

# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Dec. 18, 2021

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## Gatesville head football coach resigns

BY MARK GOODSON  
STAFF WRITER

Gatesville High School head football coach Luke Howard said family matters led to his decision to step down.

Athletic director Rickey Phillips said that long hours and time away from family during seasons for sports is something that weighs on most coaches.

"We hate to lose him, but we're opening it up and taking applications until Jan. 17," Phillips said. "We'll go through the process."

Officially, Howard turned in his resignation Monday, Dec. 13. He met with the team Tuesday to in-

form the players of the decision.

"I told them that I still support them and I'll be around going to their games," Howard said. "It's a tough decision, but it comes down to more time with the family."

Howard, a Gatesville native and 2007 GHS graduate, served as head coach the last three seasons and led the Hornets to an 8-23 record.

The Hornets had back-to-back playoff berths in 2020 and 2021.

"I am extremely grateful for my time at Gatesville," Howard said. "It has been a great experience working for GISD."

The Hornets had some hurdles to overcome during Howard's tenure.

The program started with a stretch that reached 700 days before earning their first win under Howard. A 14-game losing streak for the program ended with a 22-16 win over Hillsboro in 2020. The 14-game skid included two losses to end Kyle Cooper's tenure with the Hornets in 2018.

The uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic was another factor. At the peak of the pandemic, Gatesville had two games missed because of opponents (Lorena and Lampasas) testing positive. The Hornets had to forfeit their 2020

PLEASE SEE **COACH** | A2



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER  
Luke Howard celebrates a Gatesville win over the Hillsboro Eagles. Howard resigned this week to pursue another career to spend more time with family.

## A special place to play

BY DAVID SCOTT  
STAFF WRITER

In 2018, a discussion began at Coryell Community Church about the possibility of constructing an all-abilities playground on church property which would allow kids, no matter their physical, social, or mental ability, to play together.

CCC pastor Daniel Crowther was quoted in 2018 as saying "the playground being located in Gatesville will provide the citizens of Coryell County with access to a resource they would otherwise have to travel more than 30 miles to obtain."

Construction began on the playground this year and recently culminated with a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 12. It has been tagged as the first all-abilities playground in Coryell County. Crowther credits his wife, Danielle, with first introducing him to an all-abilities playground in Round Rock.

"I had never seen anything like it," he said. "I saw all the different kids that were coming to the playground, and I thought this is what heaven must be like. There were kids of all abilities playing with one another and no one was hindered."

The 7,500 square feet playground, which has been described as a "sensory-rich" environment, will enable the development of all children. The park was especially designed to be more friendly to those who might be suffering from sensory issues.

Crowther described his members as having a "vision" about the proposed playground. "In November of 2018, over three years ago, you [the members] caught that vision and in that amount of time together and from your own



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER  
Local youth enjoy the new all abilities playground which recently opened at Coryell Community Church.

generosity, we've raised over \$233,000 dollars to make this vision a reality."

Speaking about the public access to the playground, which is located adjacent to the church, Crowther said, "We are a church here for this community and anyone in this community can come there. There is not a lock on the gates. Anyone can come and let their kids play here."

"We hope that they [the public] know that this is a place that they can grow closer to God

and closer to one another." He also encouraged those present at the dedication to share the news about the playground. "Be inviting to people to come and to take part of this blessing that God has given all of us."

CCC children's minister Nicole Shonkwiler was quoted as saying, "We hope that this playground can be used to make amazing memories with family and friends. We pray that this playground is a place for families to visit for years to come."

## Local youth finds a sweet way to donate to charity



COURTESY PHOTO  
Bryson Stevens has turned his love of sno cones and shaved ice into a way to help raise money for things that help the community.

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

For more than two years, Bryson Stevens, 10, of Gatesville, has been combining two of his passions - a love for sno cones and shaved ice and a desire to help others.

On a recent Sunday, Bryson and his mom, Tisa Stevens were able to see the fruits of those fundraising efforts, as an all abilities playground was opened at Coryell Community Church. Bryson was one of many area residents who donated money to make the dream of the playground become a reality, and church leaders had him cut the ribbon at a dedication ceremony on Dec. 12.

"When COVID hit, we wanted something to do, and he loves sno cones, so I ordered a small machine. We started out with 13 to 15 flavors and opened a business in our garage. We'd drag tables out every day. He wanted to make sure we gave back to the commu-

nity and the church.

"He said, 'Mom, how about we give to the all-abilities playground,' so 10 percent of all the sales went to that. People would sometimes give extra and tell him to put it toward the playground. The first year was amazing, and every month we'd write a check as part of our donation."

Tisa said she preferred not to say how much the donation was, saying that was between Bryson and the Lord.

"His amount was not that big of a deal, but it was from his heart," she said.

"Since the playground is paid for, I'm sure we'll find something else to donate to. There are always so many needs in the community and we want to help. Bryson is so diligent. He's 10 and has had some language delays, so it's amazing that he could be part of that."

Tisa said the sno cones sale pro-

PLEASE SEE **BRYSON** | A2

## Burn ban won't stop fireworks

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Although the Coryell County Commissioners Court enacted a burn ban effective at sunset Dec. 14, the use of fireworks in rural areas of the county will not be prohibited.

Gatesville Fire Chief Bill Vaden said dry conditions warranted a burn ban, but that conditions on the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), which are used to determine fire potential, were not high enough to legally restrict fireworks use.

He noted that only applied to rural areas. Fireworks use is already prohibited within the city limits of Gatesville.

Vaden said although the burn ban was on the Dec. 14 Commissioners Court agenda, "I'm here for you to vote for rain," he joked. "We are getting to that dry season, and even if it rains I don't see that stopping. I believe it's time for a burn ban."

Commissioners unanimously approved the burn ban but took no action on an agenda item related to prohibiting the sale and use of fireworks in rural parts of the county from Dec. 20 through Jan. 1, 2022.

"With regards to the KBDI, we're not there yet," Vaden told commissioners. "The KBDI has to be at least 575, and we're currently at 489."

He said county officials could consider limiting the use of fireworks that have fins or are attached to sticks, but that he did not recommend that at this time.

"Last year we didn't have any problems (with fires caused by fireworks)," Vaden said. "I recommend we let them shoot (the fireworks). Most people are careful so we should not ban them at this point. I do hope we get some rain before the sale of fireworks begins, but I think we're OK, personally."

County Judge Roger Miller emphasized the need for safety.

"What's important is to get the word out for people to use (fireworks) responsibly," he said.

Vaden said there have been years in the past when the KBDI was approaching 600 or higher, such as in 2011, when it was important to prohibit fireworks use.

"We just want the public to be careful and stay safe," he said. "I don't think at this point we can restrict the use of fireworks in rural parts of the county by law, but they are already restricted within city limits. I encourage the responsible use of fireworks."

### QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: Where does the police dispatch information come from?

A: The Dispatch is compiled from information obtained from local law enforcement agencies.

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## GATESVILLE ISD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard presents a certificate of recognition to Journey Garrett.

## GATESVILLE ISD STAFF SPOTLIGHT



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard stands with Christa Hitt (left) and Joyce Cole.

# GISD recognizes Journey Garrett, Christa Hitt & Joyce Cole

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR STARR WRITER

Compassion and encouragement are two things that stand out about Gatesville Junior High student Journey Garrett, who was recognized by the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees during a Student Spotlight presentation on Dec. 13.

"We're very proud of her," GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard said. "She is a wonderful, caring person who makes others feel welcome. She is an all-around great student and young lady and her teachers had some great things to say about her."

Math teacher Lauren Wise said that Journey "works hard both in and out of the classroom and with a great attitude. I wish I had 20 more just like her."

Social studies teacher Stacy Kyle-Romel described Journey as "a wonderful young lady (who) is always polite. She is always trying to make sure she is caught up with her work and sometimes (is) even ahead of time."

Language arts teacher Leigh Schwoppe said Journey "is a hard worker and is also very thoughtful and kind to those around her. She asked me one day if she could write daily quotes on my board. Her quotes are very inspiring and

the class really enjoys them. Her personal narrative was a very entertaining story about her cow, Milky Way, that kept us smiling and laughing. Journey is truly one of a kind, and I know she has a bright future ahead."

Principal Suzy Penrod said Journey goes above and beyond to reach out to help make others comfortable.

"When we have new students who have no idea where to sit in the cafeteria, Journey is one of those students who will welcome the new students and invite them to sit with her. She is trustworthy and has a kind and caring heart, Journey is a pleasure to have on campus."

Cole, Hitt honored Making a difference in people's lives, whether students or their families, is a daily mission for Joyce Cole and Christa Hitt, who are social workers for the Gatesville Independent School District.

Cole and Hitt were recently recognized during the Staff Spotlight presentation by the GISD Board of Trustees.

"During a family crisis or emergency, they help our students and their families with resources and support," GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard said. "If a student loses a parent or they become homeless, Joyce and Christa are on the front lines of helping our students. In

cases of abuse or neglect, Christa and Joyce try to help our students through those traumatic incidents. Mrs. Hitt and Mrs. Cole become very familiar with the needs of our students and their families and try to help as much as possible.

"As you could see at our WINGS graduation, they are often very successful at helping students who may be 'at-risk' of not graduating from high school. While they are very compassionate and patient with students as they battle through different hardships, they also have high expectations and want students to rise to the occasion."

## COACH

FROM PAGE A1

playoff game with Carthage because of COVID-19.

"I feel like we have worked hard and have the program headed in the right direction," Howard said. "I wish the program nothing but the best moving forward."

The Hornets' program has bat-

tled numbers and tough competition in recent years.

The season records under Howard were 0-10, 4-6 and 4-7. In 12 years under Cooper, the Hornets made the playoffs four times. The high-water mark was a 13-1 record for a Class 3A run to the quarterfinals in 2012.

"Coach Howard did an outstanding job of building the foundations of a great football program and

leading with integrity," said Dr. Barrett Pollard, GISD superintendent. "He surrounded himself with quality coaches who cared about building character and discipline into our young men.

"He did a fantastic job of leading his alma mater's football program, and I am saddened to see him leave. We all wish him the best of luck as he pursues a career where he can spend more time with his

young family."

Howard said he plans to stay in Gatesville.

"I would like to say 'thank you' to the student-athletes, their parents, and community for their efforts and support during my time here," he said.

"This is a great community and I will always cherish my time leading the football program."

He was a ball boy on the 2000

Gatesville state championship team while his father Steve Howard served as defensive coordinator. Howard was the quarterback for the Hornets for three seasons. He started on the varsity as a sophomore safety and broke in as a quarterback for a few games in relief of injured Casey Davidson.

Howard and his wife, Savanna, have two young children under age 4.

## BRYSON

FROM PAGE A1

proceeds that are not donated to charity go into Bryson's college fund.

Because of demand for Bryson's sno cones, Tisa bought a larger

commercial grade machine and donated the smaller machine to the church.

"We're hoping to have something mobile this summer, something we could hook up and pull to the park or other locations around town."

While Bryson enjoys making sno cones for others, he also enjoys

them himself.

"He loves a good sno cone and he would always come up with different flavors and concoctions on his own, like blue dragon and American dragon," Tisa said. "He would also have a little contest for people to help name different sno cone flavors."

The sno cone stand was first open from 3-6 daily except Sunday and Monday and then expanded hours from noon to 6. It is scheduled to reopen during the spring and summer months in 2022.

"We also do birthday parties and events like Spring Fling at Texas Station," Tisa said, adding that the

sno cone stand has sometimes operated in front of local businesses such as Vintage Royalty. In addition to sno cone sales, gift certificates are available.

Those who want updates on the sno cone stand can find them on Facebook at Bryson's Sno-Dizzle.

# Texas lowers price cap for electricity providers by almost half

BY GARY BORDERS  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The state's Public Utility Commission lowered the maximum allowable wholesale price for electricity by almost half, from \$9,000 per megawatt hour to \$5,000.

The move came after prices soared to the maximum during last February's deadly freeze, causing financial havoc along with the widespread power outages.

A number of electric providers declared bankruptcy after being faced with enor-

mous bills, including Brazos Electric Power Cooperative and Griddy Energy.

As the Austin American-Statesman reported, the state's largely deregulated electricity market provides financial incentives to prompt power generators to deliver more electricity to the grid during peak demand.

But those incentives came with steep prices, and some Griddy customers received electric bills of nearly \$10,000. Those bills were

ultimately forgiven under an agreement negotiated by the attorney general's office.

Peter Lake, chairman of the PUC, said lowering the price ceiling will "make sure the people of Texas are not exposed to those extraordinary high prices" again, the Statesman reported.

However, the CEO of the state's largest power generator worries the state has not done enough to insulate itself against another deadly freeze.

Curt Morgan of Vistra

Corp. said that while his company has spent \$50 million this year weatherizing more than a dozen plants, the state still hasn't ensured a reliable natural gas supply.

The Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the natural gas industry, is still working to finalize rules that would set weatherization mandates. However, those rules would not go into effect until early 2023, the Texas Tribune reported.

State to get \$35 billion in infrastructure funds

In the next five years Texas will get more than \$35 billion in federal funding for roads, public transportation and water system improvements, The Dallas Morning News reported. The funding is part of the massive infrastructure bill Congress passed in November to provide \$548 billion in new investments across the country over five years.

The state's road system got a "D+" in a 2021 report card from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

"Current funding levels and resources from the state's gas tax are inadequate to keep up with Texas' projected growth, leaving a \$15 billion annual gap through 2040," the engineering report said.

The federal funding also includes \$1.2 billion for Texas airports, \$537 million to replace and repair bridges and at least \$100 million for broadband expansion, according to The Morning News.



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### DEADLINES:

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by 10:00 am Friday for the Wednesday issue and 10:00 am 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

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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.

## MOUND NEWS

# Tristan Hopson graduates from TSU

**BARBARA HOPSON**

Tristan James Hopson, son of Loyd and Kari Hopson of Mound, Don and Stacey Hyde of Gatesville, graduated from Tarleton State University in Stephenville Friday evening. Tristan received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. We are all so very proud of you, Tristan.

Ruby Caroline Pullen of Rockwall went to the barrel races in Las Vegas last week. Ruby qualified for the Mike and Sherrilyn Johnson's Vegas Tuffest Junior World Finals in the 19U age group. Ruby made it to the short go but she hit a barrel. While in Vegas she also competed in the "All in" barrel race and fell at the bottom of the 2D barely missing a callback to the short go. Ruby had amazing runs on both of her horses, Mr. Pickles and Stella. Ruby enjoyed the experience and said she will go back.

(Marmi) Nancy Dixon and Barbara Hopson spent a week in Rockwall with Ruby's sisters, Truett and Jacklyn Pullen.

Sandra Ayres Varner's great-niece, Ashley Moore, had twins born Monday Dec. 13. Their names are Kooper and Kinzley Moore.

Shannon Brown and Cecil Woodson were baptized at White Mound Baptist Church Sunday, Dec. 5. Family and friends attended.

Kelcy Pierce was honored with a baby shower Saturday afternoon at the home of Frank and Susie Hopson. Hostesses were McKenzie David, Jolie James, Hannah Knox, Janey Weber, Laramie Aars, Shelby Williams and Missy Perschke.

Sondra Rampy of Dallas spent two days last week with Martha Lawhorn and family.

Martha Lawhorn went along with a group of ladies to attend a Christmas musical at the Methodist Church in Llano Saturday afternoon. Later that evening, they toured the 2021 BLORA Christmas Lights on Belton Lake

The Coryell County 4-H members, who advanced from the county competition, competed Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the District 8 Food Contests in Belton placing first in the Intermediate Main Dish Food Challenge. The Sauce Sisters team members were Kinsley McPherson, Anna McPherson, Makaylie Williams and Kayla Mabry.

Wednesday evening, the Coryell County 4-H Members Junior Ambassadors had their annual Christmas party at the Hay Valley Baptist Church to decorate cookies and play games, then they went to the Care Center to help stuff Christmas bags.

Gary and Debbie Keeton attended the Christmas Band Concert of their grandsons, Gage and Garner Keeton, in Marble Falls Tuesday evening. They also watched their grandson, Gehrig's, Hornet basketball game Thursday evening against Lamar.

Shelby Mann received her college ring from Stephen F. Austin a couple of Fridays ago.

Lillie Mann danced at the Elementary Christmas Extraganza last Saturday morning. She was in the Christmas Parade this Saturday and participated in the Christmas

Choir Concert last Monday at the Gatesville High School.

Matti and Lillie Mann both showed at the Jonesboro FFA Jingle Jackpot. Matti came home with a showmanship win, some money, and a champion banner for her Duroc hog. Lillie Mann was second in showmanship and won a couple of ribbons.

Matti and the varsity girls' basketball team played in a Fairfield tournament this past weekend and walked away with a third place trophy!

Emma Blakley came home Dec. 4, and we celebrated her 19th birthday. Carolyn and Emma went shopping and had lunch in Waco. Saturday, Brenda Helms, and Carolyn Blakley went Christmas shopping in Waco.

Bobby and Nelda Carothers met Billy and Becky Bartlett in Las Vegas for the National Finals Rodeo Dec. 2-5 and attended George Strait Friday evening.

Kelly Adair and son, Brayden, joined us at the rodeo and King George's plus shopping at the Cowboy Christmas... Betty Willis, Deann and Steve Beck joined our group Sunday evening at the rodeo. They all had a good time.

Aubree Long, daughter of Zach and Amanda Long, participated in the Gatesville Primary Music Program along with the kindergarten class Thursday evening at the Gatesville High School Auditorium. Those in attendance to support Aubree were grandparents, David and Pam Hopson, Nelton and Cindy Long, cousins, Kinsley and Allie McPherson, and numerous friends.

Aubree and Olivia Long, daughters of Zach and Amanda Long, participated in the Live Oak Baptist Church Music Program along with the youth and children's minis-

tries on Sunday. Those in attendance to support Aubree and Olivia were grandparents, David and Pam Hopson; aunt and uncle, Mark and Kelli McPherson; cousins, Kinsley, Anna and Allie McPherson; great grandmother, Beth Haines; and numerous friends.

Brodie Fisher had a basketball tournament in Morgan. He played Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Those attending were Ronnie, Kay, Neal, Amanda, Blayze, Slayton Fisher, Jennifer Miller, and Debbie Piller.

Caymbri Fisher had her first cheerleading competition in Fort Worth. Her team, the Pink Ladies, received an excellent rating in the Gold Rush competition for their level. Neal, Amanda, and Blayze Fisher went to support her. Slayton Fisher spent Friday night with Chris and Jennifer Miller.

The Mound Cowboy Church had their Christmas party Sunday night. Their program included hymns, children singing, and Brother Bruce Cox who read the Christmas story to the children. Also, a special guest came to visit with the children. There were about 90 in attendance.

Those who had birthdays in this month were Joshua Tatum, Vivian Moore, Emma Blakley, Brad Barnard, Truett and Jacklyn Pullen, Bailey Gohlke, Robert Poynter, Gail Weaver, Blayn Smith, Kelli McPherson, Jill Winkler, Aspen Watts, Culli Brookshire, Katie Hopson, Sarah Turner, Lavinnia Willis, Helen Piller, Hollie Jones, Connie Montgomery, Debbie Tatum, Jacqueline Jones, Tammy Russell, Pruet, K.T. Botkin, and Renee Leon.

Note: There will be no Mound News for the next two weeks.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

# OBITUARIES

**ERROLL WADE BLANCHARD**

Sept. 23, 1956 - Dec. 9, 2012



Erroll W. Blanchard died of natural causes on Dec. 9,

2021. A private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

Erroll was born Sept. 23, 1956, in Mineral Wells. He was the son of Kenneth Ray Blanchard Sr. and Francis Deloris Hutto.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Jonathan Ray Blanchard.

Surviving in addition to Suzanne Blanchard is his sister, Bonnie Richmond and husband, Mike; three brothers, Bill Blanchard, Kenneth Blanchard Jr., and David Batey; son, Jason Wade Blanchard and his wife, Julie; daughter, Jasmine Ann McKain and husband, Zach. Erroll had a total of six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm writing concerning Christmas. Who took Christ out of Christmas? Also, I thought "Jesus is the Reason for the Season."

Christmas has become too commercialized! Businesses put up Christmas trees in June and July.

As a kid, we were taught the true meaning of Christmas. I'm scared to wonder how many kids and even adults don't know the true meaning of Christmas.

Does it upset you to hear "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas?" It does me!

Jesus is the reason we're all here. People, please remember the true meaning of Christmas!

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Susan Curtis  
Gatesville

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SUNDAY 12/19: 11am-7pm  
MONDAY 12/20: 10am-7pm  
TUESDAY 12/21: 10am-7pm  
WEDNESDAY 12/22: 9am-7pm  
THURSDAY 12/23: 9am-7pm  
FRIDAY 12/24: 9am-5pm (Christmas Eve)  
Sale ends 12/24/21.

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# Christmas activities

## Mountain Baptist Church to hold candlelight service

On Sunday, Dec. 19, Mountain Baptist Church will close their annual Christmas activities with a candlelight service, according to Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor of the church. The service is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Mountain Baptist Church is located at 6319 E. U.S. Highway 84 in the South Mountain community. For more information about these holiday events, call 254-383-2634.

## FUMC invites public to Christmas Eve services

First United Methodist Church in Gatesville will hold Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on Friday, Dec-

ember 24. Service times will be at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. The church is located at 2600 East Main Street. For

more information, call the church office at 254-865-2520 or visit their website at <https://fumcgatesville.org>.

## CCC to hold Christmas play, candlelight service

Coryell Community Church will present a Christmas play for the public on Sunday, December 19. The Christmas production

will be held at 9 and 10:30 a.m. On Friday, December 24, the church will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight

service at 5 and 7 p.m. For more information, visit [coryell.church](http://coryell.church). The church is located at 115 N. Levita Road in Gatesville.

## Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Car Show and Toy Drive scheduled for today

The Roamin Chariots car club will be hosting a car show and toy drive today, Saturday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. in the parking lot of Bare Bones Barbeque.

The event will be sponsored by S&W Products, Bare Bones BBQ and The Feed Mill.

The entry fee will be a new unwrapped toy with a minimum \$10 value. The toys collected will be distributed by Pathway Youth and Family Services.

Judging of the car show will end at 12:30

p.m. and winners will be announced at 1:30 p.m. when trophies will be awarded.

Neighbors supporting neighbors is one way to describe the Gatesville community. This event shows support to some of the young neighbors for their roles they play in the community.

Bare Bones Barbeque is located at 4305 S. State Hwy. 36.

For more information about the car show and toy drive, please call Andy Cloud at 254-216-3201.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GUESTS AT PRIMARY:** Recently at Gatesville Primary School, students were surprised and happy to see two of their kindergarten teachers dressed like Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Pictured are Jackie Saunders (left) and Marla Mayberry.

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Meet our **Business Office Manager, Lorri Loer McDaniel!**

**Lorri has worked in Healthcare for over 35 years, all of those being in Skilled Nursing Facilities. In Lorri's spare time, she enjoys spending it with her family, especially her grandchildren. She also founded Hometown Angels with two of her best friends, R'Lue Gribble, a nurse at Hillside for over 35 years, and Michele Holden, who also works in Healthcare at Coryell Health. This year marks their 20 year anniversary! This organization brings Christmas to the children in need for our community. We are proud to have Lorri on our team and appreciate what she does in and out of our facility at Hillside Medical Lodge. Thank you, Lorri, for all you do!**

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# Gatesville Elementary competes at UIL competition

The 2nd and 3rd grade students at Gatesville Elementary School recently participated in UIL competition.

Results for 2nd grade include:  
 Spelling: Kora Wise, 1st place; Joshua Canara, 2nd place; Jett Thornton, 3rd place; Emma Miller, 4th place; Gypsie Browning, 5th place; Eli Kelley, 6th place; Barrett Bates, 7th place; Remi Bates, 8th place.

Oral Reading: Zoe Hipp, 1st place; Layla Withrow, 2nd place; Corriene Woodson, 3rd place; Natalie Gore, 4th place.

Creative Writing: Landry Pritchett, 1st place; Jett Thornton, 2nd place; Eli Kelley, 3rd place; Braiyson Rutherford, 4th place; Isabel Michaelis, 5th place; Cooper Barker, 6th place.

Storytelling: Esme Longoria, 1st place; Hazel Rodriguez, 2nd place; Fynlee Brown, 3rd place; Elizabeth Sanchez, 4th place; Deklen Grundy, 5th place.

Chess: Kylie Caraway, 1st place; Eli Kelley, 2nd place; Genesis Soria, 3rd place; Talon Mullins, 4th place; Noah Foreman, 5th place; Austin Stephens, 6th place; Ethan Robles, 7th grade.

Music Memory: Violet Steffey, 1st place; Blake Winkler, 2nd place; Joslin Duncan, 3rd place; Ethan Isaacs, 4th place; Barrett Bates, 5th place.

Results for 3rd grade include:

Spelling: Tatum Morris, 1st place; Chloe Autry, 2nd place; Zaden White, 3rd place; Owen Collins, 4th place; Biloxi Ta-



**MEDAL MANIA:** Second and third graders at Gatesville Elementary recently competed at a University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition and brought back multiple medals, as seen in this photo.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

tum, 5th place.

Oral Reading: Blakely Sonntag, 1st place; Bailor Dahl, 2nd place; Hubbard Kinsey, 3rd place; Addison Snyder, 4th place.

Ready Writing: Abby Bates,

1st place; Luna Mora, 2nd place; Brynn Garvin, 3rd place; Kyndall Phipps, 4th place; Antany Whisenant, 5th place; Annalyn Buttry, 6th place.

Music Memory: Bella Bone,

1st place; Brynn Garvin, 2nd place; Colt Hukel, 3rd place; Owen Collins, 4th place; Mia Rayfield, 5th place; Roman Pruitt, 6th place.

Chess: Owen Collins, 1st place; Hayes Chumley, 2nd

place; T.J. Sullivan, 3rd place; Tatum Morris, 4th place tie; Aniston Mendez, 4th place tie; Mia Rayfield, 6th place; Kyle Manczak-Taft, 7th place.

Storytelling: Bailor Dahl, 1st place; Banks Latham,

2nd place; Natalie Holden, 3rd place; Alaina Tippit, 4th place; Bella Bone, 5th place; Abby Manning, 6th place.

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# The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of December 13 - 15. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, 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.

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## CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Dec. 13

12:53 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.

3:35 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 100 block of Main Street.

11:18 a.m., harassment was reported in the 300 block of Baize Drive.

12:07 p.m., a gas leak was reported in the 500 block of CR 274.

1:33 p.m., an assault was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

4:08 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of River Ranch Road.

### Dec. 14

2:39 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.

12:10 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.

2:05 p.m., a burglary was

reported in the 700 block of E. Main Street.

2:34 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of S. 7th Street.

6:56 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1300 block of W. Main Street.

10:47 p.m., reckless conduct was reported in the 100 block of N. Lovers Lane.

### Dec. 15

9:03 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of E. Main Street.

11:48 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2500 block of Jackson Drive.

3:06 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2700 block of Business Hwy. 36.

5:21 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 3300 block of Old Fort Gates Road.

5:39 p.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of N. 11th Street.

6:33 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.

## CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Dec. 13

12:21 p.m., an animal complaint was reported on FM 1113 and Oak Springs.

2:04 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 2700 block of Tanglewood Drive.

2:44 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 14000 block of FM 107.

5:04 p.m., a major accident

was reported in the 11000 block of S. Hwy. 36.

7:26 p.m., debris in the roadway was reported on FM 1113.

8:07 p.m., a threat was reported in the 700 block of Bluestem Drive.

### Dec. 14

6:58 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 7500 block of S. FM 183.

10:29 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Sarah Lane.

11:26 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on E. Hwy. 84.

4:35 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

5:37 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Bald Knob Road off of FM 116.

10:31 p.m., sign damage was reported on S. FM 116.

### Dec. 15

7:29 a.m., illegal dumping was reported in the 3500 block of Bea Powell Road.

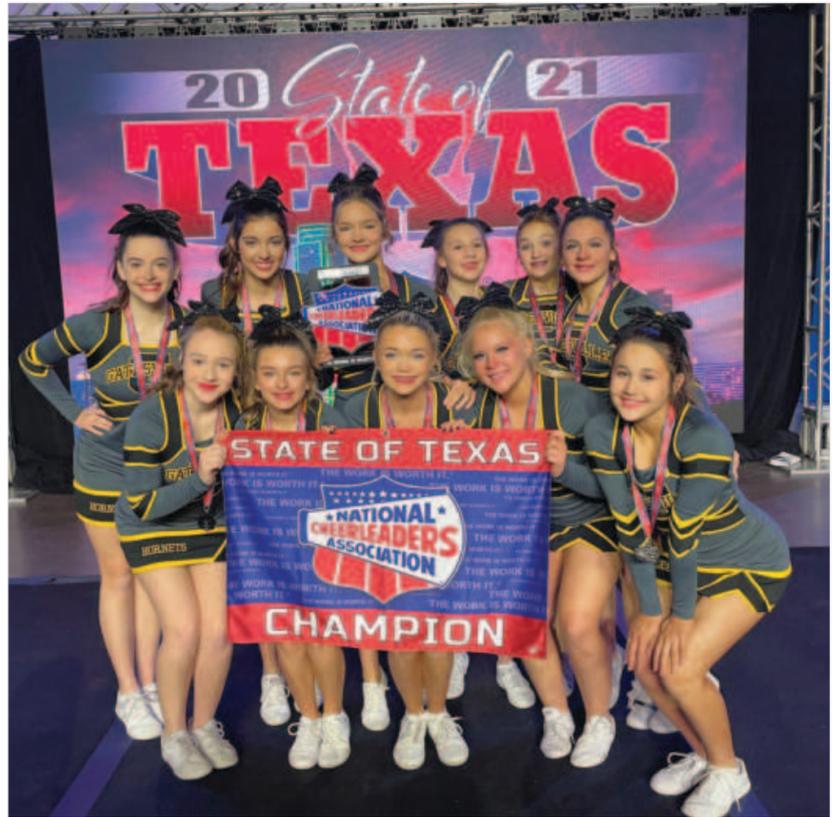
7:48 a.m., road rage was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.

9:15 a.m., illegal burning was reported on E. Hwy. 84 at the second roadside park.

1:03 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 8200 block of FM 182.

2:55 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 400 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

6:37 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1783 and CR 139.



COURTESY PHOTO

**GHS CHEERLEADERS RECEIVE 1ST PLACE IN THEIR DIVISION.** Back row, pictured left to right, Addison Combs (JV), Addi Wolff (Varsity), Marlee Saunders (Varsity), Lana Merriam (JV), Zoe Gribble (JV), Chesnea Ford (Varsity). Front Row, left to right, Rylee Oliver (Varsity), Tiffany Kollman (JV), Kallyn Moreland (Varsity), Ariel Findley (Varsity), Natalie Fast (Varsity).

## GHS Cheerleaders are state champions

Under the leadership of Sam Polanco and Holly Redford, seven varsity and four junior varsity GHS Cheerleaders competed as one team in

the National Cheerleaders Association State competition held in Dallas.

The team received 1st place out of six teams in their divi-

sion. They received a perfect scorecard with no deductions and came out as State Champions.

## Whatever happened to...

### 20 YEARS AGO (2001)

Chase Taylor, 7-year-old son of John and Elizabeth Taylor, delighted high school students with his aluminum foil artwork. The second

grader from Gatesville Christian Academy demonstrated his ability for students in Laquita Barton's marketing classes at Gatesville High School.

Gatesville High School teacher Lisa Dews was honored as the "Teacher of the Month" by the Gatesville Lions Club.

Shea Place, daughter of Al-

len and Tonya Place of Gatesville, was selected as a finalist in the recent Pre-Teen Texas Scholarship and Recognition Program held in Houston.

The Mound Volunteer Fire Department presented plaques to Don and Sue Jones in appreciation of their support to the department. Fire Chief William Coalston made the presentation during the department's banquet.

Members of Delta Kappa Gamma Society made their annual donation of books and toys to the Care Center to be distributed to children of needy families. Elizabeth Lanham, Care Center volunteer, accepted the donations from society members Anne Byrom and Johnni Moody. Courtney of Jonesboro were recognized for 30 years of service on the Hamilton/Coryell Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) board of directors. Courtney had represented Zone 3 since 1961.

### 30 YEARS AGO (1991)

Bythel K. Cooper, Sr., former president of Guaranty Bank and Trust Co., died in Gatesville Dec. 9. He was 90.

David Miller, a 21-year veteran of the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department, was chosen as "fireman of the week." As the department's secretary, Miller was also active in the Fire Prevention Program.

Henry and Esther Massirer were honored on their 25th wedding anniversary with a dinner and reception at the Coryell County Activities Complex. Henry Massirer and

the former Esther Richter of Osage were married Dec. 31, 1966, at St. John Lutheran Church in Coryell City.

Fourteen members of the Young Adult Sunday School Class of the White Mound Baptist Sunday School met at the home of Don and Sue Jones for their Christmas dinner. They later played games at Ron Barnard's home.

The Turnersville quilting club donated \$200 to the Turnersville Community Center. Quilting club members met each week at the community center to quilt.

### 40 YEARS AGO (1981)

Another chapter in the history of the Evant Post Office ended with the retirement after more than 30 years service of postal clerk Miriam Inabnet. Mrs. Inabnet was the wife of former Evant Postmaster James Inabnet. He retired two years prior after 33 years with the postal service. Lois Haines and Mabel Taylor were among 68 members of the three-county Retired Senior Volunteer Program honored. The two were presented with eight-year certificates.

Jack C. Lipsey, who had retired as a serviceman with Texas-New Mexico Power Company, was honored at a company dinner held in Clifton. Lipsey had completed 35 years with the company, all of them spent in Gatesville.

Dave and Nadine McCallister were to be honored on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Dave McCallister and Nadine Hinesley were married Dec. 25, 1931,

in Gatesville.

A Christmas coffee was held in the home of Mrs. Helen Fowler in Mound. Co-hostesses were Mesdames Martha Ann Lawhorn, Mary Jane Barnard, Ellen Lam, Geneva Moore and Miss Ima Fellers.

Bucky Bonner of Gatesville went fishing at Lake Belton and caught a smallmouth bass weighing four pounds, six ounces. The fish was a record for smallmouth bass hooked at Lake Belton.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1971)

Bill Hix was congratulated by Texas Supreme Court Justice Sears McGee of Houston after he was administered the lawyer's oath by Chief Justice Robert Calvert during a special session of the Supreme Court in Austin.

Mrs. Barbara Fox of Gatesville was the happy winner of the first of two bicycles given away by the Chamber of Commerce in a registration contest.

Rev. Paul Kenley of Tahoka had been called as pastor of the Purlmela Baptist Church. He was 24 years old and was attending Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth.

Coy Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Coy C. Jones of Gatesville, graduated from the Waco Police Academy where he underwent a 14-week training program.

Gayle Franks and Ollie Bynum, members of the Gatesville Riding Club's board of directors, were making final plans for the club's annual Christmas dinner, which was to be held at the Pearl Community Center.

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## MILK AND COOKIES WITH SANTA



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

**SANTA VISITS GATESVILLE:** The students at Let's Grow Learning Center recently visited Santa Claus at the Gatesville Public Library. The children enjoyed milk and cookies and listening to a story read to them by Santa. The students were joined by other young visitors who came to see Santa.

## CTC announces holiday break schedule

The Central Texas College (CTC) central campus in Killeen and the service area campus sites in Marble Falls, Lampasas, Gatesville, and Fredericksburg will be closed for the holidays Dec. 20-31. Administrative offices will re-open and registration and academic advising will resume Monday, Jan. 3. During the holiday break, students who have completed the admissions process can register for spring 2022 semester classes using CTC's Eagle Self-Service online system.

The CTC Fort Hood campus will be open during the holiday period offering limited services Dec. 20-23 and Dec. 27-30 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. The office will be closed Dec. 24-25, and Dec. 31 and resume normal business hours and full services on Jan. 3. Soldiers who enroll for spring semester classes between Dec. 17-21 should be able to request Tuition Assistance (TA) through ArmyIgnitEd on Dec. 22. Soldiers submitting enrollments between Dec. 21-28 should be able to request TA through ArmyIgnitEd starting Dec. 29. Students enrolling Dec. 28 through Jan. 3 should be able to request TA ArmyIgnitEd on Jan. 4.

Students can still access CTC's virtual library services during the holiday break. The Ask a Librarian e-mail service, ReferenceRequest@ctcd.edu, is available and responses are typically sent within 24 hours of an inquiry. Research paper assistance and the library's online databases will also be available throughout the break and can be accessed from the library website <https://www.ctcd.edu/academics/library/>.

### BOOK REVIEW

## Cop shop tales tell-all about dumb criminals

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

License and registration? Yep, you've got that, and lucky you do because the folks in the car with the pretty blue and red lights on the roof probably won't take "no" for an answer. You need to walk the straight-and-narrow with them - sometimes quite literally - and don't think they won't tell. In the new book "Got Warrants?" by Timothy Cotton, even good cops can spill the beans.

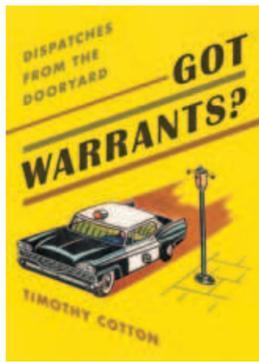
Police Officer Timothy Cotton didn't much cotton to writing another book like his last one.

His first book based on the Bangor (Maine) Police Department's Facebook page was popular, but Cotton was afraid of burning out. Were people tired of reading about "real police reports about

real situations that... officers run into?"

No, not a bit. Little did Cotton know that the department had fans and that people would be clamoring for more dumb criminal stories - tales like that of the couple "engaged in the age-old art of interpersonal-relationship building," loud enough to bother the neighbors. Or the man who said "he wasn't afraid of jail" and so he was... escorted to jail. Sometimes, the BPD deals with folks in various states of undress (and those viewing them, surreptitiously or not). Many calls start out innocently but don't end up that way.

Some calls are made over concerns of the consumption of "loudmouth soup." Others come from establishments that kindly allow patrons to "pass the time between



short sips from long-necked bottles." Calls might come from passers-by, concerned about someone lying beneath a bridge with a similar bottle.

It's a good bet that said bottles are at fault for an awful lot of calls, in fact.

But before you start to think this is all fun and

games, know that there are lessons inside this book: if you've got a few outstanding warrants hanging over your head, for instance, don't annoy the lady upstairs. Choose your friends wisely. And if you need the cops to help with your vehicle, don't leave bags of white powder lying on the passenger's seat.

Television is full of crafty criminals who elude detectives for months. Murder mysteries are chockablock with them - and yet, when it comes to crime, sometimes, you just gotta shake your head. "Got Warrants" will make it positively rattle.

That's because the stories that author Timothy Cotton tells are "damn sure... dumb." Most of them have Adult Beverages at root while others include illegal substances, neither of which are

known for good decision-making. Cotton also writes of more gentle calls: noise complaints, small misunderstandings, and a dog he calls Bob who just wanted to play. Readers may become weary of too many annoyingly awful, abominable alliterations and snickery groaners, but the humor here is otherwise clear, and clearly enjoyable.

There are no big shoot-outs inside this book, no lengthy car chases or major drug busts, and nothing gruesome. You can happily give this book to Grandma or a teen with a passion for law enforcement; for them, and for you, "Got Warrants?" is just the ticket.

"Got Warrants? Dispatches from the Dooryard" by Timothy Cotton, c.2021, Down East Books \$24.95 / higher in Canada 224 pages

— CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION —

# DECEMBER 19

9 & 10:30 AM

— CANDLELIGHT SERVICE —

# DECEMBER 24

5 & 7 PM

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**BETHEHEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH:** Elder, Hugh Montgomery, pastor; Peabody community 5 miles south of Pearl on FM 1690; Sunday services - Morning worship 4th Sunday each month at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH:** Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 and FM 116; Sunday services - Bible study 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.

**COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH:** Bob Phillips, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 5:30 p.m.

**EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH:** Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.; Wednesday evening services, 6 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EVANT:** Andrew Newton, pastor; Live Oak Street and Memory Lane; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FLAT:** Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Wednesday Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Wednesday Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GATESVILLE:** Mark Rich, Pastor; 912 E. Main Street; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OGLESBY:** Jeremy Sanders, pastor; Sunday services - Bible study 9:45 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.

**GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH:** Michael Bragdon, Pastor; Hwy. 36 East; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

**HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH:** A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.

**HAY VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH:** 3110 Hay Valley Road, off Hwy 36 North. Sunday morning services - Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am. AWANA children's ministry Sunday evening 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Bible Study for men and women on Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

**JONESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH:** Matt Dossey, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.

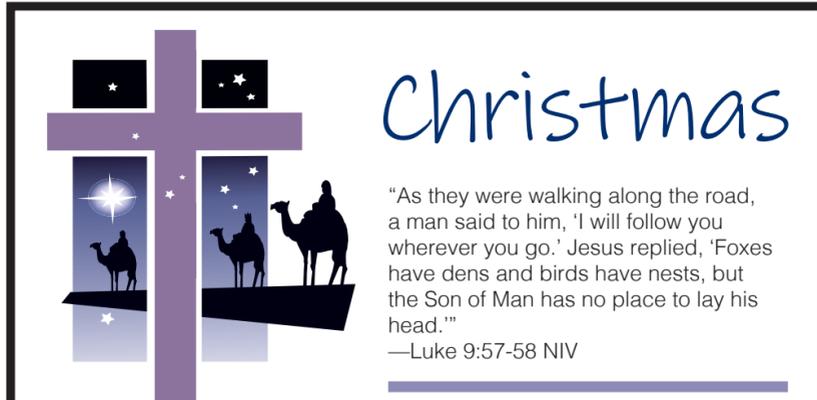
**KING BAPTIST CHURCH:** Charles W. McKamie, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

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

**LIVE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH:** Bro. Ken Laney, pastor; FM 107; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:15 a.m., morning worship 10:30 a.m., Wed. evening Adult, Youth and Children's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH:** Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; Hwy. 84 East in South Mountain community; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7:00 p.m. Wednesday.

**OSAGE BAPTIST CHURCH:** Chris Thomas, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.



**Christmas**

"As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.'"  
—Luke 9:57-58 NIV

Christianity is a religion of paradoxes, and one of the most paradoxical elements of Christianity is the incarnation, the idea that God became man, being born as a helpless child in the humblest of circumstances. Nativity scenes memorialize this event, showing a baby lying in a manger, which is nothing more than a feeding trough for domesticated animals. But Jesus's birth is only the first of many paradoxes. At the other end of Jesus's life is the paradox of the almighty God letting himself be taunted and tortured, and ultimately letting himself die an ignominious death by hanging on a cross. We do well to remember that Christianity turns many virtues on their head. Strength, pride and wisdom are replaced by weakness, humility and a kind of naivete or simple-mindedness. At this time of year when we celebrate Christ's birth with lavish spending and gift-giving, we do well to remember that material things are golden fetters and that poverty makes us free to live a simpler, more spiritual life. The Son of God was born in a manger, and as He himself told a potential follower, he still had nowhere to lay his head. Jesus appears to be telling this man to count the cost of becoming his follower. Christmas might make us think that Christianity is nothing but sweetness and light when in fact it's incredibly difficult to be a good Christian. — Christopher Simon

**PEARL BAPTIST CHURCH:** Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

**PECAN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH:** Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

**PIDCOKE BAPTIST CHURCH:** Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship service 11 a.m. www.pidcokebaptist.com

**PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH:** Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro, TX; Sunday school at 10 a.m. and Sunday worship at 11 a.m.

**PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL:** One mile north of Evant on Hwy. 281; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

**PURMELA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

**SWEET HOME BAPTIST CHURCH:** 511 North 14th; Sunday services - Sunday morning worship 10 a.m., church school 5 p.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

**SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH:** Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr.; Sunday Services; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** Tim Crosby, pastor; 1506 West Main; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m. Wednesday Services - Prayer Meeting/Youth Ministry 6:00 p.m., TBC Kids at 6 p.m. Email: trinitybctx@centurylink.net. Church: 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.

**TURNERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH:** Jon Crosby, Pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.

**WESTVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH:** Hwy. 84 West; Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

**WHITE HALL BAPTIST CHURCH:** Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship services 11 a.m.; Prayer & Devotional meeting fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.; 254-865-2106.

**WHITE MOUND BAPTIST CHURCH / MOUND COWBOY CHURCH** (meet at 9:30 a.m.): Bruce Cox, pastor; Sun. services - Sun. School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m. For more info., call 254-865-5908.

**CATHOLIC**  
**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Rev. Jayaraju Polshetty; 1108 W. Main; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12:00 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Weekday Mass Tuesday through Friday at 12:00 p.m.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**CEDAR RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST:** Deral McWhorter, minister; Osage Road and Cedar Ridge Drive; Sunday services - Morning worship 10 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

**EVANT CHURCH OF CHRIST:** Will Vann, Preacher; Sunday services-Bible Study 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:20 a.m., evening worship 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST:** Hwy. 36 S.; Sunday services - Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST:** Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E Main; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.

**LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO:** 2413 East Main; classes y

servicios en Español, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.

**MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST:** 1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove, TX 76522; Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Worship; Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. Bible Study; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.

**PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST:** Sunday services - morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**CHURCH OF GOD**  
**CORNERSTONE,** Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Road; Sunday services - morning worship 11 a.m. www.facebook.com/pages/cornerstone/140632994733

**EVANGELICAL METHODIST**  
**REFUGE-MINISTRIES PURMELA CHURCH CAMPUS:** Josh Morrison, Campus Pastor; 115 FM 183, Purmela, Texas, 10:45 a.m. Sunday worship, 512-425-2828.

**LUTHERAN**  
**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH:** David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd. in Copperas Cove; Sunday morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; FM 929 in Coryell City; Sunday services - Morning worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 and FM 1114 in The Grove; Sunday services - Sunday School 9 a.m., worship 10:15 a.m.

**METHODIST**  
**BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Sunday services - 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays. 2 miles north of Ireland on FM 932

**EVANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Dennis Dutton, Pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 9 a.m., morning worship 10 a.m.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GATESVILLE:** 2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship - 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children and Adult Bible Studies at 6:00 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. Visit us at fumcgatesville.org for more information.

**JONESBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** 101 CR 193; Rita Hotz, Pastor; Sunday services - 11 a.m., each 1st and 3rd Sunday.

**OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Sunday services - morning worship 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

**PIDCOKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy. 116; Worship service Sundays at 10 a.m. 254-677-6242.

**MORMON**  
**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS:** 206 South 26th; Sunday services -Sacrament services 10 a.m., Sun. School 10 a.m

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
**CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH:** Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 West; Sunday services, 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7:00 p.m.

**CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH:** Daniel Crowther, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday Worship services 9am & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6pm; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry and C3 Student Ministry.

**CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH:** Doran Belknap

III, Pastor; Sunday service 11:00 a.m., 8205 FM 182 in Turnersville; (254) 218-5901.

**COVER2COVER MINISTRIES:** Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday morning service 10 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. 1409 West Main.

**GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER:** Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10:00 a.m., Sunday morning 11:00 a.m., Sunday evening 6 p.m., Thursday evening 7 p.m. 2518 Bridge St., Gatesville.

**GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** Wray Nunn, pastor; Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m. & Wednesday evening worship at 6:30 p.m. at Gateway Learning Center, 2315 Osage Road.

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH:** Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday Services at 10:45 a.m. 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.

**HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH:** Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th Street, Gatesville, 865-6222. Sunday morning worship 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6:00 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC and state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

**JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** Sundays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. aqui se reune La Iglesia de Cristo, in the 2400 block of East Main Street.

**LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP:** Peter M. Matwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 10:45 am.

**MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE:** William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday services - 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

**PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP:** 6735 FM 183 in Pearl. Sunday Services- 9:00 a.m.

**THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT:** Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St.; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

**PENTECOSTAL**  
**TABERNACLE OF PRAISE UPC:** Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Worship services - Sunday mornings at 10:00 am; Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm; www.gatesvilleupc.org. 254-206-1826.

**MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST:** Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 128 North 12th Street; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., weekly services, Wed. Bible Study 6:30p.m.-7:30 p.m., Wed. night service, 7:30p.m.

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

**WESLEYAN**  
**CORYELL VALLEY CHURCH:** 4995 FM 929, 3.5 miles from S.H. 36; Worship Saturdays at 5 p.m. coryellvalleytexas.com

**INTER-DENOMINATIONAL**  
**BOOTS -N- SADDLE COWBOY CHURCH:** Max Gunn, pastor; 254-248-1850; 10 miles west of Gatesville on HWY 84; Sunday Service @ 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service @ 7:00 p.m.; Youth Sunday Service @9:45 a.m.

**HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH:** Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise and Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 pm, 254-865-4076.

**THE POINT FELLOWSHIP:** James & Laurinda Paine, Pastors; 2315 Osage Road, Gatesville; Wednesday Services at 7:00 p.m. (Adults, youth & children); Sunday services - Destiny Discovery Class at 9:00 a.m. and Regular services at 10:30 a.m. 254-248-1265.

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037  
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037  
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Evant ISD is seeking a part-time long-term substitute for High School ELA, grades 9-12. The position is a half-day position for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. The pay scale for this position is at an elevated scale due to the nature of the job responsibilities. Preference will be given to certified applicants. Contact Cheyenne Cook at 254-471-5536 or ccook@evantisd.org if you have questions or would like to apply for this position. 00028983

037  
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037  
**HELP WANTED**

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037  
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078  
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072  
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102  
**REAL ESTATE**

078  
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102  
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**The Gatesville Police Department has the following openings:**

**POLICE OFFICER-** TCOLE Certification required. Is assigned to the Patrol Division and is responsible for responding to calls for service, enforcing laws and ordinances, and overall crime prevention.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER-** TCOLE Certification required. Is assigned to a Gatesville ISD campus and is tasked with assisting school administration in providing a safe, productive learning environment for students and employees.

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER-** Is responsible for answering 911 and administrative calls, gathering information and dispatching appropriate responders, and entering and retrieving information in department computers.

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER-** Is responsible for addressing and following up with animal complaints within the City, enforcing animal laws and ordinances, removing dead, injured or dangerous animals from city streets and residential premises, and maintaining the City's Animal Shelter.

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055  
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00028989

060  
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00028980

The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop will be closed from noon on Fri., Dec. 24 through Mon., Jan. 3. Please, no donations during this time.  
00028981

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102  
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- ▶ 8.32 acres, Evant, TX in Indian Creek Subdivision, electric on the property, 30 ft. x 50 ft. pole barn, storage shed & Indian Creek is the east boundary of the property, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Fiber Optic Internet service available. \$115,000
- ▶ 9.97 acres southwest of Gatesville in King Ranch Subdivision, good tree cover, rolling terrain, nice home site. The property has a water meter. \$144,500
- ▶ 10.01 acres east of Evant, Stone Creek Ranch Subdivision, great tree cover, good elevation to build a home overlooking Langford Branch. The property also has a second branch that runs along the east side of the property with rock bluffs along the branch. Electricity is at the property; you would need to drill a water well for water. \$199,900
- ▶ 10.01 acres, Lot 21 Phase 6 Rio Escondido, corner lot, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, great views to the south. Fiber Optic Internet service is available. \$128,000
- ▶ 10.01 acres, Lot 28 Phase 4 Rio Escondido, north of Evant, Tx, good tree cover, great views, electric pole set on the property & an area has been cleared that would be an idea location for a home, Fiber Optic Internet available, \$150,000
- ▶ 12.1 acres, FM 929 frontage & CR 255 frontage, property is level with good views to the north, approx. 4.5 acres of Coastal Bermuda & the remaining is native grasses. Coryell City Water & electric are available along CR 255. \$150,000
- ▶ 14.89 acres east of Evant, TX, located on CR 160. Good tree cover & rolling terrain. Known as Lots 66 & 67 in the Indian Creek Ranch Subdivision, \$150,000
- ▶ 17 acres, FM 929 Frontage & CR 255 frontage. The property is level with good views to the north, approx. 8 acres of Coastal Bermuda & the remaining is native grasses. Coryell City Water & electric are available along CR 255. \$195,000
- ▶ 20.02 acres, Evant, TX in Hamilton County, rolling terrain, good tree cover & a seasonal creek on the south boundary of the property. The property will have electric serviced by Hamilton County Electric Co. & Fiber Optic Internet service from Central Texas Telephone Company. \$265,000
- ▶ 24.85 +/- acres south of Evant, TX in Lampasas County. Barn, 1 stock pond & scattered tree cover with good views. \$310,625
- ▶ 26 acres south of Pearl, TX in Coryell County on Blakely Rd. Rolling terrain, good tree cover. South Bee House creek runs through the property, great views. \$250,000
- ▶ 36 +/- acres west of Evant, TX, Hamilton County. The property is completely fenced w/electric along the front of the property, scattered tree cover & rolling terrain & pond that is on the neighbors property that back up water onto the property. Fiber Optic Internet Service, you will need to drill a water well for water. \$387,000
- ▶ 37.28 acres east of Evant, TX in Indian Creek Subdivision, Indian Creek runs through the property, 60 ft. of change in elevation, good tree cover, \$466,000
- ▶ 74.7 acres west of Purnela, FM 1241, barn, cattle pens, good fences, nice view, centrally located. \$511,695.
- ▶ 105 acres south of Pearl, TX on Self Rd. good tree cover, rolling terrain, small branch that run through the property, barn that is approx. 38 ft. x 42 ft. in size with a rain harvest system that collects rain water from the roof of the barn. Electricity is along the property line in the northwest corner of the property \$743,775
- ▶ 179.562 acres 1.6 miles south of Gatesville, TX. FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. Multi-County Water & City of Gatesville have water line running down the front of the property. \$1,230,000

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:**

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## A BATTLE FOR THE BALL



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Kagen Hunt and a teammate battle a pair of Robinson basketball players for control of the ball in a recent game played in Gatesville. For game results and more photos, see Page A12.

## 1st Combat Aviation Brigade transfers authority to 1st Air Cavalry Brigade

ILLESHEIM, Germany – The 1st Combat Aviation Brigade (1CAB), 1st Infantry Division officially cased its colors as they handed over the aviation component of Atlantic Resolve to 1st Air Cavalry Brigade (1ACB), 1st Cavalry Division in an official ceremony held at Illesheim Army Air Base, Germany, Dec. 15, 2021.

Held inside a large aviation hangar, the ceremony backdrop was a monumental U.S. flag reminiscent of the opening scene from “Patton.” U.S. Army division history was on exhibition with the legendary “Big Red One” patch on the fronts of podiums and programs, and, of course, “Cav Hats” and spurs sported by America’s “First Team.”

The Veitshöchheim Army Music Corps, Würzburg supported the ceremony by performing dynamic renditions of the national

anthems for Germany and the United States. The musical handshake could not have been more appropriate as it meaningfully painted the unique friendship between both countries.

Only brigade and battalion command teams, including representative leaders, participated in the massed formation of troops. Most of the 1st CAB personnel have already redeployed, and 1ACB is already participating in its first field training event to demonstrate capabilities and readiness.

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Broadwater, deputy commanding general of the recently reactivated V Corps attended the ceremony. The ceremony was hosted by Brig. Gen. Andrew Gainey, deputy commanding general of 1st Infantry Division. Local community partners, both military and civilian, observed as 1CAB lead-

ers cased its colors for ceremonious return to Fort Riley, and “Air Cav” commanders uncased the colors of 1ACB.

“From establishing relationships throughout Europe, to simply building interoperability in all aspects of their mission, the Demon leadership demonstrated excellence in all phases of this deployment,” said Gainey.

“To their credit, they executed more than 15,000 flying hours, conducted 12 top-tier exercises in 15 different countries, engaged in continuous live-fire certifications and countless hours of maintenance while overcoming a global pandemic.”

For the past nine months, 1st CAB has been living and training with partner and ally militaries across Europe in countries such as Romania, Estonia, the Netherlands, Poland, and Germany to increase interoperability and

enhance an already strong bond. They participated in multiple, multi-national, large-scale exercises such as Saber Junction, Agile Spirit, and Defender 21.

“When I think about these transfer of authority ceremonies, it reminds me of the commitment the United States has to our European allies and partners,” said Col. Jason Arriaga, commander of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade.

“The 1st Infantry Division Soldiers you see in front of you arrived in Europe at the beginning of the year and spent the last nine months training all over the continent; Germany, Latvia, Poland, Estonia, Greece, Bulgaria, and the Netherlands, just to name a few.”

“We depart Europe a well-trained and ready brigade,” said Arriaga.

*Last-Minute*

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## Lady Hornets fall to Robinson at home

BY MARK GOODSON  
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Lady Hornets fell to the Robinson Lady Rockets Tuesday in a rematch against Robinson in last week's Fairfield Tournament.

The Hornets dropped to 4-8 on the season heading into a Monday, Dec. 20 trip to China Spring. The China Spring game was moved to Monday because the Cougars are in the state finals in football this week.

Against Robinson on Tuesday, the Lady Hornets came out sputtering.

Robinson led 6-2 after one quarter. The Rockets increased the lead to 18-14 at halftime as the Lady Hornets were having trouble with turnovers.

Aliyah Trotter had a 3-point-er with 3:24 left in the second quarter to cut the tie the game at 10-10.

Robinson was able to get rolling with a good mixture of outside shots and work in the lane.

For Gatesville, Taylor Coward finished with 10 points. Trotter and Kamryn Higginbotham scored eight points each.

Kagen Hunt had four points, Laura Trejo two and Kylie Cox one.

The team will host Jarrell Tuesday, Dec. 21 in their final game before Christmas.

The JV Gold lost, 35-20, to Robinson.

The Hornet boys lost, 55-42, to the West Trojans on Tuesday on the road.

The JV Gold lost 53-48 and the JV Black lost 24-22 in OT.

Gatesville hosted McGregor



Tamiah Miller looks to pass the ball to a teammate in action against Robinson High School in basketball action on Dec. 14.

here Friday, then takes a break

before the varsity competes in

the Reagan County Invitational

Dec. 28-29.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER



(Left) McKenzie Feldman blocks a Robinson player while awaiting a rebound after a free throw attempt. (Right) Aliyah Trotter moves the ball down court and looks to slip past a Robinson defender.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

## Evant battles early, fades in hoops showdown with Priddy

BY MARK GOODSON  
STAFF WRITER

The Evant Lady Elks had a good start, but the Priddy Pirates took control with a big second quarter and posted a 62-21 victory in a District 18-1A basketball game at Evant on Tuesday.

"We started off really well playing great half-court defense

and keeping them to eight points in the first quarter," Evant coach Chad Baker said. "I felt if the score was lower we would have a better shot of making a game of it in the fourth quarter, but ultimately we fell apart in the second quarter and it was all downhill after that. We just have to find a way to play with the same intensity and focus that we do in the first quarter throughout all four quarters."

Priddy built a 31-9 halftime lead and the lead swelled to 47-17 entering the fourth quarter.

Emiliegh Burton scored nine points and Bree Ramirez added six points. Molly Waldrum, Izzy Gandy and Luwi Rodriguez had two points each.

District 18-1A includes Blanket, Evant, Gustine, Mullin, Priddy, Sidney and Zephyr.

## Jonesboro boys team stands at 3-5 after Morgan tournament

BY MARK GOODSON  
STAFF WRITER

Jonesboro's boys stand 3-5 this season after a solid showing in the Morgan Tournament.

Jonesboro had a tough outing at Chilton Tuesday, Dec. 14.

The Eagles lost, 64-18, in a non-district

game at Chilton.

Jacob Cisneros and Ian Shoaf had six points each. Garrett Young had four points and Manny Torres had two points.

At the Morgan Tournament, the Eagles came through with two wins.

The Eagles edged Cranfills Gap, 49-45, in the third-place game.

Ian Shoaf scored 11 points to lead scoring.

Layton Blanchard and Jacob Cisneros scored nine points each. Garrett Young added seven points.

In the opener, Jonesboro beat Penelope, 45-43. Shoaf scored the last basket with 1:40 left in the game.

Blanchard had a big game with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Jacob Cisneros added 10 points and seven rebounds.

Shoaf finished with nine points and six rebounds.

In the second round, Morgan downed the Eagles, 65-47.

Young poured in 15 points and added four steals.

Shoaf had 11 points and 11 rebounds while Blanchard added nine points and 14 rebounds.

### Area Fishing Report

**Belton**  
GOOD. Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 2.10 feet low. This week started and ended with cold fronts which brought high winds and the first frost of the season.

White bass are good using the use of the Bladed Hazy Eye Slab transitioning from the MAL Heavy lures as the water temperature declines.

Some catches of freshwater drum, striped bass and largemouth

mixed in. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

**Stillhouse**  
GOOD. Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 1.68 feet low. This week started and ended with cold fronts which brought high winds and the first frost of the season.

White bass are good using the use of the Bladed Hazy Eye Slab transitioning from the MAL Heavy lures as the water temperature declines.

Some catches of freshwater drum, striped bass and largemouth mixed in. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

**Waco**  
GOOD. Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 2.79 feet low. Catfish is good, drifting main lake flats and channel ledges on fresh cut baits such as shad and perch. White bass and hybrid bass in the main lake. Report by Jason "SPUD" Barton, Cattin' Around Adventure's Profes-

sional Guide Service.

**Whitney**  
GOOD. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 2.17 feet low. Look to the skies and follow the birds to locate schools of fish. Striped bass are good on live and artificial bait. Bigger bass biting in 10-45 feet of water. Report by Blake Stritz, Blake on the Lake Guide Service. Striped bass are good trolling over flats and ridge lines mid-lake to north lake, near the river the channel, us-

ing soft plastic paddle tails in 17-40 feet of water. Report by Kraig Sexton, Sexton's Guide Service LLC.

**Proctor**  
SLOW. Water clear; 50 degrees; 1.60 feet low. Fishing is slow as we enter into the winter season. Crappie are fair near brush piles in Copperas Creek Park.

Catfish are fair drifting in the highpoint area. White bass and hybrid stripers are slow on slabs. Black bass are slow.