



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | May 10, 2025

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Possible GISD bond election to be held in May 2026



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Proposed renovation of Gatesville Junior High, a new field house and a new press box was recently addressed at the monthly meeting of the GISD Board of Trustees.

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

During the April 28 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, the subject of a possible bond election in May of 2026 was discussed.

The potential bond would include an addition and renovations of the Gatesville Junior High, construction of a new field house, and a new press box.

Gatesville ISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett

Pollard said, "We are very excited to finally address some serious facility needs. Preliminary, the following items have a ballpark price tag of about \$23 million."

Pollard continued, "First, the junior high will turn 60 years old in 2026. We really need sixth grade to return to that campus from a curriculum and instructional standpoint. In addition, that campus needs a choir room, band hall, and theater classroom, so that our junior high students will no

longer have to walk over to the high school campus. The renovation will also address aging restrooms that are not ADA compliant, as well as the auditorium, which is not very functional. It would rid the junior high of the dilapidated portable buildings and connect the Mary Bishop Gym to the main campus."

He added, "The bond would also include a new field house because the current facility is in terrible condition. Finally,

the bond would add a press box and additional seating on what is now the visitor side of McKamie Stadium - so we could turn that into the home side so our fans would no longer be facing the setting sun. We are also looking at turf for the baseball and softball fields."

Concerning the cost, Pollard said, "We can raise up to \$26 million without increasing the tax rate. I am hoping that inflation and tariffs will not carry this

PLEASE SEE **GISD** | A5



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville Police Department's newest captain, Keith Mueller (left), is pictured during his swearing-in ceremony with Chief of Police Jeffrey Clark.

Gatesville native returns to serve his hometown

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Reports

Gatesville native and 1998 Gatesville High School graduate, Keith Mueller, has returned to his hometown to serve as captain of the Gatesville Police Department.

On Thursday, May 1, a ceremony was held in the city council chambers to swear in Capt. Mueller. His wife and son were also in attendance.

"It is a true pleasure to welcome Capt. Keith Mueller to the Gatesville PD family," Chief Clark said.

For the past 23 years, Mueller has served with the Temple Police Department. During that time, he was heavily involved in almost every facet of police life. He took on important roles in community policing, narcotic and the canine unit.

After serving as the sergeant over the Violent Crime Detective Unit, he was later promoted to lieutenant.

"Capt. Mueller had a very successful and distinguished law enforcement career with the Temple Police Department and truly wants to use that experience to assist in progressing Gatesville PD forward," Chief Clark said.

Upon learning of the opening of a captain's position in Gatesville, Mueller contacted Chief Clark regarding his interest in returning home to finish his law enforcement career in his hometown.

Chief Clark said Capt. Mueller holds a strong passion for community policing and serving his community, which made him a perfect choice for the position.

"He has received many commendations throughout his career for his community service and willingness to assist anyone in need," he said. "With the addition of Capt. Mueller to the command staff, we are now prepared to move forward, providing professional and community-oriented police services to the Gatesville community."

Capt. Mueller expressed that he is honored and truly blessed to serve the community where he grew up.

"I am excited to bring my experience to continue to build a great working relationship with the community," he said. "I am a strong believer in what you do, and how you do it is just as important as getting the job done."

OISD's next steps after \$9.495 million bond successfully passes

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Both propositions on the Oglesby Independent School District bond election ballot for \$9.495 million passed on election day, May 3. The proceeds are intended to be used for campus and department needs within the school district.

This is a great step in the right direction for Oglesby ISD and according to Superintendent Shane Webb, the last bond election was held around 2001 or 2002.

The bond election was presented to voters in two separate propositions.

PROPOSITION A: \$8,500,000

- New Career and Tech Facility: Will include two classrooms, a shop, an outdoor work area, and restrooms for agricultural mechanics and welding programs.
- Shared Multi-Purpose Field: For baseball, softball, and football practices and competitions.
- Land Reimbursement: Adding funds back to the district reserve for potential future projects.

PROPOSITION B: \$995,000

- Time Warrant Payment: Will reduce debt obligations payable from operation funding, adding \$88,000 annually to the district's yearly operations budget.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

It is estimated that Oglesby ISD will begin the design phase for its projects in four to five months. Construction planning will begin in three to four months, with hopes of construction beginning around January or February of 2026.

With the approval of

this bond, there will be a \$0.4241 cent I&S tax impact. Example: If a home was worth \$209,539 that would have an impact of \$38.71 a month.

Webb provided a list of short-term and long-term impacts for the school district following the bond passing.

SHORT-TERM IMPACTS

- Improved Facilities: Immediate classrooms, restrooms to enhance learning conditions.
- Boosted Morale: Visible investment in the school can raise morale among staff and students, showing that the community values education.

PLEASE SEE **OISD** | A5



Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 20 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 20 pages

INSIDE

From My Front Porch — A3 | Classifieds — A9,10 | Obituaries — A6 | Sudoku Puzzles — A4 | Zed — A5



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AgriLife Research to help reduce flood risks in Central Texas

Press Release

An ongoing watershed project led by Texas A&M AgriLife Research is working to reduce flood risks for residents in Coryell County and surrounding areas.

The 30-month project, launched in February and funded by \$4 million in disaster relief support from the Texas General Land Office, aims to mitigate long-term flood damage and strengthen community resilience associated with flooding in the Leon River Watershed and Cowhouse Creek Watershed.

“We hope to be able to predict floods before they happen,” Raghavan “Srin” Srinivasan, Ph.D., resident director of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Temple and the project’s lead investigator, said. “Modeling tools can potentially inform county residents in real-time based on weather conditions and help county officials plan and respond to flooding more effectively.”

Srinivasan is a distin-

guished professor and regents fellow in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology and director of the Spatial Science Laboratory.

COMPLIMENTING AGRILIFE

Research’s engineering and modeling efforts in the project, the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University will coordinate community engagement to support local voices contributing to final policy proposals presented to local, state and federal officials.

The watershed modeling project will support long-term floodwater planning within the Leon River Watershed and Cowhouse Creek Watershed, where 450,000 Texans live and rapid population growth continues.

TOOLS TO REDUCE FLOOD RISKS

The watershed is primarily



COURTESY PHOTO

Coryell County has experienced repeated flooding over the years.

rural in upstream Eastland, Comanche and Hamilton counties, and transitions into heavily urbanized areas in downstream Coryell and Bell counties, including the growing cities of Gatesville, Killeen, Temple and Belton. The 475,000 population in those areas is projected to exceed 700,000 by 2045, with flood-prone areas including subdivisions, cattle-grazing pastures and parts of Fort Cavazos.

Coryell County has expe-

rienced repeated flooding throughout the years, including the most recent event in spring 2024.

Srinivasan said the goal of the project is to provide county commissioners with watershed information to help create and incorporate an advanced flood warning system. Additional stream-level sensors and rain gauges will be placed to augment existing instrumentation to support the project and advanced warning system.

Watershed models could also inform decisions about infrastructure modifications to reduce the impact of flooding on residents.

“We need to be deliberate, and really listen to people, and make sure that people are comfortable with what could be done and trust it’ll be done correctly,” Arnold Vedlitz, director of the Bush School’s Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy, said.

Vedlitz also said the ultimate goal is to create a blueprint for turning science-backed solutions and community perspectives into actionable policies, something that could benefit other communities across Texas and beyond.

“We want this to be transferable,” he said. “We hope what we learn can help people around Texas and the country.”

THREE MAJOR CHALLENGES

The project supports three major components to address some of these challenges:

Develop surface and groundwater flow models for flood and water supply evaluations;

Assess, develop and implement flood mitigation strategies; and

Evaluate and propose flood-related policy improvements.

Srinivasan said water flow models will support real-time flood prediction tools which will extend warning times to residents in at-risk areas. The models will also help assess future water supply conditions for public planning and consideration of population growth.

“Computer modeling will help us predict flood intensity and water depths based on rainfall within the watersheds,” he said. “This predictive capability will help protect lives, prevent property loss and help county officials make informed decisions about infrastructure and emergency preparedness.”



COURTESY PHOTO BY ELENA SPATZIER

Kathy Upshaw is pictured after receiving the Yard of the Month award for May.

KGB Yard of the Month for May

Submitted by Rosemary Whittle

The home of Kathy and Jim Upshaw, located at 401 7th St., is the recipient of Keep Gatesville Beautiful’s Yard of the Month for May.

The Upshaws have lived in Gatesville since 2018, when they moved here from Graham. They first remodeled the white framed house on the inside, and then, about two years ago, Kathy started working on what is now a truly beautiful yard. Her creation, which she says had no particular plan but just evolved, evokes a cottage garden vibe.

Interspersed in the meandering rock pathways and terracing are a myriad of native plants, including a multitude of purple and yellow Irises, several large and very fragrant rosemary plants and lots of tall, purple mealy-cup sage. Other beauties are yellow, orange and magenta nandina and salvia, both red and white, pink dianthus, ajuga and purple Russian sage.

Walking through this idyllic garden awakens the senses through colorful blooms, wafts of fragrances and the low hum of buzzing bees. The ecosystem is an at-

traction for pollinators of all kinds; bees and butterflies flit from one pollen cup to the next.

A decorative concrete bench graces one of the pathways, and on the ground not far from there, Kathy placed a cute toad house for her amphibian garden visitors.

Behind the house, Jim and Kathy have created a unique space including a vegetable garden, fruit trees, a shed/workshop for Jim’s tools, antique memorabilia and a chicken yard and house made from leftover wood from when the house was remodeled.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Luke Jackson and Alexandra Meelbusch

Meelbusch/Jackson engagement announced

Alexandra Carol Meelbusch and Luke Aaron Jackson, both of Gatesville, recently announced their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Susie Meelbusch of Gatesville and Andrew Meelbusch of Colorado. She is the granddaughter of Andra Powell of Gatesville, Dixiana and Michael

Meelbusch of Little River Academy, and the late Wayne McDaniel. She is a 2021 graduate of Gatesville High School and is currently employed as a reporter at The Gatesville Messenger and as a waitress at The Feed Mill.

The prospective groom is the son of Les and Jodi Jackson of Turnersville and the grandson of Brenda

Hoherz of Ireland, Jimmy and Micky Jackson of Turnersville, the late Gene Hoherz, and the late Linda Jackson. He is a 2017 graduate of Jonesboro High School and also a graduate of Texas State Technical College. He is employed by the City of Gatesville as a water plant operator.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Is the ‘dream’ becoming more and more of a nightmare?



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

Once upon a time, young people in the United States would think about the future and picture themselves as having a successful and prosperous career, raising a family, and then retiring to a life of leisure and relaxation.

Much of that thought process reflects the basic tenets of the American dream that anyone, irrespective of their plight or hardships, can overcome and achieve a place on the victory stand of life. Generally, Americans have been optimistic and enthu-

siastic about the future for generations. It is hard for the 68-year-old me to recollect my mindset in high school and accurately gauge my feelings, but what I do recall were the lessons my parents provided: to work hard, to be honest, to do the right thing and to study hard. They

drilled into me that I had the potential to do anything and be anything I wanted to be, and I could enjoy the benefits and rewards associated with my accomplishments. There was every reason to be optimistic about life. Before my generation, my family had been farmers and ranchers. They had suffered through the Depression, the consequences of bad weather, poor commodity prices and a lot of other obstacles. My family explained to me that even in the toughest of those times, there was food to eat, work to be done, and pride in knowing that once endured hardship would pass and good things were on the horizon. There was always optimism. My grandparents lived through those hardships to see the family improve their plight in life. They were proud that their children were the first in the history of the family to all gradu-

ate from high school. They even witnessed some of their offspring get a degree from a university; one earning an appointment to West Point. All four of their children had successful careers either in education, banking or as business owners. Each raised families and were married over 50 years. They were all active in their churches and their community. They believed in the American dream and saw the hard work and dedication pay off. They knew there were still hardships and bumps to be faced, but opportunity abounded and the future burned bright. Today’s world does not seem to have the same optimism that was once shared across our land. People seem to work longer and harder for less and less. While a small percentage of people who find themselves at the very top see their portfolios increase dynamically,

the middle class keeps losing ground in real buying power and their opportunities erode like the banks of a shallow creek bed. Our society has changed, and instead of thinking of the common good, we seem to be way too focused on “what is in it for me and the heck with everyone else.” The cost of housing, the lack of upward mobility, health care expenses and educational costs are making the American dream an optimistic image of the past, not an encouraging beacon for the future. More and more of the middle class are losing the dream of home ownership, of retirement, even the hope that Social Security will still exist when it comes time for them to collect on what they have paid in. It has always made good sense that if a person feels like complaining or finds fault with a situation, they have a responsibility to offer

a solution for change. I wish there were an easy answer to all our problems and a way so that, in the snap of fingers, the future would once again burn bright. Finding a solution will be complex and difficult. My only suggestion is that we must stop seeing each other as enemies or at least view each other as Americans with unified goals and aspirations, and not as a member of one political party or the other. The American dream will continue to become more and more dim until we find a way to come together behind a vision for the future. My prayer is we find the path to unity quickly, before it is too late. Thought for the day: When I was young, I was really poor, but after all these years of hard work and dedication, I am now no longer young. Until next time...I will keep ridin’ the storm out.

Bringing the library to you with the Homebound Program

ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Public Library has established 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 Public Library Director Shea Harp said during the summer, the library noticed many patrons went from visiting the library in

person to depending on family, neighbors and friends to receive new books. She mentioned 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. The library currently has four people enrolled in the homebound program. Call the library to enroll

in the program 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.

The Gatesville American Legion Post Unit 42 to host two events

Submitted item

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 will host a garage sale May 9 and May 10 at the Bobby Dean Hall at

214 Watts Lane in Gatesville. The Sons of the American Legion Post 42 will host a crawfish boil starting at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 10, while

supplies last. In addition to catfish, they will serve sausage, potatoes, corn and mushrooms. Cost is \$20 per plate.

The public is invited to attend.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 to host Catfish Tournament

Staff Reports

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 of Gatesville will host its first Catfish Tournament

Saturday, May 17, at the Blora Hideaway Pavilion located at 7999 Sparta Road in Belton. Registration will open at

6 a.m. The event will be rod and reel. The cost will be \$160 per boat with a maximum of three adults. It will also include \$70 per bank

fisher. Children are admitted for free when accompanied by a paying adult. Lunch and drinks will be available for purchase.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeffrey Clark

Say hello to our neighbor, Jeffrey Clark!

Jeffrey Clark has served our community as the Chief of Police for the Gatesville Police Department since he began his tenure in December of 2024. “There are so many things that I could consider as being the best part of my job,” he said. “The men and women of the Gatesville Police Department have been excellent and are striving to provide professional police services to the community. Working alongside them and planning the future of the department has been amazing.” He said there is much talent within the department, and that shows him the future ahead is very bright. “The willingness and desire of the members of the department to engage in community-oriented policing makes me very proud to lead this department and to be a member of this community,” he said. “With that said, being able to meet the citizens of Gatesville has been one of my favorite things so far as well.” Chief Clark served as deputy chief at the Temple Police Department and has more than 31 years of experience in law enforcement, with more than 12 in a command-level position. Since relocating to Gatesville, he said his favorite thing about our town, without a doubt, is the people. He said the community has been polite and open to accepting him and his family, and within the first few days of starting his new role, it became very clear his family wanted to move here and be members of this city. “Shortly after moving in, one of our neighbors brought us a welcome to the neighborhood plant and card,” he said. “That rarely takes place in most areas these days, and it goes to show the generosity and the type of people that make up this community.” Jeffrey reads The Gatesville Messenger and says that many of the stories each week highlight the community and keep locals up to date on the exciting events taking place in our town. “The stories are positive and show the wonderful things members in this community are doing,” he said. If you happen to see Jeffrey around town, say hello! He is one of us!

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TUMBLEWEED SMITH

American Idol outside America



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Jeff Aresty moved from Boston to Waco in 2021. He says people in Boston and those in other parts of the world think of only two things when they think of Waco: Fixer Upper and Branch Davidians.

“Unfortunately, that’s not the view that people should have. The view of this city is just amazing once you live here for a couple of years and start looking around,” he says.

Jeff has staged talent shows for young people all over the world. In Boston, he was an international business attorney and developed contacts all over the world.

“It turned out to be an op-

portunity to go to difficult places and create opportunities for young people. It turned out to be mostly art programs.”

He did one in Haiti in conjunction with a group called the Turquoise Mountain Foundation from the British Isles.

“And we created like American Idol online. We went there in 2008, 9 and 10 right after the earthquake and we ran contests. We

were able to recruit a whole bunch of talented young people in Port Au Prince to show up for our contest. We got local judges and then I got a lot of young folks from Boston University to help. We had video equipment and recorded the top twenty people in the contest like American Idol and the local judges said these are the top ten. Then we went to Facebook. My young team figured out how to create the contest online using Facebook tools. Thousands of people voted, and a winner was selected. The winner was a young man named Juanito, and we replicated that many times. The kid is famous now all over the east coast where Haitian immigrants live because his work was all over the place.”

Jeff did art projects in Afghanistan where the US Army gave him protection.

“It was much more challenging there. We built incredible relationships, but it was more of a learning experience than anything else. Probably the

image that stays with me more than anything else is a grand piano in the middle of rubble in a torn-up field and a young man playing Mozart as I’m walking by. It’s very difficult for me to think about that these days. Youth all over the world just keep their hopes alive any way possible.

“In working with youth, it’s always about finding the right relationships. Sometimes you can do it through the public setting but more often than not, it’s through the private settings. There’s a lot of private programs working with youth. We would be in these places a couple of weeks at most, so we had to move quickly.”

He is working with a program at Baylor called the Innovation Collaborative. It has a three-story building. Jeff and others want to fill it with innovative types of businesses. “I would love to see a digital story telling business there working with the Taylor Museum here and the city of Waco and the county.”

SUDOKU

Puzzle answers from the May 3 2025 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

5		7			2			
		9	7	1	4			
4	8	1						7
9		4					3	
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3						5	7	9
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HHSC observes second annual Healthy Texan Week

Staff Reports

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is kicking off its second annual Healthy Texan Week May 5 through May 11, by highlighting resources for helping Texans embrace healthy living.

“During the second annual Healthy Texan Week, Texans are encouraged to go out and take control of their health,” Gov. Greg Abbott said. “From preventative care to nutrition and physical fitness, the state of Texas has many programs for Texans and families to participate in to promote a healthy lifestyle at any stage of life. By making healthy decisions, we will create a better, healthier Texas for generations.”

Throughout Healthy Texan Week, HHSC is showcasing family-friendly events across the state, promoting wellness and nutrition.

“We encourage Texans to participate in Healthy Texan Week events near them to learn fun ways to incorporate nutrition and wellness into their daily lives,” Summer Stringer, HHSC associate commissioner of Community Access, said. “Cooking demonstrations and games will show how to make their favorite foods healthier and emphasize how little changes can make a big difference in their family’s health.”

Healthy Texan Week is organized by HHSC SNAP-Ed, which helps people optimize their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and teaches them how to plan and prepare healthy meals on a budget while staying active.

HHSC offers a variety of programs that support Texans’ health at every age, including:

Healthy Texas Women of-

fers free breast and cervical cancer screenings, contraception, pregnancy tests and other women’s health and family planning services to eligible, low-income women; Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide health coverage for low-income children, families, seniors and people with disabilities;

Texas WIC helps families forge healthy habits by providing nourishing food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding support at no cost to eligible pregnant women, breastfeeding moms and families with children younger than 5. A full library of live and on-demand classes covers everything from smart snacking to breastfeeding tips to managing stress; and

Texercise provides free physical activity and nutrition resources to educate, motivate and engage adults

45 and older.

The Texas Family Resources website includes a resource hub to help families find services like child care, child support and adoption services. Additional HHSC programs focus on managing chronic kidney disease, hemophilia, epilepsy and preventing serious health conditions.

Visit goodfoodgoodmove.org for more information about Healthy Texan Week and how to find a local community event. To learn more about SNAP food benefits and connect to healthy recipes and other SNAP-Ed resources, visit the HHSC food services website.

Texans can also visit the HHSC website at hhs.texas.gov to find services that help with aging, disability, behavioral health and intellectual or developmental disabilities.



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GENERAC



EISD announces Board of Trustees preliminary election results

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Evant Independent School District’s Board of Trustees Election Day was held Saturday, May 3.

PRELIMINARY ELECTION RESULTS

Three-Year Term: Curtis Williams, 31; Lauren Goins 36; Lura Taylor, 56; Vernon McCann, 50

Two-Year Unexpired Term: Katie Teubner, 52

Total Number of Votes Cast: 66

Total Number of In-Person Votes Cast on Election Day: 38

Total Number of In-Person Votes Cast during Early Voting: 27

Total Number of Votes Cast by Mail: 1

Total Number of Provisional Ballots Cast: 0

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Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2005)

Gatesville I.S.D. lost its appeal on state property values.

Death row inmate Francis Newton was set to be executed on Sept. 14, 2005.

Luker Studio in Hamilton advertised “Senior Portraits.”

Coryell Community Church and Friends sponsored “The Master’s Sportsman Fellowship” at Andy’s Restaurant.

The Rediant Royalties, of Gatesville, celebrated National Red Hat Day.

30 YEARS AGO (1995)

Gatesville voted in favor of legalizing bingo.

The 33rd Annual Wildcat Antique Show and Sale was held at the Coryell Activities Complex.

Elke Hoherz achieved valedictorian status at Jonesboro I.S.D.

Pat Tebo, director for the Gatesville Mental Health/ Mental Retardation (MHMR) Center, recognized volunteers for their “dedication to mental health and mental retardation.

Buns Bunny was in Gatesville to promote his new children’s book, “Buns Travels Across America.”

40 YEARS AGO (1985)

Central Texas College, in

cooperation with Gatesville I.S.D., was set to begin offering college classes.

The Gatesville High School Stingettes presented “Rockin’ at Midnight.”

Hamilton Church of Christ welcomed people to listen to their radio program each Sunday morning.

Wal-Mart advertised a “Super 14K gold add-a-bead promotion.”

The Hilltop and Gatesville

units of the Texas Department of Corrections were set to co-sponsor a mixed-team softball tournament to benefit the Texas Sesquicentennial Celebration.

50 YEARS AGO (1975)

The U.S. office of Education approved a \$70,329 payment to Gatesville I.S.D. that would be spent to meet general op-

erating costs.

A public reception was scheduled to honor school administrator Sidney L. Pruitt, who was stepping down as Gatesville High School principal.

Live Oak Baptist Church invited the public to a “Lay Renewal Weekend.”

Powell Chevrolet Co. advertised the Monza Towne Coupe as “Nimble!”

PEARL NEWS

Large turnout reported at Pearl Bluegrass event



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Absolutely “tons” of people have reported an outstanding weekend at the Pearl Bluegrass event and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day last week. Jammers enjoyed playing together both Friday night and during the day Saturday, and the stage show hosted many bands playing various kinds of acoustic music.

As a matter of fact, if you have an acoustic band that performs bluegrass, western, western swing, gospel, folk, old country or even country, go to Pearl to the Pearl Community Center June 7, sign your band up on the board in the hallway and play for a wonderful audience who enjoys all kinds of acoustic music. You can find out more by visiting Pearl Bluegrass Jam Facebook page.

Mr. Scott from The Gatesville Messenger attended the Pearl event last Saturday with his son, Alex. Alex loves the food from the Bluegrass Kitchen, and right-ly so. The duo also enjoyed seeing many young musicians from Waco who were

enjoying the jamming ... and the food. David, aka Mr. Scott, and Alex visited the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and were delightfully surprised to see Linda Ray there. David loved seeing Linda “in her element” working the crowd as her joyful self always does, hugging and loving on everyone she encountered! Yes, those kinds of actions sell books (and there are a plethora of books and other items to choose from), but they also reflect the genuine love Linda has for mankind. There's no one like Linda Ray, and there's no place like Pearl.

The Pearl Church of Christ reports an attendance of 74 sweet souls last Sunday, including the seniors who

received scholarships on that Scholarship Sunday. Following the service with Chris Halpayne speaking, nine adorable high school seniors received scholarships in memory of early leaders of this church. After the presentations, a delicious lunch on the grounds was served along with a giant celebration cake. No one in Pearl had an excuse to go hungry this past weekend. Thank you and God bless you to all who made this day possible. I can't say it enough — there's no place like Pearl.

The Pearl Church of Christ has announced the dates for its annual VBS this year from 9 a.m. to noon each day May 28 through June 2. Everyone is welcome. Bring a carload

of kids for a great day in Pearl.

This week's Bible verse comes from Philippians 4:4 — Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. NIV

“If we can't find joy where we are, we probably won't find it anywhere.” A quote from “Home to Harmony” by Philip Gulley, Harper Collins, 2002

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page, the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page, and the Pearl Bluegrass Jam Facebook page. Please submit any Pearl news to betsy-clark47@yahoo.com.

GISD school board approves new fencing at Gatesville Primary and Elementary

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

During the April 28 meeting of the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees, the subject of fencing around Gatesville Primary and Elementary schools was addressed.

In the school board's agenda, it was said additional fencing continues to be a high priority for the district from a safety standpoint.

It was shown in the agenda the current fence separating the primary playground from Business 36 is getting old, and there was a need to increase the height of the fence from 4 feet to 8 feet.

It was recently reported a primary student had scaled the fence at a rapid pace, which might be the first time in the school's history this had occurred. It was reported the student was quickly retrieved, but the school board realized this is an obvious safety risk.

The school board also agreed having a fence 8 feet in height would be a much greater impediment for anyone wanting to get in or out of that area.

Additionally, the board would like to insert a 6-foot fence at the elementary school to separate the car lanes from the playground



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GISD Fencing

area. They would also replace the 4-foot fence that separates the playground from the back parking area with a 6-foot fence.

According to GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard, the school board approved the cost of the new fencing around the primary and elementary schools. Pollard said, “The fence at the elementary has been discussed for several months now internally because we wanted a barrier between the students on the playground and the cars that drive in the pickup/drop off lanes. We have also discussed the foot traffic of adults from McDonald's to Walmart for a couple of years now and the

possible need for a higher fence. However, the student scaling the fence is what prompted the immediate decision.”

The school board recommended adding a taller fence from the administration building to the baseball field and then from there to the primary school, creating a barrier for all pedestrians so they could not enter the primary school's property from Lover's Lane to Hornet Way.

The primary fence project is estimated to cost \$46,117, while the elementary/administration fence project would cost \$39,573.

Work on the fencing projects should begin as soon as the school year ends.

GISD

FROM PAGE A1

project past the \$26 million price tag.”

Gatesville resident and Huckabee architect, Brent Winkler, provided estimates of the cost of the future building projects:

1. New junior high band hall, choir room, and theater room with staff and student restrooms. Cost: \$4.2 million
2. Remove junior high portables, replace those four rooms, and connect the main building to the Mary Bishop Gym: Cost: \$1.8 million
3. Complete renovation of the current junior high auditorium for better lighting, sound, and seating. Cost: \$750,000
4. New field house located behind current visitor's side of the stadium would house all boy athletes except tennis. Cost: \$7.7 million
5. New press box at McKamie Stadium on what is currently the visitor side along with 1,000 additional seats. Cost: \$550,000
6. Add 6th grade to junior high -ten classrooms, four student restrooms, two staff restrooms, two administrative offices, and two inter-

vention rooms. Cost: \$4.1 million

7. Cafeteria would expand into existing library and a new library would then be built. Cost: \$2 million
8. Update the three existing girl/boy student restrooms found in the main three hallways. Cost: \$405,000
9. Add parking lot in the grassy area currently located in the front of the junior high. Cost: \$375,000
10. New turf for existing baseball field. Cost: \$800,000. New baseball bleachers and baseball press box. Cost: \$250,000.

OISD

FROM PAGE A1

- Student Retention

LONG-TERM IMPACTS

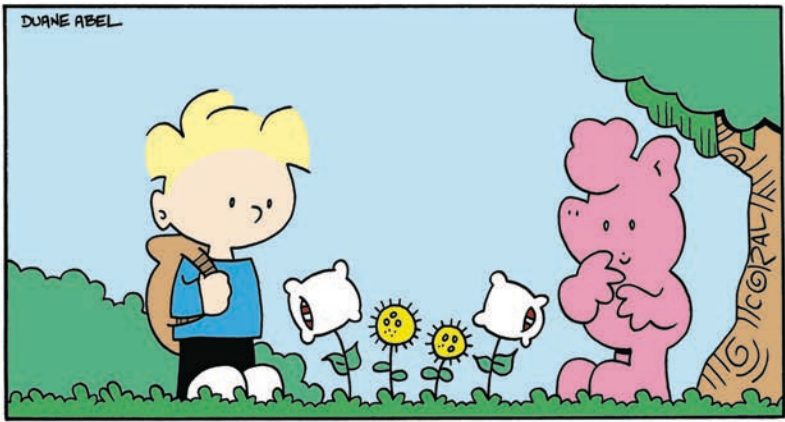
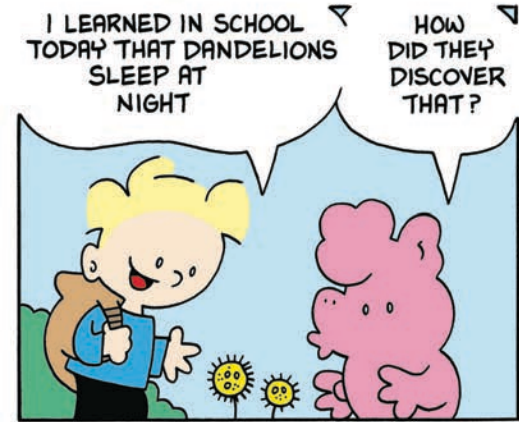
- Enhanced Learning Environment: Modern, safe, and well-equipped facilities can support deeper learning and better academic performance.

- Teacher Retention and Recruitment: Updated infrastructure and resources make the district more attractive to current and prospective educators.
- Community Growth: Stronger schools often lead to community growth, and increased enrollment.

For further information, visit oglesbyisdbond.com.



ZED by Duane M. Abel



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OBITUARIES

Cecil Lee Bone
Sept. 13, 1948 – April 30, 2025

Cecil Lee Bone, 76, of Gatesville, passed away Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at his home on the Bone farm.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, May 5, at Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville. Interment followed at 4 p.m. Monday, May 5, at Old Columbia Cemetery in West Columbia.

Cecil was born Sept. 13, 1948, in Gatesville, to Robert Pratt (Pat) Bone and Henry Etta Edwards. He attended the University of Texas, graduating proudly in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts with high honors.

Cecil retired in 2003 from Army Test and Evaluation Command. He married Suzanne Trull in 1988. Cecil enjoyed spending time running marathons, running cattle, fostering cats, and being a member of Pecan Grove Baptist Church, where he taught Sunday school for many years.

He was preceded in death by his father Pat Bone and his wife Suzanne.



Cecil is survived by his mother, Henry Etta Bone; brothers, Bob Bone, Joe Bone, and wife, Glenda; sister, Patti Bone and husband, James Dobbs; and nieces and nephews, Rachael Coe, Ben Coe, Mike Bone, Jessica Bone, Amanda Daly, Reid Daly, Zane Bone, Payton Williams and Tillman Williams.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Georgetown Area Parkinson's Support Group (GAPS) at gapstx.org/donate, 1530 Sun City Blvd, Suite 120, Georgetown, Texas 78630.

CCGS to view Roots
Tech program, May 13

Submitted by Sherry Lawrence

The Coryell County Genealogical Society will return to their usual meeting site at the Gatesville Public Library for their meeting Tuesday, May 13, at 6 p.m.

RootsTech is the premier conference for genealogical research, hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Salt Lake City, Utah, each year. For those unable to attend in person, most of the programs are available online after the conference concludes, and the CCGS members will take advantage of this resource for our program.

Addressing brick walls,

the unresolved obstacles encountered by genealogists in their effort to add earlier generations to their family tree, is one of the most challenging problems in genealogical research. The 2025 RootsTech program, "Analyzing Evidence: A Research Game Changer," will be viewed at the meeting to gain ideas for improved methods to make a breakthrough in our personal brick walls.

The public is invited to join the group for this interesting approach to genealogical research that will be helpful to beginner genealogists, as well as those experienced in this fascinating hobby.

Doris Dean Whaley
May 6, 1930 – April 26, 2025

Doris Dean Whaley, 94, of Gatesville, passed away at her home Saturday, April 26, 2025. She was born to the late Orba Lee and Mary Jane Powell Jackson in the Spring Hill Community, south of Gatesville May 6, 1930. Doris completed first grade at Spring Hill, then she attended Schley School through the sixth grade. In 1942, her family moved to Gatesville, where she graduated from Gatesville High School in 1947.

Doris married Harley Gene Whaley July 2, 1949, and they resided in Gatesville all their married life. She dedicated her life to her family. She had a kind and generous heart and a willingness to strike up a warm conversation at any time. She was loved by many and was always quick to give a compliment and a helping hand when needed. Doris was always interested in what was going on in the lives of others. She stayed in contact with her classmates and many friends throughout her life. As a friend, she was most supportive and had a heart of gold.

While in high school, Doris began working at the telephone company and then went on to work at Gatesville City Hall for many years, but she will mostly be remembered for working at Luker's Photography Studio. She will



be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

She is survived by her daughters, Tonya Freeman and husband, Hal; Regena Whaley; granddaughter Marli Box Engel and husband, Chad; and great-grandchildren, Caitlin and Cody.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Texas in memory of Doris.

The family would like to thank the caregivers who supported Doris with love and compassion. We would also like to express sincere thanks to Belinda Moore and Amber Smith, who provided many hours of bedside comfort for Doris in her last days at home.

As per her wishes, there will be no services.

William (Bill) Ashcraft
June 21, 1945 – May 1, 2025

William (Bill) Thomas Ashcraft, 79, of Gatesville, passed away May 1, 2025. A celebration of life service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, May 5, at First Baptist Church in Gatesville with Pastor Sam Crosby officiating. Interment will follow at a later date at Rogers Cemetery in Rogers, Texas.

Bill was born June 21, 1945, in Iraan, Texas, to the late Zeta Iota (Chunk) and Azalee Anna Ashcraft. He graduated from Reagan County High School in Big Lake in 1963. Bill attended Southwest Texas State University, graduating with a degree in business. While attending school, Bill married Nancy Jane Davis in 1965.

Bill was an educator for 27 years, half of which were spent at the Windham School District, part of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice System.

Bill enjoyed spending time traveling the country with his wife, Nancy, and particularly enjoyed his trips to New York City. He loved attending Baylor Women's basketball games and taking his boat to the lake. Since childhood, Bill



was ferociously devoted to the game of golf and played every opportunity available. Most of all, Bill was a man of faith, family, and fun and took extraordinary care of his family.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Bruce Ashcraft.

He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Nancy Ashcraft; daughter, Ann Longoria; son, David Ashcraft; grandchildren, Alec Longoria, and wife, Maricela, and Shane Longoria; and great-grandchildren, Alianna, Uriah, Xander, Zaida, with new great-granddaughter, Mia, arriving soon.

Mary Ellen Pringle
July 19, 1942 — May 1, 2025

Mary Ellen Pringle, 82, of Amarillo, passed away Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 10, at South Georgia Baptist Church with Karen Wells officiating. Private burial will be at Llano East Cemetery.

Mary was born July 19, 1942, in Jonesboro to Gertie and Melvin Watson. She grew up on a farm in Pancake and attended schools in nearby Jonesboro, graduating in 1959. She continued her education at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, where she met Fred. She graduated with a degree in elementary education and then Nov. 9, 1963, married Fred Byron Pringle.

She started her career teaching in Killeen while Fred was serving in the U. S. Navy. They lived in various small East Texas towns and started their family. Susan was born in Giddings, then a few years later, James completed their family while living in Terrell.

They began a new chapter in Amarillo in 1974 and never left. She was a stay-at-home mom while their kids were young. Mary returned to her teaching career in 1982 and taught a total of 25 years, 18 of those in Amarillo ISD. She was an excellent teacher and impacted countless students' lives with her diligent work ethic and love for children. Mary excelled in everything she did.

One of her greatest roles was being a grandmother. As soon as she could, she retired to care for her grandchildren while their parents worked. She and Fred kept two, then three, then four grandchildren in their home. They were an excellent team and gave the cousins countless memories and experiences that they will never forget. That investment was a gift more valuable than anyone could ever imagine. They are who they are because of the time they spent in Grandma and Grandpa's home. Mary was patient and fun. She read countless books. There was cooking, board games, cousins in sleepovers, camping, puzzles, gardening, and walks to the park and so much more.



Mary showed up. She was at soccer games, recitals, choir concerts, baseball games, tennis matches, school functions, ALL the birthday parties and graduations. She was always available and always there. She was content and happy. She was easy to be around. She was easy to love. If you knew Mary, you know this to be true.

Fred and Mary volunteered with Meals on Wheels for 14 years. They were always active in church, settling at South Georgia Baptist. They had a very special friend group called "The Gang" who they shared many meals with. Serving others and spending time with friends and family were their priorities.

Fred and Mary were married for 61 years. Their example of marriage is extraordinary. They loved each other well. They were always for each other. Their constant and consistent love, affection, forgiveness, joy, and support were evident to everyone who knew them. Mary was so very proud to be Fred's wife. She cared for him in every way and loved every minute of it.

Mary is survived by her husband, Fred Pringle and her children, Susan Rogers and husband, Cale, of Amarillo, and James Pringle and wife, Julie, of Amarillo. She has four grandchildren: Shannon Jones and husband, Scott, Sonya Rogers and fiancé, Casey Hayward, Jake Pringle and Judd Pringle. She has one great-grandson, Mason Jones. She is also survived by her sister, Jimmie Del Wicker.



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BREAKING NEWS



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SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

- REGISTER AT RUNSIGNUP.COM/CRIMESTOPPERSDONUTDASH OR BY GOING TO QR CODE. THIS CHIP TIMED RACE WILL START AND FINISH AT THE GATESVILLE CITY POOL, 300 S. 8TH ST.
- RUNNERS WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF RUNNING A 5K OR 10K RACE, ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT CENTEX CRIME STOPPERS. FOR BOTH THE 5K AND THE 10K RACES, WE WILL BE AWARDING TOP 3 FINISHERS IN MANY AGE GROUPS. KIDS K IS AN UNTIMED, JUST-FOR-FUN RUN FOR THE KIDS!
- RACE-DAY REGISTRATION AND PACKET PICK-UP WILL BE 7:00 A.M. AT THE RACE SITE.
- PACKET PICK-UP WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FRIDAY, MAY 16 UNTIL 5:00PM, AT GATESVILLE FITNESS CENTER.
- RACE-DAY REGISTRATION \$40 - CARD ONLY



REGISTER NOW!

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of April 30 through May 6. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. People are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the Gatesville Police Department should be made to 254-865-2226 or to the Coryell County Sheriff's Office at 254-865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 30
12:53 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 1200 block of Straws Mill Road.
7:24 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of Waco Street.
7:56 p.m., an assault was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.
9:45 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of N. 27th Street.

May 1
10:47 a.m., an assault was reported in the 1900 block of St. Louis Street.
3:46 p.m., harassment was reported in the 600 block of N. Lovers Lane.
4:31 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.
8:55 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 500 block of Bridge Street.

May 2
2:32 p.m., a fire was re-

ported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
6:44 p.m., an accident was reported in the 100 block of FM 215.
7:09 p.m., a utility pole was reported down in the 300 block of Park Street.
7:17 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of N. Lovers Lane.

May 3
3:01 a.m., family violence was reported in the 2500 block of Mears Drive.
6:43 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of E. Leon Street.
10:16 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 200 block of S. 5th Street.
11:09 p.m., an accident with injuries was reported in the 3300 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

May 4
12:53 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Watts Lane.
2:48 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.

6:01 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Elm Street.
11:55 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Gateway Circle.

May 5
8:56 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 300 block of Memorial Drive.
1:47 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Watts Lane.
5:47 p.m., an assault was reported in the 200 block of CR 330.
8:57 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of Saunders Street.

May 6
12:32 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.
1:12 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4100 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
4:40 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.
6:01 p.m., a gas leak was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

April 30
8:47 a.m., a major accident was reported at the Walmart intersection on Business 36.
9:43 a.m., an assault was reported in the 2700 block of Big Valley Road.
5:18 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 4500 block of CR 106.
8:20 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 200 block of FM 2955.

May 1
6:51 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 4500 block of W. Hwy. 84.
4:11 p.m., fraud was reported in the 100 block of Herb Road.
7:24 p.m., a report of shots being fired was in the 4500 block of Greenbriar Road.
8:14 p.m., an animal bite was reported in the 2600 block of E. FM 931.

May 2
8:41 a.m., an animal com-

plaint was reported in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet.
11:18 a.m., animal neglect was reported in the 100 block of McKelvain.
1:30 p.m., a scam was reported in the 700 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
6:29 p.m., electricity was reported out in the 300 block of Hidden Valley Road.

May 3
6:42 p.m., a minor accident was reported on S. Hwy. 36 and West Range Road.
7:00 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.
7:42 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1100 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
8:19 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1000 block of CR 106.

May 4
7:36 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 11000 block of E. Hwy. 84.
2:42 p.m., a dog bite was reported in the 1200 block of Straws Mill Road.

6:09 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Hwy. 36 at the Leon River bridge.
6:47 p.m., the burglary of a building was reported in the 500 block of CR 339.

May 5
10:13 a.m., a stolen vehicle was recovered in the 6600 block of Cassidy Lane.
2:27 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.
4:56 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 2800 block of CR 303.
5:10 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 300 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

May 6
8:31 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W. Hwy. 84 and CR 176.
9:25 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 200 block of CR 227.
9:42 a.m., a minor accident was reported on E. Hwy. 84 near FM 1996.
10:52 a.m., a scam was reported in the 300 block of Bell Ranch Road.

MOUND NEWS

Mound Cowboy and White Mound Baptist to host VBS



BY BARBARA HOPSON
Mound News Correspondent

The senior recital of Katherine Sue Hopson, accompanied by David Perez-Guerra, was held Sunday evening, May 4, at White Mound Baptist Church. Special guests were Hal and Martha Hopson and their daughter, Carol Herriage of Cedar Park. Mound Cowboy Church and White Mound Baptist Church will have their annual Vacation Bible School June 1 through June 4.

Registration will be at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 1, and the event will continue from 5:30-8:30 p.m. each evening at White Mound Baptist Church. Don and Sue Jones hosted the Barnard Reunion Sunday at noon. There were 50 in attendance. Reed, Katelyn and Riley Griffith of Montgomery, visited this weekend and stayed with Carolyn Blakley

on Tuesday. They visited with Mrs. Bettie Blakley, Mrs. Minnie Wright and Jerry and Brenda Helms. Valerie Ferrell and Carolyn Blakley had lunch Friday in Gatesville. Thomas Belt and Kinsley McPherson, members of the Coryell County 4-H senior livestock judging team, competed in the district 8 Livestock Judging contest in College

Station Saturday. The team placed fourth. Thomas Belt earned fifth high individual. Allie McPherson, of the Intermediate livestock judging team, placed fifth. Those who have birthdays this weekend are Brent Wolff and Kelly Dunnivan. Barbara's Notes: **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

Chamber to host "The Heart of Art Day" May 24

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will host a free community art festival on Friday, May 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gatesville Civic Center, located at 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop. The event, "The Heart of Art Day," is an opportunity to celebrate local artists and their creativity. All disciplines are invited to showcase and sell their work. It is also a great way

to find unique, handcrafted pieces filled with community spirit while supporting local talent. For artists, registration is free, and the deadline is May 16. To register, visit gatesvillechamber.com and select the tab, "Heart of Art Day." Artists will also keep 100% of their sales and proceeds. The event is still in need of sponsors. To sponsor the event or for further information, email gatesvillecoc@gmail.com.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Gatesville residents recently filed into Gatesville's Presbyterian Church in observance of the National Day of Prayer.

National Day of Prayer observed in Gatesville

BY DAVID SCOTT Staff Writer

The Presbyterian Church of Gatesville recently welcomed visitors into their sanctuary to observe the National Day of Prayer. The church was honored to sponsor the annual event and extended an open invitation to all churches in the community to participate. The theme this year was "Pour Out to the God of Hope

and Be Filled." The organization believes collective prayers should have a profound impact not only on communities, but also on the nation as a whole. According to the organization, "As a body of Christ, we have the privilege and responsibility to be the light that dispels darkness. May our prayers resonate with the love and compassion of our Savior, touching hearts and transforming lives."

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OF SELLERS: 60
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Slaughter Cows High Yielding
140-160
Low Yielding
120-130
Fats
130-145
Thin & Shelly
85-110

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)
Yield Grade 1&2.....150-189
Cow & Calf Pairs
Young Choice.....3000-3500
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Coryell
County

DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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

HEART

JEREMIAH 29:13

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

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BAPTIST
3835 CR 127, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday worship 11 a.m.

**BETHLEHEM PRIMITIVE
BAPTIST**

Elder Hugh Montgomery,
pastor; 4555 FM 1690,
Gatesville; Worship 4th
Sunday of each month at
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST

Steven L. Bogan, pastor;
Hwy. 84 & FM 116;
Sunday Bible study 10
a.m., Sunday worship 11
a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

CANAAN BAPTIST

Jim Keever, senior pastor;
177 Coryell City Road,
Crawford; Sunday School
9:30 a.m., Sunday worship
10:30 a.m., Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**COLD SPRINGS
BAPTIST**

Bob Phillips, pastor;
Sundays – Sunday School
10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. &
5:30 p.m.

EASTWOOD BAPTIST

Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518
East Main, Gatesville;
Sundays – Sunday School
9:45 a.m., worship 10:50
a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST EVANT

Dane Barron, pastor; 200
Live Oak Street, Evant;
Sundays – Sunday School
9:45 a.m., worship 11
a.m., adult Bible study 6
p.m.; Wednesday services
- kids' & youth Bible study
6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST FLAT

9775 TX-36, Gatesville;
Sunday School 9 a.m.;
Sunday Worship 10:15
a.m.; Wednesdays –
Prayer & Bible Study 7
p.m.; Youth Group & Kid
Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first
Wednesday of each month
at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast
second Saturday of each
month at 7:30 a.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST
GATESVILLE**

912 E. Main St., Gatesville;
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday Worship 10:45
a.m., Wednesdays –
Children & Youth 5:30-7:00
p.m. (supper provided)

**FIRST BAPTIST
OGLESBY**

Dr. Pat Korrell, Pastor;
120 College Ave.;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 am;
Wednesdays – supper at
5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth
Group 6 p.m., Prayer
meeting 6 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST
PURMELA**

875 FM 932, Purmela;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY BAPTIST

Michael Bragdon,
Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.;
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

HARMONY BAPTIST

Michael Wingo, pastor;
1750 FM 215, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
& 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday
evening worship 6:30 p.m.

HAY VALLEY BAPTIST

3110 Hay Valley Road;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
AWANA children's ministry
Sundays 5-7 p.m. Bible
Study for men & women on
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

JONESBORO BAPTIST

Matt Dossey, pastor;
11420 N. State Hwy. S;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 10:50
a.m.

KING BAPTIST

Charles W. McKamie,
pastor; 6730 FM 1783,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

LIBERTY BAPTIST

Royse T. Cockrell, DMin.,
Pastor; Corner of FM 107
& HWY 36, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service 11 a.m. &
1 p.m., Family Bible Study
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

LIVE OAK BAPTIST

Pastor Matthew Hamilton;
113 FM 107, Gatesville;
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.,
Sunday worship 10:30
a.m., Wednesday 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.

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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.;
Wednesday worship 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
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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
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Sundays.

EVANT METHODIST

235 US-281, Evant; Neely
Reynolds, 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.

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every Sunday at 5 p.m. at
the south end of Gatesville
High School near the
field house and band hall.
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information, call 254-223-
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**OGLESBY UNITED
METHODIST**

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

PIDCOKE METHODIST

Rev. Pete Harris; Hwy.
116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday
worship service 10 a.m.;
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**MORMON
CHURCH OF JESUS
CHRIST LATTER-DAY
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206 S. 26th St., Gatesville;
Sacrament services
Sundays 10 a.m., Sunday
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Frank Rosenstern, pastor;
Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday
services 10:30 a.m.;
Thursday services, 7 p.m.

**CORYELL COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115
N. Levita Rd., Gatesville,
248-0849. Sunday worship
9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday services 6
p.m.; Adult Bible Study,
Children's Ministry & C3
Student Ministry.

**CORYELL FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH**

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
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**HARVESTING SOULS
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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.
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**JOHNNY WATKIN'S
MEN'S SUNDAY
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Sundays, 8:30-9 a.m. aqui
se reune La Iglesia de
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**LEVITA BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP**

Pat Cole, Pastor; 4460 FM
930, Levita; Sunday Bible
Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday
worship 10:45 a.m.;
Tuesday OWLS Kid Group
6-8 p.m.

**MOTHER NEFF FAITH
TABERNACLE**

William Bertelsen,
Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy.
236; Sunday worship
10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.;
Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m.

**PEARL COMMUNITY
FELLOWSHIP**

6735 FM 183, Pearl; 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**

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Sunday services 10:45
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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
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Wednesday Bible Study
Rally-6 p.m.; 254-865-
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013 Garage & Estate Sales

PURSES, SCARVES, HATS! Tues, 05/13 - Sat, 05/17. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main.

Friday, May 16 & Saturday, May 17, 8am-2pm, 1119 Westview Drive. Recliner, ladder, child's doll buggy, women's shoes & jeans, bed comforters, blankets & lots misc.

Garage Sale: May 17, 4507 S. Hwy. 36, 8am-4pm. Vintage & Antiques: Horse drawn equipment, tools, iron wheels, shop items, bicycles, wooden tool box, trunks, small furniture, glassware, Fiesta & collectibles plus household items, clothes, decor, linens, quilts, lawn mowers & much more.

Estate Sale: May 8-10, 7am-5pm, 6532 E. US Hwy. 84, South Mountain. Tools, household goods, lawn equipment, welding equipment, generator, tractor, appliances.

ESTATE SALE: MAY 16-17, 8AM-4PM. 1405 Saunders St., Gatesville. Household goods, pottery, vintage & antique items, auto & carpentry tools, auto body equipment, trailers, signs, and more.

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025 Real Estate for Sale

FSBO: 4 BR, 2 Ba fixer-upper with bonus room, 1845 sq. ft., 1701 E. Leon, Gatesville. To be sold as-is. Asking \$40,000. Call or text 254-679-9258.

025 Real Estate for Sale



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AGENTS:
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- 520 N. Rice St., Hamilton, TX. Commercial building, over 7,200 sq ft of space, two large spaces on the first floor, commercial kitchen, second story has several rooms with four full baths. \$599,000
- 1.603 Ac., 204 ft. of Hwy. 281 frontage & 300 ft. of frontage on Bell St. great location for a convenience store, strip center or any retail business. \$369,000
- 8.01 Ac., Lot 54 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$118,000
- 10.01 Ac., Lot 63 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, season creek, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$116,000
- 10.01 Ac., Lot 53 in Buffalo Creek Ranch Subdivision, Langford Branch, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$167,000
- 10.01 Ac., Lot 44 Ph 6 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX. Dry Branch, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision. Electric & fiber optic internet service. OWER FINANCING AVAILABLE. \$125,000
- 10.01 Ac., 1 Br, 1.5 Ba, 1100sq. ft. barn-dominium, 5045 PR 42125, Evant, TX, Lot 70 Ph 4 Rio Escondido, 22ft x 12 ft shed with 20 ft awning, water well, rolling terrain, scatter tree cover. \$395,000
- 10.01 Ac., 1 Br, 1 Ba 900 sq. ft. barn-dominium with shop, 570 PR 42106 Evant, TX Lot 21 Ph 6 Rio Escondido, well, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, gated Sub-division, Fiber Optic Internet. \$335,000
- 10.096 Ac., Lot 68 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, good tree cover, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, electric at road, Fiber Optic Internet. \$136,000
- 10.182 Ac., Lot 14 Ph 3 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, Langford Branch, good tree coverage, rolling terrain. Electric & Fiber Optic Internet. \$239,900
- 10.697 Ac., Lot 9 Ph 4 Rio Escondido Subdivision Evant, TX, seasonal branch, good tree coverage, rolling terrain, gated subdivision, private roads. \$118,000
- 12.379 Ac., Tract 4 High Point Estates, Evant, TX, good tree cover, No restrictions or HOA fees, good tree cover, rolling terrain, Fiber optic Internet. \$139,264
- 18.1 Ac. South of Evant, near Adamsville, Lampasas County, Hwy. 281 & CR 2830. water well, electricity, carport, rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$360,000
- 19.314 Ac., 1,590 sq ft house built in 2021 located at 7247 N Hwy 36 Jonesboro. open floor plan, stained concrete flooring, large island/breakfast bar, propane gas range, and covered back porch. \$425,000
- 19.95 Ac., Old Georgetown Rd., Gatesville, TX, Scattered tree cover, rolling terrain, electric on property. \$289,275
- 22.892 Ac., 5448 CR 182, Jonesboro, water well, electric, 2 tanks, good tree cover, rolling terrain, near Ireland, TX. \$315,000
- 35.72 Ac., FM 116, Gatesville, TX, 1 stock Tank, Electric on property, open pasture, great views close to town. \$464,360
- 38.14 Ac., FM 116, Gatesville, TX, open pasture, electric on property, approx.. 25 ac farmland. Great views. \$495,820
- 48 Ac., Harmon Rd., Copperas Cove, Perryman Creek, Rolling Terrain, Scattered tree cover. \$600,000
- 62.141 Ac., 2 Br, 1 Ba home. 4463 CR 158, Evant, near Pearl, TX, home needs repairs & updating, custom-built cabinets in Master Bedroom & dining area. Multi County Water Supply, good rolling terrain, good tree cover and small season branch, small pond and utility building 13'6 in x 30'6. \$776,750
- 122.64 Ac., Old Georgetown Rd., Gatesville, TX, Cottonwood Creek, electric, windmill well, 30 ft x 60 ft barn, cattle pens, good tree cover, rolling terrain, great views. \$1,336,776
- 129.81 Ac., Purnela, TX, Coryell County, heavy tree cover, rolling terrain, one stock tank, Honey Creek, fenced on three sides, deeded access easement. \$975,000
- 620 Ac., 3 Br, 2 Ba home, fireplace, ceramic tile floors, covered outdoor cooking patio, 38 ft X 25 ft. building. 2 lakes, one being approx. 10 acres and the other one just under 5 acres and 3 smaller stock tanks, approx. 8500 ft of Bee Creek running through the property with 20 ft to 40 ft to 40 ft limestone bluffs along the creek, good rolling terrain, good tree cover. \$6,200,000

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber welcomes DOMO as new member with ribbon cutting

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

A recent ribbon cutting was held to welcome DOMO Dove Nest Motorsports Club of Central Texas as a member of the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members and city officials were present for the ceremony.

Located just north of The Grove, DOMO serves as an event venue, motorsports club and resort community for locals and visitors.

The 400-acre venue provides a space for weddings, celebrations, recreational activities and, of course, a three-mile dirt track for off-roading, which is provided by owners Toan Leung and Nhi Lieu.



COURTESY PHOTO

Owners of DOMO Dove Nest Motorsports Club of Central Texas, Toan Leung and Nhi Lieu, are pictured with chamber members and city officials at their recent ribbon cutting to join the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

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

The Dove Nest Motorsports

Club is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information on pricing and membership, visit domo-clubctx.com/off-road.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Nitpicks and toothpicks



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

When one nitpicks, there's no end to it. We're all frequently guilty, and I admit to being among chief sinners, particularly since the term's initial usage began in 1956, the same year I finished Early High School. Sudden thought: Maybe I'm the guy who first justified the term.

Like heat surging from "simmer to boil" on the cook stove, I'm revealing current "nitpicky" items that might confuse and confound, but reasons enough for me to expand and expound.

Thus, so steamed, I plan — at least for now — to merely introduce some upcoming topics, a few of which won't stretch into the dog days of summer but may make it through the cat days of spring. All told, little good seems likely to result from writing about negative "stuff," but reactions to some have become volcanic. I'm sorry.

Soon, I will review details of my visit to the oil change place whose television ads boast that one woman's visit was so brief, she doesn't have time to finish knitting her sweater. Then, there's the guy — chagrined by such quick service that he wasn't able to finish repairing his garage door opener. My recent experience varied greatly from the ads, as far as the east is from the west. Details later.

Let's switch now to pack-

aging. A friend who shops for us from time to time is a "neatnik," and follows shopping lists to the letter. Up front, I admit that entering "toothpicks" should have included "flat" or "round." How was she to know that I have a thing about toothpicks? (I don't know why they make flat ones, unless it's to utilize splinters that seem destined to lodge or break off 'tween our pearly whites). After making sure she understood instructions for future toothpick purchases, I headed to the store to make the critical exchange.

At the store, I tossed the box of round toothpicks into my cart, along with a few "final markdown" items. I didn't notice that the flimsy box top was ajar, causing me to leave a trail of toothpicks in the store and on the parking lot. Why can't manufacturers add a piece of tape to avoid such blips? Maybe they expect most toothpicks to wind up on floors and pavement, never to reach our mouths. Accusing me of climbing over gates to save the hinges, our friend's impish laugh lingered, now aware that I'm not only "nitpicky," but also "toothpicky."

But seriously, folks. It may seem I am straddling the fence concerning state funding for public and private education in Texas. I've experienced both in higher

education, and have good things to say about each, as well as for the K-through-12 world. If our public schools were properly funded, I'd find state funding for private schools more palatable, at least somewhat defensible.

Unthinkable to me is how state leaders — leaning on excellent "spin doctors" to promote their questionable positions — choose to ignore support of public schools, even after imposing costly mandates without additional state funding that's been at a standstill since 2019. And we have more than \$30 billion stashed away in Austin for "rainy-day funding." Memo to Austin: It's flooding. Please let us know when we're allowed to stop eating the cake you're letting us have.

They can trot out all the stats they'd like, but many remember a long-ago survey revealing that rail freight revenue was going down, and alcohol sales heading up. Yep, more people were getting loaded than boxcars. More in an upcoming column.

Now, we bid farewell to Pope Francis, joining millions of others who lament his homegoing. He will be remembered for so many noble reasons. Among them, his humility and regard for the hungry and poor were paramount.

Now, the cardinals must find a successor.

If any candidates are named "Zacola" or "Pizza," they'd best step aside.

"Pope Zacola" sounds like a soft drink, and "Pope Pizza" won't work, either.

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

1904 Leon River Bridge remembered...

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

In a small exhibit near the back of the Coryell Museum is a small-scale replica of the 1904 Leon River Bridge. Several early-day photographs of the bridge are included in the exhibit.

The bridge received a historical marker in 1996 from the Texas Historical Commission. The text on the marker reads:

The route once known as The Old Georgetown Road was in existence by 1854 and travelers crossed the Leon River by way of a ferry owned by R. G. Grant.

A Bowstring Truss Bridge was erected in 1882 and was the first metal truss bridge in Coryell County. That bridge was damaged by two major floods occurring in 1899 and in 1900.

The present bridge, built in 1904 by



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CORYELL MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL CENTER

An early-day Gatesville resident poses for a photo on the 1904 Leon River Bridge.

the George E. King Bridge Company of Des Moines, Iowa, features steel construction, wood decking, lattice railings, pin connected members and elaborate stone abutments.

The overall length of 141 feet from end to end allows for the 4-foot depth of masonry piers supporting the bridge. It is a 137-foot Pratt through truss span with a 5-foot timber approach span and is one of few such

bridges surviving in Texas.

In 1904, the bridge served as a major east-west artery for central Texas. The road became part of State Highway 7 in 1917 and was renamed U.S. Highway 84 in the 1930s. The historic bridge was restored and rededicated in 1994.

During recent years, the bridge has been shrouded in controversy while some have labored for its restoration

and re-opening.

Although the Coryell Museum remains closed, in the future, visitors to the museum can see the photographs and read more about the historic bridge, and can view many 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. Admission to the museum is free. Yearly Coryell Museum memberships are \$20 for singles, \$30 for families and \$40 for businesses. Membership includes free admission to the museum. 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.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

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CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT
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TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
UNKNOWN ST ATE

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COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN KELLY, DECEASED. CAUSE NO 25-11187, COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. TAKIESHA WATSON FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 17TH DAY OF APRIL 2025, APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION - INTESTATE SAID JOHN KELLY, 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 5TH DAY OF MAY 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 21ST DAY OF APRIL 2025.

JENNIFER NEWTON
CORYELL COUNTY CLERK
CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: K. TALLEY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF GATESVILLE

The City of Gatesville (City) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the purchase and installation of a 2,000-gallon above ground aviation fuel tank, complete with an automated Point of Sale (POS) and fuel pump system, at the Gatesville Municipal Airport, 201 Airport Road, Gatesville TX 76528. Sealed request for proposals are to be submitted to the attention of the Deputy City Manager, City of Gatesville, Texas, 803 E Main, Gatesville, Texas 76528. Envelopes shall be labeled on the front "2025 Airport Fuel Tank RFP". The deadline to submit bids is Monday, May 19, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 3:05 pm., in City Hall, 803 E Main, Gatesville, Texas 76528. RFP packages may be obtained at the City Secretary's office located at City Hall, 803 E Main, Gatesville, Texas 76528 or by contacting the City Secretary at (254) 220-4616 or email to howens@gatesvilletx.com If you have specific questions concerning the RFP specifications or scope of work, please contact Deputy City Manager, Mike Halsema at (254) 220-4546 or mhalsema@gatesvilletx.com Copies of the RFP are posted on the City Webpage www.GatesvilleTX.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF GATESVILLE

The City of Gatesville is accepting sealed request for proposals (RFP) for Auditing Services. Sealed request for proposals are to be submitted to the attention of the Deputy City Manager, City of Gatesville, Texas, 803 E Main, Gatesville, Texas 76528. Envelopes shall be labeled on the front "RFP2025-ACFR - Audit Services RFP". The deadline to submit bids is Monday, May 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:05 pm., in City Hall, 803 E Main, Gatesville, Texas 76528.

RFP packages may be obtained at the City Secretary's office located at City Hall, 803 E Main, Gatesville, Texas 76528 or by contacting the City Secretary at (254) 220-4616 or email to howens@gatesvilletx.com

If you have specific questions concerning the RFP specifications or scope of work, please contact Deputy City Manager, Mike Halsema at (254) 220-4546 or mhalsema@gatesvilletx.com Copies of the RFP are posted on the City Webpage www.GatesvilleTX.com

Proposal Notice for Fencing Materials and Installation at Gatesville Primary and Elementary Campuses

The Gatesville Independent School District (ISD) will accept competitive sealed proposals for Fencing Materials and Installation at Gatesville Primary and Elementary Campuses until 10:00 AM on Friday, May 16, 2025.

Proposals should be mailed or hand delivered to the Administration Office: Gatesville ISD, Attention: LeighAnn Goodwin, Asst Superintendent of Finance, 311 S. Lovers Lane, Gatesville, TX 76528.

Proposals will be opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Friday, May 16, 2025. Tabulations of the proposals will be made and presented to the School Board for action at 5:30 PM on May 19, 2025. Minimum expectations and proposal specifications are available upon request by emailing LeighAnn Goodwin: lgoodwin@gatesvilleisd.org or by calling (254) 865-7251 on or before the close of business on May 14, 2025. Gatesville ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals or price quotes and waive any formality in bidding.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Rodger Daniel Hargraves, Deceased, were issued on April 28, 2025, in Cause No. 25-11167, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Tracy Danielle Dowdle.

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

c/o: Chuck P. Stermer
Attorney at Law
619 E. Main St.
Gatesville, Texas 76528

DATED the 28th day of April, 2025.

/s/ Chuck P. Stermer
Chuck P. Stermer
Attorney for Tracy Danielle Dowdle
State Bar No.: 24094964
619 E. Main St.
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-6003
Facsimile: (254) 323-0070
Email: chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com

Remembering Director W.J. "Jim" Estelle

Staff Reports

In honor of remembering Director W.J. "Jim" Estelle, former director of the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC), there will be a gathering between 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 17, at the Texas Prison Museum, located at 491 State Highway 75 North in Huntsville.

Estelle's tenure with TDC spanned the years 1972-82. All past employees and friends of Estelle in

Gatesville and the surrounding areas are invited to attend the gathering.

For questions, contact David Stacks with the Texas Prison Museum at 936-295-2155.

About Estelle
Estelle was first recruited to TDC to Huntsville in 1972 as the director before retiring 12 years later. Nearly 13 years after his retirement in 1995, TDC named a newly built prison after him, "W.J. Estelle Unit."

He was honored by the ACA (American Correctional Association) with a Cass Correctional Achievement Award, which recognizes individuals for their innovative leadership, professional integrity and contributions to the field of criminal justice.

The Texas Sheriff's Association also named Estelle as an Honorary Sheriff and the Texas Rangers gave him "Ranger status" in their hall of fame.

RECIPE

This recipe appeared in the "Methodist Best" cookbook in 2008. The Gatesville Messenger is running a series of recipes from that cookbook. If your church has a cookbook, or if you would like to submit your own recipe of a favorite dish for possible publication, please email it to: editor@gatesvillemessenger.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF GO DAIRY FREE

BEEF STROGANOFF

By Marcia Strieber

- 1 pound round steak

1 small sour cream

1 package mushrooms

2 teaspoons corn or olive oil
- 1 can beef broth

1 clove garlic, minced

1 large onion

Cut meat into bite-sized pieces and brown in oil until it is slightly browned all around. Add chopped onions and minced garlic and brown until limp. Add mushrooms and sauté until slightly browned. Cook this mixture for about 30 minutes, and then add beef broth and 1 cup of water. Cover and simmer for about 2 hours. Add sour cream last 15-20 minutes until well blended. Serve hot over rice or wide egg noodles.

Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame to host Ed Leonard, May 16

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame is excited to announce a free concert at the Gatesville City Auditorium Friday, May 16. The event will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at 110 N. 8th Street in Gatesville.

The featured performer will be Gatesville's own Ed Leonard, a full-time singer/songwriter. He has been performing for more than 30 years, specializing in classic country and honky-tonk music mixed with a little classic rock and some acoustic country originals.

Leonard said, "I love performing for people who love my kind of music. My shows are tailored to my audiences, and no two shows are the same. I search for the heartbeat of the crowd, and I choose my songs according to the crowd's response."

He continued, "I grew up to the sounds of Merle Haggard, George Jones, Buck Owens, Webb Pierce, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Alan Jackson

and George Strait ... artists that could tear your heart out with their songs. I do not like some of the newer country, and I am very selective about what I put into my shows."

Experience an unforgettable night filled with live country music, celebrating local talent and the legacy of country music. This event is open to all ages and admission is free, making it the perfect outing for families and music lovers alike.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the vibrant country music scene in Gatesville. Bring your friends, family and your dancing shoes for a night of great performances.

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame is dedicated to promoting country music and local artists. Since its inception, it has served as a hub for music lovers and a platform for musicians to showcase their talents. It presents a free concert on the third Friday of every month at the Gatesville City Auditorium. Admission is always free.



Ed Leonard

COURTESY PHOTO



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JISD ‘eats’ cost to provide free meals for students

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Jonesboro Independent School District will join many schools across the nation in providing free meals to their students for the

2025-26 school year, but will not go through the National School Lunch Program/ School Breakfast Program. A policy was adopted by the Jonesboro ISD Board of Trustees during a school board meeting to absorb the

cost of \$70,000 to provide free meals to students. “We ran the numbers, and looking at our current free and reduced lunches, and then the ones that do not qualify for free lunches and breakfast, along with the

ones that do not qualify at all, was going to carry about a \$70,000 price tag to feed them next year to make it free for everybody,” JISD Superintendent Matt Dossey said. Jonesboro ISD plans to

begin its policy next school year with each of its 335 students on campus having the opportunity to receive free breakfast and lunch daily. “The board decided to do this to help our community, parents, and students out,”

Dossey said. For further information, contact Jonesboro ISD at 254-463-2111.

Keeton, Muegge heroics not enough as Hornets fall in bi-district

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Contributing Writer

It’s been said there is a beautiful cruelty to baseball, and sentiment was never more true than in the Gatesville Hornets’ series loss to Lampasas in the bi-district playoffs. The Hornets and Badgers played 23 innings of baseball more than three days in a series featuring three one-run games, two walk-offs and saw the two teams end the series a single run apart. Objectively, it was a beautiful baseball series more suited for a regional final than a playoff opener. Subjectively, it was a cruel weekend for anyone in black and yellow. Gatesville took the opener 4-3 thanks to a walk-off single from Justin Muegge in the bottom of the ninth inning. The Hornets took an early 2-0 lead thanks to an RBI

single from John Ibarra and a run-scoring triple from Miles Tull, but the Badgers clawed back and led 3-2 into the sixth inning. Collyn Coleman laced a one-out double to right field, then Gehrig Keeton doubled to score courtesy runner Grady Keeton and make it a 3-3 game. The game would remain deadlocked until the ninth. Tull drew a one-out walk and advanced to second on a wild pitch. That’s when Muegge laced a single down the left field line to score Tull and give the Hornets game one. Muegge had three hits in the game and finished the year as one of Gatesville’s hottest hitters. After an uneven start to his season, the junior right fielder hit safely in 14 of Gatesville’s final 19 games of the year. “Muegge started the year

slow but worked extremely hard and was one of our hottest bats in district, and that was a huge hit in game one,” said head coach Chase Smith. “He is a fun kid to coach, and I’m proud to see all his hard work pay off for him this season.” Game two was to be played in Lampasas, but severe weather postponed the game a day and moved the deciding games to Salado. In game two, the Hornets started ace Gehrig Keeton — who more than delivered on the hill and at the plate. Keeton pitched 6.2 innings and struck out 11 Badgers while walking one and allowing just three hits. He did not allow an earned run and also broke a scoreless tie with an RBI single in the top of the seventh to give Gatesville a 1-0 lead. In the bottom of the seventh, the Badgers put run-

ners on second and third via an error, walk and passed ball before a double to right field gave Lampasas the 2-1 win. In 13 innings pitched against Lampasas this season, Keeton tallied 20 strikeouts, allowed six hits, two walks and zero earned runs. “He deserved to win that game. He has been great all year and filled that ace role that we lost when (Bralen) Veazey graduated,” Smith said. “Even in games where he didn’t have his best stuff, he competed and gave us a chance to win. He is a competitor, and you know he is always going to give you his best effort when he’s in the game.” In the finale, Lampasas jumped out to 2-0 lead, but Gatesville tied it 2-2 on Bradey James’ seventh home run of the year. An RBI single from Tull cut the Lampasas

lead to 4-3 in the bottom of the fourth, but the Hornets would not get any closer. The loss marked the final game in the careers of Ibarra, Logan Biggs and Roman Perez. Perez saw action in 11 games out of the bullpen for the Hornets in 2025 while Biggs served as a defensive utility man for two seasons on the varsity. Ibarra was a four-year letterman pressed into varsity duty his freshman season due to a rash of injuries. Primarily a shortstop over his four seasons, Ibarra morphed into a perennial first-team all-district position player and an anchor for the Hornets’ defense. “John really made our defense a lot better, holding down that shortstop position for us. He is the smoothest infielder I have ever worked with, and we are going to miss him for sure,”

Smith said. When the Hornets return to the diamond in 2026, they will feature a loaded, experienced roster of 11 seniors and a dozen players with at least two years of varsity experience. Keeton, James and Tull will all return to the mound with Coleman, Muegge, Brady Gist, Colt Heath, Seth Finley, Clark Allman, Kaleb Howie and Charlie Winkler all returning. “I hate losing for the seniors, but hopefully it makes these juniors want to work to make sure it doesn’t happen again,” said Smith. “I expect these guys to work extremely hard in the off-season and make a run in the playoffs again. I think we have a chance to do something really special.”

Three teams advance in postseason softball, baseball tournaments

BY JOSH BURTON
Managing Editor
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Gatesville softball, Jonesboro softball, Oglesby baseball advance to next round of playoffs Three Gatesville area teams have advanced to the next round of the playoffs for softball and baseball. Gatesville softball defeated La Grange in two games to move on to the regional semifinal series. **GATESVILLE SOFTBALL** Gatesville swept La Grange in the area tournament to advance to the regional semifinal against Little Cypress. Gatesville won the first

game 2-1 and the second game 7-2. It’s the first time the softball team has advanced this deep in the playoffs since 2010. Gatesville 2, La Grange 1 In the first game of the series, Gatesville and La Grange were scoreless until Gatesville scored two runs in the top of the sixth. After Kinlee Gardner and Addy Shelton hit back-to-back singles to lead off the inning. It took Journey Garrett a two-RBI double to center field to get them across the plate. Both scored on the play. Then, leading 2-0, La Grange attempted to rally in the bottom of the seventh inning and scored one run.

Madison Hester Struck out the final two La Grange batters to get the win. Gatesville 7, La Grange 2 In the second game, Gatesville didn’t trail and only gave up two runs in the sixth inning in the 7-2 win. Gatesville scored one run in the bottom of the first. Leah Torres scored when Gardner reached base on an error. The Lady Hornets scored a run in the bottom of the fourth to take a 2-0 lead. Garrett hit a solo home run to center field. Gatesville scored five more runs in the bottom of the fifth to take a 7-0 lead. Shelton hit an RBI single to left field, and Torres scored. Garrett hit into a fielder’s

choice play, scoring both Raylee Glover and Gardner. Hester hit an RBI sacrifice fly ball to center field, and Shelton scored after tagging up. Kallie Featherston hit an RBI single to left and Bracyn Wise scored. La Grange cut the lead to 7-2 but was not able to get any closer. Gatesville improves to 24-13-1 with the wins. **JONESBORO SOFTBALL** Jonesboro softball advanced to the regional semifinal after defeating Abbott twice in the area tournament. Jonesboro won the first game 6-2 and the second game 4-3. With the wins, Jonesboro

improves to 9-9. Jonesboro 6, Abbott 2 After trailing early in game one to Abbott in the area tournament, Jonesboro rallied from a 2-0 deficit to six runs in the final three innings to get the win 6-2. Jonesboro tied the game in the bottom of the fourth. Ally Thorman hit a solo home run to center field to lead off the inning. After Lynlee Deats and Julie Henderson walked, Deats scored the tying run in the next at bat when Kylee Gould hit an RBI bunt single. The Lady Eagles took a one-run lead in the bottom of the fifth. Deats hit an RBI double to center field, and Thorman scored the go-ahead run.

Jonesboro took a 6-2 lead in the bottom of the sixth. Gould walked, and Adalya Andrade singled to get two on in the sixth. Emily Turner then hit a three-run inside-the-park home run. The game ended after a fly ball out to left field. Jonesboro 4, Abbott 3 In the second game, Jonesboro scored single runs in four innings before Thorman held off a rally attempt in the bottom of the seventh. Jonesboro scored a run in the top of the second to take a 1-0 lead. Gould hit an RBI sacrifice bunt and Deats scored. Abbott tied the score in the

PLEASE SEE ADVANCE | B2



Gatesville Hornets softball

COURTESY PHOTO


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10:30am
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5:45pm

GHS superintendent scholars of 2025

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Each year, Gatesville High School Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard selects seniors to be named superintendent scholars who received recognition in the seventh grade Duke TIP (Talent Identification Program) program, scored

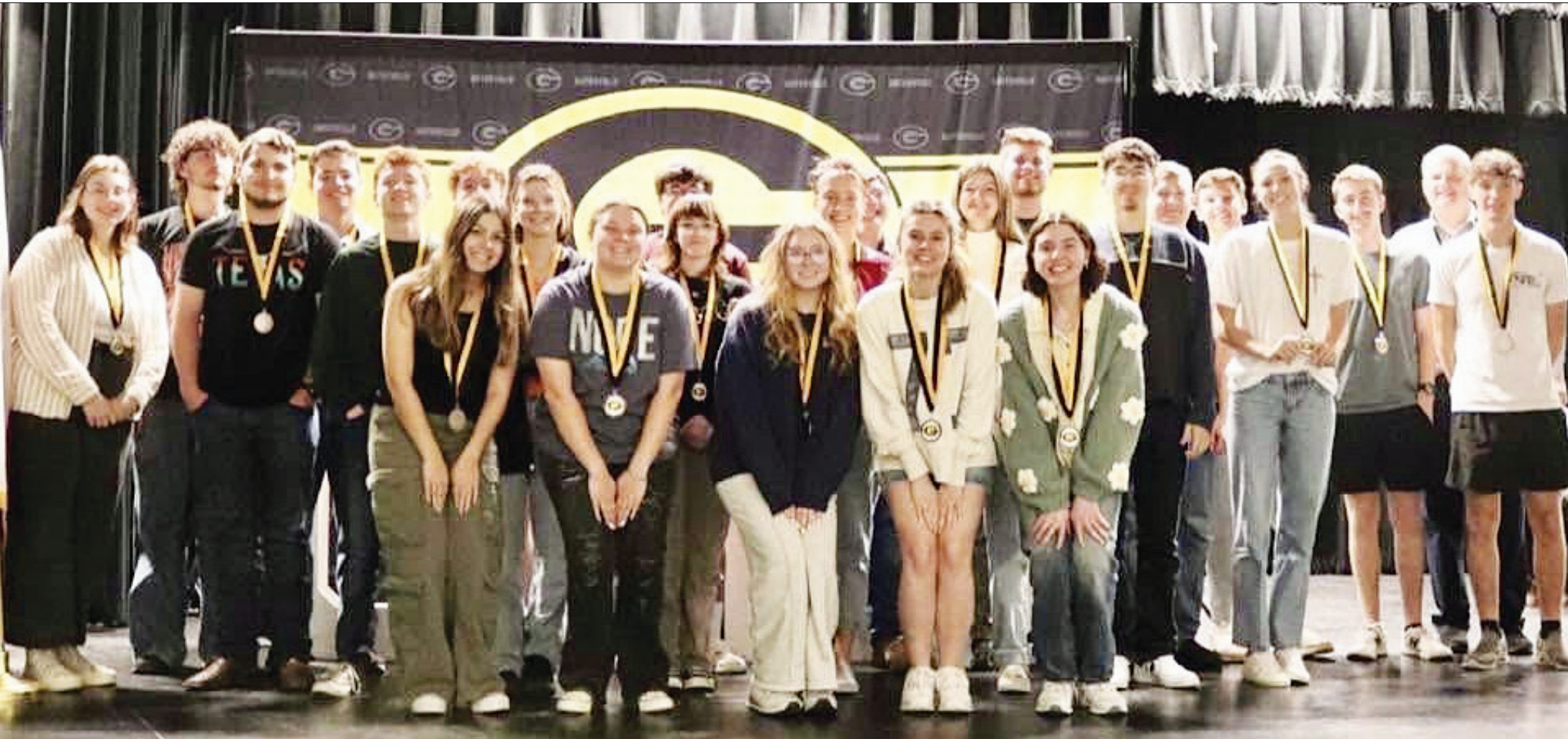
at least 1150 on any of the PSAT/SAT suite of tests, or scored a 25 or above on the ACT.
This year, Gatesville High School had the largest group of seniors to qualify for the award since the program began.
Recipients of the award will get to wear a superintendent scholar medallion at

graduation.
The following seniors are superintendent scholars: Hannah Bartlett, Reagan Breeden, Jeret Burks, Levi Cuellar, Bradley Crozier, Dillon Daniels, John Davidson, Katie Hopson, Alex Johnson, Emily Kelly, Elaina Knobloch, Caleb Mannix, Jahaziel Martinez, Vania Martinez,

Dutch Nielsen, Roman Perez, Gabriel Pollard, Lucy Pritchett, Ian Rainer, Dominyk Romero, Callie Smith, Jaycee Shelton, Mackenzie Stacher, Callie Stovall, Addison Taylor, Cameron Thompson and Royce Wright.
The Superintendent Scholar program was established by Dr. Pollard during

the 2019-20 school year to recognize high school students who perform well on their college entrance exams, such as the PSAT, SAT and ACT.
Dr. Pollard mentioned that the number of superintendent scholars has risen each year, with nine scholars in 2020, 15 scholars in 2021, 16 scholars in 2022, 13 scholars

in 2023, 21 scholars in 2024 and now 27 scholars in 2025.
“Many of these students greatly exceed the 1150 threshold on the SAT and the 25 threshold on the ACT. For example, one student scored a 34 on the ACT and a 1460 on the SAT,” Dr. Pollard said. “I am very proud of all of these high-achieving students.”



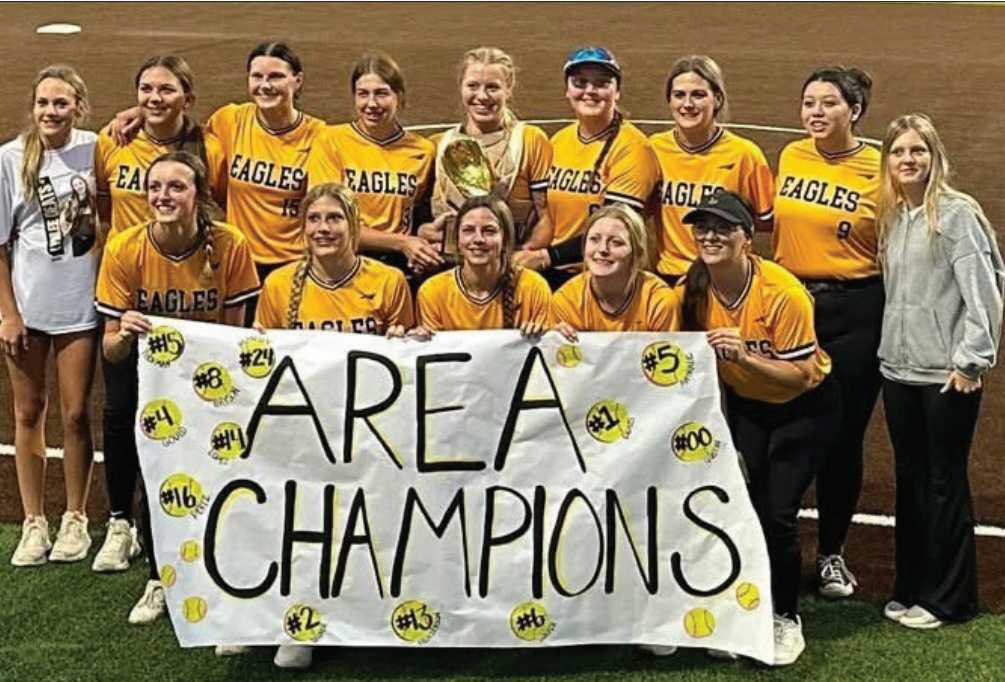
Gatesville High School Superintendent Scholars of 2025 are pictured with Superintendent Barrett Pollard.

COURTESY PHOTO



Oglesby tigers baseball

COURTESY PHOTO



Jonesboro Lady Eagles Softball

COURTESY PHOTO

ADVANCE

FROM PAGE B1

bottom of the third, 1-1.
Jonesboro took a 2-1 lead with a run in the top of the fourth.
Cambell Gustin led off the inning with a triple to right field. She scored in the next at bat when Deats hit an RBI single to center field.
The Lady Eagles added a run in the top of the fifth.
Turner hit a solo home run to right field to lead off the inning.
Jonesboro took a 4-1 lead in the top of the seventh.
Turner hit her second home run of the game — this one to center field.
Abbott scored two runs before a ground ball out to the pitcher ended the game.

OGLESBY BASEBALL

Oglesby opened the 2025 playoffs with a sweep of Bluff Dale.
The Tigers win the first game 6-2 and the second game 13-0.
With the wins, Oglesby improves to 9-9.
Oglesby 6, Bluff Dale 2
After falling behind early, 2-1, Oglesby rallied to win the game 6-2.
Oglesby took a 1-0 lead after the first half inning.
Mason Marquez hit an RBI single to right field, and Callen Webb scored.
Bluff Dale took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the first.
Oglesby took the lead for good in the fifth, taking a 4-2 lead.
Webb hit an RBI bunt single, and Jakson Tippit scored, tying the game.
In the next at bat, Jaxon Markum hit a two-RBI single to center field, and both Camden Webb and Callen Webb scored.
The Tigers took a 6-2 lead in the seventh with two runs scored.
Camden Webb scored on an error. Then, Markum scored on an error in the next at bat.
The game ended in the next half inning after three straight ground ball outs.
Oglesby 13, Bluff Dale 0
Oglesby mercy-ruled Bluff Dale in the second game 13-0. The game was called after four-and-a-half innings.
Oglesby scored six runs in the third inning.
Callen Webb hit an RBI sacrifice fly ball out, and Tippit scored. Camden Webb scored in the next at bat on a passed ball. Two batters later, Tucker Melton reached base on an error, and Marquez scored. Three batters later, Abram Shaw scored in a wild pitch before Holdyn Goff reached base on an error and both Hunter Ewing and Jack Hendricks scored.
The Tigers scored seven

runs in the fourth inning.
Melton reached base on an error, and both Camden Webb and Markum scored. Two batters later, Marquez scored on a balk. Two batters after that, Shaw scored on a pick-off attempt.
Camden Webb hit a three-RBI double to left field, scoring Ewing, Hendricks and Javon Howard.
The game ended after three consecutive strikeouts by Oglesby pitcher Melton, who gave up just one hit in the game.
Other teams were eliminated this past weekend.

GATESVILLE BASEBALL

Gatesville won its opener against Lampasas before losing the final two games of the series.
The Hornets won the first game 4-3. Lampasas won the second game 2-1 to force a winner-take-all third game, which Lampasas won 4-3.
The losses eliminate Gatesville from the playoffs. The Hornets finish the 2025 season at 18-13-1.
Gatesville 4, Lampasas 3
In the series opening game, Gatesville won the game in the bottom of the ninth inning when Miles Tull scored the game-winner on a Justin Muegge RBI single to left field.
The final run came after a back-and-forth battle between the two.

Gatesville took a 1-0 lead, then 2-0 lead with runs in the first and second innings.
John Ibarra hit an RBI single to left field and Brady Gist scored the first run of the game for Gatesville in the first inning.
An inning later, Clark Allman scored after Tull hit an RBI triple to right field, giving Gatesville the 2-0 lead.
Lampasas tied the game in the top of the third 2-2, then took a 3-2 lead in the top of the fifth.
Gatesville tied the game 3-3 in the bottom of the sixth inning.
Gehrig Keeton hit an RBI double to center field and Collyn Coleman scored.
This was the final run before Tull's run won the game three innings later.
Lampasas 2, Gatesville 1
The second game was a pitcher's duel, with neither team scoring until the seventh inning.
In the top of the seventh, Gatesville scored one run.
Keeton hit an RBI single to right field, and Ibarra scored.
In the bottom half of the inning, Lampasas scored two runs to win the game and force a third game.
Lampasas 4, Gatesville 3
In the winner-take-all game, Lampasas took the early lead and then answered when Gatesville tied the game, winning 4-3.
Neither team scored after

the fourth inning.
Lampasas took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first before Gatesville answered with two runs in the bottom of the third, tying the game 2-2.
Bradley James hit a two-run home run to right field, scoring Muegge.
Lampasas answered right back with two runs in the next half inning.
Gatesville scored a run in the bottom half of the fourth, cutting the Lampasas lead to 4-3.
Tull hit an RBI single to right field, and Coleman scored.
Gatesville had chances to score later in the game, but a groundout ended the bottom of the sixth, and a strikeout ended the game.

JONESBORO BASEBALL

Jonesboro fell in two games to Gordon in the opening round of the 2025 playoffs, dropping the first game 15-5 and the second game 13-4.
The losses end Jonesboro's season at 7-11.
Gordon 15, Jonesboro 5
After taking an early 1-0 lead, Gordon took the lead for good and didn't trail after the first inning.
In the top half of the first, Jonesboro took a 1-0 lead.
Evan Mansell hit an RBI single to left field and Layden Nichols scored.
Gordon scored five runs in

the bottom of the first and three runs in the second to take an 8-1 lead.
Jonesboro cut the lead to 8-2 in the top of the third.
Luke Stephenson scored on a wild pitch.
Gordon added a run in the bottom of the fifth.
Jonesboro cut the lead to 9-5 in the top of the sixth.
Maddox Stroud hit an RBI single to right field, and Damon Moore scored. Truett Foote scored in the next at bat on a steal of home. Lash Turner scored in the at bat two batters later on an error.
Gordon added six runs to end the game due to the mercy rule 15-5.
Gordon 13, Jonesboro 4
In the second game, Gordon took the lead early and never relinquished it.
After trailing 6-0, Jonesboro scored two runs in the bottom of the second.
Foote scored on a pick-off attempt before Turner scored as Preston Seager reached base on an error.
With Gordon leading 7-2, Jonesboro scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth.
Foote scored on an error and Turner scored on another error in the same at bat.
Gordon added six runs in the top of the sixth to conclude the scoring.
The game ended after a ground ball out in the bottom of the seventh.

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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Oglesby ISD selects class of 2025 valedictorian and salutatorian

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Oglesby High School’s valedictorian and salutatorian have been named for the class of 2025.

Valedictorian, Drake LeBlanc

Oglesby ISD valedictorian, Drake LeBlanc, is the son of Dustin and Tasha LeBlanc. Throughout his high school career, LeBlanc has been involved in many extracurricular activities, including the Beta Club, the golf team, and being the videographer for the football team and the FFA (Future Farmers of America) president. He has received the Fighting Tiger Award, Honors and Biological Honors. He is currently enrolled in the Texas Bioscience Institute

through Temple College and will be the first student of Oglesby ISD to graduate from the program with an associate’s degree in biological studies before receiving his high school diploma. LeBlanc plans on attending Baylor University in the fall while majoring in biology on the pre-med track.

Salutatorian, Landon Robinson

Oglesby ISD’s salutatorian for the class of 2025 is Landon Robinson, the son of Lindsey Maddox and Randy Robinson. Landon is a Beta Club member and has been selected to the Academic Honor Roll this year as well. He is enrolled in the Tarleton Today program and is taking an English and college algebra course. His plan following

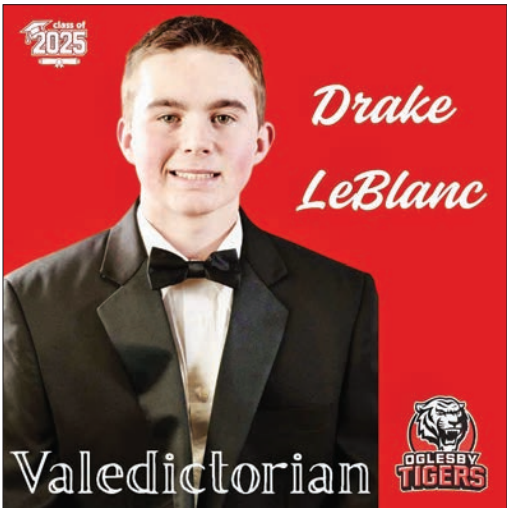
graduation is to attend college to complete his basics until he decides on a plan for his future.

Oglesby ISD released an online post about LeBlanc and Robinson, congratulating the students on their accomplishments as valedictorian and salutatorian.

“These two incredible students have poured hours into their studies, overcame challenges and led by example. Their hard work and determination have truly made a mark on our school and those around them,” Oglesby ISD wrote in an online post. “As they prepare to step onto the stage one last time as students, we celebrate not just their academic success, but the character and resilience they’ve shown along the way.”



Oglesby ISD Salutatorian Landon Robinson



Oglesby ISD Valedictorian Drake LeBlanc

COURTESY PHOTO

Silver Cord, Golden Future: OISD’s Drake LeBlanc leads the way

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Oglesby Independent School District senior, Drake LeBlanc, made school history last week after being the first student in the district to complete Temple College’s Texas Bioscience Institute (TBI) program.

The TBI program offers highly motivated high school students, like LeBlanc, the opportunity to earn up to 60 college credit hours in a STEM-focused (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) foundational

curriculum.

In addition to college credit, TBI encourages students to participate in experiential learning opportunities. Students in the program are required to complete a minimum of 16 hours of job shadowing and 16 hours of community service.

He graduated from the TBI program Thursday, May 1 at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple at the Temple Silver Cording Ceremony.

LeBlanc received his first cord during the ceremony along with his biological

honor cords. He will proudly earn his associate’s degree from Temple College before graduating with his high school diploma. He was also named valedictorian of Oglesby ISD for the class of 2025.

“Drake has done an outstanding job forging a path for himself and other future Tigers as the first OISD student to complete the Texas Bioscience Institute at Temple College,” Oglesby ISD wrote in an online post. “Drake, we are so proud of your accomplishments, keep reaching for the stars.”



Oglesby Tiger Drake LeBlanc is pictured during the Temple College’s Silver Cording Ceremony.

COURTESY OF OGLESBY ISD



HORNETS NEST

GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



RICKEY PHILLIPS

Athletic Director
Gatesville ISD
@RickeyPhillip12 on X

ATHLETICS’ YEAR-END SHOUT-OUT ON MONDAY

Believe it or not, it’s getting to be that time of year. The school year is slowly coming to a quick close, and our teams and athletes have been winding up their final seasons.

That being said, we will be honoring and recognizing all high school teams and athletes during our annual “Year-End Shout-Out” to be held Monday night in the GHS Sidney L. Pruitt Gym. A social with coaches, athletes and parents will be held from 7 to 7:25 p.m., and the program begins at 7:30 pm.

We have plenty to “shout about” during the evening ... will be mentioning the successes of each sport, recognizing athletes that received special recognitions and academic accolades, and having a send-off for our senior athletes, just to name a few things that will be taking place.

I hope you will join us and help celebrate with these young folks.

SOFTBALL IN REGIONALS

GHS Softball was playing in the Class 4A regional semifinals this week against Little Cypress-Mauriceville.

The gritty Hornets, after defeating Burnet two games to one in bi-district, swept No. 15 La Grange 2-1 and 7-2 in last week’s area round (their first trip there since 2018). The latter victories propelled GHS to the regional semifinals for the first time since 2010.

This bunch has shown a different determination this season, and their confidence and want-to have been evident since season’s start back in February. They have a good mixture of old and young that has helped them put together one of the best seasons in GHS history. Their 24 wins so far this season ties for second-most in school history with the 2018 squad, and they were hoping to add to that W total in this week’s third round.

BASEBALL

GHS Baseball saw its season come to an

end last weekend after losing to Lampasas 2-1 in a 4A best-of-three bi-district series. The Hornets finished the year 18-13-1.

They will graduate a few key pieces, but expect them to reload again with a group that will be senior-heavy in 2026. I know those kids and coaches ... and there will be just enough sting during the offseason to work even harder than ever after that first-round loss.

NOTES AND DOTES

GHS-ex Lawson Mooney will be making the move from track to baseball. The Class of 2024 multi-sport standout will play baseball at Ranger College next year. He has competed in track this year for Dallas Baptist University.

On a related note, we held a signing ceremony earlier this week for four more Hornet athletes who signed to continue their careers at the collegiate level. That brings the total to seven the number of GHS seniors that have inked collegiate Letters of Intent this school year. It’s always nice to see those kids and their families rewarded for all of the time, commitment, travel, hard work and dedication that have been sacrificed throughout the years.

We’ve already been talking about GHS’ homecoming coming up next September. I know of one class that has already been making plans and contacting exes for its 60th-year reunion, and another group of GHS exes that will note their 70th year this coming fall. Yes, seven and a zero. I’ll share more details in the coming weeks.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 12
Athletics: GHS Athletics’ Year-End Shout-Out
Soccer: GJHS here vs. China Spring

HORNET FIGHT NEVER DIES!

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

Coryell County 4-H Range Team places 3rd at Nationals

Submitted by Becky Coward — 4-H Youth Development

The 74th annual National 4-H and FFA Land and Range Judging contest was held in El Reno, Oklahoma, April 29 through May 1, with 199 teams entered and 34 states represented.

Coryell County 4-H Range Team members, Caleb Mannix, Leonela Rodriguez, Mia Conley and Lane Brookshire captured third place in the 4-H Range contest. Caleb Mannix earned 3rd high individual hon-

ors while Leonela Rodriguez placed 8th individually.

The team represented Texas 4-H after placing second at last year’s state 4-H Range Evaluation contest at Texas 4-H Roundup.

The team was accompanied by coaches Becky Coward and Jed Thompson as well as 4-H leader Nancy Mannix.

The team will be competing at this year’s State 4-H Range contest which will be held in College Station June 4.



COURTESY PHOTO

Third place team at National 4-H Range Judging Contest: Leonela Rodriguez, Mia Conley, Caleb Mannix, Lane Brookshire, Coach Becky Coward and National Range contest official Ed Casey.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™



The Tarleton State Track and Field team closed its regular season April 3 at the SMU Invite at the Washburne Soccer and Track Stadium, earning 10 first-places, a new school record and a new facility record.

Texans produce 10 champs at SMU Invite

Cameron notched a new school and facility record in women's 100 meters

DALLAS — The Tarleton State Track and Field team closed its regular season April 3 at the SMU Invite at the Washburne Soccer and Track Stadium, earning 10 first-places, a new school record and a new facility record.

The Texans set a season record with 10 athletes claiming individual titles. The Purple-and-White also posted 10, top-10 event performances in school history. Tarleton State made a statement at the first SMU Invite since 1998.

Victoria Cameron broke her own school record in the 100 meters for the third time this season. The Stephenville native not only broke the school record again but she also set the Washburne Soccer and Track Stadium record as well. Cameron notched her third consecutive 100-meter title clocking in at 11.25 seconds. She was .30 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, her team-

mate Hanna Dudley. Dudley finished second in 11.56 seconds to improve her fifth best time in program history. Prestina Ochonogor made her collegiate and U.S. soil debut in the 100-meter dash later on in the heats. The freshman from Nigeria crossed in 11.80 seconds, the seventh fastest time in program history.

The Texan men went one-two-three in the 110 hurdles. The reigning WAC Track Athlete of the Week Ca'terrin Cox won the title, posting the only sub-14-second time in the race at 13.97 seconds. Omar Mahmoud and Nathan Franco followed tightly behind.

The Purple-and-White placed four men in the top five of the 400-meter hurdles. Noah Newman won the battle, finishing first in the heat of four Texans in 53.34 seconds. Newman is now tied for eighth in program history with his new personal best. Braylon Hoffman finished in third, followed by

Jordan Ferguson and Bryson Crippen.

Angel Gomez earned the title in the men's 1,500-meter run and claimed a top-10 performance in school history in his third event. Gomez owns the school record in the 10,000 meters and ranks second in the 5,000 meters – and is now seventh in the 1,500. The senior led the group of five Texans that all placed in the top six, clocking in at 3 minutes, 53.41 seconds.

Jourdain Cerenil won the first event of the day for the Texans. Cerenil was the only jumper in the field to clear each of her first three heights on her first attempt. Her final clearance at 1.68 meters was matched by a pair of Oklahoma State jumpers, but Cerenil was awarded the title due to the fewest misses.

Taylor Wessely was the second Texan to win an individual crown. Wessely won the hammer throw in quick fashion with a best toss of

48.87 meters on her third attempt.

Mason Hill notched his second shot put title of the season. He set a new personal best with a pair of throws of 16 meters, his best at 16.75 meters. The sophomore now ranks fourth in program history in the event. Hill adds his second title of the season in the shot put after his first collegiate win at the Clyde Hart Invitational earlier this year.

Jacob Thomas also secured his second event crown of the season. Thomas was one of two jumpers to clear the 4.81-meter mark, forcing a jump-off. After a series of jumps, the other vaulter conceded the title to Thomas. Aston Kollatschny improved his ninth-best mark in school history, setting a new personal best by clearing 4.71 meters. He finished third in the event.

David Mvundura won the 200 meters in the final sprint race of the afternoon. Mvundura turned in a

21.17-second performance to win his heat and earn his second consecutive 200-meter title. Mvundura won the Joe Gillespie Invitational in a non-wind legal 20.65-second performance.

Hanna Dudley took home the 200-meter title, posting the second-fastest time in program history. The senior clocked in at 23.56 seconds to win her second individual title in as many weeks. Dudley won the 400 meters at the Joe Gillespie Invitational last Saturday. Amandine Estival finished second at the SMU Invite in the 200 crossing in 23.61 seconds to earn silver. In her collegiate debut in the 200, Cameron logged the fourth fastest time in the 200 in school history. The sophomore sensation stormed away in the sixth and final heat, crossing in 23.73 seconds.

Amandine Estival posted the fourth-best time in program history in the 400 meters. The Mogneville, France,

native crossed in second in 55.03 seconds. Estival posted the second fastest time ever run in the facility only to the event champion.

In her collegiate debut in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, Ella Smart posted the sixth-best time in school history in 11:51.67.

AJ Alfaro ran the ninth fastest time in program history in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Alfaro set a new personal best, finishing in 9:59.13 to claim second place in the event.

Kaitlyn Gale notched the 10th-best time in program history in the 1,500-meter run. The freshman won her heat and crossed in 4:47.26.

Tarleton State will have two weeks of rest before heading to the 2025 WAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Arlington. The Texans will look to post their best finishes in program history after posting their best team finishes at the indoor championships earlier this year.

Tarleton State golf team finishes fourth at WAC

Two Texans in top 10

Tarleton State University
PAYSON, Ariz. — The Tarleton State men's golf team came up with its best performance of the 2024-25 season at the Western Athletic Conference Championship, finishing in fourth place with a 54-hole score of 889 at Chaparral Pines the last weekend in April.

Two Texans finished in the top 10 on the individual leaderboard, with senior Carson Gallaher leading Tarleton State with a 217 to tie for fourth place. Freshman Drew Ironside recorded a 2-below-par second round en route to a 222 to tie for 10th place, his best finish of the season. Ironside is the first freshman in the program's Division I era to collect a top 10 finish at a conference championship.

Seattle U won the team title with a 54-hole score of 884, edging out two-time defending champion Grand Canyon by three strokes. Utah Valley's Dane Huddleston won the individual title after beating defending champion Kevin Li from Seattle U in a second-hole playoff.

Gallaher came out firing in the first round, collecting five birdies through the first 12 holes to jump on top of the leaderboard. The New Braunfels native finished the first round with eight birdies to put him at 1-below-par and tied for the top of the player leaderboard after Day

1. After hitting an eagle on hole No. 2 in the second round, Gallaher followed up with three more birdies to lift himself into first place after Round 2 at 2-under-par.

Ironside completed Saturday's second round with the Texans' lowest 18-hole performance of the WAC Championship with a 2-under-par 70. The freshman collected his first collegiate eagle on hole No. 12 and finished the second round with four birdies for his season-low 18-hole score. His season-low 54-hole score gave the Midland native his first collegiate top 10 finish.

Senior Alvaro Huidobro completed his Texan career with his sixth top 20 finish of the season, compiling a 227 to finish tied for 20th. Huidobro finished his Tarleton State career with five top 10 finishes, playing all of the first three Division I seasons for the program.

Sophomore Juan Ballester closed out the WAC Championship with a 1-under-par Round 3, collecting a 229. Freshman Kellen Young came up with a 231 in his first WAC Championship.

Tarleton State completed the season with three top 10 finishes as a team, five individual top 10 performances and 12 top 20 individual performances. The Texans finished in the top four as a team at the WAC Championship and had at least two top 10 individual finishers in the conference tournament.

It is the second straight season Tarleton State has finished in the top four as a team and had at least two individuals place in the top 10 at the WAC Championship.

TEAM RESULTS
Seattle U, 290-296-298-884
Grand Canyon, 293-300-294-887
Utah Valley, 304-295-289-888

Tarleton State, 297-293-299-889
Abilene Christian, 304-301-287-892
California Baptist, 300-306-290-896
Utah Tech, 302-293-303-898
UT Arlington, 300-323-311-934
Southern Utah, 304-316-318

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
T4. Carson Gallaher, 71-71-75-217 (+1)
T10. Drew Ironside, 76-70-76-222 (+6)
T20. Alvaro Huidobro, 75-73-79-227 (+11)
T23. Juan Ballester, 78-80-71-229 (+13)
31. Kellen Young, 75-79-77-231 (+15)



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Tarleton State men's golf team came up with its best performance of the 2024-25 season at the Western Athletic Conference Championship, finishing in fourth place with a 54-hole score of 889 at Chaparral Pines the last weekend in April.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton sweeps Saturday’s Senior Day clash *Softball team posts new program record-setting win total at the Div. I level*



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Tarleton State Track and Field team closed its regular season April 3 at the SMU Invite at the Washburne Soccer and Track Stadium, earning 10 first-places, a new school record and a new facility record.

STEPHENVILLE — What seemed to be going the road team’s way early on took a turn towards the Purple-and-White’s way May 3 as the Texans completed the Game 3 comeback to sweep the California Baptist Lady Lancers 3-0.

After the Texans went down 0-1 early on, senior Tristyn Trull decided she needed another regular season long ball just like she did 364 days before, but under different circumstances.

In the top of the first, the Lancers jumped out early for their lone lead of the game as Kate Penberthy hit a sac fly to center scoring one to make it 1-0 CBU.

The 1-0 lead held for the road team until the fifth inning when Trull had something to say about it. After hitting the WAC Tournament clinching walk-off home run vs. Southern Utah just 364 days ago, the senior decided she needed another homer to end this year’s regular season. With fellow senior Austin Germain on, Trull sent a shot to left center putting the Texans up 2-1. Kalyn Hill then reached base before giving way to pinch runner Riley McDaniel still in the fifth. A few batters later, Jaelynn Duke hit a single to center to make it 3-1 and put the home team up by a pair as McDaniel scored once again on the weekend.

In the top of the seventh, the Lancers gave it one last-ditch effort to avoid the sweep but fell short, only being able to push across a single run. Penberthy was once again the one to put her team on the board this time, singling to center and plating another run.

The Texans used four pitchers to get the job done after their pair of aces tossed a combined 271 pitches to secure the doubleheader

Friday night. Senior Alexa Rehmeier earned the start on Senior Day as she went three innings, allowing just a single run (unearned) on just two hits. She also struck out a pair and walked three. Senior Kynlee Marquez, who earned the win and improved to 5-2, took the circle and went three innings as well, picking up her fifth win of the season. She allowed just three hits and struck out one. Sadie Beck then took over, getting the first out of the seventh before giving way to Shelby Schultz. Beck gave up one run (earned) on one hit and also walked one. Shelby Schultz, who earned her third save, went the final two-and-a-thirds inning as she allowed just a single hit, picking up her third save of the year.

For the Lancers, Lili Arana suffered the loss and dropped her season record to 7-2, went 4.2 innings, allowing all three runs (all earned) on three hits while she also walked a half dozen and struck out just two. Morgan McConnell then took over in the circle, going the final 1.1 innings. She gave up just a single hit as she struck out one.



Splash park now open: city pool opens May 24

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Since summer is approaching, the City of Gatesville opened the splash park May 1. The splash park is free to the public and is open every day of the week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Gatesville Splash Park is located in Raby Park at 910 Bridge St.

The Gatesville City Pool will open at noon Saturday, May 24, and is located at 300 S. 8th St.

The city pool features a one-meter diving board, six swimming lanes and three children’s slides along with amenities including restrooms, showers, a baby pool, patio furniture, shaded areas and a concession stand.

A daily pass for individuals three and under is free, and ages four and up will cost \$3 per person. Punch card passes for 10 visits will cost \$25 each. The season pass for an individual is \$40, and a family of four costs \$70, with additional members being \$10 per person. The season passes are available for purchase at the front desk of the city pool.

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



COURTESY OF JACI VELASQUEZ

for both photos: Jocelyn Dave enjoyed playing at the splash park on opening day.

GHS alumna set to graduate from West Point

Staff Reports

Gatesville High School graduate, Alayna Washington, is finishing her final year at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where all cadets earn a Bachelor of Science degree.

Washington’s academic major is law and legal studies, a program within the Department of Law and Philosophy designed to cultivate critical thinking, legal reasoning and ethical leadership.

Upon commissioning as a Second Lieutenant May 24, she will enter active duty as a military police officer. Her first duty assignment will be at Fort Cavazos, where she will serve with the 720th Military Police Battalion within the 89th Military Police Brigade.

She has committed to serving eight years of active duty, after which she aspires to

continue serving the public through a potential career with the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation).

Long term, she aspires to pursue law school and work toward becoming a lawyer.

“Being a Gatesville Hornet has always been a core part of my identity; something I carry with me every single day,” Washington said. “The values and foundation I received growing up in Gatesville continue to guide and ground me, both as a leader and as a person. I’m proud to represent my hometown and alma mater.”

COURTESY OF GATESVILLE ISD
Gatesville High School alumna and U. S. Military Police Officer Alayna Washington



Oglesby Tigers secure Bi-District Champion title

BY TOM NORRELL
Contributing Writer

The Oglesby Tigers traveled to Whitney High School Friday, May 2, to take on the Bluff Dale Bobcats in bi-district action.

In the best-of-three series, the Tigers took game one by a score of 6-2.

In the second game, the Tigers came out

strong and put the Bobcats away, 13-0. This win secured the Bi-District Championship for the Tigers.

Coach Padron and Coach Webb had the Tigers ready.

Pitchers Camden Webb and Tucker Melton were excellent from the mound.

Catcher Jakson Tippit, Mason Marquez,

Hunter Ewing, Jaxon Markum, Callen Webb and Jack Hendricks were all exceptional from field and batting.

Holdyn Goff and Abram Shaw made several good plays from the field.

The Tigers will play the Abbott Panthers in area play with the site and time to be determined.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Oglesby Tiger baseball team won the title of bi-district champions.

Mother's Day is a special day at Mother Neff State Park



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Isabella Eleanor Shepherd Neff about 1854.

DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

As we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, residents in Coryell County might think about a mother from the early days, who was sometimes referred to as the Mother of Coryell County, while others called her the Mother of the State Park System. Her story is an interesting one, to say the least.

The lady for whom Mother Neff Park named was Isabella Eleanor Neff, graciously referred to as "Mother Neff." It was often said she obtained the term of endearment of being called "Mother Neff" from cattle drivers who would pass through the Neff property. Isabella would always offer the travelers food and coffee.

Born in Virginia, by the time she was 16, Isabella Shepherd was teaching school along with her father. Her young suitor, Noah Neff, had ventured to

Texas in search of land but soon returned to Roanoke, Virginia, to claim his sweetheart. He wed young Isabella in 1854 when she was 24. Just 18 days following their wedding, the newlyweds began their 1,300-mile, 49-day trip to Texas by wagon. They traveled six days each week, stopping on Sundays to observe the Sabbath, honoring their deep Christian convictions.

The young couple arrived in Belton Jan. 2, 1855. After leaving her luxuriant lifestyle in Virginia, Isabella was not impressed with frontier life and the new surroundings she found herself in. In a letter to a relative, she wrote about her first impressions of Texas: "I cannot say I am much pleased with Texas, I hope to be better pleased when we have become settled in a house of our own. I think this is a very pretty country, but like all new countries, it has many inconveniences — everything is scarce and

high, and nothing but bread and meat to eat, and corn-bread at that."

Three months after their arrival in Belton, Noah and Isabella Neff found the property they had been searching for. The land stretched across the Coryell and McLennan County lines near the Leon River. The land was good for farming and ranching, and even had a spring, providing them with fresh water. They also purchased a portion of heavily wooded land on the banks of the Leon River. That wooded parcel would help with the collection of firewood and lumber for building, and also provide a nice, shaded area where the family could relax.

On April 19, 1855, Noah Neff paid \$800 for what would later be known as their beloved "homeplace." Together, Noah and Isabella constructed a small log cabin near the spring where they would raise nine children, including their youngest, Pat Morris Neff — who would later become the governor of Texas.

Young Pat Neff grew up in the nearby community known as Eagle Springs, where he attended school and worshipped in the small Baptist church. The Neff family became very active in the church and in the small community, which was only a few short miles from their home.

In the wooded area along the banks of the Leon River, young Pat's chore was to care for his father's hogs. In this wooded area, while tending the hogs, he would stand on a tree stump and give "oratories" or speeches to the hogs, which he later credited for helping him gain patience and confidence while speaking to the public as governor.

It was in that grove of trees along the shady banks of the Leon where many members of the community would often gather for reunions, picnics and political events with the blessings of the Neff family. At that

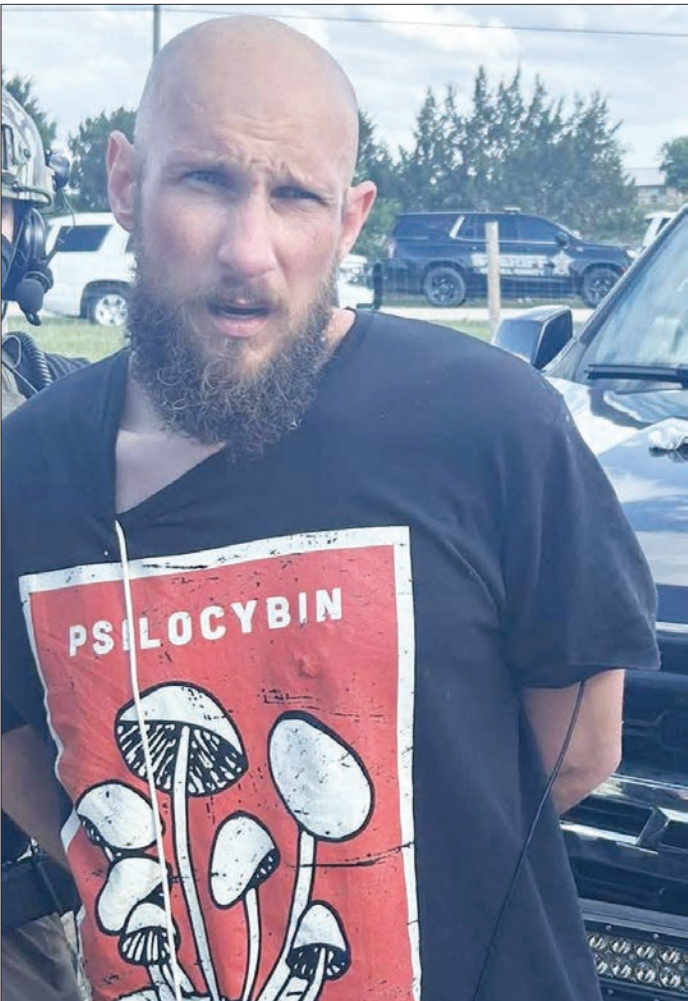
time, the area was known as the Neff Picnic Grounds or Neff Campgrounds.

Considering that particular area to be a vital part of the community, Isabella Neff decided to leave the six acres of her riverfront property to the State of Texas so people could continue to enjoy the site. That was the humble beginning of what is now known as Mother Neff State Park. Following her death in the Governor's Mansion in 1921, her body was returned to her beloved Coryell County where she was buried next to her husband, Noah, at the Post Oak Cemetery near Oglesby.

In her last will and testament, she gifted the six acres to the state to be used for "religious, educational, fraternal and political purposes." She also insisted there be no fee for the use of the property and the community should make use of the land freely. In accordance with his mother's will, Gov. Neff deeded the six acres to the state and then named it the Mother Neff Memorial Park. The only restriction in the deed was the understanding the Neff family would always have the right to claim the pecan crops from the massive pecan trees along the Leon. Gov. Neff would later add a sizeable amount of land to his mother's original donation, creating a 259-acre park.

At the time of Mother Neff's passing, there was not an official state park system in existence, but with the continued perseverance of Gov. Neff, who served two terms as governor, the legislature established the Texas State Parks Board in 1923.

Gov. Neff was the prime example of a "mama's boy," and he wished to honor his mother by creating a lasting memorial for her ... Mother Neff State Park. Fittingly, the park was officially dedicated on Mother's Day, May 14, 1938.



COURTESY OF COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Charles Cadle of Lampasas County

Coryell County Sheriff's Office serves high-risk felony warrant

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

The Coryell County Sheriff's Office responded to a mutual aid request from the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office Wednesday, May 7, during a high-risk felony warrant service involving a suspect deemed a direct threat to public safety.

Upon approval of the request, Coryell County Sheriff's Office deployed several specialized units to assist in the operation, including the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, the Crisis Negotiation Team and K-9 Units.

At approximately 5:51 p.m., after repeated attempts by members of the Crisis Negotiations Team to coordinate a peaceful surrender went unanswered, the SWAT

Team entered the residence and located the suspect, Charles Cadle of Lampasas County, who was armed with a loaded firearm concealed in a closet and refused to surrender peacefully.

This resulted in the application of less-lethal force measures, which ultimately allowed the SWAT Team to safely apprehend Cadle without loss of life.

He was evaluated by on-site medical personnel before being turned over to the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office for further processing.

Officials of the Coryell County Sheriff's Office emphasized the operation reinforces their determination to ensure not only the safety of the community but also the safety of surrounding communities when requested.

City Manager provides update on city facility closures

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Last week, City Manager Brad Hunt issued a press release to update the public on the city's efforts to secure FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding, repair

damages and reopen facilities affected by the large-scale flooding events in May of 2024.

The city is currently working with its fourth FEMA project manager as well as partners at the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM).

According to the press release, 17 locations and more than 90 total damage areas from the flooding and associated wind and rain events in April and May 2024 have been identified.

The press release also states that many of the documented damages are un-

der consideration for FEMA funding, but do not require closures of facilities.

Other locations were also damaged to the point that closures were required, including:

FAUNT LE ROY PARK The entire park flooded May 3-6, 2024

The walking trail and upper portion of the park were reopened in July 2024, after extensive debris removal, electrical repairs, walking trail resurfacing and cleanup.

The lower loop portion of the park was reopened to pedestrians last month after removal of damaged trees and limbs, electrical work and installation of safety fencing near the hazardous banks of the river. The bathrooms will reopen soon after plumbing and other repairs are completed.

The portion of 7th Street between the walking trail and the lower portion crosses over a large culvert, which was damaged in the flood. This culvert will require FEMA funding to repair, and that is the reason the lower portion is not yet open to vehicular traffic.

GATESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY — roof was damaged due to wind/hail events in April/May 2024

The weather events worsened a roof and HVAC issue at the library, causing high humidity inside the building and the subsequent development of mold.

The library was closed for assessment and repairs when mold was discovered in September 2024. Limited library services were then offered at City Hall.

After extensive work on the building, including a redesigned and newly installed HVAC system, the library reopened to the public May 7, 2025.

SHADY LANE, BETWEEN BRIDGE STREET AND WREN CIRCLE May flooding eroded the creek bed under a box culvert servicing Shady Lane

The concrete culvert became unstable and unsafe for vehicular travel.

Shady Lane was closed in October 2024 due to safety concerns.

The city continues to work with FEMA to fund the repairs of this culvert and

anticipates reopening Shady Lane within four weeks of receipt of the pending funding.

In November 2024, the city also closed the 1904 Leon River Bridge. According to the press release, this did not result directly from the May 2024 flood, but from safety concerns resulting from an inspection performed by the Texas Department of Transportation. The inspection showed the main deck of the bridge was at risk of failure due to being attached to the main structure by only one main bolt.

"We are pursuing grant opportunities to have an engineering firm assess the bridge, and our long-term goal is to reopen it for pedestrian traffic," City Manager Brad Hunt said in the press release.

"We sincerely appreciate the public's patience as we work diligently, and within our budget, toward reopening these public facilities," Hunt said in the press release.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Shady Lane, between Bridge Street and Wren Circle, is closed off due to the May 2024 flooding, which eroded the creek bed under a culvert box servicing Shady Lane.

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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Choir to present Showstoppers

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Junior High School and High School choir programs will host “Showstoppers: A Happily Ever After,” on May 15-16 in the Gatesville High School auditorium.

The Junior High School Choirs, Boys2Men, and the High School Varsity Choirs will perform on May 15. The High School Choirs and sixth grade choir will perform on May A16.

Tickets went on sale May 1 at <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/CWJY>. There will be reserved seating.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

JISD announced pre-k, kindergarten roundup

Staff Reports

Jonesboro Independent School District's pre-kindergarten and kindergarten roundup for the 2025-26 school year became available at the end of April.

Students residing in the district will be accepted through June 1. Out-of-district students will be accepted from June 1-25 and will be based on availability.

For further information, contact Jonesboro ISD at 254-463-2111 or visit their website at www.jonesboroisd.net.

Donkey Basketball canceled last minute



COURTESY PHOTO

Donkey Basketball, which was set for May 2, was canceled unexpectedly. Pictured are each of the teams involved in the event: The Hometown Hee-Haws, Burro Ballers, Friday Night Fillies and Hornets on Hooves.

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH

Staff Writer

Gatesville High School's Hornet Cheer Booster Club partnered with Dairyland Donkey Ball to host a donkey basketball tournament Friday, May 2, but it was canceled due to circumstances.

The employee of Dairyland Donkey Ball, who was hauling the donkeys for the event, left Stephenville around 2:30 p.m. to arrive in Gatesville by 4 p.m. but never made it to his destination. Contact between the individual and his employer was lost as well. Erath County law enforcement also made efforts to locate him.

After searching for the individual, he was found safe along with the donkeys, but additional details were not released. Although Gatesville ISD released a statement which read the business owners, headquartered in Wisconsin, were extremely appreciative of the community's efforts to locate their employee. Dairyland Donkey Ball also plans to return for a future event to make up for the cancellation.

The Gatesville High School cheerleading program also released a statement that all online payments should have been refunded on the night of the event.

GHS to host 2024-25 “Shout Out” May 12

Staff Reports

Gatesville High School Athletics will host its 2024-2025 “Shout Out” on Monday, May 12 at the GHS Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium.

A social with coaches, athletes, parents, and fans will be held from 7 to 7:25 p.m., with the program starting at 7:30 p.m. It will take approximately one hour.

The high school athletics department will recognize all sports teams and their achievements, honoring athletes who earned academic or superlative honors, and paying tribute to senior student-athletes.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.



COURTESY PHOTO

A little Tiger cheerleader is pictured in a stunt with help from varsity cheerleaders.

Lil’ Tiger Cheer Camp set for July 26

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH

Staff Writer

Since the success of last year's Lil' Tiger Cheer Camp, with more than 27 in attendance, Oglesby Independent School District Cheer Coach Cassie Meyers will host another camp this year July 26, for kindergarten through sixth grade students.

Cheer camp check-in will be at 8:30 a.m., and camp will begin at 9 a.m. Once

the camp begins, it will be closed for viewing. The camp show-off event will be at 11:30 a.m. after the camp concludes.

Campers will rotate through skill stations, which will include learning new stretches, jumps, chants, cheers, motions, stunts and dances.

The camp will cost \$40 and includes a shirt and a bow.

All campers will also have the opportunity to perform at the homecoming community pep rally this upcoming school year.

Registration can be completed by visiting Oglesby ISD's Facebook page and using the QR code attached to the Lil' Tiger Cheer Camp flyer.

For further information, contact cassie.meyers@oglesbyisd.net.

GHS Improv Comedy Show coming May 17



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville High School Improv Comedy team will be putting on a final improv show at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17. According to the improv coach, Ruth Hamilton, the public is invited to attend and enjoy the show. She said the show will be a tribute to a very special director known across the United States who resides in Aggieland.

Saturday, May 17, 2025



CITY OF GATESVILLE'S

**9am-3pm
at the
Civic Center**

Vintage Market & Citywide Garage Sales

Citywide Garage Sale Locations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Lakewood Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 310 FM 107 TRLR A-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 3415 Imperial Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 629 River Road <input type="checkbox"/> 406 Apache Road <input type="checkbox"/> 107 Wood Creek Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 416 Thackston Road <input type="checkbox"/> 413 Strawsmill Road <input type="checkbox"/> 304 South 7th Street <input type="checkbox"/> 1106 Sierra Vista Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 106 Canyon Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 306 Winston Drive <input type="checkbox"/> Stone Ridge Sub Division <input type="checkbox"/> 505 South 5th Street <input type="checkbox"/> 505 South 5th Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 109 Pamela Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 105 Jerry Street <input type="checkbox"/> 104 Austin Street <input type="checkbox"/> 108 State School Road <input type="checkbox"/> 2415 Osage Road <input type="checkbox"/> 1706 Waco Street <input type="checkbox"/> 1706 Waco Street <input type="checkbox"/> 4507 Hwy. 36 South <input type="checkbox"/> Coryell County Pet Rescue 2217 E. Main Street <input type="checkbox"/> 408 Straws Mill Road <input type="checkbox"/> 702 College Street <input type="checkbox"/> 2315 Osage Road <input type="checkbox"/> 1110 Moccasin Bend Road <input type="checkbox"/> 300 River Place West 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Park Street <input type="checkbox"/> 411 Valley View Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Hamilton Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 1405 Saunders Street <input type="checkbox"/> 504 Straws Mill Road <input type="checkbox"/> 404 Park Street <input type="checkbox"/> Micobe Parking Lot 2409 TX 36 BUS <input type="checkbox"/> 302 Hamilton Drive <input type="checkbox"/> 1412 Leon Street <input type="checkbox"/> 312 Park Street <input type="checkbox"/> Rocking Branch Road - (Multiple families at the end of the cul-de-sac) <input type="checkbox"/> 105 Inwood Drive
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Gatesville Civic Center & City of Gatesville