



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Dec. 14, 2024

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 56, ISSN No. 0894-4954

Breakfast with Santa



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Children of all ages gathered at the Gatesville Civic Center to have breakfast and visit with old Saint Nick. Pictured left to right are Remington Dewald, Colt Timmons, Santa, Callahan Timmons, and Wyatt Dewald.

Clark sworn in as new police chief

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

At a regular city council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, Gatesville's new police chief, Jeffrey Clark, was sworn in under oath. Clark's wife and daughter were present to pin his badge to his uniform.

Clark has served as deputy chief since 2016 and has spent his entire career in Temple. He has over 31 years of experience in law enforcement, with over 12 in a command-level position.

"I believe Jeff Clark is an excellent fit for the role of chief because I know he is a visionary leader who is committed to community, professionalism, and service," City Manager Brad Hunt said.

During a community meet and greet at Gatesville City Hall on Nov. 7, Clark said one of his goals is to lead the Gatesville Police Department through the

Texas Police Chief's Association (TPCA) accreditation process, which he was also a part of at the Temple Police Department. He is also passionate about enhancing community policing efforts.

"He has a long track record of gaining the trust and respect of his subordinates and peers and has proven to be a team-builder throughout his career," Hunt said.

"As I said previously, Chief Clark's selection represents an exciting opportunity for the police department's continued professional development and service to our community," Hunt said. "I look forward to working with Chief Clark and supporting his goals for the Gatesville Police Department," Hunt said.

Clark began his role as chief of police formally on Thursday, Dec. 12.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jeffrey Clark is pictured during his ceremonial oath with Holly Owens, city secretary.

Highway 36 Monument dedication held Dec. 10

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The City of Gatesville and Keep Gatesville Beautiful (KGB) dedicated the Highway 36 Monument on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

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 dedication's welcome speech was given by City Manager Brad Hunt.

Hunt expressed that the city and Keep Gatesville Beautiful plans to add a welcome message to the walls of the monument and a statue displayed in the center.

Mayor Gary Chumley

gave the invocation and was also the program speaker for the ceremony. During his speech, he expressed why he made Gatesville his home.

"I didn't know at the time, but it's people like you, your giving spirits and volunteerism, what you do for others and the community," he said.

Former City Manager Bill Parry and his wife, Stacy, attended the dedication ceremony as well to give a

recognition of achievement speech.

During Parry's speech, he said, "This is really a monumental day in effort in the life of Gatesville."

"Very early on in my tenure, Joe Campbell started coming up to me and Cheri about the possibility of creating a Keep Gatesville Beautiful chapter," he said. "I said I am all for this, but this can't be city run up, this has to be a community

PLEASE SEE **MONUMENT** | A2

Central Counties Services to host open house

Staff Reports

The Central Counties Services Gatesville Clinic will host an open house on Wednesday, Dec. 18 for the community to learn more about the resources and services it offers.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Gatesville clinic located at 615 E. Main Street. The open house is a come-and-go gathering that is open to the public.

Central Counties Services, formerly MHMR,

offers services for mental health and intellectual and developmental disabilities in adults and children.

The open house gives an opportunity for the public to ask questions and learn more about the clinic's offerings.

The agency serves the citizens in Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, and Milam counties.

A full-length feature on the clinic and its resources will be published in the Dec. 21 issue of *The Gatesville Messenger*.

Soldiers arrested on human smuggling conspiracy charges

Staff Reports

Three Fort Cavazos soldiers were arrested on criminal charges related to their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to smuggle undocumented noncitizens.

According to court documents, a United States Border Patrol Agent initiated a vehicle stop in Presidio on Nov. 27. The vehicle fled as the agent approached the

passenger side and struck a second USBP vehicle, injuring an agent inside, according to the filed criminal complaint.

Presidio County deputies and Presidio police officers eventually stopped the vehicle and apprehended four individuals, three of whom were undocumented noncitizens—one Mexican national and two Guatemala-

PLEASE SEE **SOLDIERS** | A2



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Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor

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Second service at 11:00 a.m.

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"For the glory of God, we exist to make fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ by every means possible."

Be sure to heat your home safely this winter

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

When the cold weather first arrives, the first thing Texans want to do is turn on the heater and use their fireplace. However, there is often a correlation between house fires and freezing temperatures.

Following a blast of chilly weather this week and the upcoming winter season, Chief Billy Vaden with the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department offers a few precautions that people

can take to safely heat their homes and protect themselves from a fire.

Most house fires in the winter are mainly caused by some sort of heating problem, Vaden explains. Before building a fire in a fireplace or wood stove, he said it's important to ensure they have been cleaned properly.

"A lot of times, the chimneys are not cleaned, and the stove pipes are not clean, and they have a lot of creosote in them," Vaden

said. "That's something you should always do - prepare way ahead of time and have all that cleaned."

When it comes to fireplaces, Vaden said to ensure it has a safety screen in front of it and that wood is fully dry before using it to build a fire.

"Your wood does need to be dry, because, if it's damp or wet, it's going to cause a lot of smoke and smoke will have carbon monoxide in it," Vaden said.

Flammable items such as clothing, bedding, or paper should be kept at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters, Vaden said. When using space heaters, he adds to make sure it has a setting that turns off if it falls over and to avoid using an extension cord to plug it into the wall.

"You have to plug it straight into the outlet on the wall because they can draw a lot of power, and

most little extension cords that people have around the house are not capable of providing enough electricity or enough amps to make those heaters work," Vaden said. "Never walk off and leave an electric heater running. You should always cut it off."

Vaden reminds people to check the batteries of smoke detectors and ensure they are working properly, since they are beneficial at detecting early signs of a fire.

One of the most common issues that arise when heating a home is the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning, an odorous and colorless gas that can be deadly, Vaden explains.

Always check to ensure carbon monoxide alarms

are up to date. He advises replacing them every five years.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include nausea, headaches, dizziness, and shortness of breath.

If a fire or carbon monoxide is suspected in the house, Vaden said to always call 911.

"If you suspect something, don't hesitate to call 911 and get somebody to come out and look," Vaden said. "That's our job to come out look and make sure you're safe. We don't mind it - nobody likes to get out in the cold, but that's our job."



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured left to right, Cheri Shepherd, Leo Corona, and Joe Campbell unveiled the plaque at the monument dedication.

MONUMENT

FROM PAGE A1

effort, and the community needs to be able to take this one on."

He expressed that shortly after, the Keep Gatesville Chapter was created.

"It was a whole lot of

people who really made this come together," he said. "To all of you (who) had a part in any of this, even a small part, thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I am glad to see it coming from you."

Hunt gave a closing speech and expressed that the monument is a testament to the community.

"What it looks like, how it is designed, and where it is, is just a public display of what Gatesville is," he said.

At the end of the dedication, the community gathered for an unveiling of a plaque, which was done by Former Visitors Bureau Director of the City of Gatesville and the Liaison

of KGB, Cheri Shepherd, Vice President of KGB, Leo Corona, and Joe Campbell. Corona stepped in for KGB President, Dusti Morgan, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

The monument is located on Highway 36 across from Walgreens.

SOLDIERS

FROM PAGE A1

lan nationals.

The fourth individual was Emilio Mendoza Lopez, who claimed to be the front seat passenger in the vehicle. The driver, alleged to be Angel Palma, fled on foot and was located the following day at a hotel in Odessa.

Mendoza Lopez and Palma allegedly traveled from Fort Cavazos to Presidio for the purpose of picking up and transporting undocumented noncitizens.

A third individual, Enrique Jauregui, is alleged to be the recruiter and facilitator of the human smuggling conspiracy. A search warrant revealed uncovered data, which was extracted from Palma's phone and showed messages between the three soldiers indicating collaboration in the smug-

gling operation.

On Monday, Dec. 2, Mendoza Lopez made his initial appearance in Alpine before U.S. Magistrate Judge David B. Fannin. He has been charged with one count of bringing in and harboring aliens.

Palma and Jauregui were both arrested on Tuesday, Dec. 3, on Fort Cavazos. They were scheduled to appear before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Manske for their initial appearance hearings in Waco last Friday. The two codefendants are charged in a separate criminal complaint with one count of bringing in and harboring aliens and one count of assaulting a federal agent.

A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

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Dear Friends and Clients of Coryell Vet Clinic,



Thank you for the past 24 years of serving Gatesville and the surrounding Coryell County area. I have been blessed to be part of the best profession in the best community I could have ever hoped for. I have decided to retire from practice effective Dec. 31, 2024.

I plan to stay active in our community in other capacities including Eastwood Baptist Church, Lions Club, FOD/GISD and Gatesville Care Center.

God bless us all this Christmas, and in the coming New Year.

-Dr. Britt Clay

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Have you had problems with getting your driver's license or registering your car?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

I love the state of Texas. I am proud to live here, proud to be a part of a vibrant, friendly community, and proud to do my part to maintain Texas traditions and customs.

I have never been ashamed to introduce myself and declare, "I am Sam Houston from Texas." It is a great source of pride and my self image.

When traveling in Europe and asked where I was from, I would always say, "Texas." No matter where I was, people knew of the place I called home. The

name Texas required no further explanation. I did have someone ask me why I said I was from Texas instead of the United States, and I coyly responded that we Texans did graciously agree to let the United States join us, but that my home was Texas. Texas first, Texas last, and Texas everything in between.

This is why it pains me so much to criticize most anything to do with Texas, but sometimes situations call for comment. The relationship between Texans, their cars, and the state has got to change. Mind you, there are more than 22 million registered vehicles in Texas and more than 19 million registered drivers. No question this is a lot to keep track of, monitor, and regulate. At the same time, the situation has become almost laughable.

This past week, a fellow I work with needed to renew his driver's license. He was advised he needed an appointment to renew, so he called the local bureau and was advised he would need an appointment. He told the bureaucrat that would be fine but was shocked to learn the next date available was some six or seven weeks hence. He was told he needed to bring a copy

of his birth certificate in order to renew. It can only be assumed the birth certificate is to establish that the person getting the license is, in fact, who they say they are. Between illegal immigrants and the threat of terrorists, proof of who you are seems like a reasonable request, so my friend started digging through his legal papers to find a copy of the document which proves who he is. Unfortunately, he could not find his copy, so he had to go to the state and request a duplicate copy of his certificate. When he called the state, they wanted to see his driver's license to establish that he is the same person as the person on the birth certificate. So, the birth certificate establishes the ability to get a driver's license, as long as you have a driver's license to get a birth certificate? Does that sound like one big bureau-

cratic circle or what?

My car and my wife's car both need to be registered in the month of December. I have the check made out and ready, but I am required by law to have my car inspected before it can be registered. New legislation mandates that effective in January, inspections are no longer required to register a vehicle.

To fulfill my legal obligation, I spent half a day Saturday driving from one place to another, trying to find someone to inspect my car. The first four places told me that they no longer had somebody approved to do inspections since the inspection requirement ends in 30 days. When I attempted again Monday, I was told the state computer system was down and nobody in the state had access to submit inspection results, so I would have to come back to have the inspection done.

Millions of cars, millions of people, and the state collects millions of dollars in taxes from our vehicles. At the minimum, shouldn't the state have a system that is convenient, fast, and efficient for the taxpayer? The role of government should be to serve the people, not for the people to have to spend time, effort, and money to pay the taxes due and satisfy the requirements set forth by law.

Sometimes, I think politicians work at creating new programs when they should be looking at the programs in place and fix how inefficient and ineffective they are. Now, there is a way to win some votes!

Thought for the day. The three great lies: the check is in the mail, I will always be true to you, and I am from the government and I am here to help you!

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



COURTESY PHOTO

A typical store window is shown during the Christmas season in 1939.

Christmas in Gatesville 85 years ago

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In December of 1939, in the years following the Great Depression, *The Gatesville Messenger* reported that during the holiday season the Gatesville merchants were having the "Best Christmas business in years." A headline read, "Christmas buying this year topped any years since the stock market crash ten years ago."

Despite the cold weather in the 20s, with ice and extreme snowfalls and road closures, holiday purchases were extremely heavy prior to Christmas.

Stores reported that their inventories were practically depleted and "entirely sold out in many lines of merchandise." It was written that one store kept a record of customers that totaled over 3,000 buyers during one Saturday alone.

It was reported in *The Gatesville Messenger* that the holiday purchases were in the "brackets of high-priced articles - including apparel, electrical appliances, radios, and other expensive pieces."

Coryell County also enjoyed a more prosperous year than in several past.

"There was a very good turkey crop sold prior to the holidays, which accounted for some \$75,000 in cash." It was also written that crop conditions were good during the year of 1939, and that the egg and poultry markets held up as well - all of which contributed to a very prosperous year for most Coryell County residents.

The newspaper also ran several holiday recipes, which included:

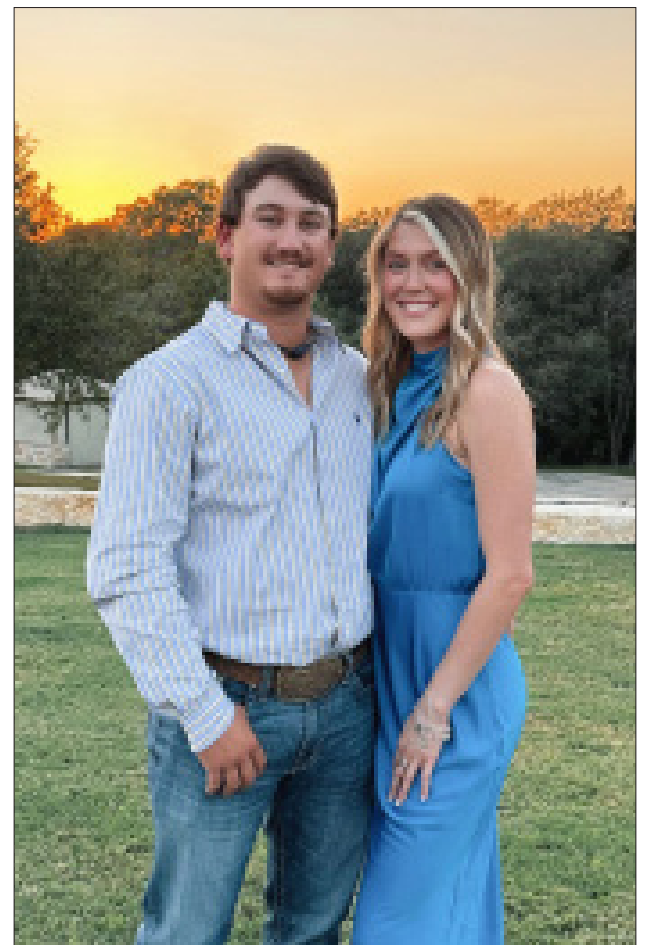
Christmas Relish

- 6 cloves
- 1 pint of water
- 1 pkg. lemon-flavored

- gelatin
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ c. vinegar
- 12 maraschino cherries, sliced
- 6 sweet pickles, sliced

Boil cloves in water for three minutes. Remove cloves. Dissolve gelatin in 1 ¼ cups of this hot liquid. Add salt and vinegar. Chill. When slightly thickened, fold in cherries and pickles. Turn into half-size individual molds. Chill until firm. Unmold. Serve with fowl or ham. Makes 10 half-size molds.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Josie Boyd is pictured with her boyfriend, Josh Smith.

Say hello to our neighbor, Josie Boyd!

Josie is a teller at the First National Bank of Evant in Gatesville. When asked what the best part of her job is, she said, "the friendships I've made with my coworkers and the relationships built with our customers." She has lived in Gatesville all her life and expressed that her favorite aspect of her hometown is the small-town feel where everyone is family and everyone comes together when someone is in need.

Josie reads *The Gatesville Messenger's* sport section and said she appreciates how well the newspaper covers all of the events.

If you happen to see Josie 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.

Holiday closures during Christmas week

Staff Reports

In observance of the Christmas holiday, many local businesses and governmental offices will be observing special hours. Closings and special hours in the immediate area include:

GOVERNMENT

The City of Gatesville and the City of Evant will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and on Wednesday, Dec. 25. The City of Oglesby will be closed on Wednesday, Dec.

25 and on Thursday, Dec. 26.

The Coryell County Courthouse will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

The Farm Service Agency will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

SCHOOLS

Gatesville ISD will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 19 and on Friday, Dec. 20, for Staff Development and Comp Days. The district will then be closed from Monday, Dec. 23 through

Friday, Jan. 3, and on Monday, Jan. 6 for a Staff Development Day.

Jonesboro ISD will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 19 through Tuesday, Jan. 14.

Oglesby ISD will have an early release on Friday, Dec. 20 and will be closed from Monday, Dec. 23 through Friday, Jan. 10, and on Monday, Jan. 13, for a Staff Development Day.

Evant ISD will have an early release on Friday, Dec. 20 and will be closed from

Monday, Dec. 23 through Friday, Jan. 3, and on Monday, Jan. 6, for a Staff Development Day.

The Boys & Girls Club Gatesville Branch will be closed from Monday, Dec. 23 through Wednesday, Dec. 25.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Extraco Bank will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

Cadence Bank will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

Educators Credit Union

will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

The First National Bank of Gatesville, Evant, and Oglesby will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

The First National Bank of Central Texas will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

POST OFFICES

All local post offices will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Senior & Multi-Service Center will be closed from Monday, Dec. 23 through Wednesday, Dec. 25.

MUSEUM

The Coryell County Museum & Historical Center will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25 and on Thursday, Dec. 26.

NEWSPAPER

The Gatesville Messenger will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

SUDOKU

Puzzle answers from the Dec. 7, 2024 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Spur gets a new fire station



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

The Grand Opening of the new four-bay fire station in Spur took place in October when the town was full of people who came for the annual homecoming. It's the biggest annual event in Spur.

"We're hopeful that it will be greatly used," says Linda Swenson. "The floor has drains in it that are flat, so they won't be any danger to people walking or dancing or whatever."

Linda and her husband Eric donated money for the fire station.

"The fire station was literally caving in," says Eric. "When it rained, water just poured in."

They got four firemen to

design the building. Two were from out of town.

"We told them, 'here's what we want to do,'" Eric said. "We want to build a fire station, but we don't know where to start. You guys design this thing so that it will be functional and will be ergonomically useful for the firemen. They spent an immense amount of their personal time designing this thing."

"It has a metal roof on

it," says Linda. "On the outside, we have metal and stone. We got the stone from a quarry at Lueders, Texas and had it hauled up here. They have multiple stone quarries there. A lot of the capitol building in Austin used that stone. There's a stone cutting facility there that belongs to a friend of ours. We had the stone cut there."

"I think people thought at first that the fire station would be just a simple metal building but that wasn't what Eric and I had in mind. We wanted it to be something that would enhance our main street in Spur."

Two couples donated lots to the project. Both had buildings on them. The buildings were removed and the area is being paved, so the fire trucks will have more room to maneuver. Linda says that will make it more convenient for the firemen.

"They will have passage completely through that building. It can be entered

from either the front or the back of the building. It has a kitchen and meeting room."

The fire station is brand new, but there's something old inside it.

"That's Old Betsy," says Linda. It's an old fire truck that's over a hundred years old. It's not being used any more, but it would be a shame to get rid of it.

So, we put it behind glass inside the fire station. Two sides of the room it's in are with floor to ceiling windows. It's lit up at night, so people driving by can see it. That's our showcase."

The building was put into use quickly. It was the venue for the homecoming dance.

Eric said - when he met with his 15-member coffee group - members were discussing what the town needed. Two things led the list: a swimming pool or a fire station. They chose the fire station. It does enhance the town's main street.

Mission Gatesville to hand out food bags Saturday, Dec. 21

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Mission Gatesville is changing the schedule of their food distribution program in December.

The local organization normally passes out bags of non-perishable food at no cost on the first and third Thursday of each month. This month, they will distribute the bags on Saturday, Dec. 21, instead of Thursday.

The distribution will take

place at the same location - the organization's trailer at 301 N. Lutterloh, from 10 a.m. to noon. Arriving at 10 a.m. is recommended since bags are first come first served.

"Remember, we don't require an ID or any proof of residency," Mission Gatesville wrote in a Facebook post. "Any adult that shows up can get food from us until we run out."

The bags include non-

perishable food along with fresh items such as bread and eggs if available. Bags are limited to one per adult.

Mission Gatesville was founded in early 2023 to further help those in need within the community. They are 100% volunteer run and funded by donations.

While the organization has not made any official plans past Dec. 21, Mission Gatesville Board Member Scott Ayers said there is a

possibility they might shift their schedule to the first and third Saturday of the month if distribution in December is successful. The changes would not occur until January 2025.

"We'll post regarding any further changes to the schedule after Dec. 21," the post said.

To learn more about Mission Gatesville, visit <https://missiongatesville.org/>



Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

Friends of the Gatesville Public Library were selling Christmas ornaments.

The Coryell Museum & Historical Center launched a membership drive for the business community in Gatesville.

Gatesville High School performed Christmas selections for the Gatesville Lion's Club.

Child Protective Services

(CPS) offered an information meeting for prospective foster and adoptive parents.

The Gatesville Civic Theatre Association presented the musical "Godspell."

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Jonathan Andrew Woods, a 1994 graduate of Gatesville High School, joined the U.S. Army.

Taco Bell was set to open

a restaurant in Gatesville.

The music ministry of First Baptist Church of Gatesville invited everyone to hear the sanctuary choir perform "Carols and Classics."

Higginbotham's advertised "Big Toys for Big Boys."

The National Weather Service predicted cooler weather ahead.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

Baylor University student Alison Ann West, of Gatesville, was named to the 1985 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Sonic advertised Christmas glasses for 95 cents each.

Wal-Mart advertised fashion pins for \$1.

Laura White, Vocational

Counselor at Gatesville High School, attended the 78th Annual American Vocational Association National Conference in New Orleans.

Temple Jewelers was advertising Cabbage Patch dolls.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

The Coryell County jail was set to host an "open house" with the public in-

to tour the facility.

James Brown was appointed Gatesville's new chief of police.

Doug Smith was elected first vice president for 1975 of the Central Texas Council of Governments.

The Coryell County tax office was moved to the courthouse's basement. Leaird's advertised a pre-Christmas furniture sale.

Merry Christmas!

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Senior Center hosts 3rd annual Head Start Toy Drive

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Since the Christmas season is upon us, the Gatesville Senior Center is accepting donations for its third annual toy drive to benefit local Head Start students and their families.

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for low-income families designed to meet the needs of children between the ages of three and five, including children with disabilities.

"Hill Country in a whole is over us and Head Start, and I believe in what we do and I believe that these kids should have a Christmas," Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph said.

There will be 34 students in total who will receive gifts from the toy drive,

including 16 girls and 18 boys.

Anything for a boy or girl can be donated, such as baby dolls, basketballs, toy trucks, stuffed animals, and books. The only requirement is not to include slime or stickers in your donation.

All toys are preferred to be unwrapped so Rudolph and Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge can sort out the gifts by gender.

Monetary donations are accepted as well but are preferred to be in cash form.

The community can drop off their donations at the Gatesville Senior Center in Rudolph's office, located at 208 Lutterloh Avenue.

Rudolph mentioned that Chad and Katy Hill with Bare Bones BBQ are spon-

soring the toy drive once again this year.

"Bare Bones hosts a toy drive each year, and the toys donated are taken and separated out for different local organizations, with the Senior Center being one of the locations," she said.

She also said that Hill's children, Brock and Ruby, helped with delivering the gifts to the center last year as well.

"Brock and Ruby were so sweet," she said. "To be little kids and to be so humble is a great lesson in humanity, so I applaud Chad and Katy for that."

After the Hills dropped off their donation of toys this week, the center has now reached their goal of 34 toys total and plans to distribute two toys per child.

Rudolph expressed that the response she has gotten from the community over the years has been tremendous.

"Last year, each child ended up with eight toys each, and there was stuff left over that we were able to donate to the classroom," she said. "Even if we didn't have enough toys to cover all 34 children, then we would still have a party for the kids and we would donate everything that was collected to Head Start."

Each year, a party is held to distribute the toys to the students. This year the party will be held on Dec. 19, at the Senior Center for students and their families.

She said that on the day of the party, parents can pick their child up and head over to the Senior Center

for punch, cookies, dessert, music, and gifts.

"What I enjoy the most about this toy drive is the day of the party," she said. "I don't know if I enjoy watching the kids open their gifts more or the relief I see on the parents faces."

"If nothing else, I want the children to know that there are people in the community who are going to look after them," she said. "Sometimes, with Head Start, since it is considered low income-based, a lot of people think that they don't deserve things. So, I would rather the parents be able to focus their money on paying bills or making sure there is food on the table, and we will take care of the presents."

She said that she believes the toy drive shows her

more and more everyday what this community is capable of and what they are willing to do.

"When people donate, it just kind of keeps that spirit alive here in Gatesville, because it is such a giving community," she said. "Some people think that it is just a dollar tree toy, but to the kids it means everything, and, for parents, it's a huge weight lifted off of them."

The toy drive officially began on Dec. 1 and will end on Dec. 16.

For more information, contact Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234.

PLEASE SEE PICTURES ON A12

PEARL NEWS

Last Saturday was a good day to be in Pearl



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Last Saturday was a great day to be in Pearl. The Pearl Bluegrass had quite a few great bands to play on the stage, and the kitchen reported a wonderful crowd.

Ilene was able to be there, and she said it was so good to see so many bluegrass friends attending. The bookstore also reported that lots of good folks came by. Everyone is looking forward to the next bluegrass event and bookstore opening on Jan. 4, 2025!

Anyone who would like to make a donation to the Pearl Community Center can contact Rhonda or Garrett Dickey. You can message Rhonda on Facebook to find out where to send the donation. The money collected goes toward the upkeep and maintenance

of the Center. All donations are greatly appreciated.

The Pearl Church of Christ reported an attendance of 41 souls last Sunday. Linda said it was so great to have so many kiddos! It was also reported that Edward Schaub had an excellent lesson (but when has he not?). Edward and Judi have been coming to Pearl for over 40 years, and they are deeply loved and appreciated.

There are a number of "Pearlites" experiencing health issues at this time, so please keep them in prayer. Just ask the Lord for their healing in your prayers, and He will know who you mean.

Also, please keep all medical staff in your prayers! Those people work so hard. I have had some pretty intense health issues for a couple of weeks now, which required a trip to the



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Some of the many Pearl Bluegrass attendees are shown gathered to jam before the program began.

ER and other appointments. The nurses, doctors, and technicians were so caring and thorough, even though they were understaffed and overworked. If it's that way in deep East Texas, then I would imagine it's that way in most other places as well. They all deserve our prayers. And, if you are so inclined, a little treat basket

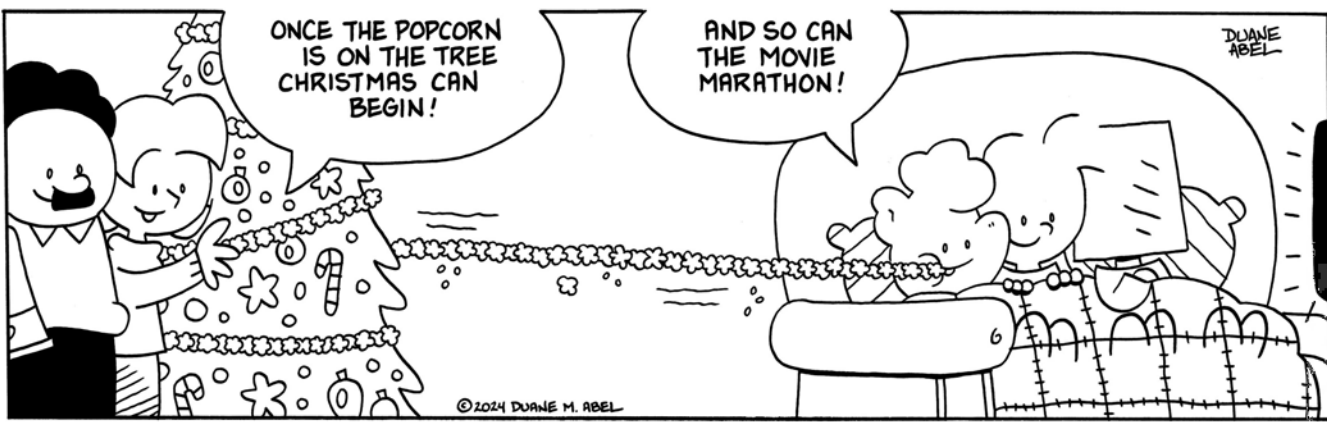
or some other Christmas remembrance would probably be a day (or night) brightener for all of them!

This week's Bible verse comes from John 1:14—The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and

truth. NIV

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

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Central Texas Travel Club to meet Dec. 19

Staff Reports

The Central Texas Travel Club will meet on Thursday, Dec. 19, at Johnny's Steaks and Barbeque in Salado. The gathering will

begin at 11 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m. They will be discussing upcoming trips to Machu Picchu/Galapagos, Broadway show 'Come from Away,' and others.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in travel, with no dues or membership requirements. For more information, you can find them on Facebook or at centraltexastravelclub.com

outlook.com

Johnny's Steaks and Barbeque is located at 301 Thomas Arnold Road in Salado.

Sun., Dec. 15
6-8 p.m.
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Sun., Dec. 22
6 p.m.
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MOUND NEWS

Mound loses two longtime residents



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

The Mound community has lost a longtime resident, Mrs. Elizabeth Charlotte McCorkle, who died on Monday, Dec. 2.

Mrs. Elizabeth McCorkle will truly be missed in our community.

The Mound community also lost another one of its residents: Mr. Gary Francis Keeton, who died on Friday, Nov. 22. A memorial service was held on Monday, Dec. 2, at Grace Bible Church in Gatesville.

Mound Cowboy Church and White Mound Baptist Church had their annual children's Christmas program Sunday evening at the Mound Cowboy Church

Pavilion. Direction was by Mrs. Staci Combs. Afterward they had refreshments.

Special guests were Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

Mrs. Delecia Reynolds was last Friday lunch guests of Barbara Hopson.

Jaciee Carlson was a Sunday lunch guests with Dani Jo Wood.

Those who have birthdays this week are Blyan Smith, Kelli McPherson, Jill Winkler, Aspen Watts, Cull Brookshire, and Katie Sue Hopson.

OBITUARIES

Patricia Jewells

June 8, 1937 – Nov. 28, 2024

Patricia Jewells, age 87, died on Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024, in Winston-Salem, NC. Born in Waco, Patricia was the daughter of the late Albert and Elsie (Wilson) Meeker. She was a member of the Debate Club in Gatesville High School before graduating in 1954. Following graduation, Patricia joined the United States Army Civilian Service in Fort Hood where she met her future husband, the late Robert Jewells II, DDS. They celebrated sixty-seven years of marriage before his passing this past June.

The couple moved back to Tamaqua where Patricia helped her husband with the family business, Jewells Dental Office, at 132 East Broad Street while raising their three children. She was a member of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tamaqua where she was an active volunteer with the youth group and the women's club. Patricia worked as an advocate for the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens (PARC), helping to secure quality employment and benefits for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, but she always had time for her children and was a den mother for Boy Scouts of America.

In addition to her work and family, Patricia belonged to several clubs. She was a member of the Women's Club Chorus, Church Choir, Red Hat Club, and Lion's Club.

She is survived by two sons, Michael Jewells, of Tamaqua, and Alan Jewells and his wife, Lynda, of



Winston Salem, NC; a daughter, Valerie Jewells Summer and her husband, John, of Durham, NC; five grandchildren, Morgan Powers and her husband, Jon, Taylor Weaver and her husband, Winston, Alan Jewells, Ben Summers, and Erin Summers; and three great-grandchildren, Jonathan, Henry and Evelyn Powers. A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 200 Mauch Chunk Street, Tamaqua with the Rev. Dillon Epler officiating.

Robert and Patricia were interred together at Sky-View Memorial Park, 108 Lafayette Avenue, Tamaqua following the service.

Memorial donations may be made to The Arc, 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006 or online <https://donate.thearc.org/give>. Online condolences may be made at www.zgfurneralhome.com. Arrangements were handled by the Zizelmann-Gulla Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., Tamaqua.

Elizabeth Charlotte McCorkle

Oct. 1, 1926 – Dec. 2, 2024

Elizabeth Charlotte McCorkle, age 98, of Mound, passed away Monday, Dec. 2, 2024.

There is currently no public memorial service planned.

Elizabeth was born Lieselotte Amalia Antlitz on Oct. 1, 1926, in Dusseldorf, Germany to Otto Heinrich Antlitz and Anna Marie (Wagner) Antlitz. She came with her family to America in 1928 and settled in New York City. Her name, Lieselotte, was changed to its English translation of Elizabeth Charlotte.

After graduating high school, she moved to Dayton, OH to work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where she met her future husband, Quentin Glenn McCorkle. They moved to



Texas in 1950 and lived in Mound. They raised four sons: Gary, Eric, Alan, and Brian McCorkle.

She was preceded in death by her husband and by her granddaughter, Lisa McCorkle. She is survived by her sons; four grandchildren, Kelli, Lara, Justin, and Colin; and seven great-grandchildren.

Donald Eugene Grogan, Sr.

April 21, 1937 – Dec. 6, 2024

Donald Eugene Grogan Sr. was born on April 21, 1937, in Chanute, KS, to Earl and Dorothy (Gray) Grogan, and departed this life peacefully on Dec. 6, 2024, with his oldest son by his side at Heritage Health Care. He lived a life marked by service, dedication, and a deep love of family.

He was a proud graduate of Chanute High School, with the class of 1955. Don started at Ottawa University in 1955. After a year, he entered the Army and served for two years. He then returned to Ottawa University and he and his brother, Gary, both graduated in 1961 with B.A. degrees. He then entered Central Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Divinity Degree.

On June 3, 2006, Don was united in marriage to Claire Huntsman in Gatesville. Together, they created a warm and loving home. Don is survived by his beloved wife, Claire, his sons Don (Denna) Grogan Jr., of Knoxville, TN; Dan (Tami) Grogan, of Enid, OK; David (Sandy) Grogan, of Chanute, KS; Darin (Michelle) Grogan, of Chanute, KS; Leslie (Marvin) Rubio, of Austin; Jennifer (Barry) Gregg, of Austin; and Trinity (Paul) O'Leary, of Springdale, AR. Don's legacy lives on through his grandchildren—Kacie, Katie, Dustin, Quenten, Dani, Jessica, Robert, Ashley, Tiffany, Zachary, Zoe, Mia, and Ryan—as well as his great-grandchildren, Jacelyn, Jhett, Keara, Madisyn, Adalynn, Cohen, Nathan, Gage, Logan, Mirio, and Wrenley. Each of them carries a piece of his spirit and values, enriched by the many stories and memories he shared throughout his life.

Don had an adventurous spirit and a multitude of passions. He was disciplined and dedicated, with interests that spanned from woodworking to theater, all things music, wine, and sailing. A voracious reader, he never missed an opportunity to entertain those around him with his singing and tales of adventure, all while enjoying a good game of sports. But most of all, his ministry of over 50 years, which began in 1959 at First Baptist Church, Erie, KS; Mount Olivet Baptist, Princeton, KS from 1960-1961; Trinity Baptist Church, Chanute, KS from 1961-1964; First Baptist Church, Pittsburg, KS from 1964-1965; Director of YMCA, Hannibal, MO, and First Baptist Church, Plainville,



IL from 1965-1968; Director of YMCA and First Baptist Church, Minister to the Youth, Manhattan, KS from 1965-1968; Director of YMCA and St. Phillips Methodist, Minister of Administration, Garland from 1970-1973; First Baptist Church, Stafford, KS from 1974-1977; Gage Park Baptist Church, Topeka, KS from 1977-1979; Executive Director of Murrow Indian Children's Home and First Presbyterian Church, Minister of Education, Muskogee, OK from 1987-1989; First Presbyterian Church of Gatesville from 1989-1998. He retired for the first time in 1998 but then began serving First Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, as Minister and Session Moderator from 2005-2006. In 2006, he began his second retirement, which ended in 2007 when he again was Minister and Session Moderator at First Presbyterian Church in Hamilton until 2010, then finally retiring for the third and final time.

He leaves behind a legacy grounded in love, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to his family and community. Don was a member of Grace Presbytery, Irving, and attended Grace Episcopal Church, Chanute, KS. Don is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, William Grogan. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him, a reminder of a life well-lived and a heart full of joy. His absence will be deeply felt, yet his influence and love will continue to resonate within the hearts of his family and friends.

Memorials are suggested to Grace Episcopal Church, or Wounded Warrior Project, and can be left with or mailed to the funeral home at Wickham Family Funeral Home 500 N Forest Ave. Chanute, KS 66720.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service to honor Don was held on Tuesday, December 10, at 10 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 209 S Lincoln, Chanute, KS.

Services were under the guidance of Wickham Family Funeral Home, 500 N. Forest Ave, Chanute, KS.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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

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

METHODIST WOMEN INSTALL NEW OFFICERS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Methodist Women recently installed new officers for 2025. Left to right: Amber Featherston, Marilyn Decker, Melinda Ivy, Linda Klontz, Linda Shirley, Shirleen Chandler, Mary Beth Bogard, and Velva Riddle. Not pictured: Carol Dildine, Kathleen Blankemeyer, Linda Maxwell, and Debbie Martin.

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Blankmeyer awarded Yard of the Month for December

Submitted Item

Keep Gatesville Beautiful has selected the home of Kathleen Blankmeyer, located at 506 South 7th Street, as the December Yard of the Month.

Blankmeyer moved to Gatesville in 2017 from Evergreen, to live with her daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons for a year while having a house built next door. She moved into her new home the following year.

The attractive frame house with a slate blue siding, white trim, a red front door with a cheery wreath, and a very large red and green wreath at the apex of the front porch roof is the perfect background for the green St. Augustine yard, which is decked with cheerful and inspirational Christmas decorations.

On the right side of the lawn, in front of a bed of

crepe myrtles, a beautiful nativity scene stands complete with kings and shepherds in colorful clothing. To the left of the nativity, a life-sized Christmas angel of silver and gossamer gestures toward the scene.

On the left side of the yard, a colorful, three-dimensional display of Santa with his sleigh, a reindeer, wrapped presents, and his Christmas list makes for a delightfully cheerful scene. The curving sidewalk, which runs between the two groupings, is lined on both sides with small white flower lights. Near the street is a bed containing several native lantanas, which are yellow and orange when in bloom.

Blankmeyer credits her son-in-law, Nathan Johnson, for the maintenance of her yard, and her grandson, Ethan, who trims the crepe myrtles. She also gave a shout-out to Colton Mitchell



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELENA SPATZIER

Kathleen Blankmeyer is pictured with her home, which won Yard of the Month for December.

who puts up and takes down all her decorations.

But, even with these helpers, Blankmeyer makes it all

happen. By the way, drive by this address at night for

a dazzling nighttime view.

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.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Dec. 4 - Dec. 10. 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

Dec. 4
10:31 a.m., wanted/stolen (person/property) was reported in the 100 block of N. 8th Street.
11:42 a.m., harassment was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.
1:34 p.m., a hit & run was reported in the 6600 block of County Road 137.
2:30 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 500 block of County Road 360.

Dec. 5
12 a.m., a hit and run was reported in the 1600 block of E. Main Street.
4:02 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.
4:01 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2700 block of E. Main Street.
7:24 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.

Dec. 6
5:08 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2600 block of Powell Drive.
9:21 a.m., a fire was reported in the 4500 block of County Road 3640.
10:37 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 100 block of N. 8th

Street.
1:27 p.m., an accident was reported in the 800 block of E. Main Street.

Dec. 7
3:13 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
3:24 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
6:15 p.m., an accident was reported in the 200 block of FM 107.

Dec. 8
12:39 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of S. 5th Street.
2:19 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Bridge Street.
4:30 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 300 block of Veteran's Memorial Loop.
4:39 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.

Dec. 9
7:53 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Business Highway 36.
9:24 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
1:26 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
3:44 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1200 block

of E. Main Street.

Dec. 10
10:19 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
4:30 p.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 1600 block of Bridge Street.
7:55 p.m., a fight was reported in the 1200 block of S. Highway 281.
8:44 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 1800 block of County Road 182.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dec. 4
1:59 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 1400 block of County Road 318.
5:23 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W. Highway 84 and County Road 176.
8:54 p.m., a major accident was reported on FM 1113 and Oak Springs Road.
11:34 p.m., a vehicle fire was reported in the 1600 block of E. Highway 84.

Dec. 5
10:51 a.m., damaged property was reported on FM 1113 and Old Oaks Springs.
11:54 a.m., a dog bite was reported in the 400 block of Indian Creek Road.

2:04 p.m., fraud was reported in the 100 block of Dora's Lane.
2:32 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Hollis Lane.

Dec. 6
8:44 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 8600 block of FM 182.
9:28 a.m., mail tampering was reported in the Mound area.
4:20 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 7600 block of FM 929.
6:13 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1200 block of Harmon Road.

Dec. 7
5:39 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on Highway 36.
7:49 a.m., a scam was reported in the 1700 block of Fort Panic.
10:37 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of Star Lane.
11:29 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 224.

Dec. 8
11:47 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 100 block of Baird Street.
6:05 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 200 block of Hollis Lane.
6:19 p.m., a minor acci-

dent was reported on Highway 190 EB between Clark Road and Clear Creek.
8:27 p.m., someone hitting a hog was reported on FM 182 - three miles outside of Turnersville.

Dec. 9
7:03 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 217 and Moshime.
12:39 p.m., a scam was reported in the 1000 block of Johnathan Lane.
2:04 p.m., abuse was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

Dec. 10
9:25 a.m., an animal complaint was reported on FM 116.
12:07 p.m., a scam was reported in the 600 block of Old Pidcocke Road.
7:55 p.m., a fight in progress was reported in the Evant ISD Gym.
8:49 p.m., a fire call was reported in the 1800 block of County Road 182.

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

Coryell County

DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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 WEDNESDAY SERVICES 6:00 PM

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
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BAPTIST
BETHEL HEIGHTS BAPTIST
 3835 CR 127, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday worship 11 a.m.
BETHLEHEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
 Elder Hugh Montgomery, pastor; 4555 FM 1690, Gatesville; Worship 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
CALVARY BAPTIST
 Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 & FM 116; Sunday Bible study 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
CANAAN BAPTIST
 Jim Keever, senior pastor; 177 Coryell City Road, Crawford; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST
 Bob Phillips, pastor; Sundays - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
EASTWOOD BAPTIST
 Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main, Gatesville; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 10:50 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST EVANT
 Dane Barron, pastor; 200 Live Oak Street, Evant; Sundays - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., adult Bible study 6 p.m.; Wednesday services - kids' & youth Bible study 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST FLAT
 9775 TX-36, Gatesville; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays - Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST GATESVILLE
 912 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesdays - Children & Youth 5:30-7:00 p.m. (supper provided)
FIRST BAPTIST OGLESBY
 Dr. Pat Korrell, Pastor; 120 College Ave.; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 am; Wednesdays - supper at 5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth Group 6 p.m., Prayer meeting 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
 875 FM 932, Purmela; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY BAPTIST
 Michael Bragdon, Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
HARMONY BAPTIST
 A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.
HAY VALLEY BAPTIST
 3110 Hay Valley Road; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
AWANA children's ministry
 Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible Study for men & women on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
JONESBORO BAPTIST
 Matt Dossey, pastor; 11420 N. State Hwy. S; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 10:50 a.m.
KING BAPTIST
 Charles W. McKamie, pastor; 6730 FM 1783, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY BAPTIST
 Royce T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36, Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK BAPTIST
 Pastor Matthew Hamilton; 113 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings: Choir at 5:30 p.m., Children & Youth Activities, Adult Bible Study at 6:15 p.m.
MOUNTAIN BAPTIST
 Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; 6319 US-84, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m.,

Sunday worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday.
OSAGE BAPTIST
 Chris Thomas, pastor; 7505 FM 185, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
 2082 FM 1690, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m.
PECAN GROVE BAPTIST
 6545 FM 107, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PIDCOKE BAPTIST
 Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST
 Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL
 One mile north of Evant, Hwy. 281; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PURMELA BAPTIST
 Pastor: Brenden Hough; 875 FM 932, Purmela, TX 76566; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
SWEET HOME BAPTIST
 511 N. 14th, Gatesville; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday worship 7 p.m.
SPANISH BAPTIST
 Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
TRINITY BAPTIST
 Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor; 1506 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday - activities for adults, youth, & children 6:30 p.m.; 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.
TURNERSVILLE BAPTIST
 Jon Crosby, Pastor; 8120 FM 182, Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.
WESTVIEW BAPTIST
 Pastor: Malachi Houser; 1102 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
WHITE HALL BAPTIST
 Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.
WHITE MOUND BAPTIST
 Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR 320; mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
 Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Men's breakfast every third Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside: 3075 FM 931, outside: 2000 CR 321. Mailing address: P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX 76558.
CATHOLIC
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. & Wednesday-Friday at 7 a.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
CEDAR RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Deral McWhorter, minister; 104 Cedar Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
EVANT CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Will Vann, Preacher; 310 W. Brooks Dr., Evant; Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship 10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST
 4605 St. Hwy. 36 S., Gatesville; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., Sunday service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.
LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO
 2413 E. Main, Gatesville; clases y servicios en Español, 10-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.
MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove; Sundays - worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays - Bible Study 5:30 p.m.; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.
PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST
 6790 FM 183; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
CHURCH OF GOD
CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD
 338 State School Rd., Gatesville; Sunday worship 11 a.m.
LUTHERAN
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
 David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd., Copperas Cove; Sunday Bible Study 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
 Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; 10801 FM 929, Coryell City; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
 Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM 1114, The Grove; Sunday School 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.
METHODIST
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST
 2 miles north of Ireland on FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays.
EVANT METHODIST
 235 US-281, Evant; Dennis Dutton, Pastor; Sunday worship 10 a.m.
FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE
 2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD (during school year): Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children & Adult Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:30 p.m. 254-865-2520.
GATESVILLE UNITED METHODISTS
 All are welcome. Meetings every Sunday at 5 p.m. at the south end of Gatesville High School near the field house and band hall. Watch for signs. For more information, call 254-223-0665.
OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST
 Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.
PIDCOKE METHODIST
 Rev. Pete Harris; Hwy. 116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday worship service 10 a.m.; 254-677-6242.
MORMON
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
 206 S. 26th St., Gatesville; Sacrament services Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH
 Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday services 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7 p.m.
CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry & C3 Student Ministry.
CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
 Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11 a.m., 8205 FM 182, Turnersville; 254-218-5901.
COVER2COVER MINISTRIES
 Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday service 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.,

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First Baptist Church
 GATESVILLE, TEXAS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.
 SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.

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 Call 254-865-5212

The Presbyterian Church
 Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, DMin., Pastor

1110 E. Main Street
 Gatesville, TX
 254-865-5328
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REFORMED
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday services 10:45 a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.

SPANISH
BIENVENIDOS AL HOGAR DE DIOS
 Domingos a partir de las 2:00 p.m. Te esperamos! 6226 E. Hwy. 84, Gatesville.

WESLEYAN CORYELL VALLEY CHURCH
 Worship Saturdays 5 p.m., Bible fellowship Sundays 10 a.m.; 4995 FM 929

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
BOOTS-N-SADDLE COWBOY CHURCH
 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.
HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH
 Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise & Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-4076.

First Methodist Church
**Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.**

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 classifieds@gatesvillemessenger.com
 116 S. 6th Street, Gatesville, Texas 76528

DEADLINE

Saturday Issue: 10 A.M. Tuesday

All Classified Ads Must Be Paid In Advance

Ads will not run until payment is received, unless credit has been established.
 All forms of Debit and Credit Cards are accepted.

We are not responsible for errors when ads are taken over the phone. We ask all advertisers to read over their advertisement after the first run and let us know if corrections need to be made. Corrections can be made to advertisements after the first run if we are informed immediately by advertiser, so read carefully.

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. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, The Gatesville Messenger does not guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC website is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

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 00031185

045 Services

R&M FENCING & DOZING: barbed wire, custom pipe, entryways, corrals, barns, fence row clearing, metal buildings, residential & game fencing, solar gate openers, dozer work. Free estimates. Larry Riddle, 254-248-2205; Joyce McAdams, 254-248-4318. 00031191

045 Services

Schuman's
HEAT & AIR, Inc.
Residential & Commercial
Service • Installation
Refrigeration
 Servicing All Brands
 Gatesville & Surrounding Areas
Darrel Schuman - Owner
254-499-0054
 TACLA27524C WWW.SCHUMANSAIR.COM

FERGUSON ROOFING:
 Locally owned company serving all Central Texas area. Commercial and Residential. Free Estimates!
 254-466-5128 00031186

060 Garage Sale

Christmas items 25 cents, Items tagged in blue 25 cents 12/17 - Sat., 12/21. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. 00031176

POSTPONED UNTIL LATER!
 1119 Westview Drive. 00031199

070 Land & Lots

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Dated the 9th day of December, 2024.

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



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099 Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bobby Gene Harrington were issued on December 6, 2024 in Cause No. 24-11102 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Joan Harrington.

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 9th day of December, 2024.

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

00031200

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Randy Steven Nini were issued on December 6, 2024 in Cause No. 24-11103 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Gina Nini.

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 9th day of December, 2024.

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

00031201

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Donna M. Henry were issued on December 6, 2024 in Cause No. 24-11091 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Kammi Dunn.

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 9th day of December, 2024.

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

00031202

099 Public Notices

Notice to Claimants

Notice is given pursuant to Texas Estates Code 308.051 that, on December 4, 2024, in the cause numbered 24-11095 and styled "Estate of David Alan Gross, Deceased," in the County Court of McLennan County, Texas, letters testamentary were issued to Samantha Renee Swieszc as that estate's independent executrix. Any persons having a claim against that estate must present that claim within the time prescribed by law. Claims should be addressed in care of "Representative, Estate of David Alan Gross, Deceased" and may be presented directly to her at 11023 Vivian Dr. NW, Huntsville, Alabama 35810 or to be her resident agent c/o Vance Dunnam, Jr., 4125 W. Waco, Dr., Waco, Texas 76710.

00031203

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Frank Landon Ellis, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2024 in Cause No. 24-11053 pending in the County Court at Law; Coryell County, Texas, to: Lonnie D. Ellis. All persons having claims against this Estate which is being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and manner prescribed by law: Lonnie D. Ellis c/o Ted Smith Law Group, PLLC, 660 W. FM 2410 Harker Heights, TX 76548 DATED THE 11th day of December 2024, Ted Smith, State Bar No. 18753800.

00031204

PUBLIC NOTICES

The City Council of the City of Gatesville, in the Regular Meeting held on December 10, 2024 did pass and approve on the third and final reading the following ordinances:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-11:

An Ordinance of the City of Gatesville amending the Gatesville Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 48 - Subdivisions; Providing a Severability Clause; Providing a Savings Clause; and Providing for an Effective Date.

This amendment to Ordinance 2024-11 is adding definition and procedure language for minor plats, amending language to require a performance bond in lieu of a line of credit, and to bring certain items current with legislation and standards.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-12

An Ordinance of the City of Gatesville, Texas, amending the Gatesville Code of Ordinances at Chapter 10 "Buildings and Building Regulations," Article II "Technical Codes," by adding a new Division 4 "Portable Buildings and Containers;" Providing a Penalty of Fine not to Exceed \$500; Providing a Severability Clause; Providing a Savings Clause; and Providing for an Effective Date.

Complete texts of these ordinances are available for inspection, during regular business hours, at City Hall, 803 E. Main Street.

Holly Owens
 City Secretary

00031205

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CITY OF GATESVILLE

The City of Gatesville is soliciting proposals for Water and Sewer Materials. Copies of the RFP are posted on the City Webpage www.GatesvilleTX.com Submit 3 copies of the completed Proposal Pricing Form to City of Gatesville Attn: Holly Owens, 803 E. Main Street Gatesville TX 76528.

The Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the title "SEALED PROPOSAL - RFP 2024-002 Annual Unit Price Contract for Water and Sewer Materials" along with Proposer's name, address, and contact information.

Proposals must be received by the City no later than 2:00 p.m. on December 30, 2024 to be considered.

The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals.

Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals.

00031206

NOW HIRING



- RN – FT & PRN; Night Shift
- LVN – FT & PRN Night Shift
- Physical Therapist Assistant – FT & PRN
- Transportation Assistant – PRN
- COTA – FT
- CNA/NA – FT All Shifts

****Full time sign on bonus may be available with one year commitment for specific area's lvns, cmas, cnas**
BENEFITS OFFERED:
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 Tuition Reimbursement • Health, Dental, Life and Supplemental Insurances. EOE.

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

NOW HIRING



- MEDICAL CLINIC:**
- REGISTRATION CLERK
 - SCRIBE
 - CCMA
 - LVN
- CULINARY:**
- PATIENT DINING ASSOCIATE
 - BARISTA
- EMS:**
- PARAMEDIC – FT AND PRN
 - EMT – FT AND PRN
- HOME HEALTH:**
- RN – FT
 - PRIMARY CARE ATTENDANT
- LAB:**
- POINT OF CARE ASSISTANT – FT
- MAINTENANCE:**
- LANDSCAPER – FT OR PT
- MED/ SURG:**
- RN OR LVN – FT NIGHT SHIFTS
- RADIOLOGY:**
- CT/X-RAY TECH – PRN; TDH MRT & ARRT W/1 YR. EXP. IN CT/X-RAY
- SURGERY:**
- GENERAL SURGERY CIRCULATING RN
- WELCOME:**
- CNA – FT

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

BENEFITS OFFERED:

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

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

045 Services

TREE WORKS Tree Service: tree trimming, removal & stump grinding. Free estimates. Call Lloyd, (254)223-3287. 00031188

Dry Creek Trash Service-Weekly Pickup and Roll-off container rentals: Ofc. (254) 463-4988/Cell (254) 206-1512/drycreektrash-service.com 00031187

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 865-5212

045 Services

CENTRAL TEXAS REMODELING AND HANDYMAN
 Tile, sheetrock, painting, decks, fences, flooring, windows, siding, roofing, texturing. Cecil Woodson, 254-216-3835. 00031192

Jason Paul Constuction:
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BY DR. 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.

The song has been a staple in Christian hymnals for more than a century, underscoring deeply held beliefs.

"The Way of the Cross Leads Home" — written in 1906 — might be in the running for Christians' national anthem if it ever came to a vote.

Until here lately, the "way" to Branson, Missouri has not been quite so clear. Though highway routes to this Christian entertainment mecca are many — some of them picturesque — they can easily eat up the better part of a day for Texans driving there.

Eureka! Southern Airways Express now offers twice-daily flights from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport to Harrison, Arkansas, just a half-hour from

Branson. Round-trip airfare is around \$150, parking is free, and the two-hour flight a few thousand feet aloft provides welcome "look-sees" at the colorful foliage below. (The aircraft has eight seats, with some safety requirements that may be unfamiliar, such as use of scales to determine weight of both passengers and luggage. Rent a car, use an Uber app, or lean on a friend for pickup in Harrison and the short final "leg" to Branson. Remember to pack light and arrive early for check-in.)

En route to this one-of-a-kind entertainment center that emphasizes God and country, one sees an exit

for College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri. It's a stop worth taking, a scant half-dozen miles from Branson, this college of some 1,500 students. The Lord is honored, and patriotism is the hallmark of the appropriately nicknamed "Hard Work University."

Students earn their way to four-year degrees by working at numerous campus sites. They graduate free of debt, unlike many college graduates who face heavy payback commitments for several years.

Named C of O president in 2022, Dr. Brad Johnson envisioned an additional symbol to enhance the institution's spiritual and patriotic values. It already had The Missouri Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Now, the giant cross erected last year reminds students and visitors of Christ upon entering or leaving the campus. Artist/designer Max Greiner Jr. was commissioned for the project — The Empty Cross-TM — made of steel — is 40 feet tall and weighs 28,000 pounds...

I have written about Branson many times, but somehow was never previously present for the much-heralded "Christmas in Branson." Though "late to

the party," I recently was "wowed" by a community emblazoned by lights and Christmas décor, and a bevy of shows "glitzed up" with festive costumes, Christmas music, and creative dancers. (The season starts in November and runs through the first week of January.)

During a whirlwind 46-hour visit, I attended seven shows, including the Sight and Sound Theater's "Miracle of Christmas." This is Branson's "crown jewel," where all 2,200 seats often are taken for productions that dazzle with Broadway quality and are always Christ-centered. "David" opens March 8, 2025.

Other shows included The Duttons, The Hughes Brothers, Pierce Arrow (featuring a world-class baritone and a Guinness Book of Records holder for the lowest bass voice), Doug Gabriel, A Tribute to ABBA, and "Hot Rods and High Heels." They, too, sparkled...

Branson is a "family place" on both sides of the flood lights. Central to its "warp and woof" are shows dominated by multiple family members, including three generations of Duttons and their across-the-street neighbors, the Hughes Brothers. They even "bor-



THE EMPTY CROSS
...At Entry of College of the Ozarks

row" each other's grandbabies for manger scenes. This year, the Hughes Brothers' family has two of their four infants "on loan" to the Duttons! The Clay Coopers have to be proud of son Colton, star of the "Hot Rods" show, a high energy production featuring 1950s music. Doug Gabriel has been "at it" for decades, playing a

stringed instrument his dad made from a car muffler. He calls it a "muff-tar."

This account barely touches the garment's hem of Branson. Experiencing it — coupled with a visit to C of O — never grows old, at Christmas and throughout the year...

November marriage licenses filed at courthouse

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Marriage licenses filed during November 2024 in the Coryell County Clerk's Office included:

William Clinton Bains and Natasha Marie Cox
Jeremiah Markell Banks and Daizhonnia Elaine Lindsey Price
Eric Michael Belk and Katy Marie Hiscox

Kyle Thomas Botkin, Jr. and Nicole Lynn Stone
Austin Michael Brem and Marleigh Jo Carpenter
James Leon Bryant and Tiffany Faye Martinez
Randy Lawrence Cheadle and Amanda Kathleen Adams
Robert Ian Clift and Alysa Elaine Bell
Justin Trey Davis and

Monica Marie Diaz-Beckett
Dakota James Donovan and Alicia Michelle Chaney
Jesse Joe Fernandez and Grace Anne Overeynder
Michael Wayne Foster and Eva Marie Wilkerson
Mark Andrew Fuessel and Cherish Elizabeth Britt
Mattison Keith Taylor Ivy and Kendra Cheyenne Owens

Jacoby Tyree Jones and Juana M. Marez
Jeremiah Jon Jones and Larrissa Renae Eickenhorst
Jonathan Homer Kusiak and Jeanie May Jucal Jardio
Nino Lauterbach and Kae-di Alejandra Gresham
Bonifacio Magdaleno and Camila Santos De Jesus
Elliott Michael Marthers and Madeline Nicole Betts

Dustin Lee Matthew and Kaylee Thomasa Pratt
Jaye Logan McClellan-Honeycutt and Rhiannon Lee Starkey
Joshua Gene Millsaps and Cheryl Crawford
Dranston Clane Bush Newcomer and Debra Lynn Thomas
Nathaniel Jess Pratt and Arwen Alena May

Nicole Dyane Rios and Charisma Cassandra Ward
Alexandra Margaret Sandoval and Tianna Roberta Connor
Christopher Salvatore Seeley, Jr. and Bonnie Melissa Holt
Joshua Evan Tatum and Christina Ann Moore
Dennis Michael Ward and Birtie Ann Rainbolt

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- 117 N. Rice St. Hamilton, TX, Rustic Lantern, over 7,000 sq ft, 2 stories w/ 2 staircases, kitchen area, old safe, great commercial property. \$399,000
- 520 N. Rice St. Hamilton, TX, Commercial building, over 7,200 sq ft of space, two large spaces on the first floor, commercial kitchen, second story has several rooms with four full baths. \$599,000
- 1.603 ac., 204 ft. of Hwy. 281 frontage & 300 ft. of frontage on Bell St. great location for a convenience store, strip center or any retail business. \$369,000
- 8.01 ac. Lot 54 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$150,000
- 9.77 ac. 3-2 manufactured home 20162 N Hwy. 281 Lampasas, TX. 2 living areas, large kitchen, island, metal building 25 ft. X 40 ft., 24 ft x 29 ft carport, 20 ft x 40 ft. RV Shed, water well 210 ft. deep. \$399,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 44 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision. Electric & fiber optic internet service. OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE. \$125,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 63 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, season creek, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$116,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 53 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$167,000
- 10.182 ac. Lot 14 Ph 3 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Langford Branch, good tree coverage, rolling terrain. Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$239,900
- 10.697 ac. Lot 9 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, seasonal branch, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$122,500
- 10.85 ac. Lot 9 Ph 5, Flint Rock Court Evant, TX Rio Escondido Subdivision, good tree cover, electric & fiber optic internet, gated subdivision. \$119,000
- 15 ac. East of Evant, Bear Branch Rd., great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across road, will need to drill water well for water. \$150,000
- 16.5 ac. Turnersville, open pasture, good views, paved CR 220. Electricity across road, check w/ Coryell City Water on availability of water meter. \$206,500
- 18.1 ac. South of Evant, near Adamsville, Lampasas County, Hwy. 281 & CR 2830. Water well, electricity, carport, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$360,000
- 19.314 ac. 1,590 sq house built in 2021 located at 7247 N Hwy. 36 Jonesboro. Open floor plan, stained concrete flooring, large island/breakfast bar, propane gas range, and covered back porch. \$475,000
- 20 ac. Lot 23 Ph 1, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric available, Fiber Optic Internet. \$215,000
- 20.08 ac. Lots 10 & 11 Ph 5 Rio Escondido Subdivision. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric & Fiber Optic Internet Service. \$238,000
- 129.81 ac. Purnela, TX, Coryell County, good tree cover, rolling terrain, one stock tank, Honey Creek, fenced on three sides, heavy tree cover easement. \$975,000
- 620 ac. 3 Br 2 Ba home, fireplace, ceramic tile floors, covered outdoor cooking patio, 38 ft X 25 ft. building. 2 lakes, one being approx. 10 acres and the other one just under 5 acres and 3 smaller stock tanks, approx. 8500 ft of Bee Creek running through the property with 20 ft to 40 ft limestone bluffs along the creek, good rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$6,200,000

Ad1

BOOK REVIEW "Good Reasonable People: The Psychology Behind America's Dangerous Divide"



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

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

And there you sat, glowering across the table. A table rather like the Grand Canyon, or the Pacific Ocean, and nobody brought a bridge to Thanksgiving dinner. Just like that, politics was served up, your happy holiday got ugly, and you wished you'd stayed home. You'd like a do-over, please, so read "Good Reasonable People" by Keith Payne and take a deeeep breath.

Growing up in small-town, white-bread Kentucky, Keith Payne was raised on information that reflected his surroundings: Christian, family-oriented, and straight. If he or his classmates asked questions about racism, living "literally... on the line between the North and South," or their town's complicated history, he says, teachers often changed the subject.

After moving away from home to go to college, Payne learned about people who weren't like him, and he assimilated and embraced other ideas and cultures. He became "a secular liberal college professor" who's distressed today at the divide he sees.

"We need more humanizing," he says, "because people in our country have been dehumanizing one another a lot."

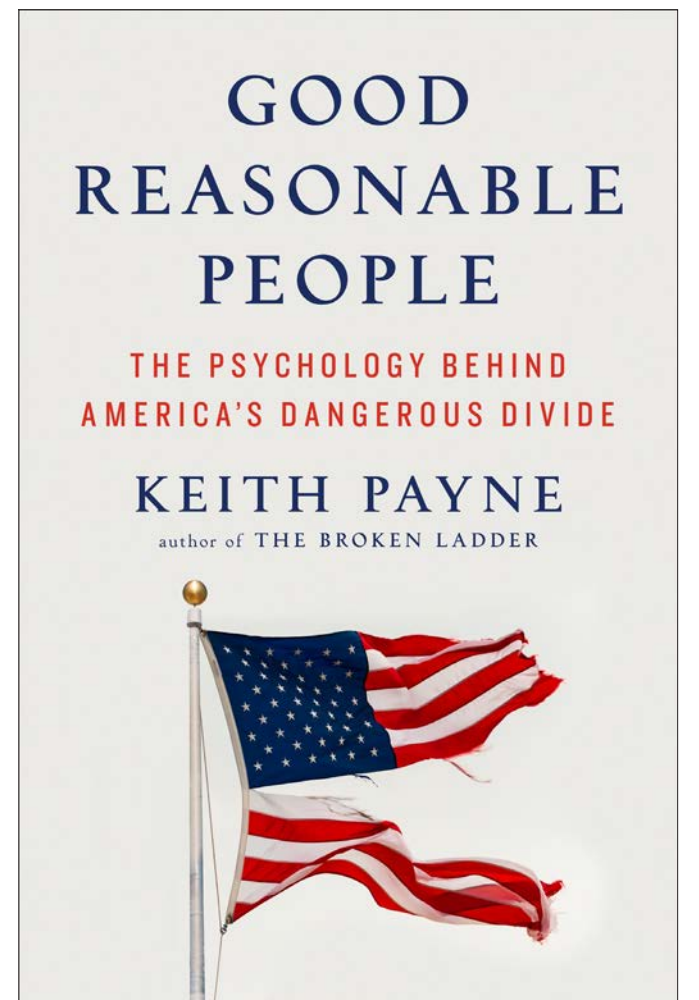
together again, understand that "there is no liberal mind or conservative mind." We are all just humans "trying to make sense of the circumstances ..."

Our perceptions, he says, spring from "the racial group we are born into," the social class we attain, and the thought processes we use to protect our mental well-being, which is called the "Psychological Immune System." We overestimate how bad things will be and how long we'll suffer. We want to be good people but we hold ourselves and our tribe in higher esteem than we do others, adding meaning to even the most meaningless groups in order to inoculate us from things we think we can't believe. These are the answers to the divide.

Says Payne, "It is time to look plainly at why people believe what they believe, choose what they choose, and want what they want."

Grrrrrr, your nephew just drives you batty with his ignorance, right? You wish he'd wake up and look around and, yeah, he probably says the same about you. You'll never understand why he liked that candidate — not unless you read "Good Reasonable People."

Point fingers, if you must. Blame the polls, lackadaisical voters, electronic media,



"Good Reasonable People: The Psychology Behind America's Dangerous Divide" by Keith Payne, c.2024, Viking, \$29, 272 pages

whatever, then let author Keith Payne re-frame the issues with pages and pages of sense-making "AHA!" moments and forehead smackers. Here, you'll see that the thought processes and various conceptions leading up to the election have been in plain sight all along — for decades, in fact — and they are explainable, if not understandable. In a small way, Payne goes on to hint at the future and how read-

ers can look at their opponents with compassion and the kind of depth that could eliminate a good amount of anger.

Outwardly, this book isn't going to change anyone's political leaning, nor will it change history on a large scale. No, "Good Reasonable People" could be beneficial and will mean something on a one-to-one, individual basis if brokering peace is on the table.

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

125-year-old courthouse commemorative cup

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Built between 1897 and 1898, last year the Coryell County Courthouse celebrated its 125th anniversary. Recognized as one of the most beautiful courthouses in the State of Texas, it has been toured by countless visitors from across the state and nation for over 100 years.

The current structure was the third courthouse that the county commissioners authorized to be built by W.D. Dodson, a well-known Texas architect. Since its construction, the building has undergone several improvements, while the building itself has remained much the

same since its construction. The modern conveniences include indoor restrooms, air conditioning, and an elevator.

In the early stages of the building process in 1897, a ceremony was conducted by the Gatesville Masonic Lodge when they installed the cornerstone. Later, during the completion ceremony and celebration, items were sold to commemorate the day.

The Coryell Museum and Historical Center has a display of early-day courthouse relics. Among those items on display is a hand-painted water glass depicting the new courthouse. The glass was first purchased by

Alexander Campbell Cantrell of the Levita/Ater community. Cantrell purchased the glass as a gift for Effie Cantrell who, at her passing in the 1950's, left it to Irene Cantrell.

The glass was later donated to the Coryell Museum by Brents Davis who was the great-grandson of the original owner and the son of Irene Cantrell.

Visitors are invited to explore the museum and see the courthouse exhibit that includes several items from the past three courthouses.

Visitors are welcome to drop by the museum located at 718 E. Main to view the massive

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

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A hand-painted water glass that was purchased during the courthouse completion ceremony in 1898

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

BANANA PUDDING

BY JANE HARVEY

- 1 large box vanilla instant pudding
- 1 (16 oz.) tub Cool Whip
- 1 can eagle brand milk
- 2 c. milk
- bananas
- 1 box vanilla wafer cookies

Whisk lightly by hand 2 cups of milk with instant pudding mix. Add can of eagle brand and fold in Cool Whip. Add sliced bananas and vanilla wafer cookies to decorate. Refrigerate. Save some cookies to put on before serving. Makes for a big crowd.



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Poinsettias: The traditional holiday flower

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Each Christmas, local shoppers see the colorful poinsettias (both real and artificial) on sale at Walmart, HEB, and other local retail stores, but most do not know exactly why the flower has become so associated with the Christmas holidays. Possibly not.

To begin with, Poinsettia plants are native to Central America - especially an area of southern Mexico called "Taxo del Alarcon" where the flower blooms during the winter months.

The ancient Aztecs found many uses for the bright colored flowers, including making dyes for clothing, cosmetics, and medicinal purchases.

It has been reported

that the Poinsettia became more widely known due to a man named Joel Roberts Poinsett, who was the first United States ambassador to Mexico in 1825.

Poinsett became very interested in the plants and sent some of them back to his native South Carolina where he began growing them. The plants were an instant success and became popular for landscaping and pot plants in the United States.

How Poinsettias and Christmas came together comes from an old Mexican legend, which has become a favorite holiday tale.

It was written that a poor Mexican girl called Pepita had no present to offer to the baby Jesus at the

Christmas Eve service at her church. While she was walking to the chapel, she became very distraught since she had nothing to offer. Her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up and told her that even the smallest gift would make Jesus happy.

Pepita then picked a small handful of weeds from along the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She was extremely embarrassed that this was such a small present to offer to the remembrance of the baby Jesus.

When she entered the church, she silently knelt down and placed her bouquet at the symbolic nativity scene. It was written that the bouquet of weeds

suddenly burst into bright red flowers, and those in attendance felt sure they had seen a miracle.

From that day forward, the bright red flowers became known as the "Flores de Noche Buena" or "Flowers of the Holy Night."

Some have always believed that the shape of the Poinsettia flower resembles the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Wise Men to Jesus. Others also believe the red-colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ, while the white leaves represent His purity.

So, this holiday season, while purchasing Poinsettias in Gatesville, one might remember the history behind the flower.

GATESVILLE SENIOR CENTER GATHERS GIFTS FOR SENIORS AND HEAD START STUDENTS



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge (left) is pictured with Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph, while holding up toys that were donated for the annual Head Start Toy Drive.



COURTESY PHOTO

Chad and Katy Hill of Bare Bones Barbeque are pictured filling Christmas bags with the help of Gatesville Senior Center's Camilla Edge. The gifts were provided by Bare Bones Barbeque due to the recent Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Car Show and Toy Drive. Toys collected from the event were donated to the Gatesville Head Start students, and cash proceeds went toward the purchase of Christmas gifts for seniors.

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.

For further information, contact 254-865-4134.

FMC presents Christmas Cantata Dec. 15

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 accompanist will be Rosemary Whittle.

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

City presents Christmas at the Ballpark

Staff Reports

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.

Santa's Workshop will be open on Dec. 14 and Dec. 21, from 6-9 p.m. Santa will be present at the ball-

park to meet local youth along with various activities offered to event-goers.

Activities will include face painting, a coloring station, bounce houses, a Christmas ornament

station, bubble machines, hot chocolate, snacks, and visits with Santa.

Christmas light viewing is open to the public through Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Chamber spreads Christmas cheer with Holiday Tour of Homes

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is hosting its first Christmas Holiday Tour of Homes throughout December, spotlighting Christmas lights and decorations throughout our town.

Chamber Liaison Yvonne Williams said that her inspiration for the Christmas Holiday Tour of Homes came from the idea of bringing the community together during the festive season.

The tours will take place on Fridays from 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. The tour dates will be Dec. 20 and Dec. 21.

The tours will be conducted during a trolley ride, and, as of right now, the starting point for the tours will be at the First National Bank Gatesville Branch, located at 3411 E Main Street.

The tours will also make a special stop at the Sports Complex to attend Christ-

mas at the Ballpark.

As of right now, the chamber plans to use two separate trolleys to take locals on the tours. Each trolley will be able to accommodate up to 12-16 passengers.

Each tour is expected to last approximately one-and-a-half hours. This will give attendees enough time to visit all the homes on the tour, enjoy the decorations, and take in the holiday ambiance. The exact duration may vary slightly depending on the number of stops, but the chamber is aiming to keep it enjoyable and not too fast-paced.

There will be no admission fee or tickets needed for the Christmas Holiday Tour of Homes, as this is a way for the chamber to give back to the community during the holiday season.

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

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Dove Nest opens three-mile racetrack, shares offerings for visitors

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

For the owners and founders of the DOMO Dove Nest Motorsports Club of Central Texas, Toan Leung and Nhi Lieu, their purpose is to offer a memorable experience for the community and its visitors.

Located just north of The Grove, the property serves as an event venue, motorsports club, and resort community. The 400-acre venue provides a space for weddings, celebrations, recreational activities, and, of course, a three-mile dirt track for off-roading.

"We want to create an experience for everybody," Leung said. "We still have a lot of work to do, but it's been well received."

In October, the property finalized the dirt racetrack that includes 22 turns and 126 feet of elevation change. The track was designed by German engineering company Tilke and excavated by Ranger Excavating in Austin.

Leung said the new track allows motorists to practice their speed and technical skills in a safe environment.

"It's very technical for people to hone their skills, and it also adds speed to their experience," he said.

In addition to an off-road racetrack, Leung said there are more than 15 miles of trails for biking and hiking, as well as a quarry for fishing.

"Basically, think of it as a destination that an entire family can enjoy as far as

hiking, walking, off-roading, fishing at our four-acre quarry, and for car enthusiasts - Jeep, trucks, or any off road vehicle," Leung said.

He and his wife purchased the property in 2020 at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Leung said they recognized the potential in the old structure, which used to serve as a sandblasting warehouse for military vehicles. The venue space took one year to renovate and has been open for a little over one year.

Now, the remodeled space serves as a venue for Leung and Lieu's other business on the property, Dove Nest Estate. With a rustic and industrial vibe, the venue can host weddings and other events for up to 250 people.

The property also contains an industrial barbecue smoker and an old saloon that they modernized and refurbished for visitors and guests. There are also five on-site cabins for those who wish to stay the night on the property.

Dove Nest hosts various events throughout the year for car and off-road enthusiasts. On Dec. 5, they hosted a 12-hour endurance race for off-roading vehicles. They also work with local car clubs, such as Austin's Tesla Club and various Jeep clubs, to host meet-up events.

Along with car clubs, major automotive manufacturers such as Polaris and Yamaha often travel to Dove Nest Motorsport's Club for staff training and to utilize

the property to test their off-road products.

"It adds businesses to the city. They come out with new products, and they bring in dealership staff from Austin and Dallas," Leung said. "They come here, and they do the training on the machines."

Leung emphasizes the importance of the venue's economic impact.

"It will take up hotels in Gatesville, restaurants, convenience stores. People come and buy food, drinks, gas, everything to sustain the event," he said. "So, in some ways, maybe in a smaller scale, it has positively affected the city."

Leung said there are plans to expand the facilities and offerings on the property,

such as providing future car storage, outdoor pavilions, and a wellness center with a pool, pickle ball and tennis courts, and more.

"Going back to what we wanted to create, it is not just the track, but also to be able to provide good barbecue, have drinks, enjoy the atmosphere, the vibe, and our environment," he said. "That's what we want to create."

After working as an Emergency Room physician for 25 years, Leung said running the club and event space has been a rewarding experience.

"Looking back, the growth has been very positive, not just financially, but also in the networking, and getting

PLEASE SEE DOVE | B2

Tigers lose 54-51 heartbreaker at State Semifinals

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Varsity Tigers football team played the Oakwood Panthers on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. at Robinson Rocket Stadium on a cold, dreary, and rainy afternoon.

The Tigers could never seem to get on track throughout the game, and the Panthers had good clock management in the third quarter, keeping the ball the entire quarter. The Tigers made a strong comeback attempt in the fourth quarter, but too little, too late, leaving them three points shy as time ran out for the Tigers.

Oakwood will move on to the state final, playing the number one Jayton Jaybirds at AT&T Stadium in Dallas on Dec. 18, at 11:00 a.m.

The Tigers ended their season, 11-3 semifinalists. Tiger seniors Kyler Fossett, Alex Castillo, Hunter Ewing, Jackson Tippit, and Joseph Escamilla played their last high school football game as Oglesby Tigers.

The Tigers, with a good underclass of athletes and excellent coaching staff, will start to rebuild in offseason to make another run for championship.

Offensively for the Tigers

Senior Kyler Fossett ended his career on a positive note, carrying the ball 34 times for 255 yards and scoring four touchdowns. Fossett was 4/8 in passing, throwing a 40-yard touchdown pass, and a 15-yard kickoff return, bringing his total for the night 310 yards total.

Senior Jakson Tippit had five carries for 23 yards, scored a touchdown, and had two pass receptions for 59 yards, for a total of 82 yards on the day.

Senior Alex Castillo was 3/6 in passing for 94 yards and had one touchdown pass. Castillo had two receptions for 16 yards and was 4/7 on point-after-touchdown (PAT) kicks for eight points.

Freshman Holdyn Goff had his best offensive game of the year, catching three passes for 94 yards, had one fourth down conversion, and two 40-yard touchdown receptions.

Defensively for the Tigers

Junior Jack Hendricks had 14 tackles.

Senior Jakson Tippit had 14 tackles with one interception.

Sophomore Kayson Campbell 11 tackles.

Freshman Holdyn Goff had nine tackles and one fumble recovery.

Freshman Mason Marquez had eight tackles.

Senior Alex Castillo with five tackles.

Senior Kyler Fossett had two tackles.

Senior Hunter Ewing had one tackle and one fumble recovery.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured below is Oglesby Tiger Holdyn Goff running the ball during the State Semifinal game against the Oakwood Panthers. See B2 for more photos.

TEAM GATESVILLE CHRISTMAS PARTY



COURTESY PHOTO

Team Gatesville Special Olympics members are pictured at their annual Christmas party. The party was held at Rancher's Steakhouse this past week to wrap up their year of sports. In 2024, the team of children and adult athletes participated in five sports, competed in numerous competitions, and attended a state competition in San Antonio. They also had many social outings, formed meaningful connections, demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship, and accomplished many goals.



Johnna Reynolds
TEXAS 1A FAN



DOVE

FROM PAGE B1

to know more people in the City of Gatesville, the county, and people from all over," he said.

The Dove Nest Motorsports Club is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information on pricing and membership, visit <https://www.domoclubctx.com/off-road>

Visit <https://www.dovenestestatevenue.com/> to learn more about Dove Nest Estate and hosting a wedding or event on the property.

Dove Nest is located at 2225 Co Rd 342 in Gatesville.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nhi Lieu and Toan Leung, owners of Dove Nest Motorsports Club and Dove Nest Estate



COURTESY PHOTO

KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The DOMO Dove Nest Motorsports Club of Central Texas offers space for weddings, events, and a three-mile racetrack for off-road vehicle enthusiasts.



2024 STATE SEMIFINALISTS OGLESBY TIGERS



COURTESY PHOTO

Holdyn Goff #4, Kayson Campbell #10, Mason Marquez #25, Jack Hendricks #20



COURTESY PHOTO

The Oglesby Varsity Tigers are pictured before the State Semifinals during the national anthem.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured (left to right) Hunter Ewing #5, Jakson Tippit #8, Alex Castillo #7, Holdyn Goff #4

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COURTESY PHOTO

Lady Elk and Female Athlete of the Month for October, Harley Weeks

Weeks named Female Athlete of the Month

Staff Reports

Evant High School senior, Harley Weeks, was recently named as the Class 1A Female Athlete of the Month for October by the Greater Texas Ford Dealers for her contributions to the volleyball team on and off the court.

As a four-year varsity setter, she has surpassed 2,000 career assists alongside 323 aces, 330 kills, and 423 digs.

Off the court, Weeks shines as a top student, a National Honor Society member, and multi-sport athlete. Her coach has been known to refer to her as, "a fierce competitor," who gives it all for her team.

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, during halftime of an Evant girls' basketball game in Goldthwaite, Hill Country Ford and the Greater Texas Ford Dealers presented Weeks with a trophy to signify her accomplishment.

Tiger Junior High Boys Basketball results

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High Boys A Team traveled to Aquilla on Monday, Dec. 9, to play the Aquilla Junior High Boys A Team.

The Aquilla Cougars won the contest, 48-26.

Top Scorers for Tigers: Liam Standridge was high point for Tigers with 10 points. Caiden Brinkley scored eight points. Rancher Jeffcoat scored four points. Judson Marquez scored four points.

The Junior High Boys A

Team will host the Evant Elks on Monday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m.

The Oglesby Junior High B Team played the Aquilla Cougars B Team on Monday, Dec. 9. Losing to the Cougars, 30-10. Judson Marquez was the high point with six points total. Fernando Uribe scored two points. Hunter Insall scored two points.

The Oglesby B Team will host the Evant Elks on Monday, Dec. 16.

Oglesby Junior High Girls Basketball loses to Aquilla Cougars

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Junior High girls' basketball team traveled to Aquilla on Monday, Dec. 9 to play the Aquilla Lady Cougars.

The Lady Tigers A Team lost to the Aquilla Lady Cougars A Team, 38-2. Malorie Renner scored two

points for the Lady Tigers.

The Oglesby B Team Lady Tigers lost to the Aquilla Lady Cougars, 25-2. Adi Margoitta scored two points for the Lady Tigers.

The Lady Tigers will host the Evant Elks on Dec. 16, and the game will begin at 4 p.m.

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RICKEY PHILLIPS

Athletic Director
Gatesville ISD
@RickeyPhillip12 on X

Winter sport notes

Girls Basketball: As of this writing, the Hornet Varsity was 9-2 overall and fresh off a title-winning performance at the Cameron tournament. The Cameron tourney is one of three tournaments on the GHS schedule - they are finishing up play in the Jarrell tourney today (Saturday) and will compete at the Troy Classic during Christmas break on Dec. 27-28. Emma Pollard and Callie Stovall earned all-tournament honors at Cameron, and there were several others that contributed greatly in those five wins.

Boys Basketball: Through their first 11 games, GHS has already faced eight playoff teams from a year ago and a couple of 5A opponents as well. One of the steady workhorses in the paint has been Rex Owen, who makes the most of his time coming off the bench getting second-chance put-backs and grabbing rebounds. Rex has really improved his basketball skills and physical strength the last 2-3 years.

Soccer: International flare: GHS will have 3-4 foreign exchange students on its rosters for the upcoming season.

Wrestling: GHS has never shied away from scheduling great competition, which is exactly what Coach Clater Jr.'s troops got at the recent Belton ISD Invitational with mostly 5A-6A opponents. The Hornets still managed eight match wins, with Brianna Allen and Ellie Knobloch finishing second and fifth in their respective weight classes.

...It was good to see former GHS coach Andy Gomez at a recent home match. Gomez, a 1979 graduate of Gatesville High, started the program here and has helped do the same at Salado and Waco Midway.

Notes and notes

...Shout-out to GHS Cross Country runner Vania Martinez. She was recently named to the Texas Girls Coaches Association's Class 4A All-State team.

...GHS Football placed 13 players on the THSCA 2024 Academic All-State Team.

The Hornet student-athlete honorees include ELITE: Dillon Daniels, Jeret Burks; 1st team: Kyle Casey, Dutch Nielsen, Roman Perez, Cameron Thompson; 2nd team: John Davidson, Jack Erwin, Gabe Pollard, Hunter Swindall, Memphis Wells; honorable mention: Logan Biggs, Logan Morgan. Congratulations, young men!

...With that additional 13 honorees, GHS fall-sport teams managed to land a whopping 20 spots on respective THSCA Academic All-State Teams for the fall seasons. This prestigious academic honor takes into account GPA, class rank, and ACT/SAT test scores. We are always proud to celebrate our student academic successes.

...Reminder, that all GHS and GJHS live-stream athletic events are now going through HUDDL FAN instead of YouTube.

The final drive home

I mentioned tournament play earlier in this column. As a former head coach, I can tell you there is hardly anything better than the ride home on the final day of your team's final tournament of the season...and for several reasons.

During the tourney stretch (which is normally on 2-3 consecutive weekends), your team is going six days a week and getting in anywhere from 5-10 games each week. You are

also sacrificing practice time for game time, which is what most coaches want early in the season prior to the start of district play. That grind is tough on everyone...athletes, coaches, and fans alike.

Even if you are driving the bus, that final ride home is pretty relaxing.

Upcoming schedule

Monday, Dec. 16
Boys Basketball: 7th-8th A-B Teams at La Vega
Girls Basketball: 7th-8th A-B Teams here vs. La Vega

Tuesday, Dec. 17
Boys Basketball: Varsity-JV Gold-JV Black at Lake Belton
Girls Basketball: Varsity-JV here vs. Palestine High

Wednesday, Dec. 18
Wrestling: Varsity-JV here vs. Pflugerville Connally

Friday, Dec. 20
Boys Basketball: Varsity-JV Gold-JV Black here vs. Waco High
Girls Basketball: Varsity-JV here vs. McGregor

Saturday, Dec. 21
Wrestling: Varsity at Bryan ISD Doc Hess Invitational

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GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS TEAM UP TO RING THE BELL



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville High School cheerleaders teamed up to help “ring the bell” for the benefit of the Salvation Army. Their collective efforts and enthusiasm brought attention to shoppers that were headed into Walmart that the Salvation Army needs their help.

SPORTS Roundup

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Oglesby Girls Lose to Mart

The Lady Tigers came up short against Mart last week, losing by a score of 49-21.

Coach Dylan Segundo said despite the loss, his team held its own in the game.

“I thought we played decent considering them being a bigger school with good athletes,” Segundo said. “It really helped us learn how to handle pressure better and focus on doing the little things right.”

Zarah Wisehart led the team in scoring with 10 points against Mart.

Oglesby also played Dawson this week and lost 45-41, and Segundo said his team looked pretty solid.

“That game was the best game we’ve played all year,” Segundo said. “We handled their press as well as we have all year and were able to knock down some open shots. A big focus for us has been defensive rebounding, and we did that well against Dawson.”

Segundo said he is happy with the way that the non-district schedule has prepared Oglesby for district competition.

“Overall, I am pleased

with the direction we are headed,” Segundo said on Saturday. “We have taken some tough losses the past few weeks to bigger schools, but I believe that it’s gotten us ready to start district Tuesday against Abbott.”

Gatesville Rolls Versus Valley Mills

The Gatesville girls’ basketball team defeated Valley Mills by a score of 56-17 last Friday to improve to 6-2 on the regular season.

Coach Whitney Holdbrook said it was a great all-around effort from her team.

“Our game against Valley Mills was a great team win,” Holdbrook said. “Every player contributed to get the win.”

Emma Pollard finished the game with seven points and six rebounds, while Taylor Sanderson had nine points and six rebounds.

Angie Jimenez also scored nine points with seven rebounds, and Paige Sentillas finished the game with seven assists.

The Lady Hornets had another strong performance in the game.

“Riley Higginbotham played great defense against Valley Mills’ top scorer and held her to five points for the game,” Hold-

brook said.

Evant Has Strong Showing at Walnut

The Lady Elks had a strong showing against Kopperl in the Walnut Springs Tournament this past week, defeating the Lady Eagles by a score of 60-22.

Molly Waldrum led the way for Evant with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lady Elks went on a 14-point run in the first half to take a 15-4 lead at halftime before closing out the victory.

The Lady Elks blocked six shots and finished the game with 14 steals while collecting 60 rebounds. Izzy Gandy led the team with 13 rebounds, and Daritza Escamilla knocked down two shots from beyond the arc for Evant.

Luwi Rodriguez (13 points), Escamilla (nine points), Bree Ramirez (eight points), Gandy (six points), Madison Barron (five points), and Lexie King (two points) all contributed to the win.

Jonesboro Goes 2-1 at Walnut Springs

The Jonesboro girls’ basketball team went 2-1 at the Walnut Springs Tournament this past weekend, finishing third place overall.

Jonesboro opened the tournament with a victory over Priddy by a score of 49-46.

“The game against Priddy was tough,” Coach Chris Simon said. “The game went back and forth, and we pulled it out in the fourth. I loved the fight my squad had for this game. Priddy could also be a playoff opponent, so this might not be the last time we see them.”

Jonesboro lost its second game against Cross Plains but rebounded to defeat Gustine.

“We came out firing and put it on them early,” Simon said about Gustine. “That’s how I like us to play. We were able to get some young girls in the game, and they stepped up as well. Good to see an all-around team game to end the tournament.”

Jonesboro won the game against Gustine by a score of 59-12.

Simon said he had a number of strong efforts in the tournament.

“Ella Gustin was named to the all-tournament team,” Simon said. “She played well this weekend. A good all-around performance for her each game being the point guard is tough, but she leads the squad well.

Ally Thorman and Emily Turner played well down low for us, usually leading us in rebounds.” Lynlee Deats also stepped it up this weekend. She had been struggling with her shot a little, but it started to come alive this weekend, which is huge going into district play on Tuesday. Our freshman Landri McFarlin played well on defense and was a good spark off the bench.”

Elks Come Up Just Short Against Gustine

The Evant boys’ basketball team lost to Gustine by a score of 42-40 last week in a game coach Matthew Weaver said his team looked pretty good.

“I thought we played our most complete game of the year so far,” Weaver said. “We rebounded well and shot well as a team.”

Cooper Stanford had 18 points and 12 rebounds, while Tanner Manville finished the game with 15 points and three steals.

Gatesville Wrestlers Getting Into Swing

The Hornets wrestling team competed in the Belton Tournament this past weekend and Coach Robert Clater, Jr. said he saw some good progress.

“Our newbies showed great growth, and our re-

turners finished well overall,” Clater, Jr. said. “We saw a lot of the people we are going to face in the district tournament, and it gave me high hopes for when we get there.”

Elaina Knobloch finished 5th place in a field of 16 and Brianna Allen finished 2nd of 16, “after a hard fought championship match.”

Eagles Off to Good Start

The Jonesboro boys’ basketball team got the season off on the right foot last week in the Walnut Springs Tournament, going 2-1 with wins over Priddy (68-28) and Kopperl (53-24).

Coach Kent Scott said he was impressed by the shape his team was in early on.

“I thought we did well considering we’d only had two practices since finishing football,” Scott said. “Pretty tough to single out players following the tournament. I thought the two wins were good team efforts, and we were able to get a look at some younger players over the tournament ... we’re still getting our basketball legs under us, but certainly showed some promising signs based upon performance over the weekend.”

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

TSU Women's Basketball bounces back with win over LeTourneau

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton Women's Basketball had five different players score in double figures and 56 points from its bench to clinch a 99-34 victory over LeTourneau Saturday, Dec. 7 at Wisdom Gym.

Tarleton shot a season-high 53.6% from the floor, its highest shooting percentage since Dec. 4, 2021.

Freshman guard Grace Booth led the Texans with her first collegiate double-double of 15 points and 13 rebounds off the bench. Booth's 13 rebounds set a new Division I Era program record for most boards in a single game by a Tarleton freshman. The Glen Rose native also tallied a season-high five steals, three assists and three blocks.

Sophomore center Faith Acker added 12 points and seven rebounds while senior guard Niki Van Wyk scored 11 points in her first game since Nov. 26. Guards Arleona Rosborough and Kyriana Jones also added 10 points

each for the Texans.

Tarleton got off to a quick start in the first quarter, opening the period on a 14-2 scoring run. A LeTourneau layup cut the deficit down to single digits, but the Texans scored the final six points of the first quarter to go back in front by double figures. The Texans knocked down 12 of its 18 shots in the first quarter for 66.7% shooting to finish the opening period with a 26-11 advantage.

Following a basket from sophomore forward Anya McKenzie, Van Wyk finished a layup through contact and converted the and-one opportunity. Booth helped start a 7-0 scoring run with a 3-pointer and fast break layup, with the Texans moving ahead by 26 with just under three minutes to play. LeTourneau scored the final two baskets of the half, but the Texans remained ahead by 21 points going into the locker room.

Tarleton continued its high-powered offense in the second half, scoring eight of

the first 10 points to start the third quarter. The Texans continued to expand the lead by going on a 12-0 scoring run capped off by Van Wyk making a basket while drawing a foul. Tarleton scored on each of its final three possessions of the third quarter to hold its lead entering the final 10 minutes.

The Texans continued to scorch the nets at Wisdom Gym in the fourth quarter, shooting 51.7% from the floor. Tarleton ended Saturday's game with 22 unanswered points to record its fifth win of the season.

Postgame Notes
Tarleton State's bench scored a season-high 56 points to help the Texans to the 99-34 win over LeTourneau. It is the most bench points by the Texans since Dec. 4, 2021 (70 vs. Arlington Baptist).

Freshman guard Grace Booth recorded her first collegiate double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Booth's 13 rebounds are the most by a Tarleton fresh-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton Women's Basketball had five different players score in double figures and 56 points from its bench to clinch a 99-34 victory over LeTourneau Saturday, Dec. 7 at Wisdom Gym.

man in a single game in the Division I Era.

Tarleton shot a season-high 53.6% percent from the floor. It was the Texans' best shooting percentage in a single game since Dec. 4, 2021 (55% vs. Arlington Baptist).

Eleven different Texans

dished out an assist for a season-high 25 assists. It was the most assists by the Texans since Nov. 6, 2023 (34 vs. Howard Payne).

Senior guard Niki Van Wyk came up with a season-high 11 points in her first game since Nov. 26. She missed the

previous three games due to injury.

Four different players (Booth, Van Wyk, Kyriana Jones and Anya McKenzie) all registered a season-high for points.

TSU Track and Field breaks several school records in indoor season opener

Tarleton State University

PITTSBURG, Kansas — Tarleton State Track and Field opened its indoor season with a bang, setting seven school records in a three-day span the first week of December. The Texans competed at the Shocker Multis Thursday and the Crimson & Gold Invitational Friday and Saturday.

The Texans had a historic opening weekend with six individuals breaking seven school records. In addition, 16 individuals posted 17 total program top 10 performances.

"It was a great meet for the Texans this weekend," said head coach Bobby Carter. "We had many school records broken and many personal bests. It's still early at this time of the year, and one thing I told our athletes is that regardless of how you did, we are always going to go back to the oval

office and figure out what we need to do better. It was good seeing where we are at as a team. There is still much more work to be done and we are excited to continue to keep moving forward and get ready for Texas Tech in January."

Shocker Multi

The Texans had three enter the women's pentathlon to kick start the indoor season in Wichita, Kansas.

Freshman Malak Rashwan stole the show, setting the new school record in her collegiate debut. Rashwan finished third with 3,495 points. The Egypt native also set a new program record in the 60-meter hurdles as part of the pentathlon. She finished second in the event in 8.71 seconds.

Jordan Rae scored 3,257 points and earned seventh place in her first event of the year. She finished second among pentathletes in the

high jump at 1.69 meters. Freshman Melaina Grissom accumulated 2,765 points to finish 11th in her collegiate debut.

Crimson & Gold Invitational Men

Angel Gomez set the new school record in the 5000 Friday night breaking his own record by 13 seconds. Not only did Gomez set the program record in 14:35.41, but he won the event. Last year, Gomez set the record of 14:48 at the Pittsburg State event. Freshman Toby Eaton posted the second-best time in program history finishing in seventh in 14:44.19.

A pair of Texans cracked the top 10 in the 60-meter dash. Sir Jonathan Sims posted the seventh best time in school history crossing in 6.93 seconds. Evan Wells tied the ninth best mark all-time finishing in 6.95 seconds.

Jace Poole posted the second-best time in program

history in the 3000 in the final event of the night. Poole finished fourth in 8:29.91. The sophomore was just two seconds shy of Kevin Baez's program record.

Mason Hill's performance in the weight throw earned him the fourth best throw in program history. Hill's best throw of 14.31 meters came on his second of three tosses. He finished 17th in the event. Hill also improved his PR in the shot put by .15 meters to 15.76 meters, the third best in program history. He finished ninth overall in the shot put.

Kebede Kerlin registered the fourth-best mile time in school history. His eighth-place time of 4:16.93 was less than a second behind Kevin Baez's third best time in program history.

Women

Kaitlyn Gale set a new school record in her first indoor meet as a Texan. The freshman ran the women's

5000m in 17:25.31 to finish sixth in the event. Senior Sage Lancaster notched the third best in program history crossing in 17:51.22. Lancaster recorded an 11th-place finish.

Junior Tayler Wesley broke the school record on her first throw in the women's weight throw. Her first throw of 16.98 meters was her best and it earned her a sixth-place overall finish.

Jourdaine Cerenil finished fifth in the high jump with a best jump of 1.66 meters. She was one of four Texans to finish in the top nine.

Amelie Monzie posted the fifth-best long jump in program history at 5.75 meters. In her first meet as a Texan, the sophomore from France finished sixth with her best jump coming on her third attempt.

Taylor McFarland shattered the school record in the 600-yard run by over four seconds. McFarland fin-

ished second in the event in 1:24.40. Veronica Duran posted the eighth-best time in the event crossing in 1:34.33. Ava Cantrell's 1:35.57 run ranks as the 10th best in program history.

In her first indoor collegiate meet, freshman Ella Smart posted the fourth best time in program history in the 3000 crossing in 10:35.93.

The women's 4x400 relay of McFarland, Cantrell, Nyla Barlow and Estival finished in 10th with the seventh best time in program history.

Amandine Estival posted a fifth-place finish in the 300, crossing in 39.58.

Tarleton State will have over a month off before the grind of the indoor season continues. The Texans will go to Texas Tech for back-to-back invites. The squad will start with the Corky Classic in Lubbock Jan. 17-18 at the Texas Tech Sport Performance Center.

Magical Texan football season ends in FCS Playoffs 2nd round

Tarleton State University

VERMILLION, S.D. — The 2024 season for Tarleton State Football was truly historic, and for three quarters on Saturday, Dec. 6 in the second round of the FCS Playoffs at South Dakota, it looked like the Texans' magical ride would continue on another week. But the Coyotes proved too tough at the end, ending Tarleton's season in Vermillion, South Dakota.

The No. 13 Texans (10-4) had their offense clicking for three quarters and led at The DakotaDome 28-21 entering the fourth quarter. The No. 4 Coyotes (10-2) outscored Tarleton 21-3 in the final frame to win 42-31 in a playoff classic between two top-15 teams in the country.

"Hats off to South Dakota, they've got a great team, they had just maybe three or four penalties and no turnovers, so they played really clean," head coach Todd Whitten said. "But I just couldn't be more proud of the way that our guys played. I thought we played really hard, battled until the end. We had a great season, an incredible senior class, so it kind of hurts right now, but I'm really proud of

our team."

Texan wide receiver Darius Cooper proved once again he belongs in the NFL, wowing the crowd with his acrobatic catches and touchdowns, finishing with three touchdowns on the day, a Texan Football playoff receiving record. He recorded nine receptions for 161 yards and three touchdowns overall.

Texan quarterback Victor Gabalis also set program playoff records with four passing touchdowns and 379 passing yards, completing 23-of-31 (.742). After going turnover-free over the previous four games, Gabalis had three interceptions Saturday, two off deflections that bounced the Coyotes' way.

Cody Jackson eclipsed 100 receiving yards, along with Cooper, finishing with four catches for 104 yards and a touchdown. Kayvon Britten rushed for 86 yards on 24 carries, and Benjamin Omayebu added five catches for 76 yards.

Defensively, Donta Stuart led the way with 15 tackles and a tackle for loss, his third game of the season posting double-digit tackles. Blake Smith added a tackle for loss and seven total tackles.

South Dakota narrowly held the edge in total yardage at 509-477, outgaining the Texans on the ground 296-98, while Tarleton had the passing attack going 379-213. Tarleton didn't punt the entire game, as South Dakota won the turnover battle 3-0 and the time of possession 33:12 to 26:48.

USD RB Travis Theis scored three touchdowns on the ground, totaling 130 yards on 25 carries (5.2 YPC). Charles Pierre Jr. added 80 yards on nine carries (8.9 YPC) and Quaron Adams busted one for a 70-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. Quarterback Aidan Bouman completed 18-of-22 (.818) for 213 yards and two touchdowns, one to Carter Bell (five receptions, 98 yards, one TD) and the other to Keyondray Jones-Logan (four receptions, five yards, one TD). Tim White, Mike Reid and Shahid Barros each had an interception for USD, while Mountain Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year Mi'Quise Grace had a team-high seven tackles and the team's lone tackle for loss.

Tarleton had a great start to this one, taking the opening drive 79 yards across 10

plays for a 33-yard Cooper touchdown. The first quarter nearly ended with just two drives spanning the 15-minute period, with South Dakota bleeding 9:41 off the clock across 15 plays. Theis capped it off with a 1-yard touchdown rush to make it 7-7 with 36 seconds left in the first quarter.

The Texans scored again on their next drive, this time a 43-yard Gabalis to Jackson connection to seal an 80-yard scoring drive. USD answered once again with another long drive, taking 12 plays and 7:37 off the clock, covering 75 yards. Theis once again cashed in on a 1-yard touchdown rush, knotting the game 14-14.

With 38 seconds left in the second quarter, Tarleton made it 3-for-3 on its three drives in the first half, with Cooper scoring his second touchdown, this time from 20 yards out. The Coyotes drove down quickly to give themselves a chance at a field goal, but Zeke Mata's 48-yard attempt was no good, putting the Texans in the locker room ahead at the break 21-14.

To start the third quarter, the Texans forced a three-and-out, the first punt of the

game. Tarleton couldn't take advantage, failing to score a touchdown for the first time, as Barros came down with the interception. USD took it down 60 yards on 11 plays, scoring on a Jones-Logan receiving touchdown from five yards out as he caught it off of a teammate's drop.

Tarleton responded quickly, covering 75 yards in five plays, scoring a 23-yard Cooper touchdown in just over two minutes of game action. Following that, Tarleton forced another punt, but another interception gave USD the ball in good field position to end the third quarter.

Theis ran it in from two yards out less than a minute into the fourth to tie the game 28-28. Tarleton scored for the final time on its next drive, a 23-yard Corbin Poston field goal, putting the Texans ahead 31-28 with 11:16 remaining.

Bouman found Jones-Logan for a 12-yard reception, who lateraled it to Bell for a touchdown to give the Coyotes their first lead of the game 35-31 with 9:36 remaining. Tarleton strung together a nice drive to put the Texans in prime position to take the lead, getting to the USD 35-

yard line, but they turned it over for a third time to put the game in jeopardy. Adams burst for a 70-yard touchdown to put the Coyotes up two scores with 5:13 left. Tarleton marched down to give themselves a chance, getting to the USD 21-yard line, but turned it over on downs to essentially end the game with just over two minutes to play. Three more first downs by Theis allowed USD to run out the clock and advance the Coyotes to the quarterfinals.

USD remained undefeated at home on the year, improving to 7-0. The Coyotes will host No. 5 UC Davis in Vermillion next week.

For the Texans, this was the longest season in Tarleton Football history, playing 14 games for the first time and playing until Dec. 7 for the first time.

Cooper ends his Texan career with 29 career touchdowns, the second most in program history, only behind Zimari Manning (34). Cooper also concludes with 3,185 career receiving yards, the most in program history. Britten ends his Texan career with 3,132 rushing yards across just two seasons, the fourth most in program history.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERITH WELLS

Pictured left to right, Katie Hopson, Paisley Wells, and Memphis Wells

GHS Choir students advance to area round

Submitted by Cherith Wells, GHS Choir Director

On Friday, we had seven students compete in the TMEA Pre-Area auditions, which is the second of three rounds to make the All-State Choir.

These kids performed cuts from two crazy hard pieces of music titled, "Laudate Pueri" (Latin) and "Tchaka" (Haitian creole). They also competed in sightreading where they are given 30 seconds to study eight measures of music they've never seen before. Then they must perform it acapella. Both auditions are before a blind panel of five professional judges.

Our students performed

extremely well, and ultimately, we have three kids headed to the Area round in January, which will be their final audition in the quest for a coveted All-State seat.

Katie Hopson took second chair in soprano; Memphis Wells took third chair in bass; and Paisley Wells took fourth chair in tenor.

They have more music to learn and even more difficult sightreading for the Area round, so wish them good luck as they continue preparing.

I participated in this process as a high school student and I never made it as far as they have, so I am extremely proud of them. I cannot stress enough how fierce the competition is.

Fightin' Hornet Band receives All-Region awards

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School Fightin' Hornet Band has announced that 13 band members were selected to the 2024 High School Association of

Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) as Area and Region Band Qualifiers.

All-Region Band members include:

Matthew Yocom, French Horn; Orion Williams, Percussion; Logan Navejas,

Percussion; Eason Johnson, Percussion; and Reagan Breeden, Percussion.

All-Region Band members and Area Qualifiers include:

Danny Rodriguez, Clarinet; Dylan Granados,

Clarinet; Gabriella Horton, Bass Clarinet; Emily Kelly, Trumpet; Alex Johnson, French Horn; Aaron Yocom, Trombone; Madilyn Manear, Euphonium; and Carvin Coppersmith, Percussion.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Fightin' Hornet Band is pictured at their recent trip to State, where they placed eighth and made school history.

'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 Se-

nior 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 am. 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.TeamSideline.com/GatesvilleTX.

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

CORYELL Kids

National Monkey Day

December 14, 2024

Did You Know?

THE BEST WAY TELL A MONKEY FROM AN APE IS A TAIL OR NO TAIL. MONKEY HAVE PREHENSILE TAILS APES DO NOT.

Word Puzzle Game

Monkeys

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

D	F	J	Q	J	U	O	T	A	Q	Y	O	T	E	F
D	F	R	V	P	R	I	K	H	N	V	S	A	Y	L
W	K	H	E	T	E	V	R	E	V	R	Q	M	S	G
N	C	I	Z	D	V	N	T	Q	C	A	U	A	B	F
R	L	B	D	S	I	L	E	H	D	S	I	R	E	P
H	F	H	S	Z	N	P	I	Q	I	Z	R	I	N	U
O	N	B	H	S	J	X	S	B	E	R	R	N	W	W
W	I	C	D	Q	S	R	E	B	J	I	E	P	L	E
L	H	H	F	G	Z	X	U	U	K	E	L	Z	I	Q
E	C	U	O	M	I	N	Q	K	Q	B	E	R	I	Y
R	U	R	F	G	O	B	Y	P	D	A	A	O	V	H
T	P	R	C	O	M	I	B	F	T	Q	C	R	O	H
C	A	D	B	T	N	Y	A	O	Y	I	X	A	U	R
V	C	A	S	G	E	A	S	E	N	R	M	U	M	Y
T	B	X	G	A	T	R	H	E	S	U	S	G	X	O

Word Bank

1. spider	2. gibbon	3. tamarin	4. squirrel
5. vervet	6. capuchin	7. howler	8. macaque
9. rhesus	10. baboon		

COLOR Time

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

GJH College & Career gains local insight on their future

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville Junior High School's College & Career class hosted a fair with 14 local businesses and five colleges in the gymnasium on Thursday, Dec. 5. Students were given opportunities to learn about possible education and career pathways that will impact their future and education.

College & Careers Teacher Denise Jones expressed she believes it is important for the community to see how the class

actively works toward their future each day.

Students were able to meet with different groups to discuss their plans and how to make it a reality, including the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce, various colleges, banks, soldiers from Fort Cavazos, and much more.

The fair gave students the option to have discussions with various colleges to provide insight into scholarships and financial aid as well.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

An education professional from Central Texas College discusses the benefits of attending college with a group of students.

Evant ISD ACE sponsors Elk Family Christmas Festival

Staff Reports

Evant Independent School District will host an Elk Family Christmas Festival, sponsored by the ACE program, on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

The festival will be held in the Evant ISD cafeteria from 4:15-6:15 p.m. The holiday event will

feature cookies, hot chocolate, arts and crafts, and activities for the community.

There will be no buses provided to or from the festival.

For further information, contact Evant ISD at 254-471-5536.

Evant ISD is located at 339 Memory Lane in Evant.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Junior High students Sebastian Hubik, Preston Barron, Jennar Velasquez, and Andrew Winkler are pictured with a game warden while discussing what animals the antlers came from.

STPA journalism scholarships 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.

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

METHODIST CHURCH
GATESVILLE • TEXAS



Shutterbug
SUBMISSIONS

CHRISTMAS ON MARSHALL ST. IS HUGE SUCCESS

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Independent School District's Christmas on Marshall St. annual event was held on Dec. 7. Due to the weather, the event was moved into the old gymnasium at the high school. The event featured food, crafts, jewelry, Santa, kids' activities, handcrafted items, gifts, and more.



CHRISTMAS AT MOTHER NEFF STATE PARK

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

In conjunction with "A Mother Neff Christmas" held at Mother Neff State Park on Dec. 7, a donation drive was also held benefiting a local pet rescue. Mother Neff State Park Association collected several items to support Charlie's Wags and Whiskers. The items that were in high demand were 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 animals waiting for their "forever" homes. Other activities included geocaching, a scavenger hunt, Christmas crafts, cookie decorating, pictures with Santa, hot cocoa and apple cider, holiday shopping, and guided hikes.



Pictured left to right are Mother Neff State Park volunteers, Diana Lockhart and Becky Roe, who helped with the donation drive.

Mother Neff State Park Director Melissa Chadwick is pictured with Santa, who made a special appearance at the Mother Neff Christmas event.