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SATURDAY | Jan. 4, 2025

# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 122, No. 59, ISSN No. 0894-4954



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Courthouse maintenance worker Bill Snell, with the assistance of Gatesville Fire Chief Billy Vaden, worked on sealing the gaps on the west side of the courthouse to prevent the entry of bees and moisture into the attic area.

# They're back ...

BY DAVID SCOTT  
 Staff Writer

An article appeared in last June's edition in *The Gatesville Messenger* about the bee population inside the historic Coryell County Courthouse. It was reported that in the balcony area of the 52nd courtroom, honey could be seen seeping down the walls on the west side of the building which was coming from a massive beehive located in the attic. The hive was

estimated to be 30 feet in circumference. At that time, bee removal firms in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area as well as in Austin were contacted and all agreed that the only solution to removing the hive would be to cut a hole through the wall. That could not be considered an option due to the fact that the structure cannot be altered since the courthouse had been placed on the National

Register of Historic Places in 1977, and since that time has been protected by the Texas State Historical Commission. Therefore, there was no other way to remove the bees other than extermination. According to courthouse steward and historian, Tiffany Butler, about two weeks ago, a live bee was found in the 52nd courtroom. "We went back to the third-floor balcony, and we noticed there was

more honey on the inside windowsills and fresh bees flying in the balcony," she said. Butler noticed that the recently-detected honey seemed to be loose and not as thick as it had previously been and that the color seemed to have lightened — this being an indication that rain and moisture had seeped into the attic area around the hive.

PLEASE SEE **BACK** | A2



COURTESY PHOTO

Sofia and Max Hernandez with their eight grandchildren.

# Fundraiser raises \$13,000 so far for family who lost parents in car wreck

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
 Staff Writer

A local family is asking for support after losing their parents in a tragic car wreck on Nov. 20.

Max and Sofia Hernandez, of Gatesville, left behind six adult daughters and eight grandchildren following a fatal wreck that

involved a police chase. Their granddaughter, Jaella Guerrero, and two daughters, Prisma Hernandez and Jessica

Guerrero, were also critically injured and hospitalized in the crash.

PLEASE SEE **FUNDRAISER** | A2

# Year in REVIEW

To kick off 2025, *The Gatesville Messenger* offers a snapshot of some of the biggest local news stories of the year.

Last week, *The Messenger* presented the first five out of the top 10 stories of 2024. From citywide to countywide, this list presents the top five most newsworthy events in Gatesville and Coryell County.

## 5 Gatesville Public Library temporarily closes

In September, the City of Gatesville temporarily closed the public library after a patron found books on the shelves with water damage. The damage likely stems from roof damage that the building received during severe storms in the spring.

The discovery led to a lengthy recovery process to ensure that there were no mold concerns, which included building repairs and removing any damaged books or materials. Although mold testing deemed that the building's air quality was at safe levels, the library lost around \$500,000 worth of books.

Due to the major loss, organizations, businesses, and other libraries are helping the Gatesville Public Library replace materials. In early December, Gatesville's HEB donated \$50,000 to Friends of the Gatesville Public Library to help replace the books lost in closure. The Friends of the Library also started fundraising efforts through GoFundMe and are accepting cash donations.

The library opened a temporary location at City Hall on 803 E Main Street. It is expected to reopen in March or April.

## 4 Luke Maxwell becomes four-time state champion at UIL

Jonesboro High School senior Luke Maxwell became the third person in history to win a four-time state champion in UIL number sense.

Along with taking home a gold medal for his individual performance, his number sense team, which included Pate Foote, DeMarcus Acoff, and Braden Ashby, also went down in the history books by being the first UIL team at Jonesboro ISD to receive medals in their division.

The number sense competition is comprised of 80 difficult questions, which covers all high school mathematics courses and allows only 10 minutes to answer them. This includes no erasers, mark outs, calculators, or scratch paper.

## 3 Lady Eagles win state

The Jonesboro Lady Eagles made history this year by being the first softball team in the district to win the 1A Softball State Championships and to take home the state title. The team took home the state trophy on Wednesday, May 29, after beating Neches 3-1.

The Lady Eagles played a hard and rigorous season with an overall record of 23-7 and 7-0 in district play while winning 22 of the last 24 games of the season.

The Lady Eagles are coached by husband and wife team, Cody and Amanda LeCroy, who are first-time coaches for Jonesboro High School.

## 2 Severe weather leads to closures across Coryell County

On the weekend of May 5, 2024, extreme flooding caused by heavy rainfall and an overflowing Leon River affected several communities across Coryell County.

At the height of the floods, the Coryell County Sheriff's Office announced that more than 40 roads were closed due to high water or damage. The Gatesville Fire Department responded to approximately 17 calls for assistance during the peak of the floods.

Along with several road closures and flooded neighborhoods, Faunt Le Roy Park and Pecan Grove Baptist Church received significant damage.

PLEASE SEE **REVIEW** | A2



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# Holly Owens takes on role of city secretary

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

Holly Owens has been appointed as the new city secretary for the City of Gatesville.

Owens is not originally from Gatesville and has commuted for the last four years from Woodway to Bellmead, where she served as the city secretary.

Owens expressed that she was unable to move until her youngest child graduated high school. When the time came for her child to graduate, Owens and her husband, David, decided to move south.

She was hired as the city secretary in late August of 2024, but her official position began around mid-December when Wendy Cole, former city secretary, officially retired.

"I wanted it to be a thoughtful transition, and it gave me the opportunity to learn from Wendy about Gatesville and focus on the planning aspect of my role," Owens said.

With 23 years of experience in municipal government, it gives her the opportunity to be able to see potential growth in an area and she said that she wants

to be a part of that with a front row seat.

"I would like to acknowledge that I have large shoes to fill, and I will do my best to continue with the same level of service that has been provided for many years," she said. "However, ultimately, I aim to leave a lasting and positive impact on the City of Gatesville by working with the council, staff, and citizens to aid Gatesville in bringing in economic development but also maintaining Gatesville charm."

She expressed that she enjoys the variety and the legal elements that come with the role of city secretary. Being involved in all the departments gives her a comprehensive view of how the city operates.

"I believe that all experiences and skills from previous positions continuously prepare you for current and future positions, however, for my role here in Gatesville, my planning and building inspection skills will be most valuable," she said.

As city secretary, the role carries a wide range of responsibilities, all of which

are vital to the smooth functioning of the city.

Those duties include:  
- Manage public records, ensuring all city records are properly documented, archived, and accessible to the public

- Schedule and prepare agendas for all public meetings, take minutes, and ensure the meetings run smoothly

- Legal and ethical compliance ensuring the city complies with state and local laws

- Support to the City Council, Mayor, and City Manager acting as a liaison between the city staff and the council, ensuring the flow of information and supporting the decision-making processes

- Planning and strategic development for long-term planning and development of city policies, ordinances, and other strategic initiatives, such as zoning and economic development

- Manage elections and voter services

- Public communication and outreach to provide Gatesville citizens with information about city operations



COURTESY PHOTO

Holly Owens is pictured with her husband, David.

"My personal work value is a term called servant leadership," she said. "I have always strived to put the needs of my team, the city, and its citizens first and to help others develop their own skills and perform at their best."

Owens mentioned that she really enjoys the history of Gatesville, but most of all, the character and charm of the city, as well as the small-town atmosphere with a sense of community.

"The City of Gatesville has an outstanding group

of people working for the citizens ranging from the elected officials to the many different departments that handle everyday operations," she said. "I look forward to serving the citizens of Gatesville."

## FUNDRAISER

FROM PAGE A1

During this difficult time, the family is reaching out for support as they navigate both the emotional and financial challenges ahead, according to a statement on their GoFundMe page.

"Max and Sofia were faithful servants of Jeho-

vah, always putting their faith and family first," the family said. "They devoted their lives to helping others and raising their daughters with love, care, and a strong sense of faith."

Elizeth Willacker, one of Max and Sofia's daughters, said the donations will help cover the costs of the medical bills for her injured sisters and niece, funeral

expenses, and provide support that comes after an unexpected loss.

"Donations will go directly toward medical bills for the injured daughters, funeral expenses, and helping the family through this difficult time as they adjust to life without their parents," the family said. "Every contribution, no matter how small, will make

a meaningful difference."

The tragedy occurred on the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 20., when a Gatesville man driving a 2019 Chevrolet Malibu was fleeing from police in Woodway. The driver of the Chevrolet was identified as 31-year-old Michael Scott Hughes, who entered Coryell County on FM 929.

While driving westbound on FM 929 at a high rate of speed, Hughes lost control and crossed into the eastbound lane where a

2023 Volkswagen SUV was driving eastbound at the same time. Hughes' vehicle collided with the Volkswagen, and he was killed upon impact.

The Volkswagen contained Max Hernandez, 61, and Sofia Hernandez, 68, who died in the crash. Max and Sofia's granddaughter and two daughters, who were also in the vehicle, were transported to the emergency room for injuries.


The family's GoFundMe

has already raised around \$13,000 as of Dec. 30. To make a donation, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-hernandez-family-after-tragic-loss>


"The Hernandez family is deeply grateful for any support, and your generosity will help them begin to heal while honoring the memory of Max and Sofia," the family said. "Thank you for your kindness, prayers, and support during this heartbreaking time."

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## BACK

FROM PAGE A1

"We were able to progress and have the Gatesville Fire Department, with the help of Chief Billy Vaden, to use their lateral lift truck to reach the outside third floor where they sealed anything off where bees could enter the building and also to prevent moisture and rain from getting into the building from those access points," she said.

Butler continued, "County

Judge Roger Miller is very much aware of what's going on and definitely wants to do everything possible to preserve the building and make sure that they (the bees) don't have an access point from the outside to come in and re-establish the hive, although we're pretty sure that another queen has found her way back into the building."

Snell and Vaden went up

in the fire department's lateral lift to seal off the gaps on the north and west sides of the courthouse.

"It was more important to do this from the outside, and that way we could block the bees and the moisture from coming in the building. The gaps need to be sealed completely," Butler said.

## REVIEW

FROM PAGE A1

While the walking track at Faunt Le Roy eventually reopened in July, the upper portion of the park still remains closed. The flooding in early May and June caused an estimated \$3 million in damage to the surrounding property and banks of the Leon River.

Pecan Grove Baptist Church, built in 1929 and located near Coryell Creek, "experienced the worst flooding in the history" when it was flooding during the evening hours of Saturday, May 5. After being closed for repairs for several months, the church officially reopened in November.

### 1 Gatesville witnesses the total solar eclipse

On April 8, 2024, thousands of people flocked to Central Texas to witness a total solar eclipse. Due to being one of the cities in the path of totality, Gatesville became a prime viewing spot.

The rare event involved a year's worth of preparations for the city to welcome visitors from around the world. During the weekend of the eclipse, Gatesville received travelers from countries such as New Zealand, Norway, Brazil, and Japan, as well as from cities across the United States.

The city of Gatesville hosted several events, including the "Block (Out the Sun) Party" festival downtown and the "Art in the Shadow" art exhibition.

Visitors and locals gathered to watch the moon pass over the sun from various areas throughout Gatesville on April 8, including the Sports Complex, Coryell Community Church, the courthouse lawn, Raby Park, and more.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# The good and the bad of social media



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

We exist in the time of the advent of social media. Facebook and those entities that followed like Instagram and TikTok, were all created to allow individuals to communicate with the world on a scale which was heretofore unimaginable. In the past 20 years, that communication has led to some interesting challenges.

I feel certain that when Mark Zuckerberg and others were refining their initial plans for social media their thoughts were focused on all the potentially good things it could accomplish. It would have included staying in touch with others, knowing what your friends and family are up to, and seeing photos or videos

of activities. These are all noble and worthwhile pursuits. I know for me, I love to see photos of old college fraternity buddies and their families, learning what they are doing and how they are spending their time. I want to see photos of my grandchildren and their activities, and it is wonderful learning what is happening in my

neighborhood. Frequently, social media updates me with information about someone being injured, sick, or troubled. It keeps me informed when someone passes away, moves, goes to the hospital, divorces, has a child, or gets a new job. We humans have a need to connect to one another, and that is exactly why solitary confinement in prison is such a serious punishment. No one wants to feel isolated. We need to interact with others. We want to know what is happening. We want to feel part of a community.

Unfortunately, many of these noble objectives have been diminished because of the manner in which people use social media. To be clear, I think it is reasonable to have political discourse on social media. It is appropriate to discuss the issues of the day and for individuals to express their opinions. The boundary of what is appropriate to talk about on social media is where I have concerns. When human beings

disagree and see things differently, there is usually conflict. Sometimes, the conflict is irrational and even dangerous. Anyone who has ever been at a bar and seen a couple of fellows argue over which sports team is better or whether a referee's call was correct or not, can attest to how disagreement can sometimes quickly spiral out of control. With social media, disagreements can become community-wide and even worldwide.

Until social media, people did not commonly confront others in public. It was considered to be bad manners. One might argue that such confrontations were limited by fear of getting punched in the nose for an ill-directed comment, but generally disputes were handled one-on-one. Importantly, this was done in the privacy of the office, the home, or wherever, and people moved on. For the most part, disputes were private, or at least limited to the immediate proximity of the individuals involved.

With social media, anyone with a keyboard can reach millions of people, saying whatever they wish to say, and with little fear of immediate ramifications for their angst. Frequently, too much information is shared. Even more often, hate, lies, and misconceptions are spread.

Social media has empowered people to complain about the most delicate of subjects and the most personal. It is beyond me why anyone would think issues between a husband and wife should be aired for the world to become involved. Knowing the financial plight, emotional difficulties, bad dating experiences, or the frequency of bodily functions of others, is not something I personally long to experience. If you are my friend, I will be happy to be a shoulder to lean on. Call me, and we can talk it through and what we say is between you and me and not between us and the world.

Letting everyone know all aspects of your business is rarely a positive thing. Once

a subject hits Facebook, whatever is posted is there for all to see ... forever! It makes me wonder how many times people wish they had hit the delete key before they hit the send key. Maybe there is a syndrome for this phenomenon — let's call it "social media regret." The consequences can be devastating.

There is freedom of speech, but not freedom of consequences from that free speech. We have all seen old posts brought up to attack others. One needs to pick their battles, particularly on social media.

There are some things which simply do not need to be shared.

Thought for the day; "It's a dialogue, not a monologue, and some people do not understand that. Social media is more like a telephone than a television." Amy Jo Martin, CEO and founder of Digital Royalty.

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

## Coryell Museum to install new elevator, will close temporarily

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

In the near future, the Coryell Museum and Historical Center will be closed to the public while a new elevator is being installed in the facility.

According to museum board member, Ray Ashby,

"The reasons for getting a new elevator are many, but mainly because the current lift is old and outdated. If it were to break down, it would be impossible to find parts to repair it. If that were to happen, the museum would be out of ADA compliance (Ameri-

cans with Disabilities Act) and would have to shut down for a much longer period than we have planned for."

Ashby said that the museum board made the decision to be pre-emptive and purchase a new elevator rather than to wait for problems in the future.

The company installing the elevator will be Home Elevator of Texas, which is based in San Antonio. Griffith Renovation and Construction in Evant will be doing the construction portion, which will include rails, shaft, and landing under the supervision of Chance Griffith.

Ashby stated that the cost of the new elevator would be in the neighborhood of \$125,000, and, considering the price of a new elevator in the future, could be much higher than it is currently.

Ashby continued, "There are also lots of benefits about the new elevator that the old one doesn't have. At the moment, the current lift will only hold about three people or one person and a person in a wheelchair. The new elevator will have a larger capacity - maybe five to eight passengers. The new elevator will also travel at a much faster speed than the old one. This will come in handy during our busy times, such as Spurfest."

The museum expects the elevator installation to begin sometime in late February. The museum will be closed during that time for approximately three to four weeks.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Pictured is the current lift used at the Coryell Museum, which has become outdated, and it would be hard to repair if it were to break down. The new elevator, which is scheduled to be installed in late February, will be larger and will move at a faster speed.

## Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Marte Bailey is pictured with his wife and children while visiting Santa Claus at Christmas at the Ballpark.

### Say hello to our neighbor, Marte Bailey!

Marte is the Recreation Supervisor of Athletics and Aquatics for the City of Gatesville's Parks and Recreation Department. He has proudly served in this role since 2021, while working to create opportunities for the community to stay active and connected. He expressed that the best part of his job is seeing people of all ages come together to enjoy our programs.

"Whether it's kids making their first big play in a game, families spending time at the pool, or adults reconnecting through recreational sports, it's incredibly rewarding to see the joy and community spirit our efforts foster," he said. He was born and raised in Gatesville and has called this community his home for 30 years. His favorite thing about Gatesville is the sense of community. "It's a place where people care about each other, and there's always someone willing to lend a hand or cheer you on," he said.

Marte reads *The Gatesville Messenger* and said, "I like that *The Gatesville Messenger* not only covers the big news in our town, but also reports on the little things, or as I like to think of them, 'the important things.' Those stories about local events, achievements, and people are what truly reflect the heart of our community."

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

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TUMBLEWEED SMITH

# Tennis in Mason



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Mason County has more tennis courts per capita than any county in the state. Residents have played the sport since the 1920s. It was rather primitive back then.

"Draw a line in the dirt, put two sticks up, and string barbed wire between them and play with tennis racquets that cost a quarter. It was an easy sport that didn't require a lot of money," says Amelia Zesch, Mason's tennis historian. She says an early concession stand was a man's pickup.

"He sold Dr Pepper and goat sandwiches from the bed of his vehicle."

Generations of players and coaches have been involved in Mason High School's tennis program.

"We have 114 individual state championships," says tennis coach Cade Smith. "That's many more than the next school in the state of Texas. We also have 28 state team championships. We have two courts here at the high school and countless courts around the county that we use quite

a bit."

Zesch says two courts were built on the east side of the courthouse. "A couple of guys built the fence around them out of chicken wire."

Mason County's association with tennis has attracted national publicity. "Sports Illustrated did an article on Mason tennis," says Zesch. "It was 11 pages long and had lots of pictures in the small towns of Art and Peter's Prairie, both early communities that had tennis courts and players."

She says other publications had long articles and lots of photos. "Tennis on the Range" was the title of one article. "One magazine ran a photo of a young girl playing tennis. The caption read 'Tennis in the country where the hogs are.'" Another one printed stories about these old timers driving around in their pickups with tennis racquets in the gun racks.

Before there were UIL

divisions, Mason played against tennis teams in major cities and won. Mason won over Highland Park High School tournament after tournament.

In the 1950s, Mason started its own tennis tournament. Within 20 years, it attracted a thousand teams from Texas and nearby states. Participants stayed in the school gyms and in residents' homes. Once, Mason was known as the tennis capital of Texas. Now, city residents call it the winningest tennis team in Texas. The Mason Tennis Association has hundreds of members.

"I feel like half the town contributes to the upkeep of these courts in some form or fashion," says Cade. Some tennis players in Mason started playing tennis when they were barely out of diapers. In 1935, a Mason tennis player hitchhiked to the state tournament and won. He brought his trophy home on the bus.

## SUDOKU

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

Puzzle answers from the Dec. 28, 2024 issue.

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

## O-SO CLEAN CAR WASH CEREMONY



KAITLYN SMITH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Brian and Tandra Nystrom are pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony for their new car wash, "O-SO Clean," on Wednesday, Dec. 18. O-SO Clean is a local family-owned car wash, which has a dual belt conveyor for washing dually trucks as well. O-SO Clean is located at 3401 East Main Street.

## HEB BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recently honored Gatesville's local HEB with a Business of the Month award for December of 2024. Over the last year, HEB has contributed to helping those within the community countless times and is now being recognized for their efforts.

## Morris Federation to meet Jan. 11

Submitted item

The Morris Federation will have its first meeting of 2025 on Saturday,

Jan. 11, at 10:15 a.m. at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center in the James Coryell Room. The program will be presented

by Coryell County Judge Roger Miller on "The History of the Coryell County Courthouse and Plans for Its Future."

## Whatever happened to ...

**20 YEARS AGO (2005)**  
Gross sales were up for the second quarter of 2004. Tree disposal was provided at a site near the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. Members of the Jonesboro High School science classes were set to complete in the Science Olympiad at Tarleton State University. Mid-Tex Driving Academy

offered defensive driving classes. The Gatesville Garden Club selected the home of M.H. and Jeanette Shepherd as the "Yard of the Month" for December. **30 YEARS AGO (1995)** Construction began on a 1,000-bed prison facility and a 900-bed state jail. Air Force Airman Jason B. Kendrick graduated from

Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. Trantum Ford & Mercury advertised a 1995 Ford Aspire for \$8,995. The Garden Club and Texas - New Mexico Power Company sponsored a Christmas tree recycling program at the Wal-Mart parking lot. Robert Lehrer was named the new manager of the Pro-

duction Credit Association's Gatesville office. **40 YEARS AGO (1985)** Winter arrived early, bringing with it below freezing temperatures, snow, ice, auto accidents, and disrupted long distance telephone service. Leaird's Department Store had a big 20-50%-off sale. Wholesale Foods offered Little Debbie cookies for 59

cents. Sue Dixon was the winner of a drawing conducted by the Bee Hive for a wooden rocking horse. The Video Place advertised "Streets of Fire" to rent. **50 YEARS AGO (1975)** The Coryell County Farm Bureau enrolled 166 new members. Fee Pharmacy advertised

chewable vitamin C tablets for 98 cents. Vandals broke out glass in 12 windows on the south side of the Gatesville High School building. Miller Motor Co. advertised the 1975 Granada two-door Ghia. Thompson and Tippit Department Store advertised men's sport coats for only \$10.

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### Cattle Drive 4-H

Belt, Charles  
Belt, Thomas  
Blanchard, Brooke  
Blanchard, Cash  
Bomar, Shelbi  
Bryson, Kolbi  
Chumley, Adlee  
Chumley, Ellie  
Chumley, Hayes  
Dickey, Cooper  
Dingianni, Kian  
Ferguson, Sawyer  
Fine, Rory  
Gaisbauer, Barton  
Gilbert, Maddox  
Gilbert, Presley  
Gore, Colton  
Gore, Natalie  
Higginbotham, Riley  
Jacobs, Maxwell  
Jaynes, Dawson  
Kinsey, Audie  
Kinsey, Hubbard  
Kinsey, Lilly  
Lam, Jemma  
Lam, Joleen  
Lawrence, Hillary  
Lee, Leddy  
Lee, Rodie  
Mabry, Kenton  
Mabry, Landry  
Mangum, Addisyn  
Mangum, Kynlee  
Mangum, Skylar  
Mannix, Caleb  
Ohnheiser, Landry  
Ratterman, Piper  
Russell, Martin  
Wallace, Pete  
Wheeler, Noa  
Wittie, Ryder  
Wright, Royce  
Wright, Shyla

### Centex Cornerstone 4-H

Abcunas, Elijah  
Frederick, Parker  
Frederick, Tucker  
Frederick, Victor  
Mathis, Zahra  
Torres-Smith, Kristyn

### Copperas Cove FFA

Bissell, Soren  
Cain, Olivia  
Castillo, Janessa  
Dawson, Bailee  
Dobbs, Tucker  
Gonzalez, Makayla  
Hooten, Reed  
Hooten, Reese  
Hunt, Isabella  
Ledger, Lana  
Ledger, Lane  
Lewis, Cameron  
Lincoln, Hailey  
Miller, Alexis  
Price, Addison  
Price, James  
Raysor, Camdin  
Raysor, Jamesin  
Sanchez, Esme  
Slatton, Caitlyn  
Spicer, Hailee  
Thompson, Laeloni  
Turner, Easton  
Veslesky, Katielynn  
Veslesky, Peyton  
Veslesky, Shaylee  
Wilson, Madison

### Coryell 4-H Gun Club

Aulabaugh, Trinity  
Blackman, Thomas  
Martin, Eli  
Martin, Paden  
Schaaf, Bryden  
Smith, Jackson  
Weaver, Cole  
Weaver, Lacy

Weaver, Stone

### Coryell 4-H Horse Club

Buster, Lacey  
Buttry, Remleigh  
Clough, Dallas  
Conley, Marcy  
Conley, Mia  
Conley, Peter  
Gibson, Grant  
Gibson, Jessica  
Gibson, Julia  
Hadley, Samantha  
Hagen, Ava  
Hendrix, Olivia  
Jackson-Smith, Tyson  
Kika, Lily  
Kika, Nell  
Lee, Leddy  
Milam, Hagen  
Milam, Hondo  
Murphy, Nikola  
Schoenewolf, Elizabeth

### Coryell City 4-H

Allison, Colbi

Carothers, Grace  
Edwards, Addyson  
Fritze, Braylynn  
Gardner, Kinlee  
Johnson, Eason  
Latham, Avie  
Latham, Banks  
Tull, Allie  
Tull, Emma

### Evant 4-H

Goins, Harper  
Thomas, Paige

### Evant FFA

Rodriguez, Isela  
Rodriguez, Ludwika  
Waldrum, Molly  
Wright, Madison

### Five Hills 4-H

Anderson, Cooper  
Escobar, Ava  
Escobar, John  
Haag, Jonathan  
Haag, Noah  
Holt, Aiden

Johnson, Delilah  
Allan, Nicolas  
Raymer, Lane  
Riopelle, Sirin  
Roehrig, Lucretia  
Sitton, Dakota

### Gatesville 4-H

Banegas, Ryleigh  
Hipp, Zoe  
Hodges, Acelynn  
Nolen, Kamberlin  
Wolff, Autumn

### Gatesville FFA

Abrahamson, Ellen  
Allison, Maci  
Allison, Mackenzie  
Ayers, Lila  
Britton, Cameron  
Davidson, Reigan  
Latham, Ella  
Petrie, Brianna  
Richie, Taylor  
Sader, Emily  
Stinnett-Allman, Davidchad  
Timmons, Lilly  
Wilson, Hailey

### Hard Bargain 4-H

Attaway, Adyson  
Attaway, Makayla  
Blanchard, Linkin  
Breckenridge, Lyla A  
Breckenridge, Raelynn  
Campbell, Chloe-Noelle  
Campbell, Leya Kay  
Carothers, Ryder  
Glover, Raylee  
Glover, Rhylee  
Hale, Carlie  
Hale, Stetson  
Ivy, Coralise  
Jackson, Zayden  
Johnson, Chelsea  
May, Gracyn  
McCown, Evan  
McCown, Natalie  
Mitchell, Elijah  
Mitchell, Mary  
Thornton, Jaelee  
Thornton, Jett  
Thornton, Judson  
Vega, Giovanni

### Hay Valley 4-H

Adair, Jolee M  
Althoff, Caylor  
Archie, Clancy

Bailey, Beaux  
Bomar, Romi  
Brookshire, Lane  
Brookshire, Thomas  
Brown, Fynlee  
Brown, Waden  
Brown, Weston  
Buckner, Bliss  
Buckner, Breeze  
Burks, Emma  
Burks, Jeret  
Buss, Caleb  
Buss, Courtney  
Buss, Dylan  
Callan, Landry  
Cockrell, Sadler  
Diserens, Parker  
Doyle, Gus  
Doyle, Ruby  
Estes, Kate  
Estes, Kennedy  
Hemelsoet, Lisa  
Holden, Linliee  
Hopson, Blakely  
Hopson, Noah  
Huckabee, Zakary  
Jahns, Graham  
James, Gemma  
Johnson, Hadley  
Johnson, John  
Johnson, Sterlynn  
Johnson, Stryker  
Laster, Kace

Loewe, Brantley  
Long, Aubree  
Long, Olivia  
Mann, Lillie  
Manning, Aspyn  
Martin, Mackinlee  
Mays, Scarlett  
McPherson, Allie  
McPherson, Anna  
McPherson, Kinsley  
Pratt, Axton  
Pratt, Brynn  
Readett, Ezra  
Readett, Ivan  
Readett, Lawrence  
Segraves, Marin  
Shirley, Foster  
Shoaf, Joanie  
Shoaf, Will  
Stewart, Claire  
Tatum, Addison  
Timmons, Lilly  
Watson, Laren  
Watts, Jake  
Webb, Addalyn  
Wells, Memphis  
Wells, Paisley  
Whisenhunt, Mandy  
Whisenhunt, Troy  
Williams, Makaylie  
Williams, Mason  
Williams, Myler  
Wood, Danijo



**CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION**

*Good luck to all of the participants of the Youth Fair!*

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**Hornet Gold - Elementary**  
Barron, Audrey  
Brown, Case  
Clary, Sage  
Hernandez, Elias  
Stevens, Jaxon  
Stevens, Landri C.

**Hornet Gold - Intermediate**  
Ball, Abigail  
Buttry, Annalyn  
Caraway, Colton  
Caraway, Kylie  
Clary, Cullen  
Dubay, Beretta  
Hendrix, Olivia  
Hester, Madison  
Hitt, Harper  
Hitt, Sydnee  
Hopson, Emery  
Hopson, Hadley  
Jackson, Hazel  
Longoria, Joseph  
Muegge, Jayde  
Newman, Jagger  
Simmons, Liam  
Simmons, Logan  
Smith, Callie

Smith, Madilyn  
Smith, Rogan  
Stanley, Dean  
Stephens, Austin  
White, Brantley  
Willhite, Christina  
Woodson, Ann  
Wright, Kolter

**Hornet Gold - Junior High**  
Ashley, Hannah  
Barron, Preston  
Stevens, Landri C.

**Jonesboro 4-H**  
Beaty, Hunter  
Brown, Emila  
Bruton, Autum  
Bruton, Casin  
Cullar, Paislee  
Cullar, Saydee  
Culp, Annaleigh  
Dulaney, Brantly  
Dulaney, Presley  
Harris, Madelyn  
Hill, Briar  
Hill, Chloe  
Janke, Chase  
Leach, Ava

Leach, Emma  
Lusk, Benjamin  
Lusk, Braidy  
Lusk, Julie  
Outten, Emma  
Outten, Tyler  
Pearce, Ryah  
Retana, Rylee  
Rodriguez, Antonella  
Rodriguez, Leonela  
Rueter, Addie  
Rueter, Laine  
Sellers, Brendan  
Sellers, Sydney  
Smith, Alibi  
Smith, Sydnie  
Whisenhunt, Elizabeth  
White, Rhett  
York, Hadley  
York, Raynzlie

**Jonesboro FFA**  
Barnett, Ashby  
Barnett, Quinlynn  
Berg, Harper  
Berg, Haven  
Blanchard, Clara  
Brown, Jaycie  
Christel, Camdyn  
Cohn, Madison  
Deats, Landree  
Deats, Lynlee  
Dossey, Braxton  
Dossey, Braydon  
Fontbonne, Janice  
Foote, Pate  
Foote, Truett  
Gustin, Ella  
Gustin, Hannah  
Manning, Madison  
Martinez, Heiler  
Martinez, Michella  
McFarlin, Genti  
McFarlin, Landri  
Middlebrooks, Memory

Pruett, Logan  
Pruett, Rachael  
Scott, Kayleigh  
Smith, Piper  
Taylor, Barrett  
Taylor, Brynlee  
Treadway, Emma  
Turner, Emily  
Turner, Kannon  
Turner, Lash  
Wood, James Leighton

**Muddy Boots 4-H**  
Boster, Mark  
Canady, Briah  
Canady, Xaira  
Collier, Alhana  
Collier, Ayden  
Gomez, Kian  
Harsch, Zane  
Lewis, Inara  
Miller, Henley  
Ray, Corbin  
Ray, Evelyn  
Rogers, Jamesyn  
Westover, Mia

**Oglesby FFA**  
Aaron, Scarlet  
Bailey, Mckynlee C  
Battreal, Caitlyn  
Brand, McKynzlynn  
Campbell, Kayson  
Chrisner, Alianna  
Chrisner, Dylan  
Contreras, Alisa  
Ewing, Hunter  
Fisher, Caymbri  
Fisher, Landen  
Fisher, Slayton  
Goff, Bentley  
Goff, Xander  
Gonzalez, Rolando  
Gray, Kinzlee  
Griffin, Brylee

Insall, Hunter  
Jackson, Austin  
Kasting, Chad  
Lanham, Savana  
Leblanc, Drake

Lemons-Brinkley, Caiden  
Licea, Lucas  
Linder, Treyton L.  
Markum, Jaxon  
Marquez, Judson



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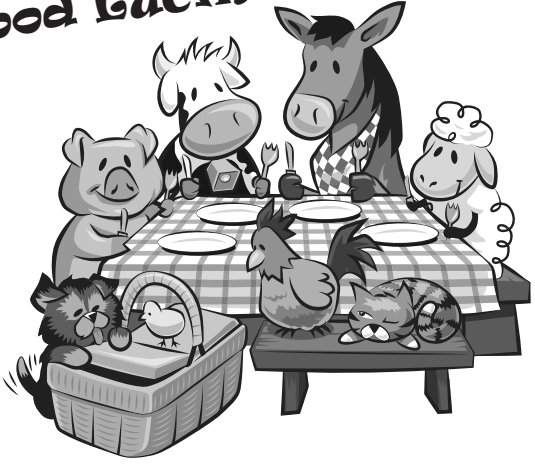
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# ☆☆☆ 2025 Coryell County Youth Fair Participants ☆☆☆

### Oglesby FFA

(continued)  
Marquez, Mason  
Mejia, David  
Melton, Jaxon  
Melton, Tucker  
Meyers, Autumn  
Nichols, Radlee  
Ortiz, Jana  
Ortiz, Samuel  
Oxford, Aiden  
Renner, Malorie  
Riley, Keelyn  
Riley, Thomas  
Ritchie, Kelsey  
Robles, Daycee  
Robles, Ethan  
Rodriguez, Blakely  
Rodriguez, Josue  
Sanders, Taetym  
Seymour, Hudson  
Smith, Brody  
Smith, Maddison  
Stanford, Kaylee  
Thompson, Graciamae  
Walker, Collin  
Webb, Callen  
Webb, Camden  
Wulfkuhle, Couper  
Wulfkuhle, Judd

### Pecan Grove 4-H

Bay, Graham  
Bay, Greyson  
Bone, Avery  
Bone, Mary  
Brown, Kelilah  
Brown, Kentley  
Browning, Lakota  
Cole, Zianna  
Davidson, Tres  
Duncan, Bailey  
Fulton, Eve  
Hix, Riot  
Hix, Ruckus  
Kinnear, Elli  
Kunkel, Claire  
Kunkel, Klein  
Lynch, Levin  
Redden, Baylea  
Richardson, Tinsley  
Richardson, Tripp  
Richardson, Tyler  
Shelton, Adalyn  
Tubbs, Bobbi  
Wall, Breezy  
Wightman, Lilli  
Wolff, Bailey  
Wolff, Jozie



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# OBITUARIES

## Shawn Elton Patterson

March 22, 1975 - Dec. 23, 2024

Shawn Elton Patterson, age 49, of Gatesville, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, surrounded by all of his children, wife, and mom. A service celebrating and remembering his life was held at 3 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 30, at Scott's Funeral Home.

Shawn was born in Jacksonville, Arkansas and grew up in the surrounding area until joining the Army. As a child, Shawn was quiet and introverted. He spent a lot of time hunting and raising pigs for 4-H, where he won Grand Champion and bred and sold others who also won. Those who knew him later in life most likely will remember him for his sense of humor, corny dad jokes, love for his family, and faith in God. His sense of humor helped him through many aspects of his life, but especially during his battle with cancer. He gave the chemo nurses a run for their money at times, once taping a plastic spider over his port to surprise them during a treatment.

Shawn spent most of his life in the military, having joined the Army National Guard at age 17 to see the world. He served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and had many stories of all his adventures, all sprinkled with the sense of humor we all loved. Many of his favorite military memories were from when he was attached to a Special Forces team while in Afghanistan. He spoke of

his team with great respect, though often reflected internally on that time. He was a dedicated soldier, having been awarded two Bronze Stars and receiving an award for his unit at the Pentagon, of which he was very proud.

Shawn always said he was a jack of all trades, but master of none. His wife thought he was like MacGyver—always coming up with solutions to various problems in innovative ways. Shawn always had a project or two that he was working on and they usually involved something for his wife or kids. Each child had a very unique and special relationship with their dad. His last project was left unfinished. He was working on restoring a 1970 C10 with Joshua. Shawn completed the bodywork himself while stationed at Ft. Sill, his final duty station. Cancer deterred him, but he never let it beat his attitude. He often said that he knew God could heal him, either here on earth or in Heaven; but one way or another he would be healed. God chose Heaven.

After the military, Shawn worked at the Texas Department of Corrections, moving through several jobs where he met so many people who have reached out and spoken of his humor and positivity. He was a mentor to some and example to many of his faith in a saving knowledge of God.

Shawn was preceded in



death by his father Charles; sisters, Cindy and Renee; and brother Matthew.

Shawn is survived by his wife, Lisa; their children, Caegan and wife, Katie, Joshua, Karalya, and Ethan; his mom, Patricia, of Beebe, Arkansas; grandchildren, Blakley, Oakleigh, and Chase; as well as several nieces, nephews, and great-nephews.

Shawn was well-loved by his family, church, and friends and touched the lives of many of his co-workers. He will be greatly missed by those still here, but we know he was welcomed into loving arms in Heaven.

In lieu of flowers, Shawn wanted any donations to go to Calvary Baptist Church for their children's ministry.

We also wanted to mention that we will not be playing the song, "Oh Lord, It's Hard to Be Humble" during his service, as his wife vetoed that selection during his funeral pre-planning session. Those who knew him will understand.

## Doyle Tippit

Jan. 28, 1938 - Dec. 19, 2024

Doyle Tippit, age 86, of Salado, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024, in Temple.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 23, at Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville, with Minister Deral McWhorter officiating. Interment followed at Restland Cemetery.

Larry Doyle Tippit was born on Jan. 28, 1938, in the Owl Creek community of Coryell County to the late Marvin Leroy and Alta Sue Bruton Tippit. He grew up in the Hubbard community and attended school in Flat, graduating from Flat High School in 1956. Soon after, he married Sarabeth Fisher on Feb. 22, 1957, and they resided in Gatesville. He served in

the Texas Army National Guard for two years. In 1958, he started working at Mid-Tex Telephone in Killeen for 18 years, until 1980, when they moved to Palestine, where he began a career with the Texas Department of Corrections. He worked for 20 years as an Industrial Supervisor for the Texas Correctional Industries, retiring in 2000. After his retirement, they remained in Palestine until moving to Salado in 2006.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Roy Tippit, Billy Gene Tippit, and Ray Tippit.

Doyle is survived by his wife of 67 years, Sarabeth Tippit; daughter, Lisa Gonzales and husband, Andy; sons, Larry Tippit and wife,



Sandra, Cliff Tippit and wife, Sondra; grandchildren, Haley Avery, Kelly Filsinger, Jennifer Welch, Richard (Ricky) Tippit, Justin Tippit, Lindsey Kelley, Erica Muniz, Lara Esquivel; twenty-two great-grandchildren; and four great, great grandchildren.

## Johnny Richard Koester

Jan. 30, 1973 - Dec. 21, 2024

Johnny Richard Koester, a man of deep faith, dedication, and diverse talents, passed away peacefully on Dec. 21, 2024, at the age of 81. Born in Temple, Johnny lived a remarkable life filled with service, adventure, and love for his family.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m., Dec. 26, at Floral Haven Funeral Home in Broken Arrow, OK, and graveside services took place Dec. 28, at 9:30 a.m. at Waco Memorial Park Cemetery in Robinson.

Johnny began his career in 1966 with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrolman. A certified firearms instructor, he served with distinction in various law enforcement agencies for 36 years.

From a young age, Johnny embraced his love for the outdoors. He began bow and gun hunting early in life and continued throughout his years. As a young rancher, he

also enjoyed rodeoing with his beloved horse, Coco. Golf brought some humor into his life; after deciding it wasn't for him, he repurposed golf balls for target practice with his bow.

Johnny was an accomplished photographer, with his stunning wildlife images published in magazines and his talent sought after for weddings, school portraits, and special events.

In 1987, Johnny graduated from Rhema Bible College and fulfilled his calling by founding and pastoring New Hope Christian Center for six years in Gatesville.

He was also a professional bass fisherman, champion varmint caller, professional trapper, and bird dog trainer. Training dogs was his greatest joy, and he cherished his time working with them.

In later years, Johnny achieved a longtime goal by completing his life story, "Tales of Tooter ~



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Johnny is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Sally Koester; his two daughters, Pamela Koester (Charles Arnold), of Phoenix, AZ, and Wendy Carson, of Broken Arrow, OK; and his cherished grandson, Dr. Joshua Santucci (Raychal Santucci), of New Jersey. Johnny's legacy of faith, service, and adventure will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. For additional information or to contact the family, please send emails to Talesoftooter@gmail.com

## PEARL NEWS

# We hope to see you in Pearl



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Happy New Year! We hope you are planning to be in Pearl today for the monthly Pearl Bluegrass event and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day!

The stage show begins at 1 p.m., and bands are welcome to sign up to play in the Pearl Community Center. The bookstore opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. There are lots of new books and other items. Everything is "buy what you want, pay what you want," and all money collected goes toward the store's local charities. You can participate in the flea market by placing your booth north of the cabin and paying a small fee of \$5. There is home-made food in the Bluegrass

Kitchen for reasonable prices (cash only). Jamming goes on all day. It's free to see the stage show and jam, but donations are appreciated to help pay the Community Center bills. There's no place like Pearl, and everyone is welcome!

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.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Gwendolyn Smith Fleming,

who was a Pearl native. Mrs. Fleming graduated from Pearl School in 1946 and was a member of the basketball team. She was also a member of the Pleasure and Profit Club. Her services were on Dec. 17, and interment was in the Pearl Cemetery. She will be greatly missed.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Joe Lee, who passed away just before Christmas. Mr. Lee was a great supporter of the bookstore and the Pearl Church of Christ VBS and always shared what was going on there on his Facebook page. Mr. and Mrs. Lee touched so many lives in Evant and Pearl, and it would be impossible to count the number of young lives so positively influenced by Joe and Linda Lee. We ourselves were taught by Mrs. Lee and then had children and grands who were taught by her. She and Mr. Lee were a huge part of Evant Baptist Church. Mr. Lee will always be dear to us. Please continue to pray for Mrs. Lee as she is still recovering from broken

bones and other health issues. She is one of the sweetest people you could ever know, and she sure loves the Lord!

I have to share a Linda Lee story: In the olden days (1994), Linda Lee and I went to Waco together. Linda needed a driver as she was going to the oral surgeon to have a tooth pulled. She was going to be anesthetized for the procedure. Well, the procedure went well and was over very quickly. Linda said she felt like shopping in what I think was Target or K-Mart or whatever store there was back in those days. We had the best time shopping, and we even ran into other Pearl and Evant teachers while we were in the store. We joked that we were having an impromptu faculty meeting. Eventually, we got hungry and decided to go eat at Picadilly. When we got to

the car, we discovered that "someone" had locked the keys in! This was way before cell phone days! Unfortunately, all our teacher friends had already left, and we had no idea what to do. As I recall, we went back into the store to the service desk, and someone called a locksmith to help us. Thankfully, help arrived quickly, and we did get to eat a good dinner. The funny thing was that Linda joked that we were so lucky to have gotten fast help and that we should buy a lottery ticket. And we did! We stopped in McGregor on the way home and each bought a ticket. Our luck ended there as neither of us won a thing. Linda made me

promise not to tell anyone we did that. And I haven't... until now. But this is just between us, right? I won't tell if you won't!

This week's Bible verse comes from Isaiah 43:18-19...Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? 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

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JEREMIAH 29:13

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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**  
Royse 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**  
6795 FM 183, 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.

**CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD**  
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**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**  
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2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD (during school year): Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children & Adult Bible Studies at 6 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:30 p.m. 254-865-2520.

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Kent Berry, pastor; 109 College St.; Sunday worship 9 a.m.

**PIDCOKE METHODIST**  
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**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.

**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.

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## CELEBRATING 71 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



COURTESY PHOTO  
Garlan and Gaenelle Holden, of Jonesboro, will celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary on Thursday, Jan. 2. Garlan Holden and the former Gaenelle Adair were married on Jan. 2, 1954, at South Mountain with Bro. George L. Derrick officiating. Pictured left: Garlan and Gaenelle on their wedding day. Pictured below: Garlan and Gaenelle (center) are pictured with their daughters.



## RHEAS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS



COURTESY PHOTO  
Fred and Jeffery (Neel) Rhea recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Rheas were married on Dec. 7, 1974, at Live Oak Baptist Church in Gatesville with Rev. D. W. Copeland officiating. The couple wishes to thank all the friends and family who remembered them on their special day.

### MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

## Central Texas Institute on College Hill

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

In 1884, Lawrence and Louis Crow organized a school that became known as the Central Texas Institute.

The school maintained an active program of instruction, which attracted many young persons from various parts of Coryell County and provided for the improvements of teachers.

The building was comprised of four rooms - two upstairs and two downstairs. Because of this institute, the neighborhood was referred to as College Hill, and the street in the rear received its name, "College Street."

It was reported that "there was no running water at the school. Each room had a bucket and a dipper, but it was no trouble to find willing hands to bring the water; it was an excuse for the students to be outside for a while."

Not many years after the Central Texas Institute was organized, Professor Crow died, and F.P. Crow took over the school. At no time during its operation was it a "free" school. In the min-

utes of the Gatesville City Council in the fall of 1888, an alderman declared, "It is imperative that we have a free school." An election was called with bonds, and it was voted to finance the school.

Crow continued to teach for a few years, but, unfortunately, this part of the history of the school system has been erased by time and with the loss of all official records by a fire in 1907.

The old Central Texas Institute building located on College Hill was used until February of 1901. The fate of the building cannot be determined.

The public is invited to drop by and visit the schoolroom exhibit at the museum where they can see early day school pictures from all over Coryell County.

Visitors are welcome to drop by the museum located at 718 E. Main to view the massive spur collection. Coryell Museum and Historical Center is open Wednesday through Saturday, as is the gift shop. Yearly, Coryell Museum memberships are \$20 for



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORYELL MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL CENTER  
The Central Texas Institute building located on what became known as "College Hill."

singles, \$30 for families, and \$40 for businesses, which includes free admission to the museum, plus four newsletters. Of course, large and small donations are welcome at all times.

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

## 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

### THE BEST SHRIMP

BY MARCIA STRIEBER

12 lbs. jumbo shrimp  
1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan or Romano Cheese  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons butter  
4 cloves minced garlic  
1 med. lemon  
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper  
salt and pepper to taste  
1/2 cup unseasoned breadcrumbs

Preheat oven to 450. Peel and devein shrimp, leaving tails intact. Place shrimp in medium to large bowl, add olive oil, salt and pepper, garlic and red pepper. Toss until the shrimp is well-coated. Mix breadcrumbs and Parmesan cheese in a medium bowl and coat each shrimp with the bread crumb mixture. Spray cooking sheet with PAM and place shrimp on sheet. Place on center rack in oven and bake 8-9 minutes until shrimp are opaque in center. Serve immediately with melted butter and lemon juice.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAFE DELIGHTS  
The Best Shrimp

## The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Dec. 25 - Dec. 30. 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.

### GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### Dec. 25

4:34 a.m., wanted/stolen (person/property) was reported in the 1400 block of Woodville Drive.

6 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 3300 block of E. Main Street.

7:39 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of W. 7th Street.

#### Dec. 26

1:20 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

11:48 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 8700 block of E. Highway 84.

9:18 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 1600 block of Venus Avenue.

#### Dec. 27

7:46 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of N. 26th Street.

8:44 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 600 block of Andrews Street.

4:21 p.m., property found was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.

#### Dec. 28

2:44 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4000 block of S. State Highway 36.

12:57 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of E. Main Street.

4:12 p.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

#### Dec. 29

1:56 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in

the 2000 block of E. Main Street.

3:15 p.m., harassment was reported in the 600 block of N. Lovers Lane.

4:43 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 600 block of Golf Course Road.

6:57 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Pamela Drive.

#### Dec. 30

7:42 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2000 block of E. Main Street.

9:56 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of St. Louis Street.

4:38 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3200 block of Hay Valley Road.

4:44 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100

block of S. 23rd Street.

### CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

#### Dec. 25

12:55 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on S. Highway 36 between Flat and Temple.

3:25 p.m., a fire call was reported in the 3000 block of N. FM 116.

4:53 p.m., a reckless driver was reported WB on E. Highway 84 near FM 1996.

7:20 p.m., a fire call was reported on W. Highway 84 and County Road 133.

#### Dec. 26

9:23 a.m., criminal mischief was reported on County Road 213.

3:31 p.m., harassment was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

10:20 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 7200 block of W. Highway 84 near County Road 130.

#### Dec. 27

2:04 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on TX Highway 236.

2:24 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on N. FM 116.

2:55 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 1600 block of King Country Road.

5:53 p.m., suspicious persons were reported on FM 116.

#### Dec. 28

7:49 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 11,000 block of S. Highway 36.

2:09 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of Oak Springs Road.

2:58 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 1800 block of County Road 152.

#### Dec. 29

9:18 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 100 block of Dora's Lane.

3:10 p.m., animal neglect was reported in the 200 block of Tippit Lane.

11:19 p.m., an attempted break-in was reported in the 1300 block of County Road 137.

#### Dec. 30

6:30 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on S. FM 116 in Pidcoke.

12:33 p.m., shots fired were reported in the 900 block of Kubitz Road.

4:42 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 3200 block of Hay Valley Road.



PHOTOS BY: COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured left: Grayson Hadley is pictured with his PAL, Gehrig Keeton, after receiving his home football jersey, which was signed. Pictured right: Grayson Hadley and Gehrig Keeton are pictured at a football game.

# GISD PAL makes a difference in a student's life

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH  
Staff Writer

Since the PALS program was established at Gatesville Independent School District, it has made impact after impact on students at each campus, with one of those students being second grader Grayson Hadley.

Hadley's family moved from Virginia to Fort Hood (now known as Fort Cavazos) in 2018 and became part of the 1st Cavalry 1st Armour Brigade 1-82FA Unit. His father, Stephen, served eight years in the Marine Corps and eight years in the Army, and plans to retire here in Gatesville.

Since the move, it has been tough on Hadley to get out of his shell and become more sociable, especially with his father being deployed since April.

Hadley's mother, Crystal, expressed that, since the beginning of the school year, she has seen immense growth in her son after gaining a bond with high school PAL student Gehrig Keeton.

"Deployments can be hard on all the soldiers'

families, but the kids get the biggest impact during it," Crystal said. "Grayson has a hard time in school, he has to take speech, and he's come so far since he first started."

She expressed that Hadley mostly keeps to himself outside of school, even with baseball, soccer, football, and 4-H. He never wanted to go to school before, and now, with Keeton by his side, he wants to attend each day.

"Grayson has so much to look forward to; he's so positive about going to school, and everything Gehrig does with school or church, Grayson wants to be right there," she said. "Grayson went to his first football game because of how much he wanted to be around him. Grayson is now wanting to go to school."

She mentioned that Hadley can't wait to be a Hornet baseball and football player and that he is now buying everything Hornet inspired because he feels that he needs to support his PAL, Gehrig, like Gehrig supports him at school.

Hadley has been to every football game to support Keeton since the two met.

"When I can't drive him, he is still determined to go by asking Coach Clater's wife or Hope Teague to take him," Crystal said. "Grayson wants to go to church now, too, and he's so proud of his PAL and how everyone in the community supports this family."

Hadley even awarded Keeton with a Most Valuable PAL trophy for his efforts in football after losing the last game of the season.

"I believe Grayson learning these acts of kindness and seeing what someone else might need is such a big thing," Crystal said. "I believe Gehrig has seen that he's made more than a PAL and that he's changed a little boy's life. I think Grayson considers him like a big brother."

Earlier this month, Keeton gave Hadley his home game football jersey, which was signed with his autograph as well.

"Kids these days get exposed to so much hate in the world, and when you

take a young child and give him a high school student as a PAL who wants to help make a difference, it gives that child something to strive to be for themselves," Crystal said.

Crystal expressed that Hadley knows he has to work hard in social activities, sports, schoolwork, and through his frustrations of his dad being gone, because Keeton taught him that he is the one who is responsible for his outcome in life.

Keeton also made sure to give Hadley a special piece of advice for life, which was to not give up on your dreams and to always try your best.

Keeton's mother, Morgan, also happens to be Hadley's teacher, and Crystal said that she will always remember how she made a difference in her son's life as well. Crystal said that Keeton's father is a coach at GISD and is always there supporting the community.

"Grayson is a quiet kiddo. He has definitely developed a bond with Gehrig and looks forward to the

Tuesdays when he visits," Morgan said. "Grayson made almost every Hornet football game, home and away, after they first met in the beginning of October. He has become a dedicated Hornet fan for sure."

Morgan also expressed that although Hadley is very quiet, his time with Keeton has allowed him to open up, and they have created a sweet friendship along the way.

"I have seen Grayson's confidence and self-esteem boost since Gehrig and the PALS program entered his life," she said. "The PALS program is a special thing for him and so many other kids in our school district. The leadership skills developed by our High School students through the program is very unique and beneficial to all."

Crystal said that the Keeton family means so much to so many people. "They affect so many people and Gehrig has made a great role model in my son's life, and it shows every time I see them," she said.

"My child made more than just a PAL; he made a friend," she said. "Gehrig and his family play such a huge part in our community, and they really make the hive for us Hornets."

### Gatesville ISD PALS

Teacher Star Hamilton said, "As the PALS teacher, I see every day the impact this program makes on a small child as well as high school students. They provide love and support for one another and become best buddies."

"I believe the PALS program is a vitally important program for Gatesville ISD because of the relationships built. We have had instances where the younger kid confided in the high school PAL and ultimately helped a kid in need," Hamilton said. "High school PALS are taught when and what information to report. They have the best interest of their younger PAL at heart. Without this program, I feel we would have many students struggling with many different things."

## Anna Phillips among Belmont University's Fall 2024 Dean's List Scholars

### Staff Reports

Former GHS graduate Anna Phillips was recently named among the students who qualified for Belmont University's fall 2024 Dean's List. Belmont University recently released the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester. Approximately 53% of the University's 7,175 undergraduate students qualified for the fall 2024 Dean's List.

"Earning a place on the Dean's List is an accomplishment that reflects the dedication, talent, and resili-

ence of our students who maintain competitive GPAs while concurrently making lasting contributions at Belmont and beyond," said Belmont University Provost Dr. David Gregory. "These scholars have gone above and beyond, matching rigorous academic schedules with robust extracurriculars, including volunteerism, student organizations, athletics, the arts, and more. It gives me great joy to acknowledge the dedicated students who embody what it means to

seek excellence academically. Their achievement is a testament not only to their hard work and intellectual aptitude, but also to Belmont's high academic standards and commitment to student success."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Located two miles from downtown Nashville, Belmont University comprises nearly 9,000 students from every state and 33 coun-

tries. Nationally ranked and consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report for innovation in higher education, the university offers more than 115 areas of undergraduate study, 41 master's programs, and five doctoral degrees. With a focus on whole person formation and data-informed social innovation, Belmont is committed to forming diverse leaders of character equipped to solve the world's complex problems. For more information, visit [www.belmont.edu](http://www.belmont.edu).

## Education Foundation's Daddy-daughter Valentine's dance to be held Feb. 8

### Staff Reports

The Gatesville Independent School District Education Foundation will host a Valentine's daddy-daughter dance on Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Gatesville Civic Center.

There will be finger food, drinks, music, and dancing.

**Dance times include:**  
Pre-kindergarten and first grade, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Second through fourth grade, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Fifth and sixth grade,

7:30-9:30 p.m.  
It will cost \$25 per male figure and daughter and \$10 for each additional person.

The link for tickets will be posted to the Gatesville ISD Education Foundation Facebook.

For further details, contact the Gatesville ISD Education Foundation by email at [educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org](mailto:educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org).

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

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## DEADLINE

Saturday Issue: 10 A.M. Tuesday

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

### 015 Farm & Ranch

Backhoe, Dozer, Maintainer, Dump Truck: brush clearing, roads, driveways, waterlines, pits, demolition, fence row clearing, culverts. Small jobs ok. Ben Roberts, 254-248-4707 or 254-865-5754. 00031236

### 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 00031231

### 045 Services

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**060 Garage Sale**  
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### 099 Public Notices

**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**  
**Your ad should be here.....**

### 099 Public Notices

**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 PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Gatesville will hold a Public Hearing on **January 14, 2025 at 110 N. 8th Street, Gatesville, TX 76528 at 5:30 P.M.** to consider annexing the hereinafter described territory to the City of Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas and extending the boundary limits of said City so as to include said hereinafter described property within said city limits, and granting to all the inhabitants of said property all the rights and privileges of other citizens and binding said inhabitants by all of the acts, ordinances, resolutions, and regulations of said City, and adopting a service plan.

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THENCE S 74 DEG. 18' 14" E, 376.14 FEET TO THE NE CORNER OF THIS TRACT;

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

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# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Tarleton State Men's Basketball closes out 2024 with victory over Florida A&M

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State Men's Basketball notched its second consecutive home victory to close out 2024 with a 70-60 victory over Florida A&M Sunday, Dec. 29 in Wisdom Gym.

The Texans (5-10) won their first Sunday home game of their Division I era. The Rattlers (3-8) dropped their first game against a non-Power Four division I opponent with the loss.

"We forced Florida A&M to change their lineup by stopping them in the passing lanes," said head coach Billy Gillispie of the Tarleton defense. "The crowd was really great today. These fans always show up and they are amazing on how they support the Texans. They really are amazing and it's a blessing to have them."

Freshman Keitenn Bristow recorded a career high notching 23 points. He also set a new career best with nine made buckets from the floor, including a perfect two-for-two from deep. The Holliday native also added six boards and a game-best three blocks.

Bubu Benjamin was the only other Texan in double-figures, notching his third double-double and second consecutive on the season. The sophomore notched 17 points and added 11 rebounds with three on the offensive glass. He played all but 90 seconds in the contest and shot six-for-eight from the charity stripe.

Marty Silvera registered a season-high six steals while adding nine points. Silvera is one of three Texans to



record at least five steals in a game this season, and the only to accomplish that feat twice. Karim Elgizawy saw his first minutes of the season after missing the first 14 games due to injury tallying five points. Dantwan Grimes dished out a game-high five assists. Grimes has notched at least five assists in back-to-back contests.

Izzy Miles started the scoring off with a full-court lay-up initiated by a Silvera steal in the first 15 seconds of the contest. It marks the second-straight game the Texans scored on the opening possession. The Rattlers settled in using a 7-2 run to take the lead. Bristow put the Texans back on top, 7-6, with his first triple of the game.

After the Rattlers scored the next four points, the Texans answered in style. On back-to-back possessions, the Texans finished with a slam to tie the game at 11. First, Bristow found an outlet pass and took it to the rim. Then on the next play, Miles found Benjamin on the fast break for the sweet alley-oop.

Both teams swapped buckets to move the score to 19-18 in favor of the Rattlers. Elgizawy earned his first points as a Texan off a smooth finger-roll to give



"We forced Florida A&M to change their lineup by stopping them in the passing lanes," said head coach Billy Gillispie of the Tarleton defense.

the Purple and White a 15-14 lead.

Trailing 19-18, the Texans took the lead for good at the 7:20 mark. Bristow sparked a 9-0 run beginning with a hook shot. Elgizawy sunk his first triple as a Texan during the run. Bristow capped the burst in which he contributed four points with a pair of made free throws to put the Texans in front, 27-19.

Tarleton closed the half on an 11-3 run in the final four minutes of play. The Texans led, 28-23, before back-to-back buckets by Bristow and Silvera. With less than two minutes to go, Nick Krass made the bucket and picked up the and-one free throw for a classic three-point play. Krass notched his fifth

point in the final minutes on a jumper with 20 ticks left on the clock. Grimes made a layup at the horn to give the Purple and White a 13-point advantage heading into the break, 39-26.

In a slow start to the second half, the Rattlers scored the first five points to cut their deficit to eight, 39-31. The Texans didn't see their first point of the half until the 15:29 mark thanks to a triple by Benjamin. He followed up with a lay-up on the next possession to answer the FAMU run with a 5-0 burst by himself.

Florida A&M cut its deficit to six, 56-50 with eight minutes remaining in the second half. The Purple and White used a 6-0 run with

four points by Silvera to put the lead back in double digits. The Texans maintained a double-digit lead for the majority of the last eight minutes.

Tarleton led by eight, 62-54 with 4:45 to go before Bristow put the team on his back yet again. The freshman eclipsed the 20-point mark amid a 5-0 run thanks to two buckets and a made free throw. Bristow closed out the game with a dunk in the open court to give the Texans the 70-60 victory.

Four Texans played the entirety of the second half: Benjamin, Silvera, Grimes and Krass.

Tarleton committed a season-low 11 turnovers, winning the turnover battle,

20-11. The Texans won the turnover battle for the sixth time this season, resulting in their third win. Tarleton also won the battle of the boards, 35-33.

The Purple and White shot 41.7% (25-for-60) from the floor and 44.4% (4-for-9) from downtown. Tarleton held the Rattlers to shoot from the field at a 40.4 clip and 31.8 from beyond the arc.

Tarleton State will open the new year Saturday, Jan. 4, starting its 16-game WAC slate with a home tilt against UT Arlington. Tip is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Wisdom Gym as the Texans will bring in the new year with the first Tarleton athletics home game of 2025.

## Tarleton Women's Basketball ends non-conference 2024 with win over Texas Southern

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton Women's Basketball completed the non-conference portion of its schedule and the 2024 calendar year with a 67-55 win over Texas Southern Sunday, Dec. 29 at Wisdom Gym.

The Texans, who were 22nd in the nation in scoring defense entering Sunday's contest, held Texas Southern to 29.8% shooting. This was the second straight game in which Tarleton held its opponent to under 30% shooting.

Senior guard Arieona Rosborough scored a game-high 18 points to go with seven rebounds, three assists and three steals in Sunday's win. Senior guard Jakoriah Long added 15 points off 60% shooting.

"I thought we did a really good job with our field goal percentage defense today," head coach Bill Brock said. "We held somebody to under 30% shooting again, and that's pretty darn good. That means your defensive effort is there and I'm proud of that."

Opening the first quarter by making seven of its first eight shots, Tarleton burst out to a quick 16-4 lead. Texas Southern responded with four straight points to make it a single-digit game, but the Texans answered the



This was the second straight game in which Tarleton held its opponent to under 30% shooting.

bell. Rosborough knocked down a basket while drawing the foul, with sophomore forward Anya McKenzie coming up with the putback bucket off the missed free throw to extend Tarleton's lead.

Senior guard Niki Van Wyk drained a 3-pointer to close the first quarter and put the Texans ahead 23-11 after 10 minutes.

A pair of seniors began the second quarter scoring

for the Texans, with Andjela Bigovi knocking down a 3-pointer following an Alani Fluker basket. Tarleton held Texas Southern to just 20% shooting in the second quarter to take its double-digit advantage into the locker room.

Texas Southern came out of halftime firing on offense, going on an 8-0 scoring run to make it an eight-point game in the third quarter. The Texans answered back

with a basket to go back up by 10, but the Tigers quickly responded with a 3-pointer on their next possession to make it a seven-point game.

Tarleton took back control of the game by scoring seven unanswered points to close the third quarter and extended its lead 51-36 heading into the final 10 minutes.

The Texans maintained momentum in the final period and stretched the lead in the fourth quar-

ter to 20 points. Texas Southern scored on four of its final five possessions, but Tarleton's lead was too much for the Tigers to overcome and the Texans came out on top for their ninth win of the season.

Tarleton starts the 2025 calendar year with WAC play at UT Arlington at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Postgame Notes  
Tarleton Women's Basketball defeated Texas

Southern 67-55 Sunday at Wisdom Gym. The Texans wrapped up non-conference play with a 9-6 mark and a 6-1 record at home.

The Texans won their fourth consecutive game this season, the first four-game winning streak since 2021. A win on Saturday at UT Arlington would mark the first five-game win streak in the Division I era. Entering Sunday's game ranked 22nd in the nation in scoring defense, Tarleton held Texas Southern to just 29.8% shooting. This was the second straight game Tarleton held its opponent to under 30% shooting.

Senior guard Arieona Rosborough scored a game-high 18 points to go with seven rebounds, her 10th game this season with at least 10 or more points. Rosborough shot 55% from the floor Sunday, the third time in the last four games she has shot at least 50%.

Senior guard Jakoriah Long scored 15 points, her most at Wisdom Gym this season. Her season-high of 16 points came against Delaware (11/29) in the Big Easy Classic.

Tarleton's 10 turnovers were the fewest committed since Dec. 7, 2024. The Texans have committed 10 or less turnovers on three occasions this season.



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB HOSTED CHRISTMAS PLAYS DEC. 14

COURTESY PHOTOS

The Boys & Girls Club of Gatesville hosted two Christmas plays on Saturday Dec. 14 at the Gatesville City Auditorium. The local youth of the Boys & Girls Club presented "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "The Nutcracker," which included elegant dancing, music, and festive decorations.

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# Hornets capture second straight Texas Holiday Classic crown

BY CHRIS ALLMAN  
Contributing Writer

Christmas in Brownwood really is the most wonderful time of the year for the Gatesville Hornets basketball team.

For the second straight season, the Hornets traveled west the day after Christmas and came back to Gatesville as champions of the Texas Holiday Bank Classic. They swept Midland Greenwood and Academy in pool play, then beat Gordon and La Grange in the championship round enroute to the title.

West Allman captured tournament MVP honors for the second straight season as well. The senior averaged 21.8 points per game, including a 26-point effort in the title game. It is the third tournament MVP honor for Allman in the last two seasons.

Senior Kase Cox averaged 15 points and 9.3 rebounds per game in the tournament. He opened the tournament with a 20-point game against Greenwood, turned in a double-double in a win over 1A power Gordon, then had a 20-point, 11-rebound finale against La

Grange. Through 21 games, Allman and Cox are statistical mirror images of one another. Allman is averaging 15.7 points, 6.7 rebounds, 2.5 assists, and 1.4 steals per game. Cox is putting up 15.3 points per game, pulling down 7.9 rebounds per game, and averages 2.7 assists and 1.4 steals per game.

Junior Charlie Winkler averaged 11 points per game in the tournament and iced Gatesville's only competitive game against Gordon with three free throws down the stretch.

In the opener against Greenwood, Gatesville led 26-23 at the half but extended to nine-point lead after three quarters before ultimately securing a 58-51 win. Cox led all scorers with 20, while Allman had 17 and Winkler had 16 including three three-pointers. Allman had 11 rebounds, while Rex Owen grabbed six boards. Evan McCracken had five rebounds and three assists.

In their 68-44 win over Academy, Allman had 27 points, while Winkler had 12 points, eight rebounds, and five assists. Grady

Keeton joined them in double figures with 11 points. Winkler, Keeton, and Collyn Coleman had four steals apiece.

The Hornets first championship round game was against Gordon, a state semi-finalist in Class 1A a year ago. The Longhorns game against Gatesville was just their third of the season due to their players were finishing up a state football championship season in the Six Man ranks.

Gordon led 19-16 at half-time before the Hornets offense got going in the second half. Gatesville was just 2-for-15 from the field in the second quarter but came back to go 10-for-20 from the field in the second half.

They took their first second half lead at 37-34 when McCracken drilled a step-back three pointer. Their lead got as large as seven in the final minutes before Gordon was able to cut it to two points at 48-46. Winkler hit three of his four free throw attempts, and Coleman made a free throw as well to provide the 52-46 final score.

Allman (17 points and 13 rebounds) and Cox (12

points and 11 rebounds) each had double-doubles with Cox also dishing out four assists.

In the finale against La Grange, the Hornets raced to a 21-4 first quarter lead en route to 37-13 halftime lead.

They slammed the door shut in the third quarter by pitching a shutout defensively and outscoring the Leopards 15-0 in the frame.

In the third quarter, Gatesville held La Grange to just six shot attempts and forced five turnovers. The Hornets led 52-13, entering the final period and rolled to a 63-31 win. In addition to Allman's 26 points and Cox's 20 points, Rex Owens had five points and four rebounds, while McCracken handed out four assists.

Gatesville ran the table in Brownwood without junior forward Amos Phillips, who is resting an injury and will likely miss the Hornets remaining non-district games against Troy and Brownwood before returning for the district opener at China Spring on Jan. 10.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oglesby freshman shooting guard Holdyn Goff has emerged as one of the Tigers top offensive players this season.

## Goff emerges on top

BY JOHN ENGLISH  
Contributing Writer

With the Oglesby High School boys' basketball team coming off of a district championship and trip to regionals in 2024, the Tigers are looking to pick up where they left off last season.

While Oglesby has a strong core of returning talent from last season, a freshman shooting guard could also play a major role in the team's success in 2025.

Holdyn Goff, 14, has emerged as a major force for the Tigers this season, and coach Larry Williamson said he is impressed with what Goff has shown so far.

"I believe that Holdyn's freshman season couldn't have started off any better than it has," Williamson said. "He scored 29 points in his first varsity game and had a 17-point game in his second game. I think that defensively he is ahead of the learning curve as well."

Williamson said Goff has become one of the Tiger's biggest offensive threats.

"He is a scoring threat both inside and out," Williamson said. "He is also a great defensive player and rebounder."

Goff said he is happy with how the season has started and added that when Oglesby does come up short, it only motivates him to practice and play harder.

"The losses from the tournament have only given me the desire to work hard and push myself and my teammates to our best potential," Goff said.

The Oglesby freshman, who also plays football and baseball, runs track, and is a member of the UIL academics team, said his desire is to be the best teammate he can possibly be.

"I try to bring my team my best effort and leadership to make sure we are succeeding in every aspect on and off the court," Goff said.

Goff takes pride in being a straight-A student and strives to be the best in

everything he does and said his biggest challenge has been proving that he is capable of competing at a varsity level consistently.

"Being a freshman, I have to work extra hard in my free time and in general just to prove that I have what it takes to perform at a high level," Goff said.

The Oglesby shooting guard said that while he enjoys everything he does at OHS, basketball does have a special place in his heart.

"From day one of first touching a basketball, I just fell in love with it," Goff said. "I love the competition, the pressure to score a bucket when you need it, and just putting on a show for everyone that is watching. There isn't a thing in the world I would rather do than play the game of basketball."

Goff will be a part of an AAU basketball team this spring and said he has one major goal for this season: "Win the state championship with my teammates," Goff said. "To prove to myself that I'm capable of doing big things as a freshman and get recognized."

Williamson said he has a couple of objectives in mind for his freshman guard.

"The personal goals that I have for him coincide with our team goals," Williamson said. "We recognize the better we do as a team the more success that brings to our players. Having said that, I believe that he can win district honors and potentially receive higher honors with a successful season as a team."

**Goff's Favorites**  
Favorite Athlete: Anthony Edwards  
Favorite Sports team: Texas Longhorns  
Favorite Food: Steak  
Favorite Movie: Hustle and Coach Carter  
Favorite TV Show: Outer Banks  
Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: The Bible  
Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Lil Tjay



MARY TREJO | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Hornet West Allman shoots past defenders at a recent game. Allman recently received holiday tournament MVP honors for the second straight season.

# Tigers cage the Cougars, 51-41

BY TOM NORRELL  
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby varsity Tigers traveled to Aquilla to play in a district contest against the Aquilla Cougars on Monday, Dec. 30, 2024. The game was close; the first three quarters Aquilla lead most of the way, but the Tigers made a strong comeback in the

fourth quarter pulling away from the Cougars to secure a 51-41 win.

Freshman Holdyn Goff lead the team in scoring with 25 points and 15 rebounds, for a double/double. Goff also had four steals.

Freshman Evan Williams dropped in 12 points and

had one steal. Senior Kyler Fossett hit six points and had three rebounds, two assists, and three steals.

Junior Jack Hendrix hit two three-pointers for six points and had two rebounds and one steal.

Senior Alex Castillo scored two points and

had five assists and one rebound.

Junior Jordan Smith, sophomore Abram Shaw, and sophomore Tucker Melton all saw playing time for the Tigers.

The Tigers run their district record to 2-0 and will host the Evant Elks on Friday, Jan. 3.



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