



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

WEDNESDAY | September 8, 2021

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 120, No. 113, ISSN No. 0894-4954

## SH 236 bridge construction to begin, detours set

BY DAVID SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Construction on the new bridge on State Highway 236 by Mother Neff State Park begins this week, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

The new bridge will help mitigate flooding at Mother Neff State Park.

Flooding has primarily occurred when logs are wedged between the piers of the old bridge. The 201-foot bridge was closed for several months this year because of the

log jam, forcing the closure of the park's original river-bottom section to the public.

"The goals of the project are to replace the bridge with a longer bridge and increase the elevation of the road off of both approaches," TxDOT spokesperson Jake Smith said. "During this project, there will be a detour."

Mother Neff State Park Superintendent Melissa Chadwick is confident that the completion of the project will help access to the park. "Once the new bridge is in place,

seasonal flooding events should not impact State Highway 236 as much as they have done over the last years," Chadwick said. "Which will help make traveling to the park much easier."

To access the park during construction, Chadwick offered directions:

■ From the north: Take I-35 South through Waco to Exit 315, (FM 107 Moody Marlin) and turn right onto FM 107. Stay on FM 107 for 13 miles through Moody and turn left onto SH 236. The CCC Cabin will be about 1.5 miles ahead

on your right. Estimated travel time from just south of Waco is 30 minutes.

■ From the south: Two options are available. Take I-35 north through Temple and use one of the exits below. Estimated travel time from Temple is 30 minutes.

■ Exit 301 (SH 53, FM 2305, Central Ave., Adams Ave.): Turn left onto SH 53, FM 2305. Stay on SH 53 (which turns into SH 36 at Loop 363) for 5.7 miles to SH 317. Exit for SH 317 North toward Moody. In 11 miles turn left onto FM 107. Then

in 6.4 miles turn left onto SH 236. The park entrance will be about 1.5 miles ahead on your right.

■ Exit 314 (FM 107 Moody Marlin): Turn left onto FM 107. Stay on FM 107 for 13 miles through Moody and turn left onto SH 236. The park entrance will be about 1.5 miles ahead on your right.

■ From the west: From Gatesville, travel 17 miles on FM 107. Turn right onto SH 236. The park entrance will be a half-mile ahead on your right. Estimated travel time is 20 minutes.

# I love you GRANDPA

It's that time of year to honor your grandparents

Get ready, Grandparents Day is just around the corner. This year it will be on Sunday.

National Grandparents Day has more than one origin, but most credit Marian McQuade, a housewife living in West Virginia. In the 1970s, McQuade attempted to educate people about senior citizens and the importance of their contributions to families and to society. She was also an advocate who urged people to "adopt a grandparent." Many view her efforts as the reason that National Grandparents Day was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1978.

McQuade received a phone call from the White House to inform her

PLEASE SEE DAY | 2



COURTESY PHOTO

## SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR BROWN

Gatesville senior Wesley Brown is ready to lead the Hornets on the gridiron. In the season opener against Llano, he rolled up 311 yards of total offense and had two short touchdown runs.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



## Former GHS football captain joins Coryell Health

BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER  
Staff Writer

Coryell County native Dr. Christopher Long recently joined Coryell Health as a board certified family medicine physician.

Dr. Long graduated from Gatesville High School in 2001. He was captain of the football team that won Gatesville's first and only state championship in 2000.

After high school, Long attended Texas State University to study biology. After working as a firefighter and EMT in San Antonio and then a nurse in Houston, he enrolled at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor to complete pre-requisite courses for medical school.



PLEASE SEE DOCTOR | 2 Dr. Christopher Long

COURTESY PHOTO

## QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: What is the size of the Gatesville Municipal Airport?

A: The Gatesville Municipal Airport covers an area of 51 acres and contains one asphalt paved runway measuring 3,400 x 60 ft.

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# COUNTY WIDE

## 'Remember & Serve' ceremony set for Saturday

Keep Gatesville Beautiful invites the public to "Remember & Serve" at a 9/11 remembrance ceremony that will be held on Sept. 11 at 7:45 a.m. at the Coryell County Courthouse.

Anyone who is able is encouraged to stay after the ceremony to clean up downtown Gatesville in an act of service for the community.

## 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 Karim 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

## Calling contestants for Old Time Fiddlers Contest

The Gatesville Old Time Fiddlers Contest is making a return appearance Sept. 18 at Gatesville's City Auditorium.

This Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association-sanctioned contest will kick off at noon, drawing top fiddlers from across the state to compete for cash prizes.

Contestants will compete by age in categories ranging from under 10 years to 60-plus. There will also be competitions for twin fiddles and accompanists, with the day culminating in the championship round, featuring the top fiddlers from the day.

The ending time is expected to

be around 6 p.m., but is dependent on the number of overall entries.

Admission is free and spectators are welcome to come and go throughout the day.

The event is presented by the City of Gatesville with funding for fiddler prizes provided by community supporters. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or would like to be a supporter with a donation, please call Sherry Hopson at 254-223-3939 or Cheri Shepherd at 254-499-0102. You can also call them for details about entering the contest.

The Old Time Fiddlers Contest is one of three free events in downtown Gatesville on September 18.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to view the custom and classic cars that will line the courthouse square during the Cruzin Cruiser's Car Show, visit the Coryell Museum for Spurfest activities, and drop in to hear some good old time fiddle music at the auditorium. There will also be vendors selling a variety of goods at the car show and the museum.

and Diane Heavin. The fish fry will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at The Texas Station Event Center located at 305 Old Fort Gates Road. Catering will be by Bare Bones BBQ. The keynote speaker for the event will be Congressman Roger Williams.

Tickets will be \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. Sponsorships will be available with speaking opportunities included with the sponsorships.

For more information, contact the Coryell County Republican Party at 254-216-9017. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 12, Gatesville, Texas, 76528.

## 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.

\$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.

## Best beard bragging rights

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

Here are the 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.

## Republican Party fish fry set Sept. 18

The Republican Party of Coryell County has scheduled its 2021 annual fish fry, which will be sponsored and co-hosted by Gary

## Gatesville police investigating fatal crash

BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER  
Staff Writer

A fatal accident occurred at 7:15 a.m. on Sept. 1 at the intersection of East Main Street and the entrance ramp heading south on State Highway 36.

Andrew Jones, 34, of Gatesville, was traveling eastbound on Main Street on his motorcycle when a Ford SUV driven by Yessica Olivarez, 40, of Temple, turned in front of Jones to enter the highway. The motorcyclist struck the right side of the SUV and fell onto the roadway.

Paramedics who happened to be passing by immediately attended to Jones and transported him to Coryell Health with life-threatening injuries. Jones died of his injuries shortly after arriving.

Olivarez was also transported to the hospital and later released.

The Gatesville Police Department is investigating the crash.

### CORRECTION

We got a few facts wrong in a Sept. 1 article on a death inside the Coryell County Jail:

1) The nurse at the jail never told a relative of Castlee Noble his condition, nor was the relative refused visitation.

2) There was one protest outside the jail after a judge set Noble's bail at \$1 million.

3) We did not confirm Kelli Leanne Page's manner of death in the jail.

We regret these errors.

### CRIME STOPPERS

## In search of stolen green, black 2006 Kawasaki motorcycle

Crime Stoppers is seeking information on a theft of a motorcycle sometime between 10 p.m. and 3:30 a.m. on Aug. 30-31 at a residence in the 200 block of Old Waco Road.

An unknown person allegedly entered the backyard of the residence through a closed gate, pulled a tarp off the motorcycle,

and walked the motorcycle around to the street in front of the house.

The motorcycle is a bright green and black 2006 Kawasaki dirt bike with the Monster Energy drink logo on it. The bike is valued at \$1,800.

If you have any information about this case, or any other local crime, call Centex Crime Stoppers

24 hours a day at 1-254-865-8477 (TIPS) or visit our website at www.

Centexcrimestoppers.org or by downloading the "P3" mobile app available on both the Apple app store and Google Play Store. All tips are confidential, and any information that leads to an arrest is eligible for a reward.



COURTESY PHOTO

**MISSING MOTORCYCLE:** Crime Stoppers is seeking for any information about this stolen 2006 Kawasaki dirt bike.

## Church group to attend Wendish Fest

From Staff Reports

The Christian Adult Fellowship Events group (C.A.F.E.) at the First United Methodist Church will be traveling to Serbin on Sunday, Sept. 26 to attend the Wendish Fest.

The group, which is leaving the church at 7:45 a.m., is attending a German service at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin later in the morning.

St. Paul is one of the "Painted Churches" of Texas. The excursion will cost \$30 for a ticket and the ride to the venue.

The Wends descended from a variety of Slavic tribes who later developed a common language. The Wends or Sorbs (as they were called in Europe) came from an area south of Berlin where the countries of Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia came together. Serbin means "Place of the Serbs."

The Wends made their decision to leave Europe and settle in Texas to exercise religious freedom. Germany had merged Lutheranism and Calvinism together and this was resisted by the Wends. A decision was made to emigrate to Texas resisting the national church. The group of Wends was comprised of members of many congregations and villages.

In 1849, the first Wends began

PLEASE SEE **WENDISH** | 3

## DAY

FROM PAGE 1

of the signing. On Sept. 6, 1979, a presidential proclamation made the day official and it was decided that Grandparents Day would fall on the first Sunday in September following Labor Day.

In the United States, grandparents' names can vary, but the most common names are "grandma" and "grandpa." The traditional names for grandparents in Germany are "oma" and "opa," while

in Spain and Latin America, the names would be "abuela" and "abuelo."

Today, people are becoming grandparents at a much younger age than in the past. The median age is estimated to be 48. Over two million grandparents in the United States are considered "head of the household" and are raising their grandchildren. Several famous individuals who have been raised by their grandparents include Bill Clinton, Jack Nicholson, Oprah Winfrey, Jamie Foxx, Carol Burnett, Willie Nelson and Eric Clapton.

Honoring grandparents can be done in a variety of ways. Some grandchildren will give a gift or invite their grandparents to their school to participate in activities. It is estimated that more than four million greeting cards are sent in the United States each year on Grandparents Day.

Grandparents even have an official song, "A Song for Grandma and Grandpa," by Johnny Prill. The official flower for Grandparents Day is the "forget-me-not" flower, which seems appropriate for the occasion.

## DOCTOR

FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Long completed medical school and did his residency at Oklahoma State University, becoming board certified in Family Medicine.

He has been a part of the COVID disaster relief team in the emergency department as a hospitalist since March 2020. After finishing residency, he immediately moved to a full-time position within those same departments.

"As soon as I graduated medical school, I knew I wanted to come home to serve the community I grew up in. As fate would have it, my first week of being here part-time was right when the pandemic was starting to impact the U.S.," Long said in a press release. "I am thankful for the 'big city' education and training I received that I could bring back to my rural hometown community."

Long currently lives in Gatesville with his wife, Laura, and their daughter and son, Lila and Peyton.



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### DEADLINES:

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by 10am Friday for the Wednesday issue and 10am 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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NEWS FROM PEARL

# Get your kicks, slice of pie at Pearl Bluegrass event

BY BETSY CLARK

**W**e in Pearl hope that everyone had a wonderful Labor Day weekend! There are many upcoming events scheduled to take place in Pearl, and we hope you all saved some energy and time to participate in those fun events with us.

To begin with, the next Pearl Bluegrass event will Saturday. Don't forget to call Anji Pearl Day at 325-665-7996 to schedule stage show time if you are interested in performing. Remember 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 amp hookups costs \$20 a night, and 50 amps are \$25. Come and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Pearl. Things to know about the Pearl Bluegrass:

- The event is free. Doors to the Pearl Community Center open at 7

a.m. and close at 10 a.m. the next day.

- The kitchen opens at 11 a.m. for lunch and closes at 5 p.m. There's pie, y'all! And delicious hamburgers and sandwiches. All at a very reasonable price.
- The stage show usually begins at noon.
- Jamming all day—FREE to participate, FREE to listen!
- The Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shop 'till you drop, and buy what you want, pay what you want in most cases. All proceeds go toward local charities.



Clark

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
The next events take place in October.

- Kay Pruett's plant and yard sale takes place at her home on Oct. 8-9 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kay has stunning succulents that are always potted so beautifully. For more information, please call Kay Pruett at 254-865-5864.
- 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 event is in conjunction with Kay's plant and yard sale. So, pack your trunk with the stuff you want to sell on the grounds of the Pearl Community Center, but leave room to load your purchases from the Book Cottage, the Junk-in-Your-Trunk sale, and as many plants and things from Kay's sale that you can possibly manage.

have been a little blah in Pearl ... except for one thing. The community members have been noticing strange goings-on in the vicinity of the Ray and Pruett homes. The new fall garden at the Ray home is refusing to grow, and the cats and dogs around the Pruett household are fidgety one minute and lackluster the next. Even Linda and Kay seem a bit odder than usual. In fact, everyone feels like there's something in the air. Who would have ever thought that a teeny tiny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini would have such lingering effects on Pearl and its inhabitants. I have been assured from the two Bermuda-clad gentlemen that these things just take time to get over. Surely we've heard the last of that calamitous couture. But, of course, there's no place like Pearl! The closing verse for this week comes from Romans 12:18—If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ESV

**PAVILION FUND DRIVE**  
Reminder: 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. For more information, call Linda at 254-865-9282.

**STRANGE HAPPENINGS**  
Now that the bothersome bikini is gone forever (I think), things

EVENTS AT THE PARK

# Calling all shutterbugs for photography contest

Mother Neff State Park Association will be hosting a photography contest on Saturday, Sept. 25. The morning group will be the Beginner Group and will meet at 9:30 a.m. The Intermediate/Cell Phone Group will meet at 1:30 p.m. On Sunday, Sept. 26, the Advanced Group will meet at 1:30 p.m.

There will be 10 contestants per group. All participants will receive a lapel pin. Winners will receive a ribbon and certificate. To sign up for the photography contest, please call Richard at 254-297-9415. Mother Neff State Park is located at 1921 Park Road 14.

place on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those attending will need to check in at the visitor center for a map and information. The festival will include The Leon River Dutch Oven Gang, which will be having demonstrations and providing dessert samples. Buffalo Soldiers and a Central Texas Master Naturalist will be on

hand as well. Children's activities including crafts will take place along with guided hikes and scavenger hunts. For more information, please call the park at 254-853-2389



**SIGN OF AUTUMN: The Leon River Dutch Oven Gang logo.**

**FALL FESTIVAL**  
A Fall Festival will take

## WENDISH

FROM PAGE 2

arriving in Texas followed by a group of 600 Wends in 1854. They arrived on a

sailing ship that docked at Galveston. Eventually the Wends/Serbs made their way to Bastrop County (now Lee County) and formed a community called Serbin. Some of the Wends trav-

eled even farther North. In 1870, Wendish settlers from Weigersdorf, Germany, arrived in Coryell County and settled near The Grove. The Wendish Fest began in 1988 to celebrate Wendish

culture, traditions and backgrounds. This year, following church services at St. Paul Lutheran Church, there will be music, silent and live auctions, demonstrations and exhibits,

competitions and children's activities. A traditional Wendish meal will be served between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For more information, please call Ruth Jones at

254-865-2112 or First United Methodist Church at 254-865-2520. Payment and registration must be received no later than September 16.



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# The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through law enforcement dispatchers during the period of September 1 -31. 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

**September 1**  
 4:04 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 500 block of N. 11th Street.  
 10:27 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.  
 12:03 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1000 block of E. Main Street.  
 12:13 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1500 block of Pidcocke Street.  
 1:03 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of Shady Lane.  
 2:22 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Spindletop Street.  
 3:22 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1700 block of CR 267.  
 4:50 p.m., illegal dump-

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ing was reported in the 100 block of E. Leon Street.  
 4:58 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2500 block of Osage Road.  
 6:00 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Creek Cliff Drive.  
 8:32 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Idylwood Drive.

**September 2**  
 5:18 a.m., an intoxicated driver was reported in the 12000 block of S. Hwy. 36.  
 6:55 a.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of Live Oak Street.  
 7:25 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Old Osage Road.  
 9:46 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Andrews Street.  
 10:15 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of River Place West.  
 10:48 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.  
 11:38 a.m., a threat was reported in the 600 block of Park Street.  
 3:19 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

8:49 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.  
 10:44 pm., a disturbance was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

**CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**September 1**  
 7:08 a.m., a stranded motorist was reported in the 700 block of W. Hwy. 190.  
 7:26 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Julia.  
 9:27 a.m., a shooting was reported in the 1000 block of Twin Mountain Road.  
 10:32 a.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 300 block of Evant High Road.  
 12:10 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on N. Hwy. 36 near Hay Valley.

12:20 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of South Drive.  
 3:25 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 2100 block of CR 267.  
 4:54 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 500 block of FM 1996.  
 6:39 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2600 block of Fieldstone Drive.  
 7:17 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 100 block of Baird Street.  
 9:39 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on FM 116 Northbound.  
 10:20 p.m., a stranded motorist was reported in the 2000 block of W. Hwy. 84.

**September 2**  
 3:10 a.m., an accidental shooting was reported in the

2500 block of Moccasin Bend Road.  
 5:19 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on S. Hwy. 36 and CR 357.  
 8:48 a.m., an animal complaint was reported on CR 319.  
 9:51 a.m., a minor accident was reported on Hwy. 9 and FM 116.  
 10:47 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 500 block of Mariott Road.  
 3:48 p.m., a scam was reported in the 10000 block of FM 116.  
 6:44 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 100 block of CR 101.  
 8:52 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of Jack Butler Road.

## Whatever happened to...

### 20 YEARS AGO (2001)

- Work had started to expand the Coryell Museum and Historical Center to the adjoining Burt Building. The museum's gift shop was closed temporarily while an opening was made between the two buildings.
- Sue Morrison was chairperson at the Gatesville pledge center for the annual Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Labor Day Telethon.
- Michael Street had been named director of corporate giving at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. His wife, Kristi (Timmons) Street, was a Gatesville High School graduate and former coach at GHS.
- Roy Huckabee of Jonesboro had been raising pecans most of his life, but he had never seen a cluster of nine pecans until then. The same tree did not produce any pecans last year.
- Brian Aslin, son of Terry and Pat Aslin, of Gatesville was named an outstanding student in two subjects, French and sculpture works, at the University for Young People at Baylor University. House of Beauty an-

nounced the addition of a new nail technician, Jennifer Hampton. At the time, Jennifer had more than four years of experience.

### 30 YEARS AGO (1991)

- Bobby Cooksey of Gatesville had been busy at the Coryell County Museum assembling a model train set that once belonged to Bill Scott. Beginning last November, he expected to complete the set in another six months.
- The Gatesville Masonic Lodge No. 197 joined 940 other Masonic Lodges across Texas in scheduling a simultaneous statewide Public Open House.
- Donna Anderson Sanchez, a student at the University of Texas at El Paso, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Educational Foundation of the American Society of Women Accountants. An accounting major, she had a 4.0 grade point average.
- Air Force Major William A. Lyell Jr., a civil law chief, had arrived for duty at Yokota Air Base in Japan. He is the son of William A. and Stephanie Lyell of Route 5,

Gatesville.

- Mr. and Mrs. Carroll P. Smith of Gatesville were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception in the parlor of the First Baptist Church. Carroll Smith and the former Eva Louise Mack were married Sept. 6, 1941, at the home of the bride's parents west of Gatesville.
- A local ranch rodeo team - JC (bar) - was competing in the State Ranch Rodeo Finals at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton. The JC-bar entry was made up of Bubba Bates, Richard Mitchell, Keith Blackman and Baron Pate.

### 40 YEARS AGO (1981)

- Susan Dearrington, 14-year-old freshman and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Dearrington, was named Gatesville Pepiteer of the Week at GISD.
- A list of Selective Service registrants born in 1962 and the first part of 1963 had been posted in the Coryell County courthouse according to Col. Paul Dean Aikin, state director of Selective Service for Texas.
- Susan Lee, 17-year-

old senior and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rolan Lee, was picked as the first Gatesville Stingette of the week.  
 Army Pvt. Efrin Z. Dixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Ricketts, had completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.  
 Russell Scott Mann of Jonesboro was among 137 people receiving the doctor of veterinary medicine degree this year from Texas A&M University.  
 "The Cannonball Run," starring Burt Reynolds and "9 to 5" starring Dolly Parton was showing at the Drive-In. Tuesday was advertised as "dollar night" at the Drive-In.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Weaver attended the Melvin Ellider family reunion at the American Legion Hall in Hamilton.  
 Army Sgt. Grady C. Lawson, whose wife, Clara, was living in Gatesville, received the Army Commendation Medal in Chu Lai, Vietnam.  
 Ernest Hahn, co-owner of Hahn Motor Company in Gatesville, had been ap-

pointed to the key post of area director of the statewide Texas Automobile Dealers Association.  
 An organizational meeting was held at the old school house in Mound by a number of the community's residents who are interest-

ed in forming a community center.  
 The Morris Federation, organized in Gatesville in 1913, was beginning its 58th year when members gathered at the National Bank Civic Room for their initial 1971-72 meeting.

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

# Texas ranch girl, musician with the soothing name

BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

**I**n Italian, the word allora is an expression used for calming people. There is a 17-year-old girl who lives near Fredericksburg named Allora and she is definitely living up to her name. She sings, writes and loves to ride horses.

Allora Leonard of Willow City got her first name from her great great grandmother. I interviewed her just after her 17th birthday.

"It was great," she told me. "I got to hear my new song on the radio for the first time and had a big birthday party. I really enjoyed it."

Allora is a teenage sensation whose accomplishments rival those of someone much older. She is a singer and songwriter who is in the midst of a 150-performance schedule this year.

"I started performing when I was about 6 years old. I sang the national anthem at some of the rodeos where I used to compete. I would sing to my horses and the staff started hearing me and invited me to sing 'The Star Spangled Banner' at the start of the rodeo and it's just taken on a life of its own."

Allora grew up on a ranch and enjoyed hunting rabbits and deer while developing an appreciation and love of the outdoors. She quickly took to riding horses.

"I started barrel racing in local rodeos when I was about 3 years old. I also got my Women's Pro Rodeo Association card when I was 11."

She competes in reined cowhorse events where horses work a cow in an arena and perform maneuvers such as circling the cow and turning it in a required manner. Her favorite horse is a mare named Mama T.

"She and I were lucky

enough to win the national title."

Allora wrote her first song at age 12 and has written other things besides songs.

"I wrote a couple of children's books when I was 8 and 11. I think they're on Amazon," she said. "One of them is titled 'The Adventures of Pagosa Pete and Jelly Bean.' I've written a number of poems but never published them. I used to write for a barrel racing publication. Mostly I write songs. I've written 35."

Allora has been home schooled since the first grade. She started singing in church and as she was growing up won several local and area talent contests.

Her parents encouraged her to write and sing and her friends are extremely supportive. Although she never met him, she gained inspiration from her dad's cousin who was a songwriter in Nashville and worked with some big stars.

In addition to guitar Allora plays bass and ukulele. She wears colorful, sparkling outfits when she needs to, but is most comfortable performing in jeans and a T-shirt.

She sings country, but adds the flavors of blues and soul to her music. She has just recorded her first song in Nashville. It's called Old Soul Girl. She said it's going great.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLORALEONARDMUSIC.COM

**COUNTRY GIRL AT HEART:** Allora grew up on a ranch and enjoyed hunting rabbits and deer while developing an appreciation and love of the outdoors. She quickly took to riding horses.

## CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

# More than 600 new laws in effect in Texas, as of Sept. 1

BY GARY BORDERS

**M**ore than 600 new laws signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott went into effect Sept. 1. The new state laws — including one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the country, the right to carry handguns both concealed and openly without a license, changes to election law and a bill allowing restaurants to sell alcohol to go — were passed during the 87th Legislative Session.

The second special session ends on Sept. 7.

"The 87th Legislative Session was a monumental success, and many of the laws going into effect today will ensure a safer, freer, healthier, and more prosperous Texas," Abbott said. "I look forward to my continued work with the legislature to build upon these successes and create an even brighter future for the Lone Star State."

Some of the more controversial laws, such as the abortion bill and the election law, face judicial challenges from opponents, although the U.S. Supreme Court last week refused to hear an appeal to the abortion bill, which bans the procedure if a woman is more than six weeks pregnant.

State deploys additional resources to Ida victims  
Abbott announced Wednesday that additional resources and personnel have been deployed to assist in the response and recovery efforts in Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Ida. Those resources include 116 guardsmen from a battalion tactical command and several platoons with high-water vehicles and other heavy

equipment.

"Texas remembers the generous support offered by Louisianans during Hurricane Harvey four years ago, and we have recognized their need for additional help as they recover from the destruction of Hurricane Ida earlier this week," Abbott said. "We will continue to help our neighbors in need, just as they did for us."

Grants available for prescribed burning in Central, East Texas

The Texas A&M Forest Service has nearly a half-million dollars available in grants to offset the costs of prescribed burning on private lands in Central and East Texas.

"Texas has seen above-normal rainfall this year, resulting in greater herbaceous fuel loading in our fire environments," said Andy McCrady, Texas A&M Forest Service Program Coordinator. "With more fuels, it is important for land managers to look ahead at what areas have the heaviest undergrowth and consider planning prescribed fire operations in those locations at a time when weather conditions are moderate."

Prescribed fire is a land



COURTESY PHOTO

**The capitol building in Austin.**

management practice that helps with habitat restoration, soil nutrient restoration and reducing wildfire risk by eliminating brush, weeds, dried vegetation and downed trees, according to a forest service press release.

The application deadline is Thursday, Sept. 30. Interested landowners can search eligibility and fill out an online application by visiting <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/cppgrant/>.

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations rise again

After a decrease last week in COVID-19 cases in Texas, the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported a rise to 126,379 new cases in Texas as of Friday, up about 20,000 from the previous week. Total number of deaths was 1,649, up 22% from the previous week. A total of 13,790

lab-confirmed patients were in Texas hospitals, up slightly from the previous week, according to the Texas Department of Health Services.

Nearly 4,200 Texans died of COVID-19 in the last month, largely due to the delta variant and overwhelmingly among the unvaccinated; the overall death toll since the pandemic began is over 56,000.

The number of Texans as of Friday who are fully vaccinated continues to trickle up, now totaling 13.8 million, or 47.4% of the state's total population.

Zebra mussels now invaded 34 Texas lakes

With the designation of Lake Worth in Tarrant County on the Trinity River as "infested" with invasive zebra mussels, 28 Texas reservoirs are considered fully infested, with another half dozen

lakes containing the pest. Zebra mussels negatively affect reservoir ecosystems by filtering out algae that native species need for food and attaching to and thus incapacitating native mussels. They are also notorious for clogging water intakes in power plants, which spend millions of dollars removing them.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says boaters play a critical role in preventing zebra mussels from spreading to new lakes.

"Each boater taking steps to clean and drain their boat before leaving the lake and allowing compartments and gear to dry completely when they get home can make a big difference in protecting our Texas lakes," Brian Van Zee, TPWSD inland fisheries director, said.

Transporting zebra mussels and other aquatic inva-

sive species, knowingly or not, can result in legal woes for boaters. It is illegal in Texas and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Boaters are also required to drain all water from their boats and on-board receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water.

To learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit [tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives](http://tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives).

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

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# VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE 8

Hornets beat Kilgore (2-0) and Cayuga (2-1) but lost to Marshall (1-2) in the semi-finals.

The Gatesville JV won, 25-10, 25-20, over La Vega.

## EVANT

The Evant varsity volleyball team defeated Eagle Christian, 23-25, 25-23, 19-25, 25-23, 15-8 on Aug. 31.

Harley Weeks helped lead the Evant squad with 27 assists and two kills.

Senior Emiliagh Burton continued to play well with 19 kills, five blocked shots and 22 digs.

Other statistical leaders for the Lady Elks were:

Caeleigh Burkham, 5 kills, 25 digs

Luwi Rodriguez, 14 digs, 2 kills

Bree Rameriz, 3 kills, 5 aces, 6 digs

Molly Waldrum, 5 kills, 5 aces, 5 digs

Evant took on Chilton Friday, Sept. 3 at Evant.



GOING FOR IT: Gatesville's Lola Barron, left, and Barrett Boyd attempt a block.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

## AREA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

### Thursday, Aug. 26

Evant 68, Cranfills Gap 49

### Friday, Aug. 27

Gatesville 27, Llano 7  
Jonesboro 67, Coolidge 26  
Oglesby 52, Ranger 32

### Friday, Sept. 3

Gatesville at Glen Rose  
Jonesboro at Perrin Whitt  
Oglesby at Morgan  
Evant at Moran

### Friday, Sept. 10

Gatesville at Lorena, 7:30 p.m.

JCAA at Jonesboro, 7 p.m.  
Iredell at Oglesby, 7:30 p.m.  
Evant at Brookesmith, 7:30 p.m.

### Friday, Sept. 17

Gatesville at Hillsboro, 7:30 p.m.  
Blum at Jonesboro, 7 p.m.  
Kopperl at Oglesby, 7:30 p.m. (HC)

May at Evant, 7:30 p.m.

### Sept. 24

Lampasas at Gatesville, 7:30 p.m.  
Jonesboro at Milford, 7:30 p.m.  
Eagle Christian at Oglesby, 7:30 p.m.  
Evant at Penelope, 7:30 p.m.

### Oct. 1

Gatesville idle  
Jonesboro vs. Turkey Valley

at Trent  
Live Oak Classical at Oglesby  
Evant at Blanket, 7:30 p.m.

### Oct. 8

Salado at Gatesville, 7:30 p.m.  
Jonesboro vs. Greenville Christian (HC) 7 p.m.  
St. Stephens Episcopal, 7 p.m.  
Gordan at Evant, 7:30 p.m.

### Oct. 15

Gatesville vs. China Spring\* 7:30 p.m.  
Jonesboro at Evant, 7:30 p.m.

### Oct. 22

Gatesville at Robinson\* 7:30 p.m.  
Zephyr at Jonesboro\* 7 p.m.  
Mt. Calm at Oglesby\*, 7:30 p.m.  
Lometa at Evant

### Oct. 29

Gatesville vs. Connally, 7:30 p.m.  
Evant at Zephyr, 7 p.m.  
Lometa at Jonesboro, 7 p.m.  
Oglesby at Buckholts, 7:30 p.m.

### Nov. 5

Gatesville @ Jarrell\* 7:30 p.m.  
Jonesboro at Evant, 7 p.m.  
Oglesby at Dime Box, 7:30 p.m.

## BROWN

FROM PAGE 8

people," Brown said. "I try to read my blocks and make the right decisions."

His longest run went for 24 yards against the Llano Yellow Jackets. He averaged 5.6 yards a carry.

The main thing, he played within the parameters of the offense. The old "take-what-they-give-you approach."

His right tackle is Evan Hanson.

"He and I have been together since we were sophomores," Brown said. "He's a good one to run behind."

Gatesville's offensive line is still a work in progress, but they held up enough to allow the Hornets to make enough big plays to win the home opener.

One play that worked well was a 51-yard pass to senior Logan Edwards.

It was a simple pitch and catch in the flat that Edwards turned into a big play. Edwards was stopped just short of the goal line.

"Everybody gave him a hard

time," Brown said after watching film. "It was good to see the big boy get to bust one."

Brown followed Edwards on the play, putting up his index finger for a No. 1 salute.

Brown took the ball in for the touchdown on an ensuing snap. It's a routine that he hopes to repeat often this season.

The team picked up four wins last season with senior Luke Mullins taking the reins at quarterback. Last year, Brown played linebacker for the Hornets. This year, he's starting at quarterback. Banner Allman is also getting some snaps at quarterback. The combo should give the Hornets' playcalling some diversity.

Brown carried the ball 24 times for 134 yards against Llano. He completed 12 of 17 passes for another 177 yards.

Brown's consistency will be key. The team's big play potential has shown on both sides of the ball. That keeps the team's goals in focus.

"We definitely want to make a playoff run this season," Brown said.

## 2021 FOOTBALL STANDINGS

DISTRICT 9-4A, DIVISION II

SEASON	W	L	PF	PA
CHINA SPRING	1	0	49	15
SALADO	1	0	62	0
CONNALLY	1	0	57	6
<b>GATESVILLE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>
JARRELL	1	0	40	2
ROBINSON	0	1	13	32

### AUG. 27 GAMES

GATESVILLE 27, LLANO 7  
JARRELL 40, NORTHEAST EARLY COLLEGE 2  
CONNALLY 57, WAXAHACHIE LIFE 6  
CHINA SPRING 49, TRINITY CHRISTIAN 15  
TAYLOR 32, ROBINSON 13  
SALADO 62, TROY 0

### SEPT. 3 GAMES

GATESVILLE AT GLEN ROSE  
LORENA AT CHINA SPRING  
WHITNEY AT ROBINSON  
GRANDVIEW AT SALADO  
FREDERICKSBURG AT JARRELL

### SEPT. 10 GAMES

GATESVILLE AT LORENA, 7:30 P.M.  
BROWNWOOD AT CHINA SPRING, 7:30 P.M.  
SALADO AT STEPHENVILLE, 7:30 P.M.  
MCGREGOR AT JARRELL, 7:30 P.M.

## SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle that ran August 28.

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

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

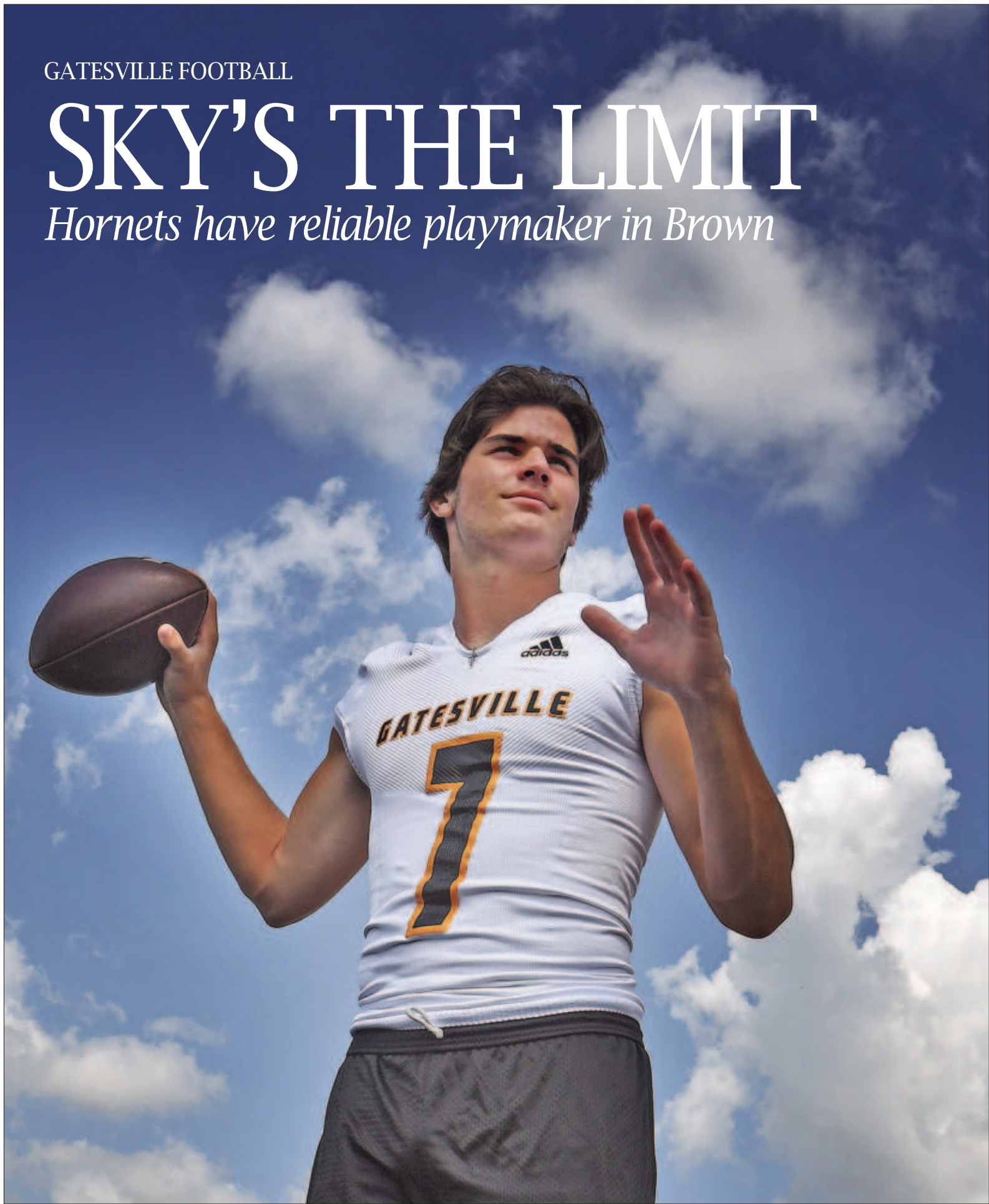


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GATESVILLE FOOTBALL

## SKY'S THE LIMIT

*Hornets have reliable playmaker in Brown*

PHOTOS BY MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

STANDING TALL: At 6 feet 3 inches and 200 pounds, Gatesville senior Wesley Brown is an imposing figure on the gridiron.

BY MARK GOODSON  
Staff Writer

Wesley Brown has taken some lumps in his high school career, but as a senior he's ready to turn the Gatesville Hornets' fortunes.

"He's a great example of a leader," Gatesville head coach Luke Howard said. "He leads in workouts and in the weight room. He's the type of player that you want the ball in his hands in key moments."

Brown stands tall. He is 6 feet 3 inches and 200 pounds. He's not the fastest player, but he's one of the smartest.

In the season opener against Llano, he rolled up 311 yards of offense and had two short touchdown runs to give the Hornets a positive start to his third

varsity season.

It was the team's first opening day win since 2017.

Brown picks and chooses his way through defenses.

"We don't have those really big guys up front to roll over

PLEASE SEE **BROWN** | A7



POSITIVE START:

In the season opener against Llano, Brown rolled up 311 yards of offense and had two short touchdown runs to give the Hornets a positive start to his third varsity season.

## Gatesville cross country team busy at Midway

BY MARK GOODSON  
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Hornets cross country team will compete Thursday, Sept. 9 at the Waco Midway meet.

The runners are coming off solid showings at the 25-team Brownwood meet Sept. 1.

At Brownwood, freshman Vania Martinez picked up her second straight victory clocking in at 13:47.00 in the two-mile race.

The girls' team was fifth among 25 teams.

Other Gatesville runners were; 12. Bethany Penrod, 15:00.00 50. Grace Penrod, 16:23.00 67. Valeria Jimenez, 16:42.00 90. Kyla Hinojosa, 17:18.00 138. Jaycee McKown, 1:29.00 Brownwood was first with 111 points followed by Goldwaithe 129, DeLeon 167, Jim Ned 204.

In the 3-mile boys race, Carlo Martinez was third in a time of 18:11.95.

Chris Saling of Jim Ned ran a 17:00.16 for first.

Luis Macias of Gatesville was sixth in 18:16.17.

Other Hornets were: 29. Jack Strong, 20:11.91 41. Morgan Clary, 20:48.56 55. Hector Silva, 21:28.63 65. Braeden Shuemaker, 22:03.12

The boys were fourth overall at 120 points. Jim Ned took first at 80 followed by Hamilton, 96; Stephenville, 98.

## Exchange, Lions clubs golf scramble offers \$5 mulligans

The 21st annual Gatesville Exchange Club/Lions Club golf scramble is scheduled for Saturday at the Gatesville Country Club.

Entry fee is \$50 per player and \$200 per team.

The price includes the green fee, cart and food. Mulligans are available for \$5.

There is a \$5,000 hole in one contest sponsored by First National Bank of Gatesville.

Golfers can sign up at the Gatesville Country Club at 254-865-6917 or contact Alan Mathis at 254-289-1651 alan.mathis.tx@gmail.com

Team prizes are based on a 14-team field.

Proceeds go to service projects of both clubs.



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

BIG NIGHT FOR THE YOUNG GUN: Sophomore Barrett Boyd had a big game at the net and serving for the Lady Hornets.

VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

## Gatesville squad sweeps past Waco La Vega

BY MARK GOODSON  
Staff Writer

Gatesville was able to show its depth Tuesday in its 25-15, 25-11, 25-17 sweep over Waco La Vega at Gatesville.

Utilizing a solid rotation of players, the Lady Hornets were able to dig in and improved to 16-5 on the season going into their Friday, Sept. 3, match against the Temple Wildcats.

"We're playing pretty well right now," Gatesville coach Janey Weber said. "We're playing more like a family."

The Hornets jumped out early in the first two games and kept the momentum behind some solid hitting and serving.

Sophomore Barrett Boyd had a service ace to finish off the first

game and was key in the third game with one stretch of four straight aces to keep the Lady Hornets rolling.

"Our serving was aggressive," Weber said. "We took some chances."

The top hitters in the match for Gatesville were Kaleigh Haywood and Khloe Mathews.

Boyd was solid at the net. Lola Barron, Charlee Barron and Avery Mullins were active starting on the back row.

Tasha Thoms was scrappy with her lefty throws and aggressiveness.

GHS won two of three matches in bracket play to finish third overall in the 20-team Athens tournament, Aug. 27-28. The

PLEASE SEE **VOLLEYBALL** | A7