



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | June 14, 2025

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Debris is shown on the bank of the Leon River on Thursday morning, June 12, following overnight rains that caused the river to crest.

Leon River, several areas flood

Special to The Messenger

During heavy rains throughout Wednesday night, June 11, and Thursday, June 12, Gatesville experienced several types of flooding, according to a press release submitted by the City of Gatesville.

The Leon River crested its banks at more than 28 feet and flooded portions of Faunt Le Roy and Brown Park. While past flooding near Brown Park has affected several nearby homes, this time city officials are unaware of any homes or

structures affected by this flooding.

At 7:45 a.m. Thursday, city officials observed the river waters appear to be subsiding. Faunt Le Roy Park will remain closed until further notice, for the safety of the citizens and to allow assessment of damages there.

Several low-water crossings in town were flooded, including those at Straws Mill and North Lovers Lane. North Lovers Lane is open, and crews are inspecting Straws Mill at this hour, with hopes to reopen it soon.

Also, the city has been advised of flooding due to rainwater runoff at a number of homes and businesses throughout town. The City of Gatesville has been working throughout the past year to improve bar ditches and drainage issues across the city, and there is more work to be done in the coming years, according to city officials.

Residents and business-owners are encouraged to photograph damage in a timely and safe manner and

PLEASE SEE **FLOOD** | A4

SHIVER ME TIMBERS IT WAS QUITE THE SHIVAREE

Staff report

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recently sponsored the annual Shivarree celebration held on the courthouse square.

The event had vendors located on two sides of the square along with food trucks, a kid zone, a color run, a car show, petting zoo, a 42-domino tournament, and an evening concert.

The car show, which was held one block off the square, featured cars, trucks, jeeps, ATVs, and side-by-sides. A 42-domino tournament was also held on the courthouse square with about 30 participating.

Live music was on stage which included a concert featuring headliner Kyle Park, special guest, Benjamin Cole, and Memphis Wells. The Shivarree's special guest was Zack Owen from The Zack Owen Show who has more than 47 years of experience as a country music radio host.

The event was deemed a great success by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

ABOVE: The 42-domino tournament was won by Jeret Burks and Dutch Nielsen who were the youngest contestants entered.

FAR LEFT: Local entertainer, Memphis Wells, played music and sang to those attending the Shivarree.

LEFT: At the petting zoo, one visitor was granted the opportunity of holding a baby kangaroo.

Facilitating a workshop

Court discusses county-owned buildings, facilities

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

A workshop of the Coryell County Commissioners Court was held Tuesday, May 27, following a regular meeting of the court to discuss current county-owned buildings and facilities. Discussions included a capital improvement plan and future construction, courthouse restoration, current utilization of facilities and the liquidation of excess buildings and properties.

At the beginning of the meeting, Coryell County Judge Roger Miller said that Commissioner Kyle Matthews originally asked for the tax office/old annex to be put on the agenda and discussed.

TAX OFFICE/OLD ANNEX

Commissioner Matthews expressed the need for future planning regarding the current tax office and has thoughts on expanding the building. He said the large room area could be broken into six offices for the District Attorney's Office.

"There are some support walls in there; in that room, it would be on the south roof ceiling line. That ceiling is dropped there a little lower than the rest, but I think you could still put six offices in

PLEASE SEE **WORK** | A4

Commissioners decide against pursuing grant

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

During a Coryell County Commissioners Court meeting Tuesday, an update was given, informing the court of changes needed to be made to this year's Safety Action Plan Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application.

The safety action plan is part of the U.S. Department of

Transportation's (DOT) SS4A program providing grants to local, regional and tribal communities for implementation, planning and demonstration of these action plans.

Associates from the county's consulting firm, Natural Resource Solutions (NRS), explained the changes needed to be made were found following the last commissioner's court meeting in May.

NRS associates removed streams

and low-water crossing improvements from the original application after a read-out with DOT, where they expressed that those types of improvements are not part of typical SS4A activities.

After hearing about the new changes, the commissioner's court decided not to follow through with the application to obtain the SS4A grant for the Safety Action Plan. The updated version of the application

would have included project improvements to pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, bike lanes, road striping, curb improvements and education.

During the meeting, Commissioner Scott Weddle voiced concern about whether the application would still apply to the county since removing the improvements to streams and low-water crossings.

PLEASE SEE **GRANT** | A4

Public meeting for county flood project set for June 27

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

With the recent groundwater updates surrounding the historic Leon River and Cowhouse Creek Watersheds Flood Project, the American Conservation Foundation (ACF) and Texas A&M Blackland Research will hold

a public meeting Friday, June 27, at 9 a.m. in the Coryell County Commissioners Courtroom.

Due to previous designations under the Texas General Land Office, the ACF and Texas A&M Blackland Research are currently conducting an extensive study over the Leon River and

Cowhouse Creek Watersheds.

The study will allow new USGS (United States Geological Survey) gauges to be placed within each watershed to track the flow and depth, and to provide telemetry (real-time feedback) through an early flood warning system for first responders.

Since the flood project's groundwater component is very specific to Coryell County, the public meeting will give the ACF and Texas A&M Blackland Research the opportunity to present information on a deeper level. This will also give a chance for stakeholders and the county commissioners to receive an-

swers to any questions they might have.

"They want to lay out what the groundwater model is doing, and they need to hear from you and maybe some of the other stakeholders," Natural Resource Solutions President Steve Manning said in a previous commissioner's court meeting. "They'll go

back and make some model runs and come back and report that back to the county."

The public groundwater meeting is not a meeting of the Coryell County Commissioners Court, but will be held in the commissioners courtroom, located at 801 East Leon Street in Gatesville.



Local, zone(s): 2 sections, 22 pages, plus supplements | State: 2 sections, 22 pages

INSIDE

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Trinity Baptist Church

Bro. Sam Crosby, Pastor

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

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

Mission Statement:

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



Faye Massey was awarded Yard of the Month for June. Faye is pictured with her dog Tiffany.

KGB announces Yard of the Month

Submitted by Marie Dominguez

Keep Gatesville Beautiful chose the yard of Faye Massey at 3407 Churchill Drive for June Yard of the Month.

Faye has created a beautiful look both in her front and back yards. The front yard has a cheerful, welcoming look with a lovely circular flower bed containing periwinkles, hydrangeas, marigolds, larkspurs, and plantain lilies under a shady Chinese Pistache Tree and some crepe myrtles. Along the front porch, she has an ornamental palm grass, Japanese boxwoods, and Chinese privet. The porch itself has a welcome sign and a pretty

spring banner. Even the front mailbox has a colorful sunshine flag.

In the back, she has created the perfect blend of a fun yard for her grandkids and a beautiful landscape. She has a fairy garden with colorful silk flowers and little figurines of fairies and rabbits under a large shady live oak tree. It also includes a special rock her father gave her. In the center of the yard is a swimming pool. Near the back porch, there is a section of sand for her grandson to play with his trucks. Her backyard landscape includes miniature roses, monkey grass, nandina, hydrangea, and Knock Out roses along the back fence.

Senior Center to host ‘Be Well, Live Well’

Staff Reports

The Gatesville Senior Center will host a program on healthy aging, “Be Well, Live Well” on Monday, June 16 at 10 a.m. This is a free course and is open to the public.

The program will be led by Coryell County Extension Agent Donna Schwausch and will include topics such as reducing your risk of disease and how to engage in a healthier lifestyle.

Sessions will include:
Be Independent, Eat Well

Learn which nutrients are needed as you age, how to support cognition through food, and more.

Be Able, Read the Label
Find out how to use the nutrition facts label as a tool to help maintain a healthy eating pattern.

Be Safe, Eat Safe
Learn how to keep food safe while shopping, how to interpret dates on food packages, safe food storage practices, and more.

Be Creative, Plan Meals
Find solutions to eating alone and learn how

to plan meals for small households.

Be Fit, Move More
Learn the benefits of physical activity as you age and ideas to include physical activity in your daily life.

Other sessions will be held July 21, Aug.18, and Sept. 15.

For more information, contact the Gatesville Senior Center at 254-865-8234.

The Gatesville Senior Center is located at 208 North Lutterloh.

U.S. Army celebrates 250 years in existence

Staff Reports

The U.S. Army’s birthday is June 14, commemorating the date the Continental Army was authorized in 1775. This year, June 14, 2025, marks the U.S. Army’s 250th anniversary. A major parade in Washington, D.C., is planned to celebrate this milestone.

Since its official establishment, June 14, 1775 — more than a year before the Declaration of Independence — the U.S. Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American nation. Drawing on both long-standing militia traditions and recently introduced professional standards, it won the new republic’s independence in an arduous eight-year struggle against Great Britain. At times, the U.S. Army provided the lone symbol of nationhood around which patriots rallied.

The U.S. Army’s 250th birthday celebration will honor the sacrifices, achievements, and true spirit of American warriors through three distinct categories:

Heroes, Legacy and Nostalgia.

The planned parade in Washington on June 14, which also happens to be President Trump’s birthday, will add another layer to the celebration. The cost of the parade is expected to be between \$25 million and \$45 million.

According to a press release issued by Fort Cavazos, the first tanks bound for the Army’s 250th birthday parade in Washington, D.C. started moving May 21, 2025.

The tanks, which began loading from Fort Cavazos, are among dozens of armored vehicles departing from the huge central Texas post to take part in the U.S. Army’s 250th birthday celebration. Most of the journey will be via train.

“The U.S. Army’s 250th birthday is a once-in-a-lifetime event,” said Col. Kamil Sztalkoper, director of public affairs, III Armored Corps. “This is a chance to see our Soldiers, our leaders and the world-class force on full display in our nation’s capital. We look forward to being a part of history.”

TNMP Foundation launches new grant cycle for Texas nonprofits

Staff Reports

The PNM (Public Service Company of New Mexico) - TNMP (Texas New Mexican Power) Foundation has announced the opening of two upcoming grant cycles, offering critical funding opportunities to nonprofit organizations across Texas.

The first opportunity, the Non-Traditional Education Pathways Grant, opened June 9 and will close June 30. These unrestricted grants are designed to support Texans who are often underserved, such as youth, veterans, seniors, individuals who are unhoused, formerly incarcerated or developmentally disabled. Funding may

be used for programs focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) education, housing, food access, workforce development and other foundational learning supports. Special consideration will be given to proposals that are collaborative, inclusive and demonstrate sustainability and measurable impact.

Up to \$400,000 will be awarded to qualifying nonprofits across the TNMP and PNM service areas in Texas and New Mexico.

The second opportunity, the Reduce Your Use Grant, opens July 1 and will close July 31. This grant helps nonprofits lower their energy costs so they can dedicate more resources

to providing essential services. Eligible projects include solar panel installations, updated heating and cooling systems, energy-efficient lighting, appliances, and more. These upgrades are intended to reduce operational expenses while creating a cleaner, healthier environment for both staff and clients.

Up to \$300,000 will be distributed to eligible organizations.

Application materials, eligibility guidelines, and deadlines will be available soon at tnmp.com/about-us/community-outreach

Texas-New Mexico Power is a transmission and distribution utility serving more than 270,000 homes and businesses across Texas.

Churches team up to host VBS

Staff Reports

Turnersville Baptist Church, White Hall Baptist Church and Coryell Fellowship Church have teamed up this year to present Vacation Bible School for kids ages four through the fifth grade.

This year’s theme is “Wonder Junction: Marvel at Jesus, Live for His Glory.”

The three-day event is scheduled for June 18-20 from 9 a.m. to noon at Turnersville Baptist Church, located at 8120



FM 182. For more information, contact Shirley Crosby at 254-421-3974.

Hay Valley Baptist Church to host VBS

Hay Valley Baptist Church will host Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 23-26 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for pre-K through sixth-grade students. A meal will be served each evening.

The theme this year is “Marvel at Jesus,

Live for His Glory.”

Register for VBS at hayvalleybaptist-church.com.

Hay Valley Baptist Church is located at 3110 Hay Valley Road in Gatesville.

Harmony Baptist Church to host barbecue

Harmony Baptist Church is inviting the surrounding community to come and meet their new pastor, Michael Wingo, at a community barbecue which is

scheduled to be held Saturday, June 28, from noon until 2 p.m.

The church members want to show their love and appreciation for the

community and invite the public for free hamburgers and hot dogs.

Harmony Baptist Church is located at 1750 FM 215 near Gatesville.

TIHA to host Indian powwow at civic center

Staff Reports

The Texas Indian Heritage Association will host an Indian powwow Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28, at the Gatesville Civic Center, located at 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

The free public event will include TIHA’s annual native auction Saturday, at 12:30 p.m., which will include crafts, materials, and art. There will also be a dance contest,

gourd dancing, youth contests, covered dish suppers, raffles, a cake dance, a craft contest, and native art vendors.

The powwow will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Dancers for the event include Daniel Villareal, Head Man Dancer; Amy Taulman, Head Lady Dancer; Kituwah Dave Hoskins, Head Gourd Dancer; and Harold Rogers, Master of Ceremonies. Head Singer Southern Drum Enemy Horse Mo Pair and Arena Director Brian Strye will also be present.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

A man never forgets his first true love



By Sam Houston

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.
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Love is both a fascinating and confusing area of human experience. I will turn 69 years old this month and I am not sure I have even begun to understand the intricacies of what love is and what love isn't. It is all so confusing because there are so many kinds of love. There is the love of your parents and family, the love of your spouse and the love of your children. All these loves seem to have their own unique obligations and criteria. They carry deep emotions and a sense of connection, but they certainly "feel" different from each other.

Then there is the love of music, the love of animals and the love of a certain food, like peach pie or prime rib. All these loves have serious emotional and physi-

cal stimuli which create a wealth of emotions, but none of the feelings are the same. My love of gooseberry cobbler is not the same feeling as the love I have for riding a fine horse across a pasture of green grass. Both are "loves" and both are emotional, but in a completely different way.

As a young boy growing up in St. Louis, my first love, outside of my mom and dad, had to be the St. Louis Cardinals. The Cardinals have a deep and rich tradition and were the center point of my life in the 1960s and '70s. Back then, when going into a restaurant or a bar, the broadcast of the ballgame would almost certainly be playing in the background. Walking down the street, you could hear the game escaping from car radios

as vehicles drove down the thoroughfare. The neighbor grilling St. Louis-style ribs in his backyard would create a savory aroma, but the smell somehow seems intertwined with the sound of the Cardinal game on KMOX radio. They were simply synonymous. In the St. Louis of my youth, baseball was a big part of life.

I have always loved baseball and truly love to swing a bat. I still like to go to a batting cage and take swings, though it has been a while since I have indulged my passion. The feeling of smacking a baseball on the sweet spot of the bat, and the sensation it sends through the body of the batter, is something that once experienced can be addicting. There are nights when I still dream of batting and playing a particular game from childhood.

Though most bats are now made of metal to be more durable, the professionals are still using wooden bats. Many of them made by Hillerich and

Bradsby in Louisville, Kent., and commonly referred to as a "Louisville Slugger."

About a month ago, I was at my friend Tom Crossett's house, and because he has a woodworking shop which includes a lathe, I asked him if he would help me make a bat. It may seem a little silly, but I wanted an old-fashioned wooden bat. I wanted to swing and feel that "feel" and imagine the games, pitchers and hits from my youth. Tommy told me he would happily help me when I found the time to come and work with him, but made a surly comment he knew how much I worked, and he would believe I would make time for something like making a bat when he saw me drive in the driveway. A couple of weeks later, Tommy asked me to meet him for dinner. He had just gotten back from the Kentucky Derby in Louisville and knowing my love for the Derby and Louisville, he wanted to share his recent experience.

I was sitting at a table when Tom walked into the restaurant, and he was carrying a package, a very long, narrow package. It was remarkable because it was hard to imagine what could possibly be in the box. Tommy handed me the box and told me he had "picked up something for me when he was in Louisville." I had no idea what he was talking about, but anxiously started to open my gift. Much to my surprise and pleasure, it contained a brand-new wooden bat, made to my preference, and even included my name being engraved on the barrel just like is done for the major leaguers.

I was speechless and overwhelmed: neither happens very often. I thanked my friend Tom profusely, and he said he knew I would never take time to do something for myself, like build a bat, so when he was in Louisville, he had one made for me.

I sat with the bat through dinner. Other diners probably thought it bizarre, a

grown man holding a baseball bat through his meal. They might have even thought I was going to start a bar fight or hold the place up. It probably sounds silly and is hard to explain, but I could not put the bat down. It simply felt right: sort of like putting on an old pair of comfortable shoes.

When I went home that night and went outside on the drive and swung the bat, memories of old ballfields, teammates and sandlot games came to mind. It was like having an old friend come to visit and reminisce about the best days of your joint lives. It was hard for me to sleep that night, but when I did, I dreamed of baseball.

I appreciate having a friend like Tom and his thoughtfulness. He is special in so many ways. He understands a man never forgets his first love.

Thought for the day: "Don't ever let the fear of striking out hold you back," Babe Ruth.

June spotlights Men's Health Month

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Men's Health Month is observed every June to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and to encourage early detection and treatment of illnesses among men.

According to menshealthmonth.org, "On average, men in the United States die nearly six years earlier than women and are at higher risk for many serious diseases, including heart disease, lung cancer and HIV. In addition, men experience unique health problems that don't affect women, like prostate cancer."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that heart disease is the leading cause of death for men in the United States, with coronary artery disease (CAD) being the most common.

There are various options to lead a healthier, longer, and more fulfilling life.

TIPS FOR MEN TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Healthy diet: Eat a balanced diet with lots of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and healthy fats. Limit foods and drinks high in calories, sugar, salt, fat and alcohol.

Physical activity: Adults should get at least two and a half hours of physical activity each week. Exercise can help with weight control, reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer and improve mental health.

Mental health/stress management: Prolonged stress can lead to physical illness and mental distress. Seeking care for mental health is important for men, but they often face a stigma around asking for help.

Smoking: Smoking cessation can slow the rate of decline in forced expiratory volume - the amount of air a person can exhale forcefully during a breath - while improving symptoms and survival.

Hygiene: Practice good hygiene by washing your hands and avoiding touching your face.

Regular checkups: Men over the age of 35 should get regular checkups to help find and treat diseases early.

Underlying health conditions: Don't ignore any worrying symptoms and talk to a doctor.

In honor of Men's Health Month, Coryell Health compiled a comprehensive guide to the screenings every man should schedule for overall health.

When you are in your 20s, blood pressure should be checked at least every other year, and can be done at an annual physical exam. According to Coryell Health, "High blood pressure can lead to various health problems, especially those associated with the heart, so it's important to monitor it regularly."

Coryell Health also mentioned that a significant contributor to heart dis-

ease for men can be high cholesterol, and men with an average risk of developing high cholesterol should get a cholesterol screening every five years. However, you should get screened more often than every five years if you smoke, maintain a poor diet, are overweight, have diabetes, are inactive, have a family history of heart attacks or have a family history of high cholesterol.

Conducting monthly testicular self-exams to check for any lumps, tenderness or other changes in your testicles is also important. According to Coryell Health, "By noting these changes, you may detect minor conditions, like benign cysts or fluid retention or something more serious, like testicular cancer."

When you're in your 30s, be sure to attend annual physical exams. "Not only do they help detect warning signs of potential conditions, but they also help you maintain your relationship with your primary care physician in case you get sick," according to Coryell Health.

Your blood pressure should be checked at least every other year.

The American Diabetes Association recommends all adults 35 or older schedule routine tests for Type 2 diabetes. You should also be tested for Type 2 diabetes if you're younger than 35, either overweight or obese and display one or more risk factors related to diabetes, someone who has been diagnosed with prediabetes, a woman who has had gestational diabetes, or an overweight or obese child who has a family history of Type Two Diabetes. If your results are normal, you should continue to get tested for Type 2 diabetes every three years.

According to Coryell Health, if you have healthy vision, you should attend at least two eye exams between the ages of 30 and 39. This is to help you track how your vision is doing before your complete eye exam occurs at age 40.

When you're in your 40s, you should continue to attend an annual physical exam, check your blood pressure at least every other year, and get tested for Type 2 diabetes every three years unless your doctor recommends you get tested more often. Continuing to conduct monthly testicular self-exams will help you monitor any unusual symptoms that you may want to inform your urologist of.

According to Coryell Health, if you're over the age of 45, it's recommended that you schedule a cholesterol screening more often than every five years.

At the age of 45, you will attend your first colonoscopy if you display an average risk for developing colon cancer. However, if you display risk factors of colon cancer, it's recommended you begin scheduling colonoscopies before age 45. Colonoscopies allow doctors to examine the inside of your colon (your large intestine) and detect any signs of

colon cancer or precancerous polyps.

A complete eye examination should be conducted when you turn 40 years old. After this exam, your optometrist or ophthalmologist will tell you how often you should get your vision checked, and you need to follow that schedule over time.

When you're in your 50s, you should continue to schedule annual physical exams, check your blood pressure at least every other year, schedule regular colonoscopies based on your doctor's recommendation, and get tested for Type 2 diabetes every three years unless your doctor recommends you get tested more often.

At age 50, if you're at average risk of developing prostate cancer, exams should be scheduled every three to five years.

Coryell Health provides the following tests and screenings for men in their 60s:

- Annual physical exams;
- Checking your blood pressure at least every other year;
- Cholesterol screenings more often than every five years (follow your doctor's recommendation on how often you should get screened);
- Monthly testicular self-exams;
- Colonoscopies every 10 years;
- Prostate exams every three to five years for those who pose an average risk of developing prostate cancer;
- Tests for Type 2 diabetes every three years unless your doctor recommends you get tested more often
- Annual lung cancer screenings for those who currently smoke or have quit smoking in the last 15 years and have a 20-pack-year or more smoking history; and
- Regular eye exams based on your optometrist's or ophthalmologist's recommendations.

Coryell Health also stated that the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends a one-time abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening for men ages 65-75 who have ever smoked. However, men over 60 with a family history of AAA should attend regular screenings.

The ultrasound test detects an enlarged part of the aorta, which is the body's largest artery. Most people show no warning signs or symptoms indicating they have an AAA in the lower part of their aorta until it bursts, and a ruptured AAA can cause deadly bleeding since the aorta is the body's main supplier of blood.

To schedule an exam with Coryell Health, call 254-865-2166. To schedule a lung cancer screening using a low-dose CT scan, call 254-248-6238. The complete, comprehensive guide can be found by visiting Coryell Health's website at coryellhealth.org.

Overall, your health is an important determinant of your quality of life at every age, so be sure to schedule regular checkups with a doctor for the reassurance of health.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Star Hamilton

Say hello to our neighbor, Star Hamilton!

Star Hamilton has been an educator at Gatesville High School for five years. She teaches the law enforcement pathway and is the PAL (Peer Assistance and Leadership) coordinator. "The best part of my job is watching teens grow and turn into young adults," she said. Her roots run deep in Gatesville. She has called Gatesville her home since 1998 and graduated from Gatesville High School in 2000. "The best part about Gatesville is how giving and kind this community is," she said. "Gatesville always pulls together for those in need."

Star reads The Gatesville Messenger and says, "I love reading about the lives of others and all the accomplishments of GSD that are showcased."

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

June observed as PTSD Awareness Month

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Each year, the month of June is recognized as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, an estimated 3.6% of adults in the United States had PTSD within the past year.

Post-traumatic stress disorder can develop after exposure to a potential traumatic event that is beyond a typical stressor. Individuals who experience PTSD may have persistent, frightening thoughts and memories of a specific event, experience sleep problems, feel detached or numb or may easily be startled. In severe forms, PTSD can significantly impair a person's ability to function at work, at home and socially.

Anyone can develop PTSD; personal factors such as previous traumatic exposure, age, and gender can affect whether a person will develop the disorder.

PTSD symptoms usually start soon after the traumatic event, but they may not appear until months or

years later and could also come and go over many years.

Within the disorder, there are four types of symptoms, and to be diagnosed, you need to have each type.

The four symptoms include

- Reliving the event, which is also referred to as re-experiencing symptoms.
- Avoiding things that remind you of the event.
- Having more negative thoughts and feelings than before the event.
- Feeling on edge or keyed up, which is also called hyperarousal.

The National Institute of Mental Health suggests that you should talk to a doctor or mental health care provider if your symptoms last longer than a month, are very upsetting, or disrupt your daily life.

The different types of therapy include psychotherapy, cognitive therapy, exposure therapy, and eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR).

For further information, visit nimh.nih.gov or mayoclinic.org.

Recipe of the Week

This recipe appeared in the "Methodist Best" cookbook in 2008. The Gatesville Messenger plans to run 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.

PISTACHIO CAKE

Ramona Bell

- ½ cup canola oil
- 4 drops of green food coloring

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup club soda
- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 packages instant pistachio pudding
- ½ cup nuts
- ½ cup maraschino cherries

Mix pudding and cake mix, alternately blend in oil, egg and club soda. Add nuts and chopped cherries. Bake in a greased, floured tube pan at 350 for 50 minutes. Dust with powdered sugar when cool.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: TRUFFLE & EGG

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

A big beef show in a small town



BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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

Andy Holloway has seen the ups and downs of the cattle business. He had a large enterprise in Abilene, but then came hard times. He called an old professor he had at A&M and explained his financial situation. The teacher told Andy that a county agent position was open in the panhandle town of Canadian, the county seat of Hemphill County. Andy took it with the thought of biding his time until something better came along. But he stayed. In 2015, Andy invited area ranchers to a beef conference. It was held in a small building in late April. “We charged each rancher

a hundred dollars to come to this meeting,” says Andy. “I was told by some of my colleagues that nobody would come and pay a hundred dollars to go to an extension meeting when they could go to similar meetings for free. But they didn’t realize the speakers I had and the topics that we had to discuss. They also didn’t realize that I would work to promote it and get people to present this information. It was a sellout crowd, standing room only. Eighty-five people attended.” Andy’s family has been in the cattle business dating back to his great-grandfa-

ther. Andy had a cattle marketing company for 30 years and made contacts all over the country. He used those contacts to promote his second conference in 2016. “We moved the little beef conference out to the north side of town to an event center here in Canadian called Jones Pavilion. We had 211 people that year for the conference. And if you fast forward to 2025 we had 865 people from 24 states and four foreign countries here in Canadian for our beef cattle conference. It’s been amazing. How could a little town of 2,500 people out in the middle of the prairie host an event that has now become an international beef cattle conference? The most important and knowledgeable ranchers and agribusiness professionals have been here to be speakers, and it’s been just amazing how people have responded and attended. We’ve been told so many times that this event is the event where people en-

joy coming to learn the most, experience other people just like them that are ranching for business and profit every day.” The price of going to the meeting has increased. “Back in 2015, things were a lot cheaper than they are now, and we’ve had to go up to a hundred seventy-five. But that’s for two days and includes barbecue, steaks and prime rib meals, information from speakers and trade show vendors. And there’s all kinds of items to take home. It’s the best deal in the business. I recently went to the National Cattle Beef Association meeting in San Antonio, and it cost \$1,375 just for the registration.” He had 16 trade show vendors in 2016 and now has 110 vendors and 26 corporate sponsors. Some of the featured speakers hold powerful positions in Washington. It is Canadian’s biggest event.

Tumbleweed to be nominated for Texas Radio Hall of Fame

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Guest columnist for The Gatesville Messenger, Tumbleweed Smith, has been nominated for induction into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. In 1960, just out of the U.S. Army, Smith got his first radio job at KBST in Big Spring. He worked at radio stations KPRC in Houston and WHO in Des Moines, Iowa. Smith earned 28 news awards and sent stories to NBC, BBC, John



Smith
Madden’s Radio Show and to Paul Harvey.
In 1969, he started a syndi-

cated radio show, The Sound of Texas, and, 14,500 broadcasts later, is still on the air every weekday. More than 100 stations have aired the series over the years, with sponsors providing millions of dollars for Texas radio stations. His various productions have won national and international awards. Both the Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress have recognized him for preserving Texas history. His archives are going to Baylor University.

GRANT

FROM PAGE A1

Another factor in deciding not to pursue the grant is due to most of the projects only involve audits for the demonstration activity to plan and determine where improvements are needed. “And I know we can always turn a grant down, but that never looks, you know, good,” Commissioner Weddle said. “And so, then we’ve got a 20% match to go out and do this study and maybe one demonstration project of a bike lane or a road; I’m not seeing the validity of this particular grant for us.”

SUDOKU

Puzzle answers from the June 7 2025 issue.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

				3		9	4	2
	1							
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	7	1	8	5	9	4	6	
	6		1					
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Puzzle by websudoku.com

“I do agree we kind of had this all roped into a much larger grant that included low-water crossings,” Coryell County Judge Roger Miller said. “These other five areas we had included in there were more as a side benefit to Evant, Oglesby, Gatesville, Jonesboro, Copperas Cove, because it would have given them a tool to then assess what their needs are, not that we’re going to go build pedestrian crossings, because, I concur, we have very few, if any, pedestrian crossing areas on strictly county roads. So, other than education, the majority of those things would be beneficial to cities and schools.”

FLOOD

FROM PAGE A1

contact their insurance company as soon as possible to report claims. “We will evaluate the flood damage throughout the remainder of this week and begin cleanup operations at our parks as soon as possible,” City Manager Bradford Hunt said. “We appreciate the public’s concern and patience while we work diligently to restore these areas. Several City of Gatesville buildings and employees’ homes were affected by heavy rainwater runoff, and we empathize with those who are dealing with damages

WORK

FROM PAGE A1

that area,” Commissioner Matthews said. The existing courtroom at the current old annex was also discussed. The judge would have the courtroom available for probate and guardianship court, the attorney general (AG), Texas Child Protective Services (CPS), visiting judges, the county court at law and the 440th and 52nd District Courts. “You know, Judge, I thought a lot about your suggestion and the more I thought about it, I think it’s a good idea to leave that as a courtroom as long as we utilize it,” Commissioner Weddle said. County Attorney Brandon Belt added that the county has used the courtroom for a grand jury on occasion as well as for the 440th District Court, and it could be used again in the future if it’s maintained as a courtroom. Belt also mentioned that a room used to be available for the judge to visit with children involved in special cases as well. “We had some couches and videos back there for them to watch videos and stuff,” he said. “This was pre-COVID when everybody would still come to court, and it has served a lot of purposes over the years,

but for CPS and AG court to continue to use that office space for a judge is important.” “I would think, if you shifted the DA (District Attorney) over to, or gave them that area that the 440th offices are in now, it goes along with grand jury and all that other stuff, and that space will work,” Commissioner Matthews said. Commissioner Weddle suggested that the court come up with basic footprints and work with a draftsman as well as two stakeholders to make sure their plans are within the correct criteria. No formal motion needed to be made regarding the situation at the current tax office. During the meeting, Judge Miller pulled out a document from April of 2019, which provided recommendations from a study the county conducted with RBDR Architects. After speaking with elected officials and heads of RBDR Architects, a five-phase plan was made, but not set in stone. “The county has spent a pretty large sum of money on our current annex. It has been modeled and remodeled and changed about four times, the best that I can kind of put together,” Judge Miller said. “I think it

has seen its life cycle to the point to where the county even purchased a building, to then tear down the building to fix a leak in the wall, and we still have roof issues with this building.” Starting with phase one of the plan, apart from removing emergency management functions and inserting the 440th District Court, the county has pretty much accomplished the first phase since it was first discussed in April of 2019, according to Judge Miller. “The next one becomes a pretty healthy project, because it basically would take all of the functions out of the courthouse to include the tax office moving again, potentially,” Judge Miller said. “But if we built a new annex, we own the property to be able to do it. The current annex that we have would be demoed and would become part of a parking lot,” Judge Miller said. “I think based off RBDR’s figures and looking at the spaces we’ve got on our real estate list, that building would be somewhere in the 50,000 to 60,000 square-foot range.” He stated that this would be based on the voters’ approval since it would be considered a bond that would need to be voted on. “If you did that, and this is kind of where phases three and four come in, we can’t really do a courthouse restoration given the assets we currently have,” Judge Miller said. “So, where do you put those people and all those functions for a period of time? Well, if we truly moved those people out and put them in a new facility, you have to build it, you make that move, and the next phase of that becomes the restoration of the courthouse.”

COURTHOUSE RESTORATION

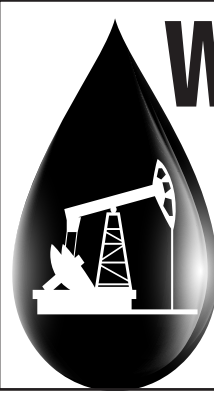
In February, a master plan of the courthouse was discussed with Architexas’ Alexis McKinney during a commissioners court meeting. A previous article published by The Gatesville Messenger said, “McKinney told the commissioners that the master plan would allow the county to apply for grants to cover the estimated \$12.8 million - stating that \$10 million of this cost could possibly come from the Texas Historical Commission. She explained, ‘This is a ball-park number, an estimate, cost-wise for a full restoration.’ She also said that the Texas Historical Commission recently increased their funding for such projects, and that there is a strong chance that the county would receive \$10 million to help with the project.” If you combine everything into one bond, it will allow the county to move those functions and attempt a restoration of the courthouse, according to Judge Miller. “At that point, you’re potentially selling up to four buildings and one building being demoed, so it would be a five-for-one on a buildings list,” he said. “That would be the tradeoff from efficiency, so now you’re putting the majority of your customer service functions back into one facility, and you’re putting at least three buildings back on the tax roll.” “So, that’s the overarching that I see, and I think it would have a pretty hefty price tag, but if we are going to consider them as part of this budget year, we need to look at a conceptual plan in getting that priced so that in May of 2026 you are potentially looking at a bond election that the taxpayers would vote on,” he said. The last phase entailed an

annex in Copperas Cove. “Although I do think we have probably a pretty good 20-year footprint there, I think if you looked beyond that, the Cove annex would be 40-50 years old, so there’s potential then when you’re looking 15 years out to potentially consolidate those functions in Copperas Cove to give them that same convenience of providing services in a pretty efficient manner,” Judge Miller said. “I think it’s worth at least doing our due diligence to put together the concept and present it to the public because there are ways to be able to operate the government while they are doing a restoration on the courthouse, but there is going to be significant costs involved with that as well,” he said. He said that it is a lofty goal, but seeing other counties such as Bell, Williamson, and Hood Counties have done it, Coryell County doesn’t necessarily have to reinvent the wheel.

SHERIFF’S OFFICE SPACE NEEDED

“The one area this concept does not address, but we talked about it a pretty good bit during last budget season, and I think it’s worth revisiting - administrative and office space at the sheriff’s department,” Judge Miller said. “They are pretty well packed in there.” Commissioner Weddle said that he had spoken to Sheriff Scott Williams before about additional office space and putting some modular buildings at the impound yard to eventually move the yard over to FM 929. Sheriff Williams said another idea would be to install a tall pole barn with cyclone fencing around the perimeter and have the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) nearby to

provide a more secure environment. The current CID building would then be turned into an area to store evidence. “Lord knows we need it because we are looking now for places to put storage of evidence,” Sheriff Williams said. When referring to a study conducted in 2013, Judge Miller said that within the overall county departments, workspaces in the facilities were not planned out accordingly, and it was not the most efficient working environment. According to Judge Miller, the study was one of the key reasons for the current tax office/old annex being bought. Commissioner Basham and staff have also compiled a list of all the issues within each of the county facilities to be addressed. The plan for courthouse restoration will be submitted to the Texas Historical Commission this summer if voted upon by commissioners. Once approved, the county will apply for a planning grant, which would give the county the construction documents necessary to bid for the restoration project. “I don’t think that this court has to ultimately solve everything, but I do think we have a responsibility to put a plan together and let it be presented to the public,” Judge Miller said. “And if they choose to support that plan, then we will have the ability to borrow money to execute it; if they choose not to, then that helps redirect this court as to how we prioritize things to maintain our government services.” No official action was taken at any point during the workshop. Editor’s note: An article addressing concerns about the Coryell County Jail will appear in a future edition of the Gatesville Messenger.



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OBITUARIES

Emily Young Jan. 25, 1926 – June 3, 2025

Emily Young, 99, of Gatesville, passed away Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 6, at Scott's Funeral Home with Rev. Stephen Schmidt officiating.

Emily Adeline Ament Young was born January 25, 1926, to the late Kay Dean and Emma Jewell Grimes Ament in Canyon. Her family moved to Gatesville, where she grew up and attended all of her school years. She graduated from Gatesville High School in 1943. Emily attended Baylor University for two years. She worked as a secretary at the Gatesville State School for Boys, for the Eason and Eason Law Firm in Waco, at the VA Hospital in Waco and for the U.S. Air Force in Waco, Denver and Wiesbaden, Germany.

She married Hayden Young on October 31, 1959, in the Jonesboro Methodist Parsonage. They method and ranched all their married life until Hayden's passing on August 21, 2009. They were members of the First Methodist Church in Gatesville.

Emily was preceded in



death by her parents; husband, Hayden Young; brother, Douglas Lowrey Ament; and sister, Doris Dean Coward and her husband, Byrom.

She is survived by her sons, John Hayden Young and wife, Sherri, and Douglas Dan Young and wife, Marion; four grandchildren, Josh Young and wife, Chelsea, Jacob Young, Cassidy Young and Riley Miller; six great-grandchildren; two sisters, Laverne Harris and Kay Herring and husband, Bill; and one brother, Billy Clyde Ament.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Jonesboro Cemetery Association, 2415 County Road 194, Jonesboro, TX 76538.

Patricia Ann Mayfield Nov. 13, 1950 - June 7, 2025

Patricia Ann Mayfield, beloved daughter, sister, and aunt, passed away Saturday, June 7, at the age of 74 in Gatesville. Pat's memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, at Scott's Funeral Home. The family will welcome visitors one hour before the service at the funeral home. Burial will follow at the family's Home Place Cemetery.

Pat was born in Fort Worth on Nov. 13, 1950, to Milton Bud Pollard and Billie Greer Pollard. At the age of 10, she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and was baptized at Mountain Baptist Church in Gatesville. All of her school years were spent in Gatesville, where she was a member of the class of 1969. She praised her teachers who helped her gain the confidence and poise that shaped her future.

Pat lived in Gulfport, Houston and Victoria. On Oct. 1, 1979, she married Tim Mayfield, and they moved to Gatesville in 1981. They built a home on the family land where she grew up, and they had many happy years together.

She worked at Texas Farm Bureau for 33 years as a claims adjuster and supervisor, retiring in 2010. Retirement gave her more time to focus on the things she enjoyed, such as reading, watching old westerns and classic TV shows, and playing eighty-four and board and card games. Pat led the way for family gatherings during the holidays. She enjoyed shopping throughout the year for her family,



and her homemade fudge at Christmas was a savored tradition. Her generosity was unmatched.

When Pat was diagnosed with cancer, she hoped to remain in her home as long as possible. In recent months, family and friends, whom she called her "special angels," assisted and cared for her every day.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. She is survived by her sisters, Penny Whitaker (George) and Peggy Baize (Allen); her brother, Paul Pollard (Evelyn); and her brother-in-law, Carl Mayfield (Kathy). She took great pride in her nieces, Lesli Baker (Daniel), Lauren Whitaker, Marissa Mayfield, and Valerie Medina; and her nephews, Barrett Pollard (Caroline), Joshua Baize, and Jarrod Dunahoo (Kim). Pat also doted on her great-nieces and nephews, Gabriel, Emma, Claire, Oliver, Dillon, Levi and Meredith.

Pat will always be in our hearts.

Memorials may be made to the Eastwood Baptist Church Youth Fund, 2518 East Main Street, Gatesville, Texas 76528.

Pearl Cemetery Assoc. to meet June 23

The Pearl Cemetery Association will hold its annual business meeting Monday, June 23, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Pearl Community Center. Agenda items will include the treasurer's report, election of officers whose terms are ex-

piring and discussion of old and new business.

Anyone who has loved ones buried in the Pearl Cemetery or who has any other interest in the cemetery is invited to attend.

The Pearl Community Center is located on FM 183 in Pearl.

Turnersville Cemetery Assoc. to meet June 17

Turnersville Cemetery Association will meet Tuesday, June 17, at 7 p.m. in the Turnersville Community Center.

The discussion will be about Homecoming 2025 and future plans for the year. Anyone who

has loved ones buried in the Turnersville Cemetery is invited to attend.

The Turnersville Community Center is located at 8113 Farm to Market Rd 182 in Coryell County.

GATESVILLEMESSENGER.COM

PEARL NEWS

The monthly Pearl Bluegrass event deemed a success



BY BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Happy Flag Day! If you drive by the Pearl Cemetery, you will definitely see a plethora of flags on the graves of the many veterans interred there. On the first day of Pearl Church of Christ VBS, which was Memorial Day, the attendees walked to the cemetery and placed each one of those flags as part of a community service project. This was an idea Linda Ray had many years ago, and she still makes sure the placing of the flags continues as a cherished tradition to honor our veterans and to teach our children both responsibility and about the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

The excellent reports about the June 7 First Saturday events in Pearl were

so exciting! From the jam sessions taking place in and around the Pearl Community Center, to the stage show, to the yummy food in the kitchen, to the Pearl Cottage Bookstore, everyone reports not only a good time but such a wonderful time that they cannot wait until next month to do this all over again! Next month, July 5, you can be a participant in all of the fullness of the Pearl Bluegrass event and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day if you were not able to attend this month. Anji Pearl said it best when she said, "It's like going home." There's no place like Pearl!

There will be a meeting of the Pearl Cemetery Board June 23, 6 p.m., at the Pearl Community Center.

Everyone is invited to attend.

On a personal note, I have to tell you about a recent phone call from my precious only grandson. This five-year-old told me that he has a "condition." Oliver declared that he is "nose-blind." Oh, my! Asking for an explanation of that condition, he explained that sometimes he cannot smell things. I asked Oliver what he can't smell. He said he cannot smell grass and leaves. Then I asked him if he could smell stinky feet (which he does have sometimes after playing outside). He affirmed that he can indeed smell them. Of course, "noseblind" is a new word in our family and will never be forgotten! My sister also called recently to tell me that she must have a sinus infection, as she could not breathe. I told her that was not her problem at all and then diagnosed her condition as "noseblindness." Don't our children provide us with the most unforgettable moments! Like you, I count adding those memories and new words as a blessing from God that provides smiles and laughter

throughout our lives when we need a thought to lift our mood above our circumstances. Children truly are one of our greatest blessings!

This week's Bible verses come from Deuteronomy 8: 2,3 and Psalm 18:9 — "Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord ... He brought me out into a spacious place; He rescued me because He delighted in me." NIV

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 betsyclark47@yahoo.com.

MOUND NEWS

Loyd Hopson honored on this 58th birthday



BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound News Correspondent

Mr. Loyd Sedwick Hopson was honored on his 58th birthday Sunday, June 8, with a hamburger cook-out at his home given by Kari and Katie Hopson. Those attending were Margaret Hopson and Dani' Jo Wood, Elliott, Kennedie and Carter James Lanham, Tristan Hopson, Francesca Garcia, Paul, Rachel, Noah, Benjamin and Emma Hopson.

Several people from Mound attended the 51st Annual Shivarree on Saturday, June 7. There were vendor food trucks,

a kid zone, a color run, a car show, a 42 Domino tournament, a petting zoo, foam spray, a dunking booth, and evening concerts by Memphis Wells, Benjamin Cole, Kyle Park and Zack Owen. Also, the Shivarree Pageant was held at the City Auditorium in Gatesville.

Those who have birthdays this week are Loyd Hopson, Dana Whitterburg, Jeremy Dossery, Emily Coward, Cherrie Tatum, Hal Hopson, Anna Baldock, Slayton Fisher and Alisa Gregory.



PHOTO BY: DAVID SCOTT

Scott's Funeral Home staff conducts tours at new crematory

On Tuesday, May 27, Scott's Funeral Home held a public reception for those wishing to tour its new addition, which includes a reception area and an on-site crematory. The reception area will be known as "The Gathering on Main," which can be used for those wishing to rent the facility for family fellowship meals, receptions, or various local functions. The crematory will be known as "Post Oak Crematory and Professional Services," which will allow on-site cremations. Pictured is Sara Jo Poynter with Scott's Funeral Home explaining to visitor Georg Cleverley about the cremation process.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers from June 4 through June 10. 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 911, 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

JUNE 4

9:52 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Airport Road.
12:39 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of E. Main Street.
4:42 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 300 block of S. 5th Street.
10:43 p.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 8500 block of FM 182.

JUNE 5

1:11 a.m., fraud was reported in the 4600 block of S. State Highway 36.
2:52 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 500 block of Fieldstone Drive.
5:23 p.m., an assault was reported in the 1500 block of E. Main Street.
7:41 p.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of Magaldi Street.

JUNE 6

10:04 a.m., a theft was reported in the 3300 block of E. Main Street.
10:57 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
12:58 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of N. 26th Street.
5:58 p.m., a utility pole was reported down in the 100 block of FM 116.

JUNE 7

12:10 p.m., an accident with injuries was reported in the 15000 block of FM 107.
1:13 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Magaldi Street.
2:19 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
3:48 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2600 block of Mears Drive.

JUNE 8

2:13 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of S. 7th Street.
2:56 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 3400 block of S. State Highway 36.

11:17 a.m., a fire was reported in the 3300 block of CR 196.
11:57 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2600 block of Business Highway 36.

JUNE 9

9:34 a.m., an accident was reported in the 3200 block of S. State Highway 36.
1:02 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of E. Main Street.
2:20 p.m., a hit-and-run accident was reported in the 200 block of E. Main Street.
3:21 p.m., a hazmat spill was reported in the 2500 block of E. Main Street.

JUNE 10

11:38 a.m., a possible fire was reported in the 100 block of N. 29th Street.
4:13 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of E. Main Street.
6:31 p.m., a threat was reported in the 1100 block of Westview Drive.
9:04 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2500 block of

Powell Drive.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JUNE 4

6:21 a.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 929 near the Hughes Unit.
7:45 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 900 block of Sierra Vista Drive.
8:38 a.m., a stolen vehicle was recovered in the 500 block of S. 32nd Street.
5:07 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of CR 231.

JUNE 5

8:20 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1000 block of CR 127.
8:56 a.m., a fire was reported in the 2800 block of N. FM 116.
9:38 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 6800 block of Mickey Drive.
8:03 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on CR 181 and FM 1241.

JUNE 6

8:22 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Julia.
10:48 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 100 block of Mooney Avenue.
4:29 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4600 block of W. Highway 84.
4:59 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1700 block of CR 318.

JUNE 7

11:02 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W. Highway 84 at CR 176.
12:14 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 700 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
2:01 p.m., mailbox damage was reported in the 11000 block of E. Highway 84.
5:52 p.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of Airport Road.

JUNE 8

5:18 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on Highway 36 near Flat.

11:15 a.m., a fire was reported in the 3300 block of CR 196.
11:46 a.m., a stranded motorist was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.
4:33 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Straws Mill Road.

JUNE 9

9:35 a.m., a scam was reported in the 300 block of Gaylon Drive.
10:05 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2400 block of CR 318.
12:51 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2100 block of Lauramme Road.
2:52 p.m., a minor accident was reported on Highway 84.

JUNE 10

1:28 p.m., fraud was reported in the 2800 block of FM 107.
2:31 p.m., a road hazard was reported on FM 116 at Hard Bargain.
4:07 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 800 block of Cedar Mountain Road.

Fact or fiction? Sam Bass in Coryell County jail

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Located inside the Coryell County Museum and Historical Center is the original double-walled log jail built in Gatesville in 1854, which is believed to be the oldest standing structure remaining in the county.

The jail is full of many interesting stories pertaining to the early history of Coryell County, one of which is the claim that an early-day outlaw named Sam Bass was once held as a prisoner in the jail.

Today, many have no idea who Sam Bass was, but in fact, he was one of the most notorious outlaws in the Wild West.

Bass, a native of Indiana, would later be labeled as a 19th-century train robber, outlaw and gang leader. Notably, he was a member of a gang of six who robbed a Union Pacific train of \$60,000 in newly minted gold from San Francisco.

This notorious criminal supposedly had a slight connection with Coryell County. It was reported that he spent the night in the log jail in Gatesville after getting into trouble near Owl Creek.

The only reference to Bass being in Coryell County comes from an article written by Clay Coppedge in which he stated that Bass had stopped by The Grove on his way to Round Rock, where he spoke with a store clerk named W.J. Graham.

When he entered the store, Bass asked the store clerk what he would say to the outlaw Sam Bass if he ever came into the store. Graham replied that he would tell the outlaw to go straight to hell. Bass replied, "Well, here's your chance because I am Sam Bass." The stunned Photo courtesy of: Texas State Historical Association store clerk said, "Now that's an altogether different matter,

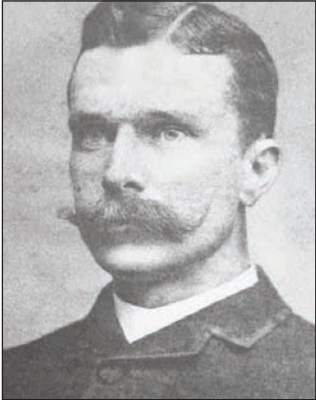


PHOTO COURTESY OF: TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Sam Bass

isn't it?"

Nothing appears in the Coryell County record books indicating Sam Bass was arrested or spent any time in the old log jail, but that doesn't mean it didn't happen. Being a much sought-after outlaw at the time, it can be assumed that he didn't use his real name if he was arrested in Coryell County.

Bass would later become a target of a large man-hunt by the Texas Rangers and was eventually fatally wounded in a shootout with the Rangers in Round Rock July 19, 1878. He died two days later – ironically enough, on his 27th birthday. He was buried in the Round Rock Cemetery. His grave continues to be a popular tourist attraction.

Whether or not he was ever incarcerated in Coryell County, it still makes an interesting story in the legends and lore of the county.

Despite his short criminal career, Bass became a legendary figure in Texas folklore, sometimes referred to as the "Texas Beloved Bandit" or "Robin Hood on a Fast Horse."

Regardless, Coryell Museum and Historical Center has a little bit of folklore to share with the public about their 1854 log jail and an outlaw who may have spent the night there.



ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH | GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Central Texas Hospitality House is a nonprofit serving families visiting their incarcerated loved ones in Gatesville. The facility is located at 708 Highway 36 Bypass North.

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2005)

D.W. McDonald was recognized for his 50 years of service to the Gatesville Lions Club. He was presented with a certificate of achievement by Lions Club president Rhonda Mohler.

The Gatesville Choir Booster Club held a bake sale to raise money for summer choir camp. Sherry Braucci and Chelsea Caudle helped with the sale.

Gatesville police chief reported that four male juveniles had been arrested for the burglaries of the Horseshoe Restaurant and the Gatesville High School.

The top 30 bull riders in the country were scheduled to participate in the "Bullnastic Bull Bash," which was set to be held at the Gatesville Riding Club Arena.

The 10th annual Key-Henson family reunion was announced and was set to be held at Faunt Le Roy Park in Gatesville.

30 YEARS AGO (1995)

Riders numbering from 50 to 80 converged on the 19-mile trail ride from Gatesville to the Moreland Ranch located near Levita.

Billy Gaines, 18, from Oglesby, won the saddle bronc riding competition at the Texas High School Rodeo Association

State Rodeo in Abilene.

The four-man team of Jim Saunders, Doug Dretke, Preston Shelton, and Doug Phillips set a new tournament record in winning the fifth annual Hughes Super Scramble at the Gatesville Country Club.

Dr. Kerry Newman, DVM, purchased the Bar L Veterinary Clinic from Dr. W.E. "Snub" Liles, who was leaving Gatesville.

Toucan Café \$ Deli opened for business under the management of Judy Starkey. The business specialized in Toucan burritos, ham, turkey and roast beef sandwiches and was located at 710 Leon Street.

40 YEARS AGO (1985)

A fireman was overcome with smoke and heat from a fire that heavily damaged the Gatesville Beauty Center building at the corner of Sixth and Main Streets.

Five people were undergoing rabies treatment after being in contact with a dog that had been known to have rabies. The dog had been bitten by a rabid skunk.

The cheerleaders of Gatesville High School were having a garage and rummage sale at the elementary school. The proceeds were to be used to help pay for the cheerleaders' uniforms.

Central Texas Hospitality House hosts visitors

This week at the Central Texas Hospitality House (CTHH), we had visitors from as far away as California – a family of seven – and Florida. We also had a lady from Abilene who was prepared to sleep in her car until she found out about the hospitality house. She came in late Saturday night with no reservations anywhere and no extra money for a motel room.

The people were able to come and spend a night or two and enjoy the comforts of home away from home. They enjoyed great meals, plenty to eat, plenty of snacks, and drinks. They were able to get out of the hot sun and rest until their time to go and visit loved ones.

The CTHH runs on love and donations. We will have regular updates on what is happening. A lot of credit goes to volunteers and the local churches that support with love, finances, and food.

The CTHH is located at 708 Highway 36 Bypass North in Gatesville.

Dr. Steve Norris was preparing for the seventh annual Shivaree Turkey Trot run that would culminate at the finish line at Faunt Le Roy Park.

Fiddlers Al Rossen and Jeb McClellan were busy practicing for the Fiddler's Contest to be held in conjunction with the Shivaree.

50 YEARS AGO (1975)

Marine Pvt. 1st Class Wolfgang Bender, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Bender of Oglesby, participated in an amphibious training exercise off the coast at Camp Pendleton, California.

The homemaking department at Evant High School was holding an open house for anyone who wished to utilize their facilities for sewing.

Robert M. (Bob) Scott had returned from Omaha, Nebraska, where he attended the collegiate baseball world series. Scott, a University of Texas alumnus, saw the Longhorns win the event.

Revival services were underway at Pecan Grove Baptist Church. Rev. Lee Roy Williamson, director of missions for the Tri-Rivers Baptist Area, was to be the evangelist.

David Davidson, a graduate of Gatesville High School, was honored with a patio party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cotton Davidson.

Temporary tags to be replaced with metal license plates starting July 1

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Texans will soon experience a new process for receiving metal license plates when purchasing a new or used vehicle from a dealer due to a new state law.

The Texas Legislature enacted House Bill 718 (HB 718) during the 88th legislative session in 2023 to address concerns related to the fraudulent use of paper license tags. The new state law and the rules mandate operational changes that will go into effect July 1.

STARTING JULY 1

- All licensed dealers must

issue metal license plates to buyers at the time of sale. (Temporary tags will no longer be available to be printed for use.)

- All licensed dealers must use "webDEALER" to process title and registration applications for vehicle sales.

- County tax assessor-collector offices and regional service centers begin issuing temporary registration metal plates for 30-day and one-trip permits.

Consumers buying or selling a vehicle in Texas on or after July 1, 2025, may notice changes in how their license plates are issued or transferred.

- Buying from a dealer:

Consumers purchasing a vehicle from a Texas dealer will receive metal license plates instead of paper temporary tags, driving off the lot with their plates already in place.

Until their registration sticker arrives from their county office, customers must keep their buyer's plate receipt in the vehicle to be able to verify the purchase and pending registration to law enforcement.

- Trading in a vehicle: When consumers sell or trade in a vehicle with general issue plates, dealers may transfer the plates to another vehicle sold within 10 days, if the plates match the appropriate vehicle type, per Senate Bill 1902, passed by the 89th Legislature this year.

Consumers with specialty license plates will keep their plates.

- Buying/selling a vehicle in a private sale: The private party sales process remains unchanged:

- Sellers should remove their license plates and registration stickers from the vehicle when they deliver the vehicle to the buyer.

- The seller can request to transfer the plates to another vehicle they own — if appropriate for the vehicle type — by visiting their county tax assessor-collector's office.

- Sellers should submit a Vehicle Transfer Notification to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles within 30 days

of the sale of the vehicle.

- Buyers must submit a title and registration application at their county tax assessor-collector's office and obtain new plates to register the vehicle in their name within

30 days of purchase.

To learn more about these changes and their impact on consumers, dealers, tax assessor-collectors, and law enforcement, visit TxDMV.gov/HB718.

ADOPT LOCAL

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

FOR INFO: 254-865-2226

Coryell
County

DEVOTIONAL PAGE



TTC UTILITIES

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Phone: 254-248-1151

Church & Family Go Together

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

JEREMIAH 29:13

JHL CONSTRUCTION

GATESVILLE, TEXAS
(254) 865-8489

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

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

2518 East Main Street • Gatesville, Texas 76528
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THIS DEVOTIONAL DIRECTORY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THESE BUSINESSES.

**BAPTIST
BETHEL HEIGHTS
BAPTIST**
3835 CR 127, Gatesville;
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
**BETHLEHEM PRIMITIVE
BAPTIST**
Elder Hugh Montgomery,
pastor; 4555 FM 1690,
Gatesville; Worship 4th
Sunday of each month at
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
CALVARY BAPTIST
Steven L. Bogan, pastor;
Hwy. 84 & FM 116;
Sunday Bible study 10
a.m., Sunday worship 11
a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
CANAAN BAPTIST
Jim Keever, senior pastor;
177 Coryell City Road,
Crawford; Sunday School
9:30 a.m., Sunday worship
10:30 a.m., Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
**COLD SPRINGS
BAPTIST**
Bob Phillips, pastor;
Sundays – Sunday School
10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. &
5:30 p.m.
EASTWOOD BAPTIST
Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518
East Main, Gatesville;
Sundays – Sunday School
9:45 a.m., worship 10:50
a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST EVANT
Dane Barron, pastor; 200
Live Oak Street, Evant;
Sundays – Sunday School
9:45 a.m., worship 11
a.m., adult Bible study 6
p.m.; Wednesday services
- kids' & youth Bible study
6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST FLAT
9775 TX-36, Gatesville;
Sunday School 9 a.m.;
Sunday Worship 10:15
a.m.; Wednesdays –
Prayer & Bible Study 7
p.m.; Youth Group & Kid
Knights 7 p.m.; Supper first
Wednesday of each month
at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast
second Saturday of each
month at 7:30 a.m.
**FIRST BAPTIST
GATESVILLE**
912 E. Main St., Gatesville;
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday Worship 10:45
a.m., Wednesdays –
Children & Youth 5:30-7:00
p.m. (supper provided)
**FIRST BAPTIST
OGLESBY**
Dr. Pat Korrell, Pastor;
120 College Ave.;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 am;
Wednesdays – supper at
5:40 p.m., Kids & Youth
Group 6 p.m., Prayer
meeting 6 p.m.
**FIRST BAPTIST
PURMELA**
875 FM 932, Purmela;
Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
GATEWAY BAPTIST
Michael Bragdon,
Pastor; 2819 S. Hwy. 36,
Gatesville; Sunday School
10 a.m., Sunday worship
11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.;
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
HARMONY BAPTIST
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.

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

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

**METHODIST
BETHEL UNITED
METHODIST**
2 miles north of Ireland on
FM 932; 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th
Sundays.
EVANT METHODIST
235 US-281, Evant; 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.
**GATESVILLE UNITED
METHODISTS**
All are welcome. Meetings
every Sunday at 5 p.m. at
the south end of Gatesville
High School near the
field house and band hall.
Watch for signs. For more
information, call 254-223-
0665.
**OGLESBY UNITED
METHODIST**
Kent Berry, pastor; 109
College St.; Sunday
worship 9 a.m.
PIDCOKE METHODIST
Rev. Pete Harris; Hwy.
116 N., Pidcoke; Sunday
worship service 10 a.m.;
254-677-6242.

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

**NON-
DENOMINATIONAL
CHRISTIAN LIFE
CHURCH**
Frank Rosenstern, pastor;
Hwy. 84 W.; Sunday
services 10:30 a.m.;
Thursday services, 7 p.m.
**CORYELL COMMUNITY
CHURCH**
Eric Moffett, Pastor; 115
N. Levita Rd., Gatesville,
248-0849. Sunday worship
9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday services 6
p.m.; Adult Bible Study,
Children's Ministry & C3
Student Ministry.
**CORYELL FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH**
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.
Gatesville.
**GATESVILLE REVIVAL
CENTER**
Wes Covey, Pastor;
Sunday school 10 a.m.,
Sunday services 11 a.m. &
6 p.m., Thursdays 7 p.m.;
2518 Bridge St.; 254-392-
9472.
**GRACE ASSEMBLY
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
Wray Nunn, pastor;
Sunday worship 10:30
a.m., Wednesday worship
6:30 p.m.; Gateway
Learning Center, 2315
Osage Rd., Gatesville.
**HARVESTING SOULS
INTERNATIONAL
CHURCH**
Mike & Martha Johnson
pastors, 503 N. 11th St.,
Gatesville; 865-6222.
Sunday worship 11
a.m. Wednesday Bible
Study Ministries (Men,
Women, children) 6 p.m.
"Overcomers" a TDC &
state approved 12-step
recovery program meets
Tuesday 6 p.m.
**JOHNNY WATKIN'S
MEN'S SUNDAY
SCHOOL CLASS**
Sundays, 8:30-9 a.m. aqui
se reune La Iglesia de
Cristo, in the 2400 Block of
E. Main St., Gatesville.
**LEVITA BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP**
Pat Cole, Pastor; 4460 FM
930, Levita; Sunday Bible
Study 9:45 a.m.; Sunday
worship 10:45 a.m.;
Tuesday OWLS Kid Group
6-8 p.m.
**MOTHER NEFF FAITH
TABERNACLE**
William Bertelsen,
Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy.
236; Sunday worship
10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.;
Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m.
**PEARL COMMUNITY
FELLOWSHIP**
6735 FM 183, Pearl; Sun-
day Services 9 a.m.
**THE HOUSE THAT GOD
BUILT**
Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412
E. Main St., Gatesville;
Sunday service 11 a.m.,
Wednesday service 7 p.m.

**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
Español, 10-11:30 a.m.,
Solamente en domingos.
**MIDWAY CHURCH OF
CHRIST**
1955 CR 3640, Copperas
Cove; Sundays – worship
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Wednesdays
– Bible Study 5:30 p.m.;
Royce 512-734-5390 or
Steve 254-865-3559.
**PEARL CHURCH OF
CHRIST**
6790 FM 183; Sunday
worship 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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2 miles north of Ireland on
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Lee Kelley, Pastor;
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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.
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THE IDLE AMERICAN

With life’s foul ball at least you’re still at bat



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is Texas’ longest-running syndicated column. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

Foul balls aren’t really the worst things in the world. Generally, unless they’re caught, at least one more swing is assured. Missing the ball by even one-millionth of an inch on the third strike results in a “whiff” that can cause serious sleep disruptions.

OK, so much for framing with baseball jargon. If I get too far into “framing,” I’m liable to stumble into mathematics, a field in which I’m a dismal failure and where — even in my sunset years — I fear to tread.

The simple act of perusing bank statements can cause irregular heart palpitations and/or stomach churning. Still, three current observations concern baseball and near misses in life that — in some cases — may elicit laughter, and the decision to take one more swing.

One vignette is pro-

vided by a sprightly lady named Ruth Swinyar. At age 103, she is a superstar at Fleurdley’s Assisted Living, where her son Dan, daughter-in-law Rose and grandson D.J. are in charge. It’s in a serene rural setting, a half-dozen miles off Interstate 35W, on the southern edge of Fort Worth. She enjoys the outdoors, taking walks, smelling flowers and hearing the bleats of goats as gentle breezes ruffle the trees. A happy conversationalist, she’ll take on just about any topic, but wisely “stops on a dime” when she senses threats from the jungle of technology that can engulf without warning.

There’s one new “thingie” she’s proud to own, though. She was recently gifted with a new telephone featuring big square buttons that show pictures — not numbers. With the push of a button,

she can summon kin, friends and uh, sometimes, first responders.

One button that seems to be most readily at hand alerts 9-1-1 emergency personnel. It has been pushed several times, purely accidentally and never by intent.

On each occasion, first responders have “come a-runnin’,” eager to be of assistance.

In fact, she now knows some of them on a first-name basis, thus warranting invitations to her 103rd birthday party — and some attended.

Oh, well. Give her credit for trying to complete calls, even if she sometimes hits the wrong button. This is but one minor example of life’s foul balls, but “Miss Ruth” is still at bat. A good time was had by all, and how often can first responders have their cake and eat it, too?

A second account concerns my friend Dee’Na Marquez, a wife and mother of two sons — Nicholas, 17, and Julian, 11. With fierce determination, she’s lost 60 pounds in 20 months through diet and exercise. Now that’s a home

run, health-wise. Her life is well-ordered, and she teaches exercise classes several times each week.

Much is right in her life, but she’s a bit miffed some days by a barking dog next door that refuses to play the “quiet game.” She mentioned her plight to a police officer who offered practical advice: “Dab some peanut butter on the chain link fence.”

She did, and is now able to buy a few hours of peaceful bliss while the dog licks away at the final smidgen of peanut butter. I don’t know if she uses smooth or crunchy, but whatever it is, the dog is busied, and Dee’Na gets her naps. Isn’t this pretty close to a home run?

The third vignette really concerns curveballs, and our granddaughter Addison is confidently at bat.

She opened a birthday card from her baseball-playing boyfriend, who is one school year behind her at a nearby high school. At her recent 18th birthday/graduation party, she read it: “As of today, you are dating a



COURTESY PHOTO

Ruth Swinyar, 103, poses for a photo with first-responders who “responded” to an invite to attend her birthday party.

minor.”

A gifted and respected pitcher, he’s a clever guy whose “curveball message” isn’t surprising. My guess? She’ll handle the pitch well, filing the card away

among high school memory dreams. She’ll be careful not to mistakenly drop it into her Texas Rangers’ nightmare file. That’s where the hot-and-cold baseball team goes to die.

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO COURTESY OF RHONDA MOHLER

One of the five statues donated to the museum by the Helton family.



Bronze sculptures on display at museum

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Over the past few years, five bronze sculptures by Don Hunt have been donated to the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. In the James Coryell Room at the museum, visitors can view the outstanding bronze sculptures depicting early-day Texas scenes.

Don Hunt was born in Gatesville on March 20, 1940, to Walcie Spence and Troy Lee Hunt. He grew up and attended school in Gatesville. After graduating, he attended Southwest Texas State University and later joined his family’s ranching business, Gatesville Commission

Company. Hunt married Mary Margaret Nesbitt in 1963.

Inspired by his life as a rancher, Hunt left the cattle business in 1995 and followed his passion and vision, and began a career as a full-time bronze artist. His contributions included the Texas Ranger Monument that serves as a focal point at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame in Waco. He was selected from hundreds of artists across the United States to memorialize and honor such legendary figures as Barbara Jordan, Tom Landry, Whizzer White and Grant Teaff.

Hunt once said, “My sculpture is an extension of my life,

my interests and beliefs... I know the agony and the ecstasy. My roots run deep. My heart skips a beat when I hear the sounds of an auctioneer.” He continued, “I have to participate. In a three-dimensional structure, I live the story. I experience the meaning.”

At the age of 70, Don Hunt passed away on Feb. 14, 2011, and was buried in Restland Cemetery in Gatesville.

Five of his bronzes are now on display at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. Visitors to the museum are encouraged to drop by and view the spectacular work of a true Gatesville artist, Don Hunt.

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 and include 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.



DAVID SCOTT | GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell Museum board member, Rhonda Mohler, recently welcomed Charles Wright to the museum. Wright is the Director of the 1836 Project through the Texas Education Agency.

Charles Wright visits the museum to promote 1836 Project

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The director of the 1836 Project Committee, Charles Wright, recently visited the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. Wright, who works with the Texas Education Agency, brought several boxes of booklets to the museum, which were published by the TEA and tell about the history of Texas.

“The 1836 Project works to promote Texas history, values and patriotism throughout the state,” Wright said. “We’re fulfilling the requirements of House Bill 2497, passed by the 87th Texas Legislature, which established the 1836

Project as an advisory committee to promote patriotic education and increase awareness of the Texas values that continue to stimulate boundless prosperity across the state.”

He continued, “Our goal is to work with schools, museums, historic sites and exhibits to further our citizens’ knowledge about our great state.”

Wright said that their goal is to meet all over the state, and so far, they have met in Amarillo, Dallas, Huntsville, Kerrville, Austin, San Antonio and Laredo. “We are proud of our state’s diverse and wide-ranging history, and we want everyone to know what makes Texas, Texas,”

Wright said.

Wright requested a visit to the Coryell County Museum and Historical Center to distribute their “Telling the Story of Texas” booklets for visitors to the facility.

A resident of Waco, Wright travels throughout the state promoting the 1836 Project Committee to tell the story of Texas.

The free booklets being distributed by the 1836 Project can be found at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center and the Gatesville Messenger. GISD history teachers are encouraged to stop by and pick up booklets for their students.

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GATESVILLE
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*Hill inducted
into Gatesville
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During the recent Pearl Bluegrass event, Alvis Hill, who was performing on stage at the time, was officially inducted into the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame. Stepping in for George Viers, Pearl Bluegrass official Jeffrey King presented the award to the bass fiddle player.

DAVID SCOTT | GATESVILLE MESSENGER



G'ville Country Music Hall
of Fame to host Jesse Dean

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, June 20. The event will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at 110 N. 8th Street in Gatesville. The featured performer will be Jesse Dean, who specializes in Classic Outlaw Country, Red Dirt and Rock.

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 heart-beat of the crowd, and I choose my songs according to the crowd's response."

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.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Jesse Dean

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Little Dazzlers shine bright at dance camp



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville High School Dazzlers, led by directors, Kari Patterson and Amanda Wolff, held a Little Dazzlers Dance Camp May 27-29 where they hosted over 100 future Dazzlers. The camp was intended for incoming kindergarten through sixth-grade students and gave the opportunity to learn various dances, along with tips and different techniques to improve dancing skills. A dance showcase was held on the last day of camp to show what the campers learned.

Sam Houston State University Spring 2025 Graduates

Armstrong, Miller, Kohlscheen

Staff Reports

The following area students received degrees during the 2025 spring semester at Sam Houston State University. Those receiving degrees from Gatesville were

Bailee Armstrong, Bachelor of Science in Biology and Linda Miller, Master of Arts in Communication Studies. Receiving a degree from Oglesby was Seth Kohlscheen, Master of Science in Sport

Management.

Named for Texas' greatest hero, Sam Houston State University honors its historical roots through academic excellence. For more than 140 years, SHSU has prepared students for meaning-

ful lives of achievement. Its motto, "The Measure of a Life is its Service," resonates among its more than 21,000 students, eight colleges and well beyond its Huntsville roots.

SHSU is ranked among the

top colleges and universities for social mobility in U.S. News & World Report. From medical and doctoral degrees to undergraduate and graduate programs, SHSU provides an exceptional college experience for every

student.

With a campus community comprised of approximately 50% first-generation students, SHSU's First-Generation Center launched in 2022 and serves as a resource in student success.

GISD welcomes new theater art teacher

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville Independent School District recently announced that Jake Hood will be the new high school and junior high school theater arts teacher for the upcoming school year.

Hood has ten years of experience in the performing arts and has a Bachelor of Science in theater from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Hood's teaching background includes roles at Killeen ISD, Marshall ISD and Mount Pleasant ISD. His students have received all-star cast designations, technical awards, best technical crew, and have advanced in the one-act play competition.

He has already put in countless hours this summer preparing for this coming year's theater productions.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jake Hood, GISD's newest theater arts teacher

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Gatesville band hits a high note at state contest

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville High School band students recently took a trip to the State Solo & Ensemble contest, where many students received superior and excellent ratings for their performances. Results include the following:

Solos
First Division Superior Rating: Josh Appelman, baritone saxophone; Matthew Yocom, French horn; Carvin Coppersmith, snare drum; Eason Johnson, snare drum; Orion Williams, snare drum; Eason Johnson, marimba; Draven Henderson, drum set; and Lucy Pritchett, piano

Second Division Excellent Rating: Alex Johnson, French horn; Madilyn Manear, euphonium; Logan Navejas, snare drum; Carvin Coppersmith, timpani; and Aaron Yocom, trombone

Ensembles
First Division Superior Rating Percussion Trio: Reagan Breeden, Kallie Featherston, and Lillie Modgling

Second Division Excellent Rating Saxophone Quartet: Caleb Bruschi, Sandra Quintero Saenz, Jaycee Shelton, and Conner Wendeborn

Second Division Excellent Rating Trombone Quartet: Brianna Petrie, Honor Searcy, JoziAnn Smith, and Aaron Yocom

Second Division Excellent Rating Percussion Ensemble: Lucas Appelman, Jason Eaves, Draven Henderson, Asa Lynn-Hilton, Logan Navejas, Rylie Novian, Orion Williams, and Emery Wood

Second Division Excellent Rating Brass Sextet: Rosa Castillo, Alex Johnson, Madilyn Manear, Brianna Petrie, Trinity Wallace, and Levi Webb



COURTESY PHOTO

Josh Appelman received a superior rating with his baritone saxophone solo performance.



COURTESY PHOTO

Saxophone Quartet (from left) Conner Wendeborn, Jaycee Shelton, Caleb Bruschi, and Sandra Quintero Saenz.



COURTESY PHOTO

Percussion trio (from left) Kallie Featherston, Reagan Breeden, and Lillie Modgling



Trombone soloist Aaron Yocom



COURTESY PHOTO

(From left) Trinity Wallace, Rosa Castillo, Alex Johnson, Brianna Petrie, Madilyn Manear, and Levi Webb performed in a brass sextet.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville High School alumna Jeriana Jones recently began a new specialist role at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin to further her career in helping pediatric patients and their families.

GISD spotlights past graduate

Staff Reports

After graduating from Gatesville High School, Jeriana Jones attended Oklahoma State University and graduated in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Sciences.

She then completed clinical training at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Maryland.

After completing clinicals, Jones accepted a position at McLane's Children's Center in Temple as part of the Emergency Department.

She recently started a new specialist role at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin.

Jones had the following to say about her career: "My training has shaped me into the specialist I am today and deepened my passion for pediatric healthcare. I have had the opportunity to support pediatric patients and their families throughout some of their most challenging experiences. The role has been nothing but humbling and rewarding and continues to strengthen my passion for supporting patients and families throughout hospitalization. I am excited to be stepping into this new role where I can further expand my knowledge and make a meaningful impact."



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Tarleton names Sullivant to Dean’s List

Staff Reports

Tarleton State University (TSU) recently honored past Gatesville High School graduate Garrett Sullivant by naming him to the Scholastic Honors Dean’s List for this year’s spring semester.

The Scholastic Honors Dean’s List is one of the highest honors at TSU for students, and this distinction is the university’s way of honoring Sullivant’s academic achievements and recognizing his importance on campus.

At the end of each fall and spring semester, students in good standing, who have completed at least 12 credit hours through TSU and who have a GPA of 3.50 or higher on all credit through TSU for that semester are designated for the Dean’s List honor.

“Such a high level of academic performance indicates your commitment to achieving excellence and distinguishes you as a truly outstanding student,” Dr. Emran El-Badawi, Dean, at TSU’s College of Liberal and Fine Arts said in a letter to Sullivant. “The faculty and administration congratulate you for this academic achievement and look forward to your continued success.”



Garrett Sullivant

COURTESY PHOTO

Willford on Angelo State University Spring 2025 Dean’s List

Staff Reports

Brandi Willford of Gatesville was recently placed on the Dean’s Spring List at Angelo State University (ASU) in San Angelo. Willford’s academic major is social work.

To be eligible for the ASU Dean’s List, full-time undergraduate students must maintain a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Angelo State University, founded in 1928, is a thriving four-year public school in Texas. The Ram family environment and core values help students feel at home, a place where they know faculty and staff care deeply about their success.

Evant ISD welcomes new agricultural advisor



COURTESY OF EVANT ISD

Joshua Johnson, Evant ISD’s newest agricultural advisor

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Evant Independent School District recently welcomed Joshua Johnson as the new agricultural advisor, and he will also lead the FFA (Future Farmers of America) program.

Johnson expressed that he is eager to begin his teaching journey at Evant ISD and has been looking

for a way back to the agricultural field since joining the United States Army Feb. 27, 2001. He is a retired first sergeant with 24 years of service in notable roles, including interim division operations sergeant major and Horse Cavalry Detachment first sergeant.

“I’ve carried this passion with me,” Johnson said. “Now I get to share it with my students like my ag teacher shared and guided me.”

Johnson is passionate about developing real-world skills in and out of the classroom while helping students find their path in agriculture, different trades, leadership or wherever life takes them.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in agricultural business from Fort Hays State University and is currently pursuing his master’s degree in curriculum and instruction design. He also holds a level one welding certificate from Midland College.

Johnson is proud to introduce FFA Chapter President Brinlea Bates, a junior at Evant ISD. Bates competes on the VetMed (veterinary medicine) CDE team and shows pigs. She is involved with multiple sports as well.

Chapter Vice President Lexis King shows a heifer and has participated in livestock judging the past two years. Last year was her first year speaking at LDEs (leadership development events).

The chapter treasurer is Daisy Morales, who started with FFA last school year. She participated in veterinary tech contests and expressed that she now wants to get more involved this upcoming year.

Bella Kolajo is the chapter secretary and has shown rabbits for three years. She plans on showing sheep this year. Kolajo has also competed in VetMed for two years and in floriculture for one year. She competed in speaking events this past school year as well.

“It’s a privilege to be part of a school and community with such a strong commitment to agriculture and education,” Johnson said. “I’m looking forward to a great year filled with hands-on learning, student growth and plenty of opportunities to get our hands dirty—in the best way!”



RICKEY PHILLIPS

Athletic Director
Gatesville ISD
@RickeyPhillip12 on X

HORNET FLASHBACK

Coaches can usually gauge the pulse of their team just by seeing the looks on those kids’ faces in a huddle. Sometimes it’s a reassuring look of confidence, while other times that glance shows uncertainty and maybe a hint of doubt.

I was fortunate to coach in a lot of wild, hotly contested games during my 19-year stint as the GHS Volleyball head coach. And, I have to tell you, there’s nothing better than watching your team compete and get after it while playing in front of a packed gym of fans and spectators (Our House) that are squirming and reacting to every single play of the game.

During the 2010 season, we were playing Lorena for the third time that season, but this meeting was for some bigger marbles. We had already beaten them twice that season during district play, but this third meeting was in the third round of the playoffs, and a trip to the regional tournament was on the line.

It’s tough beating good teams ... period. It’s twice as hard to beat a team three times in a single season. The gym at Belton High School was packed, especially on the home side where the Hornet faithful were shoulder-to-shoulder from top to bottom, end to end of each bleacher row. The match was back and forth, forcing a fifth and deciding set played to 15 points. Even with the match extending to five sets, it seemed like every play and point was monumental.

In the fifth set, we fell behind 13-11 and called a timeout. If I had any concern about any doubt or uncertainty amongst our players, it was quickly removed when we huddled up in front of our team bench. The looks on our players’ faces were not one of panic or the fact that we were just a couple of points from having our season end. Our leaders took over, they knew what we needed to do, and were letting their teammates know that as well. We talked about just making plays, not shooting our own toes off, and making Lorena have to be better than us.

We scored the next two points to tie it at 13-13. They called a timeout. As a coach, I hardly ever paid attention to the crowd, but I heard our fans that night, all night, and the noise they were making during that timeout was wild and boisterous. The looks on the faces of our players in that huddle were even better. They knew we had them, they knew we were going to make plays to win that match, they were eager to get right back on the court and “finish.”

And, we did ... 15-13. That 2010 team was pretty special – they established a new school record for wins (35-7, but broken the next season), were undefeated district champs, and helped extend our current district win streak to 20 games. We ended up losing in the regional tournament.

One of the things I remember telling our kids in that final huddle at Belton was to rely on all of the things you had done before that point in our season ... two-a-day workouts, summer commitment,

club ball, private lessons, playing other sports, complete buy-in to the speed-and-strength program, being a great teammate and thriving in your role, excelling in the classroom, being a great role model for the younger players in our program, and a few other reminders of things they had done to prepare for that exact moment.

I know without a doubt all of those things contributed to our success that season and that night.

As a head coach, one of the neat things that came into play was the number of fans who were continuously in our gym both home and away, many of whom with no remaining ties to our program or to GHS. They were devoted, they were faithful, and they were fun to talk to in the gym. Some of these fans were such fixtures that referees would make a point to stop and greet them every time they were assigned to our gym.

These great folks come to mind, but I know there are others I have missed as well: Ollie Inmon, Donald Wolske, Bill and Gayle Rucker, Bub Davis, Nellie Sheldon, Barbara Huntley, F.B. (Smitty) Smith, Vance Stephens, David Lovelace, Bill Donaldson, Joe and Glenda Barton, C.J. Campos, Big Kenny, Terry Hale, Billy Hale, J.K. and Betty Hamilton, Pops, Bill Hix, Kenny and Beverly Hardcastle, Norma’s domino group, Brian and Joan Strazza.

CAMPS

Dates for upcoming GHS summer camps are listed below, with boys basketball taking place next week. Most camps are open to incoming first- through ninth-graders (based upon 2025-26 school year).

As a reminder, you can register online up to the Thursday before each camp at www.gatesvilleisd.org, click School Store at the top of the page. You can also register in person on the first day of each camp.

NOTES AND DOTES

GHS fall-sport schedules for cross country, football, team tennis and volleyball are now available on the Hornet Athletics’ website (www.gatesvilleathletics.com). We will be posting other finalized schedules as they become available.

Reminder of some key fall dates: Aug. 4 – Football season tickets and athletic passes go on sale; Aug. 20 – “Meet the Hornets” program with all GHS sports and band, cheer and dance; Sept. 26 – GHS Homecoming and GHS Football 2000 state champions recognition; Sept. 27 – GHS Athletics’ Hall of Fame Banquet.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Monday, June 16
Camps: Cheer youth camp (K-sixth grades).
Tuesday, June 17
Camps: Cheer youth camp (K-sixth graders).
Wednesday, June 18
Camps: Cheer youth camp (K-sixth graders).

HORNET FIGHT NEVER DIES!

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

No cost summer meals available now

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville Independent School District is providing meals at no cost this summer through July 31, for children aged 18 or younger, and enrolled students who

are up to 21 years of age with disabilities.

SUMMER MEAL LOCATIONS

Gatesville Elementary School, located at 2537 East Main Street, will provide meals Monday through Friday. Breakfast will be

served from 8-8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sit-down meals will be served in the cafeteria. Adults will cost \$3.30 for breakfast and \$5 for lunch.

Trinity Day Care Center, located at 1506 West Main Street, will provide meals

Tuesday through Thursday. Breakfast will be served from 8-8:30 a.m. and lunch will be from 11-11:30 a.m.

The Gatesville City Pool, located at 300 South 8th Street, will provide meals Tuesday through Thursday. Lunch will be served from 12:30-1 p.m.

Gatesville High School, located at 205 South Lovers Lane, will provide meals Monday through Wednesday for those attending camps and will be delivered to each camp location. Due to this year’s staffing, the concession stand will not be open to the public. Breakfast will

be served from 7:30-9 a.m. and lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To find a meal location in your area, call “211” or visit SummerFood.org.

For further information, contact Gatesville ISD at 254-865-7251.

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Tarleton State partners with Dublin City University to enhance global education

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University students now have even more opportunities to broaden their educational horizons thanks to a new partnership with Dublin City University in Dublin, Ireland.

DCU and Tarleton State officials recently signed a five-year agreement to collaborate on study abroad and exchange programs for students and faculty at both institutions.

“We are proud to enter into this exciting partnership with our colleagues in Dublin, which opens new doors for global engagement, academic enrichment and cross-cultural exchange,” Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley said. “By working together, we create opportunities to learn from one another and build lasting academic and cultural connections that will benefit our institutions and communities. We look forward to the discoveries, experiences and innovation this partnership will inspire.”

For the past week, Hurley and his wife, Kindall Hurley, have joined a contingent of about 80 Tarleton State representatives in Dublin that includes agriculture, business and education students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors. The trip was highlighted by the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two universities.

“I am delighted to welcome President Hurley and our friends from Tarleton State



Tarleton State University President Dr. James Hurley and First Lady Kindall Hurley (left) are shown with Dublin City University President Prof. Daire Keogh (center) and Tarleton State students celebrating the signing of an agreement between the two institutions to collaborate on study abroad and exchange programs for students and faculty.

to DCU,” DCU President Prof. Daire Keogh said. “Ireland and Texas may be far apart, but our universities share so many of the same values and objectives, and I look forward to deepening our connection. The signing of this MOU is a first step in that journey.”

The MOU outlines opportunities for the two institutions to explore collaborative teaching, learning and research, student and faculty exchange programs, study abroad programs and joint

conferences, seminars and workshops. These mutual collaborations will benefit both universities and provide invaluable international experiences for participants, said Dr. Sherri Benn, Tarleton State’s vice president for global, community and first-gen initiatives.

International experiences, such as study abroad programs, are especially valuable for students because they make them more competitive in the workforce. Increasingly, employers are

seeking workers with global skills and experience who are prepared to navigate a transnational economy.

“There are 1,700 transnational corporations in Texas alone, so it’s important our students are getting the opportunities to engage abroad, to understand the world of business, the world of agriculture in other countries — because pretty much all things are connected,” Dr. Benn said.

About Dublin City University

Dublin City University is a leading innovative European university with a mission to “transform lives and societies.”

DCU ranks as one of the world’s Top 400 Universities (THE) and is proud to be Ireland’s No. 1 Young University. The university is known for the “transformative student experience” it offers and is also recognized for its impact in addressing global challenges in collaboration with national and international stakehold-

ers. Founded in 1975 as the National Institute for Higher Education, Dublin, and established as a university in 1989, DCU is a dynamic, research-intensive institution characterized by a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, close engagement with the enterprise sector in its research and education activities, and the ability to move quickly and effect change. DCU’s divisions include Science and Health, Engineering and Computing, Humanities and Social Sciences, DCU Business School, and the Institute of Education. In addition, the university is home to a number of world-class research centers that focus on translating their outputs into societal and economic benefits. DCU’s mission to transform lives and societies through education, research and innovation is central to its teaching and research focus.

A founding member of The Texas A&M System, Tarleton State University is breaking records — in enrollment, research, scholarship, athletics, philanthropy and engagement — while transforming the lives of approximately 18,000 students in Stephenville, Fort Worth, Waco, Bryan and online. For 125 years, Tarleton State has been committed to accessible higher education opportunities for all while helping students grow academically, socially and professionally through programs that emphasize real-world learning and address regional, state and national needs.

Four districts participate in inaugural tour of Tarleton State University Mobile Discovery Lab

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — The Tarleton State University College of Science and Mathematics Mobile Discovery Lab held its inaugural tour in early May and hosted 484 students from first through 12th grade, serving the Lingleville, Hico, Gorman and Huckabay school districts.

The 44-foot outreach trailer was updated in the fall to help give children a unique learning experience, allowing them to discover more about topics in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It features seven interactive discovery stations designed collaboratively by the Science Mill in Johnson City and the Tarleton State College of Science and Mathematics. The learning space comfortably accommodates 25 to 30 students.

“The Mobile Discovery Lab is a wonderful resource that connects Tarleton STEM programs to our neighbors

and surrounding communities,” Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics Dr. Kevin B. Johnson said. “The lab features cutting-edge displays and hands-on demonstrations that assist students in learning. It also provides an opportunity for Tarleton students and faculty to gain experience in science education and outreach.”

The activities on the trailer are themed around ecological remediation and sustainability for North Central Texas, including topics such as soil health, weather, native grasses, insects, rivers and aquaponics. The questions and information are adjusted based on the age group represented to make the topics more engaging and relevant.

“We are thrilled the inaugural tour went so well,” Assistant Director of the Timberlake Biological Field Station Dr. Victoria Chraibi said. “The school districts were extremely welcoming to us, and the students and teachers were highly

engaged in the activities and with our volunteers. We hope to do this on a regular basis and to continue to provide additional interactive learning experiences for students.”

Twelve dedicated volunteers, including representation from Tarleton State faculty and students and members of the Timberlake Biological Field Station team, collaboratively contributed more than 196 volunteer hours in the course of four days, running the discovery stations, hosting visitors and answering and asking questions to encourage learning.

“I work for the biology department as a lab instructor, so volunteering for the Mobile Discovery Lab was right up my alley,” Tarleton State graduate student Kayleigh Dotson-Singer said. “I love doing outreach events, especially for younger generations. Seeing their eyes light up and knowing I was able to give them a new insight on science is my favorite part of being an



The Tarleton State University College of Science and Mathematics Mobile Discovery Lab held its inaugural tour in early May and hosted 484 students from first through 12th grade, serving the Lingleville, Hico, Gorman and Huckabay school districts.

educator.”

The tour was sponsored by the Texas Pioneer Foundation, which made it

possible for the educational tool to be utilized with no cost to the school districts.

For more information

about the Mobile Discovery Lab, email COSM@tarleton.edu.

Texas Rangers to host Tarleton State Night in July

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University Night at the Texas Rangers is scheduled for Friday, July 25, with first pitch at 7:05 p.m. from Globe Life Field in Arlington.

A night full of Tarleton State spirit will include a pre-

game event at Texas Live, followed by the Rangers taking on the Atlanta Braves.

Tarleton State has teamed up with the Rangers to offer an exclusive Tarleton State/Texas Rangers ball cap with each ticket purchase. To claim the special offer and purchase game tickets, visit

www.gofevo.com/event/Tarletonstate2025.

Additional information on cap pickup will be provided via email by the Rangers when tickets are purchased.

The Tarleton Alumni and Friends pregame event will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Texas Live.

Admission is \$20 and includes a raffle ticket, light ballpark appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. Those planning to attend can secure tickets at rangers25.givesmart.com.

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breaking records — in enrollment, research, scholarship, athletics, philanthropy and engagement — while transforming the lives of approximately 18,000 students in Stephenville, Fort Worth, Waco, Bryan and online. For 125 years, Tarleton State has been committed to accessi-

ble higher education opportunities for all while helping students grow academically, socially and professionally through programs that emphasize real-world learning and address regional, state and national needs.

Gatesville parents reverse April Fool’s Day joke on teacher



(From left) Kindergarten teacher Kendra Pruitt, Graham Pruitt, Jeremiah Tatum, and primary school teacher Lacey Jenkins are pictured with the items the Tatum family brought to school.

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

After Gatesville Primary School kindergarten teacher Kendra Pruitt initially pulled an April Fool’s Day joke on her student Jeremiah Tatum and his parents, Scott and Nikole, the family returned the favor by reversing the prank.

On April Fool’s Day, Pruitt asked Scott and Nikole to help Jeremiah gather unusual items for a special school project that she said would earn him extra credit. Although she later revealed it was a joke, the Tatum’s decided to take on the challenge and completely surprise her by delivering the items she previously

requested.

At first, Nikole said she didn’t realize it was April Fool’s Day and was excited to find the items with Jeremiah. When she discovered it was a joke, she and Scott decided to find the items for Pruitt anyway as a surprise.

According to Nikole, they enjoyed gathering the items, and Scott even turned it into a scavenger hunt, challenging Nikole to see who could find what. The list included an ostrich egg, a patch of kangaroo fur, a giant spoon (at least 12 feet long), snow from Mount Everest, and tiny glasses small enough to fit an average earthworm.

Jeremiah said his favorite part was getting the ostrich



Gatesville Primary student Jeremiah Tatum and kindergarten teacher Kendra Pruitt are shown with the 12-foot-long spoon.

egg, and he was amazed by how big it was. He also said he thought it was cool that his dad made the spoon.

“Overall, we just really loved Mrs. Pruitt as his teacher and wanted to have some fun with her,” Nikole said.

Pruitt said she was completely shocked when she discovered the items, along with Scott and Nikole, waiting outside the school. Assistant Principal Tamela

Eary helped coordinate the surprise and told Pruitt that she needed to take her students outside for a class photo.

Pruitt’s entire class was able to enjoy the surprise.

“They all loved it, especially the giant ostrich egg and the kangaroo fur,” Pruitt said. “They all wanted to help carry the giant spoon back inside the building.”

Each student had the chance to sign the spoon

on the last day of school, which now hangs in Pruitt’s classroom.

“The kangaroo fur is in my classroom too,” Pruitt said. “It will be a great memory to look back on!”

“What I admire most about the Tatum’s response to make initial prank is how creative and good-natured it was. Instead of just laughing it off, they put real thought and effort into the surprise,” she said.

“It showed not only a great sense of humor but also how much they value fun and connection—it turned into such a memorable moment for everyone! I hope Jeremiah always remembers it, too!”

“Moments like this are needed in school to build connections, bring joy and make the classroom feel like a welcoming place,” she said.

Lil’ Hornet Cheer Camp set for June 16

Staff Reports

The Gatesville High School cheerleading program will host its annual Lil’ Hornet Cheer Camp June 16-18 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium.

The camp will host kindergarten through sixth-grade students and will include learning new motions, chants, a band dance, jumps, cheers and the fight song.

Campers will give a show-off performance for parents June 18 at 11:30 a.m.

Although registration ended, late registration will still be accepted until June 16; a shirt is not guaranteed.

For further details, contact Head Cheer Coach Amber Colson by email at acolson@gatesvilleisd.org.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 South Lovers Lane.

Lil’ Tiger Cheer Camp set for July 26

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Oglesby Independent School District’s cheer program, led by Cassie Meyers, will host a cheer camp on 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.

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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville ISD hosts summer sports camps



First through ninth grade students attended basketball camp this year and learned new skills.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

BY ALEXANDRA MEELBUSCH
Staff Writer

Gatesville Independent School District will host summer sports camps for first-through-ninth-grade students through the end of July.

Tennis camp was held June 2-4 and the boys' basketball camp took place June 9-11.

Upcoming camps include the following:

Girls Sports Camps

Volleyball, July 7-9 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. (first through ninth grade)

Wrestling, July 14-17 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. (first through ninth grade)

Soccer, spring/fall sessions are to be determined (first through 12th grade)

Boys Sports Camps

Wrestling, July 14-17 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. (first through ninth grade)

Football, July 28-30 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. (seventh

through ninth grade)

Soccer, Sunday afternoons in September and October (first through sixth grade and seventh through 12th grade groups)

Registration for all Gatesville ISD sports camps can be completed by online registration, paper forms or on the first day of each camp. The cost is \$40 per student for each camp. The cost and exact date for the soccer camp are still to be

determined.

Online registration can be done by visiting gatesvilleathletics.com. Paper forms have also been distributed to the Gatesville Primary, Elementary, Intermediate and Junior High School campuses. Forms can be turned into the front office of each campus or on the first day of each camp.

For further information, email Gatesville ISD Athletic Director Rickey Phillips at rgphilli@gatesvilleisd.org or contact Gatesville ISD Athletics at 254-865-8281, extension 251.



Local youth hit the courts for this year's tennis camp.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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CHRISTIAN CYCLING, CITY OF GATESVILLE, GATESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT,
GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND ALL OF OUR RUNNERS AND
VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

★★★★★

HILLSIDE'S RESIDENT STAR FOR MAY

Janelle Clifton

Janelle's favorite things:

- ★ Favorite food - Steak
- ★ Favorite color - Pink
- ★ Favorite song - "Two Dozen Roses" by Shenandoah
- ★ Favorite hobby - Going dancing, and she is currently looking for a boyfriend!

Janelle attends all the activities, has the best attitude, and always stays positive!

She was also crowned Queen of Activities for the month! Congratulations!

Sadie Marshall,
Director of
Public Relations
Business Development

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