

Tuesday, September 23, 2025



THE GATESVILLE^(/) MESSENGER

FOLKS AROUND TOWN

Say hello to our neighbor, Leo Corona!



Main menu

(<https://zeta.creativecirclecdn.com/gatesville/original/20241010-161444-5ce-Folks%20Around%20Town%20Corona.jpg>)

Leo Corona

COURTESY PHOTO

Posted Thursday, October 10, 2024 4:15 pm

Leo is a retired United States Army Veteran and is a jack-of-all-trades since being involved in various areas of the community. He is a community service advocate, a volunteer at the DAV, a member of the Gatesville Exchange Club, a volunteer for GISD Friends on Duty, a Mission Righteous Roots volunteer, a member of the North Cavazos Community Council, a member of the City of Gatesville and Keep Gatesville Beautiful, a Centex Crime Stoppers volunteer, and a Coryell County Emergency Management volunteer. He served for 20 years in the army and was deployed during three major combat campaigns in the Middle East and one Intrinsic Action. For the last three years, he has been serving Gatesville through volunteering. "The best reward of community service has been getting to know the residents of Gatesville and seeing how 501(c)3 organizations play a big role in our community and local businesses that support this community," Corona said. "It's a team effort to better our community." After being stationed at Fort Hood in 1995, one of Corona's goals upon retirement was to retire in Gatesville. "My Texas-born wife, Dana, my daughters, Bridgett and Tristi, my son Scott, and I officially made Gatesville our home in 2012 after we purchased our homestead," he said. He expressed that his favorite thing about our town is seeing the community work together.

Leo reads The Gatesville Messenger each week and said, "I enjoy viewing The Gatesville Messenger website, following on Facebook, and reading the newspaper over a cup of coffee with my wife on our back porch on Saturday mornings."

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

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

Cornetts celebrate 75 years of marriage (/stories/cornetts-celebrate-75-years-of-marriage,81589)

Birth Announcement (/stories/birth-announcement,75207)

Gatesville Wildcats make history as first 15U softball ... (/stories/gatesville-wildcats-make-history-as-first-15u-softball-team-to-reach-state-playoffs,72474)

Freshwater Fishing Report (/stories/freshwater-fishing-report,72472)



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Gatesville Historic District nomination approved by THC (</stories/gatesville-historic-district-nomination-approved-by-thc,48925>)

Gatesville native appointed as Chief of Staff for NRCS in Washington D.C. (</stories/gatesville-native-appointed-as-chief-of-staff-for-nrcs-in-washington-dc,56928>)

“Let ‘Er Rip!” (</stories/let-er-rip,22731>)

City Manager provides update on city facility closures (</stories/city-manager-provides-update-on-city-facility-closures,62357>)

Coryell County investigator recovers three stolen vehicles and trailer (</stories/coryell-county-investigator-recovers-three-stolen-vehicles-and-trailer,72475>)

More news ▶ (</news/>)

E-EDITION

County commissioners budget items raise concerns with community during court meeting

BY ALLEY WINKLE
Staff Writer

With the Gatesville County Commissioners Court proposing their recommended 2026 fiscal year budget, many members of the community were surprised at the proposed increases in their property taxes and the annual proposed tax rate showed a 2.7% increase from the previous year, with some members proposing a tax rate of \$0.55 per \$100.

Commissioners have since amended that budget to reflect a tax rate of \$0.4752 per \$100.

Citizens were not only up-set at the potential increase of their property tax rates, they were also concerned with what the commissioners were planning on using the money within the budget for, with community members already making funding for far less like there were "a lot of mismanagement of funds."

and the tax increase was a means of getting back on track."

One area of the proposed county commissioners budget that particularly upset local taxpayers regarded pay raises and neighborhood money paid to an individual in addition to their regular wages, that were not reflected in the government work and outside funding. Community members were upset that over those years

government workers were not being paid more money, with one community member stating that "no one should get a bonus in a deficit."

Correll County Judge Roger Miller stated that every city worker's had not received any raises in multiple years, with judges not receiving a pay raise since approximately 2015. This was after

not only the public but also the Gatesville Precinct 2 North Bridge, who stated during the Sept. 4 budget workshop that "there isn't a person in the world who doesn't think they're underpaid." This worried some community members as government employees at Correll County get behind the wage of the budget paid to the voters.

Another point of concern was during the Sept. 9 and Sept. 10 community commission meetings, regarding the county sheriff's office. Several members of the community believed that rather than the budget allowing for two new deputies to be sworn in to the force, the money should be allocated to upgrading the sheriff's 2010's C vehicles to the 2018's C vehicles.

Community members argued that, though the up-

PLEASE SEE BUDGET (A)



The Texas Brotherhood of Cyclists arriving in Gatesville for a police escort. The cyclist on the right gives a thumbs up sign.

City council holds workshop to address potential increase in FY 26 water rates



The inside of a council board of the water meter plant contained two outdoor fuses and one modern fuse.

Gatesville police chief swears in new officer

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Gatesville Police Chief Jeffrey Clark recently swore in his new officer, Darius Ramsey.

During the swearing in ceremony, Chief Clark said, "We are here to swear in Officer Darius Ramsey. Ramsey is the first in our academy, learning about police work, and how to be in law enforcement. The police academy is very rigorous, and that's a great accomplishment just to get through that."

Over the next few months, Clark said Ramsey that he would go through extensive training with our new officers. "It's the most important thing of being a police officer, is that you have a larger family support system. Don't forget to have on them," Clark said.

During the swearing in ceremony, Chief Clark read the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics to Ramsey before he took the oath. Ramsey is 24 years old and has been a part of his life in the community. Ramsey is the grandson of McGregory High School in 2020. Ramsey chose to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps



DAVID SCOTT is a freelance writer and editor of law enforcement and other fields of law enforcement. "They have had a major impact in my life. I know from a young age

PLEASE SEE OFFICER (A)

BY ALLEY WINKLE
Staff Writer

The Gatesville City Council held a special workshop Sept. 17 at 5:30 p.m. to hear information presented on the proposed 2026 fiscal year budget and water rates for city of Gatesville customers, which would, if approved, reflect the community's December 2025 monthly water bill.

With residents made to know it is considering a new water bill presentation of approximately \$104.98 per month within an average household. This is an average rate \$12 raise per month from the current water bill of approximately \$92.98.

This rate is a projected rate from the original proposed water bill presentation, which was initially presented to the council for an approximate \$112.25 per \$100 of water used, which would have been an increase of \$47 per month.

The increase in the rate is partially due to the need to be made to the water system's new water intake plant located on Lake Bellows. The majority of the pump and electric machinery within the plant are nearly 50 years old. Some of the technology dating back to the 1970's. One end of the party has to be replaced, but there is a need to replace the machinery who know how to operate on the older machinery.

Another issue that needs to be replaced is the new water intake generator. The current generator powering the intake plant on Lake Bellows was bought back in 2012, with the current water bill estimating in the 2026 fiscal year, approximately \$12 million will be needed to replace both the central pump within the intake plant and the generator.

The increase in the water rate is part of an overhauling for every plant, though

PLEASE SEE WATER (A)



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on Sunday

Nineteen teams signed up to play in the 25th Annual Gatesville Exchange Club and Lions Club golf tournament Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Gatesville Country Club. Seventy-two golfers were vying to win one of the three cash prizes and/or one of the four hole-in-one (H-I-O) prizes.



GATESVILLEMESSENGER.COM

25th annual Exchange Clu...

Nineteen teams signed up to play...



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COMMUNITIES

MEET THE STAFF

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