



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

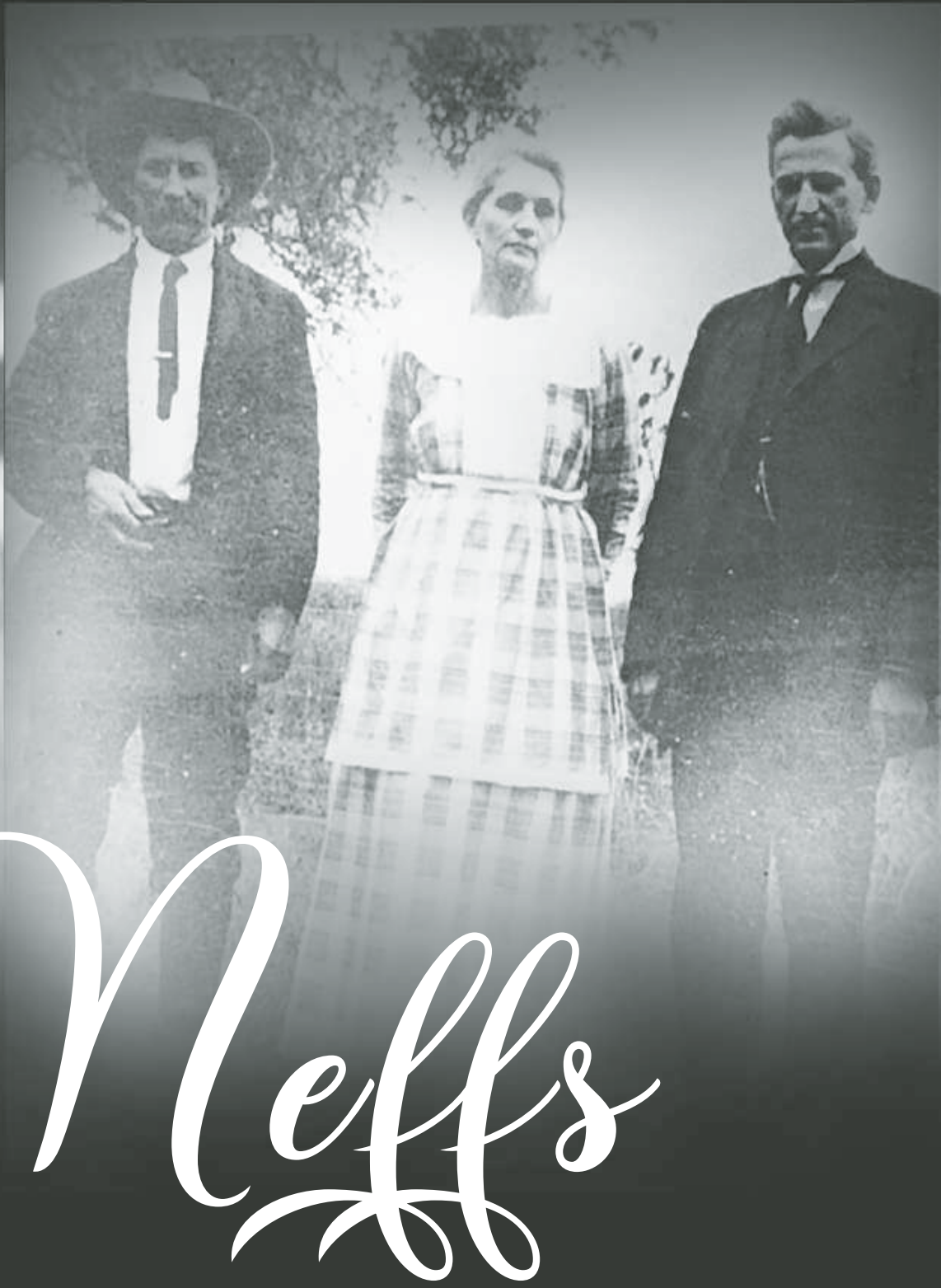
WEDNESDAY | Aug. 25, 2021

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 120, No. 109, ISSN No. 0894-4954

## CORYELL COUNTY HISTORY



## STAYED TRUE TO FAMILY THROUGH TOUGH PERIODS

*Coryell County family produced Texas governor, convicted train robber*

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

As some folks might not be aware, Texas Governor Pat Morris Neff was born and raised in southeastern Coryell County near the small community of Eagle Springs.

His parents, Noah and Isabella Neff, settled in the area in 1855, where they purchased land, built a log cabin near a fresh water spring and started their family. They would eventually become the parents of nine children – seven boys and two girls with Pat Morris Neff being their youngest child.

Pat's older brothers labored daily on the family farm and helped tend the livestock. The Neff family was a respected clan in the community, and the Neff children were always viewed as mannered and well-behaved.

At a young age, Pat Neff had the desire and ambition of becoming a lawyer. One day he played hooky from school because he heard that an attorney from Gatesville was scheduled to visit the general store

PLEASE SEE **NEFFS** | 2

*Some of the Neff brood experienced the law another way. Pat's eldest brother, Edward Neff, was indicted for murder and another brother, Samuel Neff, was arrested and later charged for attempted train robbery.*

**NEFF SIBLINGS:**  
From left, Sam Neff, Sallie Neff Calvert, Gov. Pat M. Neff.

COURTESY PHOTO |  
THE GATESVILLE  
MESSENGER  
ILLUSTRATION

## County's COVID infection rate is highest ever

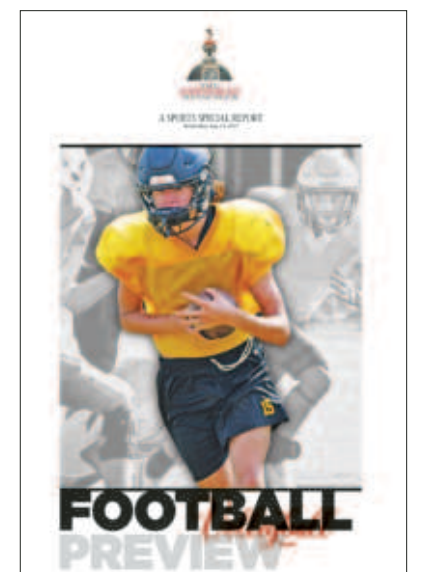
BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER  
Staff Writer

COVID cases and deaths continue to rise in the region, putting stress on area hospitals and morgues.

There are 565 active cases in Coryell County as of Monday, according to data from the Texas Department of State Health Services. The current infection rate for Coryell County is the highest it's been throughout the entire disaster, according to Bob Harrell, the Emergency Management Coordinator for Coryell County.

PLEASE SEE **COVID** | 3

## INSIDE FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW



## CORYELL COUNTY Number of pedestrian crashes hit record high

BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER  
Staff Writer

The five pedestrian-related crashes on Coryell County roadways this year have already hit 2020 and 2019 totals with four months remaining in the year. The upward trend in the county reflects an increase in both pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities seen across the State.

"More than 800 people lost their lives last year in pedestrian and bicycle-related crashes on Texas roads. One death is too many," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said in a press release. "Whether you're behind the wheel, on foot or riding a bicycle, we're reminding all Texans that they need to be safe and smart, and that starts

PLEASE SEE **CRASH** | 2

### QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: What is the exact size of Coryell County?

A: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 1,057 square miles, of which 4.7 square miles are covered by water.

Send us your questions:  
editor@gatesvillemessenger.com  
Call: 254-865-5212

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# COUNTY WIDE

## Crime Stoppers website, app see uptick in reporting

Since the inception of the Centex Crime Stoppers web page and mobile app, there has been an increase in new tips by over 260%.

That is an astounding increase and it would not be possible without the help and continued support of our dedicated communities. Remember: if you see something, say something.

If you have any information about any local crime, call Centex Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at 1-254-865-8477 (TIPS) or visit our website at [www.Centexcrimestoppers.org](http://www.Centexcrimestoppers.org) or by downloading the "P3" mobile app available on both the Apple app store and Google Play Store. You never have to give your name, and if your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Crime Stoppers, citizens, police, and the media working together can make our community a safer place to live. Together we can make a difference.

## Spurfest to be held Sept. 18

There will be something for everyone at the 20th edition of Spurfest at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center Sept. 18. The event is free and runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Activities will include "Old Time Demonstrations," the "Shriners Karem Cowboys," a quilt raffle, fresh churned butter and chuck wagon biscuits and gravy, and several activities for children. There will be vendors and music.

Visitors to the museum can see antique cars, the soda shop, the historic log jail and view a large collection of spurs in the "Lloyd

Mitchell Spur Collection."

Food vendors can rent a space for \$60. Non-food spaces cost \$30 for a spot outside and \$40 for spaces in the air-conditioned Gilbreath Room.

For more information, call Hal Davidson or Erv Adams at 254-865-5007, or email to [coryellmuseumhc@yahoo.com](mailto:coryellmuseumhc@yahoo.com).

## Beautiful quilt donated for Spurfest raffle

The Senior Citizen Center quilting ladies have donated a beautiful handmade quilt to the Coryell Museum to be raffled at Spurfest.

The museum will be selling 104 tickets at \$10 each. Tickets can be purchased from museum board members or by calling 254-865-5007.

Any volunteer interested in selling tickets can call Catherine Fulton at 254-223-0014.

The drawing will take place at Spurfest Sept. 18.

## Best beard bragging rights

Gentlemen, ladies and children? Prepare to show your beards at Spurfest Sept. 18.

There will be four categories:

- New beards. Contestants must be clean shaven on Saturday, Aug. 7. Come by the Museum on that day from 10 am-4 pm or provide us with a selfie of your clean shaven face with a timestamp (or in front of a newspaper with that date).

- Existing beards. This will be judged on longest, fullest, most original, most like Grizzly Adams, etc. You can use styling tools, beard balm and waxes.

- Fake beards. This will be open to men, women and children. You can be as creative as you please. Contestants need to be at Spurfest to be judged. Times for judging will be announced in future Messenger articles.

## Fundraiser for electrocuted man

A fundraiser was recently held at Bare Bones Barbeque for Jason Shields who was electrocuted by a power line on Main Street in June.

Shields remains hospitalized at Dell Seton Medical Center burn trauma unit in Austin. The fundraiser event included live music, a live and silent auction, a dunking booth, bounce houses for the children and a corn hole tournament.

Wally Ellisor, a manager at Bare Bones, said that they had a really good turnout for the benefit.

"It's really good to see how the community comes together on an event like this," Ellisor said.

He also said many donated a number of items for the auction.

Birgit Shields, wife of Jason Shields, recently posted an update on her husband's condition. She reported that he is still in ICU, but that he's making good progress.

"We have heard from several nurses and doctors that he has quickly become the favorite patient on this floor with his positive attitude and easygoing personality even when he's in extreme pain," Birgit said.

She also said that he will need to go to a long-term care facility after leaving Seton Medical Center to finish his wound treatments and rehab.

"Please keep your prayers coming, they are very much appreciated," Birgit added.



COURTESY OF JOSH QUIGLEY

**CRASH CONSEQUENCE:** Scottish Cyclist Josh Quigley at the Temple Hospital after being hit by a car on Highway 36 on Dec. 21, 2019.

## CRASH

FROM PAGE 1

with obeying traffic laws."

Coryell County has not seen any pedestrian-related fatalities this year, however, the county did record two in 2020 and one in 2019. There have been no bicycle-related fatalities in the county since Jan. of 2019.

The number of bicycle-related crashes has decreased since Jan. 2019 with only one being reported so far this year. Coryell County made national headlines in Dec. 2019 when Scottish cyclist Josh Quigley was struck by a car on Highway 36 in between Gatesville and Temple.

Quigley was five days from completing his "Around the World" challenge, which was set to end in Miami. He had completed 14,500 miles over four continents and 23 countries at the time of the accident.

He was thrown from his bicycle, suffering a fractured ankle, fractured heel bone, fractured pelvis, multiple fractured ribs, a pierced lung from the rib fracture, and a fractured skull, according to an article from KWTX 10.

No one was charged in the ac-

cident. After a lengthy recovery Quigley did make it back on the bike, but he has not completed the challenge yet, according to his website.

TxDOT is urging residents to review and follow laws for safe walking, biking and driving. State laws mandate stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks, yielding the right of way to pedestrians and bicyclists when turning and passing bicyclists at a safe distance and giving them room to ride.

Like drivers, bicyclists are required to obey all traffic signs and signals, including stopping at red lights and stop signs. State laws also dictate that those who ride bicycles must use hand signals when turning or stopping, ride with traffic, use bike lanes or ride as near as possible to the right-hand curb, and when riding at night, make sure their bikes have a white light on the front and a red light or reflector on the back.

Pedestrians must cross the street only at intersections and crosswalks, obey all traffic and crosswalk signals and always use sidewalks. If there isn't a sidewalk, pedestrians should walk on the left side of the street or road, facing oncoming traffic.

## NEFFS

FROM PAGE 1

at Eagle Springs for a session of the Coryell County Justice Court and he wanted to take in this event. When he returned to school, the teacher did not punish the inquisitive lad.

Between the ages of thirteen and sixteen, Pat Neff studied the law on his own. Other members of the Neff brood experienced the law another way. Pat's eldest brother, Edward Neff, was indicted for murder and another brother, Samuel Neff, was arrested and later charged for attempted train robbery.

Edward was indicted for the murder of John Adolph Witte, a local farmer and rancher, in 1885 following a heated land dispute, which resulted in a violent gun battle. Neff was arrested and charged with murder and pled not guilty.

Several trials ensued, many resulting in hung juries. If Neff had been found guilty of second-degree murder, he would have served five years in the state penitentiary, and if found guilty of manslaughter

by sudden passion, he would have served two years. If he was found to have acted in self-defense, it would have been considered justifiable manslaughter.

The case was covered by the Waco Daily News. One of the newspaper's reports stated that the case had "excited more than the usual interest."

The trials drag on for five long years before resulting in the acquittal for Edward Neff in December of 1890. The Neff family was relieved. Edward married Patsy Winn in 1889 and they became the parents of five children. At the age of 44, Edward, who owned and operated a ranch, died in 1900 of pneumonia leaving his wife with four young children to raise.

Approximately three years Edward shot John Witte, another Neff would be indicted for attempted train robbery of a Southern Pacific passenger train near Harwood, Texas.

While living in Lampasas County, Samuel got mixed up with a group of early day desperados, known collectively as the Harrell-Whitley Gang. The gang, known for daring

bank and train robberies, attempted to rob a Southern Pacific train near Harwood on Sept. 22, 1888.

Just a few days before the robbery, Samuel had been married to Margaret "Maggie" Hamilton in Lampasas. Samuel, who played an active role in the robbery, was later captured by authorities and was the only gang member to be prosecuted and stand trial.

William Whitley, one of the primary instigators of the robbery, was shot and killed a few days following the robbery by John T. Rankin, United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas. On Nov. 9, 1889, Samuel was convicted by a jury for attempting to rob the United States mail and for assaulting the person having custody of the mail and for shooting and threatening this person with "dangerous weapons." Samuel was sentenced to the federal penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio, for five years of hard labor.

During this dark period in the Neff family history, Isabella Neff would sit in various courtrooms while juries determined the fate of her two sons. Not long before, she

had lost her husband, and a few of her children to death and now faced losing two of her sons to the prison system.

Isabella's daughter, Sallie Neff Calvert, would sum up their thoughts and emotions by stating: "our good name has been injured." In the latter part of 1889, Isabella would write to her baby boy, Pat Neff, who was attending Baylor University in Waco, and voiced her concerns: "I cannot think of a thing but him [Sam] and now he is where I can't do anything but grieve over his sad fate. The only comfort I can feel is that I have done the best I could for him, and will so long as I live."

While serving time in federal prison, Sam's short-lived marriage to Maggie dissolved in divorce in 1891.

Samuel walked out of the federal penitentiary in March of 1893. Upon his return to Texas, he was arrested once more on a previous warrant charging him with horse theft. The charge was later dropped due to lack of evidence. Sam decided to leave the area for good, eventually settling on a ranch near

Tennyson in Coke County.

He would later marry Donnie Cox in 1906 who was twenty-three years younger than him. Samuel became very active in ranching in west Texas and became known as a well-liked cowboy.

To bring Sam's story a little closer to home, the "Lloyd Mitchell Spur Collection" at the Coryell Museum has a pair of Sam Neff's spurs in their possession. Sam Neff died at the age of 75 in Wichita Falls. His brother, former Governor Pat M. Neff, accompanied his older brother's body on its journey back to Coke County for burial in the Mule Creek Cemetery near his home in Tennyson.

Edward and Samuel Neff's baby brother, Pat, did not follow in his brother's footsteps, but instead chose to pursue law as his profession which would later propel him into the governor's office where he served from 1921-1925. Neff would also serve as president of Baylor University from 1932-1947. Pat remained close to both of his elder brothers until their deaths.



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### DEADLINES:

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by noon Friday for the Wednesday issue and noon Wednesday for the Saturday issue.

Articles about events that have occurred 30 days prior to submission will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertisements.

All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and

newspaper format as determined by management.

The Gatesville Messenger is not responsible for copy omission, typographical error or any unintentional error other than to publish a correction.

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**OUR MISSION:** The Gatesville Messenger shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.



NEWS FROM PEARL

# Teeny tiny turquoise stringy bikini is the cat's meow

BY BETSY CLARK

I want to begin by thanking everyone for all of the special birthday wishes and “surprises” this past week. The cards, the visits, the calls, and the delicious food were all very much appreciated. You surely know how to make a woman of somewhat advancing years feel special! Bless you all.

Please keep our community members who are dealing with health issues in your prayers. The ones that I know of right now are Ruth Penny, Mr. and Mrs. Hillyard, Michelle Pruett, Roy and Debbie Harris, Glenneth Medart, and Jason and Brigit Shields.

I know we all want to try and check on our neighbors and friends to make sure all is okay and that you join me in prayer to heal the sick and keep everyone safe.

I heard from the Yeley's this week, and they told me that they just enjoyed a week-long visit from their grandson, Stevie, from Minnesota. Mrs. Yeley said what surprised him the most was the heat. Stevie, it even surprises us life-long Texans each year even though we know it's coming — and we always complain about it. We are so glad you chose to come and visit and hope you come back soon — maybe in winter?

PEARL EVENTS

We have a new event in the plans for October. Many people will be glad to know that the Pearl Cottage Bookstore will be hosting a “Junk-in-Your-Trunk” event on Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Pearl

Community Center grounds. This will be held in conjunction with Kay Pruett's plant and yard sale which will take place at her home Oct. 8-9 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kay has stunning succulents that are always potted so beautifully. So, mark your calendars to pack the stuff in your trunk that you would like to sell and leave room to put succulents and other treasure in your back seat. Oh, and don't forget to stop by the bookstore to buy what you want and pay what you want. For more information, please call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or Kay Pruett at 254-865-5864.

The next Pearl Bluegrass event will be Sept. 11, the second Saturday this month only. Don't forget to call Anji Pearl Day at 325-665-7996 to schedule stage show time if you are interested in performing. Also, that there are 32 full hookups if you would like to stay in Pearl for a night or more. First come, first park so no reservations needed. Thirty amps are \$20/night, and 50 amps are \$25/night. Come and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Pearl.

FISH FRY

Sunday, Sept. 5 will be the annual



Clark

Atchley Fish Fry and Silent Auction following the 10:30 a.m. service at Pearl Church of Christ.

The Fish Fry and Auction benefit scholarships for His Kids of Lampasas and local scholarships. Everyone is invited. Auction items will begin to appear in the church dining room and Sunday school room around Aug. 22. Drop by and place your bids. Bidding usually closes at noon on the day of the auction. To donate items, please call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282.

CEMETERY PAVILION

The Pearl Cemetery Association is still accepting donations to build a pavilion to protect attendees from the often-harsh weather conditions during interments and services. You may send a donation or a donation in memory of a loved one to Pearl Cemetery Association, C/O Linda Ray, 1771 CR 152,

Purmela, TX 76566. If you have any questions, call Linda at 254-865-9282. Thank you in advance for your support.

WHERE OH WHERE HAS THAT TEE-NY BIKINI GONE?

The Traveling Bikini has disappeared! I know that is shocking news to you all, and we are all a little heartsick about the missing miscreant mainly because it causes nothing but trouble everywhere it goes.

The last we heard, it had suddenly appeared in the Dickey mailbox and wreaked havoc in that household. Mrs. Dickey claims to have no knowledge of the stringy bikini's whereabouts, but Mr. Dickey looked a little sheepish (or goat-ish?) when his wife was proclaiming her innocence.

However, another one of Pearl's leading citizens mentioned that she saw a cat running through her pasture as she was returning from her school day in Gatesville. This sweet teacher is a very reliable source, and she elaborated that the cat she saw seemed to have on some kind of small, turquoise garment and that the cat had upset her poor dog, Xena, terribly. Xena has taken shelter under the patio and refuses to budge.

The teacher and her family say that when Xena catches a glimpse of the feline in the freakish garment, she begins howling uncontrollably and then the horses begin nervously whinnying. There is no telling where that cat will end up —

or is there?

By the way, Mr. Dickey, followed closely by Andrew Stonewall Alan LaToya Jackson, was seen running after that cat one day. Goodness, it was told that they had never seen them run so fast.

Strange, Kay Pruett saw them in her pasture before that. All I can tell you is that right now, there is no peace in Pearl until that cavorting cat is caught and returned to its rightful owner.

Can you believe that a teeny tiny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini and a cat can cause such an uproar! Only in Pearl, and there's no place like Pearl—and that's a fact.

The closing verses for this week come from Psalm 27:3, 5, and 14— Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident... For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble... Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

To keep up with the latest Pearl news online, you can go to the “Pearl Cottage Bookstore” Facebook page, the “Pearl Community Center” Facebook page, or the “Pearl Church of Christ” Facebook page. The Pearl Community Center also has a website: www.pearltx-communitycenter.com. Or you can contact me at betsyclarck47@yahoo.com for information or to submit any Pearl news that you might have.

GATESVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Setting COVID leave policy, new meeting time

Compiled by David Scott

Following a special meeting held last week, the GISD School Board held a regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 16. The board addressed several topics including:

COVID LEAVE

GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard told the board that the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act that provided employees with ten days of emergency paid sick leave expired on Dec. 31. However, GISD went beyond expectations and continued those ten days of COVID leave for the rest of the school year.

Pollard said that 8 GISD staff members and 24 students have active cases of COVID.

“Unfortunately, only 174 of our 400 staff members received the COVID vacci-

nation, and now the Delta strand of the COVID virus is surging,” Pollard said.

He said that each year employees receive 5 state days and 2 local days and that last year, 1,750 COVID days were used by staff members. Pollard asked that the board grant each employee 10 days of COVID leave for the 2021-2022 school year. Once the 10 days of COVID leave, plus all accumulated leave is exhausted, an employee's pay would be docked.

NEW CELL PHONE POLICY

Pollard said that GHS principal, Marie Barrows, and the entire high school staff have been working diligently on the new cell phone policy since last spring. The district does permit students to possess personal mobile telephones, but the devices

need to be kept out of sight and turned off except during the following times: morning time before the 7:55 a.m. bell, during students' designated lunch period while in the cafeteria and after school. If a student does not comply, the device will be confiscated and turned into the office.

- First offense, a \$10 administration fee is accrued. Devices may be released to the student after school.

- Subsequent offenses, the device will be released only to the parent/guardian and a \$10 administrative fee accrued.

- Third offense, 3 days of ISS.

- Students who continually have their phone taken up will be subject to additional disciplinary measures, to include DAEP placements.

- Refusal to turn over

a cell phone will result in placement in ISS for up to 3 days and the \$10 fee for the first offense; a second refusal will result in 3 days in ISS and the \$10 fee; and the third refusal will result in DAEP.

Confiscated devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. A student's phone may be searched by authorized personnel. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The school district will not be responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen devices.

EXTRACURRICULAR STATUS OF 4-H

Pollard told the board that every year they approve a resolution that allows 4-H to be considered

an extracurricular activity.

Another resolution presented was for the Coryell County extension staff to be considered “adjunct faculty” of the GISD. This would allow students to be considered “in attendance” when participating in off-campus activities with adjunct staff members of the district.

The extension staff are Robert Ferguson, Becky Coward and Donna Schwausch who all hold bachelor's degrees.

MANDATORY INCREASE IN ADULT MEAL LUNCH

The Texas Department of Agriculture recently announced new guidelines for determining and setting Adult Meal Lunch prices for 2021-2022. Last year, the District sold around 1,750 adult lunches. The current rate of \$4 lunches was ap-

proved Feb. 15. The GISD asked that adult meals be priced at \$4.25 effective immediately to be in compliance with TDA's meal pricing. The board agreed and the motion passed.

NEW SRO SERGEANT POSITION

Officer Gary Stiles was introduced to the board as the new SRO Sergeant for Gatesville Independent School District and Gatesville Police Department. Stiles, who has been an officer for 32 years, is a retired Senior Corporal with the Texas Highway Department. This will be his third year as an SRO with GISD.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING TIME

School board meetings will now start at 5:30 p.m., an hour earlier than it used to be.

COVID FROM PAGE 1

As of Saturday, COVID positive patients represent 21.47% of all hospitalizations in Trauma Service Area L, which includes Coryell County, according to DSHS data. TSA L has been above the 15% threshold since Aug. 2.

Harrell said 100% of the hospitalized COVID patients in the region are unvaccinated. He added those who are vaccinated do not require hospitalization.

Harrell said area hospitals are running out of ICU beds and regular bed space is scarce. This is due, in part, to a surge of COVID patients, but also due to a shortage of nurses and respiratory therapists.

Area hospitals, including Coryell Health, are working with the state to get more nurses, but a national shortage and recent uptick in COVID hospitalizations are making it difficult.

“We encourage anyone that still has a license to contact their local hospitals if they would like to be hired on. I'm quite sure there is a space for them,” Harrell told the Messenger by phone Friday.

COVID-related deaths are also putting a strain on morgues in the region. The region saw deaths jump from 12 to 30 between Aug. 18 and 19. Not all were attributed to COVID.

A mobile morgue trailer arrived in Bell County late Thursday night and a larger capacity FEMA trailer was deployed in McLennan County.

In response to the uptick in COVID cases municipal courts in the city of Copperas Cove have decided to cancel all jury trials. They will go virtual until further notice.

County health officials are urging residents who have not been vaccinated to see your healthcare provider for vaccine information and recommendations. A little over 66% of Coryell County residents over the age of 65 are fully vaccinated, according to DSHS data. The vaccine rate for those 12 and up is at 33%.

Area hospitals are reporting a breakthrough rate of about 10%. However, none required hospitalization, according to Harrell.

“We encourage everyone to continue to wear a mask when they are out and

# Interest in home schools at record high

LUBBOCK — With Texas public schools now restarting for the fall semester, interest in homeschooling is already outpacing the all-time records set by the homeschool increase from 2020.

Last week, THSC's weekly call and email volume

reached 4,699, nearly five times the weekly record set by 2020.

In the fall of 2020, the number of homeschooling families in Texas had nearly tripled from 4.5% in the spring to 12.3% by October, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

During the 2020 surge, THSC's weekly call and email volume exploded from families interested in homeschooling. The volume topped out at a then all-time-high of 1,037 contacts in one week.

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# The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through law enforcement dispatchers during the period of August 18-22. While there were many calls, this is a partial list of more significant activity. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

## CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### AUGUST 18

1:40 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of N. 13th Street.  
4:29 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 300 block of FM 116.  
7:52 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 400 block of Scheele Road.  
8:10 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1700 block of Saunders Street.  
10:12 p.m., a gas leak was reported in the 3800 block of CR 269.

### AUGUST 19

4:41 a.m., an accident was reported in the 200 block of E. Main Street  
1:00 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of E. Main Street.  
3:41 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of Bluestem Drive.  
3:49 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 6100 block of W. Hwy. 84.  
4:14 p.m., an assault was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

7:33 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of S. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.

### AUGUST 20

8:15 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.  
11:18 a.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of W. Main Street.  
12:05 p.m., harassment was reported in the 2000 block of Bridge Street.  
1:00 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1800 block of E. Main Street.  
6:42 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1900 block of Railroad Street.  
6:49 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 5600 block of FM 184.

### AUGUST 21

10:28 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.  
3:03 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36,  
7:06 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1200 block of Coryell City Road.  
7:30 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the

1200 block of E. Main Street.  
9:06 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Austin Street.  
10:34 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.

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### AUGUST 22

4:34 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.  
8:10 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2600 block of E. Main Street.  
11:54 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2400 block of E. Main Street.  
4:40 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the 300 block of S. 14th Street.  
7:19 p.m., suspicious

activity was reported in the 800 block of S. 7th Street.  
8:23 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.

## CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### AUGUST 18

5:49 a.m., a welfare concern was reported on CR 174.  
7:19 a.m., a major accident was reported near Stripes on Business Hwy. 36.  
8:17 a.m., found livestock was reported in the Evant area.  
4:23 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on N. FM 116 and Serria Vista Road.  
7:01 p.m., animal cruelty was reported at the intersection of FM 1783 and FM 116.  
8:18 p.m., an assault was reported on FM 929 and Coryell City Road.

### AUGUST 19

4:40 a.m., a minor accident was reported on E. Main Street.  
9:20 a.m., a scam was reported in the 200 block of Linda's Lane.  
4:01 p.m., child endan-

germent was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

5:58 p.m., the burglary of a habitation was reported in the 400 block of The Grove Road.  
7:10 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of FM 116.  
8:43 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 1000 block of Twin Mountain Road.

### AUGUST 20

10:30 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2700 block of Sikes Avenue.  
11:57 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1300 block of Lutheran Church Road.  
12:56 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 3600 block of CR 318.  
1:56 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 900 block of Star Lane.  
3:13 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on S. Hwy. 36 near Bare Bones.  
5:32 p.m., a minor accident was reported on Highway 190.

### AUGUST 21

11:39 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 1200 block of CR 3670.

2:03 p.m. an out of control burn was reported in the 11000 block of FM 182.

2:36 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of CR 137.  
8:34 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 100 block of Vista Circle.  
10:38 p.m., a noise complaint was reported in the 200 block of Vista Circle.  
11:31 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2100 block of CR 155.

### AUGUST 22

12:46 a.m., a welfare concern was reported on Hwy. 190 and Clark Road.  
1:37 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 200 block of Leisure Acres.  
3:02 p.m., a reckless driver was reported at the intersection of Moccasin Bend and Oak Ridge Roads.  
8:30 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Julia Drive.  
9:30 p.m., a threat was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.  
9:37 p.m., a major accident was reported on FM 1113.

## Whatever happened to...

### 20 YEARS AGO (2001)

- Wal-Mart donated the historic railroad depot to the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. Although the chamber had been leasing the building for a number of years, it could not obtain grants to help make necessary repairs because the building was owned by Wal-Mart.
- Pearl Jones was honored on her 80th birthday by her family at White Mound Baptist Church. There were more than 150 people present at the celebration.
- Trevor Hoffman won the Junior Bulls Classic event at the Professional Bull Riders Association (PBRA) rodeo in Weatherford. His sister, Cassie, also competed in the steer riding competition.
- Gatesville High School students were ordering their senior rings. Johanna Hemen, an exchange student from Germany, was ordering her ring as well.
- Mound Cowboy Church had its four-year celebration with a barbecue lunch at the Jones' roping arena. There were about 100 people present.
- Officers from three local Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities were collecting money for the Special

Olympics "Mile of Quarters." The officers received \$726.04 in donations.

### 30 YEARS AGO (1991)

- County enrollment figures surpassed the 2,700 mark for the opening day of classes in Coryell County school districts.
- David and Sylvia Straley of Evant were honored on their 25th wedding anniversary, with a surprise dinner party at Pecan Creek Inn in Hamilton.
- Mr. and Mrs. David Craig Smith celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by repeating their wedding vows at the Hay Valley Baptist Church. David Smith and the former Vickie Diane Pruitt were married Sept. 1, 1966.
- The 100th anniversary of Oglesby Methodist Church was celebrated with more

than 150 attending. Rev. Henry Radde, District Superintendent and former pastor, gave the inspirational message.

- Descendants of the late Owen S. and Mary Kibbe Carpenter met at the Gatesville Housing Authority building for their annual reunion.
- Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lyons were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mike and Stephanie Withers. Leonard Lyons and the former Maxine Stephens were married Aug. 31, 1941 at the First Baptist Church of Gatesville.

### 40 YEARS AGO (1981)

- Grownups were getting the first crack at new playground equipment at Raby and Faunt Le Roy Parks. A group of volunteers helped

get the playground equipment installed in the parks.

- Gatesville Mayor Creston Brazzil, also president of the six-community Mid-Tex Water Supply Corporation, outlined options for the area's future water needs.
- Eugene Dyer was elected president of the Gatesville Hornets Boosters Club for

1981-82, succeeding Lyndell Rains.

- Don Hunt was appointed to the Gatesville Independent School District board of trustees, filling one of three vacancies on the board.
- Thomas (Tom) F. Maynard, 28, a San Antonio banker and son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Maynard of

Gatesville, was joining the National Bank of Gatesville as an assistant vice president and loan officer.

- Horace Dyer retired as rural mail carrier on Gatesville Rt. 4 and Jonesboro Rt. 2, a 131-mile trek he had been driving every day.

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Under 300 lb.	175-215
300-400 lb.	175-205
400-500 lb.	165-195
500-600 lb.	140-165
600-700 lb.	135-155
700-800 lb.	130-145
<b>No. 1 Heifers</b>	
under 300 lb.	140-175
300-400 lb.	130-160
400-500 lb.	130-155
500-600 lb.	130-145
600-700 lb.	125-140
700-800 lb.	115-130
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>	
High Yielding	70-79
Low Yielding	55-65
Fats	67-75
Thin & Shelly	35-45
<b>Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)</b>	
Yield Grade 1&2	80-104
<b>Cow &amp; Calf Pairs</b>	
Young Choice	1350-1675
Young Fair	1150-1350
Aged Pairs	950-1150
<b>Young Pregnancy Test Stocker</b>	
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# OBITUARIES

**JORUTH HOLDEN**  
January 23, 1948 - August 17, 2021



Jo Ruth Holden passed away peacefully on August 17, 2021, surrounded by her loving family at home.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, August 20, 2021 at Restland Cemetery, with Rev. Wray Nunn officiating.

Jo Ruth was born on January 23, 1948 to Gerald Bernard and Betty Ruth States. She married Charles Holden on August 29, 1964 and together they raised nine

children of their own, as well as countless others. She was known to many as "Mamaw", including family, friends and neighbors. Jo Ruth was a true testament as one of God's children, loving selflessly. She would do anything for anyone, even if that meant she did without. Her home was always open. Complete strangers who knocked on her door were greeted with a "come in" and left as friends. She never wanted to see anyone go hungry and would share a meal or give what she had to anyone. She also had a deep love for animals. Not only would she feed any stray that wandered into her yard, she had numerous pets she loved over the years. Most recently, she had a beloved dog, Odie, who brought great joy to her life. Jo Ruth was a wonderful caregiver. That was her calling. She spent the majority of her life as a homemaker, caring for her family. Once she decided to join the workforce, she worked as a home health attendant and also worked at Hillside Nursing and Rehabilitation and Cory-

ell Memorial Hospital, again, tending to the needs of others. She loved caring for others and it showed.

Jo Ruth will be greatly missed but there is comfort knowing she is rejoicing in Heaven with so many family members and friends she lost over the years. She was the best Momma and Mamaw her family could ask for!

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles; parents; brother, Charles States; and grandson, Matthew Key.

She is survived by her children, Ricky Holden and wife, Michele, Mickey Holden and wife, Donna, Teresa Lewis and husband, Monte, Rebecca Holden, Pamela Rudolph, Janice Velasquez and husband, Jamie, Lisa Holden and (Dustin Bryant), Mandi Holden and (Doug Hill), Brandi Smith and husband, Cobi; sister, Johnny Pick and husband, Joe; twenty three grandchildren and twenty seven great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, many of whom consider her a mother.

**VIRGIL LEE HENSON**  
October 5, 1956 - August 18, 2021



**BETTY ANN MASSIRER**  
December 13, 1946 - August 19, 2021



Betty A. Cummings Massirer, age 74 of Gatesville, passed away peacefully on the morning of August 19, 2021.

Graveside services will be

Virgil Lee (Buddy) Henson, age 64 of Gatesville, passed away on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at his home.

There are no services scheduled at this time, anyone wishing to sign the memorial register book for his family, may do so in person at Scott's Funeral Home or at scottsfh.com on his obituary page.

Virgil Lee (Buddy) Henson was born on October 5, 1956 in Gatesville. He was the son of the late Virgil Ray and

Margaret Mallard Henson. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Calvin Henson and Catherine Henson, Barbara Kay Kenson-Hannah.

He is survived by his sisters, Linda Carr, Clara Henson, Shera Henson, Debbie Henson, Becky King; and a brother, Kenneth Henson.

Memorials may be made to the Gatesville Care Center, 105 N. 7th Street, Gatesville, TX 76528.

10:00 am Monday, August 23, 2021 at Restland Cemetery with Jon Crosby officiating. Visitation with the family will be 2 - 4 pm, Sunday, August 22, 2021 at Scott's Funeral Home.

Betty was born on December 13, 1946 in Gatesville, to the late W.B. Cummings and Waldean Clemons Cummings. She grew up in Gatesville and attended Gatesville schools. She married Raymond Massirer on August 17, 1963. They spent 34 years together before he preceded her in death in July of 1998. Betty was a homemaker and housewife; it brought her great joy being able to care for and see to her family's needs. Betty lived in Gatesville most of her life and was a member of The Presbyterian Church of Gatesville. She was also a

seamstress and would sew and repair many garments during her time as a homemaker. Betty was co-owner of Sawdust and Splinters until her retirement.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Massirer; parents, W. B. and Waldean Cummings; daughter, Eugenia Massirer.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Tammie Wojcieszak; son, Bobby Massirer; grandsons, Brandon Munday, Devin Medley; extended family members, Clark and Nancy Burns, and Emily Burns Herzog; and her beloved dog, Parker.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made to The Presbyterian Church of Gatesville, 1110 E. Main St. Gatesville, TX 76528.

**EDUARDO ALVERADO DELON**  
December 10, 1944 - August 17, 2021

Edwardo A. Deleon, age 76, of Gatesville, passed away on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, in Gatesville. Graveside Services will be held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at Santa Rosa Cemetery on CR 209 near Andice. Visitation will be from 5-7 PM, Monday at Viss Family Funeral Home,

1614 S. FM 116, Copperas Cove, TX 76522.

Edwardo was born in Lampasas, Texas to the late Juan and Martina Alverado Deleon. He grew up in Mahomet and Briggs Community riding around Central Texas in his 1968 Dodge Charger. Edwardo moved to South Dakota when he was a young man and was a successful sheep-shearer for over 30 years. In 2010, he moved back to Texas and settled in Gatesville. Edwardo loved

the older country music, the Eagles and Bob Seger.

Edwardo is preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Elisa Deleon Ledesma, Penny Torres, Laura Montoya, Margaret Gonzales; five brothers, Valentine Deleon, John Deleon, Jr., Julian Deleon, Paul Deleon, and Nick Deleon.

Edwardo is survived by his two brothers, Frank Deleon, Robert Deleon; sister, Martha Deleon; and many nieces and nephews whom he loved.

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TNT-883 05-20

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate does not exceed the lower of the no-new-revenue tax rate or the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §26.061.

## NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.4831 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of CORYELL COUNTY.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.4831 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.4831 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.5572 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for CORYELL COUNTY from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that CORYELL COUNTY may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that CORYELL COUNTY is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 31, 2021 at 9:00 AM at Coryell County Commissioners Courtroom, 800 E Main. St., Gatesville TX 76528.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, CORYELL COUNTY is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting Commissioners Court of CORYELL COUNTY at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: County Judge Roger Miller, Commissioners Kyle Matthews, Daren Moore, Ryan Basham & Ray Ashby

AGAINST the proposal:  
PRESENT and not voting:  
ABSENT:

TNT-883 05-20

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by CORYELL COUNTY last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by CORYELL COUNTY this year.

	2020	2021	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.5311	\$0.4831	9.03% decrease
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$135,420	\$149,766	10.59% increase
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$719	\$724	0.69% increase
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$12,942,410	\$13,388,831	3.44% increase

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for CORYELL COUNTY at 254-248-3144 or tac@coryelltax.com, or visit www.coryellcountytax.org.

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CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Abbott tests negative four days after positive

**BY GARY BORDERS**  
Gov. Greg Abbott announced via Twitter Saturday that he is now testing negative for COVID-19, four days after testing positive though asymptomatic. "I am told that my infection was brief and mild because of the vaccination I received. I will continue to quarantine as recommended by doctors," Abbott said. "And I will keep working on issues affecting Texas." Meanwhile, the battle over masks continues, with growing numbers of school districts from Longview to San Antonio ignoring the governor's ban on mask mandates. The Texas Supreme Court last week temporarily cleared the way for districts to require masks, but only on a technicality. The court left in place a Travis County judge's temporary restraining order against the mandate ban, saying typically such cases have to go before an appellate court before ending up in the state's high-

est civil court. A number of other cases are before various district and appellate courts in Texas. The Paris school district, in Northeast Texas, took a novel approach to the issue. Its board voted to alter the district's dress code to include masks for all employees and students.

**Delta variant continues to spur COVID-19 case rise**  
The number of new cases of COVID-19 in the state continues to rise steeply, with 125,033 reported in the past week, along with 937 deaths. New cases in Texas were up 27% compared to the previous week and up five-fold in the past month, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. In Texas, hospitals are nearing capacity, though in a number of cases a shortage of nurses and other healthcare workers is forcing facilities to leave beds empty. Abbott has asked hospitals to delay elective surgeries during the recent

surge of cases. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals reached 12,951 on Sunday with 373 intensive care unit beds available across the state, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations is up more than four-fold from a month ago and is approaching the all-time high set in mid-January. The number of Texans fully vaccinated stands at 13.293 million, according to DSHS. That's 45.7% of the state's total population. As news of the delta variant spreads, the vaccination rate is increasing, up more than 20,000 doses daily, according to DSHS.

**House establishes quorum; election bill advances**  
Enough House Democrats entered the floor Thursday evening for Speaker Dade Phelan to announce a quorum was present for the first time in six weeks. Nearly 50

House Democrats decamped to Washington, D.C. in May to stop work in the House. As the Austin American-Statesman reported, bitterness remains after the walk-out and Phelan's attempt to have Democrats arrested and forcibly brought to the House floor. None were arrested. In addition to the elections bill, which would ban drive-through voting and other provisions aimed at increasing turnout, Abbott placed bail reform, distribution of federal pandemic relief funds, border security and several other items on the agenda. This second special session ends Sept. 6.

**TxDOT launches DUI prevention campaign**  
The Texas Department of Transportation has rolled out a campaign to share stories of Texans who must deal with the consequences of a drunk driving crash. The "Faces of Drunk Driving" will feature events around the state and includes testimo-

nials on video from families dealing with those consequences. In 2020, there were 963 alcohol related vehicle fatalities — one every nine hours. "Drinking and driving can lead to tragic consequences that are 100% preventable," Marc William, TxDOT executive director said. "These consequences involve individuals who made the unfortunate decision to drink and drive along with many innocent victims of those decisions." One of the "faces" of the campaign is Walter Tidwell, now 25. He hopped in his car after a long night of drinking and was pulled over driving the wrong way down a one-way street. Fortunately, he was stopped before causing a wreck. He recently concluded three years of court visits and still must take alcohol and drug offender courses, do community service and serve a stretch on probation. Tidwell is telling his story in hopes of convincing oth-

ers of the dangers of driving drunk.  
**Court issues injunction in fight over Medicaid waiver**  
A federal district judge last week temporarily reinstated a 10-year extension of a Medicaid program worth billions of dollars to the state for health care for the uninsured. As the Texas Tribune and other media outlets reported, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services wanted the state to collect public input before negotiating a new extension to the agreement, in place since 2011. The waiver provides nearly \$4 billion in annual funding for uninsured treated in Texas hospitals, as well as mental health services. Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span.. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com)

## Youth football, volleyball leagues signup

Staff Report

Registration deadline for the Gatesville Youth Flag Football League for kindergarten through sixth grade players is Sept. 9. Entry fee is \$50 per child. Checks need to be made to the City of Gatesville. Registration forms can be picked up at the child's school or at the Gatesville Fitness Center. Drop off

completed forms at the child's school or the Gatesville Fitness Center. Parents interested in coaching must fill out a form and are subject to background checks. The drafts for teams will be the weeks of Sept. 12 and 19. The season starts Oct. 9. The Gatesville Youth Volleyball League for third through sixth graders is also

taking registration through the Sept. 9 deadline. Registration forms can be picked up at the child's school or at the Gatesville Fitness Center. Drop off completed forms at the child's school or the Gatesville Fitness Center. The volleyball season starts Oct. 9. For more information contact Seth Phillips at [sphillips@gatesvilletx.com](mailto:sphillips@gatesvilletx.com).

## SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran August 21.

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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#### 032 MISCELLANEOUS

I Buy Cans "Can Only". Come to 1810 St. Louis St. Call before coming (after 5pm), 254-206-0892. Alonzo Ortega.

#### 037 HELP WANTED

Coryell County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for communications officers/dispatchers and jailers. High school diploma required. Must pass background check. Pick up and return application at the Coryell County Sheriff's Office. 00028683

Horton Tree Service now hiring groundsmen and trimmers. \$13.50-15.50 per hours plus bonus pay and paid holidays. 682-802-8061. 00028709

#### 037 HELP WANTED

#### 037 HELP WANTED

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Alexander Osborne, Deceased, were issued on August 18, 2021, in Cause No. 21-10508, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Brenda Byrom.

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

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

DATED the 18th day of August, 2021.

Allen D. Place, Jr.  
Attorney for Brenda Byrom  
State Bar No.: 16058500  
109 S. 7th Street  
Gatesville, Texas 76528  
Telephone: (254) 865-8475  
Facsimile: (254) 865-5274  
E-mail: [allenplacejr@aol.com](mailto:allenplacejr@aol.com)  
00028710

##### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joy Beth Latimer, Deceased, were issued on August 18, 2021, in Cause No. 21-10506, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Larry Snow.

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

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

DATED the 18th day of August, 2021.

Allen D. Place, Jr.  
Attorney for Larry Snow  
State Bar No.: 16058500  
109 S. 7th Street  
Gatesville, Texas 76528  
Telephone: (254) 865-8475  
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A SPORTS SPECIAL REPORT

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021



FOOTBALL  
PREVIEW

*Volleyball*

INSIDE: Gatesville High School football preview, pages B2, B3 | Jonesboro High School football preview, page B8 | Evant High School football preview, page B7 | Oglesby High School football preview, page B5 | Volleyball previews, pages B4, B6



# Gatesville Hornets building on momentum



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER HITT

**VARSITY HORNETS:** 2 Banner Allman, 3 Ashtyn Culley, 4 Hayden Mooney, 5 Lawson Mooney, 6 Carson Briendine, 7 Wesley Brown, 8 Kyle Shafer, 9 Mason Mooney, 10 Bradyn Culley, 11 Logan Edwards, 12 Jason Herbelin, 13 Jovan Hall, 14 Luis Macias, 15 Jacob Baker, 17 Trevor Smith, 18 Cayden Mata, 19 Tykel Johnson, 21 Parker Allman, 22 Aydan Necessary, 30 Javon Hall, 32 Eric Wise, 44 Thiele Alvarado, 49 Tyler Sutton, 50 Tatum Taylor, 51 Cody Attaway, 54 Steven Bomar, 55 Brayden Minton, 56 Gabe Charles, 58 Zach Bryant, 60 John Pearson, 65 Cooper Sutton, 67 Kaylie Tippitt, 68 Zach Swindell, 72 Jaiden Gomez, 73 DD Nunn, 74 Lucas Garcia, 77 Ryan Smiley, 79 Evan Hanson.

## Gatesville Hornets

■ 2020 record: 4-6, 2-3

■ Last playoff appearance: 2017 - lost to Canyon Lake in bi-district)

■ Coach: Luke Howard (beginning third season at Gatesville)

■ 2021 outlook: Competing against District 9-4A, in Division II against China Spring, Salado, Waco Connally, Waco Robinson and Jarrell.

BY MARK GOODSON  
Staff Writer

Going into year three under head football coach Luke Howard, the Gatesville Hornets have built up their numbers and their confidence.

"We feel like we can compete in our district," said Howard. "It's always going to be our goal to compete for a district championship."

The Hornets are coming off a 4-6 season, claiming the fourth spot in District 9-4A, Division II. The team had two regular-season games canceled by COVID and also had to forfeit their playoff berth against Carthage because of COVID.

The 2020 team snapped a losing streak of more than 700 days with its non-district win over Hillsboro. Two district wins over Jarrell and Robinson locked up a spot behind Salado, China Spring and Waco Connally in the six-team district.

This year, the Hornets expect to raise their level of play and take care of business on the field. The Hornets are working toward moving up in the pecking order.

The Hornets key returners in the trenches include seniors Evan Hanson and Jaiden Gomez on offense and powerlifter Ryan Smiley at noseguard on defense.

Early on in pre-season workouts and scrimmages, the Hornets defense has led the way.

"The defense played well (in its Aug. 19 tuneup with Fairfield) other than giving up a few big plays. I am pleased with our intensity, effort, and tackling on the defensive side," Howard said.

On defense, the team has five seniors led by linemen Smiley and Cayden Mata. Senior defensive backs Jacob Baker and Hayden Mooney are among the leaders in the secondary.

Junior Thiele Alvarado is another solid defender.

On the offensive side, the team is looking to establish a balanced attack.

Against Fairfield, it wasn't pretty. "We struggled offensively. We were missing three starters due to COVID quarantine and are working with some young guys up front on the offensive line. We have to bring those guys along and get better, quick."

Key returners on offense are quarterback Wesley Brown and the receiver crew of Carson Brizendine, Trevor Smith and Parker Allman.

Luis Macias returns as a solid kicker for the Hornets.

The Hornets open the regular season Aug. 27 in the home opener with Llano.

"Llano is a good team. They are coming off a 13-1, Class 3A semifinalist run last year and are returning some key players."

## 2020 Gatesville Hornets football statistics

### 8-game totals

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg.	Lg	TD
Jason Delong	123	691	5.6	75	5
Wesley Brown	34	167	4.9	27	3
Hayden Mooney	32	163	5.1	15	1
Luke Mullins	40	117	2.9	37	1
Isaiah Navejas	19	55	2.9	11	0
Ashtyn Culley	9	34	3.8	10	0
Bradyn Culley	5	21	4.2	4	0
Logan Edwards	2	12	6.0	11	0
Trevor Smith	1	8	8.0	8	0
Carson Brizendine	2	3	1.5	4	0
Camden Galindo	1	1	1.0	1	0
Carter Janisch	1	4	4.0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>10</b>

Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Lg	TD
Carson Brizendine	25	337	13.5	81	4
Parker Allman	20	224	11.2	32	2
Logan Edwards	17	202	11.9	47	5
Trevor Smith	15	189	12.6	26	2
Brian Adams	10	125	12.5	22	0
Jason Delong	5	50	10.0	15	0
Thiele Alvarado	1	7	7.0	7	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1134</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>13</b>

Passing	Att	Com	Yards	Lg	Int	TD
Luke Mullins	160	90	1094	81	7	12
Wesley Brown	6	2	18	7	0	0
Parker Allman	1	1	22	22	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1134</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>

Score by quarters	Opponents	Gatesville
1st	117	79
2nd	36	47
3rd	83	42
4th	40	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>-319</b>	<b>-170</b>

Defensive statistics	Solo	Assists	Total	Sacks
Zach Bates	65	52	117	0
Hayden Mooney	44	45	89	0
Lawson Mooney	30	35	65	1
Wesley Brown	22	36	58	0
Ryan Smiley	15	41	56	2
Thiele Alvarado	22	33	55	1
Ashtyn Culley	27	25	52	0
Eric Sarmiento	23	26	49	1
Jacob Baker	30	16	46	0
Cayden Mata	15	31	46	0
Cooper Sutton	8	31	39	0
Aevyn Sarinana	21	14	35	0
Banner Allman	12	19	31	0
Si Sheets	16	10	26	0
James Hamilton	3	2	5	0
Parker Allman	2	3	5	0
Kason Herbelin	3	0	3	0
Trevor Smith	0	2	2	0
Cody Attaway	0	2	2	0
Ayden Necessary	1	0	1	0

Interceptions - Jacob Baker (4), Aevyn Sarinana, Banner Allman, Parker Allman.

Fumbles forced - Wesley Brown (2), Hayden Mooney, Ryan Smiley.

Fumbles recovered - Cayden Mata (2), Ashtyn Culley (2), Banner Allman, Thiele Alvarado.

Passes broken up - Zach Bates (10), Eric Sarmiento (5), Jacob Baker (3), Wesley Brown (2), Aevyn Sarinana, Cayden Mata.

Defensive totals	Rushing	Passing	Total	Points
	1915	1346	3262	319



**ALL IN:** Caden Mata leads a Hornet defensive line as they close in on a Fairfield running back during their scrimmage.

PHOTOS BY MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



**LOOKING UP:** Senior quarterback Wesley Brown scrambles before unloading a pass in The Hornets' final scrimmage with Fairfield.



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**ALL ABOUT THE DEFENSE:** The Hornet defensive front of Javon Hall and Tatum Taylor converge on a tackle.

PHOTOS BY  
**MARK GOODSON** | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER


# Hornets 2021

Date	Opponent	Time
Friday, Aug. 27	Llano	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 3	at Glen Rose	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 10	at Lorena	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 17	at Hillsboro	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 24	Lampasas	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 1	Open	
Friday, Oct. 8	Salado*	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 15	China Spring*	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 22	at Waco Robinson*	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 29	WacoConnally*	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 5	at Jarrell*	7:30 p.m.


\* denotes District 9-4A, Div. II games



**A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS:** Junior defensive back Aydan Necessary celebrates with teammates Thiele Alvarado, Lawson Mooney and Jovan Hall after an interception.



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# Gatesville Lady Hornets set to compete for playoff spot

BY MARK GOODSON  
Staff Writer

It's been a whirlwind start for the Gatesville Lady Hornets volleyball team. They've had to deal with missing players because of COVID testing, but they've found out they have a chance to make another run at the playoffs.

Seniors Tasha Thoms and Avery Mullins plan to lead the team as they are going for their 19th straight playoff berth this season.

"It's actually been good," Thoms said of last week's chance to fill the roster with JV players. "I got to play with a lot of players that I'd never played with."

Thoms and Mullins, two of the teams' athletic leaders, said that they expect the team to come together.

Returning varsity players are seniors Thoms and Mullins and juniors Lola Barron, Kaleigh Haywood and Khloe Mathews.

The team is filled with an athletic group that plays with a lot of energy.

"They are a fun bunch to

watch," said Gatesville coach Janey Weber, who is in her second season since taking over the program.

The former all-state player and 2011 graduate for the Lady Hornets has been a stabilizing force.

She stresses fundamentals, energy and intensity to her team.

The team's big hitters are Mullins and Kaleigh Haywood. Both are some of the team's best leapers.

Sophomore Barrett Boyd has also shown her ability at the net.

The 2020 team finished 18-8 and fourth in District 6-4A. The Lady Hornets volleyball team closed their last season with a tough battle against Graham at Weatherford. Gatesville lost to Graham 3-1 (25-18, 20-25, 20-25, 24-26) in a Class 4A bi-district playoff.

The Lady Hornets compete in district with Brownwood, Glen Rose, Lampasas and Stephenville.

The Lady Hornets will open district play Sept. 24 with Lampasas.



AND THE LINEUP IS: The Gatesville Lady Hornets varsity volleyball team members for 2021 are, from left, front row: Evonna Pitrucha, Marlee Williams, Avery Mullins, Tasha Thoms; middle row: Lola Barron, Emily Turner, Wendi Perez, Charlee Barron; and back row: Barrett Boyd, Kaleigh Haywood, Rachel Garrett and Khloe Mathews.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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# Oglesby Tigers



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

**LOOKING FOR REPEATED SUCCESS:** The Oglesby Tigers hope for a return to the postseason this season. Members of the program include (back row) Ian Philip, Cash Lee, Jorge Gonzalez, Matthew Castillo, Rain Chapman. (Middle row) Aiden Deskins, Kyler Fossett, Cash McCown, Aydan Anderson, Brodie Fisher, Ronaldo Gonzales, Tanner Brinkley, Landon Robinson. Kneeling, Jakson Tippitt, Hunter Ewing, Hunter Walter, Johnny Gomez, Joel Gonzalez, Alex Castillo and Blake Thompson.

## 2021 OHS Tigers

- 2020 record: 5-2, 1-2
- District 14-1A, Div. II
- Head coach: Jeb Dixon (second season at Oglesby, 10-2 in 2020, 31-16 overall as head coach. Dixon three years at Gorman 21-14, playoffs three years, 8-5 in 2018. Dixon is 1995 Gatesville graduate.
- Oglesby will compete in District 14-1A, Division II with Buckholts, Dime Box and Mount Calm.

**BY MARK GOODSON**  
Staff Writer

Oglesby has come on like gangbusters under head football coach Jeb Dixon. After a breakthrough year last season in Dixon's first year in Oglesby, the Tigers expect bigger and better things. They've already built a new fieldhouse and made major improvements in their facilities. They have 22 of the 24 boys in the school in the program,

enough to field a varsity and junior varsity in the six-man ranks. Key returners include senior back Blake Thompson, running back Brodie Fisher, linebacker Cash Lee and lineman Matthew Castillo. Ronaldo Gonzales has also emerged as a big hitter. The team showed well in its scrimmages (a three-way) with Waco Parkview, Covington and Waco Holy Trinity. They squared off with Gholson

in their final pre-season warmup. "I thought we we played hard and physical," Dixon said of the opening scrimmage that attracted a big crowd. "I really thought we'd be more physical." Thompson looks to be the big weapon heading into 2021. He has moved to the feature back and has plenty of toughness and speed. The Tigers posted a historic 10-2 record last

season. The Tigers won the District 14-1A, Div. II district title and won a playoff game for the first time since 1983. They finished the year with a loss to perennial power Richland Springs. The Coyotes fell 70-38 in the Area round at Hico's Tiger Stadium. The Tigers will face Ranger in their season opener. "That will tell us real quick where we stand," Dixon said.

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# Oglesby Lady Tigers



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

**2021-2022 LADY TIGERS:** The Oglesby Lady Tigers are (back row, left to right) Lacie Luckie, Hailey Meyers, Addison Hamilton, Mattie Dixon, Adrian Harrings and (front row, left to right) Summer Newman, Charolette Ritchie, Lizette Castillo and Alyssa Castillo.

**BY MARK GOODSON**  
Staff Writer

Cassie Meyers is in her second season leading the Oglesby Lady Tigers volleyball program.

Oglesby has got off to a solid start with back-to-back wins over Waco Harmony and Gholson.

Meyers is excited about the girls' squad that returns plenty of experience.

Among the veterans are Hailey Meyers, one of the tallest players and a solid middle blocker.

Other veterans are Addison Hamilton, Adrian Harrings, Summer Newman, Lizette Castillo, Alyssa Castillo, Emma Davis, Paydan Bagley, Charolette Ritchie, Mattie Dixon and Lacie

Luckie.

Incoming freshmen are Victoria Cardenas, Haley Ballinger, Grace Sherrill, Jayda Gonzalez and Emma Davidson.

"I have a positive outlook for our season this year," Meyers said. "Even though two of our key players graduated last year I feel this year our team is more well-rounded as a whole. We have changed some of the dynamics of our structure on the court and I feel that has raised the bar for our Lady Tigers offense and defense."

This year Meyers has moved senior Adrian Harrings to setter, senior Lizette Castillo to libero followed by senior Summer Newman as a hitter.

Juniors Hailey Meyers and

Lacie Luckie are outside hitters, and Junior Alyssa Castillo is the defensive specialist.

Sophomores Mattie Dixon and Addison Hamilton are middles.

Sophomore Charolette Ritchie is the back-up setter.

"Each of our players have something to contribute this year and it is showing," Meyers said. "Our team is very dedicated this year and the moral is high. We feel we have something to prove and we are ready to work."

Oglesby Tigers compete in District 12-2A in volleyball.

Other teams in the district are Bosqueville, Bruceville-Eddy, Chilton, Crawford, Moody, Valley Mills, and Waco Meyer.

# Evant Lady Elks

**BY MARK GOODSON**  
Staff Writer

The Evant Lady Elks are off to an impressive start with first-year head volleyball coach JoAnna Vaden.

Vaden, a veteran coach, takes over a program that was hard hit last year by COVID.

But the team has senior middle blocker Emileigh Burton to lead the Lady Elks, who have posted seven wins in their first 10 games.

The senior middle hitter is dominant and has put up big numbers in hitting and blocking this season. She is also an excellent server.

Outside hitter Caeleigh Burkham is also a senior and gives the team another force at the net.

"They both bring a lot of skill and talent to the court," said coach Vaden. "Along with that I have been very pleased with their leadership

skills and bringing the team together."

The team roster has one sophomore and seven freshmen.

"The younger athletes are really working hard and gaining confidence and improving their skills on the court every day," Vaden said. "I have been impressed and very proud of how hard they all work and how well they work together as a team."

Contributors in workouts and early games have been setter Harley Weeks and outside hitter Isabel Gandy.

The two sophomores are Cheyenne Ford and Chastity Logan. Ford is a defensive specialist and Logan an outside hitter.

The other freshmen are Haily Neri, Ludwika Rodriguez, Molly Waldrum and Bree Ramirez.

Evant competes in District 11-2A with Hamilton, Hico, Meridian, Tolar, Bluff Dale

and Three Way School.

The team will open district play Sept 7 at Bluff Dale.

The Lady Elks won an Aug. 17 match, 21-25, 25-20, 25-19, 25-18, over Lingleville in a warmup for the (Aug. 19-21) Hamilton Tournament.

Vaden is a high school graduate of Holland and went to southern Nazarene University and played volleyball four years. She earned her master's from Texas Tech.

Her coaching stops have been: 14 years in Borger, Greenville, six years; Mildred, six years; Moody for two then recently left Temple after three years.

"Over the years I've coached multiple teams to distract championships and playoff spots," Vaden said. "I also have coached several track athletes to regionals and state."



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

**LADY ELKS READY FOR SEASON:** The Evant Elks for the 2021 volleyball season are Hailey Neri, Luwi Rodriguez, Chayenne Ford, Bree Ramirez and Harley Weeks. (Back row) Coach Joanna Vaden, Caeleigh Burkham, Molly Waldrum, Chastity Logan, Izzy Gandy and Emileigh Burton.



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# Evant Elks



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**ELKS CHARGING INTO DISTRICT:** The Evant Elks will compete in District 15-1A, Division II). Members of the team are: (Left to right, front row) Cameron McGilverly, Hunter White, Canyon Smith, Edgar Morales, Damien Honea, Tanner Manville and Ayden Andrade. (Back row) Case Flippen, Christian Malone, Caystin Forrest, Daniel Honea, Luis Arellano. Not pictured is Kenny Jones.

## 2021 Evant Elks

- 2020 record: 5-2, 1-2
- Last playoff appearance: 2019
- Coach: Brandon Johnson (beginning seventh-year coaching, second year at Evant. Previous stop - Perrin-Whitt)
- 2021 outlook: Competing against same district again, 15-1A, Division I with Jonesboro, Lometa, Zephyr

**BY MARK GOODSON**  
Staff Writer

Evant will be a young football team with just one senior this season. The team returns three starters on each side of the ball and the team will be anxious to make its mark after battling through COVID last season. "We've put that COVID behind us and are expecting a good year," said second-year head coach Brandon Johnson, who got a late start last season when he was hired in June.

The Elks opened football drills this year with 13 players and expect to compete for supremacy in District 15-1A, Division I. The team showed well in its early scrimmages against Cherokee and Irion County. "We looked better than I thought we would," Johnson said of the Aug. 13 scrimmage at Cherokee. The Elks hope to earn one of the two playoff spots from a tough district. Coach Johnson heads into the season opener Thurs-

day, Aug 26 against the Cranfills Gap Lions at Evant with a team that will have some big-play potential from backs Luis Arellano and Hunter White. The season opener was moved to Thursday because a limited amount of officials available, said Johnson. Arellano, a junior, fills the big-play potential for the Elks. Arellano will also be a key defender. He is known for his big hits. Defense has been the focus along with getting in

time in the weight room under Johnson. Th defensive line will be athletic with senior Edgar Morales and juniors Daniel Honea and Ayden Andrade, Arellano, White and Kenny Jones will fill the secondary roles. On offense, the Elks linemen will be Morales, Damien Honea and Canyon Smith. Morales, a four-year varsity player, will handle the kicking duties.

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# Jonesboro Eagles

## 2021 JHS Eagles

- 2020 record: 10-2
- District 15-1A, Div. I
- Head coach: Eddie Gallegos (13th season at Jonesboro, record 122-28)
- Jonesboro will compete in District 15-1A, Division I with Evant (5-2, 1-2), Lometa (7-3, 2-1) and Zephyr (1-8, 0-3)

BY MARK GOODSON  
Staff Writer

Jonesboro's Ian Shoaf has been at the forefront for the Jonesboro Eagles fortunes since breaking in as a freshman.

He heads into his senior season determined to finish with a bang.

"We expect to go farther than we did last year," said Shoaf.

The Eagles came up short of their goals last season, catching the tough May Tigers in round two of the six-man Division I playoffs. May went on to lose to Sterling City in the state title game, 68-22.

Shoaf is the key senior this year. He has racked up 216 carries for 1,959 yards in his career. He has 34 touchdowns rushing. He has caught three touchdowns and thrown for five.

As a defender he has 171 tackles and 10 interceptions (five in 2020).

Coach Eddie Gallegos has



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

**PRESEASON FAVORITE:** Jonesboro is the favorite in District 15-1A, Division I. Members of the Eagles varsity are: (top row) Demarcus Acoff, Dakota Riley, Caleb Christel, Jimmy Lee Whatley, Jaden Dome, Ian Shoaf, Tyler Wilson, Jacob Cisneros and Manuel Torres. (bottom row) Zach Chapman, Cooper Blanchard, Garrett Young and Nat Hilliker.

built a strong program at Jonesboro. He enters his 13th season as head football coach at Jonesboro. Shoaf and company live to win football games.

Gallegos has led the Eagles to the playoffs 11 straight seasons. He has had nine double-digit winning seasons and an overall re-

cord of 122-28.

Five times in the last seven years the Eagles have gone at least three rounds deep in the playoffs.

In 2016 and 2017, the Eagles earned berths in the state title game against the Borden County Coyotes. They lost by scores of 60-12 and 60-22 to the Coyotes.

The Eagles are ranked No. 6 in the Class 1A, Division I preseason poll.

Jonesboro is favored to take the District 15-1A, Division I title over Zephyr, Lometa and Evant.

Some key players for the Eagles are seniors Manuel Torres and linemen Layton Blanchard and Nat Hilliker.

Running back Tyler Wilson returns and the tandem of Jacob Cisneros and Caleb Cristel provide depth at running back.

Jonesboro quarterback is sophomore Garrett Young. He has fit well as one of the leaders.

"He (Young) has done a great job running the of-

fense," Gallegos said of the sophomore.

On defense, the team has a lot of depth and as always the Eagles bring a physical brand of football.

Shoaf and Wilson are the safeties and are ballhawks on the back line of defense. Hilliker and Zach Chapman will lead the defensive front.



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# Good luck to all area teams!



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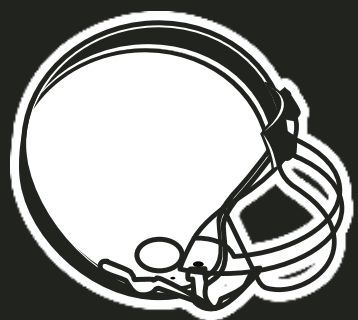


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# Welcome to Coryell County, new teachers

## New staff members at Gatesville Independent School District for 2021-2022:

Michael Hamilton will be teaching band. He is a graduate of Colorado State University and has two years of teaching experience. He previously taught at Mount Vernon.

Karrie Judd will be teaching 2nd grade at Gatesville Elementary. She is a graduate of Tarleton State University and has 29 years of teaching experience. She previously taught at Killeen ISD.

Melissa Sanchez will be teaching LSSP in All District housed at Gatesville Primary School. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University-Central Texas. This will be her third year of teaching. She previously taught in the Belton ISD.

Leigh Anne Schwope will be teaching 8th grade RLA at Gatesville Junior High. She is a 1988 graduate of Gatesville High School and a graduate of Texas State University. She has had 20 years of experience and previously taught at Marble Falls Middle School.

Amy Allison will be working with speech therapy at Gatesville Intermediate School. She received her bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian University and her master's degree from Baylor University. She has 24 years of teaching experience. She previously taught at Hallsville ISD.

Nona Black will be teaching 4th - 6th grade Special Education. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso. She has had more than 20 years of teaching experience. She previously taught at Salvador Sanchez Middle School in El Paso.

Elizabeth Brownlee will be a counselor and testing coordinator at Gatesville High School. She received her

undergraduate degree from Baylor University and her graduate degree from Amberton University. She has had five years of teaching experience and seven years as a counselor. She previously taught at Connally High School.

Justin Brumfield will be a Special Education Inclusion teacher at Gatesville High School. He graduated from The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 2018. He has had three years of experience teaching and previously taught at Vista Ridge High School in Cedar Park.

Jasmine Davidson will be teaching English I at Gatesville High School. She is a graduate of Trinity University and New York University. This will be her first year to teach. She previously worked at Columbia University.

Ashley Drozd-Hubik will be teaching Physical Education and will assist in volleyball and track at Gatesville Elementary. She is a graduate of Sam Houston State University. She has had 18 years of teaching experience and previously taught at Hallsville ISD.

Janet Featherson will be teaching Pre-K at Gatesville Primary School. She is a 1991 graduate of Gatesville High School and a graduate of The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. She has had 26 years of teaching experience and previously taught at the Windham School District and Gatesville ISD.

Denise Hall will be teaching 7th grade English at Gatesville Junior High. She is a 2013 graduate of Gatesville High School and a graduate of Tarleton State University. She has had one year of teaching experience.

Wendi Hydrick will be teaching 3rd grade at Gatesville Elementary. She is a graduate of The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. She has had six years of teach-

ing experience and previously worked in the Belton ISD.

Karrie Judd will be teaching 2nd grade at Gatesville Elementary. She is a graduate of Tarleton State University. She has had 29 years of teaching experience and previously taught at Killeen ISD.

Tim Klingler will be teaching choral music at the Intermediate School, Junior High and High School. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona, University of Northern Colorado and Northern Arizona University. He has had 13 years of teaching experience and previously taught at Round Rock ISD, Katy ISD, Alief ISD and Fort Bend ISD.

Britney Lanford will be teaching 6th grade math at Gatesville Intermediate School. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University. This will be her first year to teach.

Mingyan Venus Leung will be teaching Precalculus, College Algebra and College Statistics at Gatesville High School. She is a graduate of McGill University and Concordia University at Montreal, Canada. This will be her first year as a classroom teacher.

Tiffany Lewis will be teaching Kindergarten at Gatesville Primary School. She is a graduate of Tarleton State University. She previously worked as a Behavior Aide at Belton ISD. This will be her first year to teach.

Muhammed Mahmoud will be teaching Cyber Security at Gatesville High School. He is a graduate of Thebes Academy. This will be his first year to teach.

Alicia Meharg will be teaching Reading Intervention and will be the RTI Coordinator at Gatesville Elementary School. She received her bachelor's degree from West Texas A&M University, her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Tarleton State University and her master's in Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin University. She has had 28 years of teaching experience and has previously taught at Itasca ISD, Marble Falls ISD, Iredell ISD, Hillsboro ISD, Gatesville ISD and Valley Mills ISD.

Lucile Necessary will be teaching math at Gatesville High School. She is a graduate of Baylor University.

Luke Nichols will be the new Assistant Principal at Gatesville Intermediate School. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas and Lamar University. He has had 12 years of teaching experience and previously served as Assistant Principal in Denton.

Lindsay Pfaff will be teaching band at Gatesville Junior High. She received her bachelor's degree from The University of Central Oklahoma and her master's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She has nine years teaching experience and previously taught at Waco La Vega ISD.

Melissa Sanchez will be the licensed specialist in school psychology (LSSP) at Gatesville Primary School. She graduated from Texas A&M-Central Texas. She has had two years of teaching experience and previously taught at Belton ISD.

Jackie Saunders will be teaching Kindergarten at Gatesville Primary School. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University. This will be her first year to teach.

Tara Scholwinski will be the ARD Facilitator at the Gatesville High School. She is a graduate of Sam Houston State University. She has 14 years of teaching experience and has been the ARD Facilitator for Salado ISD and Gatesville ISD.

Natalie Whitewood will be doing Teen Leadership and will be the Girls Athletic Coordinator at the Gatesville Junior High. She is a graduate of Sul Ross State University. She had seventeen years of teaching experience and previously taught at Early ISD.

Kaylah Williamson will be the new speech therapist for all of GISD. She is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University and this will be her first year being a speech therapist.

Kate Worthington will be a new speech therapist primarily at Gatesville Elementary, but she will also be serving Gatesville Junior High and Gatesville Primary schools. She is a 2006 graduate of Gatesville High School and has her bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University and her master's degree from Texas Woman's University. She is starting her 13th year in her profession. She previously worked at Gatesville ISD for 10 years and at Leander ISD for two years.

Erica Wuenschel will be teaching Algebra 1 and math concepts at Gatesville High School. She is a graduate of Sam Houston State University. She had four years of teaching experience and previously taught at Barber Middle School in the Dickinson ISD.

Gay Lynn Sain will be a speech therapist at Gatesville Intermediate School. She received her degree from Stephen F. Austin University. She has 13 years of experience in her profession and previously worked at Uplift Education in Fort Worth.

## New staff members at Oglesby Independent School District for 2021-2022:

Amanda Martin will be the new art teacher. She is a 1998 graduate of Gatesville High School and an all level art graduate from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. This will be her 17th year to teach. She previously taught at Aquilla ISD.

Amy Taylor will be teaching second grade. She has her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas and her master's degree from Baylor University. This year will mark her 12th year of teaching. She previously taught at Primrose School of Woodway and at Rappaport Academy.

Julian Helms will be teaching junior high reading and coaching. Helms graduated from Angelo State University and has taught for two years previously at Evant ISD.

Kara Helms will be teaching junior high science, physical education, and coaching. She graduated from Evant High School in 2016 and is a graduate of Tarleton State University. She has taught school for one year and was previously employed by Comanche ISD.

Dylan Segundo will be teaching history and government and coaching. He is a graduate of Angelo State University and this is his first year to teach.

Theresa Pandola will be the new reading specialist. She is a graduate of Baylor University and has had more than 30 years experience teaching. She previously taught elementary school at Jerrel ISD.

## New staff members at Jonesboro Independent School District for 2021-2022:

Becky Byrom will be teaching third grade. She is a 1980 graduate of Gatesville High School and received her degree from Tarleton State University. She has had 16 years teaching 3rd grade and nine years teaching physical education. She previously taught at Gatesville Elementary for 25 years.

Brandon Pierce will be teaching middle school science. He is a graduate of Tarleton State University. This will be his fifth year to teach. He previously taught at Hamilton ISD.

## New staff members at Evant Independent School District for 2021-2022:

Edward Andrade; technology assistant  
Ashley Baker; instructional aide

Chad Baker; HS social studies, head girls basketball coach, and head cross country coach

Heather Clemens; 3rd grade  
Marsha Creek; counselor  
Jacob Gernentz; ag science

Cathy Kolodziej; counselor

Wendy Lin; response to intervention teacher  
Dr. Brenda Martinez; superintendent

Cheyenne Cook; principal  
Dr. Claudia Canales; Effective Schools Coordinator  
Morgan Mayhew; 2nd grade

Bridgette Medrano; 5th grade

Katy Siepert; HS English  
Destiny Shuler; SPED aide  
Cody Shuler; maintenance

JoAnna Vaden; elementary school PE and head girls volleyball coach  
Autumn Vann; 4th grade  
Tricia Williams; JH English

Brandon Young; HS math, assistant football coach, and assistant boys basketball coach

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