



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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HEB donates \$50,000 to replace library books



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left to right is HEB representatives Shyla Knox, Eileen Stephens, Aandon Haferkamp, center store leader Michael Willie, president of the Friends of the Gatesville Public Library Sonya Barron, library director Shea Harp, city manager Brad Hunt, and HEB top store leader Angela Womack.

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In a recent ceremony, representatives from Gatesville HEB presented a donation of \$50,000 to the Friends of the Gatesville Public Library to replace books that were lost during the flooding of the library last September. Angela Womack, top store leader at Gatesville

HEB, said, "It's really our honor to be here and to help out. We are a company that wants to be deeply rooted in our community and to give back. Anytime we see our communities go through tragedies, we want to step up in a big way. Gatesville holds a special place in our hearts, and when we learned about the challenges the

library was facing, we wanted to help." Gatesville City Manager Brad Hunt said, "I have to admit that I got a little emotional at the check presentation from HEB. What an amazing group of people! HEB proved once again that they are true pillars of the community. Their donation of \$50,000 to the Friends

of the Library will support our continuing efforts to replace books and materials lost as a result of water and mold damage." Regarding the importance of the library, Womack said, "We realize that the Gatesville Public Library has been a cornerstone in this community

PLEASE SEE **BOOKS** | A2

SALVATION ARMY RIDES AGAIN



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Cowgirl Diana Barnett volunteers as a bell ringer for the local chapter of the Salvation Army.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville city secretary Wendy Cole is set to retire at the end of December, after serving 13 years in her position.

Cole's Departure: Reflecting on a Decade of Service

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Wendy Cole, City Secretary of the City of Gatesville, is set to retire at the end of December after upholding a distinguished career marked by dedication and a deep understanding of the city's general operations.

Cole's career as the city secretary spans over a decade, with around 13 years of service in her position. She began her journey with the city in Feb. of 1994, when she was hired in the utility department.

"Initially, I was just looking for a job with benefits to help support my growing family and never dreamed that working for the City of Gatesville would be so fulfilling," she said. "I was assigned many duties over the years and have learned so much in every assignment that I had."

After working in the utility department for many years, in 2011, the opportunity was presented to Cole to begin working as

the city secretary due to the passing of the much-loved former city secretary, Kathy Karasek.

"With the support of the city manager, assistant city manager, and staff, I immediately started to work very hard, committed to continue and fulfill the duties of the city secretary," she said.

Bob Stevens was the first city manager Cole worked with, and she has worked with a total of six city managers since.

"I have absolutely enjoyed working with all my current and past coworkers, and they have all become like family to me," she said.

Being the city secretary comes with many responsibilities as well as being the backbone for the city council while attending each meeting. Her main duties include coordination, preparation, and distribution of agendas, organizing council books, and other materials needed for council meetings.

PLEASE SEE **COLE** | A2



COURTESY PHOTO

Operation Christmas Child volunteers Barbara Ashley (left) and Damona Fox (right) packing up Trinity Baptist Church's shoeboxes.

Area churches collect more than 2,600 boxes for Operation Christmas Child

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Every year, local churches partner with Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, to collect shoebox gifts to send to children in need

around the world. Coryell Community Church serves as the main drop-off site for the Gatesville area. Following the end of National Collection Week on Nov. 25, the church announced that

they not only collected 604 boxes this year, but also received 2,604 boxes from churches in surrounding communities.

"It was amazing to see so many members become more

and more excited and eager to help - to donate, to shop, to pack, to carry the boxes. There were a variety of ways they all wanted

PLEASE SEE **CHRISTMAS** | A2



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How the holiday season impacts incarcerated people and their families

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

During the holiday season, many look forward to a plethora of festive celebrations and enjoying quality time with family and friends.

However, for incarcerated individuals and their families, the holidays can intensify feelings of loneliness and sorrow as each navigate restricted visitations and the reality of spending another year away from loved ones.

Destiny Villarreal spent 25 years in the Texas Department of Crimi-

nal Justice (TDCJ) units in Gatesville until her release before Christmas in 2023. First incarcerated at only 16 years old, she said the holidays often left her feeling alone and without hope.

"It felt like there was no hope, because it was so isolated, and even though they provide a holiday meal, it was emotionless, and it was to the point where a lot of us would shut down," Villarreal said.

When she was first incarcerated, TDCJ had not yet installed a paid phone

PLEASE SEE **HOLIDAYS** | A12

CHRISTMAS

FROM PAGE A1

to be a part of it," said Debra Smith, a volunteer and drop-off team leader for Operation Christmas Child.

Smith said most of the collections came from 21 churches across Gatesville and Coryell County. The total beat last year's collection at CCC's drop-off site, which equaled 2,000 boxes total, she said.

"There's a great hunger within the church, and it was a huge blessing to watch so many people get excited and fired up to make children's lives around the world so much more loving and making a difference in the families that are going to be im-

pacted by seeing the love of Jesus in a tangible way," Smith said.

During National Collection Week, which takes place in November each year, participants transform empty shoeboxes into gifts filled with items such as toys, school supplies, personal care items, and more. Operation Christmas Child collects and delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

"It is an easy way to take a small gift and make a huge impact within the families and the children who get to hold them," she said. "There are people in

other parts of the world that are going to get to see the joy and make the difference in these kids' lives and really help them feel love - feel it physically, tangibly, and have prayers answered."

Smith said she and her group of volunteers carried 176 cartons of shoeboxes to a central drop-off site in Waco, where the boxes will be transferred to a processing center and prepared for international shipping.

For those who missed the deadline to drop off a shoebox in person, Smith said participants can pack and send a shoebox online until Dec. 31.

Those who donated boxes can also follow which country their shoebox will be delivered to by donating \$10 for a tracking label.

To pack or follow a shoebox online, visit samaritaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child

"It's an exciting thing. I see all the different churches, and they're all so excited and humbled and eager to know that even if it's just one shoe box, it still makes a difference to so many more people than just one," Smith said.

COLE

FROM PAGE A1

cil meetings. She records and prepares the written minutes of each meeting and follows up on necessary action items as well.

She also coordinates information with city staff and the city attorney to prepare ordinances while ensuring accurate filing of city ordinances, resolutions, city council minutes, and certifies or notarizes official city documents. She ensures city agreements, contracts, and other legal documents are signed and recorded.

Cole also serves as a liaison with various businesses, organizations, and the public as needed to provide necessary information.

With the responsibility of completing various tasks, she admitted that there, of course, have been challenges along the way.

"But this job has been so very satisfying when you see improvements and projects get completed

that will continue to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Gatesville," she said. "It has been an absolute honor to work for the City of Gatesville the last 30 years, and I very much appreciate the dedication, leadership, and vision that city council and city staff have for the future of our great town!"

She expressed that she has learned a tremendous amount regarding how a city runs and that she is very proud of the accomplishments that she has been able to be a part of with the council and city staff.

"I have also enjoyed the many friendships that have been formed with co-workers and many city councilmembers over the years," she said. "I will miss seeing and working with staff every day and being involved in all the efforts with the city council to achieve the accomplishments that will continue

to make a positive and lasting impact on this community."

Since Cole is on the road to retirement this month, she has been training the upcoming city secretary, Holly Owens, since August with the goal of a gradual and seamless transition.

"Holly has been an excellent addition to city staff since her first day as city secretary and has fit right in," she said. "Her experience and vast knowledge of municipal government, customer service, her selfless ambition, and progressive vision will serve the city and its citizens well."

She mentioned that she is extremely thankful to have been employed with the city, and that it will be fondly remembered, although she is looking forward to relaxing for a bit and spending more time enjoying her family and three grandchildren.

"I thank God for the blessings I have been

given, which is more than I could have ever imagined," she said.

"I will always treasure the memories that I have gained during this time while witnessing our many productive hardworking employees and city councilmembers," she said. "They work tirelessly to complete projects to support our growing community with the goal of designing and maintaining sustainable infrastructure and also maintaining Gatesville's unique characteristics for future generations."

"There are so many incredible things going on in Gatesville, and I am excited to see what is ahead," she said. "I am proud of everything we have accomplished as a city, and I am so thankful for the opportunity I've had to serve this fantastic community of Gatesville."



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Virginia and Lionel Hernandez stayed at the Central Texas Hospital in November to visit their daughter at TDCJ in Gatesville.

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Thank You

On behalf of the Keeton and Magee families, we give you, our community, deep appreciation for your affection, love and support during a time such as this. We continue to be overwhelmed by your comfort to us in this loss. This community means so much to us, as it did to Gary. There were so many avenues of love shown... cards, calls, texts, emails, visits, food deliveries, gift cards, plants, flowers, and the list goes on. Scott's Funeral Home ministered to us in sincerely caring ways, and we are so grateful. The churches in the community are a pure picture of what the Body of Christ is called to do in times such as these. Glory to God in the Highest.

The Family of Gary F. Keeton

BOOKS

FROM PAGE A1

since 1937 and, over the years, it has evolved into so much more than just a place to borrow books, but a hub for growing and connection and a place for children to discover the joy of reading and for adults to get new skills and where community members can get together."

She continued, "What stood out to us was not just the damage, but the resilience of this community. At HEB, we believe in giving back to and investing in the community, and that's why we are giving our gift of \$50,000 to the Friends of the Gatesville Public Library."

City Manager Hunt responded by saying, "Most people know I am rarely at a loss for words, but I cannot express enough appreciation for the support HEB has shown us."

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Doesn't everybody collect something?



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

Seems like almost everyone collects something of some sort or another. My wife has a giant container full of old matchbooks she has been collecting for years, though since smoking has declined in popularity, it is harder and harder to find new additions.

The matchbooks pretty much stay stored in the closet, but her collection of seashells is proudly displayed on the wall of our master bathroom. Her departed father helped her find most of the seashells, so I do understand why they are important to her.

My mother collected a type of antique glassware called Flow Blue. There is no telling how many dollars or how many miles she traveled seeking pieces to add to her treasure trove. It was a passion for her. Funny, she was notoriously tight-fisted, but, when it came to

Flow Blue, her pocketbook opened somewhat magically.

My Uncle John collected coins. My brother-in-law, Steve, collects Springfield rifles. Uncle Rich collected metal replicas of tractors. My Miss Jayne collected souvenir shot glasses. My colleague, Paul Hyde, collects Star Wars memorabilia. Others collect items as varied as old dental equipment, antique cookie cutters, gas station memorabilia, or stuffed animals.

It wasn't until I began researching in anticipation of writing this column that I learned there are people collecting some mighty strange stuff. One hospital I ran across has a collection of unusual items, which have been removed from patients' throats and lungs. That collection includes dried beans, buttons, wooden matches, marbles, tiny toys, and a host of other

miscellaneous items.

I found another person who collects used concert ticket stubs. That music lover has the ticket stub for every concert he has ever attended in his 71 years of life and now his collection tallies over 3,339 stubs. Anyone who went to that many concerts is certainly a genuine music aficionado! His collection is without a doubt a survey of how that collector spent his life.

When I was young, I collected baseball cards. I spent every nickel I could come across to buy baseball cards to get my "checklist" filled. To acquire more cards without spending money, neighborhood boys would "flip" baseball cards. This was a game attempting to match team colors of the various players. The winner got to take the pile of cards that had been put into play. It was a quick way to expand a collection.

I kept my cards safely tucked into a couple of old Styrofoam ice chests. Somewhere along the line, my folks got tired of their storage space being consumed by what they called "a bunch of old, good for nothing baseball cards," and the cards ended up in the trash. I wonder what the box would be worth today.

So, why do people collect? Psychologists believe humans utilize collectables to connect to their childhood and the good memories that reside in the past. Some want to gain knowledge and learn something new, yet others want the collection to be an investment that pays a dividend. I have never met a collector who did not seek that one item, overlooked by the rest of the world, that is worth tens of thousands of dollars. It is the thrill of the hunt; it is the ability to have something unique that

other people are envious of.

As an adult, I do not believe I maintain any sort of collection, nor do I have any interest to start one. At this point, I have already collected a thousand memories, hundreds of disappointments, a couple of successes, and a few failures. I cherish them all and when I sit on my deck with drink in hand, watching as the sun goes down, my mind sometimes lingers on the memories and I realize living life is better than collecting it. And it takes up a whole lot less room in the house!

Thought for the day: Life consists not in holding good cards, but in playing well whatever cards you hold.

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

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

TX WIC launches campaign to help mothers & pregnant women in need

Staff Reports

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) Texas WIC program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, is launching an awareness campaign this holiday season to encourage eligible pregnant women and breastfeeding moms. Families with children up to age five are welcome to apply for the program and its many benefits as well.

If accepted to the WIC program, Texas families would likely see their benefits in early 2025.

The approaching holidays highlight the continued role WIC plays in helping families enjoy nutritious meals.

"During the holidays, children and families are home more, and it can be a challenge to have nutritious and healthy meals and snacks at the table," Amanda Hovis, nutrition education and clinic services director for Texas WIC said. "Texas WIC assists families with nutritious food, so families can focus on purchasing the other items that they need."



Program benefits include monthly healthy food packages (which include fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, and cheese), nutrition counseling, live and self-paced breastfeeding and nutrition classes and expert breastfeeding support.

WIC sets a nutritional foundation for Texas families and children by providing education, support, and inspiration they are already seeking to eat well, have safe pregnancies, breastfeed successfully, and raise healthy families.

The federally funded initiative ensures that families who might otherwise struggle to meet the nutritional needs of their children have the necessary resources to thrive and have peace of mind.

WIC leads to healthier

pregnancies and babies. Participation in WIC during pregnancy is associated with a decreased risk of low birth weight, preterm birth, and lower risk of infants needing care in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Anyone with children under the age of five can apply for the program, including dads, foster parents, guardians, or grandparents. Pregnant women can apply for the program as soon as they learn they are expecting.

WIC recently updated its income guidelines to allow more Texas families to participate. Eligibility for the WIC program depends on your income and the number of people in your household.

This year, WIC reached the 50-year milestone of helping Texas families ac-

cess healthy food, not just during the holidays, but year-round. Since 1974, Texas WIC has provided assistance to more than seven million women. Today, the program serves more than 800,000 women, infants, and children each month.

"When I became a WIC mom, I was able to get a free breast pump when my insurance wasn't able to provide one," Ashley Castro, Texas WIC recipient and Austin mother of two said. "I was also able to get free fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, pasta, tortillas; everything that made it possible for me to have a healthy diet. I was able to meet with a nutritionist that was able to help me plan healthy foods for my family. I was able to speak with a breastfeeding peer counselor, and she answered any questions that I had."

For more information or to apply to the WIC program, visit TexasWIC.org/apply or call 800-942-3678. Find more information on WIC benefits and eligibility at TexasWIC.org.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Joyce Talbott

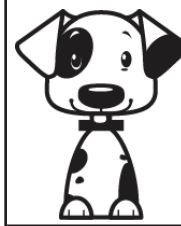
Say hello to our neighbor, Joyce Talbott!

Joyce is a retired teacher of Gatesville ISD and has served as the Salvation Army Bell Ringer Organizer for two years. She expressed that she loves being a part of the Salvation Army and especially the Red Kettle Campaign. "It's a community effort that brings all of us together to accomplish a worthwhile purpose," she said. In 1978, she and her husband Charles moved to Gatesville with their infant daughter, Valerie, and have called Gatesville their home since. She said that she enjoys the small town with friendly, caring people.

Joyce reads *The Gatesville Messenger* each week. "I love *The Gatesville Messenger*," she said. "It features very positive stories about our community and keeps us informed about local events."

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

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

Remembering Bauman's Grocery Store...

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In the early days, Gatesville had grocery stores actually located on the courthouse square. As years progressed and the town grew, some of the stores ventured away from the square to areas closer to residential districts. One such store, Bauman Grocery Store, was opened in 1926 by Henry Bauman and his son, Price Bauman. Their first store was located on State School Road near Mill Branch.

It was reported that one year, during the flooding of the Leon River, the store and groceries were washed away. A year later, the store

moved to the corner of Lutterloh and Waco Streets. In 1931, Price Bauman bought the store from his father.

Price's daughter, Phyllis Bauman Dunham, would later write, "During the 1930's and 40's, Bauman's Super Market made five deliveries a day for orders called in by the customers. Many a Saturday night bather scurried for cover when Price knocked on the kitchen door with the grocery order."

Remembering the early day prices, Dunham wrote, "In 1939, you could get a pound of coffee for 23 cents, a quart of peanut butter for 23 cents, 48 pounds of flour for \$1.53,

round steak at 29 cents a pound, sliced Dexter bacon for 25 cents a pound, lettuce for four cents a head, No. 2 can of green beans at two for 15 cents, and three pounds of shortening for 49 cents." Dunham went on to say, "By 1947, bacon had jumped to 63 cents a pound, beans to 14 cents a can, shortening to \$1.69 for four pounds, and ten pounds of flour for 87 cents."

Dunham would also recall stories about the young boys who once worked for her father. She wrote, "Many Gatesville boys worked at sacking groceries after school and during summer vacation. They

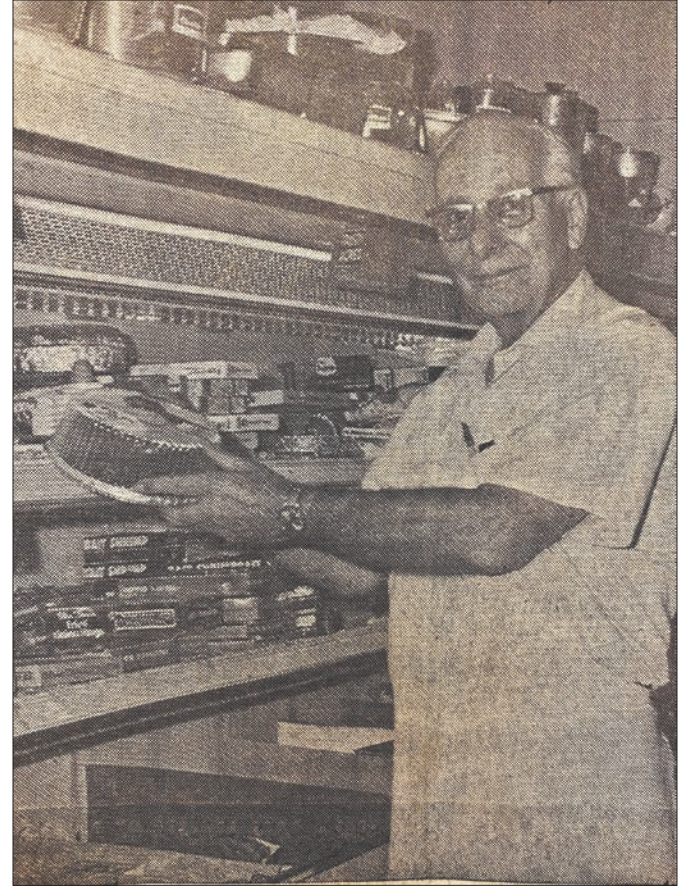
remember Price as a great jokester, encourager, and Christian friend. Bill Ellis and Dan Edwards used to go out back of the store to wring the necks and pluck the feathers of fresh chickens to be sold."

Price Bauman also owned grocery stores in Hamilton and Waco for several years but would later dispose of those interests - only keeping the Gatesville store.

He became a prominent leader in Gatesville business, church, and civic circles. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Gatesville for over 50 years, a member of the city council, president of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Lions Club, as well as being a 32nd degree Mason.

Bauman was in the grocery business for more than 47 years until his retirement in August of 1973. An article appeared in *The Gatesville Messenger* announcing his retirement: "The veteran business, church, and civic leader recently had a bout with illness that kept him hospitalized for several days. He listed his health, the aggravation of mounting problems in the food store business, and the desire to devote his time to other pursuits as reasons behind his decision to retire."

Bauman himself explained some of the reasons for his retirement saying, "There are about 25 good



COURTESY PHOTO

Price Bauman is pictured in Bauman's Grocery Store shortly before his retirement in 1973.

reasons in all. There are so many problems and headaches in the food business today - government regulations, price ceilings, food shortages, and so forth - that you have to be a lawyer, auditor, accountant, and secretary to handle things. It's just not worth the investment and time it takes." Back when the grocery store first opened

in 1926 as Henry Bauman and Son Grocery Store, Price Bauman recalled, "Then you could concentrate on selling groceries."

Bauman died two years following his retirement at the age of 68 and was buried in Restland Cemetery. Many locals still remember Price Bauman and patronizing his grocery store on Lutterloh Street.



COURTESY PHOTO

During the 1930's, Bauman's Grocery Store used a delivery truck to deliver orders that were called in to the store.

Morris Federation Christmas Program and Luncheon set for Dec. 14

Submitted by Marsha Lee

The next meeting of the Morris Federation is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. Members will meet first in the music room with the piano, located directly behind the gift shop, where

there will be a short business meeting. Following the meeting, a program will be presented under the direction of Charles Ament. Mr. Ament is no stranger to Gatesville, and he has served GISD in several capacities: student, teacher, choir director, principal

at Gatesville Intermediate, and current president of the GISD School Board. He has worked with the Methodist Church Choir, directed a group called "MorningSong," and is accompanist for "The Leading Ladies," a singing group led by Rosemary Whittle. In

his spare time, he teaches piano lessons. At Saturday's meeting, he will be joined by two to three of his piano students who will present a program entitled "Playing the Piano . . . Simple . . . and Not So Simple: Three Necessary Components of Becoming Proficient at Play-

ing the Piano." Afterward, Nancy Garvin will read a Christmas story for those present. After the program, members will adjourn and move into the James Coryell Room for refreshments.

Members are asked to bring finger foods for the luncheon.

If members desire to participate, they may also bring stocking stuffer gifts to donate to the Gatesville Care Center for its Christmas for Children ages 12 and under.

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The queen of signs



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

"I'm known as Nana the banana pudding lady," says Nancy Doyle, of Eldorado. "I make banana pudding for different occasions - like for the high school football team when they have their team supper. And I make them for funerals, just whatever."

Nancy is also known as the hot cracker lady. "I take oyster crackers and put seasoning on them. They are hot and spicy sometimes. I try to watch how much cayenne pepper I use."

She is best known for making colorful, decorative signs.

"It started as a hobby while I was teaching

school. As of right now, I've made 1,130 signs. I write down each one on a yellow pad. I'm on my 34th yellow pad now."

Some people ask her to make a sign. "Mostly with my big mouth I'll ask people if they want me to make them one. I love doing them. The smiles on their faces when I hand it to them are all the pay

I need. Some people pay me money, but I don't ask for it."

Her signs are all over Texas. "I sent some to New York, North Carolina, the Philippines, and even to Uganda. They're everywhere."

The signboards are about 6 inches by 2 feet, and she gets them at art supply houses.

"I don't saw and do lumber stuff. I paint the boards white unless they say they want a different color. Then I take each little letter, paint it, and glue it to the board with Elmer's glue. Then I put little doo dads on them: butterflies, flowers, or stars. For teachers, I put teacher stuff on them like the ABCs, 123s, apples, pencils, and books. I always make a sign for the new elementary teachers. Because I taught those grades."

She considers making the signs a craft. "I have no art background. This does

not take a whole lot of talent. I just paint and paste and decorate."

It takes her a couple of weeks to make a sign. She's been doing it more than 30 years. She has 200 colors to use in making a sign. All of her material for sign making is tucked away neatly in drawers and cabinets throughout her house. She has boxes of letters. She has just started making wooden letters a foot tall and decorating them. If a person's name is Susan she'll get a big decorated S.

"I usually have about six or seven signs to do. Not long ago, I had 20 to do at one time. It was overwhelming, but I got them done."

She made a sign for me. "Well, of course. I wasn't going to let you come here and not make you a sign."

She also gave me some spicy crackers and a big bowl of banana pudding. Both were world class.

SUDOKU

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

Puzzle answers from the Nov. 30, 2024 issue.

			7			1	6	
		6			1			5
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Puzzle by websudoku.com

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)
Erosion forced the closure of Faunt Le Roy Park. The price tag for the expansion of Gatesville Airport went up to \$2.8 million. Dora's Angels, of the First Baptist Church in Evant, provided Christmas carols for the annual Country Christmas. Families in Crisis was among the programs set to benefit from an addi-

tional \$1.2 million in grants awarded under the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The Texas Highway Patrol investigated 30 rural traffic accidents in Coryell County for the month of October.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)
The Movie Shop advertised "Jurassic Park" for rent. Gatesville had its most productive year in almost a

decade. Graves Florist advertised Dreamsicles collectibles. Santa Clause made a special visit to Higginbotham's. Scott & White began operating a helicopter ambulance service in Temple.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)
The Gatesville Hornets beat Brownwood 41-39 in basketball. Wayne's Fried Chicken & Bar-B-Que advertised

"homemade pies fresh daily." Lone Star Gas Co. Manager Hurl Prock announced the company was again sponsoring Project HAP'N (Heating Assistance Program for the Needy). The Exchange Club and the family of Sarah Carothers paid tribute to Bobby Blackler and four unknown soldiers for their bravery in the unsuccessful attempt to save Mrs.

Carothers' life. Walmart advertised Chap-Stick lip balms two for a dollar. **50 YEARS AGO (1974)**
The city council approved a lease agreement with Louis Bone to construct six T-hangers at the city airport on FM 116. The Texas Supreme Court appointed Bob Cummings, of Gatesville, as a member of the State Bar's screening

committee. Gatesville was waiting on a new police chief to be named. Dewayne Bates, of Gatesville, was named district deputy grand master for 1975 of the 69th Masonic District. Scott's Furniture advertised La-Z-Boy Reclina-Rockers for \$189.95.

Pastor Sohns publishes second book while residing at The Meadows

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

After 65 years of serving the church and dedicating his heart to Christ, Pastor Will Sohns has expressed his love for people and the Lord through his recent published book, "God's Sending Heart."

After being ordained as a pastor several years ago, Sohns expressed that he still lives up to his purpose to serve God at 91 years old.

When Sohns was asked what led him to becoming a pastor, he reflected on one of his earliest memories in Christian day school.

"When I was in the seventh grade, my Christian day school teacher wanted me to be a pastor," Sohns said. "He felt that I had the gifts and abilities, so he pressed it and so did my mom."

His father passed away when he was only nine years old, so Sohns had to mature at a very early age.

"We had to struggle since we were a really poor family, so my mom, of course, agreed with my teacher and felt I should be a pastor," he said. "Partly because I would get up on the stairs of the church and preach as a kid."

He expressed that in

order to make it financially, his mom and siblings would clean the church he grew up in. Sohns would also work in various tomato, potato, and orange fields as a young child.

After completing the eighth grade, he felt that it was his purpose to begin studying to be a pastor, so he climbed on a bus and traveled to a school in Oakland, CA.

"It was what we called a prep school, which was a high school, and a college put together," he said. "It was a couple hundred miles away, and here this guy who just finished the eighth grade is going to study to be a pastor. Thinking back, to me it was normal, having no fear or problems since having to grow up at a young age with the loss of my dad."

"That is how God was shaping my life, actually, and the very fact that my dad died so early in life was part of shaping me and giving me a desire to want to become a pastor," he said. "It seemed like a detour at first, but I got sick the very first year when I was training and I was in the hospital for over a year."

Sohns said that as soon as he became well again he

went straight back to the school in Oakland.

Since completing his schooling and becoming ordained, he has made his mark all over the United States, with serving churches in Cambridge, NE; Casper, WY; Colorado, and Springfield, IL.

"I spent most of my years in Wyoming; we just loved the mountains, and I always thought I would retire in the mountains, but because of the pull of family we came back," he said. "My roots were at The Grove."

Since being a pastor, Sohns has written many books but has only published two because he has not had time before residing at The Meadows.

"God is still using me and writing these books came as a result from all my years of ministry to try to help Christianity and our church body," he said.

"God's Sending Heart" is a sequel to Sohns' first book, "The Great Sending."

Sohns' son, Steve, helped write the sequel along with Steve's wife, Ursula, who was the editor of the book.

The book is comprised of a 52-week Bible study with an initiative that acknowledges the "Missio Dei," which is the Sending

of God and His Word that creates and shapes God's people to be co-heirs and co-associates with God in His sending.

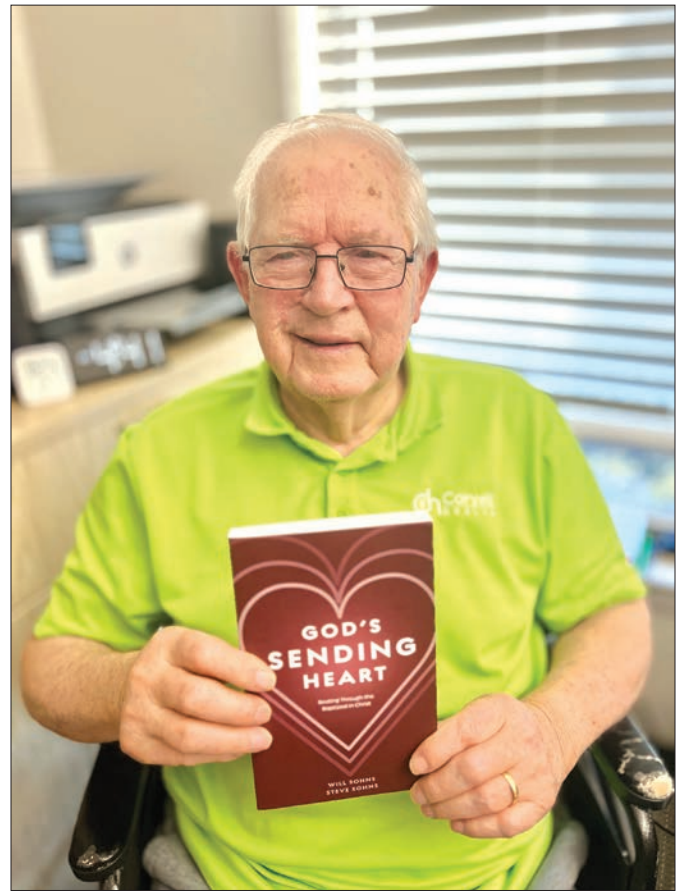
"I really want this to help all Christians," he said.

"This book is not something that is academic or scholastic; it is something that is really the matter of the heart," he said. "And God has a heart for you and all of us, but He wants your heart to literally connect with other hearts in the world, and that is what it's all about."

He expressed that the dynamic of the book is to really review, know, and understand the mission of God and to remember that God is sending us. "That means that God wants us to have a heart change and to have a different mindset in life that God has sent us to others," he said.

"My ministry is to simply always be serving God's people wherever they are," he said. "I want people to be able to go to their eternal home, so if I can help people on the journey, that is why I am a pastor."

"I became a pastor because of God's sending heart, and I wanted God's heart to beat through me to help people because I have



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Pastor Will Sohns is pictured with his recently published book, "God's Sending Heart."

a heart for people," he said. "The heart that I have for people is because of God's heart for us."

Sohns expressed that although Amazon charges

for the book, it is nonprofit from his standpoint. He provides a free online version by visiting his website at www.thegreatsending.org.

PEARL NEWS

Buy what you want, pay what you want sale in Pearl



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Today is the day to be in Pearl. Be there because you don't want to be square.

I've reminded you in the past couple of Pearl News articles all about the big "Buy What You Want, Pay What You Want by the Box" sale at the Pearl Cottage Bookstore, so you already know that you don't want to miss that. I also have already told you about the Bluegrass event where you can watch a stage show and jam for free and sign up for your band to play on stage for free, the unmatched food at the Bluegrass Kitchen for reasonable prices (cash only), and the opportunity to open a flea market-style booth around the cabin by the bookstore for only \$5. Now, since you already know about these unparalleled opportunities, don't you think you ought to be there? Take some friends and family with you. There's no place like Pearl!

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family of Gary Keeton, a deeply loved Pearl boy who loved this community with all his heart. Gary and his family, pillars of Pearl, are greatly missed and will always be

cherished.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to David and Alex Scott in the loss of their mother and grandmother. Mr. Scott is a big supporter of the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Pearl in general. His articles in *The Gatesville Messenger* about Pearl events are always greatly appreciated. His mother raised a good son!

Can you believe it is the last month of 2024? If you're like me, you're wondering where the year went. As we prepare for Christmas, let us never forget the reason for the season as they say. But it's true. Of course, our Savior should always be at the forefront of our lives, and I hope that we reinforce our commitment and service to Him daily with scripture reading, doing good, and sharing with others. Even more, as Jesus has shown us, let us do so with JOY!

A funny Thanksgiving story from East Texas: My oldest granddaughter loves pumpkin pie, especially a certain brand. Well, that brand was difficult to find

here in Nacogdoches this year. However, I called around and found several at one of the local stores here in Nacogdoches. I sent my son to pick them up and instructed him to go the freezer section for the Marie Yearly pies. Soon I got a call from the store with my son telling me that there are no Marie Yearly pies to be found. He said he even had the store manager look for them. I asked him to put the manager on the phone, and I told that manager that only two hours prior he had told me he had plenty in stock. The manager said he would look again, but he actually never heard of that brand. I soon got a call back from my aggravated son who asked, "Could you mean 'Marie Callender'?" Well yes, yes, I could. Only I could go from Callender to Yearly in a matter of minutes and humiliate my poor child. The happy ending was that my sweet grand got plenty of pumpkin pie this year! The bad news: I may have lost my personal shopper, sigh.

This week's Bible verse comes from Romans 12:2—Don't copy the behaviors and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. NLT

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 betsylark47@yahoo.com

LIONS CLUB PIE SALE



COURTESY PHOTO

On Tuesday, Nov. 26, the Gatesville Lions Club hosted its annual pie sale fundraiser to benefit local service projects within the community. The club was able to raise \$2,700 by selling pies and cobblers. Pictured (left to right) is Eric Moffett, Oliver Puhr, Rhonda Mohler, and Alan Mathis.

FMC presents Christmas Cantata

Submitted Item

The First Methodist Church Chancel Choir will join with other talented singers to present the Christmas musical, "Do You Hear What I Hear" on Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. in the

church sanctuary.

Admission is free. A love offering will be taken for the Gatesville Ministerial Alliance. Featured singers are Chelsea Johnson and Diana Fincher. Director is

Charles Ament. The accompaniment is Rosemary Whittle.

The First Methodist Church is located at 2600 East Main Street.

Christmas on Marshall St. moved indoors

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District's Christmas on Marshall St. event will make its annual appearance on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Due to the threat of rain, the event has been moved into the old gymnasium at the

Gatesville High School.

The event will feature food, crafts, jewelry, Santa, kids' activities, handcrafted items, gifts, and more.

There will also be a "Deck the Paws" dog costume parade at noon. There is no entry fee, and it is open to all Christmas

canines. There will be prizes awarded to first, second, and third place. Be sure to reserve your spot in the parade by emailing Michelle Martin at mmartin@gatesvilleisd.org.

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

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DRIVE THROUGH LIVE NATIVITY

Sun., Dec. 22
6 p.m.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Mountain Baptist Church
6319 E. Hwy. 84 • 254-383-2634

City, KGB Highway 36 Monument dedication set for Dec. 10

Staff Reports

The City of Gatesville and Keep Gatesville Beautiful will dedicate the Highway 36 Monument on Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 4-5 p.m. The monument is located on Highway 36 across from Walgreens.

After the City of Gatesville was presented with the Governor's Community Achievement Award in May of 2021, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) awarded a grant for the construction of the

monument at no cost to the city.

The award was based on the City of Gatesville and Keep Gatesville Beautiful's efforts in recycling, litter prevention, and beautification.

The monument was completed earlier this year and is in perfect shape for the dedication to honor the public and those who helped to make the monument possible.

There will be on-site parking for the event.

For further details, contact the City of Gatesville at 254-865-8951.



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured is the Highway 36 Monument, which is to be dedicated on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

OBITUARIES

Jack Davis

Jan. 3, 1934 - Nov. 27, 2024

Jack Davis, age 90, of Gatesville, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, in Glen Rose.

Graveside services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30, at Flint Creek Cemetery with the Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat officiating.

Jack Charles Davis was born on Jan. 3, 1934 to the late George and Mary June McElhaney Davis in Jacksonville, FL. He was raised and attended school in Nilas, MI. He married Donna Clawson on May 31, 1963, and together they enjoyed 47 years of marriage before her passing in July 2010. Jack honorably served in the United States Naval Reserves for three years and in the United States Army for an additional seven years. After his military career, Jack served as the Maintenance Director for the Dallas Independent School District for 20 years before retiring in 1990. He was a member of the Gatesville Masonic Lodge #197 A.F. & A.M. and served as District Deputy Grand Master in 2003. He was also a member of the Waco Scottish Rite and



Waco Karem Shrine. Jack was an active member of The Presbyterian Church of Gatesville.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife, Donna Clawson Davis, and brother, George Paul Davis.

He is survived by special friend and companion, Linda Davis; son, Jeffrey Craig Davis and wife, Helen; daughters, Schree Watts and husband, Jackie, and Linda Wilkins; sister, Mary Dean; grandchildren, Mandy Dudik and Scotty Watts; three great-grandchildren; and by his special friends, the Cummings family.

Willie E. Gonzales

March 10, 1941 - Nov. 24, 2024

Willie E. Gonzales was born on March 10, 1941 to Celia Solidad Chaffee of Morenci, AZ. He passed away from this world on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024 at the age of 83.

Memorial services to celebrate Willie Gonzales's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, at Scott's Funeral Home, 2425 E. Main Street, in Gatesville. Burial with military honors will immediately follow the service at Restland Cemetery.

Willie was raised by his grandparents, Leonor and Trinidad Estrada alongside his sister, Nora. He also had two brothers, Robert Nunez and Tom Lopez. As a teenager, he grew up working hard and learned the value of perseverance and dedication while working summers with his Uncle Frank in southern California.

While in high school, he met the love of his life, Anna Bonilla. After graduating high school, Willie joined the Army and shortly after, he and Anna were married. They started their family and went on to have three children. Life began very early for them even though they were just teenagers. After serving his country, Willie and Anna began their life in Montebello, CA and then moved to Morenci, AZ, where he worked for Phelps Dodge Copper mine for 23 years. In 1987, he moved from Arizona to Pomona, CA, where he retired from Golden State Power Plant in 2006. After retirement, Willie and Anna settled in Gatesville to be near their children.

Living in Morenci, he had so many memories. He loved fishing, hunting, running, and playing basketball at Peru's house. Every year he would take his



family on extended vacations to go camping at West Fork and then would travel to Southern California to see family.

While living in Pomona, Willie would enjoy going to the horse races, traveling to Las Vegas or Laughlin, Nevada to gamble. He also vacationed in Hawaii. He would often host swimming pool parties for friends and family.

After retiring and moving to Gatesville, Willie loved spending time with his family, watching football, playing cards and dominos. He and Anna would often travel to Safford and Tucson, AZ to spend time with family.

For certain, Willie loved to be with family. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Anna; his three children, Paul and his wife, Mary, of Allen, Richard and his wife, Andrea, of Gatesville, and daughter Nancy and husband, Nick, of Gatesville; as well as his three grandchildren, Mary, Tanner, and Dariann. Willie's legacy of strength, love, and resilience will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Turnersville Cemetery Association to meet Dec. 10

Submitted item

The Turnersville Cemetery Association will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at the Turnersville Community Center.

The burial ground served residents of the rural community of Turnersville - originally known as Buchanan

Springs. A cemetery association was formed in 1900 but disbanded in the 1930s. The Turnersville Cemetery Association reorganized in 1953 and continues to care for the burial ground.

Turnersville Community Center is located at 8113 FM 182.

'Not Hidden' worship event 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.

State Park to host "A Mother Neff Christmas"

Staff Reports

Mother Neff State Park will be hosting "A Mother Neff Christmas" on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Activities will include geocaching, a scavenger hunt, Christmas crafts, cookie decorating, pictures with Santa, hot cocoa and apple cider, holiday shopping, and guided hikes at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

There will also be a donation drive benefiting a local pet rescue. Mother Neff State Park Association will be collecting items to support Char-

lie's Wags and Whiskers. The following items are in high demand: clumping cat litter, cat treats and food, kitten food, dog treats and food, and cleaning supplies. These essential items will directly support the health and well-being of the animal waiting for their "forever" homes.

Park entry fees will be \$2 per person (13+); kids 12 and under will be free. Mother Neff State Park is located at 1921 Park Road 14 in southeastern Coryell County. For more information about the Christmas event, call 254-853-9044.

Margie Cline

Oct. 16, 1940 - Nov. 26, 2024

Margie Cline, age 84, of Gatesville, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 29, at Turnersville Cemetery with Minister Deral McWhorter officiating.

Margie Ruth Cline was born at home on Oct. 16, 1940 to the late Charles and Juanita Manning Fleming. She grew up and attended school in Turnersville, graduating from Turnersville High School. She attended beauty school and worked most of her adult life as a beautician. Margie enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and cooking for her family and friends. She also loved to sing gospel songs and was a member of Cedar Ridge Church of Christ.

Margie was preceded in death by her parents; sis-



ters, Christine Esparza and Mable Bush; brother-in-law, Bobby Latham; and niece, Jeanne Latham Hamrick.

She is survived by her adopted children, Pam Whitley, Nathan Cline, and Brian Cline; sister, Charlotte Latham; brother, Norris "Judge" Fleming; and granddaughter, Mariah Cline Parker.

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.

Cookies & Cocoa with Santa to be held Dec. 15

Staff Reports

The American Legion Post 42 will host a cookies and cocoa with Santa come and go event on Sunday, Dec. 15.

The event will be from 1-4 p.m. and will feature a plethora of cookies, snacks, and hot cocoa for

the community to enjoy. Santa will also be present for local youth to visit and discuss what they want for Christmas this year.

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

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

Saturday, Dec. 14
Cowboy Christmas Parade & Holiday Extravaganza

Parade
Begins at 10 AM from Business 36 to Lovers Ln.

Extravaganza Market
At the Gatesville Civic Center following parade

- Shop local vendors
- Family activities
- Music
- Pictures with Santa

Gatesville CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Lions Club President Eric Moffet (left) is pictured with Scout Leader Darragh and scout Case Jones.

Lions Club makes donations to local organizations

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Lions Club made two donations during two of their weekly meetings this past month to the Gatesville Cub and Boy Scouts 272 and the Gatesville Care Center.

The Lions Club donated \$750 to the scouts to help the group with expenses for chartering and supplies.

The club is also working to repair the lights and doors on the scout house where the scouts hold their meetings.

"The scouts are growing and working hard, and we love to see it," an online post read.

The club also made a donation to the local care center in honor of Food for Families, which was held on Friday, Nov. 22. The donation was given to Care Center Director Deral McWhorter in the form of a check for \$2,000.

The Gatesville Lions Club meets weekly every Wednesday at noon at the Junction on Route 36.



COURTESY PHOTO

President Eric Moffet (left) is pictured with Care Center Director Deral McWhorter.

Cowboy Christmas Parade and Holiday Extravaganza to be held Dec. 14

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Christmas Parade with the theme of "Cowboy Christmas" on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The Christmas Parade will begin at 10 a.m., and the route will start at Business 36. Then it will proceed to Lovers Lane where the floats will line up on Hornet Way if there are no parked vehicles on

Marshall Street or Lovers Lane.

To enter a float in the parade, it will cost \$10 for chamber members, \$10 for non-profit organizations, and \$20 for non-members of the chamber. There is no cost for first responders, which includes volunteer fire departments, sheriff's office, police department, etc.

To register a float, visit <https://www.gatesville-chamber.com/2024-christmas-parade>.

The deadline is Sunday, Dec. 8.

Following the parade this year, the chamber has partnered with the City of Gatesville to host a Holiday Extravaganza Market at the Gatesville Civic Center, located at 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

The Holiday Extravaganza Market will feature vendors for local shopping, family-focused activities, music, and pictures with Santa Claus in Santa's

Workshop.

The event is currently full for inside vendor spots but is still searching for food trucks and parking lot vendors. To sign up with a food truck, the cost will be \$50, and parking lot spaces will cost \$30.

To sign up or for further information, contact the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.

Silver Santas collecting donations through Dec. 10

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

With the holidays upon us, Silver Santas is looking to spread Christmas cheer to the local elderly in need once again this year.

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, packaged 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 christimooney76.

For further information, call 254-223-3699 or 254-223-2277.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Nov. 27 - Dec. 3. 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. 27
7:50 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 2000 block of Saunders Street.
10:25 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
1:30 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.
5:32 p.m., harassment was reported in the 2500 block of Colin Street.

Nov. 28
10:24 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of Saunders Street.
12:37 p.m., an assault was reported in the 200 block of Meadowview Lane.
5:32 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of N. 28th Street.
7:26 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Mears Drive.

Nov. 29
11:28 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1600 block of Waco Street.
1:43 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of River Ridge Drive.
2:38 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
7:03 p.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 800 block of College Street.

Nov. 30
3:47 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 700 block of S. Lovers Lane.
8:28 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of Bluestem Drive.
9:32 a.m., an assault was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
1:32 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of River Ridge Drive.

Dec. 1
10 a.m., wanted/stolen (person/property) was reported in the 300 block of Baize Drive.

1:13 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1400 block of Pidcoke Street.
5:54 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.
7:28 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 6300 block of FM 1690.

Dec. 2
3:18 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1600 block of E. Main Street.
3:44 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Trails Private Drive.
6:15 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of N. FM 183.
7:38 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.

Dec. 3
8:22 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the

2400 block of Oak Drive.
9:04 a.m., harassment was reported in the 3300 block of Royal Drive.
1:26 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 3000 block of S. State Highway 36.
1:46 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 300 block of Memorial Drive.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Nov. 27
9:01 a.m., a recovered stolen vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of Gholsen Road.
10:34 a.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Julia Drive.
11:27 a.m., a gas leak was reported in the 500 block of Powell Farm Road.
5:28 p.m., a threat was reported on State School Road.

Nov. 28
9:18 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 2300 block of FM 1783.
9:25 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on S. Highway 36.
2:44 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Old Osage Road.
4:17 p.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of FM 1996.

Nov. 29
7:25 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of County Road 147.
10:43 a.m., an animal bite was reported in the 100 block of Thompson Street.
11:51 a.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of County Road 3384.
5:07 p.m., a scam was reported in the 100 block of Oak Grove Road.

Nov. 30
9:32 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of County Road 3640.
2:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1600 block of Oak Springs Road.
5:56 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 6000 block of Highway 84.

Dec. 1
11:09 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 400 block of County Road 334.
12:54 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 4700 block of S. Highway 36.
3:01 p.m., burglary of a building was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
5:19 p.m., animal neglect was reported in the 5200 block of FM 1829.

Dec. 2
10:35 a.m., a scam was reported in the 600 block of Cedar Ridge Road.

Dec. 3
2:14 p.m., suspicious activity was reported on FM 116 at Sierra Vista.
2:51 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 2800 block of Horse-shoe Bend.
6:44 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of County Road 339.

Dec. 4
11:17 a.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of County Road 272.
1:36 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 1200 block of Straws Mill Rd.
7:23 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 500 block of County Road 339.

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401-500 lb.	340-362	401-500 lb.	320-335
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500-600 lb.	275-340
600-700 lb.	255-295
700-800 lb.	225-265
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	325-435
300-400 lb.	310-395
400-500 lb.	275-320
500-600 lb.	260-305
600-700 lb.	230-260
700-800 lb.	210-240
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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.

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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.
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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.
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Pastor: Malachi Houser; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
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Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.
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Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
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6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday Services 9 a.m.
THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

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Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826.
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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.

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Max Gunn, pastor; 254-216-1537; 10 miles west of Gatesville on HWY 84; Sundays 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; Youth Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.
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Morris Federation Members treated to "Sounds of the Holidays"

BY MARCIA LEE

Contributing Writer

Three well-known local musical individuals recently joined together in a presentation for the Morris Federation. Doris Music is a very educated and gifted organist and singer. She is a retired music teacher and currently plays the organ for the Methodist Church. Mary Kafer is a retired teacher from GISD, who taught senior English and Honors English in high school. She also worked with the Gifted and Talented program. She sings with the Methodist Church Choir and with a group called "Leading Ladies" that is led by Rosemary Whittle. She works at the Fitness Center and helps our community in countless other ways. Likewise, Charles Ament has been involved not only with the Methodist Church Choir, but also with our school system in many capacities: as a student, a choir teacher, a principal at the Intermediate School, and current president of our GISD School Board. He had been director and accompanist for a group called "MorningSong" and is now accompanist for "The Leading Ladies." In his "spare time," he teaches piano to several students. He pointed out, "I was first requested to present a program for The Morris Federation in 1973 by one of its current members, President Velva Riddle, and here I am again in 2024 presenting another program.

Mary Kafer first performed "The Christmas Song" (perhaps better known as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire"). Mel Torme's youngest son, James, explained the story behind the creation of this Christmas classic. "On an oppressive summer day in 1945, father (Mel) went over to the house of one of his writing partners, Bob Wells. Wells was nowhere to be seen, but there was a spiral pad at the piano. There were four lines scribbled down on it in pencil: "Chestnut's roasting on an open fire / Jack Frost nipping at your nose / Yuletide carols being sung by a choir / And folks dressed up like Eskimos." When Wells eventually appeared, he told Mel that he had been trying to do everything to cool down on that hot day. Wells said, "I thought that maybe if I could just write down a few lines of wintry verse, I could physiologically get an edge over this heat." Forty-five minutes later, the lyrics of what would be "The Christmas Song" were finished.

Mary's next song was "O, Holy Night." In 1843, the city of Roquemaure had their church organ completely renovated. To celebrate the newly finished organ, the parish priest asked the local poet, Placide Cappeau, to write a poem for Christmas mass in French. In 1847, composer Adolphe Adam completed the music for the poem, and the song was later trans-

lated into English by John Sullivan Dwight. The song's popularity grew rapidly, and it became the first song ever to be broadcast on the radio in 1906.

Charles Ament next joined Mary Kafer in performing two duets. The first song was "The Prayer," performed by Canadian Celine Dion and Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli. It was a huge success, even though it was not always planned as a duet. Originally, it was recorded in two solo versions (in English by Dion and in Italian by Bocelli) for the movie "Quest for Camelot." The song has achieved a Grammy Award, a Golden Globe Award, and a nomination for an Academy Award in 1999.

Their second duet was "The First Noel." It was a traditional English Christmas carol with Cornish origins. The lyrics were largely taken from the nativity story in the Gospel of Luke, although the mention of the Star of Bethlehem came from the story of the Magi in the Gospel of Matthew. In its current form, the carol was first published in Carols Ancient and Modern in 1823, edited by William Sandys and arranged and edited by Davies Gilbert.

Charles Ament's first song was "I'll Be Home for Christmas," written by Kim Gannon and composer Walter Kent and recorded in 1943 by Bing Crosby. The song is sung from the point of view of a soldier



COURTESY PHOTO

Doris Music, organist; Mary Kafer and Charles Ament (vocalists)

stationed overseas during World War II, writing a letter to his family. He tells his family he'll be coming home and to prepare the holiday for him, and requests snow, mistletoe, and presents "on" the tree. The song ends on a melancholy note with the soldier saying, "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams."

Charles Ament performed the final song, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." The song's original lyrics, as written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane, evoked a saddened feeling: "Have yourself a merry little

Christmas / It may be your last / Next year we may be all living in the past." Judy Garland was chosen to sing the song for a scene in "Meet Me in St. Louis" (1944) in which her character comforted her younger sister, Margaret. Garland requested a rewrite and eventually the words were changed to "Have yourself a merry little Christmas / Let your heart be light / From now on / Our troubles will be out of sight." Later, at the request of Frank Sinatra, another change was made to brighten the song. "But at least we all will be

together / If the Lord allows / From now on, we'll have to muddle through somehow / So have yourself a merry little Christmas now" was changed to "Through the years we all will be together If the fates allow / Hang a shining star upon the highest bough / And have yourself a merry little Christmas now." The group attending the meeting were invited to sing along on this last song.

Righteous Roots to hold annual winter clothing drive

Staff Reports

Righteous Roots Crisis Resource Center and the Coryell Community Connections Collaborative (C4) is 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.

Boys & Girls Club to host Christmas plays Dec. 14

Staff Reports

The Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville has announced that it will host two plays in honor of Christmas and the holiday season on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the

Gatesville City Auditorium.

The local youth of the Boys & Girls Club will present "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "The Nutcracker," which will include elegant dancing, music, and festive decorations.

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" will begin at 5 p.m., and "The Nutcracker" will commence at 7 p.m.

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

Keep holiday parties festive, always find a sober ride

Drunk driving crashes peak during the holiday season

Press Release

Thousands of Texas families are devastated by drunk driving crashes every year, and the problem gets worse during the holidays.

In fact, one in four traffic deaths across the state are caused by drunk drivers, and that ratio increases to 28% during the holiday period.

When asked in a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) survey, the majority of participants who admitted to driving after drinking said they've most often done so after

being at a friend's house.

That's why, over the next few weeks, TxDOT is reaching people as they're buying beverages for holiday get-togethers.

TxDOT will bring its mobile interactive exhibit to Walmart stores to engage and remind shoppers about the deadly dangers of drinking and driving.

"It's not okay to drink and drive," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "It's not okay for a friend or family member to go through the death of a loved one at the hands of people who are drink-

ing and driving. It's always possible to find a safe and sober ride home, so make it a priority any time you drink."

Just ask the friends and family of the 126 people killed and 272 people seriously injured by drunk drivers during Thanksgiving and the holiday season last year. What's meant to be a joyous time will never be the same for them.

Yolanda Carson., of Mansfield, knows that pain all too well. She lost her 23-year-old daughter, Jade Jiles, in a 2013 drunk driving-related crash. Jade

was rescuing a friend's blind dog who'd run into the street when an impaired driver struck and killed them both.

"Our family continues to be devastated by Jade's passing. She had such a bright future ahead of her. She was working two jobs to pay for college, with plans of becoming a teacher. She also had a six-month-old son named Jacob," Carson said. "She'll never get a chance to step into the classroom or watch her son grow up. All because someone made the choice of getting behind the

wheel after drinking."

Drunk driving crashes are preventable 100% of the time. If you drink any amount of alcohol, do not get behind the wheel. Designate a sober driver, use a rideshare service or taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transit. You can also just stay where you are until you're sober.

The Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign also includes PSAs on TV, radio, billboards, online, and at bars, restaurants, and convenience stores statewide. The campaign supports a

heightened law enforcement period from Dec. 13 through Jan. 1, when more officers will be on the alert looking for drunk drivers.

Drive Sober. No Regrets. is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths.

Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

Chamber presents 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 be held on Fridays from 7-9 p.m. and on Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. The dates include 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.

SPECIAL STOP

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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037 Help Wanted

Johnson Roofing is currently hiring Experienced Commercial Roofers, Experienced Metal Framers Immediately. \$500 Hiring Bonus after 1st week of employment! Top Pay and Benefits! The company is also hiring for a Senior Commercial Roofer Estimator. Email resumé HR@JRoof.com

045 Services

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060 Garage Sale

Living Estate Sale, Gloria (Dodie) Kettler, 3704 East Main Street, Apt. 114, Gatesville, TX 76528, Courtyard Apartments. Saturday, Dec. 7, 9a.m.-2p.m. Last chance 75% off on most items! Cash only.

Recliner, lots of women's jeans, lots of misc. Cash only. Dec. 13 & 14, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 1119 Westview Drive.

Christmas items 1/2 price, Items tagged in blue \$1 Tues., 12/10 - Sat., 12/14. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main.

099 Public Notices

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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Bernice Evelyn Woodson, were issued on November 22, 2024 in Cause No. 22-10652 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Cecil Woodson.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney at Law
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528

Dated the 26th day of November, 2024.

Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney for Cecil Woodson
State Bar No.: 16058500
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-8475
Facsimile: (254) 865-5274
Email: allenplacejr@aol.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Barford Scott Wilson, Sr. were issued on November 25, 2024 in Cause No. 24-11079 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Barford Scott Wilson, Jr.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney at Law
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528

Dated the 25th day of November, 2024.

Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney for Barford Scott Wilson, Jr.
State Bar No.: 16058500

109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-8475
Facsimile: (254) 865-5274
Email: allenplacejr@aol.com

099 Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Grady C. Hill were issued on November 25, 2024 in Cause No. 24-11082 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Mary S. Hill.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney at Law
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528

Dated the 25th day of November, 2024.

Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney for Mary S. Hill
State Bar No.: 16058500
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-8475
Facsimile: (254) 865-5274
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Frances L. Arellano, Deceased, were issued on 10-16-24, in Cause No. 24-11074, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Pete Cavazos.

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

Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

DATED the 25 day of Nov., 2024.

Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Pete Cavazos
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Orville R. Maaninga, Deceased, were issued on 10-15-24, in Cause No. 24-11071, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Deborah Ann Maaninga.

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

c/o: Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

DATED the 25 day of Nov., 2024.

Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Deborah Ann Maaninga
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
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099 Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Chester Fay Brown, Jr., Deceased, were issued on 10-16-24, in Cause No. 24-11064, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Jessica Reicherts.

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

c/o: Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney at Law
907 S. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

DATED the 22 day of Nov., 2024.

Dori Ray Mystic
Attorney for Jessica Reicherts
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com

102 Real Estate

070 Public Notices

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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102 Real Estate

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- 3 Br 2 Ba Austin Stone Home 378 Tom Sawyer St. Evant, renovated bathroom, large living room, all electric appliances in Kitchen, small storage shed, attached garage. \$188,000.
- 5.078 ac., 369 PR 305 Lane, Gatesville, TX, Lot No. 4 Greenbriar Ranch Estates, North Greenbriar Creek, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain. \$120,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 20 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, good tree cover, great views, electric & fiber optic internet service, gated subdivision. \$98,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 140 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. Rolling terrain, good tree cover, oaks, mesquites, & cedar. Electricity & Fiber Optic Internet. \$123,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 3 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. Rolling terrain, good tree cover, stock tank, seasonal creek. \$130,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 12 Ph 4, Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, stock tank, road on three sides, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision. \$142,500
- 10.01 ac. Lot 41 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX., Good Tree cover, Rolling Terrain, Fiber Optic Internet. \$149,500
- 10.01 ac. Lot 49 Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision Evant, TX, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, stock tank, water well w/solar pump. \$175,000
- 14.75 ac. 2 Br 2 Ba home 3483 CR 138 Evant, TX, hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, covered back porch, attached carport, RV carport, storage building, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, stock tank, water well. \$ 425,000
- 16.64 ac. Lot N 31 PR 2902 Hamilton TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, fully fenced, electricity at the road. \$140,000
- 16.5 ac. Lot 42 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. Good elevation, great views, good tree cover, Dry Branch, Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$189,000
- 20.02 ac. Lot 25 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. Owner Financing Available. \$218,500
- 20.02 ac. Lot 38 Ph 2 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$260,000
- 30.528 ac. East of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across the road, you will need to drill a water well. \$305,280.
- 41.0457 ac. Hamilton, CR 404, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, approx. 25 acres farmland, 2 tanks, & good fences. \$399,000
- 58.51 ac. 3/2 frame home, 6630 FM 183 Evant, TX, water well, several outbuildings, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, 2 tanks. \$459,303
- 70 ac. Ireland, TX, FM 932 and CR 186, Mustang Creek, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Electric & water meter from Multi-County Water. \$799,000
- 71.572 ac. Flat, TX CR 931. Rolling terrain & scattered tree cover, several outbuildings, rural water & electric, fenced, easements in place to preserve the agricultural & recreational resources of the land. \$590,469
- 89.89 ac. 3 Br 2 Ba home, 1723 FM 591 Dublin, TX, Comanche County, open floor plan, laminate wood floors, covered front & back porches, 2-car attached carport, 1 well, 2 stock tanks, metal building, 40 ft storage container, good tree cover, rolling terrain, 20 to 25 ac. of farmland. 22 KW Generac Home Generator. \$1,100,000
- 197.07 ac. 4 BR 2 Ba, 2021 Manufactured Home fully furnished. 1805 CR 180 Purnela, TX, Coryell County, 2 stock tanks, storage container, storage building, 1 water well, rolling terrain, good tree cover, paved road frontage. \$1,300,000
- 362.62 ac. 4 Br 2 Ba home south of Evant TX on FM 183. Open floor plan, center island, rock fireplace, vaulted ceiling, tile flooring throughout the home, three screened-in porches, attached 2 car garage, workshop. The water supply for the home comes from a spring that is known as Tan Yard Spring, property has two other springs, 2 stock tanks, head waters of North Bee House Creek run through the property, 1 barn, three pastures, good fencing, good tree cover with rolling terrain. \$2,973,484

Ad 2

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045 Services

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060 Garage Sale

MOVING/ESTATE SALE:Friday, 12/6, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. & Saturday, 12/7, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 118 Homestead Drive, Gatesville, off 929 across from Hughes Unit. NO EARLY SALES. King-size Iron Headboard, Husqvarna riding lawn mower with spreader attachment, Yard Force push mower, Wen Belt Sander, wheelbarrow, office chairs, tiller, and numerous hand tools and hardware. Old desk, old stereo cabinet, folding wagon, canopy, workbench. Too much to list it all.

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

CHILI CON QUESO DIP

BY CINDY MARTIN

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 env. taco seasoning mix
- 1 c. chopped onions
- 1/3 c. milk
- 8 oz. chopped green chiles, drained
- 8 oz. Velveeta cheese, cubed

In a skillet, brown and crumble ground beef and onion and cook until transparent. Add taco mix and green chiles and set aside. Over low heat, melt Velveeta and slowly blend in milk. Drain fat from ground beef mixture and add cheese. Keep warm and serve with tortilla chips for dipping.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SERIOUSEATS.COM

Chili Con Queso

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

"Electrifying Curls" in the Beauty Parlor

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

On display in the "Beauty Parlor" at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center, visitors might notice a strange object with wires dangling down - attached to human hair. What they will be looking at is an early form of a Permanent Wave Machine, which was designed to make straight hair become curly.

This method of curling hair became popular in the late 1930's and involved using heated rollers rigged up to a machine and then becoming electrified - occasionally known to burn a scalp every now and then. Using a combination of chemicals and electrically heated clamps, a customer would have to exhibit a little patience because they were (more or less) "bound" to the machine by their hair and could not move.

During this era, it was common for women with straight hair to want permanent curls and waves; those with naturally curly hair wanted their hair straightened.

Today, it is far less complicated for those wishing to have curly hair. With the creation of the curling iron, a person can create curls at home and not have to be "electrified" at the beauty parlor as they were during the 1930's and 40's.

Take a minute to visit the museum and glance around the Beauty Parlor exhibit. The museum is full of interesting and unusual items such as the electric Permanent Wave Machine.

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

If they wanted curly hair during the 1930's, customers would be attached to the Permanent Wave Machine to have their hair electrically curled.

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



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DIRECTORY DISPLAY RATES

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Christmas at the Ballpark presented lighting ceremony to public

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

To get the community in holiday spirits for the Christmas season, the City of Gatesville is hosting a month-long nostalgic Christmas light walk-

through event with Christmas at the Ballpark at the Sports Complex. The city hosted its lighting ceremony, which was open to the public, on Monday, Dec. 2. The event featured performances by

the Gatesville High School Jazz Band, visits with Santa, hot chocolate, and plenty of Christmas lights on display for viewing. Christmas light viewing will be available through Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Santa's Workshop will also be open on 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. Storytime with Santa will take place during Santa's Workshop on Dec. 21, as well as cookies with Santa.

PHOTOS BY
ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH |
THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



Kids are pictured playing together in fake snow.



The City of Gatesville hosted its Christmas at the Ballpark lighting ceremony on Monday, Dec. 2.



Santa's Workshop was available for local youth to visit with Santa Claus.



Attendees were able to witness all the Christmas lights turning on at once.

HOLIDAYS

FROM PAGE A2

system where inmates could make calls to family. The state became the last in the nation to allow inmate phone access after they installed the system in 2009.

Along with a few visits from her mother, Villarreal said she mostly remained connected to her family through handwritten cards that she looked forward to receiving each year.

"Those moments and times when I was able to talk to my family was refreshing," she said. "It was like a breath of fresh air. It was like there's hope again."

Despite the hardships, Villarreal recalls meaningful moments with fellow incarcerated women and prison staff that helped her make it through the holiday season. While at the Mountain View Unit, now named the Patrick O'Daniel Unit, she said one kitchen

staff member would try to incorporate festivities like decorating the chow hall and preparing a special meal.

"He tried to make it as best as he possibly could, so everybody could know that - despite where we're at - that somebody does love and care," she said.

She adds that outside organizations and ministries that devoted time to visit and bring donations to the prison also made an impact on her life.

"Those organizations, church ministries, and those prison officials, no matter who they were, they helped mold me into the person that I am today despite it all," she said.

"Because now I'm out here giving back to the community and organizations, because somebody came in there and showed me that they love and care about me on holidays like that. If it wasn't for those moments, I probably would have given up."

Now, Villarreal is back

home with her family in San Antonio. She enjoys giving back to her community as well as helping formerly incarcerated women as a volunteer with Lioness Justice Impacted Women's Alliance.

Families of Incarcerated

Every three months, Lionel Hernandez and his wife, Virginia Hernandez, travel from South Texas to visit their daughter who is incarcerated in Gatesville.

When his daughter was first incarcerated, Lionel describes the challenges he encountered when he first spent the holidays away from his child. With limited visitation time, his family only receives a few hours together.

"At the beginning, it was very hard. We didn't know how to deal with it, because you have to travel so far and spend only a couple of hours together, and that's it. That's the holiday," he said.

Along with short visits at the prison, the Hernandez's

must balance spending the holidays with the rest of their family. Lionel said they have a schedule where they travel to Gatesville to see their daughter ahead of the holidays each year before returning home to spend time with the rest of their family.

"When you go back home, you think about other things that you miss with your daughter being in this area," he said. "I wish there was a way that we could take our daughter home for the holidays, which is impossible, but that's sometimes how we feel about it."

Lionel and Virginia stay at Central Texas Hospitality House when they visit their daughter in Gatesville, where they also meet other parents and families who share a similar experience.

"They understand how you feel and the time you travel just to get here, to go visit the person you're visiting," Lionel said.

"Instead of paying for a hotel, we prefer to bring stuff here and then leave a



COURTESY PHOTO

Destiny Villarreal with a few of her family members. From left to right is Villarreal, her cousin, Eugene Lopez, her aunt, Maria Avila, and her nephew, Mathew.

donation so they can help other people," Virginia adds.

Casey Polen, whose son has been incarcerated since he was 18 years old, said the hardest part is seeing an empty chair at the table each season.

She said she looks forward to one day celebrating the holidays with him again.

"I haven't cooked a meal for my son since he was 17, and he's 32," Polen said. "I just cannot wait until he gets out and I could cook some normal food, because what we get to give them in the visitation room is a lot of junk food out of the vending machines. A mama really wants to give their child some good food and cooking, so I'm looking forward to that."

Bringing Families Together

With six TDCJ prisons in Gatesville, thousands of incarcerated individuals and families share similar feelings with Villarreal, Polen, and the Hernandez's. However, regional organizations such as Be a Coffee Bean Foundation hope to create more meaningful experiences for families affected by incarceration.

In November, the foundation collaborated with TDCJ to hold events that bring

children and their parents together ahead of the holidays.

According to a TDCJ press release, the founder of the organization, Damon West, hand-delivered 200 Elf on the Shelf kits during family day events at four of the TDCJ units in Gatesville, including the Hughes Unit and Patrick O'Daniel Unit.

"The goal was to help incarcerated parents connect with their children in a meaningful way during the holiday season, using the elf as a conversation starter and relationship builder," said Amanda Hernandez, Director of Communications for TDCJ.

The event provided incarcerated parents and their children with an opportunity to bond over the elves, read the Elf on the Shelf book, and spend a day dedicated to family time.

"It's a good feeling to spend time with my family and get to do something new. I've been in prison eight-and-a-half years, so I haven't had a chance to do nothing like this with my son," said Dominique Betancourt, who is incarcerated at the Hughes Unit.



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Oglesby Tigers pounce on Coyotes, 60-46; capture Quarterfinals Championship

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The 10-2 Oglesby Tigers faced 11-0 Richland Springs Coyotes at the Belton Tiger Stadium on Friday, Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. The Coyotes were picked to win by three points by sixman.com. The Tigers, however, had other ideas, defeating the Coyotes, 60-46, in front of a packed stadium, winning the State Quarterfinals Championship.

The Coyotes, although undefeated, had not faced the speed, quickness, and aggressiveness of the Tigers all year. The Tigers took control and never wavered. The Tigers always play as a cohesive unit under the direction of Coach Jeb Dixon and his very capable staff, always having Tigers ready for the opposition.

The Coyotes had no answer for the Tigers' high-powered offense.

Kyler Fossett continued to be unstoppable, dominating the game from the start. Fossett was 6/8 in passing for 103 yards and scored one touchdown. He carried the ball 30 times for 274 yards and scored five touchdowns. Fossett ended the afternoon with 377 total yards.

Alex Castillo was all over the field for the Tigers. Castillo was 3/5 in passing for 27 yards and scored a touchdown. He had one kickoff return for 37 yards and carried the ball two times for 26 yards and a touchdown. Castillo was 6/8 on point-after-touchdown (PAT) kicks for 12 points, ending the afternoon with 90 total yards.

Jakson Tippit did his part for the Tigers as the quick, shifty back carried the ball 10 times for 50 yards, including a 23-yard scamper for a touchdown.

Holdyn Goff, the big freshman end, had three catches for 61 yards, including two first down conversions on the fourth down, one of which put the ball on the one-yard line, and had one touchdown reception.

Jack Hendricks had three catches for 43 yards and one 34-yard reception on the fourth down to put Tigers in scoring position.

Defensively for the Tigers

The Tigers' Jack Hendricks continued his dominance on defense, leading the way with 12 tackles. Jakson Tippit was close on his heels with 11

PLEASE SEE **TIGERS** | B2



Kyler Fossett tallied 377 total yards in the state quarterfinals game against the Richland Springs Coyotes.

COURTESY PHOTO

Hornets even season record with rout of Academy

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

With a full complement of players for the first time all season, Gatesville basketball throttled Academy 70-33 on Dec. 3 to even their season record at 3-3.

The win over the Bumblebees was the first game of the year for Amos Phillips, Logan Biggs, and Grady Keeton, all of whom were helping lead the Gatesville football team into the regional semi-finals. West Allman has been pulling double duty playing football and basketball since the start of the basketball season.

Allman led the Hornets with 17 points in the win, including four three-pointers. He was one of four players in double figures as Kase Cox had 13 points, and Keeton and Charlie Winkler each had ten points.

After a back-and-forth start, the Hornets essentially put the game away with a 27-0 run over the first and second quarters. The Bees scored to cut the lead to 10-6 with 3:32 to play in the first quarter, but the Hornets did not allow another point until there was 2:26 left in the sec-

ond quarter.

Gatesville led 18-6 after the first quarter and 43-10 at the half. Academy hit seven three-pointers in the second half, but the Hornets lead never dipped below 25 points in the second half.

A stifling perimeter defense for the Hornets forced 24 Academy turnovers that Gatesville was able to convert into 28 points. They had 20 steals in the game with Collyn Coleman picking up five and Keeton getting four of his own. In contrast, the Hornets committed only nine turnovers.

All ten Hornets who dressed out played double-digit minutes. Rex Owen had eight points, while Phillips had seven on his return. Carvin Coppersmith snagged eight rebounds, including six offensive rebounds.

In the win over Salado, Cox turned in his first double-double of the year with 17 points and 13 rebounds. The senior swingman is averaging 16.7 points per game and 7.8 rebounds per game to lead the team in both categories.

After suffering an upset loss against the Eagles last

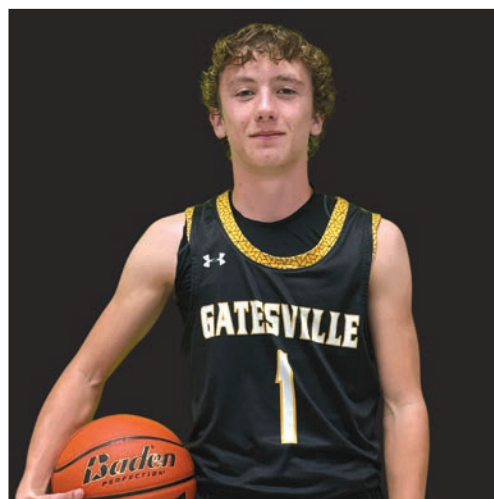
season, Gatesville put to bed any chance of a repeat with another stellar defensive effort. They led 13-6 after the first quarter but pushed the lead to 33-15 at the half. The lead ballooned 40-18 early in the third and was as large as 50-25 at the end of the third quarter.

Winkler had 14 points in the win over Salado, including four three-pointers. The sharp-shooting junior has buried 15 three-pointers through five games played this season.

Allman had 12 in the win, while Owen had six, Coppersmith scored five, and Coleman chipped in four points.

The Hornets are back in Salado for play in the Coach Smith Tournament from Dec. 5-7. They will face L.A.S.A and Rockdale on Dec. 5, then face Lake Belton and the Austin Royals on Dec. 6.

Gatesville won the Coach Smith tournament in 2022 and finished third in 2023. Should they win their pool they will likely face 4A No.16 Krum in the tournament championship. Krum defeated the Hornets in the Coach Smith Tournament in 2023.



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GHS basketball standouts, top row, from left: West Allman and Kase Cox; bottom row: Grady Keeton and Charlie Winkler.

Hornets fall to Sealy, wrap deepest playoff run in a decade

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

It took a red-hot team on a cold November night to finally put an end to the Gatesville Hornets playoff party.

The Hornets fell 56-21 to the Sealy Tigers on Nov. 29 in the Class 4A Division II regional semi-finals, ending the best Gatesville football postseason run since 2015.

The Hornets fell behind 21-0 and 35-7 but battled back to 35-21 in the second half before finally succumbing to a Tigers team that blasted Robinson 63-34 in bi-district, then upset state-ranked Hampshire-Fannett 21-17 in the area round.

As head coach Aaron Hunter said following the game, his team picked a bad night to have a bad night. "We didn't play our best

game Friday. We did stuff Friday that we hadn't done since week two or three. It was a weird deal. But it's something for us to look at and make adjustments and go from there," he said.

Sealy scored on their first play from scrimmage to take a 7-0 lead, and the Hornets would not score until Gehrig Keeton connected with Amos Phillips on an 84-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 21-7.

Jack Erwin caught a touchdown pass as the first half wound down to make it 35-14. Then Rayshon Smith scored on an 11-yard run early in the third quarter to cut the lead to 35-21.

But the Hornets had no answer for Sealy quarterback Kane Killough, who threw for 283 yards and ran for 118

more. He threw four touchdown passes and ran for three more.

The loss gave the Hornets a final season record of 7-6. It was a season filled up with record-setting performances, head-scratching losses, heart-stopping finishes and, ultimately, two gold foot-

balls. "I would call it a growing-up season. You can't say it wasn't a good season when you have the sixth or seventh best finish in school history," Hunter said. "We had some rough patches there that were just frustrating, but our kids just kept fighting and they grew up."

After starting the season 3-1, the Hornets dropped three straight, including their first two district games against La Vega and Lorena

to fall to 3-4.

"To drop the one to Lorena at home, man, we were all scratching our heads. But our kids kept fighting. To have our kids buy in and stay the course is a testament to them and to our coaching staff.

The Hornets responded to the loss against the Leopards with a thrilling 35-28 win at China Spring. Following a 24-10 home loss to Robinson, the Hornets rallied to beat Connally 35-34 in the final regular season game of the year when Zavier Clater blocked a Cadets attempt at a game-winning field goal.

The block, and the win over the Cadets, secured a 5-5 regular season and propelled the Hornets into the No. 3 spot out of District 12-4A - avoiding perennial state-

power Bellville in the first round of the playoffs.

From there the Hornets upset Madisonville to capture their second straight bi-district title, then handled West Columbia for the first area crown since 2015.

"You always want to be playing your best football at the end of the year. The rally against Connally was tremendous, and then the win over Madisonville was probably the biggest one we have had since I have been here," said Hunter. "We had a lot of kids who continually got better and we ended up doing something right because we were playing our best football in the end."

Throughout Gatesville's three-game playoff run, two players embodied the Hornets season-long growth:

senior Jack Erwin and junior Gehrig Keeton.

Erwin finished the regular season with 17 catches for 259 yards and no receiving touchdowns but came alive in the playoffs. He tallied 14 catches for 322 yards and four scores in the postseason, giving him season totals of 31 catches for 581 yards and four touchdowns.

For three games to close the season, he was completely unassuming yet virtually unstoppable.

"That is the type of kid you are going to use for years to show that you can and will work your way into being a really good high school football player," said Hunter. "He just kept working. In the off-season he worked so hard.

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | B2

TIGERS
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tackles. Holdyn Goff had six tackles and one blocked PAT. Alex Castillo had five tackles and one interception. Kayson Campbell had four tackles with two behind the line for a loss and two fumble recoveries. Mason Marquez had four tackles

and one fumble recovery. Aiden Oxford had two tackles.

The Tigers will travel to Robinson stadium to take on the Oakwood Panthers for the State Semifinals Championship on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.



Oglesby Tiger Jakson Tippit

COURTESY PHOTO



Oglesby Tigers Mason Marquez #25, Kayson Campbell #10, and Jack Hendricks #20

COURTESY PHOTO



Oglesby Tiger Holdyn Goff

COURTESY PHOTO



Oglesby Tigers Alex Castillo #7 and Jack Hendricks #20

COURTESY PHOTO

HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

He would go up in the offseason and catch ball after ball."

Keeton, who threw for a season-high 283 yards in the loss to Sealy, finished his first season under center totally 1623 yards through the air and 16 touchdown passes against seven interceptions. He threw six touchdown passes in the playoffs.

"He got put through the fire and he just kept showing up. I think he felt some pressure early, but he just got comfortable and confident," Hunter said of his signal-caller.

While players like Keeton and Erwin emerged late in the year, senior Rayshon Smith was the constant from day one. The three-year letterman ran for 98 yards and a touchdown against Sealy to give him a season total of 2138 rushing yards and 29 rushing touchdowns.

Smith surpassed the 4000-yard mark for his career in the win over China Spring and finished his three-year career with 4930 yards and 57 touchdowns. Only Tauran Henderson and LaShon Thayer have rushed for more

yards in their Gatesville careers.

Smith's 2000-yard season came amidst the usual aches and pains that a player suffers when they carry the ball 338 times over 13 games.

"I will miss him a lot. You can't replace someone like him. He showed up every Friday and gave the team everything that he had," Hunter said. "He really helped me grow up as a coach because he helped me see things from a different perspective."

Smith is one of 28 seniors who depart the Gatesville program and helped carry on the best five-season stretch in program history. The Hornets have made the post season five consecutive seasons and won three playoff games in the last two years.

"You can't replace guys like Rayshon and Dutch (Nielsen) and (Jeret) Burks and (Hunter) Swindall and countless other guys. They were just so solid. They were here every week, gave us everything they had, and were such program guys," said Hunter.

Hunter has spent the bulk of his time preparing for the end-of-season banquet and giving proper recognition to his 2024 squad. But he is also quick to note that there is much to be excited about in 2025.

"The cupboard isn't bare," he said. "Every year here is a reload year. Every year it's looking at the chips you have been dealt and then get after it. We just continue to develop the culture, and our guys are fighters."

Keeton, Amos Phillips, and Grady Keeton will return at the skill positions, while Grayson Egging, Brody Brown, Kaden Coffman, Draven Henderson, and Joe Cox will be back in the trenches in 2025. Defensively, the Hornets will return Dylan Watts, Colt Heath, Clark Allman, Larry Schwertner, and Carson Bailey.

The Hornets will celebrate their 2024 season on Dec. 10 at their end-of-season banquet. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at Coryell Community Church and is open to the public.

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Oglesby JH boys' basketball defeats Eagles, 38-5

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Tigers basketball team defeated the Jonesboro Eagles, 38-5 in Oglesby on Monday, Dec. 2.

The Tiger's record is now 1-1 after a one-point loss to Abbott last week.

Caiden Brinkley was the leading scorer for the Tigers with 16 points. Liam Standridge added 10

points, Rancher Jeffcoat added four points, AJ Mafra added four points, and Brody Martinez added four points.

Jacob De La Torre and Chayson Leverett also saw playing time for Tigers.

The Oglesby Junior High B Team had their first game of the year. Defeating the Jonesboro Eagles B Team in a close low scoring game, 6-4.

Hunter Insall was the top scorer with four points. Jovani Gonzales added two points in the effort. Kayden Watson, Fernando Uribe, Slayton Fisher, and Judson Marquez all saw action during the game.

The Oglesby Junior High Tigers will travel to Aquilla on Monday, Dec. 9, to play the Aquilla Cougars.

Oglesby JH girls basketball falls to Eagles

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Girls Basketball A Team hosted the Jonesboro Lady Eagles Junior High team in Oglesby on Monday, Dec. 2.

The Lady Tigers lost to the Lady Eagles, 39-4. Scarlet Aaron scored all four points for the Lady Tigers.

The Lady Tigers B Team lost to the Lady Eagles, 6-4. Adi Margoitta scored all the points for Lady

Tigers.

The Lady Tigers will travel to Aquilla on Monday, Dec. 9 to play the Aquilla Lady Cougars at 6 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Evant volleyball team with coach JoAnna Vaden won a district championship, received a first-round bye in the playoffs, won their area round and regional quarterfinal matches, and found themselves one step away from a berth in the state tournament this season.

Evant volleyball reaches regionals for second year in a row

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

The Evant volleyball team accomplished something it has only done one other time in school history this past season when it reached the regional tournament in back-to-back years.

A number of factors have contributed to the Lady Elks' success in 2024, but perhaps none more important than the six seniors who form the backbone of this state-ranked team.

Coach JoAnna Vaden said Molly Waldrum, Hailey Neri, Luwi Rodriguez, Izzy Gandy, Harley Weeks, and Bree Ramirez formed the core of a volleyball team that won a district championship, received a first-round bye in the playoffs, won their area round and regional quarterfinal matches, and found themselves one step away from a berth in the state tournament.

"This season was fun and exciting," Vaden said. "The girls wanted to win district for the fourth year in a row and succeeded. Not only have they won district all four years, but they were also undefeated in district all four years. Not only that, but they were determined to make it to the regional tournament again this year. They succeeded in that as well."

We were hoping to go further but just fell a little short of that. I could not be prouder of these girls and of all the hard work, determination, and effort that they have given not only this year but every year."

Senior middle Molly Waldrum, 17, plans to attend Tarleton State University and major in kinesiology next school year and said this year feels like she is going out on a high note. "I am very satisfied

with the outcome of my senior volleyball season," Waldrum said. "I am very proud of my whole team, and we had a great coach coaching us everything we needed to learn."

For outside hitter Hailey Neri, 18, who is heading to McLennan Community College to study nursing, being a part of a team that accomplished what the Lady Elks did this year was amazing.

"It has truly meant so much to me being the second team in school history to reach the regional tournament two straight years, playing with my best friends and enjoying the little things," Neri said. "Everything about it means so much to me, and I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Waldrum was named the district's Most Valuable Player, and Neri was a first-team all-district selection.

Luwi Rodriguez, 17, is also headed to Tarleton State to major in Sports Communications, and the outside hitter said (reflecting on the season as a whole) it was not any major accomplishment that stands out to her, but rather time she got to spend with her teammates and coaches.

"My fondest memory from this season was eating with the team," Rodriguez said. "After every playoff game, we get to go eat a good meal and celebrate the win or the season. Growing as a person with these seniors is something I will never forget. All of the players and coaches feel like family."

Middle hitter Isabel Gandy, 17, who is off to Texas A&M to major in sports medicine agrees with Rodriguez that it is the people who have made her journey special.

"I think the thing that I will remember the most about my time with the Evant volleyball program is the friendships that we made," Gandy said. "Most of us have played volleyball for Evant since sixth grade, and the last seven years have brought us closer. I can't imagine life without them."

Rodriguez was named Co-Defensive MVP of the district, and Gandy was selected as a first-team all-district player.

It has not always been rosy, as some of the seniors have faced some challenges along the way that forced them to confront detrimental behavior.

Harley Weeks, 17, is headed to Texas Tech University to pursue a career in animal science, for instance, and the Lady Elks setter said at times, it was difficult for her to cut herself some slack.

"The biggest challenge I have faced in my career is myself," Weeks said. "I always make myself be the best that I possibly can be. When I do this, I put so much pressure on myself and it ends up being a lot to bear. I am very hard on myself on the court, in the classroom, and even outside of school. It is okay to be hard on yourself, but the amount of pressure you apply can make a huge difference."

Bree Ramirez, 17, who played right side and will be joining Weeks at Texas Tech and majoring in nursing said her biggest wish is that this year's senior class is remembered for approaching the game of volleyball the right way.

"I hope that the legacy we seniors leave to our upcoming players is that perseverance is rewarded," Ramirez said. "Nothing

PLEASE SEE EVANT | B4



SPORTS Roundup

MARY TREJO | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Evant's Lady Elks basketball defeats Mullin, 47-21, before Thanksgiving break.

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Oglesby Advances to State Semifinals

With a 60-46 victory over Richland Springs last Friday night, the Tigers football team is one step away from consecutive trips to the state finals.

Coach Jeb Dixon said the victory over the Coyotes was a well-executed endeavor.

"Richland is a very good team," Dixon said. "Their kids played hard. We just played good fundamental football and took care of the ball. They had a few fumbles and an interception, and we capitalized."

I thought our kids played a really sound physical game."

Kyler Fossett rushed for 274 yards and five touchdowns in the game for Oglesby and Jack Hendricks (12 tackles) and Jakson Tip-pit (11 tackles) led the way defensively.

Dixon said he is pleased with the way his team is playing as it enters the state semifinals, and, now, it is just a matter of seeing things through.

"We will have to keep playing good football," Dixon said. "As long as we take care of the ball, block and tackle, we give ourselves a chance."

The Tigers play Oakwood in the state semifinals, and Dixon said it will be a tough game.

"Oakwood is a big, physical, athletic team that is well-coached," Dixon said. "They get better every week."

Eagles season comes to an end

The Jonesboro football team's season came to an end last week with a 56-6 loss to Gordon in the state quarterfinals.

Coach Eddie Gallegos said his team gave it everything it had.

"We knew we had a tall task in front of us," Gallegos said. "Our kids played hard and competed every second."

Reflecting on the season as a whole, the Jonesboro coach said he could not be prouder of his squad.

"I am very pleased with our team this year," Gallegos said. "It was an enjoyable bunch to coach. This team improved from day one every week. We had kids take on new roles and stepped up and thrived. This senior class was a part

of four consecutive district championships and played into our past Thanksgiving the last three years. I'm very proud of our whole program."

Gallegos said he hopes his players take away a couple of things from this season.

"This is a tight group," Gallegos said. "I hope they continue to foster the relationships they have developed with each other. One always hopes they all take the lessons learned from team sports into the rest of their lives. Again, I'm extremely proud of this group."

Lady Elks defeat Mullin Over Thanksgiving Holiday

The Evant girls basketball team defeated Mullin by a score of 47-21 the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Luwi Rodriguez led the way for Evant, scoring 14 points in the game for the Lady Elks.

Already leading 16-6, Evant went on a 12-point run to pull away for the victory.

Brinlea Bates led the team with nine rebounds and Rodriguez led the team with eight assists.

Evant also forced 12 steals in the game against Mullin.

The Lady Elks received scoring contributions from Molly Waldrum (eight points), Izzy Gandy (seven points), Daritza Escamilla (six points), Bree Ramirez (four points), Lexie King (four points), Madison Barron (four points), and Bates (two points).

Jonesboro defeats Whitney

The Jonesboro girls basketball team defeated Whitney by a score of 43-29 last week in a game that coach Chris Simon said his team shined on one side of the ball in particular.

"This was a great game for us," Simon said. "Our defense came to play. I was proud about the team effort we had on the defensive side of the ball. Offensively, we continued to attack Whitney and we lived at the free throw line. Almost half our points came from free throws."

We did not look like ourselves against Texas Wind, but Monday night against Whitney that looked like us. We still have room for improvement, but I am excited about how we are starting to look. We now have a big couple of weeks ahead of us with tournament play and also starting district."

Simon said he had a couple of standout performances in the game against Whitney.

"It was a big night for Ella Gustin," Simon said. "She had 23 points, four rebounds, four steals, and two blocks. It was a great bounce back game for her. I loved the way she attacked the basket and also made her free throws, while playing great defense. Ally Thorman chipped in with 10 points, 14 rebounds, and five steals."

Gatesville boys basketball team beats Salado

The Hornets defeated Salado just before Thanksgiving last week by a score of 57-40.

Coach Brit Campbell said he was impressed with his team's effort.

"It was a great team-win over Salado heading into the break," Campbell said. "The part that set the tone was our team-defense. We guarded them very well and gave them nothing easy that allowed us to build a great lead. They are a great shooting team, and our guys did a great job of being there on every pass." Gatesville had 16 offensive rebounds to "gain those extra possessions" and only eight turnovers in the game.

Charlie Winkler (14 points), Kase Cox (16 points and 13 rebounds), and West Allman (12 points and five rebounds) led the way for the Hornets.

Lady Hornets defeat University

The Gatesville girls basketball team defeated University High School by a score of 32-20 in its final game before Thanksgiving.

Coach Whitney Holdbrook said her team played well, especially on defense.

"Our game Monday at University was a defensive battle," Holdbrook said. "Gatesville played tough and handled University's press."

Holdbrook said she had a couple of players who had especially strong games.

"Emma Pollard was able to lead the team's offense with 14 points and 12 rebounds," Holdbrook said. "Taylor Sanderson contributed 6 points from the three-point line in the second half to extend the team's lead. Callie Stovall played great defense with four steals, three deflections, and five rebounds."



COURTESY PHOTO

Evant volleyball seniors (from left to right) Harley Weeks, Hailey Neri, Bree Ramirez, Luwi Rodriguez, Molly Waldrum, and Izzy Gandy helped lead the Lady Elks to back-to-back regional tournament appearances for just the second time in school history.

EVANT

FROM PAGE B3

is easy, and you should give it your all even if you don't succeed. I hope that as seniors, we have instilled in the next generation of athletes the drive to achieve greater success in all that they do."

Weeks was selected as the Setter of the Year in the district, and Ramirez was named the district's Offensive MVP.

Vaden said the impact that Waldrum, Neri, Rodri-

guez, Gandy, Weeks, and Ramirez have made on the Evant volleyball team is indelible.

"These girls have been a huge part of the program from the very beginning," Vaden said. "My first year in Evant was when they were freshmen. That year the team consisted of two seniors and six freshmen. We were more or less the underdogs in most of our matches with so many in-

experienced players. That did not stop any of us.

"The girls were very coachable and fiercely competitive, willing to work together to achieve their goals. They learned so much that year and continued to learn and improve each and every year. They have become true leaders and have shown the underclassmen what it takes to be successful."

Deck the Halls with Pickleballs tournament

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Pickleball Club will host an indoor doubles pickleball tournament, "Deck the Halls with Pickleballs," on Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Gatesville Civic Center.

The tournament will benefit the Gatesville Senior Center. There will be on-site donations for food, winterwear, small gifts,

and other necessities.

The tournament will begin with the Intermediate Division at 10:30 a.m. Around 1 p.m., the Recreation Division will begin, and the Competitive Division will compete at 4 p.m.

The only set-in-stone start time will be for the Intermediate Division, since it is held first. The other starting times will

depend solely on the number of teams per division that are signed up.

A bracket will be released by 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20.

To sign up for the tournament or for further details, visit www.Team-Sideline.com/GatesvilleTX.

The Gatesville Civic Center is located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop.

HORNETS NEST

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



RICKEY PHILLIPS

Athletic Director
Gatesville ISD
@RickeyPhillip12 on X

Winter sport notes

Girls Basketball: As of this writing, GHS was off to its best start since the 2017-2018 season. The Hornets have shown a lot of peskiness to go along with some full-court hustle and loose-ball tenacity.

Boys Basketball: GHS coach Brit Campbell beefed up his preseason schedule to ready his team for district play. That chore got a little easier with the addition of five to six players fresh off GHS Football's extended playoff run. That being said, he had some players get some opportunities as go-to performers and some reserves have to step into bigger roles during their absence, which will be a plus down the line at all levels.

Soccer: Workouts started on Monday of this week, with Hornet teams set to begin the new season here January 4-5, at the GHS tournament.

Wrestling: This sport will also benefit number-wise from some football players making the move indoors to the wrestling ring. They'll host Waco Midway on Wednesday night, with matches starting at 6 p.m. in the GHS Sidney L. Pruitt Gym.

Notes and notes

...GHS-ex spiker Sydney Mundkowsky finished her college playing career with a bang, earning all-tourney honors at the recent Big South Conference tournament. Syd started her collegiate stint at Ange-

lo State but played the last two seasons at Radford University in Virginia.

...Reminder...we will have National Letter of Intent signing ceremonies next spring for softball players Kallie Featherston, Kinlee Gardner, and Madison Hester.

...I remember Gary Keeton as being one of those guys that loved everything about the Gatesville Hornets. He had quite a passion for Hornet athletics, and he poured a lot of time into helping mold and develop some of the younger kids coming through the ranks for many years.

Never give up

I posted something similar to this on our social media threads not long after GHS Football's loss to Sealy in the 4A regional playoffs, but hats off to those kids and coaches for always seeing a little sunlight at the end of the tunnel.

Everyone, even my sisters, knew District 12-4A was going to be tough week to week. It proved to be just that after the Hornets were sitting winless after back-to-back league losses to eventual champion La Vega and Lorena. However, GHS stayed resilient and won two of its last three, including dramatic, down-to-the-wire road wins at China Spring and Conally that sent the Hornets into the postseason for a fifth year in a row.

Not many folks gave

GHS much of a chance in its bi-district playoff versus highly-regarded Madisonville, but the Hornets conquered the Mustangs and then derailed West Columbia for its two playoff wins. It was the program's first back-to-back playoff wins since 2015.

Well done, young men, well done.

Upcoming schedule

Monday, Dec. 9
Boys Basketball: GJHS at China Spring
Girls Basketball: GJHS here vs. China Spring

Tuesday, Dec. 10
Girls Basketball: GHS at Jarrell

Wednesday, Dec. 11
Wrestling: GHS here vs. Waco Midway

Thursday, Dec. 12
Boys Basketball: Varsity at Godley tourney, JV Gold-Black at Hamilton tourney, 7th-8th A Teams at Brown-wood tourney
Girls Basketball: Varsity at Jarrell tourney

Friday, Dec. 13
Boys Basketball: Varsity at Godley tourney, JV Gold-Black at Hamilton tourney
Girls Basketball: Varsity at Jarrell tourney
Wrestling: JV at Belton tourney

Saturday, Dec. 14
Boys Basketball: Varsity at Godley tourney, JV Gold-Black at Hamilton tourney, 7th-8th A Teams at Brown-wood tourney
Girls Basketball: Varsity at Jarrell tourney

Hornet Fight Never Dies!

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

Oglesby girls' basketball looking for another successful season

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby girls' basketball team reached the area round of the playoffs in 2023-24 and is looking to pick up where it left off this season.

To repeat on the type of success it enjoyed last year when the Lady Tigers finished 10-2 in district competition and defeated Avalon 33-16 in the bi-district round of the playoffs, it is relying on a pair of dynamic sophomore guards to lead the way.

Presley Robinson and Zarah Wisehart have found themselves in new roles this season, those of team leaders, and so far, the Oglesby sophomores have answered the call.

In its season opener against Penelope, the Lady Tigers won by a score of 53-

41 in a game where Wisehart had 16 points, eight assists and nine steals, while Robinson led the team in scoring with 17 points.

Coach Dylan Segundo is pleased with the progress Wisehart and Robinson continue to make.

"Presley and Zarah have had to adjust to taking on bigger roles on and off the court," Segundo said. "But I am happy with their development and direction they are heading."

Segundo said that both girls "bring basketball experience and knowledge of the game while also being great kids that people love to be around."

And that is exactly who they want to be.

Wisehart, 15, said that while the Lady Tigers are still finding their way early in the season, she is

optimistic about Oglesby's chances in 2025.

"The season is not going exactly how I have wanted it to start, but we are a young team, and we are still learning," Wisehart said. "I believe that we will keep getting better as the season goes on."

Wisehart, who also plays volleyball and participates in varsity cheer, track, and softball, said she takes her new role very seriously.

"I have tried to step up as a leader as an underclassman and I try to set a good example for my team and my peers," Wisehart said.

For Robinson, 15, the 2024-25 season could be a very strong one if things start falling into place.

"My main goals are to win a district championship, win a playoff game, and do my best to help prepare my team for the next season," Robinson said.

The Oglesby sophomore, who also plays volleyball, softball, and runs track, said that while her principal vice is consuming way too much Dr. Pepper," she has struggled in certain areas.

"My biggest challenge on the court is my self-confidence," Robinson said.

"Sometimes, after I play, I realize that I could've done more if I had more confidence"

Segundo said he is confident that Wisehart and Robinson can lead Oglesby effectively as long as they do the things that have made them good student-athletes.

"My goals for them are to continue to work on their craft while maintaining their grades and building positive relationships with their teammates," Segundo said.

Robinson's Favorites:

Favorite Athlete: Anthony Edwards
Favorite Sports team: The Dallas Mavericks
Favorite Food: Wingstop
Favorite Movie: Stand By Me or The Notebook
Favorite TV Show: How I Met Your Mother
Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: The Outsiders
Favorite Musical Group or Performer: King Von

Wisehart's Favorites:

Favorite Athlete: Paige Bueckers
Favorite Sports Team: UConn Huskies
Favorite Food: Mac and



COURTESY PHOTO

Sophomore guards Zarah Whitehart and Presley Robinson find themselves in new roles this season.

Cheese
Favorite Movie: The Lion King
Favorite TV Show: All American

Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: Romeo and Juliet
Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Bruno Mars

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COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Public Library Teens and Tweens groups are pictured while constructing houses for bats at Higginbotham's.

Library youth takes on building bat houses

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Public Library's Teens and Tweens groups made a trip to Higginbotham's last week to learn how to build houses

for bats.

The youth groups were able to end their two-month course regarding Central Texas pollinators by using hands-on learning

while building the houses. Higginbotham's employees and parents were present to help the children with constructing the bat houses.

At a later date, the groups will have the chance to re-visit Higginbotham's to paint their bat house creations.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

A Couple of Good 'Uns ...



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is one of the nation's longest-running syndicated humor columns. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

They are a lovable couple — Dr. Chris Liebrum and his wife, Cindy — known for quickly-triggered smiles, positive attitudes, deep faith, and commitment to close-knit families.

Married for 52 years, they have reached highest peaks and navigated life's storms — shortening them when possible — confident of a safe arrival on the other side. They're the kind of folks whose company is treasured.

Cindy has earned "life of the party" status, laughing — even cackling — all the way, sometimes way out on limbs. Comparatively, Chris is content in the shade of trees, maybe planting something to bloom later. In short, they personify the expression heard during long ago cattle drives: "They'll do it to ride the river with." ...

They're proud of their sons, Cory and Clay, their daughters-in-law, and their four grandchildren. Chris and Cindy, who met as students at Howard Payne

University, carve out "family time" admirably. This was difficult to accomplish during Chris's schedule-packed professional years of denominational leadership.

Even with their mid-70s now at hand, they press on, barely slowed in "semi-retirement." Chris works parttime for his alma mater and still preaches often on Sundays throughout Texas.

They are beloved by everyone, even friends with other religious beliefs or political leanings. I deeply value their friendship - these thoughtful, caring Christians. He is studied, his words carefully chosen when serious topics are broached. Cindy can be serious, too, but most friends can't remember the last time she was. She's always "at the ready" to snap pictures. Fact is the camera strap marks formerly marking the back of her neck are slowly disappearing. Now, she values her smartphone, handy not only for "yakking" but also for photography.

Grandchildren are favorite targets, as are much else that moves, or — for that matter — stands still...

I joke with them endlessly, sometimes even jabbing a bit, and they jab back, particularly Cindy. She's a joyful soul but probably would be a lousy poker player.

Chris, with quiet reserve and contemplation, can steer around most workaday challenges, two of which will be addressed in this column. To most people, they'll fit in the "minutia box," probably even at the very bottom.

Neither is mentioned critically, and typically broached jokingly. He can't pronounce "New Braunsfels," and he's colorblind. (I don't intend to joke about his visual condition, but he does.)

First things first. Like television newsmen who never knew they'd need to pronounce "Uvalde" often until the shootings there, Chris never thought he'd need to pronounce — or try to pronounce — "New Braunsfels" on a regular basis.

Not so fast! HPU has a branch campus there, so he's often involved in discussions that include the community's name. In the past, he's been able to "mumble through it," or simply go ahead and pronounce it "New Braun-

sfel" or "New Braunsfels," like many others do. I have tried endlessly to help him conquer this slight pronunciation flaw, but so far have been unsuccessful. It's his "blind spot," so to speak, similar to my failure to understand the difference in "imply" and "infer." Trying to do so makes my hair hurt...

Now, let's jump into his world, which often isn't "black and white" but various other shades and hues, most of which he has learned to live with.

He and Cindy are theatergoers, treasuring attendance at live productions like "Wicked," a Broadway hit that opened in 2003. They've seen it at least a half-dozen times on various stages, most recently at Dallas Summer Musicals. At intermission, he heard a lady seated behind him mention the green-colored witch, Elphaba. Puzzled, he turned to Cindy, expressing that he'd never realized the witch's greenish hue.

Chris is doubly careful at traffic lights, too. "I try to go with the flow," he says, "And I've learned that the shortest measurement of time is that brief moment between the light turning green and the horn honking behind me.

Remember, I told you their faults are few...

STPA scholarship now open through April 4

Staff Reports

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

There is a scholarship available for college students who are pursuing a

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

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

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

BOOK REVIEW

Books for Dad or Grandpa



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Terri Schlichenmeyer writes book reviews for over 220 Newspapers and magazines around the U.S. and Canada.

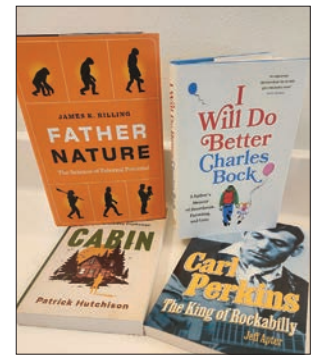
Your gift list this year has a lot of empty spaces.

You've put a lot of thought into it and you've still come up short. Some people are easy to buy for: you know what they want under the tree and it's easy to find and wrap. For others, finding the right gift takes serious thought and several trips to the store or web. You need help, hints and Dear Santa letters are welcome, or you can find these great books for Dad or Grandpa ...

For the person who longs almost weekly for the perfect getaway, "Cabin: Off the Grid Adventures with a Clueless Craftsman" by Patrick Hutchison (St. Martin's Press, \$29) may be what you want to give. It's the story of a dream that started as a nightmare: without totally thinking it through, Hutchison purchased a tiny, ramshackle, off-the-grid cabin down a long driveway tucked away in the Cascade Mountains. Problem: it needed big-time repairs and Hutchison wasn't the handyman sort. This book is great for the person who craves solitude, belly laughs, projects and good story.

If there's an old-time music lover on your list, check out "Carl Perkins: The King of Rockabilly" by Jeff Apter (Citadel Press, \$29). Like most good biographies, this book takes readers back to Perkins' childhood and his earliest influences, moving through to the start of his career and his pioneering work, as well as the people he played with, on stage and off. This is the book to give someone who remembers the music of the '50s, or the one who wasn't "there" but still loves those tunes.

If curiosity is one of the things you love best about that person on your list, then "Father Nature: The



Books for Dad or Grandpa by various authors, c.2024, various publishers, \$26 - \$32.95, various page counts

Science of Paternal Potential" by James K. Rilling (MIT Press, \$32.95) might be the book to give. This is a deep look at marriage, divorce, partnering and the nature of nurture in males of our species and others. You may know that motherhood changes a woman's brain, but did you know that fatherhood does the same for men? This is a great book for the science-minded person you know; bonus if he's someone's dad.

And finally, for the person who doesn't mind a few heartbreaks in his book, "I Will Do Better" by Charles Bock (Abrams Press, \$26) is the story of a man who's not sure he wants to be a father, until he actually is. That's the good news, his wife is terminally ill and he soon has to learn how to parent his daughter alone. Wrap it up with tissues. It's a rewarding read, but it's that kind of book.

And if these aren't exactly right for the hard-to-buy-for person on your list, head for your local bookseller or ask your librarian for suggestions. Both will be able to tease out the perfect gift to put under the tree, the gift that gives back when you get a smile.

Then clear a chair. Reading a good book requires a comfortable empty space.

Dove Season opens Dec. 13

BY DAVID SCOTT Staff Writer

Dove hunting in Central Texas is a highly anticipated event by hunters. When September arrives, dove hunters will be found in the fields with a shotgun in hand ready to hunt some birds. Dove season is one of the most anticipated since it is the first season to open and kicks off for the other hunting seasons to come.

Dove season officially opens again on Dec. 13, 2024 and ends on Jan. 14, 2025.

In Coryell County, the dai-

ly limit is 15 white-winged, mourning, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, to include no more than two white-tipped. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. Legal shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

There are seven species of doves and pigeons indigenous to Texas, of which only three (mourning dove, white-winged dove, and white-tipped dove) are currently hunted. Two species (red-billed pigeon and band-

tailed pigeon) are currently listed as legal game birds by federal and state regulations but are not hunted in Texas due to limited numbers and distribution.

All migratory game bird hunters must have a valid hunting license.

For more information about dove season, those interested can visit the website for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department at <https://tpwd.texas.gov>.



Photo courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Dove Season begins Dec. 13.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans win FCS playoff debut, knock off Drake in 1st round at Memorial Stadium

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Down early, Tarleton State got the ball to its best players, and did it often to come back and win its FCS playoff debut Saturday, Nov. 30.

The No. 13 Texans (10-3) cruised at the end to a 43-29 victory in the first round of the FCS Playoffs over Drake (8-3) at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville Saturday. Tarleton, who made the playoffs in its first season eligible, won its first NCAA Division I playoff game, and improved to 3-2 in playoff games since 2018. Tarleton is now 3-1 all-time in home playoff games in its NCAA era.

The Texans also added to their already-record-breaking D1 single-season wins mark, now with 10. This is the fourth time head coach Todd Whitten has led the Purple and White to double-digit wins in a season.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 14-3 lead Saturday, but Tarleton blanked them 19-0 in the second quarter, which turned into 26 unanswered points for a 29-14 Texan lead in the third. After Drake got within a touchdown at the end of the third, the Texans scored two touchdowns in the fourth, their final with just over two minutes to play to lead 43-21. Drake scored with 45 seconds remaining but failed to get the onside kick and Tarleton ran out the clock.

The Texans had four rushing touchdowns on the day, two from their Walter Payton Award Finalist, and two from their sixth-year senior who



Down early, Tarleton State got the ball to its best players, and did it often to come back and win its FCS playoff debut Saturday, Nov. 30.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

hadn't scored in his first 51 career games. Kayvon Britten scored from six yards out in the second quarter and from a yard out in the third, finishing with 146 yards and two touchdowns on 29 carries (5.0 YPC). Tight end Kyle Weber played a pair of plays at full back, and got the ball twice, scoring his first career touchdowns from a yard out in the second and three yards out in the fourth. Britten eclipsed 3,000 career rushing yards in his two seasons at Tarleton State, becoming the fifth player in program history to reach the milestone.

Wide receiver Darius Cooper wowed the crowd once again with some incred-

ible catches, finishing with 190 yards and a touchdown on 11 receptions. He had a 49-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter to cap off the 29 unanswered points. Cooper also eclipsed the 3,000-yard career mark, already the career receiving yard record holder in program history. At 26 career receiving touchdowns, Cooper has now tied Devin Guinn (2006-09) for third in the category in program history.

Quarterback Victor Gabalis completed 26-of-36 for 337 yards and two touchdowns, connecting on the other score with Cody Jackson from 18 yards out in the second quarter. Jackson recorded five catches, 61 yards

and a TD, while Benjamin Omayebu added 73 yards on eight receptions.

Defensively, the Texans earned two takeaways, an interception apiece from Dabari Hawkins and Jeremiah Postell. Hawkins earned his third pick of the season in the second quarter, and Postell earned his first at the collegiate level. Ty Rawls and Blake Smith had a tied-team-high six tackles apiece.

Tarleton outgained Drake in total yardage 490-356, including a 153-70 advantage in the running game, plus won the turnover battle 2-1. The Texans also were not penalized in the game, compared to five committed by

the Bulldogs.

Drake had the hot start, forcing a four-play turnover on downs by Tarleton State at the TSU 23-yard line just over four minutes into the game. Blake Ellingson scored from two yards out to make it a 7-0 Drake lead. Tarleton then drove to the Drake 14-yard line, getting on the board on a 31-yard Corbin Poston field goal. Tarleton held Drake in check on the next drive, but the Bulldogs' punt hit a Texan, giving Drake the ball at the TSU 26-yard line. That resulted in a 9-yard touchdown by Taj Hughes from Luke Bailey to boost Drake up 14-3.

Tarleton owned the second quarter, starting with a

6-yard Britten TD scamper. The Texans' two-point conversion was denied, making it a 14-9 game. The Texans struck again with 2:50 remaining, an 18-yard Gabalis-to-Jackson touchdown. They missed the extra point, leading 15-14. They capped off the frame with their third touchdown in the quarter, a 1-yard Weber rush with 13 seconds left. Tarleton led at the break 22-14.

In the third quarter, the Texans jumped up two scores with a 1-yard Britten rushing touchdown at the 4:29 mark. Drake responded on its next drive, with Bailey finding Hughes for a 10-yard touchdown to make it a Tarleton 29-21 lead.

Cooper scored his 49-yard touchdown with 10:49 remaining to put the Texans back up two scores. Postell picked off Bailey on the Bulldogs' next drive, then Tarleton bled over five minutes off the clock and sealed the deal with Weber's 3-yard touchdown run with 2:26 left. Drake drove 75 yards and scored an 8-yard touchdown (Brandon Langdok from Bailey) with 45 seconds left. Rawls recovered the onside kick to lift Tarleton to its first D1 playoff win.

The Texans have advanced to the second round of the FCS Playoffs, where they will match up with the No. 4 seed South Dakota Coyotes in Vermillion, South Dakota, Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. CST. Tickets for the game in the DakotaDome start at \$15 for youth and \$30 for adults and can be purchased here.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State University's women's rodeo team amassed 425 points to claim first place at the Vernon College Rodeo, the final National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Southwest Region stop of the fall season.

TSU Rodeo: Women First, Men Second

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University's women's rodeo team amassed 425 points to claim first place at the Vernon College Rodeo, the final National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Southwest Region stop of the fall season.

Tarleton State scored top finishes in all three women's events with Tori Brower taking first in goat tying, Jordan Driver winning barrel racing and Gina Cope earning top honors in breakaway roping.

Brower finished with a two-round 14.9-second time on runs of 7.6 and 7.3 in Vernon. Teammate Driver flashed a preliminary-round best 17.14 then added a 17.07 best in the finals. Cope's 3.2-5.5-8.7 also included top times in the long and short go rounds.

Other top 10 finishers for Tarleton State included break-away ropers Libby Merkley, who turned in a first-round 3.6, and Keni Labrum, who had a long-go 3.7.

Hadley Tidwell's 17.37-17.62-34.99 was fifth in barrel racing, one of four top 10 Tarleton State women in the event. Kaycee Thomas took ninth with her 17.33-23.14-40.47 and Lindsey-Kay Reichert finished 10th with a 17.56-22.94-40.5.

Tarleton State's men took runner-up honors in Vernon, led by bareback riders Roedy Farrell and Taylor Carmody and saddle bronc riders Travis Handley and Bailey Small.

Farrell and Taylor swept the two top places in their event. Farrell was first with a two-head 163.5, which included a long-go best 82. Taylor's second-place 158.5 came on scores of 72.5 and

77 for a 149.5 total. Taking fifth in the event was Devon Moore who accumulated 137 points on rides of 65 and 72.

Top saddle bronc rider Handley scored a rodeo-best 85 in Saturday's event finals to go with his 78.5 in the first go-round, while Small was reserve champion with his 76-82.5-158.5. Waitley Sharon's 76.5-79-155.5 was fifth.

Tarleton State tiedown roper Colton Suther's 8.9-10.1-19.0 was sixth, Brayden Roe was eighth on the strength of his 9.0-12.1-21.1, and Colter Ellis finished ninth on a two-head 21.4, featuring runs of 8.7 and 12.7 seconds.

Bull rider Riggen Hughes took eighth with a first go 75, and steer wrestler Teel Sikes posted a ninth on his opening go-round 9.4.

Both Tarleton State teams head into the winter break leading the NIRA Southwest Region team standings.

A large gift helps TSU launch College of Osteopathic Medicine

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Earlier today, Tarleton State University announced a lead gift of \$12.5 million from alumnus and leading Austin attorney Dr. Joe Long to help launch its new College of Osteopathic Medicine.

His generous commitment represents one of the largest philanthropic gifts in the history of the university.

The prominent goal of the College of Osteopathic Medicine is to address the glaring disparities that exist in healthcare access and quality in rural and medically underserved communities. Texas ranks 47th in the nation in patient-physician ratio.

"This historic gift provides our planned medical college with instant momentum, delivering a critical boost that will energize our efforts and quickly establish the College of Osteopathic Medicine as a life-changing source of strength for our state and region," said Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley. "With supporters like Dr. Long behind us, we will make a profound impact on healthcare for years to come."

There are only 16 medical schools in the state, with a significant gap in North Central Texas that Tarleton State is set to fill.

The university is already making marked progress to address healthcare needs in the region.

An \$80 million Health Professions Building is under construction, with move-in planned for summer 2025. New academic programs like physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician's assistant studies, biomechanics and integrative biosciences are slated to be introduced in

the coming years thanks to the new space.

Today's generous gift serves as an important step forward as the university aims to develop a college focused on training and graduating physicians for rural regions across Texas.

A steadfast backer of Tarleton State, Long earned a certificate from the university in 1949 when Tarleton functioned as a two-year institution. He went on to graduate from the University of Texas at Austin and remained in the city to engineer a highly successful legal practice. Long was also a banking pioneer responsible, in large part, for branch banking in Texas.

"I grew up in a single-parent home in a small rural Texas community," said Long. "We did not have ready access to healthcare. Many today across the state's rural sectors endure a similar struggle. Tarleton's new medical college will address this vital need, producing primary care physicians trained and dedicated to serving the underprivileged. I feel blessed to advance this important mission while supporting a university that truly changed my life."

He has also served as a benefactor for scholarships, study abroad and research opportunities for students. The Lozano Long Division of Global, Community and First-gen Initiatives at Tarleton State is named in honor of Joe and his late wife, Dr. Teresa Lozano Long. A formal feasibility study is underway and a search for the founding dean will soon commence for the College of Osteopathic Medicine, with the hope to begin classes in 2028.



WANT MORE? FOR THE LATEST TARLETON SPORTS ACTION OR TO BUY GAME TICKETS, VISIT TARLETONSPORTS.COM



Ladies take on administrative duties at GISD

BY MARSHA LEE
Contributing Writer

First, Co-President, Sue Vernon, took a few minutes to briefly explain the nature of Delta Kappa Gamma for our guests. It was founded on May 11, 1929, at the Faculty Women's Club at the University of Texas in Austin. Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, member of the UT faculty and former Superintendent of Public Instruction, conceived the idea of an honorary organization for women educators. She selected 11 other ladies as co-founders of this organization in which women educators of all types (rural or urban, teachers of any grade level pre-school through university, librarians, administrators, supervisors) might be united. Today, the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators (as through scholarships), fairer recognition of women in education, and encouragement of excellence in education.

Sue pointed out that "one very noticeable trend in public schools today is that ladies are not only continuing to be leading educators in our classrooms, but are also becoming leaders in administration." This can easily be seen in Gatesville ISD. Guests for our program included several women administrators: Tamela Eary, Assistant Principal at Gatesville Primary (Pre-K

and Kindergarten); Karrie Judd, Principal, and Jennifer Doss, Assistant Principal at Gatesville Elementary; Angie Pearson, Principal, and Alicia Meharg, Assistant Principal at Gatesville Intermediate; Suzy Penrod, Principal, Gatesville Junior High; and Liz Shoaf, Principal, Gatesville High.

The educators then introduced themselves and told DKG members about themselves, their families, and their educational experiences (number of years spent in education, positions held and in what school districts, and how they ended up in Gatesville ISD). They explained their current jobs in GISD and briefly described their campuses and campus goals. Tamela Eary (Gatesville Primary) mentioned that they "are adding a Pre-K for three-year-olds this year because so many of the little ones speak no English at all and require extra help." Karrie Judd (Gatesville Elementary) said her #1 goal was "to make everyone feel loved and supported," including both students as well as school personnel. Jennifer Doss (also in Elementary) said she was "new to and learning about administration" and "was glad to be able to serve in her home community." Angie Pearson (Gatesville Intermediate School) said she was interested in stressing "culture and morale" in school. She

also mentioned that "there was a need to help students with special education needs, resources, and dyslexia" on her campus. She indicated that "block scheduling was sometimes a challenge, as grades 4-5 have one bell schedule and grade 6 goes by the junior high bell schedule." Alicia Meharg (Gatesville Intermediate) cited "instruction in discipline and curricular development" as part of her job. Suzy Penrod (Gatesville Junior High) stated that although her campus was "smaller with just grades 7-8, some students are required to move about between buildings during the day, which can pose a safety concern." However, their campus "passed with flying colors in a safety audit." Her goals are "(1) taking pride in campus safety, (2) providing healthy learning relationships between students and teachers, and (3) stressing accountability and importance of meeting deadlines." Liz Shoaf (Gatesville High School) mentioned "focusing on relationships within the school and with the community, providing extra help for students with special learning needs and problems as well as for students who are ready for advanced courses and dual-credit courses." They are constantly trying new things to address these issues.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lady Administrators: Tamela Eary (Assistant Principal, Gatesville Primary); Karrie Judd (Principal, Gatesville Elementary); Jennifer Doss (Assistant Principal, Gatesville Elementary); Angie Pearson (Principal, Gatesville Intermediate); Alicia Meharg (Assistant Principal, Gatesville Intermediate); Suzy Penrod (Principal, Gatesville Junior High); and Liz Shoaf (Principal, Gatesville High).

Lastly, the administrators discussed specific problems that campuses face today. One problem is security issues. Many of these issues have been solved by enclosing passageways within campuses and between additional buildings on individual campuses. GISD now has its own Police Department with an officer on each campus. Another problem is trying to bridge the gap between pre-covid and the present. It has taken two years of hard work to fill in this gap. Some students are still behind, partly because they

did not come back to school after schools re-opened and partly because learning at home via computer was just not as effective as having instruction in a classroom. Credit recovery courses are being added to help out. In some cases of home schooling, or students trying to work online, parents and students have come to realize that these methods just were not working for them. The tests they have to pass in order to graduate are harder and are too difficult for them. Reassessment of their achievement levels have to be made

before teachers know where they need to restart their learning. Other problems discussed were how to handle a higher number of non-English speaking students. Pre-K age 3 has been set up for several little ones who speak no English, but this requires an additional bilingual teacher and an aide. Smoking has been replaced by vaping, and staff try to discourage this, and it is not allowed on campus. Use of cell phones is also not allowed on campus, and enforcing this has been more effective last year and this year than in the past.

GISD now offers Frost Driving School courses

Staff Reports


Gatesville Independent School District has recently made a new partnership with Frost Driving School for Teen Driver's Education. The driver's education classes will be offered

through a three-week course at Gatesville High School, located at 205 South Lovers Lane, for students 15 to 17 years old. The course will begin on Jan. 13, 2025, and will end

on Feb. 1, 2025. Classes will be from 4-6 p.m. There are two price options which include \$495 or \$330. The \$495 option includes 32 hours of classroom instruction and

a 14-hour driving lab, and for \$330 it will include 32 hours of classroom instruction and a six-hour driving lab. For an additional one-time schedule to drive fee it

will cost \$10. Tuition will be due on the first day of class on Jan. 13, 2025. To register or to view the course schedule, visit <https://frostdrivingschool.com/event/teen-drivers-ed-gatesville-hs>. Be sure to fill out, print, and bring the course documents to the first class.



CORYELL KIDS

Hey there, sweet-toothed pals! Get ready to celebrate because on December 7th, it's National Cotton Candy Day—a day dedicated to one of the most magical and delicious treats ever created! Imagine fluffy, colorful clouds of sugary sweetness melting in your mouth with every bite. That's what cotton candy is all about! Whether it's pink, blue, or even rainbow-colored, cotton candy is sure to bring smiles to everyone's faces.

So, how did cotton candy come to be? Well, it all started in the late 19th century when a clever candy maker invented a machine that could spin sugar into thin strands. These strands were then collected on a stick to create the fluffy, cloud-like confection we know and love today.

Nowadays, cotton candy is a staple at carnivals, fairs, and amusement parks all around the world. It's a must-have treat for kids and adults alike, bringing joy and excitement wherever it goes.

On National Cotton Candy Day, the fun is even sweeter! It's the perfect time to indulge in this sugary delight and share it with your friends and family. Whether you're at a carnival, a party, or even just at home, cotton candy is sure to make any occasion extra special.

But cotton candy isn't just delicious—it's also a feast for the eyes! Watching the fluffy strands being spun into perfect spirals is like witnessing a magical transformation right before your eyes. It's no wonder that cotton candy is loved by people of all ages!

So, how can you celebrate National Cotton Candy Day? Well, you could start by heading to your local fair or carnival and treating yourself to a big, fluffy cone of cotton candy. Or, if you're feeling adventurous, you could even try making your own cotton candy at home with a cotton candy machine!

However you choose to celebrate, one thing's for sure: National Cotton Candy Day is a day to indulge in the sweetest, fluffiest treat of all. So, grab a cone, spin some sugary magic, and let the cotton candy fun begin!

National Cotton Candy Day


December 7, 2024



Did You Know?
A thread of cotton candy is thinner than a human hair.

Color Time

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



SCOUTS LAY WREATHS



Members of the Boy/Cub Scouts 272 attended a wreath-laying ceremony at a local cemetery last Saturday to honor fallen veterans. The ceremony consisted of laying over 16,000 wreaths on the tombstones of those who served in the military for our freedom.

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.vanco-events.com/us/CRXD>.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

COURTHOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE



Coryell County elves, Lisa Robuck, pictured left, and Tiffany Butler, decorate the massive Christmas tree located in the rotunda of the Coryell County Courthouse. This year, the tree will feature clusters of decorative balls. Visitors are welcome to drop by and view the tree.

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER PRESENTS

Christmas Critters

SPONSORED BY FIRST 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

First

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