're feeling. If they feel like they are struggling with depression, to not feel like they'll be judged in any sort of way or be put in some category or feel like they are crazy, because none of those things are true. It's a very common thing that people struggle with."



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Coryell County Courthouse Master Plan continues

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Representatives from Architexas - Architecture, Planning and Historic Preservation, Inc. - were recently on hand taking notes and touring every nook and cranny of the historic Coryell County Courthouse as they worked on developing a Master Plan for the structure.

In a previous comment, Coryell County Attorney Brandon Belt described the need for such a document. "A Master Plan is required to apply for grant funds to work on the courthouse. The purpose of a Master Plan is to evaluate the current state of the courthouse and set priorities for rehabilitating and maintaining the building," Belt said.

In May of this year, the Coryell Commissioners Court selected the top three respondents, Architexas, O'Connell, and Komatsu for the courthouse Master Plan with interviews with each firm held on June 6. The Coryell County Historical Commission was asked to be present at each of the interviews. At the Commissioner Court meeting held on June 11, a representative from the Coryell County Historical Commission, Sherry Lawrence, addressed the court with her observations on each of the three firms.

Danny Corbett, Chairman of the Coryell County Historical Association, said, "Having a courthouse Master Plan is imperative should the county seek grant funds from the Texas Historical Commission, whether it be a full restoration grant or even an emergency grant for things such as a leaky roof. The plan will provide a road-map for maintenance and preservation of this historic resource in the future."

The Coryell Commission-

ers Court selected the top 3 respondents, Architexas, O'Connell, and Komatsu for the courthouse Master Plan, which they interviewed with each firm on June 6. The Coryell County Historical Commission was asked to be present at each of the interviews. At the Commissioner Court meeting held on June 11, a representative from the Coryell County Historical Commission, Sherry Lawrence, addressed the court with her observations on each of the three firms.

Judge Roger Miller asked Lawrence to share her assessment of the proposed firms. "After three very good presentations in this important endeavor, I really don't think we could go wrong in the companies we were considering, but my opinion, and also that of Danny Corbett, who is our historical commission chairman, feel like the Architexas company would probably be the best choice. I was impressed with the fact that they had worked on two Dodson courthouses already and had successfully obtained an approved master plan with those courthouses." [Several courthouses in Texas were built by architect Wesley Dodson].

Lawrence continued, "The other thing I was impressed with was that they [Architexas] seemed, just off the top of their heads, to come up with some outside funding possibilities for our courthouse restoration and repairs - some federal grants, TxDOT, universities, philanthropists, and they seemed to have those names at hand, better than the other two. Their presentation brought a lot of important things to light."

The unanimous decision of the commissioners was to accept the proposal made by the Architexas

firm to develop the plan. On July 23, the commissioners voted to accept the bid from Architexas at a cost of \$65,000.

At the Aug. 13 commissioners court meeting, a representative of Architexas, Alexis McKinney, addressed the court with the estimated project schedule for the completion of the Master Plan and spoke about the Matterport laser imaging that was being conducted throughout the building to map each floor.

"It's taking a point with 3-D imaging, and then it's taking photos of the courthouse, and we're able to use it to take measurements. It's better than us spending a week measuring everything to get a floor plan. It gets us 75% of the way out there," McKinney said.

McKinney said that they are also trying to gather historic photos of the courthouse inside and out to try to piece together the history of the structure. She said that they are working closely with the Texas State Historical Commission in Austin and locally with the Coryell County Historical Commission.

Step One

Concerning the laser scanning of each room in the courthouse on each floor, McKinney said, "We're doing this to discover the current space layout so that we can get an accurate floor plan. This is step one - we need a floor plan."

In a recent email, McKinney said, "Architexas, the structural engineer and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineer completed a building assessment. This includes documenting the existing components of the building, their condition, and any recommended repair or maintenance in the future. We also did drone videos of the roof,



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The "Design Team" from Architexas recently met with courthouse staff to continue their assessment of the courthouse. Pictured left to right are Keith Daugherty, courthouse maintenance; Bill Snell, courthouse maintenance; Sara Patrick, Karina Tribble, and Blaine Carmack, all of Architexas, along with Tiffany Butler, courthouse steward.

and the videos are fantastic. The files are huge, but I hope to share a YouTube link with you in the future."

"The architectural assessment will be ongoing as we didn't make it to the third floor on this visit but will schedule a follow up visit. Architexas also spoke with department heads to review current space needs for occupants, storage, and any known growth in the future. We will gather this data and send it back to the county for comment. From this 'programming assessment,' we will develop a proposed floor plan that allows for expected department growth. There are parts of the courthouse that are underutilized currently, and this programming exercise will try to re-activate them efficiently," she said.

McKinney continued, "The team reviewed the

condition of the cupola, attic framing, structural systems, and generally got a better understanding of changes to the courthouse over time. In general, it is in excellent condition with little damage to the cinder concrete used for the concrete floor systems. There is a moisture concern to the mortar in the basement that we will study further and make recommendations for correction."

Architexas provides a broad range of services encompassing architecture, planning, and historic preservation. With every project, the firm follows a process that begins with researching and understanding the context - the physical, historical, and programmatic conditions - within which they will be working. Each project is seen as an opportunity to create a care-

fully crafted response to a unique set of circumstances and client aspirations.

Over the next several months, the Architexas representatives will continue to visit the Coryell County Courthouse where they will assess the structure and make recommendations of how to restore and improve the working courthouse.

The Architexas website states, "Although our projects are realized with a profound respect for the past and a rational understanding of present needs, they ultimately look to the future by serving the individuals and communities that will experience them for generations to come."

The Master Plan is estimated to be finalized with the Texas Historical Commission in July of 2025.

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Tawanna's business adventures



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

"To keep my mind going, I have to be doing stuff," says Tawanna Fields, of Dallas, "because I don't like to be bored." She learned how to cook while taking home economics courses at Amarillo High School.

"I didn't go to college. I moved to Dallas at 18 years old right out of high school, moved in with a cousin, and started my first company."

She had \$200 she had saved while working at Braum's in Amarillo. In Dallas, she went to Sam's and bought \$150 worth of food essentials and started preparing plate lunches of chicken tetrazzini, green beans, corn, a piece of chocolate cake and a roll

that she tried to sell at car dealerships for \$7. "They said no every time I went in. On about the 5th try, the manager of a car dealership bought a plate of food and so did a policewoman customer. They both raved about the food. Then the policewoman asked Tawanna if she could cook for 250 people. Tawanna said yes. That was the start of TAWANNA'S KREATIONS 'N MORE CATERING. Then she started selling bar-

beque. "I was everywhere," she says. "Beauty shops, barber shops, parking lots night-clubs at night, I was making 4 or 5 thousand dollars a day. Then I started really diversifying."

She started a house cleaning business, had a bunch of vending machines, a couple of restaurants, and had 11 dump trucks to help out at disasters all over the south. Then a man told her he would give her \$5000 to haul something to Oklahoma City. "I found out it was a very long light pole. So, I ended up buying a seven dually trucks and seven forty feet long gooseneck trailers, and we started hauling freight to 48 states."

Tawanna had a fleet of Amazon trucks delivering goods all over East Texas. She owns BLACK DIAMOND TRANSPORTATION that takes celebrities all over Dallas and beyond.

"I have 24 black Suburbans, two Cadillac Escalades, three Mercedes Sprinter vans and one party

bus." She wrote a book and gives entrepreneurial brunches. "I tell people how to start a business or take their business to the next level. Then I give them my resources that have made me successful. I have these at the first of the year every year."

One thing that got her on the road to success was while she was working at Braum's. She worked there all four years she was in high school, had keys to the store, and was the store leader, opening and closing the business every day. She worked even on her days off. She got a raise, but it was an increase of only pennies per hour. That's when she decided she didn't want to work for anyone else. She wanted to be her own boss, work when she wanted, and make as much money as she could. She cried and prayed all the way during the long drive from Amarillo to Dallas.

SUDOKU

Puzzle answers from the Nov. 23, 2024 issue.

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)
Crackpots of Texas Pottery Studio offered beginner, adult, and children classes.
J.C. (Jay) Burch announced his resignation as Gatesville police chief.
On Veterans Day, Fort Hood officials held a ceremony at Memorial Park to rededicate the Landowners' Memorial personnel memorial.
The 4th Infantry Division

at Fort Hood was getting another brigade with 5,000 more soldiers.
The Gatesville Hornet junior varsity basketball team remained undefeated as they picked up convincing wins over Hearne and Jarrell.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)
The Gatesville Ministerial Association hosted the annual Community Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist

Church of Gatesville.
Three historic, metal truss bridges in Coryell County were up for adoption, relocation, and preservation.
Western Auto offered a portrait package for \$6.99.
Tri-County Propane began to offer state inspections.
Exclusively Hers advertised Evan Picone holiday hosiery.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

The Gatesville ISD School Board approved the schematic design phase of proposed building projects for Gatesville.
Retiring Coryell County Sheriff Windy Cummings was honored for his 32 years of service by the Cent-Tex Peace Officers Association.
Troy Chasteen was presented a plaque as "Fireman of the Year" at the Gatesville Fire Station.

Perry's on Main Street advertised over 400 movies from which to rent.
Gatesville Faculty of TDC Employees donated \$200 to the Sesquicentennial Committee.
50 YEARS AGO (1974)
Questions abounded as to who was Gatesville's first Mystery Shopper of the 1974 Christmas season.
Herm Cummings was elected Gatesville's "Fire-

man of the Year."
Davidson Beauty Supply began selling Revlon Cosmetics.
A dog tattoo clinic was held in which the owner's social security number was tattooed on the dog's inner left flank.
Don Flentge's New Radio Shack was set to open in Don Flentge Drug on North Lutterloh.

PEARL NEWS

Are you as stuffed as I am?



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Happy Saturday after Thanksgiving everyone! Are you as stuffed as I am? Those leftovers still taste great to me, especially the buttermilk pie.

Speaking of pie, there will be lots of delicious pies next week at the Pearl Community Center Bluegrass Kitchen from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Just to remind you of the big events in Pearl next Saturday, I'm running a repeat of what will take place, when to be there, and what you can do when you visit

the greatest little community in Texas. Be sure and share this information with family and friends.

The Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop is preparing for a big sale on Dec. 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. It's the "Buy What You Want, Pay What You Want by the Box" sale. Linda and

Ronald have been working hard all week to gather items for the boxes, and it looks great. Along with the 6,000 gently used books, there are so many wonderful items available that you will have a hard time making up your mind exactly what you need to buy and take home. In fact, with this sale, you really won't have to make purchase decisions. Just buy it all. Remember, all purchases go toward supporting the store's local charities. It's a win/win situation. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar. Invite your friends and family to tag along. You don't want to deprive them of this big opportunity. You might be able to mark Christmas shopping as "done."

For just \$5, you can set up a flea market-style booth around the cabin at the bookstore on Dec. 7. The \$5 fee goes toward the

Pearl Community Center operating expenses. The only thing you cannot sell is food items. This is a great opportunity to sell your homemade crafts or other new and used items, especially since this is right before Christmas. For more information, call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or Kay Pruett at 254-865-5864.

Bands wanted! The next Pearl Bluegrass event will be held on Dec. 7. It's so easy to be able to bring your band and play on the stage. Just put your band's name on the chalkboard outside the kitchen. That's it! That's all you do. Chris and Garrett will be glad to answer questions about playing on the stage, and you can find them somewhere in the Community Center building. The stage show starts at 1 p.m. If you're interested in jamming, bring your instrument and join any of the jams going on

all day in and around the Community Center. Pearl is such a friendly place, and you will love that others who enjoy good music like you will welcome you with open arms. Put it on your calendar. Pearl, Dec. 7, be there. There's no place like Pearl!

Along with listening to great bands, jamming with other musicians, and shopping at the bookstore, you can grab a delicious lunch and snack items as well. The cash only kitchen provides homemade meals and dessert fare for either "eat in" or "to go." Also, the kitchen welcomes volunteers to either help in the kitchen or donate homemade foods. All purchases go toward the expenses of operating the Pearl Community Center. Your family and friends will thank you for inviting them to eat with you. Come one, come all to the best little spot in

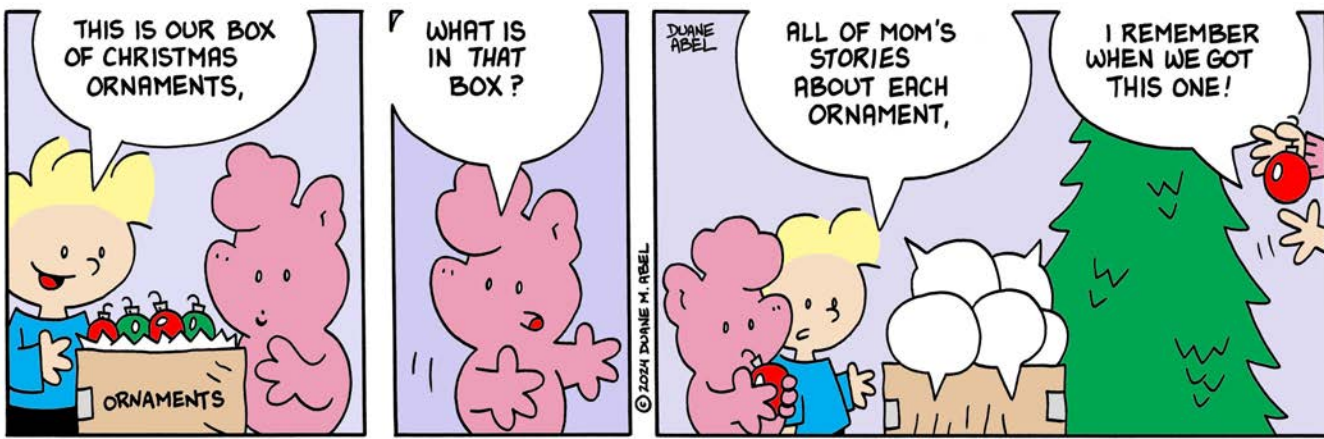
Central Texas. Everyone is welcome!"

By the way, the Bluegrass Kitchen loves it when you donate food and volunteer to help. Remember, all the proceeds go toward paying the Community Center bills. Unfortunately, this place doesn't run on love alone, and every little bit helps to keep this place up and running for future generations.

This week's Bible verse comes from Colossians 3:15—Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace and be thankful. NIV

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

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Not Hidden to be presented Dec. 13

Staff Reports

Almond Blossom Ministries will host a worship event, "Not Hidden" on Friday, Dec. 13, for the community.

"Not Hidden" will take place in the Gatesville City Auditorium from 6-9 p.m. The event will feature keynote speaker, Matthew Hammersky, pastor of Risen Nation in Pasadena; guest

speaker, Shelli Zan, founder of Impact Over Influence; Cheyenne Kizer, host; and Brennen Mata, worship.

Tickets will cost \$15 per person over 18 years of age, and those under 18 years old will be free. The tickets are to be purchased online by visiting almondblossomministries.com.

The Gatesville City Auditorium is located at 110 North 8th Street.

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER PRESENTS

Christmas Critters

SPONSORED BY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | Photo Contest

Submit your Christmas Critter at gatesvillemessenger.com or by scanning the QR code below. The sillier the better!

A winner will be picked from the photos submitted to receive \$100 from The Gatesville Messenger, a one-year subscription to the newspaper, and a gift from the sponsor worth \$100.

The winning photo will also be run on the front page of the Jan. 11 edition of The Gatesville Messenger and on our website with an article about the winning pet.

Contest is open Dec. 2 - Dec. 30

Shutterbug SUBMISSIONS

Mission Righteous Roots launches Teen Life Recovery Class

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

After launching a Teen Life Recovery Class at Mission Righteous Roots in October this year, Program Director Felicia Inman makes it her goal to provide a safe place for teens who are struggling with life obstacles to help them overcome through the power of Jesus Christ and the recovery ministry.

Inman established the class after Mission Righteous Roots was contacted by local parents and school officials with the main concern being teen drug use. Inman also witnessed the concern in her client's families and felt the need to provide and produce a call to action in efforts of prevention and intervention.

The class is for teenagers, 13-17 years old. Classes are held on Mondays each week from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Mission Righteous Roots, located at 904 East Leon Street.

The support group is a powerful, biblically based 52-week program that aims to help hurting teenagers get closer to Jesus as they learn key principles based on the beatitudes to live a freer, healthier, and more God-centered life. "Our class is free and at no cost to our clients," Inman said.

According to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics (NCDAS), youth drug abuse is a high-profile public health concern, with at least one in eight teenagers abusing an illicit substance in the last year and in the State of Texas. Among them, 83.62% report using marijuana within the last month.

"We want to help educate and disciple teens to be productive members of society through education and counseling, and it is hoped through our efforts

they will become mentally sound, emotional balanced, physically well, and spiritually alive," Inman said, "in a safe, encouraging, and drug-free environment."

The program utilizes various activities, restorative practices, and a practical therapeutic approach, along with inspirational peer support testimonials from staff and volunteers. In addition, the classes also provide individual case management that ensures positive accountability and a healthy support system.

According to the Recovery Centers of America, chronic diseases, drug, and alcohol addiction should be treated with urgency and tenacity similar with other chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, or asthma.

"When faced with a long-term problem, a short-term fix is nothing more than a band-aid, something that needs to be reapplied again and again," she said. "A chronic disease like addiction needs more than brief attention; it needs a long-term plan and evidence-based treatment delivered by addiction trained professionals. We believe it's never too soon to start talking to your teens about drug abuse. The conversations you have today can help your teens make healthy choices in the future."

Along with the new Teen Life Recovery Class, Inman has also begun a partnership with the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) and Gatesville Independent School District to bring awareness to tobacco and vape prevention for "Catch My Breath."

"Teen vaping is a public health crisis that continues to have a negative impact on school academic performance worldwide," she said. "Gatesville ISD has



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mission Righteous Roots will hold its Teen Life Recovery Class on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

embraced a new approach in hopes that by joining forces, schools and communities can work together to provide better opportunities, resources, and support for students, ultimately fostering an environment conducive to their success."

House Bill 114 became effective on Sept. 1, 2023, increasing penalties for students found with a vape at school. The offense will result in mandatory DAEP placement. The DAEP program serves as an alternative to traditional suspension, providing students with the opportunity to ad-

dress their behavior while continuing their education in a structured setting.

Effective at the beginning of the school year, Gatesville ISD implemented this law due to the growing concern of e-cigarette usage among students, with efforts to promote a healthier and safer environment for all members of the school community.

Gatesville ISD has included a strategy to embrace a vape-free school initiative through the partnership with Mission Righteous Roots.

Mission Righteous Roots has adopted "Catch My

Breath's" peer-led teaching approach that empowers students with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions and resist social pressures to vape.

"Mission Righteous Roots is committed to collaboratively working with and alongside Gatesville ISD to provide districtwide, comprehensive, evidence-based, substance prevention programming that will increase protective factors and reduce risk factors in children and youth," Inman said. "The teaming of both Gatesville ISD and Mission Righteous Roots has

brought much excitement to the local community of Gatesville."

"We want to see teens overcome addiction through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our desire is to put hope within reach of every addict or at-risk youth by offering life transformation through our caring Christ-centered program," she said. "We want them to break free to go, run, and tell others with God all things are possible, Matthew 19:26."

Righteous Roots to hold annual winter clothing drive

Staff Reports

Righteous Roots Crisis Resource Center and the Coryell Community Connections Collaborative (C4) are teaming up to host a winter coat and blanket drive for

those in need in the community this holiday season.

All donations are to be dropped off at Righteous Roots, located at 904 East Leon Street, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

There will be a free giveaway event at the facility on Dec. 19, from 1-5 p.m.

For further details, contact Righteous Roots at 254-651-3600.

Thanks to the tremendous support of the Gatesville community, this year's First Methodist Harvest Festival and silent auction were a huge success. As a result, our church will be able to donate to numerous local missions throughout the coming year.



Pastor Schmidt (right) presents a check to a KWTX News Anchor at Food for Families.



Pastor Schmidt (right) presents a check to Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat with the Gatesville Ministerial Assoc.

Our first donations were \$6,000 to Food for Families and \$7,500 to the Ministerial Association.

The Food for Families money supports the Gatesville Care Center, whose mission is "to nourish hungry people and lead the community in the fight against hunger."

The ministerial alliance helps people who have emergency needs for things such as food, lodging, clothing and other immediate needs.

We look forward to sharing with you throughout the year all the ways your support has helped the Gatesville community. If you do not have a church home, we would love for you to join us.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we at First Methodist Church are extremely thankful be a part of such generous and giving community!



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RECIPE

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

CAROLE'S FRUIT CAKE

BY ELIZABETH BROWN

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 lb. shelled pecan halves | ½ lb. candied cherries |
| 1 lb. dates | ½ lb. candied pineapple |
| 1 c. flour | 2 T. baking powder |
| 1 c. sugar | 4 eggs |
| dash of salt | 1 lid vanilla flavoring |

Sift flour, salt, and baking powder together. Sift flour mixture over fruits and nuts and work thoroughly. Beat eggs, sugar, and vanilla and pour over fruit and mix well. Pack into a brown paper-lined tube pan and bake for 1 hour and 20 minutes at 325. Decorate the top with cherries and pecans.



Fruit Cake

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHERNLIVING.COM

Santa Claus returns to Gatesville for annual Santa Run

Staff Reports

Santa Claus and his team will return to Gatesville for the Gatesville Fire Department's annual Santa Run on Friday, Dec. 6.

The Santa Run will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6-8 p.m., starting on Dec. 6 until Saturday, Dec. 21. Santa and his friends will leave the fire station at 6 p.m. to make a circle around the courthouse square and then will begin their trip to different areas of the city.

Due to time constraints, Santa will not be able to stop during his tour around Gatesville. For those who wish to visit or get a photo with Santa, he will be at the fire station from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, Sunday, Dec. 15, Sunday, Dec. 22, and Monday, Dec. 23. The Gatesville Fire Department is located at 109 South 23rd Street.

The Gatesville Fire Department asks onlookers to be patient with the firefighters and Santa since their primary mission is to provide public safety. If alarms come in while on the Santa Run, they will need to break away to respond. Do not approach the firetruck unless the firefighters give permission to do so.

For more information, contact the Gatesville Fire Department at 254-865-6416.

Below are the designated areas Santa will travel to in Gatesville:

Friday, Dec. 6 from 6-8 p.m.: South Highway 36 to Fort Cavazos Line, Hamilton Estates, Gateway Circle, Bluebonnet Street, Woods Drive, Magnolia Street, Veazey Drive, Apartments off Old Osage Road, Bluestem Drive, Meadow View Lane, Willow Lane, Valley View Drive, Valley Circle, Lark Street, S. 34th Street, Crown Drive, Jewell Drive, Empress Drive, Imperial Drive, Royal Drive, S. 36th Street, ParkView Apartments on Park Street, Courtyard Apartments, Stoneridge Drive, Pembroke Court Apartments, Spyglass Circle, N. 34th Street, Greenlawn Drive, Churchill Drive, Riata Drive, Fieldstone Drive.

Saturday, Dec. 7, from 6-8 p.m.: Hornet Way, Marshall Street, S. 23rd Street, Alta Mira Street, Bridge Street (23rd to S. Lovers Lane), Old Waco Road, Mulberry Avenue, Pecan Drive, Birch Street, Ash, Golf Course Road, Dixon Drive, Kim Street, Shady Lane, Sandy Lane, Wren Circle, Dove

Lane, Curry Drive, S. Lovers Lane, Logan Lane, Clay Street, Oak Drive, Hillcrest Drive, Cottonwood Drive, Grandview Drive, River Road, Brim Street, River Place West, River Ranch Road, Rio Drive, River Ridge Drive, Wood Creek Drive, Lakewood Drive, Straws Mill Road, Oakcrest Drive, Rocky Branch Drive, Watts Lane, Gates Drive, Liberty Street, Centennial Street, Woodson Street, River Oaks Drive, Fowler Street, Virginia Drive, Thompson Street, Surrey Lane.

Friday, Dec. 13, from 6-8 p.m.: Osage Road, Northern Avenue, Sunny Lane, Willow Way, Inwood Drive, Westwood Park, N. Lovers Lane, Lowry Drive, Mears Drive, Powell Drive, Jackson Drive, Bauman Street, N. 26th Street, N. 27th Street, N. 28th Street, N. 29th Street, N. 30th Street, N. 31st Street, 25th Street, Oak Drive, N. 24th Street, N. 22nd Street, Saunders Street, Brown Street, N. 15th Street, N. 16th Street, Waco Street, N. 14th Street, St. Louis Street, N. 19th Street, Mary Street, Banes Street, Church Street, Venus Drive, Sun Valley Drive/Avenue, Carroll Drive, Baize Drive, Byrom Court, Stillhouse Road, Depot Street, N. 18th Street, N. Lutterloh Avenue,



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Santa during last year's Santa Run with the Gatesville Fire Department

State School Road. **Saturday, Dec. 14, from 6-8 p.m.:** Bridge Street (west of S. 23rd Street), S. 21st Street, Spindletop Street, S. 19th Street, Live Oak, Park Street, Andrews Street, S. 14th Street, Fouts Street, S. Lutterloh Avenue, Pidcoke Street, Pleasant Street, Pleasant Street, Fenimore Street, College Street, S. 10th Street, S. 7th Street, S. 6th Street, S. 5th Street, S. 3rd Street, E. Leon Street,

Raby Park, South Street, S. 4th Street.

Friday, Dec. 20, from 6-8 p.m. (west of Lutterloh): N. 9th Street, N. 10th Street, N. 11th Street, Waco Street, N. 8th Street, Wells Park, Mill Street, St. Louis Street, Baldrige Drive, Westview Drive, Myrtle Street, Avenue A, Avenue B, Avenue C, Avenue D, Scenic Drive, Highland Drive, Levita Road, W. Leon Street, Old Pidcoke Road, Airport Road,

Dodds Creek Drive, Creek Cliff Drive, Mesa Drive, Tanglewood Drive, Chiktown Road, Memorial Drive, W Leon Street, Woodville Drive.

Saturday, Dec. 21, from 6-8 p.m.: Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Housing Areas, South Mountain, and any areas previously missed.

Christmas at the Ballpark set to begin Nov. 30

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

To get the community in holiday spirits for the Christmas season, the City of Gatesville is planning to bring a nostalgic Christmas light walkthrough event back to life with Christmas at the Ballpark.

Since the flooding of Faunt Le Roy Park in 2017, the city has not been able to hold a Christmas light show, so the mission is to provide a similar experi-

ence for families.

Christmas at the Ballpark will feature a plethora of Christmas lights, which will be placed around the Sports Complex and ballpark. Christmas light viewing will be available from Saturday, Nov. 30 to Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Santa's Workshop will also be open on Dec. 2, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21, from 6-9 p.m. Santa will be present at the ballpark to meet

local youth along with various activities offered to event-goers. Activities will include face painting, a coloring station, bounce houses, and a Christmas ornament station.

There will be a concession stand open with hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies to purchase. Admission is free to all events.

The Gatesville ISD Jazz Band will perform on Dec. 2, and there will be a Texas

Night Before Christmas Story Walk put together by the library with further information to come. There will also be a Storytime with Santa event during Santa's Workshop on Dec. 21, as well as cookies with Santa.

The Grand Lighting Ceremony for Christmas at the Ballpark will be held on Dec. 2, at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Silver Santas collecting donations through Dec. 10



BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

With December approaching next month, Silver Santas is looking to spread Christmas cheer to the local elderly in need once again this year.

Last year, over 2,700 individual items were donated, as well as monetary donations to provide gifts for residents at Hillside Medical Lodge and The Meadows, along with the Meals on Wheels recipients with the Gatesville Senior Center.

Items can be donated until Tuesday, Dec. 10. The items include socks, toiletries, back scratchers, large print puzzle books/playing cards, jigsaw puzzles, small notepads, coloring books, coffee/tea, pack-

aged snacks, lotion, soft blankets, lip balm, hats, gloves, scarves, drawing/coloring supplies, magnifying glass, mugs, and small flashlights.

Items must be unwrapped and dropped off to one of the gift collection sites, which include the 1854 Mercantile, Hinds & Marcus, and the First National Bank of Central Texas.

Monetary donations are accepted as well and can be donated through Venmo at christi-mooney or Cashapp at christi-mooney76.

For further information, contact Christi Mooney at 254-223-3699 or Amy Best at 254-223-2277.

Chamber Christmas Holiday Tour of Homes

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will present its first Christmas Holiday Tour of Homes throughout December to show the community the Christmas lights and decorations throughout our town.

The tours will take place on Fridays from 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. The dates include: Dec. 6, Dec. 7, Dec. 13, Dec. 20, and Dec. 21.

"I'm really excited about the tours, because they offer a chance to create something joyful and meaningful for our community," Chamber Liaison Yvonne Williams said.

The tours will be conducted during a trolley ride, and the starting point will be released once Chamber Liaison Yvonne Williams has a complete list of each of the homes participating in the tour.

The tours will also make a special stop at the ballparks to view the Christmas lights set up for Christmas at the Ballpark.

"The holidays are a time for giving, sharing, and connecting, and this tour is a wonderful way to highlight those values. For me, it's about bringing people together to celebrate the season in a way that's fun, engaging, and memorable," Williams said. "I'm proud

to be part of an event that celebrates our local community and the holiday traditions that make this time of year so special."

The deadline to add your home to the tours was Thursday, Nov. 21. You will be notified if you are chosen.

For further information, contact the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.

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

COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST
Bob Phillips, pastor;
Sundays - Sunday School
10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. &
5:30 p.m.
EASTWOOD BAPTIST
Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518
East Main, Gatesville;
Sundays - Sunday School
9:45 a.m., worship 10:50
a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST EVANT
Dane Barron, pastor; 200
Live Oak Street, Evant;
Sundays - Sunday School
9:45 a.m., worship 11
a.m., adult Bible study 6
p.m.; Wednesday services
- kids' & youth Bible study
6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST FLAT
9775 TX-36, Gatesville;
Sunday School 9 a.m.;
Sunday Worship 10:15
a.m.; Wednesdays -
Prayer & Bible Study 7
p.m.; Youth Group & Kid
Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first
Wednesday of each month
at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast
second Saturday of each
month at 7:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE
912 E. Main St., Gatesville;
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday Worship 10:45
a.m., Wednesdays -
Children & Youth 5:30-7:00
p.m. (supper provided)
FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
Dr. Pat Korrell, Pastor;
120 College Ave.;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 am;
Wednesdays - supper at
5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth
Group 6 p.m., Prayer
meeting 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
875 FM 932, Purmela;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY BAPTIST
Michael Bragdon,
Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.;
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
HARMONY BAPTIST
A.C. Painter, pastor;
1750 FM 215, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
& 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday
evening worship 6:30 p.m.
HAY VALLEY BAPTIST
3110 Hay Valley Road;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
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 eve-
nings: Choir at 5:30 p.m.,
Children & Youth Activities,
Adult Bible Study at 6:15
p.m.
MOUNTAIN BAPTIST
Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor;
6319 US-84, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,

Sunday worship 11 a.m.
& 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7
p.m. Wednesday.
OSAGE BAPTIST
Chris Thomas, pastor;
7505 FM 185, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
2082 FM 1690, Gatesville;
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
PECAN GROVE BAPTIST
6545 FM 107, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PIDCOKE BAPTIST
Donald McConaughay,
pastor; 11125 FM 116,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday service
11 a.m.

PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST
Chris Post, Pastor; CR
301, Jonesboro; Sunday
school 10 a.m., Sunday
worship 11 a.m.
PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL
One mile north of Evant,
Hwy. 281; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.
PURMELA BAPTIST
Pastor: Brenden Hough;
875 FM 932, Purmela, TX
76566; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday Worship
11 a.m.

SWEET HOME BAPTIST
511 N. 14th, Gatesville;
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.;
Wednesday worship 7
p.m.
SPANISH BAPTIST
Ezequiel Casas, pastor;
113 Veazy Dr., Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11
a.m., Wednesday Prayer
Meeting 6 p.m.
TRINITY BAPTIST
Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor;
1506 W. Main, Gatesville;
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday worship 8:15 a.m.
and 11 a.m. Wednesday -
activities for adults, youth,
& children 6:30 p.m.; 254-
865-8495 or Pre-school:
254-248-0041.

TURNERSVILLE BAPTIST
Jon Crosby, Pastor;
8120 FM 182, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.,
Wednesday night Bible
study, 6 p.m.
WESTVIEW BAPTIST
Pastor: Malachi Houser;
1102 W. Main St.,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.

WHITE HALL BAPTIST
Mike Barron, pastor;
2040 CR 238, Gatesville;
Sunday school 10 a.m.;
Sunday worship 11 a.m.;
254-679-3200.
WHITE MOUND BAPTIST
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday
School 10 a.m., Sunday
worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR
320; mailing address:
P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX
76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday
worship 9 a.m., Sunday
school 9:30 a.m. Men's
breakfast every third
Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside:
3075 FM 931, outside:
2000 CR 321. Mailing
address: P.O. Box 103,
Mound, TX 76558.

CATHOLIC OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH
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.

CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD
338 State School Rd.,
Gatesville; Sunday
worship 11 a.m.

LUTHERAN 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.

METHODIST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST
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.
FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE
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.
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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.
COVER2COVER MINISTRIES
Pastor: Rev. Brandy
Spiker, Sunday service
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.,

Wednesdays 6 p.m.
407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5,
Gatesville.
GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER
Wes Covey, Pastor;
Sunday school 10 a.m.,
Sunday services 11 a.m. &
6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.;
2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-
9472.
GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Wray Nunn, pastor;
Sunday worship 10:30
a.m., Wednesday worship
6:30 p.m.; Gateway
Learning Center, 2315
Osage Rd., Gatesville.
HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
Mike & Martha Johnson
pastors, 503 N. 11th St.,
Gatesville; 865-6222.
Sunday worship 11
a.m. Wednesday Bible
Study Ministries (Men,
Women, children) 6 p.m.
"Overcomers" a TDC &
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recovery program meets
Tuesday 6 p.m.

JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
Sundays, 8:30-9 a.m. aqui
se reune La Iglesia de
Cristo, in the 2400 Block of
E. Main St., Gatesville.
LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Pat Cole, Pastor; 4460 FM
930, Levita; Sunday Bible
Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday
worship 10:45 a.m.;
Tuesday OWLS Kid Group
6-8 p.m.
MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE
William Bertelsen,
Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy.
236; Sunday worship
10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.;
Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m.

PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sun-
day Services 9 a.m.
THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412
E. Main St., Gatesville;
Sunday service 11 a.m.,
Wednesday service 7 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE
Rev. Jimmy Skiles,
pastor; 202 E. Main,
Gatesville; Sundays 10
a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.;
254-206-1826.
MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor;
514 N. 13th St., Gatesville;
Sunday School 9:45
a.m., Sunday worship 11
a.m., Wednesdays Bible
Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.,
Wednesday service, 7:30
p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat,
pastor; 1110 E. Main,
Gatesville; Sunday School
9:45 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.

REFORMED GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday services 10:45
a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84,
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216-1537; 10 miles west
of Gatesville on HWY
84; Sundays 10:30 a.m.;
Wednesdays 7 p.m.;
Youth Sunday Service
9:45 a.m.
HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH
Monty & Tammy VanHorn,
pastors; 1608 W. Main
St., Gatesville; Sunday
Praise & Worship 11 am,
Wednesday Bible Study
Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-
4076.

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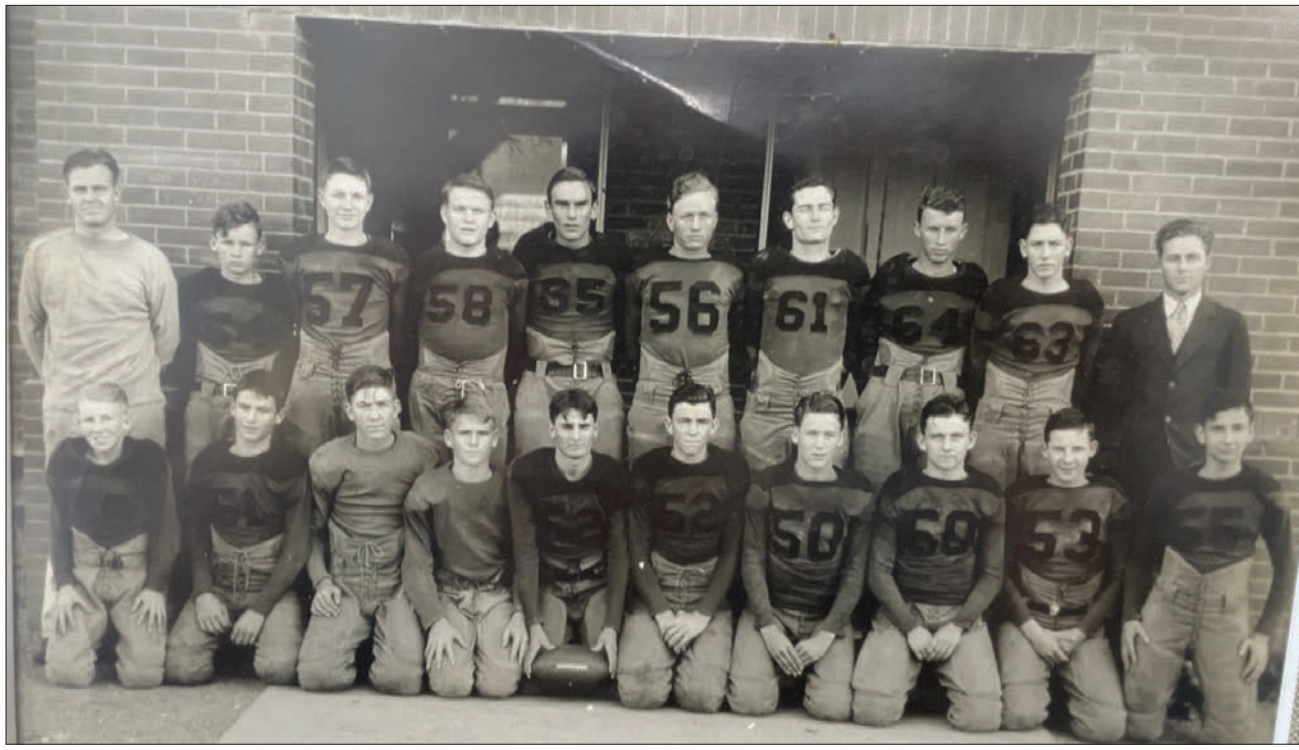


PHOTO COURTESY OF CORYELL MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL CENTER

Photo caption: The 1933 Gatesville Hornet Football Team. Front row, pictured left to right, are James (Sonny) Hair, J.C. Byrom, Charley Ray Hinesley, Dave Culberson, Elton Blackstock, Seth McLarty, J.L. Rogers, Harry Dillashaw, Byron McClellan, and Grady Dickie. Back row, left to right, Maurice Ewing (coach), Donald Weaver, Clarence Bauman, Ralph McDowell, Delmar Ramsey, Paul Hinson, Bayle Baker, Boyd Bond, Joe Powell, and Charles Baker (assistant coach and manager).

“MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT”

Remembering Hornet Football

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Hanging on the wall in the schoolhouse exhibit at Coryell Museum and Historical Center is a small photo of the Gatesville High School football team from 1933. On a small plaque underneath the photo, lists the players and coaches by name. At the bottom of the plaque, it reads: “This team did not score a point all season.” Ninety-one years later, the Gatesville Hornets Football team is winning by leaps

and bounds.

In the fall of 1933, Gatesville was a small town steeped in tradition and pride – a place where Sunday worship and Friday night football held equal reverence. As Friday nights became a beloved ritual, the town would stand united, ready to support their team despite whether they had a win or a loss. That legacy continues to this day. And so, the heartbeats of Texas football flutter

on, a rhythm that can never be silenced – it will continue to be fueled by the dreams of countless students who play the game.

Visitors are welcome to visit the schoolhouse exhibit at the museum where they will find several dozen school pictures on display from all over Coryell County.

Visitors are welcome to drop by the museum located at 718 E. Main to browse through the books

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

OBITUARIES

Pamela G. Taylor

Sept. 27, 1953 – Nov. 21, 2024

Pamela G. Taylor, of Gatesville, died on Nov. 21, 2024, at the age of 71.

Pamela was born in Dallas on Sept. 27, 1953 to Clyde H Burkes and Ollie Laverne (Goss) Burkes. Her family moved to rural Coryell County when she was 10 years old. Pam attended school in Oglesby and graduated from high school in 1972. She resided in Coryell County for most of her life.

Her working life was spent mostly in the medical field where she was a certified nurse’s aide, housekeeper, and laundry technician.

Pamela had two children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. These, along with her dog, Tater, were the sources of much of her joy in her later



years.

She is survived by her daughter, Christy Walters, of Lorena; son, Tra Taylor and wife, Tammy, of Oglesby; and sister, Debbie McClure and husband, John, of Gatesville.

Per her request, no services will be held.

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.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Nov. 20 – Nov. 24. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff’s office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Nov. 20**
9:02 a.m., a criminal trespass was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.
10:14 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
6:54 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 600 block of S. 14th Street.
11:07 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1000 block of W. Main Street.
- Nov. 21**
6:15 a.m., harassment was reported in the 700 block of Bridge Street.
8:43 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of College Street.
11:15 a.m., a burglary was

- reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
11:33 a.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
- Nov. 22**
2:32 a.m., a prowler was reported in the 300 block of Cedar Mountain.
1:51 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1100 block of E. Leon Street.
2:30 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2800 block of S. Business Highway 36.
4:26 p.m., an assault was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
- Nov. 23**
12:59 a.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of N. State Highway

36.
1:07 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of W. Main Street.
2:40 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 500 block of State School Road.
6:15 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.
- Nov. 24**
7:34 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 800 block of River Road.
11:20 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of W. Leon Street.
11:21 a.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.
8:33 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2400

- block of Osage Road.
- ### CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
- Nov. 20**
3:02 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of Old Georgetown Road.
9:07 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2700 block of County Road 337.
10:17 a.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Coleton Drive.
10:51 a.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 500 block of S. 32nd Street.
- Nov. 21**
7:55 a.m., harassment was reported in the 400 block of S. 5th Street.
8:20 a.m., a theft was

- reported in the 200 block of Coleton Drive.
9:34 a.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of Meadow Drive.
2:23 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of County Road 4876.
- Nov. 22**
2:36 a.m., a prowler was reported in the 300 block of Cedar Mountains.
3:33 p.m., suspicious persons were reported on Main Street.
5:16 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 1800 block of FM 116.
11:18 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 1600 block of Thomas Road.
- Nov. 23**
4:50 a.m., suspicious per-

- sons were reported in the 100 block of Elm St.
12:44 p.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of Doras Lane.
4:34 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.
8:28 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.
- Nov. 24**
5:43 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Julia Drive and Harrell Drive.
6:41 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 800 block of Cactus Lane.
8:44 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 3300 block of Old Fort Gates Road.

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FARM AND FAMILY FUN DAY



COURTESY PHOTOS

Coryell County 4-H student, Makaylie Williams, was inspired to host a Farm & Family Fun Day at Hillside Medical Lodge for its residents, with the help of Activities Director Kami Williams, Becky Coward, and the 4-H Ambassadors team. The residents enjoyed live music, refreshments, and spending time with farm animals, such as horses, sheep, and cows.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Coryell County 4-H student Clancey Archie helped residents at Hillside Medical Lodge interact with farm animals at the recent Farm & Family Fun Day.

GISD Choir to host Winter Concert

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Independent School District junior high and high school choirs are to perform at their annual Winter Concerts on Monday, Dec. 9 and Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Gatesville High School in the auditorium.

High School groups will perform on Dec. 9, and the intermediate and junior high groups will perform on Dec. 10.

The two concert options include:

Winter Concert A is on Monday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. Performances will be given by High School Varsity, High School Junior Varsity Mixed, High School Concert, and the Junior High/High School Boyz-2Men.

Winter Concert B is on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m. Performances will be given by sixth grade, High School Varsity, Junior High

Girls, and Junior High Advanced.

Tickets for the Choir Winter Concert went on sale on Monday, Nov. 18. Seats will cost four dollars each or six dollars each with reserved seating. Tickets are available online only. To purchase a ticket, visit <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/CRXD>.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

GJH to host College & Career Fair Dec. 5

Staff Reports

Gatesville Junior High School will host a College and Career Fair on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The event is meant to give junior high students the opportunity to learn about possible education and career pathways that will impact their future.

Students will also be able to meet different groups and discuss future plans

and how to make those plans a reality.

The fair offers:

- Talk to future potential students
- Talk to future potential employees
- Provide knowledge for certain career fields
- Provide insight into scholarships and financial aid

If you would like to be a vendor for the event to

display your business and meet with students, fill out a registration form and send it to Denise Jones by email at djones@gatesvilleisd.org. The registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 2.

For more information, contact 254-865-8271.

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

OISD HONORS JORDAN GANN



COURTESY PHOTO

The school board of Oglesby Independent School District honored second grader, Jordan Gann, with the Student Spotlight award for November. Gann was selected for giving 100% every day in and out of the classroom. The online post said, "She is respectful, hardworking, and makes good choices. Jordan is a very focused student who takes her time on her work and gives her best effort consistently. We are proud of Jordan and the Tiger Pride spirit she embodies." Gann is pictured with Co-principal Keegan Webb.

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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Youth Sports Football league hosts annual banquet



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLADYS WHITENBURG

Pictured left to right, Gatesville Youth Sports Football Director Kent Ford, Lovetta Knox and husband, Jimmy.

Submitted Item

The Gatesville Youth Flag and Tackle Football organization recently held their annual sports banquet. Football players were honored, and select members from each team were recognized for their outstanding effort. The organization extended its gratitude to the coaches, athletes, parents, board members, and sponsors for their dedication and support. At this year's banquet, the board gave special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Knox for their generous contribution, which ensured that every tackle player had a helmet and pads. They also thanked J&M Hill Country BBQ for donating the food.

Athletes recognized at the banquet include:

6U Flag
 MVP: Apollo Lind
 Most Valuable Defensive Player: Reese Garcia
 Most Valuable Offensive Player: Abram Hall
 Most Improved: Cash Nolan

8U Tackle
 MVP: Zander Geoff
 Most Valuable Running Back: Jacoby Jones
 Most Valuable Defensive Back: Vinny Freire
 Most Valuable Offensive Lineman: Robert Saldivar
 Most Valuable Defensive Lineman: Jackson Pagluicua
 Newcomer: Logan Bates
 Most Improved: Izayah Knox

10U Tackle

MVP: Dayvion Nealy
 Most Valuable Back: Kashton Stretton
 Most Valuable Defensive Back: Levi Wilson
 Most Valuable Offensive Lineman: Braxton Herry
 Most Valuable Defensive Lineman: Latrell Cobb
 Most Improved: Eli Kelley
 Newcomer: Tripp Winkler

12U Tackle
 MVP: King Davis
 Most Valuable Back: James Bolton
 Most Valuable Offensive Lineman: Izayah Morrall
 Most Valuable Defensive Lineman: Marrett Miller
 Most Improved: Jake Lowe
 Newcomer: Tyrone (J) Blaize

EAGLES ADVANCE TO QUARTERFINALS



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro Eagles swept Medina, 70-20, in the Area Playoffs. The Eagles (11-1) now advance to the 6-Man 1A D1 quarterfinal round against the Gordon Longhorns (12-0). The quarterfinal game will be held Nov. 29 in Hico against Gordon at 6 p.m. A public send off was scheduled for Friday at 3:10 p.m. in front of Jonesboro High School.

GHS football rolls into third round of playoffs for first time since 2015

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
 Contributing Writer

A pivotal defensive touchdown, a second quarter scoring surge, and a heaping dose of Rayshon Smith has Gatesville in the third round of the playoffs for the first time in ten seasons.

Smith ran for 218 yards - his fifth game of the season with more than 200 yards rushing - and scored two touchdowns as the Hornets took down West Columbia 42-27 for their first area title since 2015.

The Hornets will play Sealy on Nov. 29 in the regional semi-finals at Merrill Green Stadium in Bryan. The Tigers upset state-ranked Hamshire-

Fannett in the area round 21-17.

While it was Smith who slammed the door in the fourth quarter, the win was a showcase of a team that is clicking in all three phases of the game. The Hornets used big plays on defense, offense, and special teams to thwart any threat the Roughnecks posed during a frantic second quarter.

West Columbia took a 7-0 lead on their first possession, but Smith scored on a 24-yard run to tie the game at 7-7 after the first quarter. Gatesville took their first lead 14-7 when Gehrig Keeton scrambled 22-yards for a score early in the second

quarter.

The Roughnecks drove to the Gatesville 16-yard line and were threatening to tie the game when a fumbled pitch was scooped up by Amos Phillips at the 27-yard line and returned 73 yards for a touchdown. Phillips was escorted to the end zone by a wall of Hornets and picked up a block from Logan Biggs that allowed him to cruise the final 50 yards of the return with no Roughnecks in sight.

West Columbia came back with a score to cut the lead to 21-14, but a huge kick return from Grady Keeton put the

PLEASE SEE **GHS** | A12



COURTESY PHOTO

The Oglesby Tigers dominated the Cherokee Indians in the Area Championship game on Friday, Nov. 22, with a score, 116-76.

Oglesby Eliminates Cherokee 116-76 in Area Football Championship

BY TOM NORRELL
 Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers traveled to Priddy on Friday, Nov. 22, to play the 10-1 Cherokee Indians in the Area Championship game. Both teams were able to score fast and often, however, in the end, the Tigers proved to be too much for the Indians.

The Tigers offense was hitting on all cylinders, and Cherokee had no answers for the speed and quickness for Kyler Fossett.

Fossett carried the ball 23 times for an amazing 518 yards and 10 touchdowns. And if that wasn't enough, he was 1/2 in passing for 40 yards and scored one touchdown. Fossett scored 60 points on the night and is starting to play on another level, proving he is amongst the top running backs in six-man football. He is living up to the pre-season six-man player of the year.

Jakson Tippit is continuing to improve with each game carrying the ball sev-

en times for 88 yards and scoring two touchdowns while ending the night with 103 total yards.

Alex Castillo had an outstanding night as well for the Tigers. He continued his efficiency as a place kicker, making 13/15 for 26 points. He was 2/3 in passing for 40 yards. He also had one 10-yard catch for a touchdown. Castillo ended the night with 55 yards.

Hunter Ewing had two receptions for 42 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown reception.

Jack Hendricks had one reception for 22 yards.

Holdyn Goff had a long ball thrown to him in the end zone, and Cherokee was called for pass interference, giving Tigers the ball at the one-yard line, which they quickly converted for touchdown. Goff was 1/1 in passing for 25 yards.

A special shout out to the offensive lineman as they were exceptional at blocking. Among the linemen: Hunter Ewing, Jack

Hendricks, Holdyn Goff, and Kayson Campbell. The linemen opened up holes all night long.

Defensively the Tigers played on another level, swarming the Indians offense throughout the night.

Jack Hendricks was a beast all over the field with 18 tackles and two forced fumbles.

Holdyn Goff had 12 tackles. Kayson Campbell had 10 tackles. Jakson Tippit had 10 tackles and two interceptions. Alex Castillo had five tackles and one fumble recovery. Aiden Oxford had four tackles. Abram Shaw had one tackle, and Kyler Shaw had one tackle.

Points for the night:

Kyler Fossett, 60 points
 Alex Castillo, 38 points
 Jakson Tippit, 12 points
 Hunter Ewing, six points
 Total: 116 points

The Tigers will play Richland Springs for the Quarterfinals Championship, which is to be determined.

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Turkey Slam Pickleball Tournament held Nov. 24

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Pickleball Club recently hosted a Turkey Slam Pickleball tournament at the Gatesville Civic Center on Sunday, Nov. 24, in light of Thanksgiving approaching. Twenty-one teams across all divisions

participated in the tournament with all ages and skill levels.

This was a doubles tournament, meaning that a partner was needed to participate in the event. The format was a round robin tournament, which means you must win two out of

the three games, with the first two games rallying the score to 15, and the third game rallying the score to 11.

In the Recreation Division, first place went to Brennan Mata and Raymond Inman. Second place went to Ed Petrow and Ken Whited.

In the Intermediate Division, first place went to Ben Mabry and Jenny Mabry. Second place went to Kylie Dixon and Paige Baize.

In the Competitive Division, first place went to Alex Scott and Jeffrey Shonkwiler, while second place went to Cort Dixon

and Chance Taylor.

The Gatesville Pickleball Club and Kylie Dixon of Benchmark Mortgage accepted food and household item donations from players and spectators to benefit the Gatesville Senior Center.

For each item donated,

participants were given raffle tickets for a chance to win gift cards to the Green Rooster Coffee Co. and La Hacienda Mexican Grill, which were also graciously donated.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARTE BAILEY

Pictured left: Competitive Division, left to right, Chance Taylor, Cort Dixon, Jeffrey Shonkwiler, and Alex Scott; pictured middle: Intermediate Division, left to right, Ben Mabry, Jenny Mabry, Kylie Dixon, and Paige Baize; pictured right: Recreation Division, left to right, Ed Petrow, Ken Whited, Brennan Mata, and Raymond Inman.

GHS

FROM PAGE A11

Hornets right back into scoring position. Keeton raced 42-yards through the center of the Roughnecks kickoff team before being brought down at the West Columbia 34-yard line.

Two plays later, Gehrig Keeton hit Jack Erwin for a 34-yard touchdown strike, and Hector Silva's extra point gave the Hornets a 28-14 lead. Biggs picked off a Cade Thoe pass attempt to extinguish West Columbia's last threat of the first half.

The Roughnecks made it a one-score game at 28-21 in the third quarter, but

Keeton and Erwin hooked up again for 33 yards and a score on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 35-21.

Erwin finished the game with three catches for 79 yards and two scores and has eight catches for 205 yards and three scores in two playoff games. Keeton has also played his best football of the year since the playoffs began. The junior signal-caller is 20-for-30 for 302 yards and four touchdowns in Gatesville's two playoff wins.

A Gatesville stop on West Columbia's next drive meant that Hunter could hand the ball to Smith to ice the game as the senior star

gained every yard of the Hornets scoring push.

He punished the West Columbia defense to the tune of 11 yards per carry on the final drive and capped the win with a three-yard plunge. Silva's sixth extra point of the night made it 42-21 in favor of the Hornets.

Smith's 218-yard night ups his season total to 2040 yards and he has scored 28 touchdowns in 12 games. After eclipsing the 4,000-yard career rushing yard mark on Oct. 24 in a win over China Spring, Smith now sits just 168 yards away from the 5,000 yard mark.

The Hornets last ad-

vanced to the third round of the playoffs in 2015

when they took down Taylor and La Vernia before falling to district-rival China Spring 21-14. A win over Sealy would push Gatesville into the fourth round of the playoffs for the first time since making the final eight in 2013. That Hornet team stormed to a 13-0 record before falling to Graham 40-35 in the state quarter-finals.

Should the Hornets win over the Tigers they will either face La Vega or Silsbee. Gatesville lost 35-14 to La Vega in the district opener this season and lost to Silsbee 34-10 in the area playoffs in 2023.



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GHS football standouts pictured from left: (top row) Amos Phillips and Gehrig Keeton; (bottom) Jack Erwin and Rayshon Smith.

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Well, it all started a long, long time ago with a group of people called the Pilgrims. They were some of the first settlers to come to America from England. In 1620, they sailed across the ocean on a big ship called the Mayflower. After a long and difficult journey, they arrived in a place called Plymouth, which is now part of Massachusetts.

The Pilgrims faced many challenges when they first arrived in Plymouth. They didn't have enough food, and the winter was cold and harsh. But with the help of friendly Native American people called the Wampanoag, they learned how to grow crops like corn, beans, and squash. The Wampanoag also taught them how to hunt

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texan Men's Basketball drops to #12 Baylor

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Men's Basketball played its fifth AP Top 25 opponent, resulting in a 104-41 loss to the nation's number 12 Baylor Bears Sunday, Nov. 17 at Foster Pavilion.

The Texans (1-4) were unable to every get any momentum against the No.12 Bears (3-1).

Joseph Martinez led the team in scoring for the second consecutive game. Martinez was the only Texan to score in double digits, notching 11. The sophomore shot 3-for-4 from beyond the arc, a new career high.

Jordan Mizell got the Texans on the board earlier with a steal and score in the first minute of the contest to make it 3-2, Bears. Then Baylor took over, orchestrating a 7-0 run to break out to a 10-2 lead. A mini Texan run fueled by a Chris Mpaka jumper and a Nick Krass triple put the Purple and White within 5.

Baylor erupted on a 17-0 burst to take the wind out of the Texans. The Bears found the three-ball with 12 of their 17 points during the spurt coming from downtown. BU led 29-9 at the midpoint and the lead only ballooned after.

The Bears finished the half with a 56-13 advantage. Bub Benjamin shot nine of 13 from 3-point land, 69.2% in the first 20 minutes.

In the second half, Martinez jumped out with a 5-0 run of his own. After a smooth wide-open transition triple, Martinez was selected as the shooter after a Baylor technical foul. He sunk them both. Benjamin followed with a fast break layup to cut the deficit to 60-21 on a 7-0 run with 17 minutes to go.

Baylor took control and never looked back in the final 17 minutes of the contest. Tarleton was unable to find any rhythm ultimately suffering its largest defeat of its D1 era. The Texans were outscored 48-28 in the second half.

Baylor shot 52% from the floor (31-for-60) and 47% from deep (15-for-32). Tarleton shot 15-for-39 from the field and five-for-14 from downtown. The Purple and White committed a season-high 28 turnovers and forced 12.

The Texans head to the Bahamas for the 2024 Baha Mar Hoops Nassau Championship spanning from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Men's Basketball played its fifth AP Top 25 opponent, resulting in a 104-41 loss to the nation's number 12 Baylor Bears Sunday, Nov. 17 at Foster Pavilion.

Tarleton State Volleyball closes out season

Tarleton State University

SEATTLE, Washington – Tarleton State Volleyball dropped its second match of a two-match road trip, closing out the regular season with a tough loss to Seattle U at the Redhawk Center Saturday, Nov. 16.

The Texans (7-22 overall, 2-13 WAC) fell to the Redhawks (8-18, 6-10) in four sets (25-20, 10-25, 19-25, 15-25).

Allison Bryant notched eight kills in her final match as a Texan, becoming the first player in Tarleton's Division I era to reach 400 kills in a single season. Madison Frank added six kills.

Mary Kate Stasevich and Emma Burke each posted a team-high five blocks. This tied a career-high for Stasevich, who has achieved this total in three matches this season. Burke ranks among the top of the WAC, averaging 1.04 blocks per set.

Megan Hodges and Yuna Ansquer both had double-digit assists, marking the seventh match where both setters achieved double digits in that category. Hodges



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Volleyball dropped its second match of a two-match road trip, closing out the regular season with a tough loss to Seattle U at the Redhawk Center Saturday, Nov. 16.

led the team with 15, followed by Ansquer with 11.

Emma Halcomb led the team registering 12 digs, followed by Bryant with 10.

The Texans started off hot in the opening set, going on a

5-0 run to open the match, a sequence that included three consecutive blocks from Burke. The Redhawks pulled within one point at the 12-11 mark. However, the Purple and White sparked a 6-1 run

that contained kills from Bryant, Frank, Burke and LaNeah Lara. Tarleton never let go of the momentum, taking the first stanza, 25-20.

The Redhawks responded with an 10-4 run to open

the second game. Lara was responsible for half of the Texans' first four points. A kill from Tehana Mo'o followed by an attack error from Seattle U brought the Texans within six points,

10-16. Seattle U finished the set on an amazing 9-0 run to even the match with a 25-10 set victory.

In the third frame, the Redhawks started with another dominant run, taking a 10-5 advantage early. The Redhawks continued to sway the momentum in their favor, leading 23-13 late in the third. The Purple and White orchestrated a 5-0 run with an ace from Tatum Busch followed by two consecutive blocks from Stasevich. However, Seattle U overcame the rally, taking the third set, 19-25. Stasevich had a team-high three blocks in the third frame.

The Redhawks took a 12-7 lead during the fourth and final stanza. The Texans rallied within two points thanks to kills from Bryant and Burke, trailing 12-14. A 5-1 run from the Redhawks put them in control of the set. Seattle U never looked back, taking the fourth set, 25-15.

Tarleton State Volleyball concludes its fifth season in its Division I era.

Tarleton State Women's Basketball wins second straight, beats Northwestern State

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE – Behind a season-high 45.5% shooting and a season-high eight 3-pointers, Tarleton State Women's Basketball won its second straight game with a 73-56 victory over Northwestern State Saturday, Nov. 16 at Wisdom Gym.

Senior guard Arieona Rosborough led Tarleton State with a team-high 14 points to go with seven rebounds. Senior guard Jakoriah Long added 11 points, going a perfect 3-for-3 from beyond the arc.

The Texans got a lift from their bench Saturday with 40 bench points, with the bench scoring 55% of Tarleton State's points. Senior guard Tyler Jackson led Tarleton State's reserves with 11 points off the bench.

Northwestern State took the early first quarter lead, but back-to-back 3-pointers from Long and Jackson swung the advantage back to Tarleton State. The Lady Demons tied the score back up with a free throw before senior guard Miannah Little converted a basket while drawing the foul to put Tarleton State back in front.

The Texans went on a 7-0 scoring run to stretch the advantage, but Northwestern State knocked in a bucket following a steal to make it an 18-11 contest through 10 minutes.

Tarleton State got a spark from its bench in the second quarter, taking a double-digit lead following back-to-back 3-pointers from freshman Mar'Cyah Willis. The Texans knocked down six straight free throws to end the second quarter to keep its double-digit advantage, but a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Northwestern State cut Tarleton State's lead to 13

points going into the locker room.

The Lady Demons came out firing in the third quarter, shooting over 55% and using a 10-0 scoring run to make it a five-point game. Northwestern State held the Texans to just 25% shooting to make it a 45-38 game heading into the final 10 minutes.

Rosborough helped the Texans regain its double-digit advantage, scoring five straight points to make it a 57-44 Tarleton State lead. A pair of 3-pointers by Long and a basket by sophomore center Faith Acker allowed

the Texans to win its second straight game with ease.

Tarleton State goes back on the road for a three-game away swing, starting at No. 4 nationally-ranked Texas at 11 a.m. in Austin.

Postgame Notes
Tarleton State shot 52.9% from the floor and 75% from 3-point range in the fourth quarter to win its second straight game 73-56 over Northwestern State Saturday afternoon at Wisdom Gym. The Texans outscored Northwestern State 28-18 in the fourth quarter.

55% of Tarleton State's scoring came from its bench

with 40 bench points. Senior guard Tyler Jackson led Texan players off the bench with a season-high 11 points.

The Texans held their opponent to under 60 points for the third time this season. It is the second time in the Division I Era the Texans have held their opponent to under 60 points in three of their first four games.

Junior guard Karyn Sanford cracked the starting lineup for the first time this season.

Junior guard/forward Kyriana Jones made her Texan debut on Saturday.

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NOTICE TO BID - CORYELL COUNTY
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Coryell County is seeking bids for Crushed Rock

Contact the Road and Bridge Department, 254-865-5021 and visit the Coryell County website: www.co.coryell.tx.us for the bid sheets and any further information. The Commissioners' Court has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Bids addressed to the Honorable County Judge and the Commissioners' Court of Coryell County, Texas will be accepted in the office of the County Judge until 9:00 a.m. on December 6, 2024. Mail, bring your bid or FAX to:

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Coryell County Main Street Annex
800 E. Main Street, Suite A
Gatesville, Texas 76528
PH: 254-865-5911 ext. 301

FAX: 254-865-2040

Bid will be awarded at the Commissioners' Courtroom on Tuesday December 10th 2024, 9:00 am in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 801 E. Leon Street, Gatesville, Texas.

00031164

Proposal Notice for Entry Resistant Film

The Gatesville Independent School District (ISD) will accept competitive sealed proposals for MATERIALS FOR GATESVILLE INTERMEDIATE CAFETERIA SERVING LINE until 10:00 AM on Monday, December, 2024.

Proposals should be mailed or hand delivered to the Administration Office: Gatesville ISD, Attention: LeighAnn Goodwin, Asst Superintendent of Finance, 311 S. Lovers Lane, Gatesville, TX 76528.

Proposals will be opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Monday, December 9, 2024. Tabulations of the proposals will be made and presented to the School Board for action at 5:30 PM on December 16, 2024.

Minimum expectations and proposal specifications are available upon request by emailing LeighAnn Goodwin: lgoodwin@gatesvilleisd.org or by calling (254) 865-7251 on or before the close of business on December 2, 2024. Gatesville ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals or price quotes and waive any formality in bidding.

00031169

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

EVANT ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EVANT ISD BOARD ROOM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.

Evant ISD will hold a public meeting to distribute a financial management report that explains the district's performance under each of the 22 indicators and resultant district rating under the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST).

The meeting will be held in conjunction with a regular board meeting on December 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Evant ISD Board Room located at 339 N. Memory Lane in Evant, Texas.

00031171

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage On-Premise Retailer's Permit by AKU Group II, Inc. d/b/a Holiday Inn Express, to be located at 2904 S. State Hwy. 36, Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas 76528.

The officers of said company are Kamalijit Ubhi, President, Secretary, and Director and Andy Ubhi, Director.

00031167

099
Public Notices

099
Public Notices

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- 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
- 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
- 9.77 ac. 3-2 manufactured home 20162 N Hwy. 281 Lampasas, TX. 2 living areas, large kitchen, island, metal building 25 ft. X 40 ft, 24 ft x 29 ft carport, 20 ft x 40 ft. RV Shed, water well 210 ft. deep. \$399,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 44 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision. Electric & fiber optic internet service. OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE. \$125,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 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
- 19.314 ac. 1,590 sq house built in 2021 located at 7247 N Hwy. 36 Jonesboro. Open floor plan, stained concrete flooring, large island/breakfast bar, propane gas range, and covered back porch. \$475,000
- 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
- 129.81 ac. Purlmea, TX, Coryell County, heavy tree cover, rolling terrain, one stock tank, Honey Creek, fenced on three sides, deeded access easement. \$975,000
- 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

SPORTS Roundup

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Jonesboro Wins Again, Advances

The Jonesboro football team defeated Medina by a score of 62-21 Thursday, Nov. 21 in a game where the running back tandem of Layden Nichols and Jeremiah Forrest combined for 269 yards rushing and five touchdowns for the Eagles.

Coach Eddie Gallegos said his team performed especially well in two facets of the game.

"I thought we executed well on offense and special teams," Gallegos said. "I was really pleased with our O-line of Pate Foote, Maddox Stroud, and Eric Thorman. They controlled the line of scrimmage and also stretched the field in the pass game."

Gallegos said his team is competing well at this point in the playoffs.

"We are playing at a high level, but we feel like we can still peak in all three phases, and we'll need to keep moving forward," Gallegos said.

That starts this week with perennial powerhouse Gordon, and Gallegos said his team's execution will need to be on point.

"They are skilled, explosive, and well-coached," Gallegos said. "We'll need to control the tempo and limit

penalties and be efficient on offense, staying ahead of the chains. But we look forward to the challenge. Our kids have played in a lot of big games, and this is just another on the road this time of year. We're excited and thankful to still be playing."

Oglesby Defeats Cherokee, Qualifies for State Quarterfinals

The Oglesby football team defeated Cherokee by a score of 116-76 on Friday, Nov. 22, and running back Kyler Fossett rushed for 518 yards and 10 touchdowns for the Tigers.

Coach Jeb Dixon said he was generally happy with the way his team performed against the Indians, but said he did see room for improvement.

"The offense played really well," Dixon said. "But we had a couple defensive mistakes that allowed big plays."

Dixon said his team continues to make improvement but adds that there have been some growing pains along the way.

"We are getting better, but every time I looked up last night there were either two freshman and a sophomore or two sophomores and a freshman on defense, so we are young on that side of the ball," Dixon said. "We're growing up as fast as we

can."

Oglesby plays Richland Springs next, and Dixon said his team will have its hands full.

"Richland is a powerhouse program in 6-man football," Dixon said. "We will have to play really well."

Rodriguez Comes Up Big, As Evant Defeats Blanket

The Lady Elks basketball team defeated Blanket by a score of 39-28 last week, and Luwi Rodriguez scored 20 points in the game.

Coach Benja Standford said it was a good win for her team.

"We had a strong first half, leading 15-13 at half-time and never looked back, securing the victory," Standford said. "Trailing 21-20, we went on an 11-point run to take the lead."

Standford said that 15 of Rodriguez' 20 points came in the second half to help lead Evant to a win.

Bree Ramirez led the team with 11 rebounds, and Molly Waldrum (10 points), Daritza Escamilla (three points), Ramirez (two points), and Brinlea Bates (two points) also contributed to the victory.

Jonesboro Comes up a Little Short

The Lady Eagles lost to Texas Wind in their season opener last week, and coach

Chris Simon said the team struggled offensively.

"It was a tough game last night for us," Simon said on Saturday. "We couldn't get anything to fall. It seemed like there was just a lid on the goal. Shots we usually make just would not fall. It is still early in the season for us though."

Simon said he did have a couple of strong efforts in the game.

"Ally Thorman played well for us last night, leading the way in rebounds and points," Simon said. "Ella Gustin had a rough three quarters but came on strong in the fourth to close the gap."

With Thanksgiving this week, Simon said there are a couple of objectives.

"We play Whitney on Monday at their place," Simon said on Saturday, Nov. 22. "I am looking forward to that game, as it will be another good test for us. We will practice on Tuesday, then I am giving the girls the rest of the week off. The time off I think will be good for the girls. We haven't had much down time. "They went from a long successful volleyball season straight into basketball, so a little time off I think will be great. During that time off I know we all plan to go support our football team as they play Gordon on

Friday."

Gatesville Boys Basketball Team Loses Close Game to Mexia

The Hornets came up a little short last week against Mexia, losing by a score of 48-41 in a game where coach Brit Campbell said he was pleased with some of what he saw.

"Overall, there were lots of good things from the game," Campbell said. "It was tied up 20-20 at the half, then we got down in the second half but cut it back to three with just over a minute to go. A lot of guys continue to step up and play with our team still shorthanded against a really quality and athletic opponent."

"We also played very solid man-defense and made them work for shots they had, especially in the half court."

Charlie Winkler and West Allman each scored 11 points for Gatesville and Kase Cox finished the game with 10 points.

Hornets Looking for Another Strong Season on the Mats

The Gatesville wrestling program is gearing up for what promises to be another strong year on the mats, and coach Robert Clater, Jr. said he is impressed by what he has seen early on.

"I have high expectations of our team this year," Clater, Jr. said. "We have multiple regional qualifiers returning and we are looking to make the next step to state."

Clater, Jr. said those strong returners from last year's team are the ones he hopes will lead the way for the Hornets this season.

"Our team captain is senior Brianna Allen, whom has been a regional qualifier her previous three seasons," Clater, Jr. said. "And Senior Elaina Knobloch is a two-time regional qualifier."

On the boy's side, Kadon Gaston "did not compete much last year due to injury but is already 2-0 on the season."

Clater Jr., said the objectives for the 2024-25 season revolve around taking the next step.

"I teach my team to strive for perfection in their go-to moves rather than mediocre at many (moves)," Clater, Jr. said. "We are in a new district this year, and I hope to have over 50% of both teams advance to regionals. We compete up in the UIL 5A division since there is no 4A wrestling division. We have made it to regionals every year, but we have yet to make it to the state tournament but strive to change that this year."



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ANNUAL FOOD FOR FAMILIES FOOD DRIVE



Pictured left: Soldiers from Ft. Cavazos help unload food at the annual Food for Families food drive at the Gatesville fire station. Top right: Gatesville Care Center Director Deral McWhorter (left) poses with former KWTX weatherman Rusty Garrett (center) and KWTX news anchor Gordon Collier. Bottom right photo: Mrs. Morgan Varney's class at Gatesville Intermediate School, who raised \$1,173.36 for Food for Families and took the title of class winners. The group was broadcasted on live television during Food for Families. Mrs. Kara Kouns' class came in second place with \$1,089.32 raised, and Mrs. Emily Yarbrough's class came in third place after raising \$942.50. As a campus, the Intermediate School raised \$3,680.18. All classes will be rewarded with extra recess time and a popcorn party after Thanksgiving break.

NEIGHBORS SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS COLLECTS GIFTS



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Bare Bones BBQ hosted their annual Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Toy Drive and Car Show last weekend. The entry fee to register a vehicle was one unwrapped toy, which led to the collection of hundreds of toys to be donated as Christmas gifts to local children. Show entrants were registered and awards given include Top 15, Kids Choice, Veterans Choice, Best Bike, Best Ratrod, Best Truck, Best Jeep, Best Late Model, Best Paint, Best Interior, Best Engine, Santa's Choice, People's Choice, Best of Show, Best Original, and Lifetime Classic Car Enthusiast. Bare Bones is located at 4305 South State Highway 36.

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