



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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New presumptive conditions added to the PACT ACT

Submitted Item

New presumptive conditions have been added to the PACT Act under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The PACT Act covers veterans who served in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or Uzbekistan after Sept. 11, 2001. For those who have served in any of these areas during the specified

time period, these are called "presumptive conditions."

The new PACT Act presumptive conditions are:

- Acute and chronic leukemia
- Multiple myelomas (a blood cancer)
- Myelodysplastic syndrome (preleukemia)
- Myelofibrosis (a blood cancer affecting the blood and bone marrow)
- Urinary bladder, urethral, and genitourinary

cancers

The 23 conditions of the PACT Act already approved by the VA:

RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS

- Asthma diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- COPD
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constructive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis

- Emphysema
- Granulomatous
- Interstitial lung disease
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis

CANCERS

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer (esophageal, stomach, colon, and rectal)
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer (includes oral cavity, pharynx, and larynx)

- Kidney cancer
- Lymphatic cancer
- Lymphoma (includes Hodgkins and Non-Hodgkins lymphomas)
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic
- Reproductive (breast, ovarian, and prostate)

All that is needed to prove the claim is a copy of your DD 214 showing service in the specified areas and a current diagnosis.

If you have been treated at a military medical facility or a VA hospital or clinic, you do not have to attach any medical documentation. If you have been treated by a private doctor, you must specify where you were treated at.

For more information, contact the Coryell County Veterans Officer Richard W. Smith at 254-248-0676 or vsol@coryellcountytexas.gov

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!



KAYLEE DUSANG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Professional snake show performers are pictured at last year's Rattlesnake Roundup while during one of the live snake demonstrations. PLEASE SEE RATTLESNAKE | A3



COURTESY OF STATE PRESERVATION BOARD

Governor Pat M. Neff

Leadbelly and the Governor, Pat Neff

100 years ago, in January 1925, Governor Neff pardoned musician Huddie Leadbetter

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Today, very few (if any) Coryell County residents remember the name of Leadbelly, but a connection to the county remains through one of the most notable Coryell County residents named Pat Morris Neff who became governor of Texas in 1921.

Pat Morris Neff was born in 1871 to very humble conditions in the small village of Eagle Springs, which is located in southeastern Coryell County. He received his primary education at the one-room schoolhouse known as the Eagle Springs School. It was while attending this school that he became somewhat fascinated with the law and just how it worked. One day, he skipped school to venture to the local mercantile store where he had heard an attorney would be visiting that day. Later, when questioned by his teacher about his absence from school, Neff replied that he wanted to go and see what an actual lawyer looked like.

Following his school-

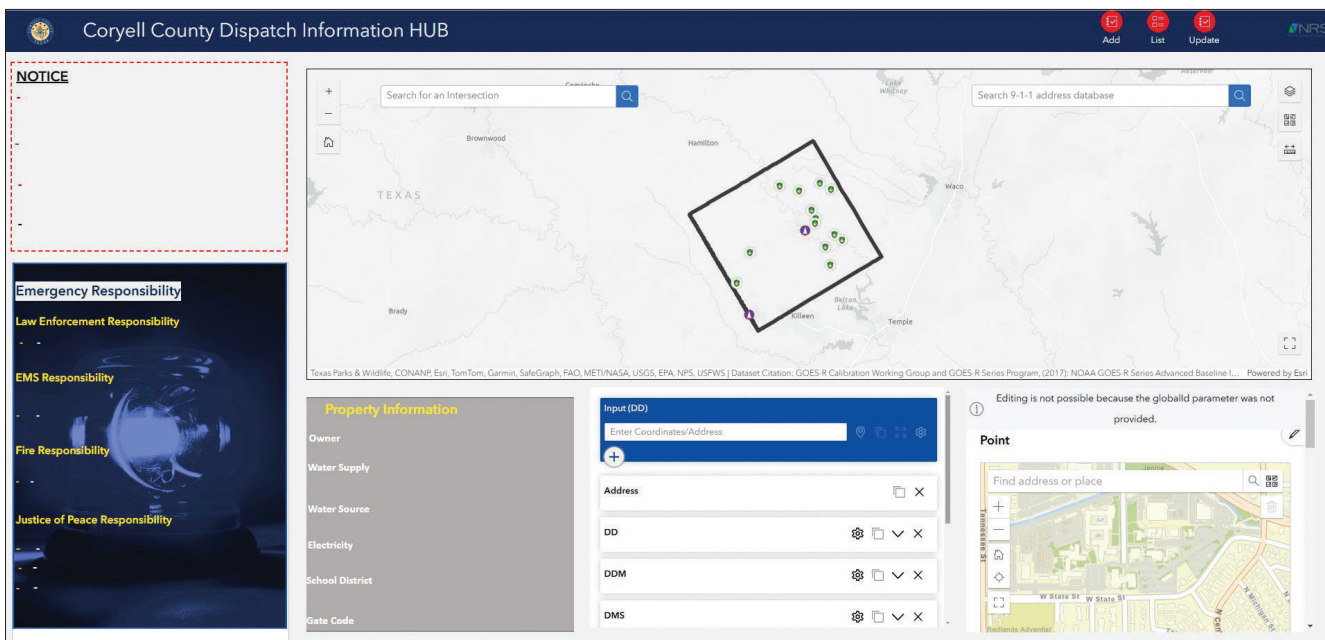
ing at Eagle Springs, Neff went on to graduate from high school in nearby McGregor and eventually attended Baylor University where he received his bachelor's degree. He then ventured to Magnolia, Arkansas where he taught school for two years before returning to Texas and entering the University of Texas School of Law in Austin.

In 1898, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives serving from 1899 to 1905 - followed by one term as Speaker of the House. For the next six years, Neff served as the assistant county attorney and later as the county attorney in McLennan County.

Neff would later run for governor of the State of Texas and would defeat Joseph Weldon Bailey and would begin his term as governor in 1921. He was later re-elected but did not seek a third term in 1924.

During his governorship, Neff became known for not issuing very many pardons to those incarcerated in the state penitentiaries.

PLEASE SEE LEADBELLY | A2



COURTESY OF NATURAL RESOURCES SOLUTIONS

A screenshot of the county's web dispatch application

Local first responders are using a new app to enhance emergency response

BY KAYLEE DUSANG
Staff Writer

Emergency response teams are using a new map application to more efficiently coordinate responses to emergencies

across Coryell County.

Also called Emergency System Partnership, the application allows local law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS teams to view

real-time updates on emergencies within the county and if other local agencies are near the scene.

"It's nice because we're able to get calls - say it's

a medical call and we're headed to it - we know how far EMS is going to be behind us, or how far in

PLEASE SEE APP | A2



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LEDBELLY

FROM PAGE A1

The Waco News-Tribune reported in 1925 that Neff granted 25 pardons as his last act in office, while his successor, Miriam Ferguson, paroled over 1,000 convicts in the ten months she was in office.

During his last days in office, Neff issued the most famous pardon of his four years - to a man known simply as Leadbelly. Neff's stinginess with pardons for Texas convicts was well known. It took only one

pardon, however, signed on Jan. 16, 1925, to soften Neff's reputation as a hard-hearted governor. On that day, he took 23 years off a 30-year sentence of a convicted killer known as Leadbelly. In a biography about Leadbelly, it was written that he was probably the most famous black folk-singer in American history.

Leadbelly (also known as Huddie Ledbetter) had become well known in prison as an entertainer, and when he heard that Governor Neff was making one of his visits to check on the prisoners at Sugar Land prison, he prepared for Neff's visit. He had been saving a white suit

for special occasions, and he paid another prisoner a nickel to wash it.

Leadbelly's biographer noted that he wrote two different songs for the occasion. The more familiar one ended with these lines:

If I had you, Hon. Governor Neff, where you got me, I'd wake up in the morning and set you free.

Neff loved his singing but told him he would not set him free in early 1924 but rather wanted to hear him again and again as he visited the prison on future occasions. A year later, three days before he left office, Neff signed a full pardon for Leadbelly.

As far as it is known, Pat Neff's and Leadbelly's paths never crossed again.

A few years later, Leadbelly went back to jail once again for attempted murder. He was sent to the Angola Prison in Louisiana, which is where the folklorist John Lomax found him and documented his songs for the Library of Congress.

In 1933, Lomax met Leadbelly on his first field trip to document and record southern folklore and music. Through Lomax's influence, Leadbelly was freed from prison once more.

Leadbelly's songs would later cover a wide range of genres, including gospel



MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES

Huddie Ledbetter, known professionally as "Leadbelly"



TEXAS COLLECTION, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Governor Neff is shown visiting Sugar Land prison farm in 1924, where he enjoyed the music of a blues singer named Leadbelly.

music, blues, and folk music, as well as a number of topics including women, liquor, prison life, racism, cowboys, work, sailors, cattle herding, and dancing.

He was posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.

After his tenure ship as governor of Texas, Pat Neff, in 1927, was appointed to the United States Board of Mediation by President Calvin Coolidge and was later named to the Railroad Commission in 1929.

In 1932, at the age of 60, Neff became the president of Baylor University where he remained until 1947. Governor Neff died in Waco on Jan. 20, 1952 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. His personal papers and mementos are a major part of The Texas

Collection at Baylor, which he helped to create.

In 1945, shortly before his death, Leadbelly gave a concert in Paris. He died penniless, but within six months, his song "Goodnight, Irene" had become a million-record hit for the singing group "The Weavers," along with other pieces from his repertoire, among them "The Midnight Special" and "Rock Island Line," which became a standard. In 1970, he was posthumously inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Leadbelly died in New York on Dec. 9, 1949 at the age of 61. He was buried at the Shiloh Baptist Church Cemetery in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

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APP

FROM PAGE A1

front of us they could be, and things of that nature," Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Conrad Scott said.

Similar to a GPS system, the app allows users to update the map on which areas are flooding or if a fire breaks out. The map also notes which properties are doing controlled burns.

"Once those calls come in, we're able to place those addresses showing that they are burning brush or something out there. In case it gets out of control, we know who to tone out," Scott said.

For floods, Scott said they can also mark how high the water has risen and which roads are closed.

"The map will mark that this bridge is starting to get high with water, so we're able to get deputies out there to start shutting down these bridges and stuff like that," Scott said.

Installed on dispatch computers and in emergency vehicles, dispatchers can view vital information about a property they are responding to, such as which fire department, hospital, and law enforcement team responds to that address.

"Basically, it gives the deputies a map that they can look at that will give them directions to the house - to their location - quicker than what we've had in the past," Sheriff's Office Dispatcher Melissa Lovelady said.

"We (used to) just look at a map and guess ourselves. And now, the map actually tells us who to tone out, as far as fire departments, medical, law enforcement, so there's no question of who needs to be responding," Lovelady adds.

If they receive a 911 call, Lovelady said the map is designed so that law enforcement has access to the citizens' electric or water company.

"If something happens, we have to get a hold of

companies to get them turned off or fixed," Lovelady said.

Natural Resources Solutions (NRS), a local consulting firm, first built the application for the Coryell County Sheriff's Office after their original 911 system crashed in 2023. Since then, NRS has added additional data and resources that are beneficial for first responders countywide.

The sheriff's office has used the map application for about one year, but other first response teams have recently started utilizing it, such as Coryell Health EMS teams and the Gatesville Fire Department.

The Gatesville Police Department is the most recent agency to begin testing the platform following approval by the Gatesville City Council at a January public meeting. The police department will start off using the system for six months and then will add it to their patrol units if it works for their team.

"We're doing something so everybody can see everything and get the same information simultaneously," NRS President Steve Manning said. "As it stands today, if there was an emergency of some kind out in the county, Coryell County dispatch can see (Gatesville Fire Chief) Billy Vaden and (they) can see ambulances and the sheriff's patrol car going to that."

Even though first responders can view similar information on the map, each agency can build it to their specific needs.

"Every time we build a system for another user, they have a separate portal to go through - so it's specific to that particular jurisdiction," Manning said.

Since many major disasters such as fires and floods require coordinated responses from both local and state agencies, Manning said the Texas A&M Forest Service and Fort Cavazos are also testing the system.

"I really believe this system will help our emergency personnel by providing

them with comprehensive knowledge before they encounter situations," Councilmember Meredith Rainer said. "At the same time, I think our citizens will benefit by having very prepared first responders in emergencies."

Councilmember Kalinda Westbrook believes the app will enhance the efficiency of public emergency services for the city, county, and neighboring communities.

"The fires on Fort Cavazos a few years ago are a perfect example of how a partnership system would be used to increase response times and even spread out the direction of assistance to the specific areas of need," Westbrook said. "Our resident's safety is fundamental and quickly attending to emergencies is essential to serving the community."

While the public does not have access to technology, the Coryell County website provides an interactive map that shows fires and flooded areas.

"We can show when a road is going to be closed on the map, and that would automatically go to the public side of it," Lovelady said. "There are also a lot of benefits on the law enforcement side, which is not going to be public."

The Emergency System Partnership application is part of a \$4 million flood mitigation study and model for Coryell County. The purpose of the study is to build an automatic flood warning system that will alert local officials about incoming flood events and citizens of life-threatening flood hazards in real-time.

The grant funds were awarded to the Texas A&M AgriLife Blackland Research & Extension Center in Temple and the American Conservation Foundation (ACF). NRS is working with ACF on the project.

"We're taking baby steps now, but we're building a system so that everybody's on the same page," Manning said.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

How would you spend your lottery winnings?



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

This past week I stopped at my local convenience store to purchase a lottery ticket. I am not a regular lottery game player, but every now and then the urge comes over me to invest a couple of dollars into the relatively harmless pursuit of millions of dollars of prize money.

There is no real expectation of my lottery ticket defying the one in 10 million odds and actually winning the grand prize, but I do get some amusement from playing. I confess it allows me to let my mind wonder, imagining what it would be like to win \$200 or \$300 million dollars. Some interesting images come to mind concerning what I would do with the money and how it would change my life.

I would speculate that, since the beginning of mankind, most all people have had a daydream about instantly becoming wealthy beyond their wildest dreams. It is an escape from the reality of their day-to-day life. Probably the most common thoughts are of buying assets. The usual imagined purchases would be cars, boats, jewelry, real estate, airplanes, and travel experiences. Some might

even think about sharing their winnings with family, friends, and co-workers. There are those who would set up foundations to aid the poor, the uneducated, and the less fortunate.

Sadly, I speculate there would be some winners who would drop everything and spend money as fast as they could on pleasures, which have heretofore been kept from them by their economic limitations. For these folks, family would not be important, neither would community, or friends: Only things.

My fantasy about winning lies in a very deep place inside me. Pretty sure I would not buy a Rolex, a Lamborghini, or a diamond stick pin. Upon winning and paying the required taxes, I would have the money to do so, but my heart long ago stopped craving the ownership of things. I have found that items do not give you your health, joy, or emotional wellbeing. In fact, quite the opposite is often the case.

So, what would I do? Of course, I would see that my wife, the kids, and grand-

kids were financially secure for generations, but I would also structure their security in such a way where they still needed to work and give the world something of themselves. I would hate to deprive them of the joy of accomplishing, of working and producing something with their life, and the satisfaction of serving others.

I know life doesn't work this way, but if I could spend the money to go back in time, I would be a little kinder to those who needed kindness and more helpful to those who needed a helping hand. I would pull old friends close that I have let slip away, and I would have recorded every moment I had with dear Grandfather and old hound, Shadow, so I could live them all again. I would change my friend Miss Jayne's age from 93 to 25, so she could sing, play the piano, teach, and do all the things she can no longer do.

I would invest in my community and make sure that my financial excess served the place where I live long after I am dead and buried. It might be a foundation

that helps the needy, a building where the arts and entertainment can thrive and flourish, or perhaps a park or two so the community can share its beauty with all of its citizens.

I must confess there are some selfish things I would do. I would take a couple of long road trips. There would be no hurry to get anywhere or to get back home to some work task or obligation. I might stop at a coffee shop in a little farm town like Lancaster, Missouri and enjoy a piece of pie while talking with some old farmers about how the corn and bean crop looks. Or, I might stop at some stream in New Mexico and fish for trout where I can see the mountains on the horizon. I might even take off to Vermont and Maine, just to see the colors

change on the leaves of the trees come autumn.

I think the best thing about winning would be seeing the look on my wife's face. She plays the lottery regularly, is notoriously competitive and lucky, and while she would be happy that I won, it would really aggravate her to know that I won, and she didn't. As ornery as I am, that might be the best reward of all.

What would you do ... ?
Thought for the day: Don't go spending money you haven't earned on things you don't need in the first place. It is like a dog chasing a car; once you catch it, you have to justify why you ever wanted it in the first place.

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

55th annual Rattlesnake Roundup set for Feb. 22 & 23

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Oglesby Lions Club will host the 55th annual Rattlesnake Roundup, a snake show and vendor fair, which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22 and Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Oglesby Community Center, located at 118 Main Street in Oglesby.

General admission to the event will be five dollars per person.

Breakfast will be served each day on Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The event will feature the Heart of Texas Snake Handlers with world famous Jackie Bibby to present live educational snake demonstrations. Live demonstrations will be

held on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.

Snake registration will be conducted on Saturday morning at 7 a.m. and will cost five dollars. There will be bonus money for those who enter early. There are to be no professional snake hunters, a safety pledge must be signed, and a correct hunter's license is required. There will be no snakes registered after 10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23.

The vendor fair will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22 and from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23. The annual event typically has around 150 plus vendors on site each year.

There will be a train and buggy ride, a possible cornhole tournament, carnival games, clogging entertainment, and raffle prizes.

A car show will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the entrance fee will be \$25 and will include cash prizes.

There will be a concession stand for food and beverages provided by multiple vendors as well.

Live entertainment will be provided during both days of the event. On Saturday, Feb. 22, the Lone Star Cloggers will perform from 10-11 a.m., and Ed Leonard and Friends will perform that day as well from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 23, Colin Dexter, also known as "The Man of Many Voices," will

perform from 1-4 p.m.

All proceeds from the event will be put toward the town of Oglesby. The Oglesby Lions Club plans to disperse the funds for local needs such as FFA scholarships, academic scholarships, community events, funds for school needs, and community needs.

Sara Johnson with the Oglesby Lions Club expressed that the annual event is a fun, community event for the whole family to enjoy and support the town.

To become a vendor, enter in the car show, or for further details, contact 469-450-4973 or email oglesbyrattlesnakeroundup@gmail.com.

Gatesville Animal Control now offers microchipping

Staff Reports

Gatesville Animal Control is now offering microchipping to the community

for \$10 per pet.

Datamars Chips through PetLink will be provided for microchipping. The microchipping is intended

to help with missing pets in hopes that they will be returned to their owners quickly and efficiently.

If interested in getting

your pet microchipped, contact the Gatesville Police Department at 254-865-2226.

Righteous Roots to hold bingo night Feb. 13

Staff Reports

Mission Righteous Roots has announced that a bingo night will be hosted on Thursday, Feb. 13, at Texas Station Event Center for their first fundraiser frenzy of 2025.

Doors to bingo night will open at 6 p.m., and the games will begin at 6:30 p.m. There will be a con-

cession stand provided for those attending the bingo night.

Each ticket will include 10 games with three cards per game. To increase your chances of winning, additional card sets of three will be available for \$5.

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 on the night of the event or online for \$40 by

visiting <https://righteous-roots.ticketbud.com/bingo-feb-13-2025>.

Prizes will be awarded to both men and women ages 18 and up. All prizes are valued at \$50 and above.

All proceeds from the event will go directly to Righteous Roots to support their facility. Righteous Roots is a non-profit crisis

resource center, which provides free social services to any individual suffering from trauma as a result of past or present abuse.

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

Texas Station Event Center is located at 305 Old Fort Gates Road.



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Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Cassie Perez

Say hello to our neighbor, Cassie Perez!

Cassie is the counselor at Gatesville Elementary School and also takes on the role of being the high school junior varsity cheer coach, while also assisting with the varsity cheer squad. She has been in the education field for eleven years with eight of those years spent teaching in the classroom, which included kindergarten, third grade, and fifth grade. She said that she loves working with students and collaborating with their teachers and families. "As a counselor, some days can be emotionally heavy," she said. "Fortunately, I have the best support from the administrators on my campus and support from staff and administrators from across the district. It makes the hard days a little easier." She expressed that she loves helping students through hard times and being someone they can trust and depend on. "Another thing I love about working in my hometown is being able to watch our students grow up and support them along the way," she said. She has lived in Gatesville all her life and always knew Gatesville would be her home. "My favorite thing about Gatesville is the people that live here and the community we have built," she said. "We look out for and help one another as much as we can. From sponsoring youth teams to donating to school and athletic fundraisers to Food for Family donation events...the Gatesville community always steps up and supports their own."

Cassie reads *The Gatesville Messenger* and said, "The *Gatesville Messenger* helps our community stay connected. Although we live in a world full of constant news and social updates, *The Messenger* staff does a great job thoroughly reporting on things we may have only heard a little bit about." She also mentioned that she appreciates the recognition that the students and athletes get from their hometown newspaper. "Reading the news from Mound and 'Whatever Happened To' are always interesting to read as well," she said.

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

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

A city block of rare treasures



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

“This is Napoleon’s saddle,” says Charles Trois of Brady. “That’s his death mask, Napoleon’s death mask. These two big Amazon women, they were the front entrance to Coney Island back in its day.”

Charles is giving me a tour of his museum, which he is building in the old Western Auto building near downtown Brady.

“This clock is from the 1700s. It’s a hundred and four pounds of solid silver.” We came to a collection of Native American artifacts. “This is one of the best collections of tomahawks in the world, smoking tomahawks.” The items in his museum

resemble collections in the Smithsonian. Valuable historic items are everywhere. Charles grew up in Philadelphia and had careers in art, music, and real estate. He had some musical hits in the 60s.

“We had everything from ‘Yummy, Yummy, I got Love in my Tummy,’ ‘One Two Three Red Light,’ ‘To Montego Bay.’ ... Lots of hit records.” He traveled a lot. “I

was in California, where a friend of mine was doing “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas,” and he told me I would love Austin. I came in 1980, and it was wonderful,” Charles said with a chuckle. “I just slowly kept moving toward the hill country. And finally ended up in Brady.” On his way to Brady, Charles and his wife established the Trois resort near Fredericksburg.

He bought a city block in Brady to house some of his collections. “I like the little town. I wanted to get away from the cities. I’m building a museum, which sounds kind of crazy to have valuable stuff in a small town, but my motto is build it and they will come. I wanted to get away from all the insanity. So, I wanted to come to the center of Texas. Eventually, this museum will represent the evolution of civilization through all the battles, all the wars, how mankind has progressed.”

Charles used his artistic ability to create dioramas, displaying dinosaurs. He painted the floor in the huge building. The outside of the building is a dark brown stucco, made to look like stone.

“Right now, I have two rooms that are almost finished. The next one will house the world’s largest cap gun collection. Then I’m going to knock down the building behind this one, build a three-story structure, connect them all, and the museum will finally come together.” Charles gives private tours.

He has some rare guns. “I have the largest collection in the world of western gun and holster rigs. The old-time stuff. Some of the rare art pieces in the museum include works by Van Gogh, Picasso, Salvadore Dali, Modigliani, Degas, and Renoir. A lot of the major museums wanted a lot of the pieces that I have, but I wanted to keep everything right here.”

SUDOKU

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Puzzle answers from the Jan 25, 2025 issue.

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

FOWLER RECEIVES A.C.E. AWARD



COURTESY PHOTO

Coryell Health recently awarded Robert Fowler, a clinic team member (middle with certificate), with an A.C.E. award after being nominated by a fellow employee and a patient for going above and beyond. Fowler was described as helpful, caring, and always smiling while staying dedicated to each patient.

Wellness and Recruiting Fair to be held Feb. 19

Staff Reports

Coryell Health will host a Wellness and Recruiting Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 19. The fair will be held in the public meeting room on the second floor of Coryell Health from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The fair will feature free wellness checks, door

prizes, and raffle drawings, as well as snacks and refreshments.

For more information, contact Coryell Health at 254-865-8251.

Coryell Health is located at 1507 W. Main St. in Gatesville.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLRECIPES.COM

BRUNCH CASSEROLE

BRUNCH CASSEROLE

BY PAT HENSON

- 1 lb. sausage
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 1 (8-oz.) can crescent rolls
- ¾ c. milk
- 2 c. mozzarella, Swiss, or cheddar cheese, grated
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Brown and drain sausage (can use hot sausage). Line the bottom of 9X13 pan with the crescent roll dough. Press seams of rolls together to form a crust. Sprinkle sausage and then the cheese over the dough. Combine eggs, milk, and seasonings. Beat well and pour over the layers in the pan. Bake at 375 for 30 minutes or until set. Let stand for five minutes. Cut into squares and serve immediately. 6-8 servings. This may be frozen before or after cooking for later use.

HHSC encourages cancer screenings for Cervical Health Awareness Month

Press Release

Following National Cervical Health Awareness Month in January, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission is encouraging women to get screened for cervical cancer.

“Cervical cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented,” Crystal Starkey, deputy executive commissioner for Family Health Services said. “Routine cervical cancer screening is the most effective way to detect cervical cancer early, and the first step is talking with your doctor.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends regular cervical cancer screenings for women ages 21-65. Cervical cancer is the third-leading cancer diagnosis for women ages 20-39 and fifth-leading for women ages 40-49 in Texas. According to the Texas Cancer Registry, an estimated 1,490 Texas women were expected to be diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2024.

The HHSC Breast and Cervical Cancer Services program provides free and low-cost women’s health services for uninsured

and underinsured Texas women who meet eligibility requirements. Services include cervical and breast cancer screenings and biopsies, clinical breast examinations, and mammograms.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Services help fund clinics across the state that provide these lifesaving screening and diagnostic services. In fiscal year 2023, the program served 31,429 women, including 5,661 women who received cervical cancer screenings.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Services is primarily funded through the Na-

tional Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Administered by the CDC, the program awards funding to states for early detection of cervical and breast cancers. For fiscal year 2024, the federal program awarded Breast and Cervical Cancer Services more than \$5 million, and the Texas Legislature appropriated an additional \$3.4 million.

To find Breast and Cervical Cancer Services providers or to learn more about women’s health services, visit the Healthy Texas Women website or call 2-1-1.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2005)

Homer Davis, Jr. was recognized as “Citizen of the Year” by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

Sheriff Johnny Burks predicted that Coryell County Commissioners would eventually have to build a new jail.

More than 180 inmates successfully completed the GED program at local prisons.

Sassy Pants, located

inside Apple Creek Designs, advertised 50% off fall and winter items.

Eric Cole, of Gatesville, was included on Harding University’s dean’s list for fall 2004.

30 YEARS AGO (1995)

Five spinal meningitis cases were confirmed in Coryell County.

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce and Agribusiness sponsored their second annual Casino Night.

The first Hamilton and Surrounding Counties Predator Calling Contest was set for the following week.

A Baylor Sesquicentennial Celebration was held at the Frank Mayborn Center in Temple.

Families in Crises, Inc., began Sexual Assault Advocacy training sessions in Gatesville.

40 YEARS AGO (1985)

Coryell County was selected to increase efforts

to eliminate the brucellosis infection.

Phyllis Rucker, a senior at Gatesville High School, was honored by the Gatesville Exchange Club as the Youth of the Month.

Gatesville High School seniors Michelle Evetts and Sam Crosby were named “Best All-Round.”

R.N. Sue Burdett was named the Coryell Memorial Hospital’s December “Employee of the Month.”

The Gatesville Hornets beat the Lampasas Badgers 45-43.

50 YEARS AGO (1975)

Robert Hopson, of Mound, was elected chairman of the Coryell County chapter of the Independent Cattle-men’s Association of Texas.

A public hearing was scheduled to address adoption of a new zoning ordinance and map.

Billy D. Horton resigned his position as a patrolman

on Gatesville’s police force to become a Coryell County deputy Sheriff.

Seniors Carliss McNeely and John Zeigler were selected as Gatesville High School’s Most Outstanding Students for 1974-1975.

Cinema II’s indoor theater was showing “The Longest Yard,” starring Burt Reynolds.

PEARL NEWS

Pearl is the place to be this Saturday!



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Where is the place to be today on Feb. 1, 2025? Pearl, of course! Just drive on up to the Pearl Community Center and there you are!

Why? Because the Pearl Bluegrass event and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore are happening this very day! What can you do there? Listen to great music, jam with talented musicians, eat delicious, homemade food,

shop in the best bookstore around, and visit with the sweetest people anybody knows, that's what! This monthly event is free to get in, and it's free to play on the stage with your band. Bands need only to sign

up on the board outside the kitchen. The Bluegrass Kitchen opens at 11 a.m., and the prices are more than reasonable (cash only). The bookstore opens at 10 a.m., and most purchases are by donation. All proceeds from the bookstore go toward their local charities. You may even find flea market-style shopping north of the cabin. To set up a booth, you only have to pay \$5 (which goes to the Pearl Community Center for help in paying its bills), and you can sell your wares (no ready-made food items, please). Who can join in the fun at Pearl? Everybody! Grab your friends and family and head to the Pearl Community Center. There's no place like Pearl!

The Pearl Church of Christ is preparing for the

annual Valentine Auction, which takes place Feb. 9 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. If you would like to donate auction items, please drop them off at the church. Auction items will be out by Jan. 29, and bidding can begin then and continue until the day of the auction. Everyone is invited to participate as this auction funds scholarships for local students and for His Kids. The His Kids scholarships are in the honor and memory of Richard Williams, the founder of that wonderful group. The church is very thankful for your generous bids and donations.

We still have several Pearl folks who are dealing with serious health issues. Please keep Pearl in your prayers. Also keep their caregivers

in your prayers. As you know, it's the greatest of honors to take care of those who have taken care of us, but it can be taxing. Please pray for their strength and wisdom. They'll bless you for it!

It has been an interesting week here in East Texas. My family came down with the flu, including yours truly. Maybe interesting is not the word for it. It was more like trying, annoying, frustrating, tiring, etc. Actually, my oldest son and my daughter-in-law's mother have not contracted the belligerent bug, and we don't know what they did differently to avoid this malicious mess. Once it attacks you, that flu virus does not want to let you go. I've been wondering if there's an upside to this. Can constant coughing help

you lose weight? I hope so, because I've surely had a workout. Our advice to you all in my dear homeland? Preventative medicine... whatever that may be. Some of us are still scratching our heads over that one. My prayers are with you!

This week's Bible verse comes from I Thessalonians 5: 19-22...Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. NIV

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Now in her senior year at Gatesville High School, Mackenzie Stacher returns to her usual post, wrapped in a blanket to shield her from the cold winds and selling her Girl Scout cookies.

She never gives up...

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Several years ago, *The Gatesville Messenger* began following Gatesville ISD student Mackenzie Stacher as she pursued her dreams with the Girl Scouts organization. She is a unique Girl Scout, being that she's the only Girl Scout in Gatesville. Stacher is now a senior at Gatesville High School.

Over the past few years, the determination and stamina of the lone scout has been in full force when it comes to selling cookies and establishing herself as a local driving force. As in years past, she could be described as "one tough cookie." Stacher has always set a goal of how many Girl Scout cookies she could sell each year - often exceeding her own expectations.

She joined the Girl Scouts in 2017 in the summer after her third-grade school year. "I started as a Brownie and worked my way up to Ambassador," she said in 2024. She continued, "Being an Ambassador means that I am nearing the end of a very long journey of trail blazing and young entrepreneurship."

Last year, Stacher said, "Girl Scouts has definitely thickened my skin and has taught me how life after school might be. I've learned how to attempt to work with difficult people. I've also learned how to brave discomfort and frustration with a smile. Most

of all, I've learned that the saying 'teamwork makes the dream work' is 100% true."

During her cookie campaign each year, Stacher has encountered a few setbacks - all of which have been weather related. She has remained steadfast and continued to sell cookies during extremely cold

weather, high winds, and ice. Her determination and strong work ethic continue to help her reach her scouting goals.

Stacher is a hardworking Gatesville Hornet who is determined to accomplish her current goals and her goals in the future.

LETTER

Delivering hope and joy

The overwhelming generosity of the people of Gatesville helped provide joy to children in need through Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts this season. Across the U.S., the Samaritan's Purse project collected 10.5 million shoebox gifts in 2024. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2024, the ministry is now sending over 11.9 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Shoebbox packers brought joy and hope to children around the world through fun, full, personalized gifts. For many children, this is the first gift they have ever received. Each shoebox gift is a tangible expression of God's love, given to children in need around the world. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across the region, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Although local Gatesville drop off locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 17 - 24, 2025, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, remind children around the world that they are loved and not forgotten.

Sincerely,

Hannah Murphy
SAMARITAN'S PURSE
Marketing/Media Relations Associate |
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Lions Club to host 48th annual Chili Supper Feb. 11

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Lions Club will host its 48th annual Homer Davis Chili Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at Gatesville High School in the cafeteria. The supper will be from 5-7 p.m.

There will be a choice of chili or soup served with all the fixings and a drink. The cost for adults is \$7 per person and \$4 for

children. Tickets for the supper can be purchased in advance or at the door on the night of the event.

All proceeds will benefit a multitude of outreach functions and humanitarian programs based within the community.

The Gatesville Lions Club is a strong supporter of many Gatesville community functions and humanitarian programs. Weekly meetings are held

at the Junction on Route 36 every Wednesday starting at noon.

For further information or to purchase tickets in advance, contact the Gatesville Lions Club at 254-865-4626 or by email at gatesvillelionsclub@gmail.com.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 S. Lovers Ln. in Gatesville.

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Sat 9-2

OBITUARIES

Jerry R. Stratton

Jan. 4, 1934 - Jan. 18, 2025



Jerry R. Stratton (Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired) went home to be with the Lord on Jan. 18, 2025. Jerry's life was passionately guided by his enduring love and service to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; to his beloved wife and cherished family; and to his country as a military officer and aviator.

Jerry was born on Jan. 4, 1934, in Boone County, AR to the late John Robert and Lola Pearl Stratton. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Dotse Mae Stratton, and his sister, Barbara Stratton Sutton. Jerry's legacy will be cherished in the lives of his family: his two children, Laura Nolen (husband, Michael Nolen) and Larry Stratton (wife, Kimberly Stratton); six grandchildren: Elizabeth Griffin, Emily Reis, Erin Nolen, Beth Gibson, Chris Stratton and Courtney Smith; grandsons-in-law, Aaron Griffin, William Reis, Brian Gibson, and Kris Smith; five great-grandchildren; his brother, David Stratton (wife, Deanna Stratton); sister-in-law, Eyvonne Benson, and numerous nieces and nephews and their families.

Jerry often recounted with joy his childhood alongside his brother exploring the beautiful mountains of North Arkansas, which shaped his love for God's creation and his sense of adventure. He loved music and so enjoyed playing the trombone and harmonica. Jerry attended and held dear his time at Ouachita University where he met, fell in love with, and married Dotse Mae Benson in 1954. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He later earned a Master's degree in Education from Baylor University in 1971. Jerry's military career as an officer and aviator spanned 30 years, from 1954 to 1984. His assignments included service stateside and in Panama, two tours in Vietnam, two tours in Korea, and Germany. His honors and achievements include Master Aviator Wings, Jump Wings, Air Medals (24), Bronze Star (2) and numerous other service medals.

In 1986, Jerry sensed God's call and committed his life to ministry. He served as Minister of Education and Administration for First Baptist Church of Copperas Cove, Director of Missions for the Tri-Rivers Baptist Area, and worked with 65 churches in Central Texas. In this role, he helped churches plan mission projects, organized training for church leaders, and assisted churches in calling new pastors. He also served in pastoral roles for several churches, including Adamsville Baptist Church and Buchanan West Baptist Church.

Jerry also wrote Bible

devotions, which were eventually published in three volumes (God's Daily Word). He felt these devotions were a means to continue sharing his love for the Lord into his "retirement years," and it brought him such joy and fulfillment. Each devotion started with what he called a "chuckle," underscoring his trademark optimism and fun-loving spirit. Through his faith, Jerry approached life with courage and humility. In one of his devotions, he writes, "It takes faith and God-given courage to look death in the face and see it for what it is: the transition from this earthly physical life to our eternal life in God's presence. . . and the truth of God's Word is that when we know God through faith in Jesus Christ, we should not waste our time worrying about or dreading death. . . By His resurrection, Jesus was victorious over sin, death, and the grave" (God's Daily Word, Vol. 3, p. 48).

Jerry was a beloved husband, father, brother, Papa, and friend who served as a compass for so many. Living his life with love, hope, and determination, he pointed others to faith and values. His loved ones are comforted by the knowledge that his hope in new life has been fulfilled. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31.

Jerry's family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to our First Baptist Church family, Stoney Brook Assisted Living family, and host of precious caregivers, family, and friends who have loved him so well. You have shown God's love and are cherished by us all!

The family invites you to join them for a Celebration of Life for Jerry on Monday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 300 W Avenue B, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522. Grave-side service will follow at 3 p.m. at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery where he will be receiving full military honors, 11463 State Highway 195, Killeen, Texas 76542. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to the Wounded Warriors Project.

Ann Whitt

June 11, 1928 - Jan. 25, 2025



Ann Whitt, age 96, of Gatesville, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at Focused Care Nursing Home in Hamilton.

Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, at Cedar Ridge Church of Christ with Minister Deral McWhorter officiating.

Anna Beth Whitt was born on June 11, 1928, in the Plainview Community to the late Marjion and Lillian Harper Sanders. As a child, she attended school in the Plainview Community and later attended high school at Pearl. In 1945, she married Verdis Knox, and together they made their home in Gatesville. Ann entered the workforce at the age of 18. She worked for Fort Hood Exchange Services, retiring after 25 years, and later for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a Commissary Officer, retiring in 1990. At the age of 80, she continued to work for the Windham School District as a substitute teacher.

Anna was a woman of faith who regularly attended Church of Christ services. She served as a Firebell for the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department for over 20 years and was also a faithful volunteer at the Gatesville Care Center. She enjoyed RVing and spending time with her friends.

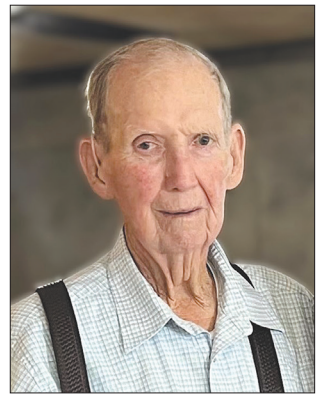
Anna was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Verdis Knox; brothers, Harper Sanders, and Francis Sanders; sisters, Mabel Sanders, and Ruth Barton; and great-grandchild, Alex Whitt.

She is survived by sons, Jimmy Lee Whitt and wife, Judy, and George Danny Whitt and wife, Janet; grandchildren, Terri Martin and husband, Jamie, Jayson Whitt and wife, Carolyn, Brandon Whitt and wife, Danielle, Jamie Whitt, and Ashlie Whitt; great-grandchildren, Brad Martin, Megan Geeslin, Cody Whitt, Julia Whitt; and numerous great-great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorials be made to the Cedar Ridge Church of Christ, 104 Cedar Ridge Road, Gatesville, TX 76528, or to the Pearl Cemetery Association, 5840 FM 183 Evant, TX 76525.

Sonny Gilmore

March 1, 1933 - Jan. 21, 2025



Sonny Gilmore passed away on Jan. 21, 2025, in Gatesville. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Scott's Funeral Home. Interment followed at Turnersville Cemetery.

Zilmon (Sonny) Gilmore was born on March 1, 1933, in Turnersville, to Zilmon (Zoo) and Ora Dolins Gilmore. He spent his childhood in Turnersville and became a cook in the Navy at the age of seventeen. Sonny never learned to cook a small meal after serving so many sailors in his early years. But this just meant more for his family and friends. As a young man, Sonny drove a truck, hauling cotton and grain, then moved to the Houston area where he worked as a general foreman over maintenance at Cameron Iron Works. After he retired, he came back to Turnersville, did some farming and ranching with his father, and worked various jobs in maintenance. He was a dedicated member of the Turnersville community, devoted to preserving its monuments and history. He was a member of the Turnersville Cemetery Association, Gatesville Masonic Lodge, and the Turnersville Baptist Church.

Sonny married Nancy Ruth on March 13, 1992. They were married for almost 33 years, and she was by his side when he passed. He spent the last 30 years of his life working on Deep Creek Ranch,

retiring for the final time in July of 2024 at the age of 91. He was very proud of his work on that ranch, but Sonny was most proud of his family and his relationship with the Lord. God changed his life forever, and from that moment forward, he dedicated his life to Him, taking mission trips to Mexico and faithfully serving where he saw a need.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sons, Rick and Jim. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters, Gail and Kris; son, Don and wife, Courtney; stepdaughters Sarah and Rebekah; grandchildren Kelly, Chris, Mikel, Elizabeth, Hayden, Thomas, Erica and husband, Robert; great-grandchildren Trenton, Kyra, Jackson, and Hanna; and great-great-granddaughter Stevie Lu.

Sonny touched many lives here on this earth, and we know he is now in the presence of his Lord and Savior. We will miss him greatly.

Martha Elizabeth (Betty) Bauman Murray

Oct. 3, 1934 - Jan. 23, 2025



Martha Elizabeth (Betty) Bauman Murray passed away on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025 in Marble Falls surrounded by her four children and the loving staff of Arbor House Evergreen Memory Care and Enhabit Hospice. A family graveside service is planned for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Restland Cemetery. A Celebration of Life service will be held at First Baptist Church in Gatesville on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 11:30 a.m.

Betty was born on Oct. 3, 1934 to E. Price Bauman and Martha Ellen Cayce Bauman in Gatesville. She graduated from Gatesville High School and attended Baylor University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education.

She married her high school sweetheart, Clarence Murray Jr., on June 9, 1956 at First Baptist Church in Gatesville. While Clarence worked in the oil industry and concrete mix business, they made their home in Midland, where they raised their family. Betty was the epitome of a true homemaker: She sewed, did needlework, and cooked for family, friends, and anyone who needed a good meal. She made everyone feel special and welcomed. She had a humble and sweet spirit - always willing to serve. She drove Meals on Wheels, volunteered at the Baptist Crisis Center, loved her bunco friends and Sunday School ladies at Crestview Baptist Church where she was a long-time member.

Betty especially loved her husband of 60 years,

children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She is survived by daughter Kathy Harrison and husband, Jim, of Horse-shoe Bay; daughter, Becky McCraney and husband, Mark, of Belton; son, Tim Murray and wife, Angela, of Amarillo; and daughter, Jennifer Sharrick and husband, Paul, of San Antonio; 16 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Clarence Murray, Jr.; her parents, Price and Martha Bauman; her sister, Phyllis Bauman Dunham, and grandson, Dillon Murray.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials be donated to The Life Center 2101 W. Wall Street, Midland, TX. 79701, Attn: Judy or online at: tldonor.org/donate and please add memorial note or to Senior Life Center (Meals on Wheels) P.O. Box 80519, Midland, Texas 79708 or online at: Seniorlifemidland.org and go to the donate button.

Online Condolences may be made at: www.clementswilcoxfuneralhome.com

MOUND NEWS

It's a busy month for birthdays!



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Elliott and Kennedie Lanham were honored with a baby shower in Gatesville at the Windmill Hill venue Sunday afternoon on Jan. 26.

Hostesses were Marley Boiles, Shalan Crawford, Kari Hopson, Kandi Luensmann, Lacy Roden, Lisa Washburn, Amanda Long, Amanda Wolff, Malorie Paskett, Neely Duckett, Rachel Hopson, Tammie Klontz, Lindsey Pinner, Susie Hopson, and Stacey Lowery.

Jakson Tippit attended McMurry University for an official football visit where he will be playing next fall. Go War Hawks! Jakson is the son of Cody and Amber Tippit.

Robert and Carolyn Blakley, as well as Neil and Christy Helms went to Oklahoma for the weekend.

Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch in Gatesville on Friday.

The Jones's had their annual family reunion Sunday afternoon at the Mound Cowboy Church. There were 31 people in attendance.

Those who had birthdays this month were Joe Don Mangum, Skyler Carothers, Bridgette Newman, Ryan Phillips, Oren Montgomery Jr., Gene Watson, Mary Faye Bomar, McKenzie David, Sue Stalneckner, Braydie Beaty, Martha Hopson, Holly Jones, Carla Braziel, Eric McCorkle, Yessie Argabright, Robin Culp, Natalie Cox, Lanelle Lemons, Tammy Roe, Gina Ament, Cris Cole, Jaylean Bomar, Staci Botkins, Matti Mann, and Stacey Smith.

Barbara's Notes: Happy Ground Hog Day!

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301-400 lb.	400-460	301-400 lb.	360-380
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501-600 lb.	300-342	501-600 lb.	277-303
601-700 lb.	276-304	600-700 lb.	245-277

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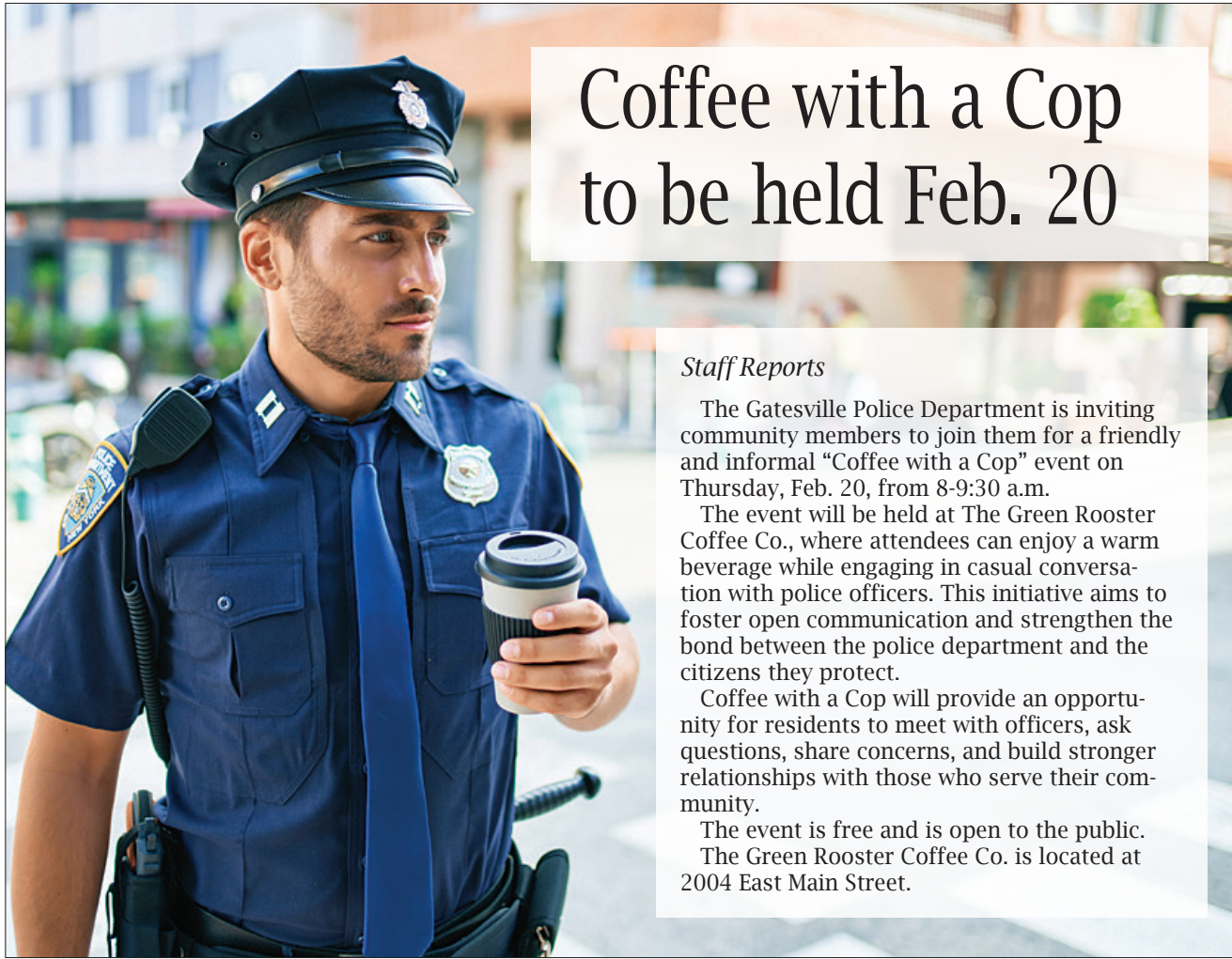
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Coffee with a Cop to be held Feb. 20

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Police Department is inviting community members to join them for a friendly and informal "Coffee with a Cop" event on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 8-9:30 a.m.

The event will be held at The Green Rooster Coffee Co., where attendees can enjoy a warm beverage while engaging in casual conversation with police officers. This initiative aims to foster open communication and strengthen the bond between the police department and the citizens they protect.

Coffee with a Cop will provide an opportunity for residents to meet with officers, ask questions, share concerns, and build stronger relationships with those who serve their community.

The event is free and is open to the public. The Green Rooster Coffee Co. is located at 2004 East Main Street.



National Freedom Day observed Feb. 1

Staff Reports

National Freedom Day is observed annually on Feb. 1 to honor the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States. This day, which was established in 1948, serves as a reminder of the nation's commitment to liberty and equality.

The day also marks the moment when President Abraham Lincoln signed the amendment on Feb. 1, 1865, and laid the foundation for the end of slavery.

In 2025, National Freedom Day will continue to highlight the importance of freedom, justice, and human rights. The day also encourages individuals to appreciate the freedoms they enjoy and participate in activities that promote unity, understanding, and equality.

National Freedom Day reminds Americans of the ongoing pursuit of liberty and the enduring values that define the nation.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Jan. 22 - Jan. 28. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jan. 22
9:50 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
11:42 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1800 block of Bridge Street.
5:04 p.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
8:47 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1600 block of Saunders Street.

Jan. 23
11:23 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 1100 block of Westview Drive.
12:16 p.m., a juvenile runaway was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.
2:48 p.m., a missing person was reported in the 200 block of N. 14th Street.
4:16 p.m., fraud was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.

Jan. 24
10:57 a.m., fraud was reported in the 500 block of State School Road.
11:52 a.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Rio Drive.
1:59 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
10:42 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of Westview Drive.

Jan. 25
12:31 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.
6:24 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 500 block of State School Road.
9:51 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1000 block of E. Leon Street.
11:41 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Levita Road.

Jan. 26
12:07 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 600 block of Golf Course Road.
12:27 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 900 block of Bluestem Drive.
12:56 a.m., a threat was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
6:05 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2500

block of Jackson Drive.

Jan. 27
11:36 a.m., a grass fire was reported in the 2200 block of FM 930.
11:44 a.m., a hit & run was reported in the 2100 block of Waco Street.
11:54 a.m., an assault was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
5:34 p.m., a theft was reported in the 400 block of N. 16th Street.

Jan. 28
10:41 a.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of E. Leon Street.
1:26 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
5:51 p.m., a hit & run was reported in the 1000 block of E. Main Street.
6:58 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of Pidcoke Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jan. 22
1:09 p.m., an explosive was found in the 100 block of Julia Drive.
3:16 p.m., a livestock complaint was found on County Road 174.
6:59 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of E. FM 931.
10:51 p.m., a reckless driver was reported northbound on FM 1113.

Jan. 23
11:08 a.m., a threat was reported in the 2500 block of Joseph Drive.
1:20 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 200 block of Hempel Road.
4:35 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 500 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

8:39 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Sierra Vista Drive.

Jan. 24
8:53 a.m., a minor accident was reported on Highway 9 and N. 1st Street.
11:28 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 8500 block of FM 107.
12:13 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 700 block of Cedar Mountain Road.
2:44 p.m., missing property was reported in the 1500 block of Bald Knob Road.

Jan. 25
6:50 a.m., a threat was reported in the 1600 block of Hay Valley Road.
2:55 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported at Highway 84 at Grace Bible

Church.
4:30 p.m., road rage was reported on S. Highway 36 at The Grove.
6:19 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 1800 block of FM 580.

Jan. 26
2:19 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 3800 block of FM 185 and County Road 270.
11:08 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 2000 block of County Road 342.
6:42 p.m., fence damage was reported in the 400 block of County Road 136.

Jan. 27
4:08 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 7500 block of FM 116.
10:42 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the

2900 block of Straws Mill Road.
5:14 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 7900 block of FM 215.
7:48 p.m., an out-of-control child was reported in the 5500 block of Mother Neff Parkway.

Jan. 28
10:18 a.m., a reckless driver was reported eastbound on Highway 190.
11:41 a.m., a theft was reported in the 800 block of Spring Creek Lane.
5:20 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.
7:01 p.m., an attempted break-in was reported in the 1400 block of Pidcoke Street.

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION

Jody & Robin Thomas
SALES WEDNESDAYS
AT NOON

January 29, 2025:

No. 1 Steers	
Under 300 lb.	400-505
300-400 lb.	385-485
400-500 lb.	350-455
500-600 lb.	310-365
600-700 lb.	285-335
700-800 lb.	265-315
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	350-465
300-400 lb.	335-445
400-500 lb.	325-395
500-600 lb.	275-330
600-700 lb.	235-290
700-800 lb.	220-265
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	135-152
Low Yielding	115-125
Fats	115-135
Thin & Shelly	90-110
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	140-183
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	2800-3400
Young Fair	2200-2800
Aged Pairs	Split & Weighed
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	1500-3300
Number of Head	1231

Hwy. 36, Gatesville
(254) 865-9121
www.coryellcommission.com

JOHNSON VETERINARY SERVICES

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

EXHIBIT C-2

EVANT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2024

Data Control Codes	10	SSA -		98	Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	21st Century Learning Ctrs	State Funded Special Revenue Funds	Other Funds	
REVENUES					
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,175,144	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,754	\$ 1,216,898
5800 State Program Revenues	1,570,744	-	660,249	10,768	2,241,761
5900 Federal Program Revenues	22,953	956,603	-	921,080	1,900,636
5020 Total Revenues	2,768,841	956,603	660,249	973,602	5,359,295
EXPENDITURES					
0011 Instruction	1,006,843	7,391	295,889	627,766	1,937,889
0012 Instructional Resources & Media Services	12,146	-	-	-	12,146
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	16,278	-	-	-	16,278
0021 Instructional Leadership	7,880	153,329	71,617	12,652	245,478
0023 School Leadership	102,324	-	-	-	102,324
0031 Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	9,662	-	2,560	56,105	68,327
0033 Health Services	7,908	-	-	-	7,908
0034 Student Transportation	133,620	-	146,382	15,293	295,295
0035 Food Services	-	-	-	183,312	183,312
0036 Extracurricular Activities	169,004	-	-	47,911	216,915
0041 General Administration	295,303	-	-	40,376	335,679
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	471,452	-	-	-	471,452
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	19,713	-	-	-	19,713
0053 Data Processing Services	51,530	-	5,652	-	57,182
0061 Community Services	-	-	-	19,270	19,270
0071 Debt Service - Principal	5,831	-	-	-	5,831
0072 Debt Service - Interest	1,890	-	-	-	1,890
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	-	138,149	-	138,149
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member District of SSA	142,446	795,883	-	-	938,329
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	40,708	-	-	-	40,708
6030 Total Expenditures	2,494,538	956,603	660,249	1,002,685	5,114,075
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	274,303	-	-	(29,083)	245,220
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
7915 Transfers In	-	-	-	14,324	14,324
8911 Transfers Out	(14,324)	-	-	-	(14,324)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(14,324)	-	-	14,324	-
1200 Net Change in Fund Balance	259,979	-	-	(14,759)	245,220
0100 Fund Balance - Beginning	950,534	-	-	46,149	996,683
3000 Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 1,210,513	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,390	\$ 1,241,903

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Coryell County

DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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AND FIND ME WHEN
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ALL YOUR HEART.

HEART ICON

JEREMIAH 29:13

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:50 AM
WEDNESDAY SERVICES 6:00 PM

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
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BAPTIST
BETHEL HEIGHTS BAPTIST
3835 CR 127, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
BETHEHEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
Elder Hugh Montgomery,
pastor; 4555 FM 1690,
Gatesville; Worship 4th
Sunday of each month at
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
CALVARY BAPTIST
Steven L. Bogan, pastor;
Hwy. 84 & FM 116;
Sunday Bible study 10
a.m., Sunday worship 11
a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
CANAAN BAPTIST
Jim Keever, senior pastor;
177 Coryell City Road,
Crawford; Sunday School
9:30 a.m., Sunday worship
10:30 a.m., Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST PURMELA
875 FM 932, Purmela;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY BAPTIST
Michael Bragdon,
Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.;
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
HARMONY BAPTIST
A.C. Painter, pastor;
1750 FM 215, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
& 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday
evening worship 6:30 p.m.
HAY VALLEY BAPTIST
3110 Hay Valley Road;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
AWANA children's ministry
Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible
Study for men & women on
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
JONESBORO BAPTIST
Matt Dossey, pastor;
11420 N. State Hwy. S;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 10:50
a.m.

KING BAPTIST
Charles W. McKamie,
pastor; 6730 FM 1783,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
LIBERTY BAPTIST
Royce T. Cockrell, DMin.,
Pastor; Corner of FM 107
& HWY 36, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service 11 a.m. &
1 p.m., Family Bible Study
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK BAPTIST
Pastor Matthew Hamilton;
113 FM 107, Gatesville;
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.,
Sunday worship 10:30
a.m., Wednesday eve-
nings: Choir at 5:30 p.m.,
Children & Youth Activities,
Adult Bible Study at 6:15
p.m.
MOUNTAIN BAPTIST
Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor;
6319 US-84, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,

Sunday worship 11 a.m.
& 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7
p.m. Wednesday.
OSAGE BAPTIST
Chris Thomas, pastor;
7505 FM 185, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PEARL COUNTRY CHURCH
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
1102 W. Main St.,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.
WHITE HALL BAPTIST
Mike Barron, pastor;
2040 CR 238, Gatesville;
Sunday school 10 a.m.;
Sunday worship 11 a.m.;
254-679-3200.
WHITE MOUND BAPTIST
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday
School 10 a.m., Sunday
worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR
320; mailing address:
P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX
76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday
worship 9 a.m., Sunday
school 9:30 a.m. Men's
breakfast every third
Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside:
3075 FM 931, outside:
2000 CR 321. Mailing
address: P.O. Box 103,
Mound, TX 76558.

CATHOLIC
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty;
1108 W. Main, Gatesville;
Sunday Mass 9:30
a.m. (English) & 12
p.m. (Spanish Mass),
Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m.
& Wednesday-Friday at
7 a.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
CEDAR RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Deral McWhorter,
minister; 104 Cedar
Ridge, Gatesville; Sunday
worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
EVANT CHURCH OF CHRIST
Will Vann, Preacher; 310
W. Brooks Dr., Evant;
Sunday Bible Study 9:30
a.m., Sunday worship
10:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.,
Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m.
FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST
4605 St. Hwy. 36 S.,
Gatesville; Sunday
worship 10:30 a.m.
GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Justin Hall, minister;

2417 E. Main, Gatesville;
Sunday Bible class 9:30
a.m., Sunday service
10:30 a.m.; Wednesday
Bible classes 6:30 p.m.
LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO
2413 E. Main, Gatesville;
clases y servicios en
Español, 10-11:30 a.m.,
Solamente en domingos.
MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
1955 CR 3640, Copperas
Cove; Sundays - worship
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Wednesdays
- Bible Study 5:30 p.m.;
Royce 512-734-5390 or
Steve 254-865-3559.
PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST
6790 FM 183; Sunday
worship 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF GOD CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD
338 State School Rd.,
Gatesville; Sunday
worship 11 a.m.
LUTHERAN
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
David Reedy, International
Interim Pastor; 922
Lutheran Church Rd.,
Copperas Cove; Sunday
Bible Study 9:15 a.m.;
Sunday worship 10:30
a.m.
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Rev. Christopher Richman,
PhD; 10801 FM 929,
Coryell City; Sunday
worship 9 a.m., Sunday
School 10:15 a.m.
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
Rev. John Heckmann,
pastor; Hwy. 36 & FM
1114, The Grove; Sunday
School 9 a.m., Sunday
worship 10:15 a.m.

METHODIST
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST
2 miles north of Ireland on
FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th
Sundays.
EVANT METHODIST
235 US-281, Evant;
Dennis Dutton, Pastor;
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE
2600 E. Main St.; Stephen
Schmidt, pastor; Sunday
worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30
a.m., Sunday School at
9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY
WORD (during school
year): Meal at 5:30 p.m.
\$3; youth, Children &
Adult Bible Studies at 6
p.m. AA meets Monday,
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6:30 p.m. 254-865-2520.
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OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST
Kent Berry, pastor; 109
College St.; Sunday
worship 9 a.m.
PIDCOKE METHODIST
Rev. Pete Harris; Hwy.
116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday
worship service 10 a.m.;
254-677-6242.

MORMON
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
206 S. 26th St., Gatesville;
Sacrament services
Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday
School 10 a.m

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH
Frank Rosenstern, pastor;
Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday
services 10:30 a.m.;
Thursday services, 7 p.m.
CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115
N. Levita Rd., Gatesville,
248-0849. Sunday worship
9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday services 6
p.m.; Adult Bible Study,
Children's Ministry & C3
Student Ministry.
CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Doran Belknap III, Pastor;
Sunday service 11 a.m.,
8205 FM 182, Turnersville;
254-218-5901.
COVER2COVER MINISTRIES
Pastor: Rev. Brandy
Spiker, Sunday service
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.,
Wednesdays 6 p.m.

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

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

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

REFORMED
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday services 10:45
a.m.; 4012 US Hwy. 84,
Gatesville.

SPANISH
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Domingos a partir de las
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Gatesville.

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

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL BOOTS-N-SADDLE COWBOY CHURCH
Max Gunn, pastor; 254-
216-1537; 10 miles west
of Gatesville on HWY
84; Sundays 10:30 a.m.;
Wednesdays 7 p.m.;
Youth Sunday Service
9:45 a.m.
HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH
Monty & Tammy VanHorn,
pastors; 1608 W. Main
St., Gatesville; Sunday
Praise & Worship 11 am,
Wednesday Bible Study
Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-
4076.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.

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Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, DMin., Pastor

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Gatesville, TX
254-865-5328
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Welcome to our Church

First Methodist Church

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

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Legal Word Ads

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Helen Casey were issued on January 17, 2025 in Cause No. 24-11041 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Helen Branch. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o: Joe Garza, Attorney at Law 11300 N. Central Expressway, Ste. 530, Dallas, TX 75243. Dated the 24th day of January, 2025. Joe Garza Attorney for Helen Branch State Bar No.: 07734000 11300 N. Central Expressway, Ste. 530, Dallas, TX 75243 Telephone: (214) 373-3300 Facsimile: (469) 436-3892

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that applications to have your name placed on the ballot for membership on the Board of Directors for Education Service Center Region 12 may be filed in person or by certified mail between February 1 and February 20, 2025 at the following address.

Office of the Executive Director
2101 W. Loop 340
P.O. Box 23409 (Mailing Address)
Waco, TX 76702-3409

Filing applications for Place 4 in Hamilton and Coryell counties may be secured at a public school superintendent's office located within these counties or from the above stated address. No filing fee is required.

Public Notice

The annual meeting for The Grove Water Supply Corporation will be held at The Grove Community Center on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

The business meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

No election will take place due to two board members running unopposed for expired positions.

Glenn Schwanke, President

The Grove WSC

Your ad should be here.....

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Legal Word Ads

CAUSE NO. 21-10579

IN THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL ANTHONY SALIMBENI DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Michael Anthony Salimbeni, Deceased, were issued on May 6th, 2022 in Cause No. 21-10579 in the County Court At Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Susan Salimbeni, Independent Administrator. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 19th day of December, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lane Heginbotham
HARRIS LAW OFFICE
425 North Eighth Street
Killeen, Texas 76541
Phone (254) 526-0108
Fax (254) 526-7141
Lane Heginbotham
State Bar No.: 24000323
E-mail: lane@centex-lawyers.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Vicki L. Treadway were issued on December 20, 2024 in Cause No. 24-11101 pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to Laura Edwards.

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

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

Dated the 21st day of January, 2025.

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

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Legal Word Ads

JENNIFER NEWTON, CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW, P.O. BOX 237, GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528. ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE, ALLEN D. PLACE, JR., 109 S. 7TH ST., GATESVILLE, TX 76528 TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS, UNKNOWN ADDRESS/UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CORYELL TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL LEE ELY, DECEASED. CAUSE NO 24-11087, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. MARGARET ELY FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 23RD DAY OF JANUARY 2025, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SAID MICHAEL LEE ELY, DECEASED. SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME ABOVE-MENTIONED TIME AND PLACE BY FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER CONTESTING SUCH APPLICATION SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO DO SO. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 27TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025. JENNIFER NEWTON, CORYELL COUNTY CLERK, CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS BY: K. TALLEY

DATED the 19th day of December, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lane Heginbotham
HARRIS LAW OFFICE
425 North Eighth Street
Killeen, Texas 76541
Phone (254) 526-0108
Fax (254) 526-7141
Lane Heginbotham
State Bar No.: 24000323
E-mail: lane@centex-lawyers.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

Dated the 21st day of January, 2025.

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

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Legal Word Ads

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage-Gatesville, located at 1611 E. Main St., 1607 E. Leon St., 401 E. Main St., 2401 E. Main St., 1409 E. Main St., and 126 Austin Ave., 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 Sunday, February 9, 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, February 17, 2025 at 11 A.M. Units to be sold: Billy Lockler, Taylor Lee, Jonathan Hutchins, Francisco Castillo, Kara Stowall. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools, and misc. items.

010
Fencing

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

012
For Sale

Chainsaw Chains For Sale, in good shape! 29 12-inch, 33 14-inch, 17 16-inch, 16 18-inch, & 9 20-inch. Call 254-216-1170

013
Garage & Estate Sales

WINTER FOOTWEAR! Tues., 02/04 - Sat., 02/08. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main.

Gatesville Pickers Estate Sales
2512 S. State Hwy. 36, Gatesville, TX
Fri. & Sat., Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 • 9am-3pm
Household Items, Antique Bed Set, Bar & Stools, Washer & Dryer, Refrigerator, Riding Lawnmower, Patio Furniture, Tools, Dishes & Lots More.
To schedule your estate sale with Gatesville Pickers, contact Debbie Buster at (254) 223-1455.

Gatesville Pickers Estate Sales
606 College St., Gatesville, TX
Fri. & Sat., Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 • 9am-3pm
Household Items, Furniture, Refrigerator, Washer & Dryer, Area Rugs, Living Room & Dining Sets, Dishes & Lots More.
To schedule your estate sale with Gatesville Pickers, contact Debbie Buster at (254) 223-1455.

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116 S. 6th Street
Gatesville, TX
(on the square)

014
Help Wanted

NOW HIRING 
• RN – FT & PRN; Night Shift
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• COTA – FT
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BENEFITS OFFERED:
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110 Chicktown Rd. off: (254) 404-2500
Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288
humanresources@coryellhealth.org
Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org

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EMS:
• PARAMEDIC FT AND PRN
• EMT FT AND PRN
HOME HEALTH:
• RN – FT
• PRIMARY CARE ATTENDANT
LAB:
• POINT OF CARE ASSISTANT- FT
MED/ SURG:
• RN OR LVN – FT NIGHT SHIFTS
RADIOLOGY:
• CT/X-RAY TECH – PRN; TDH
MRT & ARRT W/1 YR. EXP. IN CT/X-RAY
WELCOME:
• CNA FT

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

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

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

015
Home Improvement

CTS: 254-216-3684, Building pads, Culvert & Driveway Install, Concrete Construction Clean-up, Landscape Topsoil Grading, Sod Install, Maintenance Mowing, Dirt, Rock, Material Hauling.

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

013
Garage & Estate Sales

015
Home Improvement

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TACLA27524C www.schumansair.com

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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Home Improvement

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016
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026
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027
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025
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Calvin Burks
Bus. 254-471-5738
Cell 254-865-3601

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

To see all listings: www.burksrealestate.com

- 117 N. Rice St., Hamilton, TX. Rustic Lantern, over 7,000 sq ft, 2 stories w/2 staircases, kitchen area, old safe, great commercial property. \$399,000
- 520 N Rice St., Hamilton, TX. Commercial building, over 7,200 sq. ft. of space, two large spaces on the first floor, commercial kitchen, second story has several rooms with four full baths. \$599,000
- 3 Br, 2 Ba, 504 Fennimore St., Gatesville, TX. Large living area, nice size bedrooms, renovated master bathroom. 2 car garage, large backyard w/privacy fencing, near Raby Park. \$225,000
- 1.603 ac., 204 ft. of Hwy. 281 frontage & 300 ft. of frontage on Bell St. Great location for a convenience store, strip center or any retail business. \$369,000
- 8.01 ac. Lot 54 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet \$150,000
- 9.77 ac., 3-2 manufactured home, 20162 N. Hwy. 281, Lampasas, TX. 2 living areas, large kitchen, island, metal building 25 ft. X 40 ft, 24ft x 29 ft carport, 20 ft x 40 ft. RV Shed, water well 210 ft. deep. \$389,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 63 Ph 6, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Season creek, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$116,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 53 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch. Rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & fiber optic internet. \$167,000
- 10.01 ac. Lot 44 Ph 6, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision. Electric & fiber optic internet service. OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE. \$125,000
- 10.182 ac. Lot 14 Ph 3, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX, Langford Branch. Good tree coverage, rolling terrain. Electric & fiber optic internet. \$239,900
- 10.697 ac. Lot 9 Ph 4, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Seasonal branch, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$122,500
- 10.85 ac. Lot 9 Ph 5, Flint Rock Court, Evant, TX, Rio Escondido Subdivision. Good tree cover, electric & fiber optic internet, gated subdivision. \$114,000
- 15 ac. East of Evant, Bear Branch Road. Great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across road, will need to drill water well for water. \$150,000
- 16.5 ac. Turnersville, open pasture, good views, paved CR 220. Electricity across road, check w/Coryell City Water on availability of water meter. \$206,500
- 18.1 ac. South of Evant, near Adamsville, Lampasas County, Hwy 281 & CR 2830. Water well, electricity, carport, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$360,000
- 19.314 ac. 1.590 sq. house built in 2021, located at 7247 N Hwy. 36 Jonesboro. Open floor plan, stained concrete flooring, large island/breakfast bar, propane gas range, and covered back porch. \$475,000
- 20 ac. Lot 23 Ph 1, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric available, fiber optic internet. \$215,000
- 20.08 ac. Lots 10 & 11 Ph 5 Rio Escondido Subdivision. Good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric & fiber optic internet service. \$238,000
- 37.364 ac. 7550 CR 142, Gatesville, TX near Pidcoke, TX. Water meter, approx. 1400 ft of Bee House Creek frontage, good tree cove, rolling terrain, paved county road \$560,460
- 129.81 ac. Purnela, TX, Coryell County, heavy tree cover, rolling terrain, one stock tank, Honey Creek, fenced on three sides, deeded access easement. \$975,000
- 620 ac. 3 Br 2 Ba home, fireplace, ceramic tile floors, covered outdoor cooking patio, 38 ft X 25 ft. building, 2 lakes, one being approx. 10 acres and the other one just under 5 acres and 3 smaller stock tanks, approx. 8500 ft of Bee Creek running through the property with 20 ft to 40 ft limestone bluffs along the creek, good rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$6,200,000

Ad1

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.





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CLASSIFIEDS

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

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MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

A country post office in Purmela

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Located at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center in the post office exhibit, visitors will see the post office counter and post office boxes that were once used in Purmela at the Laxon Brothers Store.

Years before, when Purmela was first founded, a mass meeting was held to determine the location of the new town and to pick a name for it. A local businessman, Martin Dremien, was responsible for sending the application for a post office to the postal service in Washington, D.C. Dremien attempted to have the town named after his sweetheart, "Furmela."

Due to an error in reading the handwriting on the post office application form, it was said that the records in Washington, D.C. show the first post office was to be named "Purmela." The application was approved on May 19, 1879, and Martin Dremien was appointed the first postmaster. As a result of the mix-up of names, Dremien was reported to have closed his business and moved to another state.

In the following years after Dremien served as the first postmaster, he was succeeded by Jackson Hall, Jacob Hall, James Montgomery, Marvin Scott, Ogden Harris, William Laxson, Ada Whitley, Homer Laxson, Bessie Laxson, Lynda Dyer,

Marlene Hill, and Leon Shindeldecker.

In the 1950s and for the majority of the 1960s, the community of Purmela had 125 residents, but by 1968 and 1970, that number dropped to 65 and 40. In the 1980s, Purmela had a chapel and a post office. In 1990, 61 people were living there, and the population remained the same in 2000.

The Purmela Post Office is still open for business, but the location has moved a little closer to Highway 84 from the original townsite.

Those who would like to see the post office exhibit are welcome to drop by the museum for a visit. Touring the museum is free of charge.

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

Yearly, Coryell Museum memberships are \$20 for singles, \$30 for families, and \$40 for businesses, which includes free admission to the museum, plus four newsletters. Of course, large and small donations

are welcome at all times.

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Original counters and boxes that were located in one of the early day post offices in Purmela

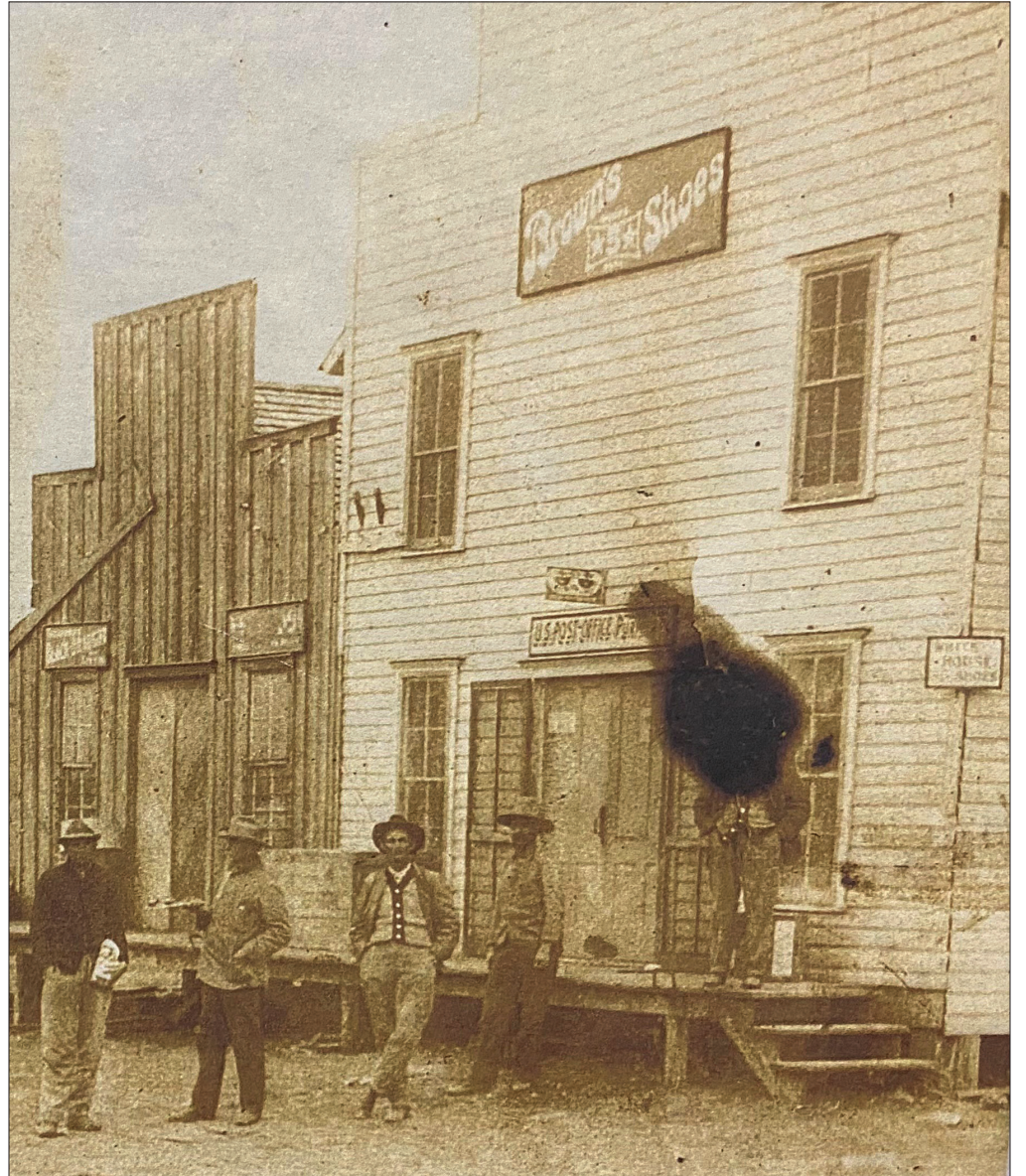





PHOTO COURTESY OF CORYELL MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL CENTER

At one time, the Purmela Post Office was located inside the Laxon Brothers Store. Barely visible in this photo is a sign over the door of the building saying, "Post Office."



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Business Directory

<p style="text-align: center;">Billy Latham Sales</p>  <p>WHITT Building Supplies</p> <p>Office (254) 865-2190 Cell: (254) 216-1516 billy@wbsupplies.com</p> <p>1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass Gatesville, Texas 76528</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>R & M Fencing & Dozing</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">FREE ESTIMATES</p> <p>Fence Row Clearing Barbed Wire Custom Pipe Fencing Entryways & Corrals Barns & Metal Buildings Residential Fencing Game Fencing Dozer Work Available</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LARRY RIDDLE 254-248-2205</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOYCE MCADAMS 254-248-4318</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Billy's Plumbing Solutions </p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Construction, Remodel & Service Work</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(254) 349-3114</p> <p style="text-align: center;">719 CR 409 Hamilton, TX 76531 TJ Rogers M-44685</p>
 <p>5B DOZING & CONSTRUCTION FARM & RANCH</p> <p>DOZER WORK LAND CLEARING ADDONS</p> <p>REMODELING METAL BUILDINGS WOOD FRAMING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TC BROOKSHIRE, OWNER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(254) 223-1817 / (254) 216-9572</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MID-TEX PLUMBING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Residential & Commercial</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Master Lic. No. M-42617</p> <p style="text-align: center;">midtexplumbing@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tyler Powell 254-223-3551</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zach Hodges 254-383-6267</p>	 <p>WHITT Building Supplies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brandon Latham Owner / President</p> <p>1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass Gatesville, Texas 76528</p> <p style="text-align: right;">mobile: 254-223-1723 Office: 254-865-2190</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GRIBS CONSTRUCTION State Certified Installer of Septic Systems</p> <p>BACKHOE & DIRT WORK GRAVEL • ASPHALT ROADS • DRIVES</p> <p>Owner--Gary Gribble</p>  <p>2000 VIOLET LANE GATESVILLE, TX 76528</p> <p style="text-align: right;">254-248-4171</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FERGUSON ROOFING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Serving Central Texas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Locally Owned Company</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Free Estimates.....254-466-5128</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pete's Remodeling & Repair LLC</p>  <p>338 State School Rd Gatesville, TX 76528 Peter Anson 254-223-1901</p> <p>petesremodelingandrepair.com</p> <p>Every Job done with: Integrity, honesty, and pride Over 40 yrs. experience</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> petesremodeling16@gmail.com</p>
 <p>PROGRESSIVE Shawn Camp Insurance, Inc.</p> <p>Home • Auto • Motorcycle • Boat/Personal Watercraft</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Call Amy or Shawn today for a price quote and insure your peace of mind.</p> <p>2707 E. HWY. 190 COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522 SHAWNCAMPINSURANCE@HOTMAIL.COM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tel 254-865-2002 Fax 254-547-5778</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHRIS WINKLER SALES</p>  <p>WHITT Building Supplies</p> <p>1411 N. Hwy. 36 Bypass Gatesville, Texas 76528</p> <p>254.865.2190 Office 254.444.9040 Cell 254.865.9137 Fax chris.winkler@whittbuildingsupplies.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jaydie Dixon Owner</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">DIXON ROOFING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FREE ESTIMATES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Insurance Claims Specialist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">254.248.4053</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Residential & Commercial P.O. Box 67, Gatesville, TX</p>

2025 MILITARY FISH FRY

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The 17th annual Gatesville Military Appreciation Fish Fry was held on Friday, Jan. 24, at the Gatesville Civic Center. The event was hosted by the City of Gatesville, the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce, and the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department. A social time was held for the military personnel from Fort Cavazos between 6-6:30 p.m. followed by the invocation by Dr. Samuel B. Crosby of Trinity Baptist Church. A welcome and words of appreciation were issued to the military members by Mayor Gary Chumley. Carla Manning with military affairs gave recognition to the soldiers as well. Major General William A. Ryan III, Commander, First Army Division West at Fort Cavazos, then spoke to the soldiers before the fish fry meal began.



Soldiers and their families are pictured at the tables waiting for dinner.



Soldiers of Fort Cavazos



Soldiers of Fort Cavazos enjoyed social time while waiting for the fish fry to begin.



Veterans and their families also attended the event.



Becky Bartlett (left) and Karen Campbell greeted soldiers and the community at the fish fry.


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Gatesville keeps playoff hopes alive with win over China Spring

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

Thanks to a 49-40 win over China Spring the Gatesville Hornets basketball team is still very much alive for a fourth straight playoff berth.

The Hornets currently occupy the number four spot in the District 23-4A standings with a 2-4 league mark. They hold a one-game lead over Robinson - who they will face Jan. 31. A win over the rival Rockets would place Gatesville firmly in the driver's seat for a post-season spot with three games to play.

While mathematically still alive for a district championship, the likely landing spot for the Hornets is the No. 3 or No. 4 spot. La Vega leads in the standings with a 6-0 record while Lorena is second at 5-1.

Connally is 3-3 in district play and will face La Vega Jan. 31. A Cadet loss to the Pirates and a Gatesville win over Robinson would mean a matchup of 3-4 teams in Gatesville on Feb. 4.

The Hornets snapped a four-game losing streak with the win over the gritty Cou-

gars and featured a balanced attack from their offense.

West Allman led all scorers with 16 points in the game, while Kase Cox had 11, Charlie Winkler had ten, and Amos Phillips had eight. Phillips also pulled down six rebounds and played his best game since returning from a lengthy absence while nursing an injury.

The Hornets dominated the rebounding advantage by a 42-17 margin. Cox pulled down 13 rebounds to match a season high. It was his eighth double-digit rebound-

ing game of the year and his eighth double-double of the season.

Allman, Phillips, and Grady Keeton each had six rebounds apiece.

Gatesville raced out to an 8-0 lead, but the Cougars stayed close via the charity stripe and the three-point line. They made 7 of 8 free throw attempts in the first half then connected for five three-pointers in the second half.

The Hornets led 37-33 to start the fourth quarter, but a Winkler three-pointer

pushed the lead to 40-33. China Spring clawed back to 45-40 and had possession of the ball with 45 seconds to play but senior Evan McCracken picked off a pass and went coast-to-coast for a layup to push the lead to 47-40.

An acrobatic reverse layup from Allman provided the final 49-40 advantage.

Gatesville wrapped the first half of district Jan. 24 with a 53-42 loss at Lorena. The Hornets struggled offensively through the first two quarters and trailed 25-9 at

the half.

In the fourth quarter, they were able to get as close as 47-40 late in the period before Lorena iced the game from the free throw line. Lorena attempted 23 free throws to just nine attempts for Gatesville.

Allman scored all 14 of his points in the second half and added ten rebounds for his seventh double-double of the year. Cox had 11 points, and Winkler added nine.

Nominations now open for GHS Hall of Fame

Staff Reports

Nominations are now being taken for the Gatesville High School Athletics Hall of Fame for the class of 2025.

The hall of fame recognizes:

- Athletes that excelled at Gatesville High School and received significant recognition
- Coaches with significant achievements during their career at Gatesville High

School

- Teams that won state championships, advanced to state-level competition, or attained other significant playoff/postseason achievements

- Friends of the program that contributed extraordinarily to Gatesville ISD athletics in a capacity other than a coach or athlete

To receive a nomination form, contact Ricky Phillips

by email at rgphilli@gatesvilleisd.org. All nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 14, and are to be turned in by email to Ricky Phillips or mailed to Rickey Phillips, GISD Athletic Director, 215

South Lovers Lane, Gatesville TX 76528.

Inductees will be announced the week of Feb. 17 through 21, and the induction banquet will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro powerlifter Sam Lawrence competes at the Dublin meet, finishing sixth overall in the boy's 181 lb weight class.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro powerlifter Adalya Andrade competes at the Dublin meet, finishing fifth overall in the girl's 132 lb weight class.

Powerlifting looks promising for this season

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

With powerlifting season just getting underway, Gatesville area programs are gearing up for what promises to be another good year on the weights.

Gatesville High School powerlifting coach Jason Moffett said on the girl's side, things are shaping up especially well.

"We have a very experienced group of lifters returning for our girls team," Moffett said. "They are mostly juniors and a couple of seniors. Both of the seniors (Emma Davidson and Shaylie Teague) were state meet qualifiers last year and finished in fourth and sixth place respectively in their weight classes. We have a total of 11 regional qualifiers returning this year."

On the boys side, Gates-

ville will have to deal with some inexperience, but Moffett said he has a strong returning core and some up-and-coming talent that make him optimistic.

"Our boys team graduated pretty heavily last year, as we had several seniors on the squad," Moffett said. "I am optimistic about the chance to get some young lifters ready to take the reins this year and prove what they can do. I do have two returning regional qualifiers (seniors Dutch Nielsen and Brayden Mills) who are both outstanding lifters and should provide much-needed leadership for our younger lifters."

Moffett said to have a successful season his lifters need to be committed.

"Success in powerlifting really comes down to how hard these kids are ready to work and how technically sound

we are in the rack," Moffett said. "We have to avoid technical mistakes that will cost us lifts and put us behind schedule. The weight room is a place where you get instant feedback every time you load a bar and attempt a new weight. For our girls, we have a goal of finishing as a team in the top three at the regional meet. For our boys, the goal is to set new PRs and hit better total's each week."

The Gatesville boys and girls both finished in fourth place at their regional meets last year.

Jonesboro Powerlifting

Over at Jonesboro, coach Tori Smith said she is pleased with what she and her husband Ben have seen so far from their teams.

"We are off to a great start this season," Smith said. "Both my husband, Ben

Smith and I are new to Jonesboro this year but have been coaching powerlifting for 12 years now. It is a passion we both have from growing up in the weight room and having that sense of character and physical and mental strength you get from your powerlifting accomplishments. We now strive to instill that same mentality in our athletes so that they may truly understand what their body is capable of."

Smith said the workouts are rigorous.

"Monday through Wednesday we get our day started with a 6 a.m. lift and finish with an after-school lift until 5 p.m.," Smith said. "So, it is safe to say that these athletes are spending a lot of their time in the weight room. Most of our lifters that are not participating in basketball started hitting the

weight room well before the Christmas break."

And with good results.

Jonesboro's first invitational powerlifting meet was this past weekend in Dublin.

Adalya Andrade medaled in the 132 pound weight class with a total of 520 lbs and Alyssa Whisenhunt medaled in the 148 lb weight class with a total of 480 lbs.

"There are only two returning lifters this year," Smith said. "Junior Alyssa Whisenhunt and Senior Austin Massingill, so this was a great first meet for all our new lifters. They were not sure what to expect at first, but after Saturday's meet and being in that environment, they now understand what it will take to qualify for regionals. We have 10 lifters this year and are extremely happy with those numbers for a 1A school.

Last year, there were four lifters with one being a regional and state qualifier."

Smith said Andrade, Junior Sam Lawrence, Freshman Adison Lopez, and Whisenhunt, are currently sitting in good standings to qualify for regionals with several meets to go.

Evant Powerlifting

For the Evant powerlifting team, coach Brandon Young may not have a lot of depth this season, but is quite confident in what, or rather who, he does have.

"We only have one lifter, junior Cash Standford," Young said. "It's his first year ever to do it, but he's a determined kid that wants to excel in this sport. He'll be successful, I'm sure of it. He placed fifth in the 242 lb class last weekend in Hico."



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SPORTS Roundup

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Oglesby Boy's Handle Aquilla

The Tigers basketball team defeated Aquilla by a score of 60-32 last week in a game coach Larry Williamson said his team was in sync throughout.

"The team performed well," Williamson said. "We rebounded the ball exceptionally well and had great ball and player movement offensively."

The Tigers had a few strong individual performances in the game as well.

Holdyn Goff had 17 points and 18 rebounds, while Evan Williamson scored 15 points with five steals.

Alex Castillo finished the game with 14 points and seven rebounds.

Oglesby moved to 7-1 in district competition with the victory over the Cougars.

Lady Elks Lose to Abbott

The Evant girls' basketball team came up short last Friday, losing to Abbott by a score of 50-34.

Molly Waldrum scored 10 points for Evant in the loss to lead the team in scoring in the game.

Izzy Gandy led the team with 11 rebounds, and Bree Ramirez led the team in assists with five for the Lady

Elks.

Gandy (eight points), Luwi Rodriguez (seven points), Ramirez (six points), and Brinlea Bates (two points) all contributed for Evant.

Gatesville Wrestling Team Gears Up for District

The Hornets girls had a strong showing in their final tune up before the district meet this past week, and coach Robert Clater, Jr. said both teams competed well against Salado.

"At our dual against Salado, our girls neared a clean sweep against them, winning all but one match up," Clater said. "Our boys' team is a large group of rookies and lost to Salado, but each outing they show improvement, and I look forward to seeing their growth."

The Salado dual was important for another reason, as two of Gatesville's best wrestlers were recognized for their achievements and contributions to the program.

"We recognized seniors Elaina Knobloch and Brianna Allen for our last home match of the season," Clater said. "Brianna ends the regular season with a 14-5 season and Elaina, 12-6."

Lady Eagles Continue to Play Well

The Jonesboro girls' basketball team won its ninth

consecutive district game last Tuesday and remains undefeated in district competition this season.

The Lady Eagles defeated Oglesby, and coach Chris Simon said it was another strong all-around effort from his team.

"Our game against Oglesby on Tuesday went well," Simon said on Saturday. "We played much better this time than last time we played them. We had a good performance from our bench players. I felt we played a great team game. We won 59-21 to move to 9-0 in district with a big game coming up Tuesday against Aquilla. I'm proud of how the girls are playing, and we are going to continue rolling and keep up the momentum."

Simon had four strong performances in the game from his team, with Ella Gustin leading Jonesboro in scoring with 25 points and finished the game with four steals.

Lynlee Deats also had a strong game, with eight points, seven assists, and three steals, and Ally Thorman also had eight points for the Lady Eagles against Oglesby.

Destini Ranaghan finished the game with seven points for Jonesboro.

Evant Loses Tough One to Abbott

The Elks lost to Abbott last Friday by a score of 72-40 in a game that was tied 7-7 early before the Panthers went on a 9-0 run.

Jacob Turner was the top scorer for the Elks with 18 points in the game and Evant was 4-9 in three-point shots.

Cash Stanford collected 12 rebounds to lead the way for the Elks in the game.

Evant also had contributions from Tanner Manville (nine points), Cooper Stanford (six points), Cash Stanford (four points), and Texan White (four points) against Abbott.

Oglesby Girls Come Up Short

The Lady Tigers basketball team lost to Aquilla last week by a score of 60-24, and coach Dylan Segundo said his team looked pretty good early on.

"We started off the game well, which is something we've been trying to focus on," Segundo said. "The girls played hard and got after it defensively, but we just couldn't get enough going offensively."

A bright spot in the game for Oglesby offensively was the play of Presley Robinson, who led the Lady Tigers in scoring with 12 points.

Oglesby football received All-Region & State awards

Staff Reports

The Oglesby High School varsity football team was recently recognized after being awarded All-Region and All-State level awards.

Nine players received awards for their hard work and dedication on and off the field this season.

Awards include

Alex Castillo, 1st Team Quarterback
Kyler Fossett, Offensive MVP
Hunter Ewing, 1st Team

Tight Center

Jakson Tippit, 1st Team Fullback and 1st Team Linebacker

Jack Hendricks, 1st Team Linebacker and 1st Team Defensive MVP

Aiden Oxford, 1st Team Defensive Line

Kayson Campbell, 1st Team Spread Rusher

Mason Marquez, 1st Team

Nose Guard

Holdyn Goff, Newcomer of the Year and 1st Team Cornerback



Oglesby JV boys split two district contests

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers junior varsity boys team split two contests on Jan. 21.

The Tigers traveled to Jonesboro to compete against the Eagles where they fell, 39-23.

The top performers were Camden Webb, seven points; Braxton Ruiz, seven points; Calen Webb, six points; and Couper Wulfkhole, three points.

The JV boys also hosted the Aquilla Cougars JV team on Jan. 24, defeating the cougars, 41-16, in a district contest.

The top performers for the night were Braxton Ruiz, 13 points; Calen Webb, 11 points; Camden Webb, seven points; Paydon Garrett, six points; and Couper Wulfkhole, four points.

The next game is to be determined.

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER



AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Boys Soccer vs Belton High School. Pictured is Gatesville's Hector Silva (10).



AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Girls Soccer vs Waco Meyer. Pictured is Gatesville's MJ Martinez (14).



AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Boys Soccer vs Belton High School. Pictured is Gatesville's Frankie Medina (11).



AVERY MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Girls Soccer vs Waco Meyer. Pictured is Gatesville's Lily Nielsen (12).



RICKEY PHILLIPS

Athletic Director
Gatesville ISD
@RickeyPhillip12 on X

Winter and spring sport update

Baseball - GHS has a few scrimmages scheduled prior to opening the season Feb. 17, at Lampasas. The Hornets are coming off back-to-back regional quarterfinal appearances and return several key pieces from last year's squad that finished 23-14-1 overall.

Basketball - Tuesday is Senior Night for GHS Girls Basketball. The team will be honoring senior guards Paige Sentillas and Callie Stovall on their final game at Sidney L. Pruitt Gym.

Boys Basketball - Boys Basketball has three games remaining during the regular season - all three are home games vs. Connally, La Vega, and Lorena.

Golf - Justin Brumfield takes over the GHS reins for legendary coach Guy Dean. Both squads will open the season Feb. 14-15 playing in the Region III Small School Spectacular in Huntsville.

Powerlifting - Both teams started on a high note at last week's 300-plus lifter GHS Invitational. The GHS Girls won the meet title and Bela Mondragon, Shaylie Teague, and Emma Davidson won gold medals. They were among 11 Hornet girls to earn medals. The Hornet boys finished 5th among 13 teams, with Brayden Mills taking 1st, and five teammates also winning medals. GHS is lifting today (Saturday) at Hillsboro.

Soccer - The girls' and boys' teams were 4-2-1 and 3-2-1 respectively heading into this week. Both squads have lined up against larger-school competition on many outings to prep for the vigorous District 7-4A schedule, which begins here next Friday vs. Stephenville.

Softball - Varsity will get in five scrimmages before the 2025 season opener Feb. 11, at Lampasas. I know we have already mentioned it, but it's already been an exciting pre-season for GHS Softball, which has had four players make college commitments since the start of this school year. That foursome includes Kallie Featherstone, Kinlee Gardner, Raylee Glover, and Madison Hester - all are seniors, and all four (plus other returning veterans) are being counted upon heavily to lead a veteran team with high aspirations this season.

Tennis - GHS makes its debut today (Saturday) at Brownwood. The spring season is individual play instead of the team format used during the fall. The Hornets have some returning regional qualifiers in their mix, and the ULL now advancing 3rd-place regional finishers to state might come in very handy in April.

Track - Still about a month until the season debut, but have to say the early-season participation numbers for both programs is phenomenal. Both programs will have 50-plus athletes when the buses are loaded and ready.

Wrestling - GHS competed in the District 6-5A tournament earlier this week. The meet was after the copy deadline for this column, so no results just yet. The Hornet program, still young in existence and competing against mostly 5A-6A schools, was looking to have a state-meet qualifier for the first time in program history. Look for more details here next week.

Hall of Fame nominations
We are now accepting nominations for the GHS Athletics' Hall of Fame Class of 2025 and will continue to

do so through Feb. 14.

If you know of a very deserving former athlete, coach, team, or "friend of the program" that needs to be considered for induction, please send me an email. There are still several great nominees in the cue, but the selection committee is always looking to add to that list.

The Hall of Fame was started back in 2014, and one of my favorite memories of the event was the first year. There was Dora Jean Dyson, who was a first-class track athlete and competed for the chance to make the U.S. Olympic team. There was Cotton Davidson, a college and NFL quarterback and eventual college coach at Baylor. There could not have been two better choices for induction with the first class. Both had stellar athletic careers while at Gatesville High School and both enjoyed much of the same successes while competing at the collegiate and national levels.

The third member of the Class of 2014 was John Frank Post. If you are of my age and grew up around these parts (Gatesville, Coryell County), you know that name. For more than four decades, John Frank filled the pages of *The Gatesville Messenger* with news, stories, photos, and tidbits about all things sports-related in this area. His weekly POST-ed column was a weekly staple, and if you were lucky enough to have your name printed inside those borders, you knew you had accomplished something.

Notes and notes

...GHS-ex Barrett Boyd, competing for the US Air Force women's track team, cleared 12'5.5" to finish 3rd at the Colorado Classic a couple of weeks ago, and last weekend cleared 12'6.75" to finish 7th at the Texas A&M meet.

Upcoming key dates

Feb. 7: Soccer district opener here vs. Stephenville
Feb. 7-8: Wrestling regional meet
Feb. 10: GISD staff development
Feb. 11: Softball season opener at Lampasas
Feb. 14-15: Golf season debut at Reg III Small School Spectacular in Huntsville
Feb. 17: Baseball season opener at Lampasas
Feb. 17: GISD no school
Feb. 20: GHS Hornet Relays
Feb. 21: GJHS Hornet Relays
Feb. 28: Girls Powerlifting regional meet at Dublin

Upcoming schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 4
Boys Basketball: Varsity-JV Gold-JV Black here vs. Connally
Girls Basketball: Varsity-JV here vs. Connally
Softball: Varsity-JV scrimmage here vs. Copperas Cove
Thursday, Feb. 6
Boys Basketball: 7th-8th A-B here vs. La Vega
Girls Basketball: 7th-8th A-B at La Vega
Powerlifting: Girls-boys at Copperas Cove
Friday, Feb. 7
Baseball: Varsity-JV scrimmage here vs. Lampasas
Boys Basketball: Varsity-JV Gold-JV Black here vs. La Vega
Boys Soccer: Varsity here vs. Stephenville
Girls Soccer: Varsity here vs. Stephenville
Wrestling: 5A Region III tournament at Addison
Saturday, Feb. 8
Softball: Varsity-JV scrimmage at Jarrell

Hornet Fight Never Dies!

Tigers back on winning track with 60-32 win over Cougars

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers traveled to Jonesboro on Tuesday, Jan. 21, to take on the Jonesboro Eagles in a District 26A contest.

The Tigers had defeated the Eagles earlier in the first round but came up short as the Eagles hit a last second shot to take a 71-70 victory. This tied both teams for the lead in District 26A. If both teams win out in the second round, they will have to hold a playoff game to determine the District 26A winner.

Both teams played well throughout the contest in a very competitive and close game.

Freshman Holdyn Goff topped all scores tonight, hitting 28 points, eight rebounds, three assists, five steals, and one blocked shot.

Senior Alex Castillo scored 15 points and had two assists and two steals.

Freshman Evan Williamson dropped in 10 points and had two steals.

Senior Kyler Fossett added seven points and had three rebounds, two assists, and four steals.

Junior Jack Hendricks scored five points and had four rebounds, one assist, and one steal.

Sophomore Abraham Shaw had five points.

Sophomore Tucker Melton grabbed one rebound.

The Oglesby Tigers also hosted the Aquilla Cougars on Friday, Jan. 24.

The Tigers started off strong and took control, defeating the Cougars, 60-32. In game two of the second round of District 26A action, the entire team contributed playing as a cohesive unit. The Tigers continue to improve each game.

The Tigers were without senior Kyler Fossett, due to an injury.

Freshman Holdyn Goff was the leading scorer tonight with a double/double of 17 points, 14 rebounds, two assists, and one steal.

Freshman Evan Williamson scored 15 points on the night, including four three-pointers.

Senior Alex Castillo continues to improve, while scoring 14 points, including three three-pointers, five rebounds, three assists, and one steal.

Junior Jack Hendricks scored seven points and had four rebounds and four steals.

Sophomore Abram Shaw continues to improve while scoring four points and three rebounds.

Sophomore Tucker Melton scored three points and had three rebounds.

Junior Jordan Smith saw ample playing time for the Tigers.

The Tigers traveled to Evant on Tuesday, Jan. 28 to compete in another

District 26A matchup. The Tigers started out slow but pulled away in the second half to take a 53-33 victory.

Evan Williamson led all scorers, hitting 18 points with two assists and one steal.

Holdyn Goff dropped in 14 points with eight rebounds, three assists, and four steals.

Abram Shaw scored eight points and had four steals.

Alex Castillo scored six points with eight rebounds and five steals.

Jack Hendricks scored five points, had four rebounds, two assists, and one blocked shot.

Tucker Melton had four rebounds and one steal.

Jordan Smith scored two points with four rebounds and one steal.

The Tigers hosted the Cranfills Gap Lions on Friday, Jan. 31.

FCA to hold press conference to announce this year's players and cheerleaders

Press Release

The Heart of Texas Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) will hold a press conference on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 1:30 p.m. at Highland Baptist Church Life Center. This is the 17th year for football players, cheerleaders, and volleyball players to participate in the 12th annual volleyball game, the ninth year for baseball and softball, and the fourth year for boys and girls basketball. Participants will be available for questions and photos during the press conference. Doors will open at 1 p.m.

Participants were selected from 100 high schools over 12 counties in Central Texas. Members of each team were nominated by

their high school coaches or sponsors following the 2024 football/volleyball seasons and preceding the 2025 spring seasons. The final rosters were then selected by this year's coaching staffs.

Ninety-two football players, 24 volleyball players, 20 cheerleaders, 36 baseball players, 30 softball players, 32 basketball players, and 32 area coaches have been divided into a red and a blue team. The basketball games will be played in Fairfield on Thursday, May 29. The baseball and softball games will be played on Friday, May 30, at the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. The volleyball match will be played in Waco at 2:30 p.m., and the football game will be

played at 10 a.m. in Waco on Saturday, May 31.

Athletes will arrive in Fairfield, Belton, and Waco on May 28 for two, three, and four days of practice and fellowship provided by volunteers in surrounding communities. Each participant will stay at a home of host families. In addition to practices and team fellowship, members of each team will participate in service projects in the community. More information on these and other upcoming events to follow.

Upcoming Victory Bowl Events

Feb. 2 - Player Press Conference (Highland Baptist Church)

April 27 - Victory Awards (Ferrell Center)

May 28 - Football and volleyball players and cheerleaders report (University High School)

May 28 - Baseball and softball players report (UMHB)

May 28 - Basketball players report (Fairfield HS)

May 29 - 4th Annual FCA Victory Bowl girls and boys basketball games (5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.)

May 30 - 10th Annual FCA Victory Bowl baseball and softball games (6:30 p.m. Mary Hardin Baylor)

May 31 - 17th Annual FCA Victory Bowl football game (10 a.m. Waco ISD Stadium) and 12th Annual FCA volleyball game (2:30 p.m. University High School)

OISD Cheer to hold tryouts March 7

Staff Reports

The Oglesby junior high and high school cheerleading program will host cheer and mascot tryouts on Friday, March 7, at 4 p.m. The results will be posted online that same evening.

There will be a mandatory parental meeting at the Oglesby ISD cafeteria on Wednesday, Feb 5, at 6 p.m.

The tryout clinic will be held from Monday, March 3, through Thursday, March 6, from 5-7 p.m. in the Oglesby ISD gymna-

sium.

Sign-up sheets and tryout packets can be obtained by visiting Coach Meyers' classroom. To register for the tryouts, login to your google classroom and use the code, "X6J4BUN."

For further information,

contact Head Cheer Coach Cassie Meyers by email at cassie.meyers@oglesbyisd.net.

Oglesby ISD is located at 125 College Avenue in Oglesby.

GHS Cheer & mascot tryouts to be held March 7

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School cheerleading program will host cheer and mascot tryouts on Friday, March 7, at 5 p.m. The results will be posted online

that same evening.

There will be a parent meeting at the high school in the Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 5:30 p.m.

The tryout clinic will be held from Monday, March

3 through Thursday March 6, from 4-6 p.m. in the Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium.

To register for the tryouts, login to your Google classroom and use the code, "wawep4n."

For further information,

contact Head Cheer Coach Amber Colson by email at acolson@gatesvilleisd.org.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State University Tennis sweeps Saturday home doubleheader

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State Tennis collected a pair of victories in the Jan. 25 home doubleheader, defeating Lubbock Christian 6-1 and Collin College 7-0 for the sweep at the Tarleton Tennis Facility.

The Texans won 11 of its 12 singles matches Saturday and went undefeated in doubles. Tarleton State moved its record to 3-0 on the season, the second consecutive season the Texans won their first three matches of the year.

Freshmen Maria Castano and Duru Kescu stayed undefeated in singles by each collecting a pair of singles wins Saturday. Castano and Kescu capped off the day by winning their final singles matches without losing a game. Having a perfect 3-0 record this week, Castano and Kescu are the first Tarleton State freshmen in the Division I Era to have three wins in their first three matches.

"Our team had another great day," head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron said. "We came out focused and ready to go. I thought everyone stepped up in doubles, playing with intent and good energy. We had a lot of highlights this weekend, but our freshmen were elite. Duru



The Texans won 11 of its 12 singles matches on Saturday and went undefeated in doubles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

and Maria embraced the weekend, they were ready to go and really helped us get through the finish line. I am proud of this team and look forward to keep working and competing again next weekend."

MATCH 1 VS. LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN

Kescu and junior Ximena

Morales helped the Texans get off to a strong start, not losing a game in their doubles match to collect a 6-0 win. Tarleton State clinched the doubles point thanks to a 6-2 win on Court 1 from senior Maretha Burger and junior Emma Persson.

Persson, the 2023 WAC Player of the Year, continued her strong performance in

singles moments later. The junior from Sweden picked up her first singles win of the year by collecting a 6-2, 6-1 victory on Court 1.

As it had in Thursday's match against New Mexico State, the light of Tarleton State's freshmen duo continued to shine. Kescu won her singles match on Court 2 7-5, 6-4 while Castano came

up with a 6-2, 6-1 victory on Court 4.

It wasn't just the Texan freshmen in the spotlight, however. Tarleton State juniors Adeliya Mukhutdinova and Morales also picked up their first singles wins of the season in their matches against Lubbock Christian. Mukhutdinova did not lose a single game in her 6-0, 6-0

win on Court 6.

Morales did not lose a game in the first set and carried momentum into a straight sets win 6-0, 6-4 on Court 3.

MATCH 2 VS. COLLIN COLLEGE

Burger/Persson got the Texans rolling with a 6-2 doubles win on Court 1 for their third win of the week. Castano and junior Clara Sobius sealed the doubles point for the Texans with a 6-2 win on Court 3.

Tarleton State had six sets where the Texans did not lose a single game, starting with Kescu and Castano with matching 6-0, 6-0 wins. Castano and Kescu became the first Tarleton State duo to have 6-0, 6-0 results in the same match since Burger and Martha Makintasi on March 1, 2024 (vs. Prairie View A&M).

Mukhutdinova continued to dominate in the second match of the day, only dropping one game en route to a 6-0, 6-1 win on Court 6.

The rest of Tarleton State's junior class came through victorious, with Persson starting the win train. She collected her second victory of the day 6-1, 6-1 on Court 1 while Morales won 6-2, 6-1 on Court 3. Sobius won the final six games to clinch a 6-2, 6-0 win on Court 5.

Tarleton State University Women's Basketball dominates ACU in I-20 rivalry

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State Women's Basketball maintained momentum from a first half run and dominated in-state rival Abilene Christian 79-54 Jan. 23 at Wisdom Gym.

The Texans ended the second half on a 12-0 scoring run and finished with 52.6% shooting, including a 47.4% mark from 3-point range.

Senior guard Miannah Little scored a career-high 24 points to go with five assists and four steals, hitting six 3-pointers en route to 60% shooting from beyond the arc. She is the first Tarleton State player in the Division I Era to hit six 3-pointers in a game and the first since Kaylee Allen (6 vs. West Texas A&M, Jan. 19, 2019).

In addition to Little, four other Texans scored in double figures. Senior forward Elise Turrubiates scored 14 points off the bench and sophomore center Faith Acker added 13 points off 66.7% shooting. Senior guard Jakoriah Long had 12 points while fellow senior Arieona Rosborough had 10 points and seven assists.

ACU started out hot, hitting three 3-pointers to take an early first quarter lead. Tarleton State answered back with 10 unanswered points, including three consecutive buckets from Acker. After trading 3-pointers, Rosborough drew a shooting foul with one second left in the first quarter and drained both free throws to give the Texans a 22-16 lead.

The Texans' red-hot

shooting continued in the second quarter, with Rosborough's jumper and Little's 3-pointer extending the Texans' lead to double-digits. ACU trimmed the deficit back to single digits, but Tarleton State's offense was ignited again from back-to-back 3-pointers.

With four minutes to play in the first half, the party was just getting started for the Texans. Layups from Long and Turrubiates began the late scoring spree, with the senior forward knocking in the free throw after getting fouled. The Texans continued with back-to-back layups and had the final possession with 14 seconds left in the half.

Winding the clock to the final second, Turrubiates found Long for the buzzer-beating 3-pointer that capped off the 12-0 end of the first half scoring run to put Tarleton State ahead by 21.

The Texans continued to keep the momentum when the second half opened, shooting 50% from the floor to go with a pair of 3-pointers. Tarleton State had its biggest lead of 28 points in the third quarter and moved ahead 63-39 entering the final 10 minutes.

ACU looked for a late comeback, trimming the deficit to 14 with just under three minutes to play. Tarleton State, however, scored on three of its final four possessions to cruise to a 25-point win.

The Texans return to WAC play and go on a Utah road trip, starting with Utah Tech next Thursday at 8 p.m.

Postgame Notes

Tarleton State won its 12th game of the season with a 25-point win over I-20 rival Abilene Christian 79-54 Thursday night at Wisdom Gym. The Texans have won their last two meetings over the Wildcats.

The Texans shot 52.6% from the floor and 47.6% from 3-point range Thursday night. Both marked Tarleton State's highest shooting percentage in WAC play this season.

Outscoring the Wildcats 23-8 in the second quarter, the Texans finished the first half on a 12-0 scoring run. Tarleton State shot 60% from the floor and 57.1% from 3-point range in the second period.

Senior guard Miannah Little scored a career-high 24 points and made six 3-pointers for 60% beyond-the-arc shooting. She is the first Tarleton State player in the Division I Era to hit six 3-pointers in a game and the first since Kaylee Allen (6 vs. West Texas A&M, Jan. 19, 2019).

Tarleton State was a perfect 10-for-10 from the free throw line. It is the second time this season the Texans have shot 100% from the charity strike off 10 or more attempts (Dec. 7 vs. St. Mary's).

More than 1,200 fans witnessed Tarleton State's victory over ACU Thursday night at Wisdom Gym. It was the highest-attended game of the season and the second straight game Tarleton State has had at least 1,000 fans.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Senior guard Miannah Little scored a career-high 24 points to go with five assists and four steals, hitting six 3-pointers en route to 60% shooting from beyond the arc.

Entry-level certification exams and licensure fees to be covered by Tarleton

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — With student success and affordability in mind, Tarleton State has announced that expenses for entry-level certification exams and licensure fees will now be covered by the university.

Students will be reimbursed upon successful first attempt completion.

"We are committed to removing barriers that stand in the way of student success," said Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley. "Hundreds of dollars for one exam can be daunting. This program will address

that affordability concern for our Texans as they prepare to make a difference in their professional pursuits."

Future educators working toward their certifications represent the largest group at Tarleton State to benefit.

Students within the College of Health Sciences with required exams or licensure are among others set to be impacted from the financial support.

Exams and licensure fees currently range from \$120 to \$600. During the 2023-24 academic year, over 700 students took entry-level certification exams.



Coryell County 4-H to host educational contests

Staff Reports

Coryell County 4-H will host an educational presentation and public speaking contest on Thursday, April 3, from 5-8 p.m. The location of the event is to be determined.

Age divisions will include Clover Kids, kindergarten through

second grade; Junior, third through fifth grade; Intermediate, sixth through eighth grade; and Senior, ninth through 12th grade.

Categories will include agriculture and natural resources, animal science, beef, family consumer education, health and wellness, horse, open, promote 4-H, safety and injury prevention, STEM,

sheep and goat, swine, and public speaking.

All top placing categories in the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age divisions will advance to the district level competition.

To register for the event, visit <https://coryell.agrilife.org>. All entries are due by Friday, March 7.

Coryell County 4-H to host talent showcase March 31

Staff Reports

Coryell County 4-H will present a talent showcase on Monday, March 31, with the exact time and location to be determined. All 4-H members in kindergarten through 12th grade are

encouraged to participate.

There will be awards for the top placing acts in each division with the junior, intermediate, and senior divisions having the chance to advance to the district competition.

Registration is open,

visit <https://coryell.agrilife.org>, to sign up. All entries are due by Friday, March 7.

For further details, contact the Coryell County AgriLife Extension Office at 254-865-2414.

Monthly Clover Kids program to be offered to local youth

Staff Reports

The Coryell County 4-H Ambassador team will host a Clover Kids event each month, which will be every third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Clover Kids will be held at Hay Valley Baptist Church, located at 3110 Hay Valley Road.

Clover Kids will feature

a new project each month and is open to all Coryell County 4-H members who are in kindergarten through second grade.

Different activities and educational topics will include food and nutrition, photography, a talent showcase, public speaking, a fashion show, rabbits, community service, sheep and goats, and handi-

crafts.

Clover Kids will be held on Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, and Dec. 19.

For further information, contact Coryell County Extension Agent - 4-H Youth Development, Becky Coward by email at Becky.Coward@ag.tamu.edu.

Coryell County 4-H to host fashion show March 25

Staff Reports

Coryell County 4-H will host a fashion show on Tuesday, March 25, for 4-H members in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The fashion show will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be held at Hillside Medical Lodge, located at 300 S.

Highway 36.

Categories for the show will include everyday living, special interest, semiformal/formal, fantastic fashion under \$25, refashion, theatre/costume, dressy, business/interview attire, and fashion storyboard.

There will be no attendance or entry fee for the event. All entries are due by Friday, March 7.

To sign-up for the fashion show, visit <http://coryell.agrilife.org> or contact the Coryell County AgriLife Extension Office at 254-865-2414.



Braidyl Lusk with Jonesboro 4-H is pictured with the Valentine's Dance flyer.

COURTESY PHOTO

Jonesboro 4-H present Valentine's Dance

Staff Reports

The Jonesboro 4-H Club will host a Valentine's Dance on Saturday, Feb. 8. The dance will be open to the public and will be from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Turnersville Community Center.

This will be the second annual father-daughter and mother-son dance. There will be door prizes, a silent auction, food, and more.

Tickets are on sale now for \$10 or can be purchased for \$15 at the entrance on the night of

the dance. For further information or to purchase tickets early, contact 928-765-5377.

The Turnersville Community Center is located at 8115 FM 182 in Gatesville.

BOOK REVIEW

"The Word of Dog: What Our Canine Companions Can Teach Us About Living a Good Life"

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Your dog has it pretty good.

You feed him nutritious food tailored to his needs, and you're generous with snacks. She has her own bed, but she prefers yours and you don't mind. You open doors for him, play his favorite games and you pick up his toys and his yard. Around your house, it's absolutely a dog's life, but, philosophically speaking, asks Mark Rowlands in "The Word of Dog," which of you really has it better?

At a certain time of day, on certain days of the week, Mark Rowlands asks his German shepherd dog, Shadow, if he wants to ride along to fetch Rowlands' son. This sends Shadow spinning happily, even though the ride is routine and always uneventful.

For years, he took Shadow on walks by the canals near their Miami home where Rowlands says Shadow took great delight in running, chasing, and scattering iguanas and ducks. It was, he says, a Sisyphean task with no end, but that seemed to be half the fun.

He often wonders why he can't capture that kind of joy over something so

simple, and he wonders about the meaning of it. It's doubtful, Rowlands admits, that Shadow thinks similarly, but though Socrates (or maybe Plato) said that an unexamined life is not worth living, surely Shadow feels joy. Isn't that the point of a life well-lived?

Immanuel Kant weighed in on self-reflection, which Rowlands says dogs practice, though obviously not as humans do. He disagrees with Sartre's principles of freedom, vis à vis dogs, because a dog's idea of freedom likely differs from ours. Philosopher Moritz Schlick said that the "meaning of life is play," and dogs absolutely tick that box. Rowlands furthermore argues that dogs have morals, logic, and a certain doggy rationality, and though Christian philosopher William Lane Craig suggested that dogs' lives lack meaning because they don't believe in God, Rowlands disagrees. If you hope to truly understand life, he says, adopt a dog.

Once or twice at random inside this book, author Mark Rowlands says the things he presents here are

"hard," and he's absolutely correct. "The Word of Dog" is the kind of book that may make your brain hurt, but in a good way.

Though dog owners may think that there's no need to question the meaning of their fur-kid's existence, Rowlands puts fun inside the difficult through stories of his own dogs, their habits, and how philosophers might consider their behavior. Even writing about Shadow's aggression, which may be controversial for some trainers, Rowlands entertains and teaches readers to think about the nature of comparison between species, and if it's possible or even valid. In this, he makes a good dog advocate, through logical arguments, theoretical hypotheses, and sensible observations that will make readers — especially strictly science-minded ones — hard-pressed to dissent.

Just bear in mind that this isn't a book for everyone. It's a thinking person's book, and don't rush your time with it. For the right kind of left-brained reader, "The Word of Dog" is pretty good.

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Third through fifth grade students of Oglesby ISD are pictured with their runner-up plaque and medals at the 2nd 9-weeks award ceremony.

Oglesby ISD earns runner-up title at UIL meet

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District held an awards ceremony for its students this week to award them with certificates and medals for their efforts at a recent district UIL meet. Oglesby's UIL team took home a plaque for winning runner-up over the entire meet.

Awards include:

SECOND GRADE

Creative Writing: Jordan Gann, first place and Lincoln Taylor, fourth place
 Music Memory: Jordan Gann, second place; Madilyn Miller, third place; Lincoln Taylor, fourth place; Madison Lechler, fifth place
 As a team, Jordan Gann, Madison Lechler, Lincoln Taylor, and Madilyn Miller received first place.

THIRD GRADE

Chess: Saylor McGovern, fourth place
 As a team, Saylor McGovern, Xander Goff, and Dixon Bond received third place.
 Music Memory: Jaylynn Taylor, second place; Xander Goff, third place; Chad Kasting, sixth place
 As a team, Xander Goff, Chad Kasting, and Jaylynn

Taylor received first place.
 Ready Writing: Fiona Heber, first place
 Spelling: Xander Goff, second place
 Story Telling: Jaylynn Taylor, third place; Breelee Isaacs, fifth place; Chad Kasting, sixth place

FOURTH GRADE

Art: Briley Martinez, sixth place
 As a team, Briley Martinez, McKynzlynn Brand, Ariel Crell, and Kinzlee Gray received third place.
 Chess: As a team, Jaxon Melton, Maverick Hughes, and Braxton Herry received second place.
 Music Memory: Kynnidee Martin, third place
 As a team, Kynnidee Martin, Areil Crell, Kinzlee Gray, and Kimberly Uribe received second place.
 Number Sense: Radlee Nichols, third place and Kinzlee Gray, fifth place
 As a team, Radlee Nichols, Kimberly Uribe, and Kinzlee Gray received second place.
 Oral Reading: Ansley Riley, second place and Maddie Chapman, sixth place
 Spelling: Braxton Herry, second place
 As a team, Braxton Herry, Jaxon Melton, and Kimberly

Uribe received second place.
 Ready Writing: Jaxon Melton, fifth place and Ariel Crell, sixth place

FIFTH GRADE

Number Sense: As a team, Bentley Goff, Allie Thompson, and Gypsie Browning received third place.
 Music Memory: Bentley Goff, second place; Allie Thompson, third place; Caden Henderson, fourth place
 As a team, Bentley Goff, Allie Thompson, and Caden Henderson received first place.
 Maps, Charts, & Graphs: Gypsie Browning, third place and Bentley Goff, fourth place
 As a team, Gypsie Browning, Bentley Goff, and Ethan Robles received second place.
 Listening: Bentley Goff, second place and Allie Thompson, fifth place
 As a team, Bentley Goff, Dylan Chrisner, and Allie Thompson received second place.
 Dictionary: Bentley Goff, fourth place
 Oral Reading: Dylan Chrisner, first place
 Ready Writing: Gypsie Browning, third place and

Bentley Goff, fourth place
 Social Studies: Bentley Goff, fourth place
 As a team, Gypsie Browning, Bentley Goff, and Abram Gomez received third place.
 Spelling: Bentley Goff, fourth place
 As a team, Judd Wulfkuhle, Bentley Goff, and Abram Gomez received third place

JUNIOR HIGH

Art: Rylee Portman, first place; Adelyn Gomez, fourth place; Brylee Griffith, fifth place
 Chess: Jayden Hopkins, third place and Chayson Leverett, fifth place
 Dictionary: Jacob De La Torre, third place; Hunter Insall, fourth place; Savanna Lanham, fifth place
 As a team, McKynlee Bailey, Rancher Jeffcoat, and Malorie Renner received third place.
 Editorial Writing: Brook Hamilton, first place; Keelyn Riley, first place; Adelyn Gomez, sixth place
 Impromptu Speaking: Savanna Lanham, second place; Rancher Jeffcoat, second place; Aubree Jaccard, third place; Ali Chrisner, fourth place; Caiden Brinkley, sixth place

Listening: Hunter Insall, first place; Adelyn Gomez, second place; Rylee Portman, third place
 As a team, Judson Marquez, Rylee Portman, and McKayla Regan received third place.
 As a team, Abram Gomez, Brinlee Benton, and Hunter Insall received first place.
 As a team, McKynlee Bailey, Caiden Brinkley, and Rancher Jeffcoat received third place.
 Maps, Charts, & Graphs: Hunter Insall, first place; Joe Hamilton, third place; Judson Marquez, fourth place; Jacob De La Torre, fourth place; Ali Chrisner, sixth place.
 As a team, Judson Marquez, AJ Martin, and Joe Hamilton received second place.
 As a team, Jacob De La Torre, Ali Chrisner, and Hunter Insall received first place.
 Music Memory: Rylee Portman, first place; Ali Chrisner, second place; AJ Martin, second place; Peyton Schu, fourth place; McKayla Regan, fifth place
 As a team, AJ Martin, Rylee Portman, Peyton Schu, and McKayla Regan received first place.

Science: Joe Hamilton, second place and AJ Martin, fifth place
 As a team, Joe Hamilton, AJ Martin, and Judson Marquez received first place.
 Spelling: Brook Hamilton, first place; Perla Coca, third place; Keelyn Riley, fourth place
 As a team, Perla Coca, Adelyn Gomez, and Keelyn Riley received first place.
 Social Studies: Hunter Insall, first place
 As a team, Hunter Insall, Abigail Insall, and Liam Standridge received fourth place.
 Ready Writing: Vicky Mejia, second place and Adilynn Margiotta, sixth place
 Number Sense: Scarlett Aaron, second place and Hunter Insall, fourth place
 As a team, Hunter Insall, Ali Chrisner, and Brinlee Benton received second place.
 Modern Oratory: Adilynn Margiotta, second place
 Math: Hunter Insall, third place and Abigail Insall, fifth place
 As a team, Hunter Insall and Abigail Insall received second place.

OISD to host Talent Show on March 26

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District will host a talent show on Wednesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. The talent show is an opportunity for students to showcase their skills and talents to the community and school district. To sign up for the talent show, visit the front office

at Oglesby ISD by Wednesday, Feb. 12. The talent show is open to all ages, and each act will be screened and approved prior to the show. For further information, contact Oglesby ISD at 254-456-2271. Oglesby ISD is located at 125 College Avenue in Oglesby.

Beckesh named to Dean's List at University of Maryland

Submitted Item

Gatesville resident Ian Beckesh was recently named to the Dean's List for the fall 2024 term at the University of Maryland Global Campus. More than 16,000 University of Maryland Global Campus students were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2024 term. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC. University of Maryland Global Campus was

founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military service members. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

Schultz graduates from Sam Houston State University, Fall 2024

Submitted Item

Gatesville resident, Madison Schultz, recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Biology, Cum Laude from Sam Houston State University during their Fall 2024 commencement exercises. Named for Texas' greatest hero, Sam Houston State University honors its historical roots through academic excellence. For more than 140 years, SHSU has prepared students for meaningful lives of achievement. Its motto, "The measure of a life is its service," resonates among its more than

21,000 students, eight colleges, and well beyond its Huntsville roots. SHSU is ranked among the top colleges/universities for social mobility in the U.S. News & World Report. From medical and doctoral degrees, undergraduate to graduate programs, SHSU provides an exceptional college experience for every student. With a campus community comprised of approximately 50% first-generation students, SHSU's First-Generation Center launched in 2022 and serves as resource in student success.

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

Staff Reports

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

There will be finger food, drinks, music, dancing, raffle prizes, and an optional photo booth.

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. Tickets can be purchased by visiting <https://gatesvilleisd.revtrak.net/administration#/list>.

Tickets will also be sold at the door on the night of the event.

For further details, contact the Gatesville ISD Education Foundation by email at educationfoundation@gatesvilleisd.org.

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



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Those being honored by GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard (pictured left) were Josh Appelman, Alex Johnson, Sara Kiphen, Emery Wood, Alaynah Wrisk, Jaycee Shelton, Corbin Myers, Jose Sanchez, Alexa Sanchez, Jeannie Collins, and Johanna Reynolds. Also joining the honorees were the children of Jose and Alexa Sanchez, pictured in front: Eleanor Sanchez, Joel Sanchez, and Jonah Sanchez.

STPA scholarship open through April 4

Staff Reports

The South Texas Press Association has announced that it will give two scholarships worth \$1,500 to students who are looking to pursue a career in journalism.

There is a scholarship available for college students who are pursuing a journalism or commu-

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

All scholarship applications must be turned in by April 4.

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

THE IDLE AMERICAN

A hat that stays put...

BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The *Idle American*, begun in 2003, is one of the nation's longest-running syndicated humor columns.

My aged Uncle Mort admitted the other day that he feels like it's time for him to re-enter the stock market, and this time "brimming with confidence."

He swore off trying to out-guess the market in the late 1990s.

Mort said he lumped all of his investments into "sweet chariot stocks." I'd never heard of such, but his next sentence clarified: "When I bought 'em, they swung low," he cackled ...

He feels certain that wide-brimmed hats for ladies are going to make a comeback after several decades in storage, with owners hoping to live long enough to see them make a comeback.

Many after-the-fact comments about the recent presidential inauguration concern Melania Trump's hat, nearly as big as a covered wagon wheel and ample space to carve a turkey.

"Lots of women are on shopping sprees right now, trying to find hats like hers," Mort said. "And they're not finding them available at the Dollar Store."

It appears to me that her hat provided a personal "border wall," allowing "cheek pecks" to reach within two inches of intended targets. I'm not sure how she'd make it flying coach on today's airliners. (Duh, she wouldn't be flying coach.) I guess she could take a middle seat, then buy seats on each side so she could leave her hat on.

The subject reminds me of my ingenious uncle who, as a lad, was usher at the local movie house. This was in the 1920s, before "talkies." All they had were jumpy figures with captions.

He said the manager staged a contest among the ushers to see how women wearing huge hats could somehow be persuaded to remove them, so folks behind them could see the screen ...

Mort was creative even

then. He made a printed sign and placed it at the entrance.

It read: "Ladies over age 40 need not remove their hats."

Problem solved; Mort won the contest ...

Meanwhile, President 47 took time from signing executive orders to decree that the Gulf of Mexico will henceforth be named "Gulf of America."

Such may have occurred to other folks, but I've never heard it mentioned. The decree begs numerous questions. First of all, who named it, and when? How much of the gulf is owned by the US of A? Finally, is it really a gulf?

Cursory research reveals that the gulf had no name until the 1540s, when most maps and documents referred to it as the "Golfo de Nueva Espanol," from Greek mythology and its Sea of Atlas ...

People who know far more than I about such say that it is not really a gulf, but more nearly a sea, in many cases larger than bodies of water that are called oceans and seas.

I dunno, but Mort might want to consider investing in map-making and/or T-shirt lettering.

Presses already are rolling ...

"Loyalty" was a word frequently heard during the recent inauguration, and likely in all the ones before it. It's a trait to be valued, but few have seen evidence "up close" to match Dr. Charles Wade's recollection. He was pastor of Arlington First Baptist Church for 23 years until 1999, when he became executive director of the Baptist General Convention.

In Arlington, he succeeded Dr. Henard E. East, on staff there for 53 years. Someone asked him about loyalty to Dr. Wade.

"Let me put it this way," he said. "If Dr. Wade decides to paint the steeple pink, I'll climb up there with him and hold the bucket."

GISD Student and Staff Spotlight

BY DAVID SCOTT Staff Writer

During the Jan. 27 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, the GHS band program was featured in the "Spotlight" and recognized for their noteworthy accomplishments over the last few years.

GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard made the following observations about the band:

The band program has made three back-to-back-to-back state marching contest appearances and

has placed progressively higher each time. In 2022, they had an 18th place finish. In 2023, they improved to 12th place. This past November they pushed to an 8th place finish, which is the highest in program history.

We want to thank the board for their continued support through new instruments, new uniforms, and a fifth director. We also want to thank Teresa Johnson and the band boosters for helping with the 18-wheeler to carry all

of the band equipment.

After careful planning by our directors, countless days of practice in the blistering heat, and sacrifices made by students and parents, program history was made three years in a row.

Jose Sanchez, Michael Hamilton, Corbin Myers, Johanna Reynolds, and Alexa Sanchez directed the band, while Jeannie Collins and Jennifer Blanchard directed the Color Guard.

Despite the pressures of performing at the Alamo-dome, the students have

learned how to compete at a high level on a consistent basis. The parents and band boosters helped out tremendously as well. We could not invite the whole band program, but we have some great representatives: Alex Johnson (drum major), Josh Appelman (drum major), Emery Wood (color guard captain), Sara Kiphen (color guard captain), Alaynah Wrisk (color guard captain), and Jaycee Shelton (leadership member).



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Appreciation plaques were created for the school board members in Charles Lisenbe's Principles of Construction class. Senior Bo Ayers was instrumental in running the equipment to create the plaques. Pictured left to right: GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard, School Board President Charles Ament, School Board Vice President Charles Alderson, Mary Anne Leib, Cheyenne Kizer, Linda Maxwell, Calvin Ford, and Loyd Hopson

GISD Board of Trustees honored

BY DAVID SCOTT Staff Writer

To acknowledge the work of school trustees, Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation in 2018 designating the month of January as School Board Recognition Month.

Governor Abbott said, "School Board Members play an integral role in promoting a lifelong love of learning in the next generation." He continued, "School boards play a vital role in our effort to develop education in the Lone Star State as they work with parents, education professionals, and community members to create successful learning

environments."

GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard recently issued the following statement: January is School Board Appreciation Month, so we want to thank our board for all of the time and effort they have sacrificed in these past months. Some months may require multiple meetings and trainings. Most citizens do not realize the amount of effort it requires to be a board member. An unpaid position that listens to complaints and requests is a difficult task. It takes special people who truly care about the community to volunteer

for these roles. The board was instrumental in all of the successes the district achieves whether it be in band, football, choir, academics, etc. Despite no financial assistance from the state, they were able to issue each staff member a modest raise, which was especially important given the inflation. Most importantly, the board passed a balanced budget in the face of a severe financial decline

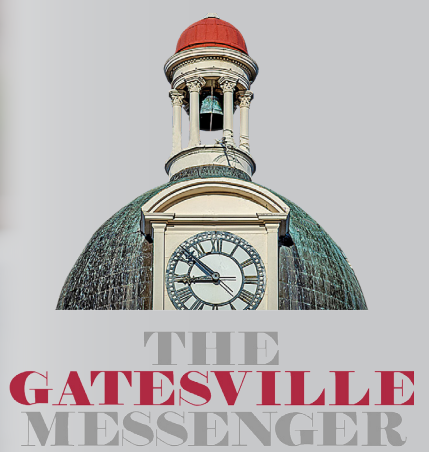
Coryell County Judge Roger Miller is currently in the process of issuing a proclamation honoring the hard work of the school board. In the past, Judge Miller has always made it a

point to recognize the hard work and dedication of our school board.

Dr. Pollard commented, "I appreciate Judge Miller issuing the school board appreciation proclamation each year. With both of us being products of GISD, we truly appreciate the time and effort these trustees put forth to make the school district a great place to learn and work. We have a fantastic board, many of whom are former educators, and they really make decisions that are in the best interest of children and for that we are thankful."

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Students of Oglesby receive 2nd 9-week awards

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District celebrated the end of the 2nd 9-weeks with an award ceremony where they honored students with certificates for A Honor Roll, A/B Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, and more.

Awards include:

PREKINDERGARTEN
 Perfect Attendance: Benjamin Balderas
 Math: Ford Seymour, Waylon Harris, Kayne Key, Axel Chastain
 Reading: Ford Seymour, Waylon Harris, Kayne Key, Axel Chastain
 Gratitude: Benjamin Balderas
 Empathy: Axel Chastain

KINDERGARTEN
 Perfect Attendance: Kolt Beard, Blakelynn Puryear, Blakely Rodriguez
 Math: Ivy Earle and Blake-lynn Puryear
 Reading: Christopher Bass, Kolt Beard, Blakelynn

Puryear
 Gratitude: Christopher Bass
 Empathy: Na'Ryah Smith

FIRST GRADE

Perfect Attendance: Kinley Brinkley, Eloise Hebner, Alex Williamson
 Math: Jameson Featherston and Jack Hughes
 Reading: Lucky Donaldson and Kinley Brinkley
 Gratitude: Jacob Firebaugh
 Empathy: Adaline McGough

SECOND GRADE

Perfect Attendance: Jordan Gann, Stran Hill, Jon Key, Madilynn Miller
 Math: Madilynn Miller
 Reading: Maya Martinez
 Gratitude: Annaya Smith
 Empathy: Paisley Wisheart

THIRD GRADE

Perfect Attendance: Fiona Hebner, Brennen Hill, Ranger Jeffcoat, Max Martinez, Crystal Mejia, Brazos Regan, Jaylynn Taylor
 A Honor Roll: Dixon Bond, Xander Goff, Fiona Hebner,

Brennen Hill, Ranger Jeffcoat, Crystal Mejia
 A/B Honor Roll: Cole Cockrell, Breelee Isaacks, Chad Kasting, Kayden Kenny, Lucas Licea, Saylor McGovern, Karen O'Campo, Brody Smith, Christian Tamayo, Jaylynn Taylor, Freddy Vandiver
 Gratitude: Crystal Mejia
 Empathy: Jaylynn Taylor

FOURTH GRADE

Perfect Attendance: McKynzlynn Brand, Braxton Herry, Kynnidie Martin, Thomas Riley
 A Honor Roll: Ariel Crell, Kinzlee Gray, Braxton Herry, Radlee Nichols, Kimberly Uribe
 A/B Honor Roll: McKynzlynn Brand, Lakota Browning, Seattle Donaldson, Caymbri Fisher, Madilynn Hopkins, Maverick Hughes, Kynnidie Martin, Briley Martinez, Jaxon Melton, Ansley Riley, Thomas Riley
 Gratitude: Seattle Donaldson
 Empathy: Ansley Riley

FIFTH GRADE

Perfect Attendance: Colton Anderson, Gypsie Browning, Abram Gomez, Caden Henderson, Hudson Seymour, Allie Thompson, Judd Wulfkuhle
 A Honor Roll: Gypsie Browning, Bentley Goff, Allie Thompson
 A/B Honor Roll: Colton Anderson, Dylan Chrisner, Abram Gomez, Caden Henderson, Jayden Howard, Barrett Miller, Ethan Robles, Avery Smith, Judd Wulfkuhle
 Gratitude: Dylan Chrisner
 Empathy: Judd Wulfkuhle

JUNIOR HIGH
 Perfect Attendance: Kristy Anderson, Jayden Hopkins, Aubree Jaccard, Judson Marquez, Rylee Portman, McKayla Regan, Brinlee Benton, Perla Coca, Adelyn Gomez, Jovani Gonzalez, Brynlee Griffith, Abigail Insall, Hunter Insall, Adilynn Margiotta, Vicky Mejia, Liam Standridge, Scarlett Aaron, Rancher Jeffcoat, Brynley Puryear, Alisyn Smith

A Honor Roll: Joe Hamilton, Jayden Hopkins, Savana Lanham, Rylee Portman, Jacob De La Torre, Abigail Insall, Hunter Insall, Scarlett Aaron, Alisyn Smith

A/B Honor Roll: Kristy Anderson, Arell Augeri, Slayton Fisher, Brook Hamilton, Aubree Jaccard, Corbyn Leverett, Judson Marquez, A.J. Martin, Jana Ortiz, McKayla Regan, Payton Schu, Gracie Thompson, Fernando Uribe, Brinlee Benton, Perla Coca, Adelyn Gomez, Chayson Leverett, Adilynn Margiotta, Brody Martinez, Vicky Mejia, Kee-lynn Riley, Daycee Robles, Liam Standridge, Kayden Watson, McKynlee Bailey, Rancher Jeffcoat, Caiden Brinkley, Brynley Puryear, Malorie Renner

HIGH SCHOOL

Perfect Attendance: Akram Abdelwahab, Cierra Ingram, Hilaree Martin, Calen Webb, Camden Webb, Couper Wulfkuhle, Caitlyn Battreal, Hannah McFadden, Tucker Melton, Aiden

Oxford, Gunner Riley, Josue Rodriguez, Braxton Ruiz, Andrea Licea, David Mejia, Eva Moise, Alexah Battreal, Joseph Escamilla, Tyler Fossett

A Honor Roll: Holdyn Goff, Callen Webb, Camden Webb, Caitlyn Battreal, Alisa Contreras, Hannah McFadden, Autumn Meyers, Braxton Ruiz, Allisyn Uribe, Gracee Isaacks, Maria de Castro Martinez, Andrea Licea, Taetyrn Sanders, Hunter Ewing, Drake LeBlanc, Landon Robinson

A/B Honor Roll: Akram Abdelwahab, Logan Ewing, Hilaree Martin, Evan Williamson, Makenzie Wright, Couper Wulfkuhle, Sydney Felan, Jaxon Markum, Aiden Oxford, Kelsey Ritchie, Presley Robinson, Abram Shaw, Nathan Watson, Zarah Wisheart, Hadley Glass, Kaylee Stanford, Alexah Battreal, Alex Castillo, Tyler Fossett, Jayda Gonzalez, Marlee Henderson, Blissany Ramos, Roselyn Ritchie, Jolynn Whiteley



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Third grade A Honor Roll



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Third grade A/B Honor Roll



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Fourth grade A Honor Roll



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Fourth grade A/B Honor Roll



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Fifth grade A Honor Roll



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Fifth grade A/B Honor Roll