



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Dec. 28, 2024

\$1.00

SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 58, ISSN No. 0894-4954



City to allocate COVID relief funds for library, City Hall repairs

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Following thousands of dollars' worth of water damage and mold concerns that led to the closure of the Gatesville Public Library in September, the Gatesville City Council approved additional funding for the building's repairs.

The council approved obligating \$473,000 of leftover federal COVID relief funds toward three contracts with GG Construction for the library and City Hall

roof repairs at a meeting on Dec. 10.

The city received approximately \$3 million in relief funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, which delivered \$350 billion in aid to local governments across the country following the outbreak of COVID-19. Recipients must obligate any remaining Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) under ARPA before the end of the year, according to the deadline set

by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

"In order to keep the funds, we need to be in contract, not just say it's in the budget or have a resolution, but an actual contract by December 31," Deputy City Manager Mike Halsema said. Halsema said the funds will mainly cover construction purposes for the library and not cover the replacement of lost materials or books.

The city will allocate around \$311,000 of the

funds for library rehabilitation under the first contract. This includes replacing flooring, repairing and repainting the interior walls, and moving the stored shelving back into place.

The second contract will obligate \$99,000 toward roof repairs at City Hall, which received damage during severe weather events in the spring. The third contract will allocate

PLEASE SEE **RELIEF** | A2

Year in REVIEW

As 2024 comes to an end, *The Gatesville Messenger* offers a snapshot of some of the biggest local news stories of the year.

This list kicks off the first five of the most memorable headlines in Gatesville and Coryell County.

10 Oglesby makes it to state semifinals

The Oglesby Varsity Tigers football team made it to the state semifinals after defeating the undefeated Richland Springs Coyotes at the Belton Tiger Stadium on Friday, Nov. 29.

The Tigers played the Oakwood Panthers on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Robinson Rocket Stadium in the state semifinals. Although the team lost 54-51 to the Panthers, they ended their season as 11-3 semifinalists.

Oglesby 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 the offseason and make another run for the championship at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

9 Cole Middleton remains identified

Coryell County investigators identified the remains of 21-year-old Cole Middleton who was reported missing in 2015.

The skeletal remains were found on a rural property in Coryell County in April 2022. Coryell County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to an address on Riverbend Lane in Gatesville on the evening of April 23, 2022, after a caller reported finding possible human remains on the property.

A search of the missing persons database at the time revealed that Cole Middleton was a known missing Gatesville-area resident. An investigator with the sheriff's office contacted Middleton's family about the discovery.

The remains were sent for genetic and anthropological analysis in North Texas. Julia Middleton, Cole's mother, provided a saliva sample to compare with the DNA extracted from the discovered remains. The genetic testing confirmed that the DNA samples matched Julia Middleton, confirming that the remains were those of Cole Middleton.

The Gatesville Police Department Dispatch removed Cole Middleton from the Texas Crime Information Center Missing Person Record on Nov. 14, 2024.

8 Gatesville residents face prison sentences in Waco murder case

Jessica Colleen Robinson and Erin Baily Finchum, of Gatesville, faced convictions for the murder of Waco resident Elizabeth Romero in 2022.

Robinson pled guilty to murder, a first-degree felony charge, on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and was sentenced to 47 years in prison.

Finchum was found guilty by a Coryell County grand jury on Monday, July 22 for the offense of murder and tampering with physical evidence.

Romero was originally reported missing by Waco police in April 2022 after her family lost contact with her. In May 2022, the Coryell County Sheriff's Office received a tip suggesting that Romero may have been murdered at the 800 block of Moccasin Bend Road and that her body had been loaded "in a blue pickup and dumped off a bridge," according to a filed complaint.

Robinson and Finchum were arrested on charges related to the killing of Romero in 2022.

PLEASE SEE **REVIEW** | A2



YOU'RE A MEAN ONE, MR. GRINCH



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grinch gets "wrapped up" during the Coryell County 4-H Christmas party. See story on A15.

Local receives Lifetime Achievement Award from President Biden

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

At the age of 86, Dave Gauvey, better known as "Santa Dave," recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joe Biden in honor of his years of service to Santa's Workshop at Fort Cavazos. "I suspected they might do something to honor me, but I had no idea this one was coming," he said.

Gauvey, a native of Ohio, would earn three master's degrees and would later become a college professor and teacher. His identity

as Santa Claus began when he was approached by a stranger who thought he greatly resembled the Santa from the 1947 movie, "Miracle on 34th Street." That's when it all started for Gauvey. Since that time, he became known as Santa Dave and would help homeless families to celebrate during the Christmas season.

His visits to military bases began early in his Santa career. His involvement with Fort Hood, now known as Fort Cavazos, began in 2003

when he began working with "Santa's Workshop," which was established about 1998.

Gauvey explained, "Santa's Workshop is for the troops, and they get approximately between \$150 and \$200 worth of toys each year. The way it works, the parents come in at an appointed time and an appointed day, and they pick out toys based on their children's ages and what their children would like."

He continued, "When the parents come in to pick up

the toys, they are placed in black storage bags, and that way the parents can take them home and the kids don't pay any attention because that's the first week in December and they aren't expecting toys coming into the house until the third week of December. Also, the parents can say that the gifts are from Mommy and Daddy, Santa Claus, or anyone else they want to give credit to."

Gauvey moved to Gatesville in 2018.

PLEASE SEE **AWARD** | A2



Trinity Baptist Church

Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor

Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.
Worship:
First service at 8:15 a.m.
Second service at 11:00 a.m.

1506 W. Main Street
Gatesville, TX
Church 865-8495
Pre-school 248-0041

Mission Statement:

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

REVIEW

FROM PAGE A1

7 Gatesville Fightin' Hornet Band makes history at state

The Gatesville High School Fightin' Hornet Band made history not only by advancing to state, but also placing eighth at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

2024 marked the third year in a row that the band qualified for state.

At any State UIL Contest, each marching band is only guaranteed one performance, but the Fightin' Hornet Band was able to perform twice, with their second performance being in the finals.

Assistant Band Director Corbin Myers said that many programs go their entire existence and never make it the State Marching Contest, much less finals. "Placing among the top 10 bands in the state is, itself, a huge accomplishment. This placement, and the previous year's placements, is establishing a status quo for us," he said.

Eason Johnson, a band student, expressed that there is no stadium or environment like the Alamodome, and that it was amazing to perform and show the state what it means to "Rep the G."

6 City of Gatesville names new city manager and police chief

Following the resignation of former city manager Scott Albert in May, the City of Gatesville named a new city manager and police chief this year.

Former Gatesville Police Chief Brad Hunt served as interim city manager until the city council appointed him permanently to the role as Gatesville City Manager in September.

Following the appointment, the city sought a new chief for the Gatesville Police Department. Jeffrey Clark, a former deputy chief at the Temple Police Department, was named Gatesville's Chief of Police in November. Clark was officially sworn in at a city council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

See the Jan. 4, 2025 issue for stories 1-5.

AWARD

FROM PAGE A1

ville in 2015 to be near Fort Hood's Santa's Workshop, which he had become a great supporter of. When he first visited Gatesville as a possible new home, he became very impressed with how friendly the residents were. "People treated me as if I was born here and had lived here all my life, and I thought that Gatesville would be a nice place to live."

Explaining his yearly involvement with Santa's Workshop, he said, "One of the things that keeps me going back is that probably the second or third year I did it, back then they were training the troop who were going to Afghanistan and Iraq, a certain young man came into the facility from Wisconsin. He was carrying two large plastic bags full of toys for his children. On his way out, he stopped, turned around, and looked at the group. I knew exactly what he was thinking, "These people did this for me."

Early into his career as Santa Dave, Gauvey authored a children's book titled "Santa's Socks," which was distributed to the public in 2003. When asked what inspired him to write the book, he replied, "I really didn't have any choice. I woke up one Saturday morning with the entire book written in my mind and I just put it on paper. I figured somebody's talking to me, and they wanted this book out, so I'll write it." Al-



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Santa Dave displays the recent Lifetime Achievement Award he received from the White House in honor of his hard work and devotion to Santa's Workshop at Fort Cavazos.

though the book is now out of print, it can sometimes be found on Amazon.

This year, at the annual ribbon-cutting opening of Santa's Workshop, Gauvey was honored and presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Thomas Feltey, Major General, U.S. Army Commanding General. Feltey also presented Gauvey with a letter from the president of the United States.

In part, President Biden wrote, "The American story

depends not on any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us. I congratulate you on taking it upon yourself to contribute to the public good, and I'm proud to present you with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of your 4,000 hours of service to this great nation."



Biden continued, "By sharing your time and passion you are helping discover and deliver solutions to the challenges we face - solu-

tions that we need now more than ever. We are living in a moment that calls for hope and light and love - hope for our futures, light to see our way forward, and love for one another. Through your service, you are providing all three."



Considering the many awards and recognition he has received over the years, Gauvey said, "This has to be by far the best I've ever received - a Lifetime Achievement Award from the White House."

Big City Knee Replacement

Small Town Care

At Coryell Health, our doctors perform minimally-invasive high-tech procedures using the ROSA Robot to ensure your knee replacement is done with limited complications, high precision and the small town care you trust.

CLINICS


GATESVILLE

CLIFTON

COMANCHE

WACO

Dr. Lance Ellis & Dr. Jacob Battle
Orthopedic Surgeons



(254) 483-KNEE

CoryellHealth.org



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

During a Dec. 10 city council meeting, Library Director Shea Harp provided a tour of the library to reveal the building's restoration progress.

RELIEF

FROM PAGE A1

nearly \$20,000 for additional rehabilitation at the library, such as restoring the kitchen and work area countertops and cabinets and replacing existing water fountains.

The three contracts are not to exceed \$430,000, and the remainder of the \$473,000 will cover ARPA interest funds. The contracts are with GG Construction - the firm that also performed mold remediation at the library.

Around \$2.6 million of the ARPA funds were

previously obligated to the city's Lovers Lane and water production clarifier rehabilitation projects.

The City of Gatesville closed the library after a patron found books on the shelves with water damage. According to a previous press release, the cause of the water damage was most likely related to roof damage received during storms in the spring.

Although testing deemed that the air quality in the building was at safe levels, the library lost about 27,000 books - around \$500,000 worth - due to water damage and concerns about mold.

Library Director Shea

Harp said during the meeting that the library is also looking at other grants to help replace the services and content lost to the damage. The Friends of the Gatesville Public Library, along with local cities and organizations, are also helping the library replace lost materials. In early December, Gatesville's HEB donated \$50,000 to Friends of the Gatesville Public Library to help replace the books lost in the closure.

The Gatesville Public Library's temporary location is at City Hall on 803 E Main Street. Harp said that the library hopes to reopen in March or April.

First National Bank

P.O. Box 309, Evant, TX 76525
Phone: 254-471-5531. Fax: 254-471-3180
www.fnbevant.com

P.O. Box 659, Gatesville, TX 76528
Phone: 254-865-2783, Fax: 254-865-1293
www.fnb gatesville.com

P.O. Box 127, Oglesby, TX 76561
Phone: 254-470-2261, Fax: 254-456-2517
www.fnboglesby.com

"Always Putting You First!"



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Happy New Year to one and all!



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

This time of year, lots of folks make New Year's resolutions as a tool to motivate themselves into some sort of positive change. It might be to quit smoking, or perhaps to exercise more, or even to be more dedicated to spending time with family and friends.

All of these are noble pursuits, but research shows that 90% of New Year's resolutions are thrown out the window and forgotten about within the first

60 days of the new year. Does this mean it would be wise to make a resolution to keep our resolutions? Wait a minute, wouldn't we break that resolution, too?

Most resolutions are a commitment to something we know we should already be doing. I am pretty sure we all know smoking is bad for our health. So why do we need to wait until a new year to make an expression of commitment to doing better? Why don't we just go ahead and act? Is it by waiting until the new year we can put off the uneasiness we will experience in fulfilling the resolution?

A wise man once told me there are two types of pain in the world. There is the pain of disappointment we have in ourselves for not doing what we already know we need to do, and there is the pain in actually performing what needs to be done. We each make a choice as to which one of those pains we want to live with.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to look in the mirror and know when someone needs to lose weight. People know if they are not making a real commitment in their job, in their marriage, and with their families. They know what they should be doing, and when they fail, they suffer in anguish because they understand they could be better; they let themselves down.

So, why don't we simply do what we know we should do?

For whatever reason, humans do not wish to push themselves out of their comfort zone. They know they shouldn't grab that extra piece of pie, or have a fast-food burger instead of a salad, but they want the instant gratification that the pie provides. It would

take a sacrifice to make a change for the better.

It would be easy for me to get off the sofa and go and walk 45 minutes every night after my evening meal. It is simply a matter of making myself get off my behind and go do it. There will be pain as my out-of-shape body adjusts to the new-found exercise program, and I will be uncomfortable because my brain will whisper in my ear, "the sofa is very comfortable, and the Mavs game is coming on in a few minutes." My brain will rationalize it is too cool outside; it was such a long exhaustive day, and I am too pooped to walk, or I can catch up tomorrow. Each time we allow ourselves to be talked into abandoning what we already know we need to be doing, we place ourselves in a position to

suffer the pain of failure and of disappointing ourselves and others.

There is certainly pain in fulfilling a resolution. If the goal is to quit smoking, the road to accomplishment may bring irritability or weight gain. Exercise will take time out of your schedule; weight loss may require a different diet and saying goodbye to certain foods. Spending more time with your kids might require spending less time fishing, on the golf course or at work. There will be a sacrifice and the pain that comes with it. It is up to you which pain you want to live with.

Choose wisely!

Thought for day: The future depends on what you do today.

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

Holiday closures for New Year's Day

Staff Reports

In observance of New Year's Day, 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, City of Oglesby, and the City of Evant will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

The Coryell County Court-house will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

The Farm Service Agency will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

SCHOOLS

Gatesville ISD will be closed through Friday, Jan. 3, and on Monday, Jan. 6 for a Staff Development Day.

Jonesboro ISD will be closed through Tuesday, Jan. 14.

Oglesby ISD will be closed through Friday, Jan. 10, and on Monday, Jan. 13, for a Staff Development Day.

Evant ISD will be closed

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

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

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Extraco Bank, Cadence Bank, the First National Bank of Central Texas, Educators Credit Union, and the First National Bank of Gatesville, Evant, and Oglesby will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

POST OFFICES

All local post offices will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Senior & Multi-Service Center will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 31, and on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

MUSEUM

The Coryell County Museum & Historical Center will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

NEWSPAPER

The Gatesville Messenger will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties receives \$25,000 grant from E.R. Carpenter Foundation

Press Release

The E.R. Carpenter Foundation awarded CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties \$25,000 in grant funding to assist with the advocacy work that CASA provides to abused and neglected children in Bell and Coryell Counties.

Thomas Stinson, the company's Division Manager in Temple, made the presentation to CASA Executive Director Kevin Kyle, Director of Volunteer Engagement, Maddy Ramos, and Outreach Coordinator, Corinne Donnelly. Grant funds provided by the foundation will be used to recruit and train volunteer advocates so they can effectively serve children who have been placed in foster care. Expanding the number of volunteers will directly support CASA's mission to serve more children in need.

E.R. Carpenter is one of the world's largest manufacturers of comfort cushioning products that include bedding, foam, cushions, carpeting, and other packaging products. The Carpenter Foundation invests in local agencies and projects that have the opportunity to significantly impact needs in the community. CASA trains volunteers to provide a voice

for abused and neglected children that are placed in the foster care system.

"Having the support of the Carpenter Foundation has allowed us to add quality staff members and enabled us to grow our volunteer base the past few years" stated Kevin Kyle, Executive Director at CASA. "Our ability to serve more children depends on the work our staff does to recruit and retain great volunteer advocates, and this would not be possible without the Carpenter Foundation".

Stinson added, "CASA volunteer advocates are dedicated to making a difference for the children in foster care. I'm impressed with the work they do and how they have to make sure these kids in foster care have someone looking out for their best interests. It's important to know that our funds help make a direct impact on increasing the number of kids CASA can serve and that's why we support this wonderful cause."

CASA is actively seeking volunteer advocates to serve children in the Bell and Coryell Counties. If you are interested in learning more about CASA, please call 254-774-1881 or go on-



Pictured left to right is Division Manager from Temple, Tommy Stinson, and the Executive Director of CASA, Kevin Kyle.

line to www.casabellcoryell.org. If your company would like to support CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties, please email casa@casabellcoryell.org.

CASA would like to thank

the E.R. Carpenter Foundation and Mr. Stinson for their generous support in their efforts to provide every child with a voice.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

LORI MCLAUGHLIN

Say hello to our neighbor, Lori McLaughlin!

Lori is the Human Resource Director for the City of Gatesville and will celebrate her 10-year anniversary with the city in February. She expressed that the best part about her job is being able to talk with employees and getting to know them and their families. She also enjoys being in public and catching up with people around town. When she isn't working for the city, she enjoys her time with her new business adventure, "L&M Clothing Company" inside the 1854 Mercantile. "I love keeping up with the latest styles and helping people feel good about themselves," she said. "I have met some wonderful new faces as well!" She was born and raised in Gatesville and has lived here her entire life. She has deep roots in Gatesville since her parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents were born here. "I love the history of Gatesville," she said. "I love hearing stories from the past; it is a great community to live in."

Lori reads *The Gatesville Messenger* and said that she always enjoys reading the "Whatever Happened To" section. "*The Messenger* always keeps you updated on the news in and around Coryell County," she said.

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

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
A Hyde Media Group, LLC Company

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

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

Copy Editor
JODI MANNING
jodi@gatesvillemessenger.com

Staff Writers
DAVID SCOTT
david@gatesvillemessenger.com

KAYLEE DUSANG
kaylee@gatesvillemessenger.com

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
alex@gatesvillemessenger.com

gatesvillemessenger.com

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

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

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

RETAIL ADVERTISING

P.O. Box 799
116 South 6th Street,
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Marketing Consultant
KAITLYN SMITH
kaitlyn@gatesvillemessenger.com

Classifieds
classifieds@gatesvillemessenger.com

For more information:
(254) 865-5212

CLASSIFIEDS

Have a car to sell? Want to rent your house? Planning a garage sale?
Phone: (254) 865-5212
email: classifieds@gatesvillemessenger.com
CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: noon Tuesday

CIRCULATION

For delivery or billing questions, subscriptions and vacation stops, call (254) 865-5212.
email: circulation@gatesvillemessenger.com

Delivery in county:
1 Year _____ \$50 1 Year, digital _____ \$40
2 Years _____ \$95

Delivery to remainder of Texas:
1 Year _____ \$70 1 Year, digital _____ \$50
1 month, digital _____ \$14.95



Chief Operating Officer
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

President
KIM WARE
publisher@tricityreporter.com

Vice President Operations
DARREN CLARK
darren@hcnews.com

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

Copperas Cove high school educator arrested, charged for alleged sexual assault of child

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

A Copperas Cove high school educator was arrested on Thursday, Dec. 19 for the alleged sexual assault of a child, according to a media release by the Copperas Cove Police Department.

Lawrence Dale Varela-Halbert, 39, was charged on three counts of sexual assault of a child by Coryell County Justice of the Peace on Friday, Dec. 20.

On Nov. 7, Copperas Cove police were notified of an

allegation regarding an improper relationship between a female student and an educator at S.C Lee Junior High School. The offense reportedly occurred in 2021 when the student attended the school, and where the educator was also employed at the time.

Police say investigators found that a sexual relationship happened between the student and the educator at his residence in Copperas Cove in 2021.

According to a statement by Copperas Cove ISD, the

district initially became aware of the allegation in late October, and the educator was immediately removed from campus and placed on administrative leave.

“The safety and well-being of our students is of utmost importance, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that our school community remains a safe and welcoming environment for all,” Superintendent Dr. Joe Burns said in the statement. “In the meantime, I encourage you to speak with your

children about the importance of speaking up if they witness or experience any behavior that makes them feel uncomfortable.”

Varela-Halbert was taken into custody after the case was reviewed by a Coryell County grand jury on Dec. 19.

According to the jail roster, Varela-Halbert was booked at the Coryell County Jail on Saturday, Dec. 21. He is being held on a \$150,000 bond.



COURTESY OF COPPERAS COVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lawrence Dale Varela-Halbert

We Proudly Serve Starbucks coffee shop opens at Coryell Health

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Coryell Health now proudly serves Starbucks beverages at a new coffee shop located in the hospital lobby.

Luby’s Culinary Services, a partner of the hospital, recently opened the We Proudly Serve Starbucks café that includes a full menu of specialty espresso and coffee drinks, teas, and more.

Designed to serve patients, visitors, and staff, this welcoming space offers a much-needed oasis of comfort, convenience, and community, according to a statement by Coryell Health.

“We’re excited to enhance the experience for everyone at Coryell Health,” Coryell Health CEO David Byrom said. “This new coffee shop is more than just a place to grab a cup of coffee. It’s a space for connection, comfort, and care—values that align closely with the mission of Coryell Health.”

The Starbucks at Coryell Health operates from 6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The coffee shop accepts payments of cash, credit card, and employee payroll deductions. It cannot accept Starbucks gift cards and is not connected to orders on the Starbucks app.

“We are excited that this service will be a welcoming space designed for visitors, friends, and family members who are here to support their loved ones,” said John H. Hinton, Regional Director of Operations, Luby’s Culinary Services. “Whether you need a comforting cup of coffee, a light snack, or a moment to relax, our coffee shop will help you recharge during your visit. We can’t wait to serve you!”

Coryell Health is located at 1507 W Main Street, Gatesville, TX 76528.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The We Proudly Serve Starbucks coffee shop at Coryell Health provides a full menu and operates from 6:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Sam is making a movie



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Sam Williamson, of Dallas, is making his first big movie. It’s about a woman in the Big Bend who was kidnapped and held hostage for 16 hours.

During that time, she was sexually assaulted. The victim, Jayson Woodward, was extremely resourceful during the ordeal and showed great courage in planning her escape. She wrote a book titled “Borderline.” She searched for someone to turn the book into a movie and chose Sam.

He took his degree in advertising to the biggest theatrical agent in Dallas. “I told her I wanted to be an actor, and she sent me on a big cattle call for a McDonalds commercial

and told me that if I got it she would represent me. So, out of 200 people who auditioned, I ended up getting the commercial. Then I did commercials for Coke and Coors Light, Chevrolet and Pizza Hut, and went to Mazatlan and did a Florida tourism spot. I was on “Walker Texas Ranger” a few times. Chuck Norris taught me hand-to-hand combat. That was cool. Then I got into the voiceover world. I did a TV commercial for Taco Bueno, and someone at the agency liked my

voice so I did a voiceover spot for Pepsi.” Then he voiced some characters on animated shows. He was on some doctor shows on television, too.

In about 2008, he decided to go his own way. He did a podcast during the pandemic with the title “How the World Works.”

He started a production company with the name Molly Llama Studios. His wife is named Molly, and her favorite animal is the llama. He co-produced a film, “Deadland,” that won honors at the South By Southwest film competition in Austin. Sam helped direct or produce four other films, but “Borderline” is his first movie all his own. His nephew gave him the book “Borderline” and he got in touch with Jayson Woodward in January this year. She had been in touch with other movie producers, but after visiting with her for thirty minutes she said: “You’re my man. So, it’s off to the races. It’s a huge responsibility that I don’t take lightly, telling someone’s

story.”

“We’re working on the final script and, hopefully, we’ll start filming by the end of the year. We initially had 340 pages. Usually, the script for a film is between 110-120 pages. We’ve done a lot of editing but have kept the story intact and authentic. We’re so lucky to have her book and, especially, her presence to help us get it right.”

Jayson’s ordeal happened in 1985 and she made an extremely brave and daring escape from her kidnapper, who is now in prison.

Sam and his crew had a borderline moonshine celebration to kick things off. It took place at the Marathon Motel in October on a night where the moon was in the same position it was in 1985 when Jayson was abducted. This time the light is shining on everything nice that has happened in her life since. He is proud to say it is a Texas story, Texas-funded, and Texas-filmed.

SUDOKU

Puzzle answers from the Dec. 21, 2024 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2004)

Coryell County District Clerk Janice Gray was selected for inclusion in the Metropolitan Executive & Professional Registry.

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce selected the home of Randy and Mary Bruton at 102 Bruton Lane as the residential 2004 Best Christmas Display.

Jackie’s Horseshoe Too advertised a ribeye dinner

for two, plus all the fixings for \$18.50.

Blake Kimbrough, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Flat, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

The Gatesville Riding Club was recognized as the 2004 runner-up “Rodeo Committee of the Year” by the United Professional Rodeo Association.

30 YEARS AGO (1994)

Iron Work Gym & Aerobic Center offered gym and aerobics combined for \$30 a month.

Driver licenses were getting a new look in 1995.

Work was slated to begin at five locations on state highways in Coryell County to replace metal guard rails.

Charles Russell Harber retired from duty at the MATES site in Gatesville.

Gatesville Fire Department was set to host a New Year’s Dance.

40 YEARS AGO (1984)

Four-year-old Chris Watson received a commendation from the Gatesville Exchange Club for his outstanding performance as a shepherd boy in the Christmas parade.

Wal-Mart was selling three-packs of cassette

tapes for \$2 each.

Womble Pontiac-Buick-Old-GMC, Inc. advertised the 1984 Pontiac 1000 for \$6,635.

Don’s Grocery & Market advertised hog jowls for 49 cents a pound. “Beverly Hills Cop” was showing at the Drive-In.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

Dr. Bobby Bates was set to open a dental clinic on

Leon Street.

James (Jim) Brown began his new duties as Gatesville’s chief of police.

Mrs. Peggy Williams took the oath of office as Gatesville’s first woman mayor. Vandals broke out glass in 12 windows on the south side of the Gatesville High School building.

Thompson and Tippit advertised men’s pants for \$5.

The giving spirit, that is Christmas, shows up for the Salvation Army Red Kettle

Submitted by Joyce Talbott

Bringing Hope, Love, and Unity to Gatesville: The Impact of the Salvation Army

Our community has shown remarkable support and enthusiasm for donating generously whenever they see the iconic Red Kettle. This year's response has been truly inspiring, showcasing a shared commitment to making a positive impact and helping those in need. The Gatesville Salvation Army reminds all its bell ringers that their role is stress-free—"The Kettle Does the Work!"—we even provide stress balls. Thanks to our community's generosity, with donations ranging from pennies to twenties, we raised about \$21,500 during the 2024 campaign! Every penny collected stays right here in Gatesville, supporting our neighbors.

Community Support and Volunteer Efforts

Churches across Gatesville—including CCC, FMC, Trinity, Church of Christ, Presbyterians, and Eastwood Baptist—have been instrumental in supplying a diverse and dedicated pool of bell ringers. Their participation has been so successful that we aim to involve even more churches next year. Youth from GISD and local congregations have brought energy and joy to the effort. Among our volunteers were National Honor Society students, basketball and baseball players, cheerleaders, Gatesville Special Olympics participants, Student Council members, Boy Scouts, 4-H Club members, Athletic Trainers, and children

spreading cheer with candy canes and warm smiles.

More Than Just Bell Ringing

Being a Salvation Army bell ringer is about more than holiday cheer. It's an opportunity to contribute to a broader cause. This year, volunteers filled 174 two-hour slots, ringing bells not only to attract donors but also to spread goodwill. The act of bell ringing fosters altruism and empathy while raising essential funds to support community services. It's an experience that builds character, boosts self-confidence, and makes a tangible difference.

Bell ringing embodies the spirit of giving, compassion, and community-building. It's a small action with a significant impact, creating a ripple effect of kindness that resonates throughout Gatesville.

Every bell ringer, from those who rang once to those who came back time and again, made a meaningful impact. From the youngest—a baby bundled up in a warm blanket—to the eldest—a 90-year-old great-grandmother—their time and dedication were gifts beyond measure. Each volunteer brought their own unique flair, braving unpredictable weather that is always Texas. We were treated to Grinches, Santas, Mrs. Clauses, reindeer, and all manner of festive attire. One standout, Phil Sheldon, faithfully showed up as himself, ringing more times than we could easily count. Phil, along with every other volunteer, stepped up ensuring the bells never stopped ringing. Their generosity and spirit kept hope alive in our community.

Vital Contributions from the Community

The Senior Citizens Center generously provides office space for our year-round efforts, where Annette Cole, Intake Coordinator, and Billy Byrom meet with applicants seeking assistance. Pam Rudolph and Camilla manage incoming calls, scheduling interviews held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until noon.

Walmart has been an unwavering partner, offering exclusive prime locations at both entrances for red kettles and bell ringers each year. When weather conditions become harsh, they graciously allow us to move inside, setting up just behind the sliding glass doors. Walmart also ensures security for filled red kettles, keeping them behind locked doors at the Customer Service Desk, and provides storage for our equipment in both foyers.

Cadence Bank tellers go above and beyond, dedicating their "spare time" to carefully count and organize donations daily—a time-consuming task we deeply appreciate. Extraco Bank personnel graciously provide a conference room where our Advisory Board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.

Additionally, some dedicated groups and individuals make monthly contributions, providing vital support that sustains our mission throughout the year.

The Gatesville Salvation Army's Mission

The Gatesville Unit of the Salvation Army plays a critical role in supporting low-income families and



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers from Righteous Roots volunteered to ring the bell, gathering donations for the Salvation Army. From left to right, Marina Aguiar, Tina Graves, and Felicia Nunn.

addressing financial needs in our community. Partnering with organizations like CCC, Trinity, the Ministerial Alliance, and Righteous Roots, the Salvation Army ensures that funds are distributed fairly and directed toward the most pressing needs.

Importantly, all donations made locally stay within our community. These funds are not sent to the Salvation Army Texas Division Service Extension Department in Dallas, nor do we receive financial assistance from Headquarters. Gatesville's Emergency Assistance Fund is entirely community-funded, emphasizing local

responsibility and generosity.

Leadership and Opportunities for Giving

Our small, all-volunteer Advisory Council is dedicated to guiding the Gatesville Salvation Army. Key members include:

- Eric Moffett - Chairman
- Tom Creek - Treasurer
- Annette Cole - Intake Coordinator
- Nimchie Alce - Region 2 Service Extension Agent
- Joyce Talbott - Red Kettle Bell Ringer Coordinator
- Linda Klontz - Bell Ringer Assistant
- Local businesses and

individuals are encouraged to support our mission through monthly, yearly, or one-time donations. These contributions can be arranged through Tom Creek at Extraco Bank.

Thank You, Gatesville!

The 2024 Red Kettle Campaign was a success thanks to the incredible support of our community. Together, we are bringing hope, love, and unity to Gatesville, ensuring that those in need receive the assistance they deserve. Let's continue this tradition of generosity and compassion in the years to come.

PEARL NEWS

It's hard to believe this is the last Pearl News column for 2024



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are now ready for the New Year. It's hard to believe this is the last Pearl News for 2024.

Ready or not, 2025, here we come! Our prayers are that 2025 will be blessed in every way!

The next Pearl Bluegrass event and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day will be Jan. 4. Be sure and mark your calendars. Remember, the stage show starts at 1 p.m., and all you have to do is sign your band up on the board in the hallway. If you have any questions, Chris Ray and Garrett Dickey will be there to answer them. The Bluegrass Kitchen opens at 11 a.m., and the

homemade food is very reasonably priced (cash only). The Bluegrass event is free to attend and to play on stage, but if you would like to make donations to the Community Center, please drop your money in the box on the table outside the kitchen. All donations and monies made go toward the maintenance and bills for the Pearl Community Center. Everything is greatly appreciated.

The Pearl Cottage Bookstore officially opens at 10 a.m., but you may find

someone there earlier. If you would like to set up a booth flea market style, just pay the kitchen \$5 and set up to the north of the cabin. If you have questions, the ladies in the bookstore will be glad to answer them. All purchases made in the bookstore go to local charities. You will love the bookstore. Be sure and stop by for some wonderful shopping.

The next quarterly meeting of the Pearl Community Center board is Jan. 27. All are invited to attend. It

starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

This week's Bible verse comes from II Corinthians 5:17—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here. NIV Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page, and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page. Please submit any Pearl news to betsyclarck47@yahoo.com

First Day Hike at Mother Neff State Park

Staff Reports

Visitors can start off the new year on New Year's Day by hiking and exploring the natural beauty of Mother Neff State Park. The duration of the hike will be five hours - between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Come enjoy miles of fun and join us on the trails at Mother Neff. Explore the park at your own pace and learn about the history of

the park along the way. They will also have interpretive stations throughout the park sharing about the park's history and natural resources.

Once visitors have completed their hike, they can come back by the visitors' center and share their experience. They will even have a small memento for your participation and (weather permitting) the

Leon River Dutch Oven Gang will be serving up some black-eyed peas for good luck in the coming year (while they last)!

This has been a very popular event for Mother Neff in the past, so be sure to reserve your day passes as early as a month in advance. Reservations can be made online or by calling 512-389-8900.

Cost: The program is

free, but park entrance fees do apply - \$2 per person 13 and older. Children 12 and under are FREE.

Please be sure to bring water, wear sensible shoes, and dress for the weather.

If you have any questions, please contact the park at 254-853-9044.

Mother Neff State Park is located in southeastern Coryell County at 1921 Park Road 14.

Turnersville Community Center to meet Jan. 6

Staff Reports

The Turnersville Community Center will host a meeting on Monday, Jan. 6, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting, which will deal with the election of the board of directors, will be held at the Turnersville Community Center, and the meeting is open to the

public. The Turnersville Community Center serves residents of the rural community of Turnersville (originally known as Buchanan Springs). The community center is located at 8115 FM 182 in Turnersville.

Membership Banquet
January 18th from 6-8 • Theme: Hollywood.
Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop

Ground Breaking for December
O-SO Clean Car Wash

New Member Ribbon Cuttings
Specialty Restoration • Dynamic Dance Company

Business of the month
November - Candy Pet Palace • December - HEB

Visit us at www.Gatesvillechamber.com

Gatesville 2307 HWY. 36 SOUTH
SPUR CAPITAL OF TEXAS GATESVILLE, TX 76528
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 254-865-2617

BASTROP DENTURE AND IMPLANT CENTER

NOW OFFERING
"Standard Dental Implants" **Walk-ins Welcome**
for **\$995**

CHECK OUR WEBSITE
bastropdentureandimplant.com

For Information And Prices

FREE Consultation Call For Appointment

Gregory Kon D.D.S. • Orville Sadler, C.D.T.
301 Hwy. 71 West, Suite 102 • Bastrop, Texas 78602
Toll Free 1-866-584-6900 • Local 512-303-6900

Hours M-F 7am - 3pm

We'll Buy Your Gold & Silver Coins, Jewelry, Etc. for Cash!

GOLD & SILVER PRICES

GOLD (XAU/USD 12/23/24)..... **\$2614.00**

SILVER (XAG/USD 12/23/24)..... **\$29.58**

Robert L. Berry, 512-810-1002
DBA Christian Brothers Ltd., An Ebay Store

Serving the Gatesville & Goldthwaite areas
716 E. Leon St., Gatesville, TX 76528 | Mon.-Fri., 9-5 & Sat., 9-1

OBITUARIES

Kimberly Michelle Davis Rudolph

June 10, 1979 - Dec. 20, 2024

We are heartbroken to share that Kimberly Michelle Davis Rudolph lost her difficult battle against cancer on Dec. 20, 2024. She handled that nearly 2-year long journey with incredible grace and positivity and was surrounded by family as she reached her sunset.

Born on June 10, 1979, in Temple, Kimberly lived a life full of genuine love, laughter, creativity and kindness. She lived her entire life in Central Texas, and was passionate about her family, her horses, trail rides, photography, and going fishing. She led a life of service to others as evidenced by many years of her dedicated work in healthcare as a CMA, and subsequently as a Corrections Officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Kimberly loved her Fredericksburg girls' trips, decorating her gate with a wreath to match the season, taking beautiful pictures of sunsets and old windmills, and spending time down by the creek on her property.

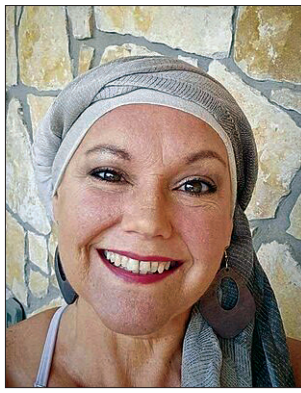
To her loved ones, Kimberly was known as a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and humble, down-to-earth

woman with a big heart.

Kimberly is survived by her mother, Deborah Lynne Davis, father, Thomas Edward Davis, mother-in-law, Tamea Rudolph, father-in-law, Max Rudolph, husband, Brandon Rudolph, brother, Neil Davis and wife, Candace, sister, Melissa Davis Johnson and husband, Adam, brother, Thomas Davis and wife, Karla, sister Jessi Sellers and husband, Chad, sister-in-law Lindsay James and husband, Bodie, daughters, Emma-Lynne Reagan Davis, Juli Rudolph, and Elyssa Rudolph, and granddaughter, Isabella "Izzy" Shue-make.

Kimberly was preceded in death by grandparents Paul and Lucretia Cavender, grandparents Bill and Effie Whitehead, grandparents Allen and Mary Davis, and biological father, Jim Whitehead.

We'll always remember Kimberly's selflessness, her contagious smile that lit up a room, her unique way of telling funny stories, her protective love for her family, her boisterous laugh that made everyone else laugh along with her, and, of course, her sweet tea made with so much sugar that you could almost chew it instead of



drink it.

A gathering to celebrate Kimberly's life will be held on Friday, Dec. 27, at Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville between the hours of 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. A graveside service at King Baptist Church will follow on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 1 p.m. All are welcome to send flowers and/or make a charitable donation in Kimberly's honor to The EQUUS Foundation, 168 Long Lots Road, Westport, CT 06880 or to Leukemia Texas, 3000 Pegasus Park Drive, Ste. 710, Dallas, TX 75247.

Like a stunning Texas sunset, Kimberly was truly one of a kind. Life won't be the same without her. We'll carry her love and laughter with us always.

Catherine Thurmond Self

Aug. 25, 1948 - Dec. 13, 2024

"The Earth Without Art is Just Eh."

Catherine Thurmond Self, age 76, passed away on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024.

Known as Cathi to her friends and family and Mrs. Self to thousands of former students, she had an incredible impact on so many people throughout her life. Having had a career as an art teacher, she drew out the creativity and potential in so many young minds. With her humor and easy-going attitude, she could make people feel comfortable even in the most stressful situations, like being a high school student.

Cathi was born in Bryan on Aug. 25, 1948, the first child of a military family. Growing up she attended several schools state-side and in Germany and graduated high school in Haltom City in 1966. She continued her education at North Texas State University where she gained her bachelor's degree in art education in 1973. She began teaching that same year and had short stints

in Frisco, Lewisville, and Hernando, Mississippi. In 1982, Cathi and her family returned to Texas where she began her career with the Keller Independent School District until she retired in 2001. After retirement, she and her husband moved to Central Texas - first Levita, then Gatesville, where she lived the rest of her days.

Cathi loved animals, especially cats, horses, and goats. Her entire life she had cats, indoor, outdoor, barn, and everything in-between. She enjoyed horseback riding and raised quarter horses for several years. In retirement was when she gained an affinity for goats. They were easier to handle than horses in her later years and more portable, too.

Also, after retirement, Cathi continued her involvement in art. Sketches, painting, pottery - she did not stop her creativity from flowing. She joined nearby art groups, including the Coryell Art League, and at times continued her teaching ways with peers



that shared the same interest of art as her. Even in her last year, she continued to sketch and color in a way that was almost second nature to her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joyce and Jim Thurmond, and her husband, Robert "Bob" Self.

Survivors include her son, Matthew Self; brother, Jimmy Thurmond; sister, Vicki Amick; nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Cathi's funeral will be held at Greenwood's Live Oak Chapel, 3100 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX 76107 on Thursday, Jan. 9th, at noon.

Obituaries can be submitted to *The Gatesville Messenger* online at www.gatesvillemessenger.com/obituaries and 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 services.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro ISD 4-H members are pictured at the cemetery during the Wreaths Across America ceremony. Local youth participated by placing wreaths on headstones. The wreaths were carried from grave to grave while placing them on the headstones of fallen veterans.

Turnersville Cemetery honored veterans with Wreaths Across America

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

To honor fallen veterans during the holiday season, the Turnersville Cemetery Association annually partners with Wreaths Across America to place balsam veterans' wreaths along the tombstones of our past veterans.

On Saturday, Dec. 14, National Wreaths Across America Day took place

at over 3,700 participating locations across the country. At Turnersville Cemetery, a plethora of veterans' wreaths were placed by family members and volunteers.

From the volunteers, sponsors, and the truck drivers, each person played an important role in the mission to remember the fallen, honor those that

serve and their families, and to teach the next generation the value of freedom.

The volunteers included members from Jonesboro Independent School District 4-H, the Turnersville Volunteer Fire Department, and the Turnersville Cemetery Association.

Wreaths Across America believes the tradition repre-

sents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

The balsam veterans wreath was a gift of respect and appreciation, sponsored by an individual or organization, and placed on a headstone by volunteers as a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy. For centuries, fresh evergreens

have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually.

National Wreaths Across America Day and other events are made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths, and participate in the events. Individual wreath sponsors

and corporate donors pay for most of the cost for the program, and volunteer truck drivers and trucking companies make it possible for the organization to transport wreaths all over the country.

For more information about Wreaths Across America, visit wreathscrossamerica.org.

Serving All Of Central Texas Area

FERGUSON ROOFING

Locally Owned Company

Free Estimates
Call 254-466-5128

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

WE BUY OIL, GAS, & MINERAL RIGHTS

Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI)
Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation.

CALL TODAY: 806.620.1422

LOBO MINERALS, LLC
PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408-1800
LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

JOHNSON VETERINARY SERVICES

Gerald D. Johnson, DVM
254-784-5151
LIVESTOCK & EQUINE
Mobile Veterinary Services

Shops • Garages • Houses • Agriculture • Commercial

405-595-0770

30'x40'x10'..\$20,400
30'x40'x12'..\$22,600
30'x50'x10'..\$24,600
30'x50'x12'..\$26,700

With 4" Concrete, Fully Insulated, 1-Commercial Overhead Door, 1 Entry Door, #1 29 Ga. 40yr. Painted Metal, Built on your level site. Additional Sizes Available, Mileage or Higher Concrete Prices May Apply.

Gober Post Frame Buildings

Protect Your Home and Property!!
Make Sure Your Contractor is Following the Law.
Ask For General Liability and Works Comp. Insurance

www.goberconstruction.com

ADOPT LOCAL

GATESVILLE ANIMAL SHELTER

Come meet your new best friend!

We have many loving dogs who need a family to love them back.

FOR INFO: 254-865-2226



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured left: Various C4 agencies are pictured at the event at resource tables, which were full of free goodies, hot chocolate, and useful information. Pictured right: C4 hosted its annual winter coat and blanket drive on Thursday, Dec. 19 at Mission Righteous Roots.

C4 gives back to those in need this holiday season

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Mission Righteous Roots' Coryell Community Connections Collaborative (C4) held a month-long winter coat and blanket drive throughout December for those in need this holiday season. After all donations were collected, C4 held a free giveaway event for the community on Thursday, Dec. 19.

C4 is a group of social service agencies from all over the area, who meet monthly at Righteous Roots. Since its inception, over 30 agencies have participated in C4, with the common goal of serving the community by identifying barriers and working together to find solutions.

Leading up to the winter coat and blanket drive, C4 participants identified that homelessness is an ongoing problem for many of their patrons.

"We recognize the dire need for a shelter," Melanie Webb, Righteous Roots Founder said. "Currently, the only shelter options are 25-plus miles away in neighboring towns, leaving many people on the streets."

With that in mind, C4 decided to host the 2024 coat and blanket drive to provide additional warmth during the winter months to our homeless, less fortunate, and anyone who could use a bit of extra help this Christmas.

Several of the C4 agencies helped to promote the drive and collected coats and blankets, while Righteous Roots served as the drop-off location and hosted the event. Righteous Roots also contributed diapers, which were distributed to anyone who could use them.

On the afternoon of the winter coat and blanket

drive, the doors opened, and patrons were able to come in for their own shopping experience. Each person was able to get a coat for everyone in their household, along with receiving a blanket and diapers if needed. Many of the C4 agencies also set up resource tables full of free goodies, hot chocolate, and useful information.

For the winter coat and blanket drive, C4 received two giant appliance boxes full of coats and blankets in addition to two pallet loads of diapers.

"The community was amazing! We had donations pouring in all month long," Webb said. "Some people even came with brand new coats and stated they have been saving them since last year just for this event."

She expressed that she loves seeing the community get excited and anticipate

this event and that she looks forward to it growing even bigger next year.

"Everyone that came through was extremely appreciative and grateful," she said.

The event was open to anyone who was in need, without screening financial information.

"Regardless of what our incomes are, we all go through seasons of need, and it is the desire of C4 to meet those needs," she said. "The only thing that is asked is that they fill out a short registration card upon entry."

She mentioned that the most rewarding aspect of the event was giving back to the community. She hopes that they were able to ease the burden and bring a bit of Christmas joy to local families during the Christmas season.

"It is awe-inspiring to see

unity begin to take shape among our social service agencies. Together, these agencies identified a need and collectively worked to meet those needs," she said. "Each agency in and of itself is doing incredible things, but when we unite together, there is no barrier we cannot conquer."

She expressed that her earnest prayer is that they were able to ease the burden on families, even if only a little.

"Our community is generous and loves to give back," she said. "There is true joy in knowing that we can help a family who is struggling to stay warm when it's cold or ease the financial burden on a single mom by simply providing a package of diapers during the Christmas season."

"There are local children who will have toys for Christmas and grandma's

who will have food to cook for Christmas dinner," she said. "The impact is endless, and it is all because #gatesvillegives. We love that it provides opportunities for individuals, families, organizations, adults, children, and everyone in between to give and serve."

Webb said that when the community unites together for efforts like this, we will eventually see economic growth and increase in opportunities; resources will multiply, and needs will be met.

"Excitement and purpose are contagious," she said. "When people see you serving in a capacity that leaves you feeling fulfilled and joyous, they are going to want to get involved, too. Get involved in one of the many organizations or nonprofits, because, together, we are making a difference!"

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Dec. 18 - Dec. 23. 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. 18**
12:59 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of Saunders Street.
10:44 a.m., an assault was reported in the 2000 block of E. Main Street.
1:56 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
2:57 p.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 2100 block of E. Main Street.
- Dec. 19**
12:54 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.
10:12 a.m., a threat was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.
10:17 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 800 block of E. Main Street.
8:56 p.m., a fight was re-

- ported in the 1200 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.
- Dec. 20**
7:35 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1900 block of E. Leon Street.
12:46 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
1:31 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3400 block of Empress Drive.
2:33 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of N. 18th Street.
- Dec. 21**
9:44 a.m., harassment was reported in the 2000 block of E. Leon Street.
11:15 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4300 block of S. State Highway 36.
12:24 p.m., a threat was reported in the 400 block of Straws Mill Road.
1:08 p.m., an accident was reported in the 7600 block of S. Highway 36.

- Dec. 22**
12:36 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of Depot Street.
11:13 a.m., a missing person was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
11:43 a.m., wanted/stolen (person/property) was reported in the 600 block of Andrews Street.
12:15 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 3600 block of County Road 318.
- Dec. 23**
8:58 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.
12:18 p.m., a repossession was reported in the 400 block of Straws Mill Road.
1:47 p.m., fraud was reported in the 400 block of Andrews Street.
1:58 p.m., wanted/stolen (person/property) was reported in the 1400 block

- of Pidcoke Street.
- CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
- Dec. 18**
6:34 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported on S. Highway 36 south bound.
10:39 a.m., a pet investigation was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
4:53 p.m., suspicious activity was reported on FM 1829.
6:27 p.m., a threat was reported in the 7100 block of W. FM 217.
- Dec. 19**
12:33 a.m., a fire call was reported on County Road 127.
1:06 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.
3:08 p.m., stolen property was reported in the 700 block of County Road 245.
3:32 p.m., a scam was reported in the 800 block of

- Kubitz Road.
- Dec. 20**
8:55 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 2800 block of N. FM 116.
10:26 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W. Highway 84 at FM 2412.
5:02 p.m., suspicious persons were reported at the courthouse.
11:46 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Highway 84 Westbound.
- Dec. 21**
8:08 a.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.
1:13 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 7600 block of S. Highway 36.
2:24 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1100 block of Lutheran Church Road.
4:20 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on County Road 188, three miles from FM 932.

- Dec. 22**
12:52 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Oglesby/Neff Park Road.
7 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on FM 930 near Plum Creek.
10 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.
10:41 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1100 block of Lutheran Church Road.
- Dec. 23**
11:01 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of McKelvain Road.
11:14 a.m., a major accident was reported on Highway 84 at Coryell Creek Bridge.
8:11 p.m., suspicious persons were reported on FM 2412 and Blue Branch Creek.
10:14 p.m., a scam was reported in Purlmela.

Jacuzzi | BATH REMODEL

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW **855.965.0841**

SPECIAL OFFER
Waiving All Installation Costs!

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 3/30/25.

Jim's Metal Roof Coatings
Licensed and Insured | Statewide Service

All of our coatings protect and make your building look beautiful.

ROOF COATING
LEAK REPAIR • BIN TOPS • ROOFING (METAL/GALVANIZED)

PAINTING
METAL BUILDING (STEEL OR ALUMINUM) • HOUSE (EXTERIOR)

Call your local contractor, Jim's Metal Farm Coatings at **325-436-4039**

EQUIP AUCTIONS

HUNDREDS OF ITEMS SELL NO RESERVE! TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

DO2578 Kenworth W900 semi truck
EJ3270 '82 Taylor 300 forklift

INVENTORY INCLUDES: semi trucks, motor graders, dozers, track loaders, equipment trailers, excavators, wheel loaders, roll-off container truck, scrapers, and more. All items sell where they sit. 10% buyers premium applies. Aaron McKee TX Lic. #16401.

purple wave AUCTION

BID NOW! purplewave.com

Bob's BASEBALL Tours

Sports Lover's Tour
See an NHL & NBA game, visit Pro Football Hall of Fame and tour Lambeau Field & see 4 MLB games from April 8-16
\$2,800/person based on double hotel occupancy

Ultimate Baseball Tour
See 7 MLB in 11 days including Yankee Stadium, Fenway Park & Wrigley Field. Also included: Pro Football and Baseball Halls of Fame and a day at the Little League World Series!
August 11-21, 2025

Please call or text for FREE brochure 507-217-1326 or visit our website: www.bobsbaseballtours.com

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

TO SUBSCRIBE: Call 254-865-5212

Coryell County

DEVOTIONAL PAGE



THIS DEVOTIONAL DIRECTORY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THESE BUSINESSES.

TUG UTILITIES
 305 Memorial Drive, Suite B
 Gatesville, Texas 76528
 Phone: 254-248-1151

Church & Family Go Together

**YOU WILL SEEK ME
 AND FIND ME WHEN
 YOU SEEK ME WITH
 ALL YOUR HEART.**

HEART

JEREMIAH 29:13

JHL CONSTRUCTION

GATESVILLE, TEXAS
 (254) 865-8489

Eastwood Baptist Church
 "Sharing, caring & inspiring for Jesus"

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
 SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:50 AM
 WEDNESDAY SERVICES 6:00 PM

2518 East Main Street • Gatesville, Texas 76528
 254-865-2948 • www.ebcgatesville.org

Tim Beck's
Maytag Home Appliance Center
 4829 E. US Hwy. 84, Gatesville • 254-865-5705

NAME BRAND SALES:

MAYTAG

Whirlpool • Amana • Kitchen Aid

ADVERTISE With us

Coryell Feed & Supply

Purina

213 Main Street • (254) 865-6315

Leaird's Furniture & Appliance
 "A Central Texas Tradition Since 1898"

108 S. 6th St., Gatesville, TX | (254) 865-2615
 www.leairdsfurniture.com

McDonald's

2302 Main Street
 Gatesville, TX
 (254) 865-8884

ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE!

CALL 254-865-5212.

SUNDAY WORSHIP
 COME AS YOU ARE!

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.

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.

Wednesdays 6 p.m. 407 SH-36, Ste. 4 & 5, Gatesville.
GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER
 Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.; 2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-9472.
GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Wray Nunn, pastor; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday worship 6:30 p.m.; Gateway Learning Center, 2315 Osage Rd., Gatesville.
HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
 Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th St., Gatesville; 865-6222. Sunday worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC & state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6 p.m.
JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
 Sundays, 8:30-9 a.m. aqui se reune La Iglesia de Cristo, in the 2400 Block of E. Main St., Gatesville.
LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
 Pat Cole, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.; Tuesday OWLS Kid Group 6-8 p.m.
MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE
 William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
 6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sunday Services 9 a.m.
THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT
 Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

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.,

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE
 Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826.
MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
 Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 514 N. 13th St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesdays Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday service, 7:30 p.m.
PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
REFORMED GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday services 10:45 a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.
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.

Conventional prescription filling Immunizations • Health screenings Medication Compounding

Gatesville Drug Co.

Delivery Available Drive Thru Curbside Pick Up
 254-865-2417
 2513 S. State TX 36

First Baptist Church
 GATESVILLE, TEXAS

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

912 E. Main St. | 254.865.2014
 www.fbcgatesville.com

Lawn & Garden • Tools • Paint Plumbing • Electrical Outdoor Living • Much More

ACE Hardware

2820 S. State Hwy. 36
 Gatesville, TX 76528
 254-865-6900

Haynes Jewelry

Serving Gatesville Since 1971
 Watch & Jewelry Repair
 Circle E Candles

103 C. Hwy. 36 Bypass North
 Gatesville, Texas 76528
 254-865-6131

WholeHouse PEST MANAGEMENT

Professional expertise for all pest control needs in Central Texas!

FREE ESTIMATES: (254) 865-9926

GRIB'S CONSTRUCTION & SEPTIC TANK SERVICE

STATE CERTIFIED INSTALLER OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS

ASPHALT • DIRTWORK • GRAVEL ROADS & DRIVES • BACKHOE & MAINTAINER

OWNER: GARY GRIBBLE
 254-865-1236 254-248-4171

NEW Advertising Opportunities

Call 254-865-5212

The Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, DMin., Pastor

ECO
 A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians
 1110 E. Main Street
 Gatesville, TX
 254-865-5328
 WWW.TPCGATESVILLE.ORG

Welcome to our Church

First Methodist Church

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

2600 E. Main, Gatesville, TX
 (254) 865-2520 • www.fumcgatesville.org

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

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

WESLEYAN CORYELL VALLEY 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.,

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE OF PRAISE
 Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Sundays 10 a.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; 254-206-1826.
MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
 Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 514 N. 13th St., Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesdays Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday service, 7:30 p.m.
PRESBYTERIAN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
REFORMED GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday services 10:45 a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.
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.

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

Pumping gas in the early days....

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In the early days of automobiles, finding gasoline might have been limited with so few "gas stations" around, not like today when there is a gas station practically on every corner.

In the gas station display at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center is a "gas pump" dating back to the 1930s.

In the early days, a gas pump was what its name actually implies - a pump - a tall cylinder-shaped pump complete with a handle

which attendants had to "pump" much like a hand pump on a water well.

"Filling stations" in Gatesville during the 1930's were generally operated by men like the Ashby brothers, whose first station was located at the foot of the Leon River bridge on Leon Street and Levita Road.

Gus Koch operated a Gulf Station at the fork of Georgetown Road just past the Ashby Station. Later, both parties moved to Main Street when the city built the new bridge.

Troy Jones operated a



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORYELL MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL CENTER

Hopson Service Station and Blacksmith Shop at Mound, Texas.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

An early gas pump is shown that is now on display at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

Conoco Station on North Lutterloh at the edge of town. Later, Claude Turner operated a station at Main Street and Lutterloh.

The Mobile Station at 5th and Leon Street was operated by Pat Olson. Just down the street at 8th Street and Leon, the Patterson brothers, Pete and Bobby, operated a Cities Service Station, while Earl Bond's station was located near 2400 Main Street.

The stock market crash of 1929 had little immediate impact on gas in Coryell County.

The wagons that circled the courthouse square were slowly being replaced by automobiles and gasoline stations. Most of these

gas stations were part of general stores in the rural areas. The tall gas pumps were placed in front of each of these businesses where the purchasers could hand pump the gasoline from a glass cylinder located at the top of the pump and gravity would bring the gasoline to the customer's vehicle.

As Coryell County moved further into the Great Depression in the 1930's, citizens felt more stress on the economy. Filling station operators felt that more gasoline was needed since more cars began to appear on the streets of Gatesville.

One of the early day operators was Jack Morse. As a jobber and distributor for Texaco, he would pick up

gasoline near the railroad tracks where 8,000-gallon tanks were used to store gasoline brought by rail to Gatesville. With two tank trucks, he delivered gasoline to stations not only in Gatesville, but also to rural areas in Coryell County. He operated a Texaco Station at 7th and Main Street for many years.

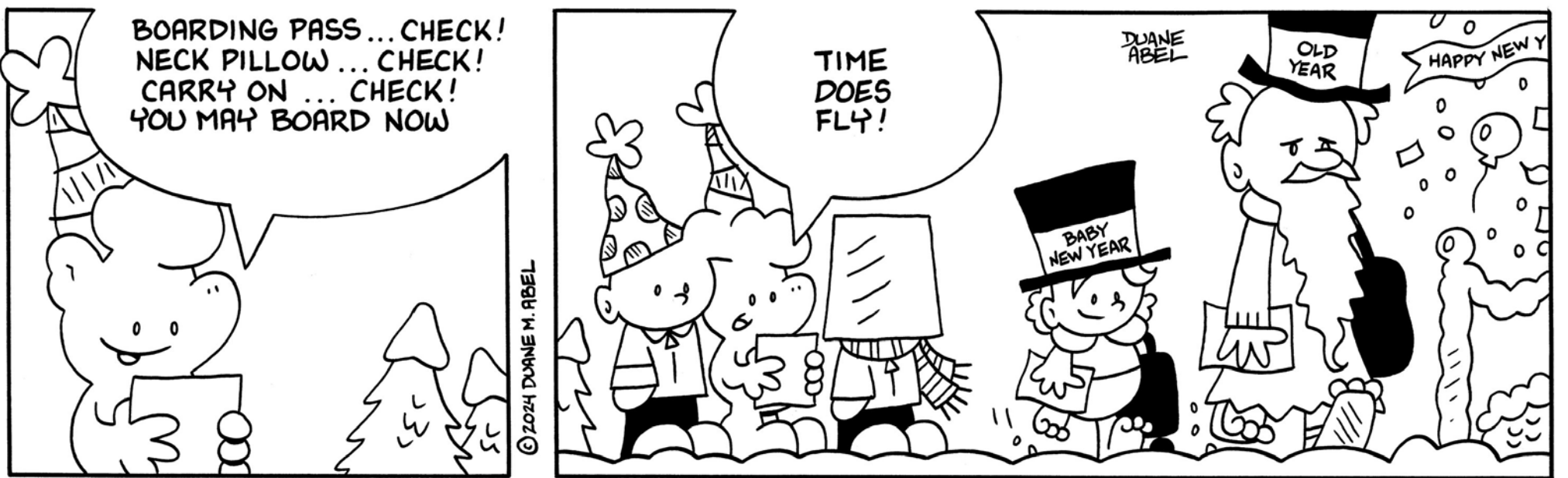
To learn a little more about transportation in the early days of Gatesville, one can visit the Coryell Museum and Historical Center where they have a wagon, and two early day vehicles on display.

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

tion. 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 & Historical Center 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.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Texas vehicle inspection changes coming soon

Staff Reports

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) has announced that beginning on Jan. 1, 2025, Texas vehicle owners will no longer be required to obtain a safety inspection prior to vehicle registration.

House Bill 3297, passed during the 88th Legislature in 2023, which abolished the vehicle safety inspection program for non-commercial vehicles.

The new law maintains the annual \$7.50 safety inspection fee under a new name, which is the Inspec-

tion Program Replacement Fee. The state will collect the fee at the time of vehicle registration. Owners registering a new vehicle will pay a \$16.75 Inspection Program Replacement Fee to cover the first two years.

State law requires vehicle emissions inspections in

17 counties prior to vehicle inspection, which include Brazoria County, Collin County, Dallas County, Denton County, El Paso County, Ellis County, Fort Bend County, Galveston County, Harris County, Johnson County, Kaufman County, Montgomery County, Parker

County, Rockwall County, Tarrant County, Travis County, and Williamson County.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles registers and titles motor vehicles, license motor vehicle dealers, credentials motor carriers, issues oversize/overweight

permits, investigates complaints against dealers and motor carriers, and awards grants to law enforcement agencies to reduce vehicle burglaries and thefts.

For further details, visit www.TxDmv.gov.

Local • Honest • Community

Subscribe Today
254-865-5212



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

CLASSIFIEDS

015
Farm & Ranch

Sudan Hay, fertilized, 75 rolls left, 5 1/2 x 5, near Coryell City, 10 miles north of Gatesville, \$85. Call 254-865-8061
00031218

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

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

099
Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MICKEY ANN WENDLOWSKY A/K/A MICK-EY A. ARP, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2024, in Cause No. 24-11100, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: JERRY WAYNE PATE.

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

DATED the 23 day of December, 2024.

James O. Cure
Attorney for JERRY WAYNE PATE
State Bar No.: 05252800
2584 Blue Meadow Dr.
Temple, TX 76502
Telephone: (254) 778-8934
Facsimile: (254) 773-2477
Email: jocure@cureandfrancis.net

00031216

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Gatesville, Texas will be conducting an online auction of surplus fitness equipment. The auction will open for bidding on January 10th, 2025, at 9 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. on January 24, 2025.

You can view and bid on these items online at: <https://www.govdeals.com/gatesville>.

00031217

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Manuel Moreno, Deceased, were issued on 12-12-24, in Cause No. 24-11088, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Lisa Lynne Moreno.

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

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

DATED the 19 day of December, 2024.

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

00031219

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., Gatesville, TX 76528, is having an online auction.

The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.

The sale will be held at storageauctions.com beginning Friday, January 10, 2025 at 11 A.M. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Bidding sale will end on Monday, January 20, 2025 at 11 A.M. Units to be sold: Karen Keys, Vickie Carpenter, Caleb Parker, Kristen Williams, Luis Cafferatta, Elizabeth Braziel. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools, and misc. items.

00031223

099
Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Alvin Hull, Deceased, were issued on 12-12-24, in Cause No. 24-11106, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: John Alvin Hull, Jr.

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

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

DATED the 19 day of Dec., 2024.

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

00031220

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Shirley June Agnew, Deceased, were issued on 12-12-24, in Cause No. 24-11104, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Joseph M. Agnew.

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

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

DATED the 19 day of Dec., 2024.

Dori Ray Mistic
Attorney for Joseph M. Agnew
State Bar No.: 04091800
907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000
Email: doriraymistic@hotmail.com

00031221

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Connie Lee Bratcher, Jr., Deceased, were issued on 12-12-24, in Cause No. 24-11089, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Margaret Ree Bratcher.

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

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

DATED the 19 day of December, 2024.

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

00031222

070
Land & Lots

070
Land & Lots

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.



102
Real Estate

102
Real Estate

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

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

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

To see all listings: www.burksrealestate.com

- 117 N. Rice St. Hamilton, TX, Rustic Lantern, over 7,000 sq ft, 2 stories w/ 2 staircases, kitchen area, old safe, great commercial property. \$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. Purlama, TX, Coryell County, heavy tree cover, rolling terrain, one stock tank, Honey Creek, fenced on three sides, deeded access easement. \$975,000
- 620 ac. 3 Br 2 Ba home, fireplace, ceramic tile floors, covered outdoor cooking patio, 38 ft X 25 ft. building. 2 lakes, one being approx. 10 acres and the other one just under 5 acres and 3 smaller stock tanks, approx. 8500 ft of Bee Creek running through the property with 20 ft to 40 ft limestone bluffs along the creek, good rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$6,200,000

Ad1

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:**

Competitive compensation • Paid Vacation • Sick time accrual • Matching 457B investments
Tuition Reimbursement • Health, Dental, Life and Supplemental Insurances. EOE.

APPLY IN PERSON OR DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FROM WEBSITE:

110 Chicktown Rd. off: (254) 404-2500
Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
humanresources@coryellhealth.org

Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org

NOW HIRING



- MEDICAL CLINIC:**
- REGISTRATION CLERK
 - SCRIBE
 - CCMA
 - LVN

- LAB:**
- POINT OF CARE ASSISTANT – FT
- MAINTENANCE:**
- LANDSCAPER – FT OR PT

- CULINARY:**
- PATIENT DINING ASSOCIATE
 - BARISTA

- MED/ SURG:**
- RN OR LVN – FT NIGHT SHIFTS

- EMS:**
- PARAMEDIC – FT AND PRN
 - EMT – FT AND PRN

- RADIOLOGY:**
- CT/X-RAY TECH – PRN; TDH MRT & ARRT W/1 YR. EXP. IN CT/X-RAY

- HOME HEALTH:**
- RN – FT
 - PRIMARY CARE ATTENDANT

- 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
- Competitive compensation
- Paid Vacation & Sick Leave
- Tuition Reimbursement
- EOE.

APPLY IN PERSON OR DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FROM WEBSITE:

1507 W. Main St. off: (254) 248-6386
Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
humanresources@coryellhealth.org

Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org

045
Services

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

Jason Paul Constuction: Painting, Decks, Roofs, Texture, Flooring, Windows, Sheetrock, Porches, Add Ons, Metal Buildings, Trash Haul Off and Dump Trailer Rental. 254-383-3305
00031194

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

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

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

060
Garage Sale

Featuring FABRIC Thurs., 01/02 - Sat., 01/04. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. 00031178

FABRIC & WALL HANGINGS! Thurs., 01/02 - Sat., 01/04. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. 00031209



You never know what you might find...

- CARS -- TRUCKS**
- BOATS -- PETS**
- FURNITURE**
- JOBS -- TOOLS**
- HOUSES -- PETS**
- RV's -- PLUMBERS**
- CARPENTERS**

00031223

Subscribe Today!

Support our business community...
SHOP LOCALLY!

Hope Media Group brings Christmas spirit to TDCJ inmates

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

With the holiday season coming to a close, Hope Media Group, based in Houston, brought their podcast audio dramatization, "Scrooge: A Christmas Carol," to the Patrick O'Daniel Unit at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Hope Media Group collaborated with G3 Prison Ministry to bring families together by bridging the gap between those separated by prison walls. On Christmas Eve, inmate DJs within the prisons aired the podcast on prison radio stations while also uploading them to all TDCJ inmate tablets across the state. This allowed inmates to listen to the podcast while their family simultaneously listened to it on radio stations in their communities. Many shared the experience by talking with their spouses and children on the phone during the podcast. "The holidays are the hardest time to be in prison," Rosalyn Burdett, an inmate DJ at the Patrick O'Daniel Unit said. "This podcast makes it feel normal, like my family is close again, and we're doing something meaningful

together." Burdett's daughter, a Rice University student said, "It's so impactful. It makes me feel like my mom is not far from home, not just for the holidays, but all year." Nancy Overfield, who serves as the Chief of Marketing for Hope Media Group, expressed that they have been very involved in the prison ministry for many years, and are excited to work with the Patrick O'Daniel Unit in offering this podcast. "What makes this one different is the key attributes of Scrooge's transformation, which are forgiveness, redemption, joy, and that it is never too late," Overfield said. "Those key attributes of the classic tale are enhanced and those are very much in line with Christian principles." The podcast is comprised of four episodes, lasting 30 minutes each. There is also a five-day devotional for those that want to dig a little deeper into the forgiveness, redemption, and joy aspects of the podcast. For children, there are activities provided for parents to do with their children. "We've really promoted the tied in opportunity for

parents to listen with their kids, which also ties in with the inmates at the O'Daniel unit," Overfield said. "What a beautiful experience to be able to listen and participate in the same activity at the same time to feel that connection and to then have the message be one so beautiful of a life transformed, redeemed, and forgiven." Overfield is personally passionate about prison ministry, and expressed that God is moving in many prisons, and that people don't get to see that. "Some people will be talking to relatives that they haven't talked to for a long time, and I really do hope that these ladies have that moment with their families and that they can connect and look at the opportunity that it is never too late," she said. "Scrooge was old, so it is never too late." "We can be redeemed, and we can truly impact people in a positive way regardless of our past and regardless of where we live, whether that is behind the walls or outside of the walls," she said. The podcast is free and available to download by visiting scroogepodcast.com.

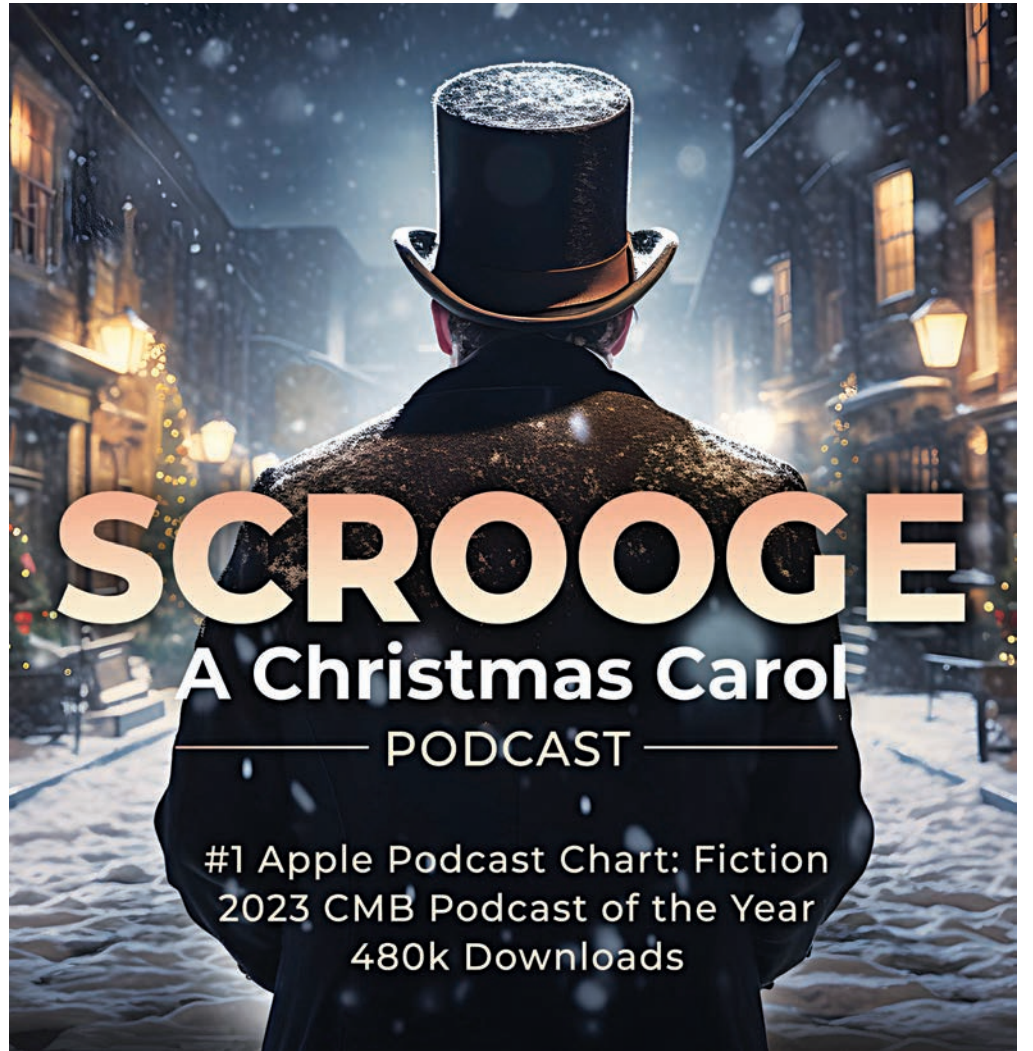


PHOTO COURTESY OF HOPE MEDIA GROUP

Hope Media Group, based in Houston, brought their podcast audio dramatization, "Scrooge: A Christmas Carol," to the Patrick O'Daniel Unit at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

Texas New Years food traditions

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Great State of Texas can boast about several New Year's traditions - many of which were transplanted to Texas from the Old South and usually dealt with food. Often, generation after generation of families would pass down superstitions about what to consume that would give you luck during the new year. **Black-Eyed Peas** Perhaps the most important food to bring you luck during the new year would be black-eyed peas. It has become essential in most Texas homes that the peas should be served for lunch on Jan. 1. This southern tradition can be traced back to the 1860s to southern kitchens. In addition to serving just black-eyed peas, Texans often "add to" the dish and create something that has become known as "Hoppin' John." To create this unusual dish, onions, bacon, and rice are cooked along with the peas - recipes vary from cook to cook.

Cornbread Cornbread, a staple in Texas, has held a special place in New Year's Eve traditions in the Lone Star State. Often cooked in a cast iron skillet, the golden cornbread symbolizes wealth and prosperity for the coming year. Texans often believe that eating cornbread on Dec. 31 will bring good fortune to those consuming it. Cornbread is often served with black-eyed peas and with collard greens. **Collard Greens** Collard greens are often considered to bring financial success. They hold a special place in Texas New Year's traditions - the green color represents paper money. Traditionally, collard greens are often slow-cooked along with ham hocks or bacon to enhance the flavor. **Tamales** Tamales come in several different flavors with fillings such as pork, chicken, and beef. These corn husk wrapped tamales are thought to bring good luck

for the coming year. Tamales hold a special place in native Texas history. **Lucky Coins Cake** The Lucky Coins Cake is not as well known in Texas New Years history. The cakes are baked with hidden coins inside. The sweet dessert is often associated with finding a coin inside the cake, which was considered to be a sign of wealth and luck in the coming year. **Champagne Toasts in Texas** Champagne toasts have become a well-known tradition. As the midnight hour draws close, Texans often raise their glasses and offer a toast to bid farewell to the old year and offer a welcome to the approaching year. **Grapes at Midnight** A lesser-known tradition in Texas is the eating of 12 grapes at midnight. This custom was introduced to Texas by the influence of Spanish and Latin American customs. Each grape represents good luck for each month of the upcoming

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

BLACK BEANS

BEVERLY GARTMAN WARD

- 1 pkg. black beans
- 6 cloves pressed garlic
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 ½ stalks celery, chopped
- cayenne pepper, oregano, and basil
- 1 T. white vinegar
- salt & pepper
- 2/3 c. olive oil
- ½ c. sherry
- 2 bay leaves

Soak beans overnight. The next day, wash and pick out the bad ones. Place on heat in one-quart cold water, boil for one hour. Turn heat to low and add remaining ingredients, except for vinegar, sherry, cayenne pepper, oregano, and basil. Cook slowly for about four hours until the beans begin to thicken. Ten minutes before serving, add vinegar, sherry, cayenne, oregano, and basil.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EATSMARTER.COM

Black beans

year. Although not native to Texas, grape platters have become a favorite tradition. All the New Year's dishes explored in the history of Texas have combined several regional ingredients, multi-cultural influences, and many superstitions that have been thought to bring luck and great prosperity in the coming year.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured left: Laerdal Medical employees dropped off donations for the Tree of Giving and Toy Drive. Above: The Chamber of Commerce presented toys on behalf of Domo's Dove Nest and Motorsports Club of Central Texas. Pictured left to right, Diana Barnett, Jenny Featherston, and Yvonne Williams. Domo's Dove Nest and Motorsports Club of Central Texas also donated blankets from their toy and blanket drive.

Hidden Gem gives back with Tree of Giving and Toy Drive

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Throughout the months of November and December, the Hidden Gem Family Center took referrals from local schools in the area and took down a list of needs for students as well as what the child likes for their Tree of Giving.

"We ask for sponsors through social media and, thanks to our community and outlying cities, we were able to provide a Christmas to 50 children," Hidden Gem Founder and Director Jenny Featherston said. "That includes shoes, clothes, and toys. Thank you so much to each person

that was willing to provide for a child." The Hidden Gem Family Center also received donations for their toy drive from three separate toy drives within the community this year. The toy drives included Bare Bones BBQ, Laerdal Medical, and Domo Dove Nest Motorsports Club

of Central Texas, which was presented to Hidden Gem through the Chamber of Commerce. Over 101 children were able to receive toys after their donations, as well as blankets and jackets. "We have an amazing community, and it has been our privilege to be able

to distribute all of these blessings that you have provided to those in need," she said. "We have had a lot of families that are really struggling this year, and it is nice when others will step in the gap to help each other out." Featherston expressed that she hopes that the Hid-

den Gem has been a small part of easing the burden on a family during the holiday season. "Hopefully, they will learn that the Hidden Gem is here to support our community and its families," she said.

Brianna Allen has one major goal for 2024-25

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Gatesville High School wrestling captain Brianna Allen has one major goal for the 2024-25 season—to qualify for the state tournament.

The GHS senior has been a regional qualifier here for the last three seasons, and coach Robert Clater, Jr. said that Allen brings a lot to the Hornet wrestling program.

“She is the captain of our team,” Clater said. “Most teams have a boy and girl captain for the respective gendered team, but through her leadership, she is the captain of both. She is human and is often nervous about her match, but when it’s time to go she locks in. The rookies on the team see this and know it’s okay to be nervous but to emulate that mindset of it’s go-time when the match starts.”

As of last weekend Allen, 18, had only one loss on the season and Clater described it as “a hard fought back and forth match,” where she came up just a little short.

“In that one loss, I think if we had to do it again she would be undefeated,” Clater said. “Brie once modestly told me she isn’t even that good, she just always

finds a way to win, and I had to tell her that’s what being good is.”

Allen said she feels the season has gotten off to a good start, but said she still sees room for improvement.

“So far, my season is going good,” Allen said. “But, I honestly know that I can do better. I still have a lot to work on in order to improve my wrestling abilities, and, as the season goes on, I will make it my goal to be the best me I can be.”

Allen, who works at Studebakers, serves as Dazzler Lieutenant, and is a member of the PALS program, the NHS Executive Board Treasurer, Class Officer Treasurer, and a member of the Student Council, said she tries to be the type of wrestler who sets a good example.

“When I became captain, I made it my goal to lead my team,” Allen said. “I try to bring encouragement to the wrestlers, especially since wrestling is a very tough sport that many get discouraged in. This season I have helped my peers and guided them the best way I can. I love watching my team compete and I hope my knowledge can help them in the future.”

At times Allen has had

her own challenges, like learning to push past her initial fatigue in a match and testing her mental fortitude.

“You never know exactly how far your body can go unless you push yourself to the limits,” Allen said. “Off the mat, the biggest challenge is making the right choices with nutrition and body wellness in order to stay in weight and shape.”

Allen said one of her greatest joys in life comes from helping others, and, in the future, she hopes to become an obstetrics-gynecology nurse practitioner.

She said what drew her to the sport of wrestling was how it made her feel about herself.

“My freshman year I walked by a wrestling practice and saw other wrestlers going through their normal practice,” Allen said. “I decided to try it out and, at first, I was nervous and out of my comfort zone. But as time went on, I found that I became the most confident when I got on the mat. The most appealing part about wrestling is the feeling of winning a match after giving your all.”

Clater is glad that Allen made the decision to join the wrestling, and, like his

senior captain said, it is the state tournament or bust in 2025.

“We have the goal of a bout at the state tournament,” Clater said. “Every day she tells me we are going to state, and I believe her.”

For Allen, nothing would make her happier for herself, her team, and, especially, her coach.

“I have found that in these past years being coached by Coach Clater is what has made me so successful in my wrestling seasons,” Allen said. “I hope that I can continue to make him proud during my last year here at Gatesville High School.”

Allen’s Favorites:

Favorite Athlete: Kylie Welker

Favorite Sports team: Iowa women’s wrestling team/ Texas Longhorns football team

Favorite Food: Seafood

Favorite Movie: “Princess and the Frog”

Favorite TV Show: Stranger Things

Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: “Nothing like the movies”- Lynn Painter

Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Alanis Morissette



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville wrestling team captain Brianna Allen has reached the regional tournament each of the last three seasons. This year, the goal is state.

SPORTS Roundup

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Evant Girls Beat Gholson

The Lady Elks Basketball team defeated Gholson by a score of 41-22 last Friday in a game coach Benja Standford said her team played well from the outset.

Evant out-scored Gholson 15-9 in the first quarter of the game and led 26-15 at halftime.

Bree Ramirez scored 11 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the way for the Lady Elks against Gholson.

Evant also had a strong defensive effort as a team in the game, blocking three shots and coming up with 12 steals.

Other contributors to Evant’s victory include Luwi Rodriguez, who led the team with seven assists, along with Molly Waldrum (9 points), Rodriguez (8 points), Brinlea Bates (6 points), Daritza Escamilla (5 points), and Izzy Gandy (2 points).

Jonesboro Girls Go 2-0 Last Week, Remain Unbeaten in District

The Lady Eagles basketball team defeated Abbott and Oglesby last week to improve to 3-0 in district competition.

Jonesboro defeated Abbott Tuesday at home by a score of 52-21 and beat Oglesby Friday on the road by a score of 42-28.

Coach Chris Simon said it was a good week for Jonesboro.

“Tuesday, I felt we came out very fast and ready to play,” Simon said. “I was very excited about how we played defensively. Going into Friday I knew it would be tough playing a rival. Oglesby is always a tough place to play in. We

had some bench players step up big for us. We had some starters in foul trouble, which caused us to have to go to the bench early. Not every game is going to go how we planned, but I was proud of the girls for stepping up and playing as a team.”

Simon said he had several players with strong efforts last week.

“Against Abbott, Ella Gustin was our leading scorer with Emily Turner and Ally Thorman chipping in double digits down low for us,” Simon said. “Lynlee Deats and Landri McFarlin helped lead our defense, causing many turnovers which turned into points.”

Against Oglesby the Lady Eagles’ bench really came through.

“Ella was in foul trouble early, so we went to the bench where Paige Glenn came in to give us good minutes along with Kylee Gould,” Simon said. “We played a great team game to come away with the victory against Oglesby. I would say that is one of the best team games we have played so far this season. Everyone chipped in, in different ways.”

Gatesville Wins Big Over McGregor

The Lady Hornets basketball team defeated McGregor by a score of 53-18 last week.

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

“The team played great against McGregor,” Holdbrook said. “Everyone contributed offensively and defensively. We were able to work on some new offensive sets and defensive strategies as well.”

Emma Pollard led the team with 14 points in the game, and Callie Stovall added 12 points for Gatesville.

Hornets Come Up Short Against Waco

The Gatesville boys basketball team lost to Waco last Friday by a score of 54-41, and coach Brit Campbell said that his team fought hard throughout.

“We struggled to find our rhythm on offense and never got going together,” Campbell said. “We didn’t shoot the ball very well. Effort was really good, and defense gave us a chance. We cut it to a 5-point game going into the fourth but couldn’t continue the comeback.”

Campbell said Kase Cox and West Allman had strong performances in the game against Waco.

Oglesby Girls Lose to Jonesboro

The Lady Tigers basketball team lost to Jonesboro last Friday by a score of 41-28, but coach Dylan Segundo said he was pleased with how his team competed.

“I’m very proud about how our girls played,” Segundo said. “It wasn’t the result that we wanted to accomplish, but I can’t be upset about the fight they showed. Couldn’t be happier about the growth they’ve shown and excited about what the rest of the season has to offer.”

Segundo said he had a number of strong performances in the game as well.

“Zarah Wisehart led us in scoring with 17 points,” Segundo said. “She’s a very important part of our team and it hurt us when

she got in foul trouble. But I’m very happy about how the rest of the team responded and bounced back to any adversity. The team played as hard as I could asked for, and I’m excited for whatever is left for us to accomplish.”

Evant Boys Lost to Gholson

The Evant boys basketball team lost to Gholson by a score of 51-34 in a game Coach Matthew Weaver said his team got off to a slow start.

“We did not hustle well as a team at all,” Weaver said. “I thought we started off slow but played better the second half.”

Tanner Manville had 14 points in the game for the Elks, and Texan White finished with eight points for Evant.

Oglesby Defeats Jonesboro

The Tigers boys basketball team opened up district with a win last week, defeating Jonesboro by a score of 58-48.

Coach Larry Williamson said he was impressed by his team’s performance in the game.

“I thought they played hard,” Williamson said. “We made some mistakes, but we just need more practices and we should be able to correct many of those mistakes. I was proud of how we responded to adversity.”

Evan Williamson led the team in scoring 17 points, while Alex Castillo finished with 12 points for the Tigers.

Holdyn Goff also had a great night with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Oglesby Tigers open up District with win

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby varsity Tiger boys opened up district play, hosting the Jonesboro Eagles on Friday, Dec. 20.

The Tigers started strong and never let up, defeating the Eagles, 58-48, running their district record, 1-0.

Freshman Evan Williamson was the top scorer for the Tigers, dropping in 17 points, including three three-pointers and one steal.

Freshman Holdyn Goff was close behind, scoring a double/double with 13 points, 11 rebounds, one steal, one assist, and two blocked shots.

Senior Alex Castillo was deadly from a three-point range, dropping in four three-pointers for 12 points, two assists, and one steal.

Junior Jack Hendricks scored eight points, includ-

ing one long three-pointer, four rebounds, and one steal.

Senior Kyler Fossett was a force to be reckoned with on defense with three points, eight rebounds, three steals, and three assists.

Sophomore Abram Shaw scored three points.

Freshman Camden Webb scored two points.

Junior Jordan Smith had one steal.

Sophomore Javon Howard had one steal.

Calen Webb and Tucker Melton also saw ample playing time for the Tigers.

The Tigers will take Christmas break and return to district action on Monday, Dec. 30, traveling to Aquilla for a district matchup with the Aquilla Cougars. Junior varsity will start playing at 4 p.m.

Team Gatesville enters basketball season

Staff Reports

The Team Gatesville Special Olympics organization will begin practicing in January for basketball competition season, which is set to begin in March.

Practices will be held on Thursday’s from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Gatesville Intermediate School gymnasium, located at 311 Hornet Way. The practices will be held on Jan. 9, Jan. 16, Jan. 23, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, Feb. 13, Feb. 20, and Feb. 27.

The Area 12 individual skills competition will be held on March 8, 2025, in

Waco.

Requirements to participate include all athletes to be eight years of age and older for competition with no upper age limit, an IDD or comparable delay, and a physical copy of a completed athlete registration form submitted.

Athlete registration forms may be printed from <https://www.sotx.org/become-an-athlete> or they can be obtained from Head Coach and Head of Delegation, Heidi Clough, at the first practice.

For further details, contact teammgatesville12@yahoo.com.

Happy New Year
from The Gatesville Messenger staff

“DECK THE HALLS WITH PICKLEBALLS” TOURNAMENT

The Gatesville Pickleball Club recently hosted an indoor doubles pickleball tournament, “Deck the Halls with Pickleballs,” on Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Gatesville Civic Center. The beginner bracket began at 1 p.m., while the Competitive Division competed at 4 p.m. Winners in the beginner’s bracket were father and son duo Matt and Luke Stephenson, who took first place and Kelly Adair and Shawn Scheiblich, who came in second place. Winners of the competitive bracket were Ben Mabry and Asa Hardcastle, who came in first and Jeffery Shonkwiler and Lucas Garcia, who came in second.



COURTESY PHOTO

In the beginner’s bracket, coming in first place, is father and son duo, Matt (right) and Luke Stephenson.



COURTESY PHOTO

Coming in second place in the beginner’s bracket, Shawn Scheiblich (left) and Kelly Adair.



COURTESY PHOTO

First place in the competitive bracket were Asa Hardcastle (left) and Ben Mabry.



COURTESY PHOTO

Second place in the competitive bracket, Jeffery Shonkwiler (left) and Lucas Garcia.

Oglesby ISD to host FAFSA night Jan. 14

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District will host a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) night on Tuesday, Jan. 14 in the library at 5 p.m.

FAFSA is an application that students and families must complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans.

Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free, and the FAFSA night will give students the opportunity to access financial aid to help pay for their higher education.

For further details, contact Oglesby ISD at 254-456-2271. Oglesby ISD is located at 125 College Avenue in Oglesby.

Frost Driving School courses are now offered to local youth

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District has recently made a new partnership with Frost Driving School for Teen Driver’s Education to hold classes at their campus for all local youth in surrounding areas, including Jonesboro, Evant, and Oglesby as well.

The driver’s education classes will be offered through a three-week course at Gatesville High School, located at 205 South Lovers Lane, for students 15 to 17 years old.

The course will begin on Jan. 13, 2025 and will end on Feb. 1, 2025. Classes will be from 4-6 p.m.

There are two price options, which include \$495

or \$330. The \$495 option includes 32 hours of classroom instruction and a 14-hour driving lab, and for \$330 it will include 32 hours of classroom instruction and a six-hour driving lab.

For an additional one-time schedule to drive fee, it will cost \$10.

Tuition will be due on the first day of class on Jan. 13, 2025.

To register or to view the course schedule, visit <https://frostdriving-school.com/event/teen-drivers-ed-gatesville-hs>. Be sure to fill out, print, and bring the course documents to the first class.



Christmas is a time of joy, celebration, and giving, but have you ever wondered about the history behind this festive holiday? Let’s unwrap the fascinating story of Christmas and discover how it evolved from ancient traditions to the beloved holiday we know today.

The origins of Christmas can be traced back to ancient civilizations and their winter solstice celebrations. Many cultures, including the Romans,

Celts, and Norse, marked the shortest day of the year with feasts, festivities, and rituals to honor the return of longer days and the promise of spring.

One of the earliest Christian celebrations to adopt elements of these winter solstice traditions was the Feast of the Nativity, which commemorated the birth of Jesus Christ. While the exact date of Jesus’ birth is not known, December 25th was chosen by early Christian leaders to coincide with

existing pagan festivals, making it easier to convert people to Christianity.

Over the centuries, Christmas evolved as it spread across Europe and beyond, incorporating a rich tapestry of customs, beliefs, and traditions from various cultures. From the singing of carols and the decorating of evergreen trees to the exchange of gifts and the gathering of family and friends, Christmas became a time of warmth, togetherness, and goodwill.

In the 19th century, the Victorian era brought about many of the traditions we associate with Christmas today. Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert, popularized the Christmas tree tradition in England, while authors such as Charles Dickens immortalized the holiday in beloved tales like “A Christmas Carol.”

In the United States, Christmas gained widespread popularity during the 19th and 20th centuries, thanks in part to the

influence of immigration, media, and commercialization. The image of Santa Claus, inspired by the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas, became synonymous with Christmas, and iconic symbols such as candy canes, stockings, and mistletoe became staples of the holiday season.

Today, Christmas is celebrated by billions of people around the world, transcending cultural and religious boundaries. While traditions may vary from country to country and

family to family, the spirit of Christmas—of love, generosity, and hope—remains constant.

As we gather with loved ones, exchange gifts, and enjoy festive feasts, let’s remember the rich history and diverse heritage that have shaped Christmas into the cherished holiday it is today. Merry Christmas to all, and may the spirit of the season fill your hearts with joy and peace.



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

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans nearly upset Oklahoma State in Stillwater

Tarleton State University

STILLWATER, Okla. – Tarleton State Men's Basketball nearly notched its second Power Four victory leading for the majority of the game but falling just short, 66-61 Dec. 18 at Gallagher-Iba Arena.

The Texans (3-10) led 31-25 at the break. But, the Cowboys (7-3), who received votes in this week's AP Poll, narrowly pulled it out in the second half.

"We found a lot of toughness," said head coach Billy Gillispie post-game. "We found a team anybody can be proud of no matter what the result of the game is. If we keep on fighting, playing hard for each other, helping each other and rebounding when it matters the most, it should be a fun conference season."

Freshman Keitenn Bristow showed out on the big stage notching a career-high 17 points. He also made a career-best four from deep while shooting six-for-10 from the field. He added seven boards all on the defensive glass.

Marty Silvera in just his second game with the Texans proved his talents will definitely help the squad this season. Silvera's season-best 16 points is his best scoring effort with a Division I program in his career. The senior also posted game-highs with six assists and five steals. The Worcester, Massachusetts native joins teammates Bubu Benjamin and Jordan Mizell as the only Texans this season to record at least six assists. Silvera's five steals also mark the third time a Texan has had at least five steals in a contest this year joining Nick Krass (7) and Izzy Miles (8).

In total, four Texans scored in double digits. Chris Mpaka and Miles each

notched 10. Mpaka led the Texans with four blocks. It marks the third game of the season that the junior college transfer has recorded four or more blocks in a single game. For the second time this season, Miles led the team in boards grabbing eight.

Tarleton started out hot in the first half. Freshman Bristow started the scoring knocking down his first two threes to give the Purple and White a 6-3 advantage. Mpaka gave the Texans an 8-6 lead with a lay-up before the Cowboys retook the lead for the last time in the half.

Trailing by a pair, Silvera nailed a three-pointer to give the Texans the lead 13-12, a lead they would maintain for the remainder of the first 20 minutes of play. Silvera started a 10-0 run for the Texans spanning 2:58 of game play. Silvera accounted for five while Miles, Mpaka and Benjamin accounted for the other five to put the Texans ahead by eight, 20-12 with 9:57 remaining.

After a timeout to regroup, the Cowboys cut their deficit to five, 22-17 with just over six minutes to play. Tarleton responded with a 7-0 run fueled by a Bristow triple and mid-range jumper to take their biggest lead of the evening, 29-17. Bristow later nailed another jumper to post a team-high 13 first half points and give the Texans a 31-19 lead with 2:38 to go in the first half. The Cowboys chipped away at the lead in the final 2:38 not allowing the Texans to score and cutting their deficit to six, 31-25 at the break.

Tarleton shot a remarkable 56.5% in the first half while holding the Cowboys to shoot just at 24.1 clip. Oklahoma State made two of its 11 shots from deep, an 18.2% rate. Tarleton sunk four at a 50% clip in the first



No. 10 Keitenn Bristow on offense for TSU.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

20.

The Cowboys came out with a vengeance in the second half, scoring on back-to-back possessions to cut their deficit down to two in just under two minutes of play. After an Mpaka block, Miles found the ball on a fast break and gave the Texans a four-point advantage with a fast break lay-up.

The two teams swapped baskets until the under-16 media timeout with the Texans leading 35-31. Coming out of the media, it was the Cowboys turn to regain the lead. After Tarleton lead for nearly 20 total minutes, Oklahoma State executed a 7-0 run to take the lead for the first time since early in the first half.

But, the Texans weren't going to give up easily. Silvera drove through traffic to score his first of 11 second half points. After the Cowboys widened their

lead to four with a triple, it was Silvera that brought the Texans back within a bucket, 41-39.

With 10:59 to go and the Cowboys leading 44-40, it was Miles' turn to take over the game. He scored on back-to-back possessions, with the latter resulting from a steal in the Cowboys offensive end and finding his way to the hoop for two more to tie the game at 44.

Oklahoma State took control over the next few minutes, building their lead up to seven with seven minutes to go. Bristow made a free throw followed by a Benjamin layup to bring the Texans within four, 52-48. After a Cowboy bucket, Silvera stole an outlet Cowboy pass on their next possession and stopped and popped from three to cut the Oklahoma State advantage to three, 54-51 with 4:15 remaining.

Silvera initiated a series of three-pointers on each end followed by a Cowboy triple in response to bring the lead back to six. But on the Texans next possession, Bristow returned the favor with his fourth triple of the night. Oklahoma State responded with another three of their own, followed by a bucket to give them an eight-point lead, their largest of the night.

Tarleton State showed they still had fight in itself when Dantwan Grimes buried a triple from deep as the shot clock expired. Silvera followed up on the next possession driving to the basket to force an Oklahoma State timeout with the lead 62-59 and 1:21 to go.

In the final minute, the Cowboys scored on their next possession, answered by Silvera driving to the hoop again with 30 ticks left. In a crazy luck situation, the

Cowboys turned the ball off on the inbound when Arturo Dean traveled while catching the pass. Unfortunately the Texans were unable to convert as Benjamin was forced to take an off-balanced three and the Cowboys grabbed the board ending the Texan comeback chances, ultimately resulting in a 66-61 defeat by the Cowboys.

The Texans knocked down a season-best seven triples, while shooting at a 38.9% clip. For the fifth time this season, the Purple and White won the turnover battle forcing 18 and only committing 14. The Texans tallied 11 steals, marking the fourth time this season the squad recorded at least 10 in a single game.

Tarleton finished the night shooting 46.3%, 25-for-54 from the floor, out-shooting the Cowboys 40%. Oklahoma State won the battle of the boards, 42-26.

Stellar nights from Rosborough, Acker lead Tarleton Women's Basketball to road win at Arkansas State

Tarleton State University

JONESBORO, Ark. – Behind senior guard Arieona Rosborough's double-double of 22 points and 10 rebounds and sophomore center Faith Acker's 21 points and nine rebounds, Tarleton Women's Basketball collected a 78-68 win at Arkansas State Dec. 19 at First National Bank Arena.

Rosborough, who collected her first double-double as a Texan, recorded a season-high for points, rebounds and assists (7). The Mansfield native nearly obtained the program's first triple-double in the NCAA Era and registered her

third 20-point game of the season.

After coming up with 18 points and eight rebounds in Monday's win over New Mexico State, Acker made 10 of her 11 shots en route to her season-high for points. Acker, who was one rebound shy of her third double-double of the season, set a new Division I program record with the highest field goal percentage in a single game at 90.9% (min. 10 shot attempts).

Tarleton also got a lift from a pair of seniors in guard Jakoriah Long and forward Elise Turrubiates. Long scored 13 points to go with six boards while Turrubiates tallied nine re-

bounds off the bench.

"I thought our kids did a really good job of breaking their press and getting to open spots on the floor. Arkansas State's press is a hard style to play against," head coach Bill Brock said.

Tarleton got off to a red-hot start in Arkansas State's Red Out Night, opening the first quarter on a 9-0 scoring run. The Texans held the Red Wolves to just three points through the first five minutes and forced Arkansas State into just 18.8% first quarter shooting. A Turrubiates fast break bucket and a Rosborough jumper in the paint with five seconds left in the opening period allowed the Texans

to take an early 24-8 lead.

Acker helped keep the Texans out in front with three consecutive baskets to open the second quarter, finishing with a perfect 4-for-4 from the floor in the second period. Arkansas State looked to capitalize off a turnover by drilling a basket to go with a pair of free throws in the closing first half minutes, but Turrubiates knocked down a turnaround jumper to make it 13-point game. Arkansas State hit a driving layup just before the halftime buzzer to cut Tarleton's lead to 11 after 20 minutes.

Arkansas State responded out of the locker room by trimming Tarleton's lead down to single digits, hitting a 3-pointer to make it a six-point game with just over five minutes to play in the third quarter. Rosborough helped the Texans stay out in front, hitting a jumper and assisting on a Miannah Little 3-pointer to double the advantage. The Red Wolves scored the final six points of the third period to make it an eight-point game heading into the final 10 minutes.

The Texans kept the momentum from the opening in the final period, with Long starting the fourth quarter off with a basket while drawing the foul. Rosborough fueled a Tarleton run, scoring five

straight points to make it 13-point game. Arkansas State finished the game on a 7-0 scoring run, but the Texans weathered the storm and left Jonesboro in the win column.

Postgame Notes
Tarleton Women's Basketball defeated Arkansas State 78-68 Thursday night in the two's first meeting in women's basketball. The Texans got their first victory of the season over a Sun Belt Conference team.

The Texans never trailed in Thursday night's game. They have held the lead for 78:24 out of 80 minutes this week.

Senior guard Arieona Rosborough collected her first double-double of the season with a season-high 22 points and 10 rebounds to go with seven assists. Rosborough registered her third 20-point game of the season and nearly obtained the first triple-double in the NCAA Era. The program's only triple-double came in 1982 when Tarleton Hall of Famer Jennifer Washington scored 31 points, 22 rebounds, and had 10 steals when the Texans were affiliated with the NAIA.

Sophomore forward Faith Acker made 10 of her 11 shots and scored a season-high 21 points to go with nine rebounds in Thursday's win. Acker's

90.9% shooting set a new single game Division I program record with the highest field goal percentage (min. 10 shot attempts).

Rosborough and Acker are the first duo under head coach Bill Brock to score at least 20 points each in the same game. It is the first time since March 5, 2021 two Tarleton players scored 20 points each in the same game (Marissa Escamilla and Iyana Dorsey, 22 pts each vs. UTRGV).

Tarleton began the game on a 9-0 scoring run and held a 24-8 lead after the first quarter. The Texans shot 56.3% from the floor while holding Arkansas State to just 18.8% shooting in the opening period.

The Texans shot 55.6% percent in the second half to close out the game, shooting over 52% in both the third and fourth quarters. Tarleton has shot over 50% from the floor in five out of its last eight quarters.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Arieona Rosborough was a playmaker, leading the Tarleton Women's Basketball team to a win.





The County 4-H Ambassadors at the 4-H Christmas party. (Back row left to right) Hunter Beaty, Dutch Nielsen, Jeret Burks, and Lane Brookshire. (Second row from back, left to right) Kinsley McPherson, Anna McPherson, Clancy Archie, Caleb Mannix, Troy Ponder, and Kace Laster. (Second row from front, left to right) Braidy Lusk, Allie McPherson, Makaylie Williams, Kinlee Gardner, Mia Conley, Cooper Dickey, Lilly Kinsey, and Colt Brookshire. (Front row left to right) Agent Becky Coward, Lillie Mann, Bailey Wolff, Lily Nielsen, Zojie Wolff, Chelsea Johnson, and Eve Fulton.

Coryell County 4-H hosted Christmas party

Submitted by Becky Coward, Coryell County Extension Agent - 4-H Youth Development

As 2024 comes to a close, I'm reminded of how thankful I am for the volunteer base that helps provide the majority of our 4-H programming. Coryell County has 15 clubs spread all across the county with a membership of close to 400 youth.

I'm so happy to report that we had 86 youths attend our County 4-H Christmas party with all 15 clubs represented! Our Ambassador Team did an

outstanding job of making sure they all had a blast. They played games, made crafts, and watched the animated Grinch movie. We also had the Grinch on hand to interact with the kids. They took full advantage of the wrapping paper fashion show station when the Grinch came around!

It seems that the hustle and bustle is in full swing, but our 4-H program continues to offer fun, educational, enriching, and enlightening programming. We truly have something for everyone, thanks to our devoted volunteers

and county ambassador team members who help make it happen. Each of them is greatly appreciated for giving their time and talents to provide a great 4-H experience for our club members.

I'm looking forward to January as we prepare for the county fair. It's always fun to be taken by the hand by a young 4-H member and shown their project at the fair. They are so proud of what they make with their own little hands. The county fair is such a great place for families. Some of my own kids' fondest memo-

ries are of the Peewee Clover Kid division at the fair. The enthusiasm and excitement are contagious. I'd like to encourage and invite everyone to come out for the first full week of January to the Coryell County Youth Fair.

I hope and pray that each of you have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year, spending time with family. Once again, a shout out to our volunteers who are truly valued and appreciated for their unwavering efforts in investing in our youth!



Top photo: Head Start students sing Christmas carols at the Christmas party. Bottom: Gatesville Senior Center volunteer Gaddy McDonald is pictured with Head Start student Trulie Lewis.

Senior Center hosts Christmas party for Head Start students

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH Staff Writer

After collecting donations throughout the month of December, the Gatesville Senior Center hosted its annual Christmas party for the students at Head Start on Thursday, Dec. 19, to distribute the gifts that were donated.

This is the third annual toy drive, which is hosted to benefit local Head Start

students and their families. This year, 34 students received gifts, which included 16 girls and 18 boys.

The party offered punch, cookies, dessert, music, and gifts to the students and their families. The Head Start students also performed Christmas carols for the partygoers and those present at the Senior Center.



Business Directory

Billy Latham
Sales



WHITT Building Supplies

Office (254) 865-2190
Cell: (254) 216-1516
billy@wbsupplies.com

1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, Texas 76528

R & M Fencing & Dozing

FREE ESTIMATES

Fence Row Clearing
Barbed Wire
Custom Pipe Fencing
Entryways & Corrals
Barns & Metal Buildings
Residential Fencing
Game Fencing
Dozer Work Available

LARRY RIDDLE
254-248-2205

JOYCE MCADAMS
254-248-4318

Advertise.
Inspire. Sell.

Call The Gatesville Messenger to reserve this space, 254-865-5212.



DOZER WORK
LAND CLEARING
ADD-ONS

REMODELING
METAL BUILDINGS
WOOD FRAMING

TC BROOKSHIRE, OWNER

(254) 223-1817 (254) 216-9572



Tyler Powell
254-223-3551

Zach Hodges
254-383-6267

Residential & Commercial
Master Lic. No. M-42617

midtexplumbing@gmail.com



WHITT Building Supplies

Brandon Latham
Owner / President

1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, Texas 76528

mobile: 254-223-1723
Office: 254-865-2190

GRIBS CONSTRUCTION
State Certified Installer of Septic Systems

BACKHOE & DIRT WORK
GRAVEL • ASPHALT
ROADS • DRIVES

Owner--Gary Gribble



2000 VIOLET LANE
GATESVILLE, TX 76528

254-248-4171

FERGUSON ROOFING

Serving Central Texas

Locally Owned Company
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

Free Estimates.....254-466-5128

For Rent

Call for details:
The Gatesville Messenger
254-865-5212



PROGRESSIVE Shawn Camp Insurance, Inc.

Home • Auto • Motorcycle • Boat/Personal Watercraft

Call Amy or Shawn today for a price quote and insure your peace of mind.

2707 E. HWY. 190
COPPERAS ROVE, TX 76522
SHAWNCAMPINSURANCE@HOTMAIL.COM

Tel 254-865-2002
Fax 254-547-5778



WHITT Building Supplies

CHRIS WINKLER SALES

1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass
Gatesville, Texas 76528

254.865.2190 Office
254.444.9040 Cell
254.865.9137 Fax
chris.winkler@whittbuildingsupplies.com

Jaydie Dixon
Owner



DIXON ROOFING

FREE ESTIMATES
Insurance Claims Specialist

Residential & Commercial
254.248.4053 P.O. Box 67, Gatesville, TX



Gatesville Civic Center
(254) 865-8951
www.gatesvilletx.com



MID-TEX PLUMBING
Residential & Commercial
Master Lic. No. 42617
Tyler Powell 254-223-3551
Zach Hodges 254-383-6267
Gatesville, TX



Candy Pet Palace
Since 2007
1412 W. Main, Gatesville
Call 254-865-8400
WWW.CANDYPETPALACE.COM



ACE Hardware
2820 S. State Hwy. 36
Gatesville, TX
254-865-6900



Grib's Construction
2000 Violet Lane
Gatesville, TX
254-248-4171



Robert L. Berry
DBA Christian Brothers Ltd.,
716 E. Leon Street,
Gatesville, TX 76528
512-810-1002



Carlus Park Street BURGERS
"Oolla The Park" Delicious.
1602 E. Main St.
Gatesville, TX 254-865-6061



KALYN SIEBERT
1505 West Main St., Gatesville, TX
(254) 865-7235



Coryell Feed & Supply
213 E. Main, Gatesville
254-865-6315



SONIC
America's Drive-In.
1910 Main Street
Gatesville
(254) 865-7333



GOSSETT TOWING SERVICE
1810 E. Main St. • 254-865-7330



Personal, friendly dental care
GATESVILLE FAMILY DENTAL
220 Memorial Dr. • 865-7272



MAYTAG
Tim Beck's Maytag Home Appliance Center
4829 E. US Hwy. 84, Gatesville
(254) 865-5705



Gatesville Drug Co.
Drive Thru • Delivery Available
2513 S. State TX 36
254-865-2417

2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR

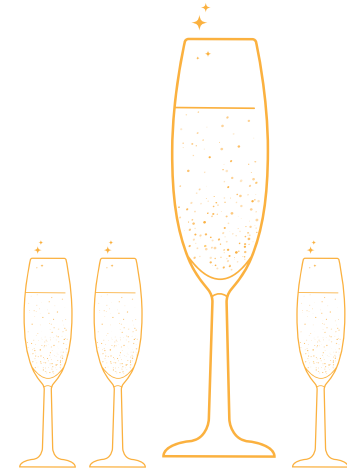


As we count down to 2025, here are some fun facts to get the party started!

Biggest Celebration
"Réveillon"
Copacabana Beach
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
2 Million People
Source: Travel Channel



Kiribati
located in the central Pacific Ocean, about 2,500 miles (about 4,000 km) southwest of Hawaii
first country in the world to see the new year



360 Million
Glasses of Sparkling Wine Are Consumed on New Year's Eve
Source: WalletHub



Times Square Ball
11,875 Pounds
2,688 Crystal Triangles
Source: Times Square District Management Association

37% of Americans
29% of Canadians
Make New Year's Resolutions

Top resolutions include:
Lose Weight
Save Money
Exercise More
Source: YouGov polls 2020, 2022

So Many Ways to Say, "Happy New Year!"

- Frohes Neues Jahr! (German)
 - Buon Anno! (Italian)
 - Bonne Année! (French)
 - Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! (Dutch)
 - ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! (Spanish)
 - Selamat Tahun Baru! (Indonesian)
- Source: Babbel



COMER AUTOMOTIVE
SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1980
254-865-7000
103 PARK ST., GATESVILLE



Leaird's Furniture & Appliance
"A Central Texas Tradition Since 1898"
108 S. 6th St. Gatesville, TX
(254) 865-2615
www.leairdsfurniture.com



M&W AG SUPPLY
Evant, Texas
254-471-5500
Owners: Scott Marwitz



City of Gatesville
Spur Capital of Texas
803 E. Main Street
(254) 865-8951
www.gatesvilletx.com



Ryan Basham
Coryell County Commissioner, Pct. 3



Gatesville CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2307 Hwy. 36 South
865-2617 | GatesvilleChamber.com



The Resale Shop
Benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville
1706 East Main Street
254-248-1250



TEXAS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
AUTO / HOME / LIFE
254-865-7246
2605 S. State Hwy. 36, Gatesville, TX 76528



(254) 466-5128
FERGUSON ROOFING
Serving All Of Central Texas Commercial and Residential



Valet Cleaners & Laundry
2418 E. Main, Gatesville, TX
254-865-5213



CORYELL MUSEUM & HISTORICAL CENTER - GATESVILLE, TX
718 Main Street
Gatesville, TX (254) 865-5007
coryellmuseum.com



PRUITT'S
Hwy. 36 & FM 929
865-5602
Convenience Store
Drive-thru Beer Barn



HILLSIDE MEDICAL LODGE
SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM CARE
300 S. Hwy. 36 Bypass, Gatesville
254-865-7575
www.hillsideml.com



B&K AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
TACLB09146E
Ryan Warren - 254-865-9188
New Construction • Changeouts • Repair
Service of All Brands • Warranty Work