



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Breaking Barriers: Caitlin's inspiring journey

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

In honor of National Disability Month, which is observed annually in March, The Gatesville Messenger has highlighted an incredible individual who lives with a disability of her own.

Caitlin Clough was born in 1997 as a triplet to Garry and Heidi Clough with developing cerebral palsy and spinal meningitis due to a medical error. Not only did this complicate her condition, but she was also born prematurely at 31 weeks old, which also added to the challenges.

Heidi said that when Clough was only nine days old, they were called to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) when her condition deteriorated.

"Doctors told us her organs were shutting down and to prepare for the worst, but Caitlin fought to survive," she said. "Although we knew there could be lasting effects, we were grateful to have her with us."

As Clough began to grow, her parents noticed some developmental delays.

"Her diagnosis confirmed what we had already suspected," Heidi said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Caitlin (middle) is pictured with her sisters Jenna (left) and Hannah (right). Her sisters volunteered as buddies and assisted the prom attendees during the Night to Shine prom event this year.

Over time, she was also diagnosed with autism, an

intellectual disability, and epilepsy.

"It was difficult knowing the challenges she might face, but we were determined to get her the care and support she needed," Heidi said.

She mentioned that, at the time, resources for parents and children with disabilities weren't always available. She explained how they navigated much of it on their own without the widespread networks that are provided today.

Clough's childhood consisted of multiple hospitalizations and surgeries with the vast majority of her time spent at a children's hospital in Milwaukee, WI. Being hours away without the support of family and friends was tough, but Heidi expressed that it was encouraging to see how much progress was made in supporting families like hers facing challenges.

Due to Clough needing mobility equipment, her disability is often obvious, but not all disabilities are visible.

"Some are unpredictable or change over time," Heidi said. "I hope for a greater understanding that disabilities look different for every-

PLEASE SEE **CLOUGH** | A3



COURTESY PHOTO

Cub Scout Case Jones is pictured with his certificate and medal after being honored with the Heroism Award at Camp Tahuaya.

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

In an inspiring act of bravery, an 8-year-old Cub Scout was honored with a Heroism Award after saving the life of a young boy who was drowning in a pool.

In June of 2024, Cub Scout Case Jones was enjoying his day with family at a private swimming pool when he witnessed a young boy jump deep into the deepest end of the pool and sink to the bottom. When Jones noticed the young boy never came back to the surface, he yelled for help and jumped in to take action.

Jones was able to retrieve the young boy from the bottom of the pool and swam him to the edge of the pool where he met the lifeguard on duty to further assess the boy.

The incident serves as a powerful reminder of the courage and quick thinking that even the youngest among us can display.

Jones' mother and Scout Leader, Angela Darragh, couldn't be prouder of her son and shared how she was impressed with her son's brave actions.

"As a mother, it scared me initially but then I was super proud that he did such a selfless act to save the life of another," Darragh said. "Case has such a huge heart and always wants to help a person or animal, so he never thought twice about jumping in."

Jones' selfless actions didn't go unnoticed, as he was recently honored with a Heroism Award on March 1 at Camp Tahuaya's grand opening in Belton by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). He was presented with a certificate and medal by Ellie Morrison, who was the first female national commissioner for BSA, received VIP treatment, and was able to meet influential leaders who also earned the same award.

While Jones was presented with the award, he was asked if he was scared while

saving the boy from drowning, and he said, "I wasn't scared because I have training and God."

"Case wants to be a smoke jumper when he grows up, so community service runs in his blood," Darragh said.

To receive the award, it requires a strict application process that needs statements from people involved in the incident and witnesses. The statements are then reviewed by the Nation Court of Honor Board. This is considered to be a rare award earned due to the requirements that must be met.

Scout Life Magazine reported that in over 90 years of scouting, only an estimated 3,500 Heroism Awards have been presented to scouts across the United States.

Jones has over four years of Boy/Cub Scout experience, and Darragh also mentioned that he has been swimming since he was only a year old. He passed the United States Navy deep water swim test at the age of 6 which is a very rigorous test to complete. The test includes swimming 25 yards with no rest, treading water for one minute, and jumping into the deepest end of the pool while returning to the surface with no assistance, which all had to be completed with no rest in between.

He then went on to pass the Boy Scouts of America swim test at the age of 7, which included swimming 100 yards without resting.

This remarkable act of bravery reminds us that heroism doesn't come at a particular age or size, and that it is about being ready to help, to act, and to put others before ourselves when it matters most. For Jones, it was just another example of living out the values of a Cub Scout — trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Sheriff's Office release statement regarding phone scams

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Coryell County Sheriff's Office has reported that individuals have received scam phone calls from people identifying themselves as employees of the Sheriff's Office.

The scam callers are using past and current employees' names saying they have a warrant for people.

In a Facebook post made by the Coryell County Sheriff's Office states, "We will never call you about a warrant and try to get you to pay a fine."

The scam callers are requesting funds for any situation including DNA samples, citations, parking citations and more.

The Sheriff's Office asks citizens not to give the scam callers any information, to not give them your financial information and to never make payment for any request over the phone without regarding the Sheriff's Office.

A press release issued by Coryell County Sheriff Scott Williams states, "I would like it to be known that the Coryell County Sheriff's Office

will never contact you and request any kind of payment for any situation over the phone."

The Sheriff's Office encourages locals to report any suspicious calls to 254-865-7201 and to get as much information as possible from the scam caller such as the phone number, name, etc.

Coryell Preparedness Hub made an online post sharing tips on scams regarding the recent situation.

FRAUD ALERT

Banks are seeing a surge in wallet/account access at-

tempts. Legitimate companies will not text/email/call you unexpectedly and ask for credentials/codes. Because fraudsters often utilize stolen personal data, it may be easier for them to convince you that you're speaking with a legitimate representative.

• Sending an email or text message asking you to reset your password or login information.

• Claiming to be calling about fraudulent charges on your account and asking for

PLEASE SEE **SCAM** | A2

Gatesville resident killed in fatal wreck

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

A 60-year-old resident of Gatesville, William Joseph Thomas, was killed in a single-vehicle accident on Thursday, Feb. 27, on Highway 84.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Thomas was transported to Coryell Memorial Hospital and was later pro-

nounced dead by Justice of the Peace Jim Caldwell.

The wreck occurred around 2:44 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27, when Thomas' vehicle, a 2016 RAM 3500 truck, was traveling west-bound on Highway 84. A witness to the accident stated that Thomas' truck passed her vehicle and was approximately a quarter mile ahead of her.

The investigating Trooper said the witness reported that the RAM truck took a hard left and left the highway, which resulted in the truck colliding with a tractor along with implements in a field.

According to the Texas DPS, Thomas was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident.

The crash investigation is

still open. Next of kin have been notified.

The Texas DPS reminds drivers and passengers of the importance of wearing a safety belt. Not only is wearing a seatbelt law for all passengers, but it also reduces the risk of serious injury or death if involved in a traffic crash.



Trinity Baptist Church

Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor

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Worship:
First service at 8:15 a.m.
Second service at 11:00 a.m.

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Church 865-8495
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Dr. Bradford Holland, MD
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A photograph of Dr. Bradford Holland, MD, a middle-aged man with short brown hair, smiling and standing with his arms crossed. He is wearing blue medical scrubs and a blue surgical cap that has the 'Coryell Health' logo on it. The background is a clinical setting with a large medical monitor visible.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

A standard black and white square QR code located in the bottom right section of the advertisement.

The logo for Coryell Health, featuring a stylized green 'ch' with a leaf-like shape inside the 'h', followed by the word 'Coryell' in green and 'HEALTH' in blue capital letters below it.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

The Words of Travis have never been more important



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 is an important week in the hearts of all Texans, and I dare to say, in the hearts of most Americans. One hundred and eighty-nine years ago this week, a small group of brave Texicans huddled behind fortified walls while the massive army of General Santa Anna played music. The music they played was a song called “El DeQuello” and the message in the melody was clear: if the Texicans did not surrender there would be no quarter and all the men left standing inside the Alamo would be

put to the sword. I urge you to stop and think about that situation for just a moment. The 187 brave Texicans were facing thousands of Mexican soldiers. They were outgunned and outmanned. I can only imagine but it is doubtful a single soldier inside the walls of the old mission did not know their fate was sealed and death was near, yet they did not attempt to flee.

This past week I participated in a celebration of Texas Independence put on by the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and within the ceremony the famous letter was read which was written by William Barrett Travis, the Commander of the Alamo. As I stood with my hat over my heart, I listened to the words of Travis and

tears swelled in my eyes. I felt such respect for the bravery of the men, their dedication to their duty to their nation and to each other, and I felt sorrow for those who were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice of an almost certain death.

When the part of the letter was read which says, “I shall never surrender or retreat! Then, I call to you in the name of liberty, of patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aide with all dispatch,” I broke down. It mattered not to me that I was surrounded by others. I was not embarrassed by my emotions but rather exhilarated by the pride I felt deep inside me. The immortal words of Travis stand as the very definition of what

it is to be an American. It is as much a part of us as our skeletal frame and the beating of our hearts. It is faith in those words which have inspired generations of Americans to stand up to be counted, even if it meant laying down their lives at places called Shiloh, Normandy, Iwo Jima, and Khe Sahn.

We live in challenging and uncertain times. This past week our ally, who has stood and fought an invader for three years, sought assurances that any peace would grant his nation security. By all estimates over a million have died in the Ukraine fighting off an invading force of superior strength and armament, all for the sake of keeping national sovereignty and

their freedom. I cannot help but associate the men of the Alamo with all men and women in the world fighting for freedom from their oppressors and the God given liberty all humans deserve.

It is my plea that all Americans remember the call of Colonel Travis and the deeds of the men of the Alamo. “We shall never surrender or retreat” should be our response to all attacks on the freedom of mankind. It is who we are, what we are, and with God’s almighty blessing, always will be.

Thought for the day: Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. Ronald Reagan.

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



Caitlin Clough is pictured with her mother, Heidi, who is also the Head Coach for Team Gatesville, after winning gold in the State games wheelchair race.

CLOUGH

FROM PAGE A1

one, and that true inclusion means accepting people as they are.”

She also expressed that her daughter’s journey has shaped her entire perspective on life and has taught her that life is fragile and unpredictable, and that ev-

ery moment should be cherished.

“For every rare negative encounter Caitlin has had in society, there have been countless acts of kindness and support,” she said. “While those occasional negative moments are painful for her and our family, we choose to focus on the good and do our part to spread awareness and understanding. She is a

daily inspiration to me and those around her.”

Clough and her mother, Heidi, along with her two sisters, Hannah and Jenna, are also very involved with Team Gatesville’s Special Olympics organization.

In 2017, Heidi, Hannah, and Jenna each became coaches for Team Gatesville with Clough participating as an athlete.

After a few years, Heidi was promoted to the Head of Delegation/Head Coach of the organization and is very passionate about volunteer work with children who live with disabilities.

“Volunteering with Special Olympics has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” Heidi said. “I have learned so much about disabilities, formed

Folks aroundtown



COURTESY PHOTO

Garrett Niblack

Say hello to our neighbor, Garrett Niblack!

Garrett is the General Manager of WhiteWater Express car wash, which hosted a ribbon-cutting in February. He said that he enjoys serving his customers, and, although he doesn’t live here, he appreciates the strong sense of community.

Garrett likes to read The Gatesville Messenger to see what is going on around town.

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

lasting friendships with both athletes and their families, and have been continuously inspired by the team and the kindness of our community.”

Clough’s transformation since joining the Special Olympics has been incredible. Heidi said that at her first practice she didn’t speak to anyone or participate. Now, she is a member of the Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) Athlete Leadership Program, has made many friends, attends events, and actively welcomes new athletes.

Heidi credits her daughter’s growth not only to the Special Olympics, but also to the unwavering support of our community.

“Caitlin’s story is not unique; I see this same confidence and growth in every athlete as they accomplish

goals, build self-esteem, and achieve things they never thought possible,” Heidi said.

For people with intellectual disabilities, opportunities to be active, healthy, and social are essential. Team Gatesville provides these opportunities for physical and mental well-being while building a strong support system.

“Caitlin’s story is one of perseverance, love, and the strength of community,” Heidi said. “Through advocacy, inclusion, education, and support, we can all help create a society where every person, regardless of ability, is valued and included.”

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TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The Cemetery Couple of Sulphur Springs



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Annada Jones and her husband, James, are active citizens of Sulphur Springs. Annada has worked with the civic center and the chamber of commerce. James is involved with veterans' activities. Annada is a retired teacher. James worked for a company that makes valves for the oil patch.

"The Rockwell plant here supported me for 42 years," says James. I commented to him that after being there so long he could probably call his own shots. He replied with a gleam in his eyes, "No, but I knew where to hide."

Both Addada and James volunteer at the cemetery. Annada is on the cemetery board. James keeps up with cemetery data. A lot more

than burials take place at the cemetery.

"We like for people to come and enjoy the cemetery," says Annada. "It is really beautiful when the crepe myrtles are in bloom. They are everywhere. Everything is so nice and green. It's just a delightful place."

The ten-acre tract has more than 7,000 graves dating back to 1847. Annada says the first-known

burial was in 1830, but it's not marked. The cemetery has a beautiful chapel complete with air-conditioning, stained glass windows, a sound system, and comfortable seating for at least a hundred. The building was temporarily used as a storage building for lawn mowers and other equipment until it was remodeled. It's a venue for Weddings and other events. A re-enactment group tells about some of the prominent people buried there.

"They assume an identity and play the person who is buried there and talk about them" says Annada. "I read my kids at school a book one time that referred to the gravesites in Boston as the dead worthies of Boston. So, I've always thought of this cemetery as the dead worthies of Sulphur Springs and Hopkins County."

James was in the Army toward the end of the Vietnam war.

"I've been a lot better ex-soldier than I was a soldier," he says. "I was drafted and I was not happy and did just the minimum to get through without being court-martialed."

A few years after his discharge, James joined an American Legion Post, and his patriotic fervor was revived. He helped put 800 flags on veterans' graves on Memorial Day before that job was turned over to the Boy Scouts and the Marine League. He helps place wreaths on the graves of veterans around Christmas-time.

"We hope that a lot of people are touched by these things. It's a labor of love."

The Military Coalition is often called in to provide a military funeral to veterans.

"They do hundreds of ceremonial burials each year when they are invited. They have uniformed Phonor guards that are very practiced, and they play taps."

SUDOKU

Puzzle answers from the March 1, 2024 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

42-year-old wanted man arrested after pursuit

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

A 42-year-old wanted man was found hiding in a stock tank after fleeing from Coryell County Sheriff deputies on Thursday, Feb. 20. The pursuit took deputies down county roads and across fields near Mound.

A criminal complaint revealed that the situation began when Coryell County Sheriff Scott Williams informed deputies that he had seen a wanted individual named Anthony Cosper enter a house on the 3400 block of Coryell County Road 318. Sheriff Williams then told the deputies that the man got into a white Ford F-250 pickup and was driving away from the house toward FM 3419.

According to the affidavit, when a deputy arrived at the area in a marked patrol unit

and activated his overhead lights, the driver took off through the grass cutting toward FM 3419. The affidavit also said that the pickup almost struck another deputy while evading.

The pickup was then driven through a field while making turns and eventually headed back toward County Road 318.

Deputies briefly lost sight of the vehicle but later found it parked behind a residence on the 1900 block of County Road 318. After locating the pickup, the driver was not found. As deputies searched the vehicle, a wallet with multiple cards with Anthony Cosper's name on them were found.

Deputies conducted a thorough search of the area, which finally ended after Cosper was found in a stock



COURTESY PHOTO OF CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Anthony Cosper

tank north of where the pickup was located.

Cosper has been charged with Evading Arrest with a Vehicle, Evading Arrest on Foot, Possession of Marijuana, and Reckless Driving, as well as the original warrant for a Motion to Revoke Probation on a drug charge.

Exchange Club Pain Management



COURTESY PHOTO

On Feb. 27, the Gatesville Exchange Club met for their weekly meeting where they hosted guest speaker Trent Parks, from Abbott. Parks gave a presentation about pain management where he discussed a recent breakthrough. Trenk Parks is pictured while discussing pain management. The Gatesville Exchange Club meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. for breakfast at the Junction on Route 36.

Turnersville Cemetery Association to meet March 11

The first quarterly meeting of the Turnersville Cemetery Association will be held on Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at the Turnersville Community Center.

The burial ground served

residents of the rural community of Turnersville - originally known as Buchanan Springs. A cemetery association was formed in 1900 but disbanded in the 1930s. The Turners-

ville Cemetery Association reorganized in 1953 and continues to care for the burial ground.

Turnersville Community Center is located at 8113 FM 182.

Bringing the library to you with the Homebound Program

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Public Library is offering a new service for patrons who are unable to leave their homes to visit the library called the Homebound Program. It is available to those who cannot travel due to illness, mobility issues, or other challenges.

The Homebound Program is designed to deliver books and library services directly to your door whether that be print or audiobooks, Libby App assistance, Wi-Fi hotspots, print jobs, notary services, or Playaway tablets. Gatesville Librarian Shea

Harp said that over the summer the library noticed that many patrons went from visiting the library in person to depending on family, neighbors, and friends to receive new books.

Since the program began this month, there have been no enrollments in the program so far.

Harp expressed that the struggle right now is making sure those who want or need the service are aware of it. She is staying on top of advertising the new program on the website and social media along with posting flyers throughout town.

She mentioned that it is impactful for community members to keep the program in mind and spread the word when they come across someone who will benefit from it.

To enroll in the program, call the library and request to talk to Harp about the Homebound Program. From there, the library will figure out how to get the patron access to a form to fill out. Some circumstances may require Harp to obtain a note from a doctor or a case manager.

The Gatesville Public Library can be reached by contacting 254-865-5367.

KGB to host spring clean-up March 29

Staff Reports

Keep Gatesville Beautiful will host a community spring clean-up on Saturday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers are to arrive at the Gatesville Public Library parking lot by 8:30 a.m. to

receive supplies and assigned areas.

The Gatesville Public Library is located at 111 North 8th Street.

For further details, contact Keep Gatesville Beautiful by email at keepgatesville-beautiful@gmail.com.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2005)

A community squad from the Woodman State Jail placed rocks and poured cement, shoring up the bridge over a creek in Raby Park. Lightning knocked out a booster pump in the City of Gatesville water system, requiring city officials to issue a boil order.

Crackpots of Texas Pottery Studio offered a week-long spring break workshop for kids.

Horseshoe Restaurant

& Private Club advertised "Steak Nights" on Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as "Karaoke with Gene Watson" on Fridays.

The Gatesville Hornets competed in their third golf tournament of the season, finishing fifth out of 21 teams in the San Saba tournament.

30 YEARS AGO (1995)

Smoking and other forms of tobacco use were banned on all Texas Department of Criminal Justice properties.

The Beautify Gatesville Campaign was set to begin work in downtown Gatesville that included cleaning windows, sidewalks, and adding trash receptacles and planters.

Chateau Ville Restaurant advertised a noon buffet offering catfish, steaks, and seafood.

The Bookstore on Main Street advertised James Wilson Brazzil's new book called "The House of Coot."

The Drive-In was showing "Billy Madison," starring

Adam Sandler.

40 YEARS AGO (1985)

Judge Doug Smith signed a proclamation that designated March 11-16 as Older Worker Week in Coryell County.

Representative Bob Melton, (D) Gatesville, strongly opposed the consolidation of small school districts.

Former Gatesville students Charlotte Harvey and Allison West were named to the Dean's Academic Honor List at Baylor University.

Craig G. Price, of Austin, joined Medical Plastics Laboratory, Inc. as National Sales Manager.

Centex Sanitation, Inc. advertised that "We Buy Aluminum Cans."

50 YEARS AGO (1975)

Charles W. Niemeier, of Gatesville, filed as a candidate for the Gatesville Independent School board of trustees.

Rev. Ralph O'Dell, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, announced plans to

retire after 47 years in the parish ministry.

Ronnie Rhodes was elected president of the Gatesville Jaycees.

State Rep. Jerry Donaldson informed Gatesville constituents that the Texas House and Senate had approved a resolution opposing the expansion of the Fort Hood reservation to take in 60,000 additional acres of Coryell County land.

The Country Store on Highway 84 advertised a "Final Clearance Sale."

Spring Forward into Daylight Saving Time on March 9

Clocks will move forward one hour at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, March 9, marking the start of Daylight-Saving Time

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

As the days grow longer, it's almost time to spring forward into Daylight Saving Time. The time change will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, at which time clocks 'spring forward' and reset to 3 a.m.

Daylight Saving Time occurs twice a year and is the practice of moving clocks forward in the spring and

setting them back in the fall. The goal for clocks jumping ahead one hour is to give us more daylight in the evening hours.

This will mean losing an hour of sleep, but the trade-off includes longer evenings and more daylight for after-work events, outdoor activities, and time spent with family and friends.

Spring forward can affect day-to-day routines, and it

is important to take steps to help with the transition.

Steps to take

Get Enough Sleep: Getting enough sleep is important before a time change, and most adults need seven to eight hours of sleep.

Road Safety: When adjusting to a time change, road safety needs to be prioritized by ensuring you are well-rested, avoiding distractions, maintaining a safe

distance from other vehicles, using your headlights when necessary, and being extra vigilant for pedestrians and cyclists. If you feel drowsy, do not drive and consider pulling over to rest.

Avoid Caffeine: During spring forward, caffeine can disrupt your circadian rhythm, making it harder to fall asleep at night when your body is already adjusting to the time change,

potentially leading to sleep deprivation and impacting your overall alertness during the day.

Currently, in the United States, Arizona and Hawaii are the only two states who do not observe Daylight Saving Time. There are 20 states, not including Texas, who wish to get rid of the time change as well.

As the debate continues over the future of Daylight

Saving Time, for now, most people in the U.S. will continue to adjust their clocks twice a year. Don't forget to set your clocks forward on Sunday, March 9, at 2 a.m., and get ready for longer days in the season.

PEARL NEWS

Enormous, joy-filled crowd and awesome day at the Pearl Bluegrass event



BY BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

I received many reports of an awesome day at the Pearl Bluegrass event and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day on March 1. There was an enormous, joy-filled crowd - lots of tremendous jammers and stage show participants and tons of happy shoppers at the bookstore. The kitchen also reported whopping numbers of hungry souls fed with their delicious, homemade food. The Pearl Community Center and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore wish to thank everyone who participated in any way to make the day a success! They also want to extend a hearty invitation to the April 5 Bluegrass and Bookstore Day. I'll have more news about that day as time draws nearer. But, trust me, you want to mark your calendar now so you can be there early and stay late. Tell everyone you know about Pearl because...there's no place like it!

I have a special prayer request for our dear one, Linda Ray. She may want to kung pao me into next year for this, but that's okay—I can take it. As you may already know, Linda has been dealing with cancer for quite some time, which has required many rounds of intense chemo treatments. Throughout this time, this spitfire has had the most positive attitude anyone of us has ever witnessed—typical Linda Ray! Her positivity has never wavered even though she is dealing with some pretty hefty effects from both the disease and the treatments. Linda's love for the Lord and her love for her family, friends, church family, and Pearl in general is inspiring. She is a prayer warrior, which is the best

thing ever that can be said about any Christian. Well, this warrior is in need of some intense prayers herself now. Let's do this for Linda! Let's flood the Lord with our prayers for healing, strength, peace...and to get our Eveready Bunny back in shape. Prayers are the most powerful medicine we have. She's got VBS coming up, and we don't want to miss her "howdyyyyy! Yes, there's no place like Pearl, but, even more, there's no one like Linda Ray. (Pray for Ronald, too, as he is the best chauffeur/butler/caretaker/cook/step 'n fetch it boy/husband there is).

Now, here's a story about another talented, inspiring Pearl lady who may also want to knock me into the next century for this—Kay

Pruett. Actually, I have had many questions about what has been going on with her lately. People have been searching for Kay...where is she? It has been reported that Miss Kay is running amok in Gatesville. She was sighted in the DQ with some unknown person of the male species as well as at a local Mexican restaurant with another of that same persuasion. Just as quickly as she is spotted, there she goes again. One person even asked me if "Dear Abby" still had an "advice for the love-lorn" column as they were seeking information about how to acquire the same lifestyle Kay seems to be enjoying lately. So, if you spot this feisty gadabout around town in the company of her various suitors, please snap

a picture of this interesting phenomenon. Inquiring minds want to know. (You gotta be quick, though. Evidently, KP has places to go and people to see!)

This week's Bible verse comes from Job 23:10,11-- But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed His steps; I have kept to His way without turning aside. NIV

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



COURTESY PHOTOS

Gatesville Primary School recently hosted a Wacky Wednesday for its students. Primary students were able to dress up in wacky clothes with some dying their hair and doing wacky hairstyles.

February 2025 Business of the Month



Valerie Questel is pictured with her certificate and trophy after being selected as the Business of the Month for February. Questel is the owner of Val's Pals Pet Grooming, which offers high-quality local grooming services to pets with personalized care for pets. Val's Pals Pet Grooming is by appointment only and is located at 7020 West Highway 84 in Gatesville.

gatesvillemessenger.com

Pearl Bluegrass Raffle



On Saturday, March 1, the Pearl Bluegrass Festival presented one of the raffle winners with his prize. Tommy Petty, of Turnersville, was the winner of a fiddle that had been donated to Pearl Bluegrass. Pictured left, Petty received his prize fiddle from Bluegrass volunteer Jeff King. The next raffle will be a guitar.

ZED by Duane M. Abel

ALRIGHT ZED, LET'S SEE HOW TALL YOU ARE...

SPIDER!

AND THAT IS HOW HIGH MOM JUMPED!

www.corkeycomics.com



Library Director Shea Harp is shown reshelving DVD's and videos as the library is slowly moving back into place. DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Slowly moving back into the Gatesville Public Library

DAVID SCOTT

In September of last year, the City of Gatesville closed the public library after a patron found books on the shelves with water damage. The contents of the library were evaluated and put into storage while repairs and cleaning of the building took place. Little did patrons realize that the library would be closed for months following.

Recently, books and other library items have been returning to the Gatesville

Public Library after months of being absent. Library Director Shea Harp reported that moving back in the building is a slow process, but she is in hopes that the facility will be open to the public once again sometime in April. Patrons of the library are anxiously awaiting the re-opening and being able to once again utilize the services that the library offers.

City Manager Brad Hunt

recently released a statement saying, "Beyond the well-documented roof and HVAC repairs, our contractor has just about completed a list of tasks for the library rehabilitation." The contractor's list included exterior window sealing, exterior stucco repairs, exterior paint, sheetrock repairs, plumbing on fountains and, in the kitchen area, countertops, window tinting, interior paint, flooring, carpet, pre-

liminary cleaning, customer walk through, moving contents back inside the building, and a final cleaning. Hunt continued, "In the next week or possibly two, we will have a firm idea on when our exact re-opening will be. We will then invite the community to a small event and, as Library Director Harp said, we do hope this will occur by the end of April, if not sooner."

Hairitage Salon to open March 22

Submitted item

Hairitage Salon will be hosting a soft opening party on Saturday, March 22, at 3 p.m. They will have live music,

a bake sale, good food, and several raffle baskets that will include a huge variety of goodies including handbags, vehicle maintenance services, family

size dinners from J&M, handmade bows, salon services, and more. Hairitage Salon's new location is at 3402 S. Hwy. 36.



Evangelist Kathy Wampler

COURTESY PHOTO

Pearl Country Church to host revival

Staff Reports

Pearl Country Church will host a revival, "Feed my Sheep," featuring dynamic Dallas/Ft. Worth evangelist Kathy Wampler, March 21-23. On Friday, March 21, at 6 p.m., there will be a service followed by an ice cream social. On Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., there will be a ladies' retreat and luncheon. That evening, at 4 p.m., there will be a fried ribs and fish supper followed by a 6 p.m. service. On Sunday, March 23, there will be a service at 10:15 a.m., followed by a Mexican food dinner.

Evangelist Kathy Wampler is anointed to minister the gospel through preaching and singing. She ministers with conviction and authority, from deep within her being. She loves to share Biblical principles in such a way that the audience can apply them in her daily life. Wampler is an ordained minister and has been in full-time ministry for over 30 years. She grew up in a pastor's home and worked at Roever Evangelistic Association as an Associate Evangelist. She has produced three records, which are

available on iTunes and in other digital markets. Kathy and her husband, David, have been married for over 25 years, working together in full-time ministry. They reside in Fort Worth. Speaking about her freedom, Wampler said, "After many years of trying to be someone other than myself, I've learned there is ONE thing I do better than anyone...being ME. Once I learned that valuable lesson, the result was freedom: Freedom from trying to measure up to some standard that changes as the times change; freedom from

doubting my calling; freedom from second guessing every sermon and Bible study I put together. The truth is, God can use us all if we are available and willing." The public is invited to bring their families and friends to hear the special messages brought by Wampler. All donations for the weekend benefit Abide Retreats for military/first responder wives and female service members/first responders. For more information, contact Pearl Country Church pastor Jimmy McPherrin at 254-394-2998.

MOUND NEWS

GHS Choir shines



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Elliott and Kennedie Lanham are the proud parents, of a baby Boy. Mr. Carter James Lanham was born Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Baylor Scott and White Hospital in Temple weighing 8.1 pounds and 19.5 inches long. The proud grandparents are Don and Stacy Hyde and Loyd and Kari Hopson. The proud aunt is Katie Sue Hopson, and great-aunt is Barbara Sue Hopson.

Mrs. Delecia Reynolds visited last Tuesday afternoon with Barbara Hopson. Chrissy D. Franks of New Braunfels and Sara Jo Poynter of Gatesville visited Saturday with Margaret and Barbara Hopson.

Mound lost one of their residents, Mr. Dallas Morgan Dees who died Saturday, March 1. Private graveside services will be held at Mound Cemetery. Dallas Dees was survived by his mother, Stella Nichols and husband, Flan; sister, Valerie Dees; brothers, Morgan Dees and Kim Dees; stepmother, Kyong Suk Dees; niece, Gracie Miller; nephews, Tyson Dees and Miles Dees; aunts, uncles, and numerous cousins. Dallas will truly be missed in our community. The GHS Choir set another program record with three students receiving ALL STATE CHOIR recognition. Achieving this accolade is the highest accomplishment a high school student can achieve in the world of choir. These three students have put in countless hours and months into preparing and auditioning to achieve this recognition. Thousands of students around the state start the process, but only 120 students make it to the ALL-State choir. In addition, these three students performed in mid-February with the TMEA ALL State Choir in San Antonio. Our three fantastic choir students are: Katie Hopson-2nd Chair in Soprano, Paisley Wells-2nd Chair in Tenor, Memphis Wells-3rd Chair in Bass.

This accomplishment would not be possible without the high-quality choral instruction they receive from head choir director Cherith Wells and assistant choir director Colleen Petty. Each year the choir program sets school records by receiving more awards and accolades than ever before, so we want to recognize those outstanding teachers also! Spring sports have sprung. The Tippit family spent the week in Hico, Valley Mills, and Gorman for baseball and track. On Friday, March 7, Oglesby ISD will be honoring our athletes that have committed to play at their next signing events. San Antonio results: Thomas as Belt placed first with his black angus steer and competed on the 4-H Livestock Judging Team. Our team of Thomas, Lilly, Kinsley, and Makaylie placed 14th and Thomas was 15th high individual. Charles showed his market steer. Samuel competed on the Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team which placed 6th. Rev. Bruce Cox visited last Sunday with Martha Ann Lawhorn, Scott and Sterlin Shults, Don, Sue, Case, Kristen and Paxton. Brack Jones took Kelby Shults to Oscars for her birthday lunch. Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch together Friday in Gatesville. Robert and Carolyn Blakley attended the Chamber of Commerce Fundraiser in Gatesville Saturday evening. Those who had birthdays this week were Gary Heavin, Cheryl Ford, Paul Hapson, Sherrie Barton, Beth Haines, Mary Sue Winkler, Lauren Goins, Keva Campos, Brance Spencer, Billye Rhudy, and Jennifer Mann.

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CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION

Jody & Robin Thomas
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OBITUARIES

Jody Thomas

Oct. 29, 1964 – Feb. 27, 2025

Jody Thomas, age 60, of Gatesville, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025. Funeral services were held at 3 p.m., Friday, March 7, at Coryell Community Church. Interment followed at Hemmeline Cemetery.

William Joseph Thomas, known to all as Jody, was born Oct. 29, 1964, in Gatesville. He was the youngest child of six born to the late Billie and Doris Lee White Thomas.

Jody was raised on his family's dairy farm: The last operating one in Coryell County. He enjoyed country living from the very beginning. Not understanding why school was necessary, he ran away from kindergarten after the first half day, did not return, and finished the rest of the year in the fields. He often reminisced about doing custom farm work and building fence at an early age. He drove his first tractor at age six and had his first fender bender on a back road two miles from home at age eight. He often shared memories of his family enjoying homemade ice cream while saying that his job was to sit on top of the churn bucket while someone else cranked. Days were filled with hard work, laughter, and responsibilities.

Jody attended grade school in Gatesville and graduated high school in 1983. He enjoyed playing football, was an active FFA member and was proud to have received



the Star Chapter Farmer Award. He learned early in life that big dreams require hard work and dedication but come with hardship and disappointments. Two of the comments he would most often say when asked how are you doing, or is it going to rain, would be "Barely Makin It" and "It's One Day Closer."

Jody started buying, trading, and hauling cattle at a young age at the local auction and in the surrounding area. In 1986, Jody and Robin Young started dating, and they found a common interest in their love of livestock and agriculture. Jody knew she was the one for him after he took her on their first date to haul cattle and learned that she could back up a trailer. On Dec. 19, 1987, they married and began building their life together. It wasn't until seven years later that they welcomed their first gate opener, Dodds Creek Kate. A year later, they welcomed their first and only

boy, Zach, and in 2002, their baby girl arrived who he was going to call Holly, no matter what.

In 1996, Jody was given the opportunity to operate the Coryell County Commission Company, and, for the next 29 years, he dedicated his life to doing just that. Jody strived to make previous generations of ranchers proud and the legacy he would go on to build for his family. He was a lover of cattle and agriculture and enjoyed marketing livestock and cherished every relationship he built. Jody was filled with faith; he knew that God would provide, and he never worried about anything.

Jody was preceded in death by his parents, and siblings, Jackie, Cindy, Ricky, and Shawn.

He is survived by the love of his life and wife, Robin; daughter, Katie Wise and husband, Brian; son, Zach and wife, Keeley; daughter, Holly and fiancé, Kutter Saunders, three adorable grandchildren, Cotton and Hattie Wise, and Colson Thomas, and a new granddaughter on the way; as well as his sister, Robbie Lam and husband, Gene; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends, including Juan, Antonio, and Alex Salinas-Bolanos.

Memorials can be made to Hemmeline Cemetery Association, care of Sheila Necessary, 1050 FM 1783, Gatesville, Texas 76528.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GATESVILLE

The deadline to apply for a lifeguard position at the Gatesville City Pool is April 25.

Lifeguards wanted at Gatesville City Pool

Staff Reports

The City of Gatesville has announced that applications are being accepted for lifeguard positions at the City Pool.

Applicants must be 15 years or older before May 12 and are to complete a blended learning certification course along with a swim test.

The swim test will include two prerequisites, including:

- Prerequisite 1: Complete a swim-tread-swim sequence without stopping to rest
- Jump into the water and totally submerge, resurface, then swim 150 yards using the front crawl, breaststroke, or a combination of both. (Swimming on the back or side is not

permitted. Swim goggles are allowed.)

- Maintain position at the surface of the water for two minutes by treading water using only the legs.

- Swim 50 yards using the front crawl, breaststroke, or a combination of both.

Prerequisite 2: Complete a timed event within 1 minute 40 seconds

- Starting in the water, swim 20 yards. (The face may be in or out of the water. Swim goggles are not allowed.)

- Surface dive (feet-first or head-first) to a depth of seven to 10 feet to retrieve a 10-pound object.

- Return to the surface and swim 20 yards on the back to return to the starting point, holding the object at the surface with both

hands, and keeping the face out or near the surface.

- Exit the water without using a ladder or steps.

If successful, applicants will be enrolled in the American Red Cross Lifeguarding - Blended Learning Class, which will be held from May 5 to 11.

Completing the certification course does not guarantee employment.

The deadline for applying is April 25th. To apply, visit <https://www.gatesvilletx.com/parksrec> and fill out an application as well as register for the free training class.

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

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Drinking and driving over spring break could land you in the "DWI Not So Fun House" or worse 51% of alcohol-related crashes in Texas during the 2023 holiday period involved drivers ages 17-30

What begins as a fun time with friends over spring break can turn tragic in an instant, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is reminding everyone to always get a sober ride.

Shocking cell phone video shows the moments before 17-year-old Andrea Elizalde was killed in a crash in the spring of 2019. Elizalde was just weeks away from graduating from high school with dreams of becoming a brain surgeon, when she was thrown from a Corvette after her inebriated friend hit a light pole at 110 mph on an Amarillo highway.

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Five years later, tragedy continues to strike young Texans who don't take the dangers of drinking and driving seriously. Andrea's father, David Elizalde, started the nonprofit Andrea's Project to share his daughter's tragic story with other students.

"If I can save people from getting DWIs and save people's lives, I'll have really accomplished something in my daughter's honor," Elizalde said.

This spring, TxDOT will take this same message to college students around the state as part of its Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign.

"There is never a good reason to drive after drinking," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Everyone has the opportunity to

choose a sober ride and prevent horrific crashes."

During the 2023 spring break period, there were 375 alcohol-related crashes in Texas involving drivers between the ages of 17 and 30, including nine deaths. That's more than half of all drunk driving crashes in the same 10-day period. Students can save lives by designating a sober driver, using rideshares, taxis and public transportation, or simply staying put after drinking. To spread this message, TxDOT is partnering with the campus-based group U in the Driver Seat and other student leaders across Texas throughout March.

TxDOT will travel the state with its mobile "DWI Not So Fun House" exhibit to give the community an up-close

look at the risks of drunk driving.

The exhibit features video stories from drunk-driving survivors and offenders to illustrate the consequences of driving impaired. It also includes an arcade-style driving simulator to demonstrate the effects of alcohol on motor skills and reaction time.

TxDOT's 'Drive Sober. No Regrets.' campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

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Saturday, March 22 @ 10am-2pm
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Sunday, March 23 @ 10:15am
Service followed by Taco Dinner

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DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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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
Pastor: Malachi Houser;
1102 W. Main St.,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m.
WHITE HALL BAPTIST
Mike Barron, pastor;
2040 CR 238, Gatesville;
Sunday school 10 a.m.;
Sunday worship 11 a.m.;
254-679-3200.
WHITE MOUND BAPTIST
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday
School 10 a.m., Sunday
worship 11 a.m.; 642 CR
320; mailing address:
P.O. Box 103, Mound, TX
76558.
MOUND COWBOY CHURCH
Bruce Cox, pastor; Sunday
worship 9 a.m., Sunday
school 9:30 a.m. Men's
breakfast every third
Saturday at 8 a.m. Inside:
3075 FM 931, outside:
2000 CR 321. Mailing
address: P.O. Box 103,
Mound, TX 76558.

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

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD
CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD
Peter Anson, pastor,
338 State School Rd.,
Gatesville; Sunday
worship 11 a.m.

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

METHODIST
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST
2 miles north of Ireland on
FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th
Sundays.
EVANT METHODIST
235 US-281, Evant;
Dennis Dutton, Pastor;
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
FIRST METHODIST GATESVILLE
2600 E. Main St.; Stephen
Schmidt, pastor; Sunday
worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:30
a.m., Sunday School at
9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY
WORD (during school
year): Meal at 5:30 p.m.
\$3; youth, Children &
Adult Bible Studies at 6
p.m. AA meets Monday,
Wednesday & Friday at
6:30 p.m. 254-865-2520.
GATESVILLE UNITED METHODISTS
All are welcome. Meetings
every Sunday at 5 p.m. at
the south end of Gatesville
High School near the
field house and band hall.
Watch for signs. For more
information, call 254-223-
0665.
OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST
Kent Berry, pastor; 109
College St.; Sunday
worship 9 a.m.
PIDCOKE METHODIST
Rev. Pete Harris; Hwy.
116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday
worship service 10 a.m.;
254-677-6242.

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH
Frank Rosenstern, pastor;
Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday
services 10:30 a.m.;
Thursdays 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
Lee Kelley, Pastor;
Sunday service 11 a.m.,
8205 FM 182, Turnersville;
254-340-0337.
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 Bridge St.; 254-392-
9472.
GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Wray Nunn, pastor;
Sunday worship 10:30
a.m., Wednesday worship
6:30 p.m.; Gateway
Learning Center, 2315
Osage Rd., Gatesville.
HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
Mike & Martha Johnson
pastors, 503 N. 11th St.,
Gatesville; 865-6222.
Sunday worship 11
a.m. Wednesday Bible
Study Ministries (Men,
Women, children) 6 p.m.
"Overcomers" a TDC &
state approved 12-step
recovery program meets
Tuesday 6 p.m.
JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
Sundays, 8:30-9 a.m. aqui
se reune La Iglesia de
Cristo, in the 2400 Block of
E. Main St., Gatesville.
LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Pat Cole, Pastor; 4460 FM
930, Levita; Sunday Bible
Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday
worship 10:45 a.m.;
Tuesday OWLS Kid Group
6-8 p.m.
MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE
William Bertelsen,
Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy.
236; Sunday worship
10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.;
Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m.
PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
6735 FM 183, Pearl; 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 BIENVENIDOS AL HOGAR DE DIOS
Domingos a partir de las
2:00 p.m. Te esperamos!
6226 E. Hwy. 84,
Gatesville.

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

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

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Immunizations • Health screenings
Medication Compounding**

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Curbside Pick Up
254-865-2417
2513 S. State TX 36

First Baptist Church
— GATESVILLE, TEXAS —

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

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

**Lawn & Garden • Tools • Paint
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ACE Hardware

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**Watch & Jewelry Repair
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Gatesville, Texas 76528
254-865-6131

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PEST MANAGEMENT
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needs in Central Texas!*

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STATE CERTIFIED INSTALLER OF
SEPTIC SYSTEMS

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DRIVES • BACKHOE & MAINTAINER

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

NEW Advertising Opportunities
Call 254-865-5212

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

ECO
A Covenant Order of
Evangelical Presbyterians

1110 E. Main Street
Gatesville, TX
254-865-5328
WWW.TPCGATESVILLE.ORG

Welcome to our Church

First Methodist Church

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

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

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**THE
GATESVILLE
MESSENGER**

CLASSIFIEDS

SATURDAY, Mar. 8, 2025

AD CLASSIFICATIONS

- 000

Legal Word Ads
- 001

Asphalt & Cement Work
- 002

Auctions
- 003

Business/Commercial
- 004

Business Opportunity
- 005

Cleaning Services
- 006

Construction/Contractors
- 007

Demolition
- 008

Electrician
- 009

Excavating
- 010

Fencing
- 011

Firewood
- 012

For Sale
- 013

Garage & Estate Sales
- 014

Help Wanted
- 015

Home Improvement
- 016

Landscape & Mowing Services
- 017

Livestock & Pets
- 018

Lost & Found
- 019

Masonry & Stonework
- 020

Moving & Hauling
- 021

Painting
- 022

Plumbing
- 023

Pressure Washing
- 024

Real Estate For Rent
- 025

Real Estate For Sale
- 026

Repair Services
- 027

Roofing
- 028

Sand, Gravel & Soil
- 029

Small Business
- 030

Storage
- 031

Welding
- 032

Miscellaneous

RATES

\$10.75 A Week
16 Words or Less

- Over 16 words, add 40 cents per word.
- Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee.
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- All ads must be paid in advance unless you have previously established credit.

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254-865-5212

Reach more than 2,000 households with
advertising in THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER!

Nobody does it better!

000
Legal Word Ads

JONESBORO ISD

JONESBORO, TEXAS

JONESBORO ISD HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Jonesboro ISD High School Gymnasium will be received by Jonesboro ISD, at the office of the Jonesboro ISD, Front Office, 14909 E.State Hwy 36, Jonesboro, Texas 76538, until 2:00 PM local time on March 24, 2025, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. A general description of the work is as follows: The scope of the project includes a new 22,800 sf PEMB gymnasium. Interior spaces include an entrance lobby with seating area, concessions, and separate restroom facilities. The gymnasium area includes a main basketball and volleyball court and striped areas for (2) secondary full basketball and volleyball courts, (6) fold-down basketball goals, volleyball sleeves, and scoreboards, and maple sports flooring, and accessories typical for a competition level high school gymnasium. Home bleachers shall be fold-down seating with bench seating and visitor seating shall be bench seating only. Four locker/shower areas open directly off the gymnasium with centrally located coaches area and private restrooms. Other accessory spaces include a laundry/storage room, (2) classrooms, storage area, and fire riser room. All mechanical equipment to be located in the mechanical mezzanine above the coach offices and locker areas. The building includes all mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. Site work includes removal of existing trees for new parking area and driveway entrance connecting to State Hwy 36. The new parking lot also connects to the adjacent parking areas onsite. Bids shall be on a lump sum basis with Alternate Bid Items as indicated in the Bid Form. Bid Documents and Specifications may be obtained electronically by the prospective bidders or suppliers via email request to Crystal.Cowen@MRBgroup.com at no charge. Project ID Jonesboro ISD High School Gymnasium. Bidding Documents obtained from any other source are for examination only, are not considered complete, and are not valid for bidding purposes. Neither Jonesboro ISD nor Architect will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than those issued by the Issuing Office.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

MRB Group, PC
303 W. Calhoun Ave.
Temple, TX 76501

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held March 4, 2025 @ 10:00 AM local time at the Project Site located at 14909 East State Highway 36, Jonesboro Texas. Representatives of Owner and Architect will be present to discuss the Project as well as to tour the Jonesboro ISD High School Gymnasium site. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required. The Jonesboro ISD, Hamilton County, Texas, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informalities, or to make an award to other than the low bidder. It further reserves the right to limit the amount of the award and eliminate a portion of the work or add additional work as required to keep the total contract amount within the funds budgeted; to award any part or combination of parts of the project it deems necessary; and any other rights established under the laws of the State of Texas. Attention of the bidders is particularly directed to the requirements of the conditions of employment to be observed and minimum Wage Rates to be paid under the Contract. The Jonesboro ISD does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Owner: Jonesboro ISD

By: Ashley Suggs, Front Office Clerk

Dated: 02-23-2025

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Legal Word Ads

REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS
CORYELL COUNTY

Coryell County is soliciting proposals from a State of Texas-registered engineering firm to assist with pre-award and pot-award engineering services. Services will include a FEMA Hazard mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grant application(s) to include the development of preliminary and final design plans, and necessary interim and final inspections as required by the County. Please electronically submit your qualifications in .pdf format via email to brandon.belt@coryellcountytexas.gov. Qualifications must be received by the County no later than 2:00 p.m. on March 18, 2025, to be considered. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit qualifications and may award one or more contracts to one or more engineering service provider(s). Section 3 Resident and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit qualifications. Coryell County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Full RFQ available on County Website at coryellcountytexas.gov.

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., 2401 E. Main St., 1409 E. Main St., and 136 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 Saturday, March 8, 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, March 17, 2025 at 11 A.M. Units to be sold: Tonya Hoisington, Charles McCloud, Hunter Arnett, Levi Smith, Bryan Caviness. Inventory: Household goods, clothing, tools, and misc. items.

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Legal Word Ads

JENNIFER NEWTON
CLERK OF THE COUNTY
COURT
P.O. BOX 237
GATESVILLE, TEXAS
76528

ATTORNEY OR PERSON
FILING CAUSE
JOHN MALONE
5400 BOSQUE BLVD STE.
308
WACO, TX 76710

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF BOB MANNING AKA BOB DON MANNING AKA BOBBY DON MANNING AKA BOB D. MANNING, DECEASED. CAUSE NO. 25-11147, COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. CHARLES JACK MANNING FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 12TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SAID BOB MANNING AKA BOB DON MANNING AKA BOBBY DON MANNING AKA BOB D. MANNING, 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 24TH 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 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 OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

JENNIFER NEWTON
CORYELL COUNTY
CLERK
CORYELL COUNTY,
TEXAS

BY: K. TALLEY

013
Garage & Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE

1508 Golf Course Road, Gatesville, TX
Fri. & Sat., March 14 & 15 • 9am-3pm

Household Items, Outdoor Items, Tools, Dishes,
Washer & Dryer, & Lots More.

Gatesville Pickers Estate Sales

To schedule your estate sale, contact Debbie Buster at
(254) 223-1455.

013
Garage & Estate Sales

Spring has sprung on the Mountain. Huge garage sale! Saturday only, March 8, 7 AM until 1 PM. Vintage, new housewares, small furniture, small appliances, yard, men's stuff, home decor, kitchen items, women's clothes from XL to 2X, some new! We live 3 miles from Ranchers - use GPS for 228 Reno Rd., follow signs.

014
Help Wanted

013
Garage & Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE

1508 Golf Course Road, Gatesville, TX
Fri. & Sat., March 14 & 15 • 9am-3pm

Household Items, Outdoor Items, Tools, Dishes,
Washer & Dryer, & Lots More.

Gatesville Pickers Estate Sales

To schedule your estate sale, contact Debbie Buster at
(254) 223-1455.

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.

014
Help Wanted

**NOW
HIRING**



**Coryell
HEALTH
REHABBLING**
AT THE MEADOWS

- RN/LVN – FT & PRN; Night Shift
- Physical Therapist Assistant – FT & PRN
- Transportation Assistant – PRN

- COTA – FT
- Speech Therapist – FT & PRN
- CNA/NA – FT & PRN All Shifts

**** CNA Class starting June 16**


****Full time sign on bonus may be available with one year commitment for specific area's LVNS, CMAS & CNAS**

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

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

**Job summaries at
www.CoryellHealth.org**

**NOW
HIRING**



**Coryell
HEALTH**

**MEDICAL CLINIC
GATESVILLE:**

- SCRIBE
- CCMA
- LVN

**MEDICAL CLINIC
GOLDTHWAITE:**

- CCMA
- LVN
- REGISTRATION CLERK

CULINARY:

- COOK
- COOK ASSISTANT

EMS:

- PARAMEDIC – FT AND PRN

HOME HEALTH:

- RN – FT

- PRIMARY CARE ATTENDANT
- MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**
- HOUSEKEEPER

LAB:

- MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN – FT & PRN

RADIOLOGY:

- CT/X-RAY TECH – PRN; TDH MRT & ARRT W/1 YEAR EXP. IN CT/X-RAY

HOSPITAL:

- RN/LVN – FT & PRN
- RT:
- RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

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

BENEFITS OFFERED:

- Competitive compensation
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- 3 Br, 2 Ba Austin Stone Home, 378 Tom Sawyer St., Evant, renovated bathroom, large living room, all electric appliances in Kitchen, small storage shed, attached garage. \$188,000.
- 3 BR, 2 Ba home 520 E. Brooks St., Evant, Totally Remodeled, granite counter-tops, stainless steel appliances, and lots of cabinets. Large backyard, carport with storage, vinyl plank floor. \$196,000
- 3 Br, 2 Ba home, 202 Liberty St., Gatesville, TX, laminate wood flooring, vaulted ceiling-living room, fireplace, large backyard, storage shed, 2-car garage. \$245,000
- 5.078 ac, 369 PR 305 Lane, Gatesville, TX, Lot No. 4 Greenbriar Ranch Estates, North Greenbriar Creek, scattered tree cover, rolling terrain. \$120,000
- 9.9 Ac. with 3 Br, 2 Ba rock home 2580 CR 303, Hamilton, TX. approx. 3,900 sq ft of living space. Totally Remodeled, stainless steel appliances, breakfast nook, lots of cabinet space. 2 living area with a fireplace in both, large walk-in closet in Master bedroom, large patio, 37' x 33' workshop good tree cover. \$750,000
- 10.01 Ac. Lot 12 Ph 4, Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX, stock tank, road on three sides, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, \$142,500
- 10.01 Ac. Lot 49 Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Evant, TX, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, stock tank, water well w/solar pump. \$175,000
- 10.01 Ac., Lot 20 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX, good tree cover, great views, electric & fiber optic internet service, gated subdivision. \$98,000
- 10.01 Ac. Lot 3 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Rolling terrain, good tree cover, stock tank, seasonal creek. \$130,000
- 10.01 Ac. Lot 41 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. Good Tree cover, Rolling Terrain, Fiber Optic Internet. \$149,500
- 14.75 Ac. 2 Br, 2 Ba home, 3483 CR 138, Evant, TX, hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, covered back porch, attached carport, RV carport, storage build-ing, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, stock tank, water well. \$ 425,000
- 16.64 Ac. Lot N 31 PR 2902, Hamilton TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, fully fenced, electricity at the road. \$140,000
- 16.5 Ac. Lot 42 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX. good elevation, great views, good tree cover, Dry Branch, Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$189,000
- 20.02 Ac. Lot 25 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. Owner Financing Available. \$218,500
- 20.02 Ac. Lot 38 Ph 2 Rio Escondido Subdivision, Evant, TX, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$260,000
- 30.528 Ac. East of Evant, great views, scattered tree cover, small pond, electricity across the road, you will need to drill a water well. \$305,280.
- 41.0457 Ac. Hamilton, CR 404, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, approx. 25 acres farmland, 2 tanks, & good fences. \$399,000
- 50.24 Ac., 3 Br, 2.5 Ba 2-story home 2171 CR 419 Evant, TX. open floor plan, Vinyl plank flooring, kitchen, bedrooms are all upstairs with setting area, built in 2018, scattered tree cover. \$625,000
- 58.51 Ac. 3/2 frame home, 6630 FM 183, Evant, TX, water well, several outbuild-ings, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, 2 tanks. \$459,303
- 70 Ac. Ireland, TX, FM 932 and CR 186, Mustang Creek, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Electric & water meter from Multi-County Water. \$799,000
- 89.89 Ac. 3 Br, 2 Ba home, 1723 FM 591, Dublin, TX, Comanche County, open floor plan, laminate wood floors, covered front & back porches, 2-car attached car-port, 1 well, 2 stock tanks, metal building, 40 ft storage container, good tree cover, rolling terrain, 20 to 25 ac. of farmland. 22 KW Generac Home Generator. \$1,100,000
- 362.62 Ac. 4 Br, 2 Ba home South of Evant, TX on FM 183. Open floor plan, center island, rock fireplace, vaulted ceiling, tile flooring throughout the home, three screened-in porches, attached 2 car garage, workshop. The water supply for the home comes from a spring that is known as Tan Yard Spring, property has two other springs, 2 stock tanks, head waters of North Bee House Creek run though the property, 1 barn, three pastures, good fencing, good tree cover with rolling terrain. \$2,973,484

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2025

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Pecan Pie Muffins

PHOTO COURTESY OF ENVATO ELEMENTS

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

Pecan Pie Muffins

BY ELIZABETH BROWN

1 c. light brown sugar

2 eggs

butter, not oleo

1 c. chopped pecans

½ c. all-purpose flour

2/3 c. melted salted

Preheat oven to 350. Mix all ingredients in a bowl with a wooden spoon. Pour into a greased mini-muffin pan, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake 12 to 15 minutes. Makes 2 ½ to 3 dozen. Decorate each muffin with a pecan half. You can use a muffin liner for easy clean up.

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

Spinning some yarn...

BY DAVID SCOTT

Located on the second floor of the Coryell Museum and Historical Center, visitors can examine a rather large spinning wheel that was donated to the museum by William Craig Pender. It was used by his grandmother, Leah Turner. The hub of the wheel was made from a tree that was cut down in 1863.

For hundreds of years after the spinning wheel was invented in the 11th century, this talent was a staple of home life — and the Texas frontier was no exception. Almost every home had a spinning wheel that turned cotton and wool into thread and yarn.

A spinning wheel is a device for spinning thread or yarn from fibres. It was fundamental to the textile industry prior to the Industrial Revolution. It laid the foundations for later machinery, such as the spinning jenny and spinning frame, which displaced the spinning wheel during the Industrial Revolution.

The great wheel was one of the earlier types of spinning wheel. The fibre is held in the left hand and the wheel slowly turned with the right. Yarn is spun on a great wheel with the long-draw spinning technique, which requires only one active hand most of the time, thus freeing a hand to turn the wheel. The great wheel is usually used to spin short-staple fibres (this includes both cotton and wool) and can only be used with fibre preparations that are suited to long-draw spinning.

The great wheel was usually about five feet in height. The large drive wheel turns the much smaller spindle assembly, with the spindle revolving many times for each turn of the drive wheel. The yarn is spun at an angle off the tip of the spindle and is then stored on the spindle. To begin spinning on a great wheel, first a leader (a length of waste yarn) is tied onto the base of the spindle and spiraled up to the tip. Then the spinner overlaps a handful of fibre

with the leader, holding both gently together with the left hand, and begins to slowly turn the drive wheel clockwise with the right hand, while simultaneously walking backward and drawing the fibre in the left hand away from the spindle at an angle. The left hand must control the tension on the wool to produce an even result. Once a sufficient amount of yarn has been made, the spinner turns the wheel backward a short distance to unwind the spiral on the spindle, then turns it clockwise again, and winds the newly made yarn onto the spindle, finishing the wind-on by spiraling back out to the tip again to make another draw.

Currently, the museum is closed during the installation of a new elevator, but when it reopens, visitors can view the spinning wheel along with all the other exhibits located in the building.

The museum is located at 718 E. Main and has the largest spur collection in the nation, if not the world.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

An early day spinning wheel is shown, which is on display at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

Admission to the museum is free. Yearly, Coryell Museum memberships are \$20 for singles, \$30 for families, and \$40 for businesses, which also 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.



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Summer Sounds in Faunt Le Roy Park

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce and the City of Gatesville have announced a partnership to host a Summer Sounds event in the upper portion of Faunt Le Roy Park.

Summer Sounds is a free concert series happening on the last Saturday of each month from April through September from 7-9 p.m., with the first concert being April 26. Auditions are open to all ages, and anyone can submit

a video to be considered. While this is a volunteer opportunity to share Gatesville's talents with the community, there will be a reward for one winner. At the end of the season, the public will vote for their favorite Summer Sounds act, and the

winner will be showcased at the prestigious annual Chamber of Commerce banquet. Selected performers will be notified and assigned a performance date by Friday, March 21. To audition, send a

video of your performance through a direct message to the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page or email your audition to gatesvillecoc@gmail.com. All video submissions must be received by Monday,

March 10. Summer Sounds is currently searching for food truck vendors for the event as well. For further information, contact the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.

Senior Center hosts St. Patrick's Day 50/50 fundraiser

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Senior Center is hosting a St. Patrick's Day 50/50 fundraiser to help fund the Meals on Wheels program. Half of the proceeds from the fundraiser will be put toward day-to-day costs at the Senior Center and will benefit the Meals on Wheels program, and the other half

will be awarded to one lucky winner. Tickets for the fundraiser will cost \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. This is a cash-only fundraiser, and tickets can be purchased at the Senior Center, located at 208 North Lutterloh Avenue, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The drawing will take place on Monday, March 17, at 12 p.m., and the winner will be

notified. Senior Center Director Pam Rudolph said that fundraising has always been a part of keeping the center open. She mentioned that the 50/50 fundraiser idea came from Nutrition Supervisor Camilla Edge. Rudolph expressed that fundraising is vital to the success of the Meals on Wheels program as well, and

that it covers any gap left from federally funded reimbursement. She believes the Meals on Wheels program is important for a multitude of reasons. "It ensures that our clients are receiving proper nutrition; with proper nutrition, their health benefits greatly," she said. "We see our clients five days a week, so their

social needs are being met somewhat, and, because we see them daily, we know when something is off or wrong with them." The community can help support the Meals on Wheels program by spreading awareness, volunteering, making a donation, or doing a monthly sponsorship. The Senior Center has plans to host a few small

fundraisers and a second annual dance in the fall. Rob Williams and his band, Texas Connection, have also contacted the facility and are ready to hit the stage. For further information on the St. Patrick's Day 50/50 fundraiser, contact the Gatesville Senior Center at 254-865-8234.

Community Yard Sale & 42 Tournament to be held March 29

Staff Reports

On Saturday, March 29, a community yard sale and a 42 tournament will be held at the Turnersville Community Center.

The event will include activities for the kids as well as a bake sale and raffle items from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Raffle tickets will cost \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets. The yard sale will be from

8 a.m.-1 p.m. and will cost \$10 per booth. Pre-registration is required. Registration for the 42 tournament will be from 12:30-1 p.m. and will cost \$20 per player. The 42 tour-

namment will begin at 2 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and will include spaghetti or chicken spaghetti, salad, bread, and a drink for \$12 and \$8 for children six years old and under.

This is a bring-your-own-beverage event with no glass bottles or containers. For further details or to pre-register for either event, contact turnersvillestampede@gmail.com.

The Turnersville Community Center is located at 8113 FM 182 in Gatesville.

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GISD Student and Staff Spotlight

DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

During the Feb. 24 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, the GHS choir members and their directors were featured in the “Spotlight” and recognized for their noteworthy accomplishments.

GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard made the following observations:

The GHS choir set another program record with three students receiving All State Choir recognition. Achieving this accolade is the highest accomplishment a high school student can achieve in the world of choir. These three students have put in countless hours and months into preparing and auditioning to achieve this recognition. Thousands of students around the state start the process, but only 120 students make it to the All-State choir. Our three fantastic choir students are: Katie Hopson – 2nd Chair in Soprano; Paisley Wells – 2nd Chair in Tenor; and Memphis Wells – 3rd Chair in Bass.

This accomplishment would not be possible without the high-quality choral instruction they receive from head choir director Cherith Wells and assistant choir director Colleen Petty. Each year the choir program sets school records by receiving more awards and accolades than ever before, so we want to recognize the outstanding teachers as well.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Choir students and directors were honored. Pictures left to right, Dr. Barrett Pollard, Cherith Wells, Memphis Wells, Paisley Wells, Katie Hopson, and Colleen Petty.

Evant ISD to hold school bus fundraiser

Submitted by Evant ISD

The Evant Independent School District Heritage Foundation will launch a drive to raise \$50,000 for the purchase of new and more reliable school buses.

The school district has received a matching grant to purchase two new buses. The funds raised will help fulfill the district's matching 20% share, replacing old buses with more fuel-efficient models equipped with enhanced safety features.

The foundation plans to kick off the project in January with the goal of reaching its target by the end of the school year.

As part of the mission to support Evant ISD, the Heritage Foundation is introducing a new tier donation system to recognize donors for their continued support and generosity. Donors at each level will be prominently displayed in the Evant ISD Gymnasium and will be recognized on the school district's website.

Texas public schools have not received an increase in funding since 2019 and continue to operate with the same dollar-per-student formula despite 22% inflation. This fundraiser aims to ensure that state and federal funding continues to support the district's instructional expenses, while grants and donations cover the transportation expenses, which is so vital to our rural school system.

The foundation hopes the whole community will get involved in this effort, whether by donating or by spreading the word about the importance of the campaign.

“Together, we can make sure that our kids get to school safely, and that they have the opportunity to learn in a secure and reliable environment,” Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Ingram said. “We hope to see everybody come out and support this important cause.”

The foundation has set up an online donation platform on the school website www.evantisd.org, where the community may contribute directly to the cause or by mail at P.O. Box 133, Evant, TX, 76525. The fundraising drive will also include special initiatives at community events, letters to potential donors, and collection sites will be placed throughout the community so that it is easy to make a donation.

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

4-H Ambassadors volunteer at Care Center

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 13, 16 Coryell County 4-H Ambassadors visited the local Care Center to volunteer in honor of the National Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign.

The campaign brings awareness to the important challenge of local food insecurity and makes sure food charities in the United States have a support network to provide critical resources needed to help communities.

“I believe that if we make servant leadership the ‘norm’ for our youth, our community will greatly benefit, and the kids will understand how blessed we are,” Coryell County Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development, Becky Coward said. “In 4-H we pledge our ‘hands to larger service,’ which is the third ‘H.’”

Not only did the 4-H Ambassadors spend the day sorting through cans and packing boxes, but the team also managed to collect a little over \$600 in spare change to help purchase items needed and packed food boxes for the Care Center.

“By teaching service, I hope that our community will continue its generous ways for many generations,” Coward said. “I believe that this value must be taught at an early age, and 4-H provides a great avenue to teach this valuable attribute.”

She expressed that, with collecting pocket change, the ambassadors learned that little amounts add up and can make a big difference.

The 4-H Ambassador team leads community service projects year-round, hoping to make positive difference in the community.



The 4-H Ambassador team and Coryell County Extension Agent, Becky Coward, are pictured with Care Center Director, Deral McWhorter.



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

All scholarship applications must be turned in by April 4.

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

Clover Kids program offered to local youth



Clover Kids are pictured at the Feb. 20 event where they learned about the 4-H Talent Show.

COURTESY OF CORYELL COUNTY 4-H

Staff Reports

The Coryell County 4-H Ambassador team will host a Clover Kids event each month, which will be held on every third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Clover Kids will be 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 handicrafts.

Clover Kids will be held on 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.

Maxwell honored with dedication of Athletic Complex

Staff Reports

Jack Maxwell, a former educator and coach for Gatesville Independent School District, will be honored with a dedication ceremony at the Athletic Complex on Friday, March 21, at 4:30 p.m.

Maxwell attended Gatesville ISD for his entire public-school education and participated in each sport from seventh through 12th grade with football and track being his primary sports.

He later attended Tarleton State University and Sam Houston State University (SHSU) before being drafted by the United States Army in the fall of 1966. After two years of service, he returned to SHSU and graduated in 1970 with his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with a minor in Biology.

That same year, in 1970, he began his teaching career at the State School as a physical education teacher. He then transitioned to the junior high school at Palacios ISD where he was a science teacher and coach for three years.

In 1973, he returned to Gatesville ISD at the junior high school as a teacher and coach where he primarily taught science along with coaching football and track for the rest of his career.

Maxwell would become the junior high boys' athletic coordinator and was a part of the 2000 state championship football program. He later retired from the classroom in 2004 but worked part-time in the maintenance department until December of 2020.

In total, he has served over 50 years in education and was inducted into the Gatesville ISD Hall of Fame.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Marshall Street in front of the weight room. Gatesville High School is located at 205 Lovers Lane.

Oglesby ISD School Board honors LeBlanc



(left to right) Principal Casey Melton, Drake LeBlanc, and Superintendent Shane Webb

COURTESY OF OGLESBY ISD

Staff Reports

The school board of Oglesby Independent School District held its monthly meeting in February where they honored high school senior Drake LeBlanc for going above and beyond in all that he does.

"Drake embodies all of our Tiger Pride character traits and is a wonderful representation of Oglesby ISD," Oglesby ISD said in an online post. "Drake has a great work ethic, a positive attitude, and a willingness to learn."

LeBlanc was the first student at Oglesby ISD to enroll and participate in the TBI (Texas Bioscience Institute) program through Temple College. The TBI program will allow him to graduate early with an associates degree during the same month he will receive his high school diploma.

He is also involved in extracurricular activities, including the BETA Club and yearbook, along with serving as the FFA president.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce welcomed Montgomery Roofing as a Chamber member last week with a ribbon cutting. Montgomery Roofing is a local family-owned and operated, fully licensed group of Residential and Commercial Roofing Specialists. The company offers services such as storm and other roofing damage repairs along with maintenance and roofing installations.

GHS Dazzlers to hold tryouts April 17

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School drill team, the Dazzlers, will hold tryouts for their 2025-2026 season on April 17.

The Dazzlers will also welcome new coaches this year, Kari Patterson and Amanda Wolff.

A meeting for parents will be held on Thursday, April 3, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Gatesville High School. There will be information given regarding the location and times for upcoming practice sessions before tryouts along with everything you need to know about the new season.

Practice sessions will be held from Wednesday, April 9, through Friday, April 11, and from Monday, April 14, through Wednesday, April 16.

Join the Google classroom for more information, with the code: "WP2S7U4."

For further details, contact Gatesville High School at 254-865-8281.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

SPORTS
Roundup

The Gatesville softball team won the consolation championship in the Gold Bracket of the Franklin Tournament last week.

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

Gatesville Sends Two Powerlifters to State
The Gatesville powerlifting team had two girls qualify for state last week, and coach Jason Moffett said, overall, his team did very well.
“Today, 10 of our girl powerlifters competed in the Region 2, 4A Small Division Powerlifting Championships at Dublin High School,” Moffett said on Saturday. “Overall, we finished seventh in the team standings in a field of 18 teams.”
Kasey Fitzer and Shaylie Teague will represent GHS at the THSWPA State Powerlifting Championships in Edinburg on Friday, March 14, beginning at 8 a.m.
Fitzer finished third in the 114-lb weight class with 675-lb total, and Teague won the regional championship in the 148-lb weight class with a 925-lb total.

Evant Track and Field Team Competes at Lometa
Evant competed at the Lometa track and field meet this past week and finished with some good individual results.
Madison Barron (Long Jump - 11’ 2, Triple Jump - 24’ 5, 100 M. - 15.6, 200 M. - 34.54 – fifth), Brinlea Bates (Long Jump - 13’ 4 – PR, Triple Jump - 27’ 0 –second, 100 M. - 14.81 – fourth, 200 M. - 31.82 – third), Eloisa Garza (Shot Put - 18’ 7.75 - second JV, Discus - 49’ 6 - second JV, 100 M. -17.8, 200 M. - 36.6), Lexis King (Long Jump - 11’ 3, 100 M. - 15.63, 200 M. - 33.14 - fourth PR), Isabel Gandy (Shot Put - 25’ 3.5, Discus - 70’ 11 – fourth), Bree Ramirez (Discus - 98’ 8 - first PR), Molly Waldrum (Triple Jump - 25’ 5.5 – fifth, High Jump - 4’ 0 – second), Miranda Arellano (Shot Put - 13’ 9 - third JV, Discus - 27’ 8 - fourth JV), Marilyn Juarez-Sanchez (Shot Put - 19’ 1.75 - first JV, Discus - 43’ 3 - third JV), Edgar Dominguez (Long Jump - 14’ 7, Triple Jump - 29’ 3, 100 M. - 13.76 and 200 M. - 29.81 – sixth), Kenny Kuhl (100 M. - 14.5, 200 M. - 31.88), Elijah Lovius (100 M. - 13.76, 200 M. - 30.87), Tanner Manville (110 M. Hurdles - 18.3 – first), Kolin Montoya (200 M. - 30.43 – sixth, 400 M. - 1:06.9 - second PR), Dylan Price (800 M. - 2:30 – third, 400 M. - 1:00.74 – first),
Cash Stanford (Discus - 104’ 2 - third PR), Cooper Stanford (110 M. Hurdles - 22.28 – sixth, 300 M. Hurdles - 53.96 – second) and Texan White (Long Jump - 16’ 8, Triple Jump - 30’ 4, 100 M. - 11.96 – fourth, 200 M. - 25.23 – second) - All competed at Lometa.

Gatesville Boys and Girls Have Qualified for Playoffs
The Gatesville boys’ and girls’ soccer teams qualified for the post-season, and with two wins last week, coach James Campbell said the Hornets are in good shape.
The boys’ team played well this past week, winning in penalty kick shootouts against Stephenville 4-3 and Lampasas 5-4.
“We were led in both games by Oswaldo Leon scoring in each and a strong goalkeeper performance in the shootouts by Javier Bonilla,” Campbell said.
On the girls’ side, the Lady Hornets made good strides against Stephenville but came up short.
“In the game against Lampasas, Andrea Ortiz scored both goals, and we won 2-1,” Campbell said. “Lisa Hemesoet and Ally Penrod played good defense in the middle against Lampasas,

and Freshmen MJ Martinez and sophomore Kate Campbell set up Ortiz’s second goal with passing that we have been emphasizing on the training field.”

Oglesby Golfers Compete at Iredell Invitational
The Oglesby golf team competed in the Iredell Invitational last Monday, and coach Dylan Segundo said he had a couple of good results
Tucker Melton shot a 98 at the competition, and Kayson Campbell shot a 116.

Inclement Weather Affects Brownwood Tourney
The Gatesville baseball team was only able to get in two games this past weekend at the Brownwood Tournament because of bad weather.
Coach Chase Smith said his team played well in the shortened tournament and is off to a good start.
“We scheduled our tournaments so that we play quality teams every game, and that’s what we got in our two games Saturday,” Smith said. “Both our starting pitchers and defense performed really well in the tournament. Bradey James pitched against Lubbock Cooper Liberty and went 4 1/3 with four strikeouts to get the win. Brady Gist and Gehrig Keeton brought the offense going 2-3 while each scored a run.”
In game two, Miles Tull pitched a complete 3-hit shutout against Brownwood.
“He was able to keep them off balance and our defense played a great game,” Smith said. “Jastin Muegge and Brady Gist each had 2 RBIs in the game.”
The final record was 2-0 for the tournament for the Hornets, keeping them undefeated on the season.
“This has been the first time in more than 10 years we have started the season out 4-0,” Smith said. “We have an extremely tough schedule, so every game will be tough from here on out, which will hopefully get us ready to make another run in the playoffs.”

Tigers Track Team Competes at Valley Mills
The Oglesby boys track team competed at Valley Mills this past weekend, and coach Julian Helms said he was pleased with how OHS performed.
“The Valley Mills track meet went very well,” Helms said. “We placed first overall in the Varsity Boys Division, and we also placed second in the JV Boys Division.”
Holdyn Goff earned a new personal record of 10’6” in Pole Vault, and Kyler Fossett earned a new personal record of 6’4” in the high jump.

Lady Hornets Win Consolation Championship
The Gatesville softball team went 5-1 in the Franklin Tournament this past weekend and were consolation champs of the Gold Bracket.
“There were 32 teams in the tournament, and our only loss was in the first bracket game against Franklin by a score of 5-4,” coach Andrea Holdbrook said. “I’m really proud of the way the girls are starting to gel and buy into working as a team. I’m super excited about the direction we are headed.”
Holdbrook said she had a few standout efforts in the tournament.
“This weekend Amelia Langenstrass and Raylee Glover led the team offensively, going 10-15 and 10-17 respectively and contributed a home run each,” Holdbrook said. “Kallie Featherston was perfect in the circle with two wins, striking out nine and only allowing one hit and zero runs.”



The Gatesville High School Dazzlers attended the McLennan Community College’s Dance team’s workshop last week where they learned new routines and gained knowledge for next year’s season. Pictured (left to right) is Brooke Reavis, Chloe Corp, Bailey Wolff, and Maygen Glennon.

COURTESY OF HELEN GONZALEZ



HORNETS NEST
GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



RICKEY PHILLIPS

Athletic Director
Gatesville ISD
@RickeyPhillip12
on X

Boys Powerlifting regional qualifiers
GHS will have six lifters competing at today’s (Saturday) THSPA regional meet at the GHS Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium.
The half-dozen Hornet qualifiers include Kaden Coffman, Joe Cox, Brayden Mills, Logan Morgan, Dutch Nielsen, and Austin Pickle. Colby Aaron, Aiden Pankow, and Wacey Saunders are alternates.
Lifters that finish first or second in their respective weight classes, or reach a pre-set lift amount, will advance to the THSPA state meet.
Two girl lifters headed to state
A pair of girl lifters will be representing GHS in the upcoming THSWPA state meet, which will be held March 14, in Edinburg. Seniors Shaylie Teague and Kasey Fitzer will be carrying the Black & Gold banner after qualifying during last weekend’s regional competition.
Teague, who has won gold at every stop this season, was the regional meet champion in her weight class to secure a return trip to state, where she finished sixth a year ago. Fitzer finished third in her weight class but advanced due to her reaching a qualifying total. She also qualified for state in 2023.
GHS has now qualified at least one lifter for state competition in each of the last 15 years.
More spring sports
...Boys’ Soccer has clinched another playoff berth, their 10th postseason trip in the last 11 seasons.
...Girls’ Soccer has claimed a postseason spot as well and will be making a playoff appearance for the eighth time in the last 10 seasons.
...GHS Softball finished up a grueling three-week stretch of tournaments. The Hornets have enjoyed a nice start to the 2025 season and were 12-4-1 overall heading into this week. They will begin District 23-4A play March 18.
...GHS Baseball finishes its three-week tourney grind this week.
...JV Boys’ Track won their division at the Troy Trojan Relays, and the Eighth-Grade Girls’ Track team emerged as cham-

pions at the Marble Falls meet.
Notes and dotes
...Really appreciate the Gatesville Parks & Recreation Department, Gatesville Youth Basketball organization, Gatesville Track Club, and other local travel/select youth-affiliated groups that are helping coach, develop, and encourage the young athletes in our community. Participation numbers in these programs are off the charts right now. And thanks to those of you that help serve as coaches, officials, sponsors, parents...it takes everyone. If you want to see it in person, just take a drive around town on most weeknights or weekends.
...Ex-Hornet Ben Mabry is a member of the Howard Payne University men’s tennis team this spring. Ben dabbled in other sports during his GHS athletic career and picked up the sport of tennis later in high school. Needless to say, he was a natural at it. Ben is a great young man, too.
Upcoming key dates
March 10-14: Spring Break
March 17: GISD staff development day
March 18: Softball district opener vs. Connally
March 25: Baseball district opener at Lorena
March 26: Golf district tournament, 1st round
March 28: Tennis hosts GHS varsity tournament
March 31: GJHS Track district meet (Connally)
March 31: Golf district tournament, 2nd round
Upcoming schedule
Monday, March 10
Baseball: JV2 doubleheader at Stephenville
Golf: Varsity girls-boys at Glen Rose tourney
Wednesday, March 12
Golf: JV Boys at Salado tourney
Softball: Varsity-JV at Franklin
Thursday, March 13
Baseball: Varsity-JV at Madisonville
Softball: Varsity-JV here vs. McGregor
Friday,
March 14
Girls Powerlifting: Qualifiers at THSWPA state meet
Saturday, March 15
Baseball: Varsity-JV here vs. Temple

Hornet Fight Never Dies!

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

Pollard reaches major milestone in junior year

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Contributing Writer

In just her junior year, Gatesville forward Emma Pollard achieved a major milestone that most other high school players can only envy.
The Lady Hornets’ basketball player scored her 1,000th career point in what coach Whitney Holdbrook called a “big achievement” for the program.
“This shows how hard she works in every game,” Holdbrook said. “Emma was selected to the first team all-district and academic all-district teams.”
To make matters even better, the moment came during a critical district

game for Gatesville, and the response she received made it special for everyone.
“Emma’s teammates and coaches were very excited for her to achieve this milestone and be able to share the moment with her,” Holdbrook said. “It was made even better by being able to accomplish this in a district win against Robinson.”
For Pollard, 16, the accomplishment is especially impressive, given the fact that her shots are often highly contested and she is typically double or even triple-teamed.
“It took a lot of practice,” Pollard said. “But with the help of my coaches, I’ve been able to be success-

ful.”
But it did not come easy. Pollard, who also plays volleyball at GHS, said she trains constantly to become the best basketball player she can be.
“I play basketball during almost all my free time,” Pollard said. “Whether it’s shooting around after practice, or playing with my family at the goal at my house, I always make time to get extra reps. I think that was an important factor in the success that I have had in my career.”
The manner in which Pollard broke the 1,000-point mark could not have been better for the Gatesville forward either.
“I couldn’t have been

PLEASE SEE **POLLARD** | B5



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville junior Emma Pollard achieved a major milestone this year when she scored her 1,000th career point. The Lady Hornets’ forward achieved the mark during a game against district rival Robinson.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State Men’s Basketball knocks off ACU in front of sold-out Wisdom Gym crowd

The Texans own sole possession of third place in the WAC

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Men’s Basketball evened the season series in front of a raucous and sold-out Wisdom Gym crowd with a 67-52 victory over Abilene Christian on Thursday, Feb. 27.

The Texans (12-17 overall, 7-7 WAC) are in the sole possession of third place in the WAC after Thursday’s slate of games. The Wildcats (14-14, 6-7) find themselves tied with CBU and Seattle U for fourth place, a half-game behind Tarleton State for the third seed in the WAC Tournament.

Bubu Benjamin led the team with 16 points, 13 of those coming in the second half. Benjamin also added six boards and tied for the team lead with two blocks, his third two-block game this season. The sophomore made his only attempt from three-point territory and shot seven-for-11 from the floor.

Freddy Hicks scored 13 points and a team-high eight rebounds. He dished out four assists while adding a block in 33 minutes of action, his most this season. Hicks shot 50 percent from the floor, five-for ten. He needs just eight more points to record 1,000 points in his Texan career, the first Texan in the DI era to accomplish the feat.

“It means a lot for the team,” said Hicks on the victory. “We have been struggling a little bit and we are trying to get some momentum heading into the tournament. We play one game at a time and give it our best. The crowd helps us a lot and we appreciate everyone that puts their support in us, without them we couldn’t do what we

do.”

“He’s one in a hundred million,” said head coach Billy Gillispie about Freddy Hicks postgame. “He’s a really good kid and an honor to coach. All the fans love him here.”

Chris Mpaka scored 12 points with all of them coming in the first half. He added three boards and two blocks. Four of his points came from the free throw line with the other eight via two dunks, an alley-oop and a lay-up.

Jordan Mizell dished out a game-best six assists. He also added six points and six boards. Dantwan Grimes was the fourth Texan to score in double figures. The junior notched 11 points to go along with two rebounds, two assists and a steal. He shot a perfect five-for-five from the charity stripe.

Benjamin got the Texans on the board with the first bucket of the game. ACU led early using an 8-4 start to the contest. Mizell cut the Texan deficit to two after scooping up a defensive rebound and taking it coast to coast for the lay-in just over three minutes into the game. The Wildcats ran a pair of buckets in a row to take a 12-6 led, then it was the Mpaka show.

Mpaka brought down the house for the first time on the night with a massive dunk from the hands of Hicks. The junior needed just one hand and brought up the energy of Texan nation. He followed his dunk with a layup just a minute later to cut the deficit down to 14-12. Mpaka scored his sixth-straight Texan point with an alley-oop that sent the student section into pandemonium. Grimes flipped him a pass from the near

three-point land and Mpaka slammed it home with even more enthusiasm than his solo dunk.

That was all the momentum the Texans needed. On the very next possession after a Wildcat turnover, Grimes drove through traffic to make the bucket and pick up the foul. He converted the classic three-point play to give the Texans the lead they would never surrender. Grimes made his fifth-consecutive point on a layup just 50 ticks later.

Mpaka wasn’t done with his crowd-erupting dunks. The forward sent the crowd into hysteria for the third time with another one-handed slam. This time, the feed came from Mizell, to put the Texans up five on a 7-0 run. Grimes completed the 9-0 Texan run with a pair of free throws to give Tarleton a 21-14 advantage with 10:44 to go.

After ACU brought its deficit down to four, the Texans used a 5-0 run to bring it back to nine. Three free throws from Benjamin and Mpaka started the run. Then Mpaka blocked an ACU layup, where Benjamin sent an outlet pass to Izzy Miles who laid it in on the fast break to bring the Texan lead back to nine, 26-17.

With three minutes remaining in the first half, Hicks sunk his second triple of the season off a pass from Mpaka. On the very next possession, Miles grabbed a steal and took off downcourt and found Hicks who brought down the house with a dunk of his own. Miles found Hicks with a behind-the-back pass to set up Hicks for the flush.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Men’s Basketball evened the season series in front of a raucous and sold-out Wisdom Gym crowd with a 67-52 victory over Abilene Christian on Thursday, Feb. 27.

Keitenn Bristow gave the Texans their biggest lead of the half, 14 off a classic three-point play. Tarleton held the advantage into the break, 37-25.

The second 20 minutes, fared just as well for the Texans. Grimes scored first for the Texans, but was followed up by an ACU bucket, Then Hicks added another basket, but the Wildcats responded with two points of their own. The trend continued over the first six minutes of the second session with the Texans leading, 44-31.

Trailing by 13, ACU cut into its deficit with a mini 7-0 run across the next 70 seconds to bring the Texan lead down to six, their smallest of the

second half. But the Purple and White ran on their own 7-0 burst to lead 53-40 at the halfway point. Hicks scored on a lay-in and then Benjamin accounted for the next five. After a layup in traffic with help from Mizell, Benjamin sank a triple from the top of the arc as the shot clock expired.

Leading 55-45 with 8:40 to go, Tarleton State ballooned their lead to 19 with just under four minutes remaining on a 12-3 run. Benjamin accounted for four points while Hicks, Grimes, Mizell and Bristow each added two. Hicks found Bristow open on the other side of the court for a full court pass and Bristow dunk. This spurt

pushed the Texans to a 67-48 lead with 3:16 left in the contest. Tarleton did not score in the remainder of the game and held ACU to four points across the final three minutes. The Texans evened the season series and won their fourth-straight contest against the Wildcats in Wisdom Gym, 67-52.

The Texans won the battle of the boards, 37-23. In a battle of the top two teams in the country in forced turnovers, the boys from Stephenville won, forcing 19 while committing 16. Tarleton was called for just 11 fouls, its fewest as a team this season. The Texans got the job done in the paint outscoring the Wildcats, 44-28.



Tarleton State rodeo teams open spring season with wins

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Bareback rider Roedy Farrell, saddle bronc rider Coleman Shallbetter and goat tyer Tori Brower each captured first place as Tarleton State University’s men’s and women’s rodeo teams swept top honors at the Odessa College National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) spring season the first weekend of March.

Farrell, who scored a 168.5 on rides of 86.5 and 82 points, and Shallbetter, who posted a two-head 167.5, including a finals-best 84, led Tarleton State to a 585-point first-place outburst.

Brower flashed twin 5.8 times for an event-best 11.6 to pace the women’s 270-point effort.

Tarleton State saddle bronc riders snagged five of the event’s top seven spots. Following Shallbetter were Montgomery Parsons, who took third with his 83-79-162, fourth-place Waitley Sharon with an 81.5-79.5-161; a fifth-place 81.5-79-160.5 from Gus Gaillard and Cauy Masters’ seventh-place 74-79-153.

Steer wrestler Landris White turned in an 11.5 total on runs of 5.5 and 6 seconds; Mason Spain was fourth in bull riding with a two-head 152 on rides of 74 and 78 points; and Wyatt Crandall’s 9.6-10.0-19.6 was fifth in tie-down roping.

Four Tarleton State goat tyers were in the top five at Odessa as Brooklyn Balch turned in a 12.0 on runs of 6.1 and 5.9 for third and Keni

Labrum posted a 6.6-6.3-12.9 to tie with teammate Rylee Abel’s 6.2-6.7-12.9.

Hadley Tidwell was just a tenth of a second off the lead in the barrel racing finals, taking second with a 14.06-13.89-27.95. Balch’s 14.04-13.97-28.01 was good for fourth.

Breakaway roper Kallyn Snedecor’s 2.1 in the long go was a rodeo best. When added to her 12.1 in the finals, it gave her a two-head 14.2 and sixth place. Mallorie Fewell’s 12.8-2.3-15.1 was good for eighth.

Both Tarleton State teams are atop the NIRA Southwest Region standings with four stops remaining on the spring schedule. They will next see action in the March 27-29 Ranger College Rodeo in Sweetwater.

Tarleton State adds \$2.9 billion to Texas in economic impact

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University generated an estimated \$2.9 billion in total economic impact to Texas and \$1.7 billion for the region in FY 2022-23, according to an independent study by the global research firm Lightcast.

The study measured the economic impacts created by Tarleton State on the business community and the benefits that the university generates in return for the investments made by its key stakeholders — students, taxpayers and society.

“Centered around student success, we are expanding access, opportunity and affordability to life-changing education,” said Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley. “As our enrollment rises each year, we fill the workforce with more talented and driven Texans who change the world for the better. This directly impacts economic growth in our state.”

For FY 2022-23, Tarleton State alumni generated \$2.3 billion in added income for the Texas economy, equivalent to supporting 23,283 jobs. Much of the impact was felt regionally, where alumni produced \$1.1 billion in added income.

“Now, more than ever, the world needs more Tarleton State Texans,” said Dr. Hurley. “After receiving a world-class education and training during their time

as students, our alumni provide a transformative impact to employers. We are dynamic innovators ready to make a difference.”

In return for their investment, Tarleton State students receive a stream of higher future earning that will continue to grow throughout their working lives. On average, Tarleton bachelor’s degree graduates can expect to earn an undiscounted \$1.4 million more than high school graduates over their working lives in Texas. The benefits for a master’s degree graduate over a high school diploma are \$1.8 million.

The benefit-to-cost ratio for students remained strong, as for every dollar students invest in Tarleton State, they receive a cumulative value of \$6 in higher future earnings. That is an annual interest rate of return of 23.9%, more than double the U.S. stock market’s 30-year average rate of return of 10.1%.

Additionally, Tarleton State students will contribute a present value of \$229.6 million in tax revenue to the state government over the course of their lives.

The university also promotes economic growth in Texas in numerous ways.

With a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, many startup companies are created specifically to license and commercialize Tarleton State technology or knowledge. In FY 2022-23,

startup companies with a strong and clearly defined link to the school added \$361.3 million in income to the state economy, equivalent to supporting 4,308 jobs.

Research activities added \$23.2 million in added income for the Texas economy and construction spending \$21.9 million. Visitors delivered a meaningful impact to the region as well, with their off-campus expenditures accounting for \$37 million in added income. For student spending in the region, the total was \$72.6 million.

In rural communities across the Lone Star State, the total alumni impact was \$146.6 million, equivalent to 1,894 jobs supported.

“As we celebrate 125 Years of Excellence at Tarleton State, we also look ahead to a bright future,” said Dr. Hurley. “This report serves as a testament to the outstanding work contributed by faculty, staff and students. We are well on our way to being the premier comprehensive university in the nation.”

Data produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, along with academic and financial reports from the university, were among the sources that contributed to the study.

To learn more, visit www.tarleton.edu/impact.

Avery Basketball Playoffs



POLLARD
FROM PAGE B3

happier when I scored the basket that put me over 1,000,” Pollard said. “It was my first shot of the game against one of our district rivals and it resulted in an and-one. It couldn’t have been more sweet. Especially to have all my teammates and coaches cheering me on made it even more rewarding.”

Pollard said breaking the mark was the culmination of hard work and dedication. “I have put so much time and effort into improving both myself and my team, and it was so great to see it pay off,” Pollard said. “It really encouraged me to keep working hard and to play my absolute best every time I step on the court!”

Pollard said her biggest hope is that it encourages others to make their marks on the Lady Hornets basketball program as well. “I hope I can inspire my younger teammates to keep working and chasing their goals because I wouldn’t have reached mine if I didn’t give my best effort every day,” Pollard said. “I want them to continue to push themselves to be the best and to stay positive.”

For Holdbrook, the example Pollard sets for her younger teammates is undeniable. “Emma scoring 1000 points as a junior shows her current team and future teammates how hard you have to work to get this done,” Holdbrook said. “I believe she has made a great role model for Gatesville basketball current and future players. I have already heard some of the younger players saying they want to achieve the scoring milestone like Emma.

Avery Boys & Girls Soccer



GHS Athletics Hall of Fame inductees announced

Staff Reports

Gatesville Independent School District announced the inductees for the Gatesville High School Athletics Hall of Fame, class of 2025.

The hall of fame recognizes athletes, coaches, teams, and friends of the program who have either received significant recognition or have made contributions to the athletic program.

Inductees include Stanley Sims, athlete: From 1976-1980, Sims was a multi-sport

standout in baseball, basketball, football, and track. He earned numerous district and state accolades while competing for the Hornets and was a track state-meet qualifier.

Taurean Henderson, athlete: Another multi-sport athlete from 1997-2000, was a four-year member of the Hornet varsity football team. He still holds many Gatesville High School football records, including career rushing yards (6,340) and career touchdowns (75). Henderson went on to estab-

lish a fabulous gridiron career at Texas Tech University.

Tommy Fadal, coach: Fadal led the Gatesville High School girls' basketball program for 17 seasons, from 1987-2004. During his stint, the high school girls won several district championships and advanced to the playoffs more than a dozen times. Fadal will join the Hall of Fame alongside his 1995-96 team that advanced to the regional finals.

1995-1996 Girls Basketball Regional Finalists: The Gatesville High

School girls' cage team put together one of the best seasons on record. Coached by Tommy Fadal, the squad won district, bi-district, area, and regional semifinal championships before losing a hard-fought, heart-breaking game to eventual state-champion Groesbeck in the regional finals. The Lady Hornets finished, 29-6 overall that season.

1984-1985 Boys Basketball Regional Finalists: The Gatesville High School boys' cagers, coached by Dean Hollingsworth, advanced to the regional tournament fi-

nals. Along the way, the Hornets won district, bi-district, area, and regional semifinal trophies. Their season came to an end after a 51-50 loss to Dimmitt in the finals of the regional tournament, ending up 21-9 overall that season.

The 2024 Hall of Fame Induction Banquet will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, at Gatesville High School, located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

Oglesby Ag Mechanics students achieve great success

Staff Reports

Oglesby Independent School District's agricultural mechanics students recently competed at the San Antonio Ag Mechanics Show as well as the Hillsboro Ag Mechanics Show.

The judging and the awards won were based on workmanship, design, materials, documentation, research, presentations, the degree of difficulty, and safety.

San Antonio Results
Alisa Contreras: Daybed

swing, blue ribbon
Autumn Meyers: Outdoor bed, blue ribbon
Drake LeBlanc and David Mejia: Patio set, blue ribbon and second place in class
Jaxon Markum: Picnic table with a fire pit, blue ribbon
Aiden Oxford: Patio table

with fire pit, blue ribbon
Couper Wulfkhule: Lamb show rail, blue ribbon
Hillsboro Results
Autumn Meyers: Blue ribbon
Ronaldo Gonzalez: Blue ribbon
Hunter Ewing: Blue ribbon

and first place in class
Drake LeBlanc and David Mejia: Blue ribbon and first place in class and Reserve Champion in the Home Convenience Division
Agricultural mechanic projects teach technical skills, problem-solving,

and project planning while improving communication skills and providing hands-on experiences with mechanical systems, tools, and engineering concepts.



Oglesby ISD agricultural mechanics students are pictured at the San Antonio Ag Mechanics Show with agriculture teacher, Glenda Johnson (middle).

COURTESY OF OGLESBY ISD

GFD Visits Elementary

COURTESY PHOTOS

Gatesville Elementary School hosted special guests from the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department last week. Fire Chief Billy Vaden, along with other volunteer firefighters, made an appearance at the school to spend a VIP lunch with second graders.



★ Fundraiser ★

\$50K

\$45K

\$35K

\$25K

\$15K

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HELP EVANT ISD RAISE \$50,000 FOR TWO NEW BUSES!

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