

Happy New Year

SATURDAY | Jan. 1, 2022

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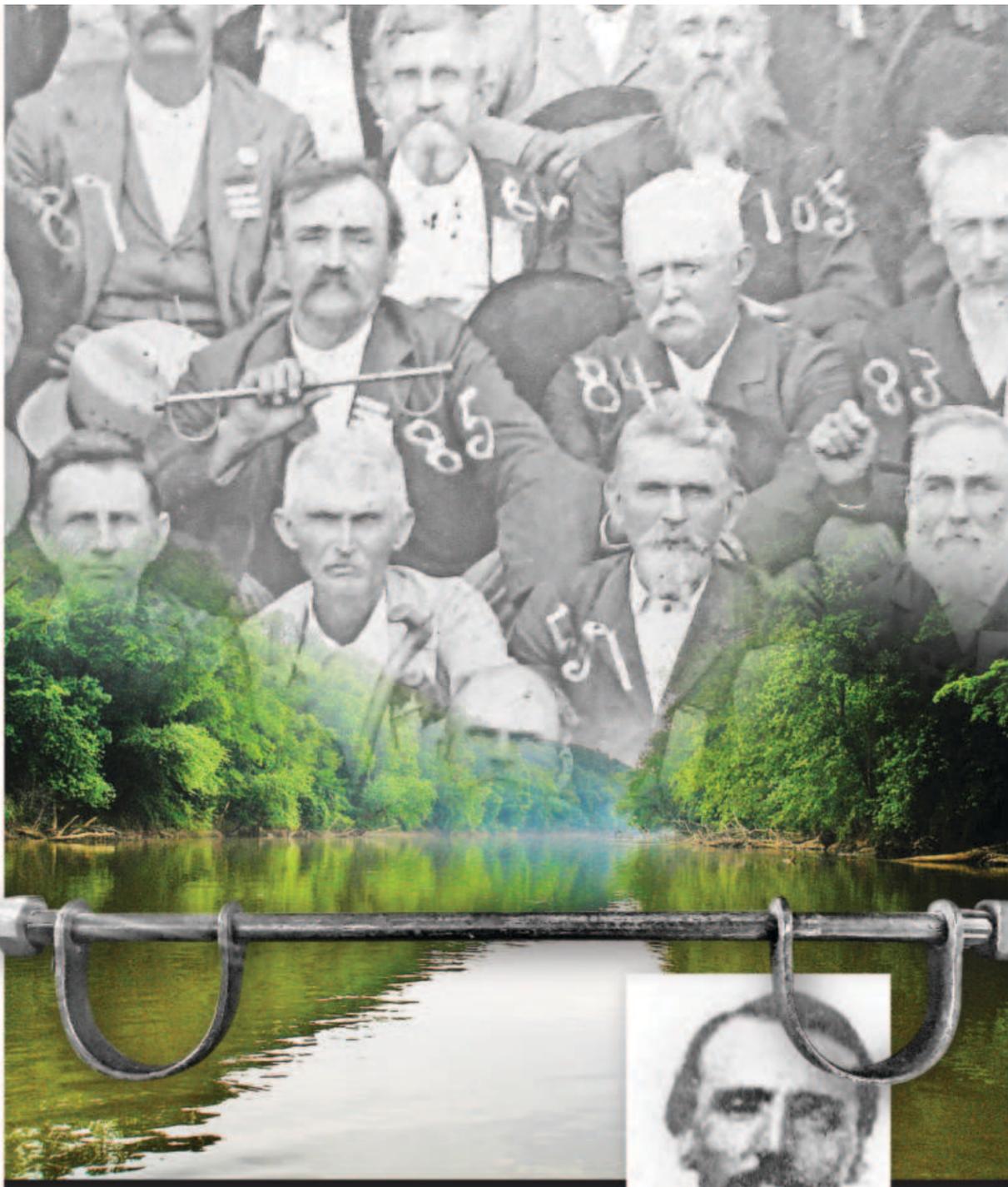
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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 121, No. 1, ISSN No. 0894-4954



Handcuffs from a Great Escape

Local museum has Civil War era artifact from man who fled execution



"I have my handcuffs yet, and will hand them, with their history, down to the rising generation."

Curtis Green, escaped prisoner who survived the Civil War and avoided a planned execution for being a Confederate spy



Curtis Green

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Displayed on a wall at the Coryell Museum is a pair of unusual looking handcuffs that are nearly 160 years old. Even more unusual is the story that goes along with the handcuffs which includes a daring escape of a Confederate spy from the Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Curtis Green was born in 1840 near Cave Springs, Georgia. When the war between the states broke out, he enlisted in Company E, 22nd Georgia Infantry, and was later transferred to Company G, 6th Georgia Cavalry.

In an article that appeared in the Atlanta Constitution newspaper in November of 1890, Green said, "On Sept. 23, 1864, I was captured and taken to Rome, Georgia and placed in a log calaboose [jail], and the next morning I was handcuffed."

The unusual looking handcuffs consisted of a metal rod about 7 inches in length. On each end of the rod were wrist cuffs that measured about 2 1/2 inches in width and 2 inches in height. This particular type of handcuffs pre-dated the Civil War by several years. Green remained in the handcuffs in the calaboose along with 14 other Confederate soldiers until his escape.

After his capture, Green stood

PLEASE SEE **GREEN** | A2

County approves water system funding

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Coryell County Commissioners Court made \$900,000 available to help local rural water systems meet requirements which will allow them to keep water flowing even during temperature extremes.

The funding request made by representatives of rural water systems will help with the purchase of generators, installation and other items needed to maintain water service even if power is lost, as it was during Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

Commissioner Daren Moore asked how items listed in the American Recovery Plan Act fund could be moved from categories such as advertising and a public health district to help rural water systems pay for the infrastructure they need.

"It's a line item," said County Judge Roger Miller.

Moore noted that in infrastructure reports, the water system funds were listed as being part of the 2023 budget, and he asked

PLEASE SEE **WATER** | A2

New COVID variant may not be as dangerous

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Nearly two years after coronavirus, or COVID-19, cases were first reported in the area, they continue to be a concern, but Bob Harrell, the Coryell County emergency management coordinator, said there is good news.

"We haven't had any new fatalities reported. (The number of deaths) stands at 169 (countywide, since those figures were first reported in the first half of 2020).

"Although there are some cases of the omicron variant reported in Coryell County, it is not as deadly as the delta variant," he said. "Our focus is to keep folks out of the hospital, to keep them home whenever possible. Some of those who

PLEASE SEE **COVID** | A2

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GREEN

FROM PAGE A1

before six union officers with three witnesses testifying against him.

It was at this hearing that it was revealed he was a "secret scout" or "spy" for the Confederacy and he was condemned to death. Upon learning about his death sentence, Green said, "I then went to cutting on the double floor [of the calaboose] to make a hole through which I might escape. I had been allowed an old spade for the purpose of building a fire to smoke the mosquitoes out and I turned the fire over on the floor and burned my cutting so it would be disguised."

On Oct. 3, with the assistance of his fellow prisoners, Green was able to make his escape by slipping through the hole in the floor and running through a garden that adjoined the calaboose. Along the way, he yanked off two wooden planks surrounding the garden and made his way down to the nearby Oostanaula River and, using the planks for a flotation device, Green swam down the river - still wearing the burdensome handcuffs.

"I have always said that I swam two and a half miles, but I think it was over that distance," Green would later say. After coming ashore, Green said, "I had a piece of soap. I put it between my knees, soaped my hands, they being cold and shriveled [after being so long in

the river] and pulled my old handcuffs off and pulled off my clothes and wrung them. I was then in my stocking feet, having left my boots in the calaboose" - fearing he could not swim with his boots on.

Green continued on by foot, often travelling at night, avoiding the Union soldiers who were desperately trying to re-capture him. Along the way, he encountered friendly country people who fed him and even gave him another pair of boots. Green would eventually make it to safety and later rejoined his regiment and served with them until the war ended.

Following the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, Green left Georgia and settled in Texas along with his father and brothers. He would

eventually settle in Coryell County near Gatesville. In 1866, he married Martha Lee and had one son. Following her death, he married Amanda Ellen Ross and continued to have 11 more children. Green would later move to a farm south of Oglesby where he lived until his death in 1922 at the age of 81. He was buried at the Post Oak Cemetery near Oglesby.

Green would often attend the Confederate reunions in Coryell County during the 1890s. During a group photo of the reunion veterans, Green is pictured holding the handcuffs that he wore while in prison and during his swim down the river [shown in the illustration on Page 1]. Ironically, at one of the Confederate reunions, Green was

able to reconnect with one of the Union soldiers who was on guard the night of his escape.

In the 1890 article about his escape from prison, Green said, "I have my handcuffs yet, and will hand them, with their history, down to the rising generation."

Twenty years ago, in December of 2001, descendants of Curtis Green gathered at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center to donate the handcuffs to the museum. The handcuffs, placed on a plaque, would accompany a desk and a set of "Confederate Veteran" magazines belonging to Green.

Coryell Museum is located at 718 E. Main Street in Gatesville.

COVID

FROM PAGE A1

have been vaccinated still have gotten COVID, but it's a lighter case."

A total of 39 new cases of COVID were reported in the week leading up to Christmas and the Monday after Christmas at Coryell Health.

"We're seeing an uptick," Harrell said. He added that since COVID numbers were first reported, there

have been 10,097 cases documented in Coryell County. He said 40.52 percent of the population has been fully vaccinated for COVID, with more than 74 percent of those age 65 and older being fully vaccinated.

The number of people who have received COVID-19 vaccines "keeps going up, especially for those 65 and older," Harrell said. "Statewide over 4 million boosters have been administered."

One of the latest changes in the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation is that a five-day isolation for those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, instead of the previous 10-day quarantine.

Harrell noted that California and New York have returned to mask mandates because of concerns about the omicron variant. Those mandates continue to be controversial in many states, such as Texas and much of the South and

Midwest.

Harrell also said that Pfizer has developed a pill which it says is 89 percent effective in preventing the worst effects of COVID-19.

One concern about omicron is that it has been labeled as potentially more contagious than other variants of COVID-19. Texas' first reported case of the disease was in early December in Harris County (the Houston area). The Texas Department of State Health Services

(DSHS) said the woman had been fully vaccinated and that while she had some of the same symptoms associated with other variants of COVID-19, she did not have to be hospitalized.

"According to the DSHS, "COVID-19 vaccines do not stop 100% of cases. But fully vaccinated people are less likely to be infected. They are also better protected from severe illness, hospitalization and death."

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

that they be made available sooner.

"If we're going to budget that for (rural water systems) they're going to need it before 2023," Moore said, "if we can amend our '22 budget to make that available."

"I think that's possible," Miller said. County Attorney Brandon Belt suggested the commissioners court authorize a budget amendment.

"It wouldn't change the bottom line at all," he said.

"In addition to that, we're going to get

more funds, so we could do that," said County Auditor Ben Roberts.

Moore said he hoped the \$900,000 budgeted to help the rural water systems would be sufficient.

"I know that sounds like a lot of money but is that really going to do a lot?" he asked. "Most of what they need is generators."

Kyle Matthews said he has considered the issue, and added that the largest of the area's rural water systems needs about \$200,000.

"I think that will work," Matthews said. "I think it will cover it. We're still working on a few numbers depending on how you break it out."

The water systems which need funds to

meet a state mandate to continue water service during extreme conditions will need to send a written request for funding to the county, which commissioners would then consider and approve.

"They have to give us a request so it will all be documented and there wouldn't be any miscommunication," Belt said. "Ultimately the request has to be submitted (to the federal government)."

Jason Knoblauch, environmental services director for the Texas Rural Water Association, was asked about the types of rural water systems and how that might affect funding requests.

"Water supply districts are nonprofit, but

there is one investor-owned system at a mobile home park in Copperas Cove," Knoblauch said. "Outside of that there are eight other districts and four cities (providing water services in Coryell County)."

"Water service corporations are nonprofit and they are able to go out for grants ... Each district is unique. Some purchase water, some pump water. They're all different (in how they operate)."

Belt said each of the nonprofit water systems should be sent notices letting them know about grant funds available so they can respond.

"It doesn't have to be difficult," Belt said.

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2022

How to make New Year's resolutions that stick

BY JAY ANN COX

Many people take the start of the New Year as the perfect time to plan and start new habits. Let's face it, these often go by the wayside after a few days. Here are some suggestions for resolutions that might just be habit-forming.

- **Do something easy.**
Start things off with a win. Make this resolution one that can be accomplished in the first week or even the first day of the year. "Buy a new loofah." "Call Mom."
- **Do one thing now.**
"Add one vegetable to dinner every day." Nothing could be easier. Your black-eyed peas on New Year's Day count as a vegetable, especially if you make them into Texas Caviar or eat them with greens. That's two vegetables!
- **Pair a new task with an ongoing one.**
"Take daily vitamins." For example, if you drink coffee every morning, associate a new habit with washing out the coffee cup. Take your vitamins then, or do five squats, text your mom—whatever your resolution might be.



- **Do something with a friend.**
Having someone to grind it out with makes a difficult task a little easier. The fancy term is "accountability partner," which might take the fun out of it. But it's great fun to join forces with a friend to accomplish a goal.
- **Make the list making part of your resolution. (No, that's not cheating.)**
Try bullet journaling. Also known among its fans as "bujo," bullet journals are very specific types of lists and list making—writing things on special ruled paper with coded symbols, its own set of stickers and different colored pens to make your journal beautiful. For those who keep a planner, try bujo and see if this is something you will enjoy.
- **Catch yourself doing something desired, then retro-fit a resolution for it.**
Any time you can add something to your list and immediately cross it off, your list and your habit building is all the better for it. Now go call your mom, add it to the list and give yourself a big fat DONE. You both will be the better for it.

Deadline Jan. 3 for Citizen of the Year nominations

The "Citizen of the Year" award has been presented each year since 1959 to an outstanding citizen of the Gatesville community.

Every adult citizen of the Gatesville community is eligible to nominate one

or more persons who have made outstanding contributions to the community over a significant period of time.

The 2021 Citizen of the Year will be presented at the 2022 Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Banquet

on Jan. 29, 2022.

Nominations must be submitted by January 3 to the Chamber of Commerce office in the Cotton Belt Depot Visitors Center located at 2307 S. Hwy. 36.

BOOK REVIEW

Tales of bravery during the American Civil War

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

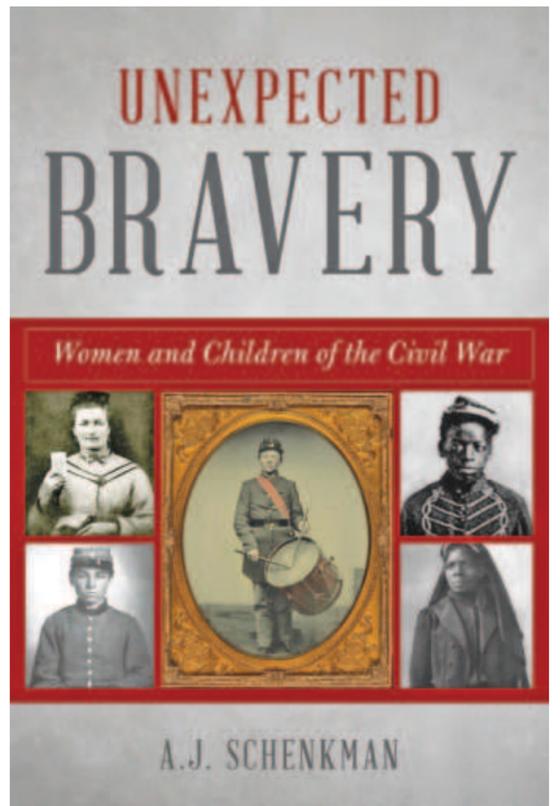
You really want to help. Another pair of hands is a good thing, right? You're determined to pitch in, even when they tell you "no." Even when they don't know where to assign you. Even if the job is dangerous, you're not sitting it out. As in the new book "Unexpected Bravery" by A.J. Schenkman, no way you're not getting involved.

Back in 1865, when the population of the United States was around thirty-two million people, four million of them were "human beings owned as property." This was a problem, so there was war in which "roughly six hundred thousand soldiers perished..." A surprising number of those soldiers never should've been on the battlefield: they were children too young for battle or they were women, for whom military service was "illegal."

Young Johnny Clem, ran away at age ten to enlist in the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. They may have tried to send him home, but Clem was undaunted: he instead joined with 22nd Michigan Infantry, and became a drummer. Officially, he became a soldier in 1863.

As a slave, Susie King Taylor learned to read and write and was quietly educated by a series of teachers because her grandmother saw her intelligence. In 1862, at age thirteen, Taylor was asked to teach freed African Americans living on an island just off the coast of Georgia. She taught children by day and adults at night, and she later took on nursing duties and cared for the wounded of the 33rd United States Colored Infantry Regiment.

Lyston and William Howe both joined with the Union when they were teens, first as drummers. Officials accused Cuban-born Don Mauricio Sanchez of being a Confederate spy; he wasn't, but his teenage daughter, Lola, was. Fifteen-year-old Rashio Crane died in Andersonville Prison, a POW. Albert D.J. Cashier fought for three years in the



95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry but kept a secret for the rest of his life. And, says Schenkman, at least one unnamed woman died on the battlefield, fighting while pregnant.

Imagine any average pre-teen you know, maybe your child or grandchild. Now imagine him or her on the battlefield, guns blazing, cannons blasting, and you'll understand what'll sit just off to one side of your mind while you're reading "Unexpected Bravery."

Indeed, the stories that author A.J. Schenkman shares are relatable, in the sense that we all know brave women, and children the same age as the soldier-kids about which he writes. Yes, it's jaw-dropping but let yourself be amazed, too, at the reasons for why these women and kids went to war. Schenkman's explanations are a boon for readers who are not fans of textbook history; instead, he tells individual stories without a lot dates-and-

battles info. You get enough to anchor each tale - and with what you'll learn, that's really enough.

And yet, it's not. This book may send you looking for more, because it's eye-opening and well-told. Civil War buffs and unique-story lovers need "Unexpected Bravery." You can't help but like it.

ANOTHER GOOD READ
Historians looking for more will want to find "The Lost History of the Capitol" by Edward P. Moser (Lyons Press, \$27.95) This sweeping, but very engrossing, book takes readers from 1790 and the founding of the capital city, through some of the landmark bills and decisions made in the Capitol, to last January and the riot that breached the building.

"Unexpected Bravery: Women and Children of the Civil War" by A.J. Schenkman c.2021, Globe Pequot \$19.95 / higher in Canada 191 pages

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of December 26 - 28. 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.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dec. 26
6:59 a.m., family violence was reported in the 14000 block of S. Hwy. 36.
11:38 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Osage Road.
12:32 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1000 block of Scenic Drive.
3:13 p.m., a threat was reported in the 400 block of N. 16th Street.
6:17 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.
8:36 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of S. Lutterloh Avenue.

Dec. 27
6:11 a.m., family violence was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.
11:36 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
1:34 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
3:31 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
6:01 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.
9:15 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of S. Lovers Lane.

Dec. 28
7:15 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

4:57 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1100 block of Westview Drive.
5:19 p.m., family violence was reported in the 1400 block of Bridge Street.
5:31 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1700 block of Saunders Street.
6:34 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of W. Main Street.
8:05 p.m., an assault was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

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Dec. 26
2:26 p.m., a road hazard was reported on the Hwy. 190 bypass.
2:44 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 100 block of Spotted Fawn.
3:37 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 500 block of FM 2955.
6:16 p.m., a minor accident was reported on W. Hwy. 84 before FM 183.
6:43 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Hwy. 36

northbound.
8:24 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on Powell Farm Road.

Dec. 27
7:55 a.m., a stop sign was reported down at the intersection of FM 1829 and Hwy. 84.
10:44 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported at the intersection of Hwy. 36 and CR 933.
11:14 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 80 block of Boone Avenue.
12:20 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 1500 block of Quailpoint Drive.
1:52 p.m., an attempted break in was reported in the 5400 block of CR 137.
5:56 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 200 block of CR 330.

Dec. 28
9:10 a.m., a dog bite was reported in the 600 block of CR 60.
10:59 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 2700 block of Arrowhead Drive.
1:35 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2100 block of CR 197.
1:45 p.m., missing livestock was reported in the 500 block of CR 139.
6:29 p.m., a stranded motorist was reported on FM 116 and Sierra Vista.
6:59 p.m., fireworks being shot was reported on Old Osage Road and Hwy. 36.

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NEWS FROM PEARL

The last Pearl News column for 2021



BY BETSY CLARK

Hard to believe that this is the last Pearl News for 2021, isn't it? We hope you will choose to ring in 2022 at the Pearl Community Center Bluegrass event and The Pearl Cottage Bookstore on Jan. 1.

CLARK

Doors open to the Community Center at 7 a.m., the Bookstore doors at 10 a.m., and The Bluegrass Café (located in the Community Center) at 11 a.m. If you would like to perform on the stage, please contact Ronald Medart at 254-865-6013. There is no cost to get into the Bluegrass stage show, either as audience members or performers. The stage show usually begins around 1 p.m. Jamming goes on all day long in various places around the Community Center. The Community Center has full hook-ups for RVs, \$30 for 50 Amps and \$25 for 30 Amps. Y'all come!

There will be a quarterly meeting of the Pearl Community Center Board on Jan. 17, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., at the Pearl Community Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

Debbie, Roy and Marley Harris were able to

visit Pearl last week. They reported that a delightful time was had by all, especially by three-year-old Marley. He loves to play on the Pearl Church of Christ grounds, especially the tabernacle. Marley always causes even the Grinches to smile.

The speaker line-up for January at the Pearl Church of Christ are Edward Schaub on Jan. 2, Chris Halpayne on Jan. 9, Wil Jackson on Jan. 16, Steve Hanson on Jan. 23, and Chris Ray on Jan. 30. All are always invited to attend. Church begins at 10:30 a.m.

Linda Ray talked to Mrs. Phyllis Billingsley, owner of BB&L Trading Company in Evant, this past week. The last day for the shop to be open will be Dec. 31. Until then, several booths offer half-price items. Stop by and see what treasures you can find. Mrs. Billingsley

has decided to substitute teach in the Evant School, and we wish her well in all of her endeavors.

The closing verse for this week comes from Philipians 4:6, 7—"...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (ESV) Wouldn't these be excellent verses to follow during all of 2022 and beyond?

To keep up with the latest Pearl news online, you can go to the Pearl Cottage Bookstore Facebook page or the Pearl Church of Christ Facebook page. Or you can contact me at betsyclarke47@yahoo.com for more information or to submit any Pearl news that you might have.

OBITUARIES

JACKIE PAUL BLANCHARD

Dec. 28, 1947 - Dec. 26, 2021



Jackie Paul Blanchard, age 73, of Gatesville, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec.

31, 2021, at Restland Cemetery with Rev. Kurt Fuessel officiating.

Jackie was born on Dec. 28, 1947, in Gatesville, to the late W.J. (Bill Jack) and Edith Palmer Blanchard. He went to school in Gatesville and graduated from Gatesville High School in 1966, with a score of 100 percent attendance during his twelve years in public schools. He was awarded a football scholarship with Rice University and graduated from there in 1970, with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He began his career as an underwriter with Texas Farm Bureau Insurance and Farmland Industries. He then went to work for C.S.S. Construction and worked there for over 20 years, retiring in 2013. He was a member

of Mountain Baptist Church.

He was a faithful son, brother and was "Uncle Paul" to his nieces and nephews, which he loved.

Jackie is survived by his sister, Peggy Timmons and husband, Vern; brother, Billy James Blanchard; nieces and nephews, Darin Timmons and wife, Kate, Kristi Street and husband, Michael, Shane Blanchard, Melissa Washburn and husband, Pat, Shelli Blanchard; six great nieces and nephews, three great-great nephews and numerous family members and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family has designated that memorials be given to Mountain Baptist Church, 6319 E. Hwy 84, Gatesville, TX 76528.

2022 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to contact the Coryell County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Coryell County:

January 15, 2022 - Small grains to include Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Triticale, etc. (Small grains covered by NAP must be reported the earlier of Jan. 15, 2022 or 15 days prior to grazing or harvest)

July 15, 2022 - Corn, Cotton, Sorghum, Sorghum Forages (such as Sudan, Red Top

Cane, etc.) and Sunflowers, Perennial Forage

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Coryell County FSA office.

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Coryell Museum

Captain Kangaroo and I Love Lucy 1960



By: Jann Dworsky

While sorting thru some of the stacks of "The Coryell County News" in the Coryell Museum's accession room, I came across this delightful television lineup in March 1960 for three weekday mornings. While I am a spring chicken in my head, I must admit to watching most of these wonderful old shows. I bet our grandmothers and grandfathers thought we were all going to be brain damaged from watching TV for two or three hours a day.

The schedule for KWTX was Morning News, Captain Kangaroo, Red Rowe Show, On the Go, I Love Lucy, December Bride, Better Living-Live, Search for Tomorrow, The Guiding Light, Walter Cronkite News-CBS, Texas Noon News-Live, and Ten Acres with Johnny Watkins.

Many of us remember Captain Kangaroo with his unique haircut and the big pockets on his coat. Bob Keeshan created, acted in, and produced this program which ran from 1955 to 1984. The characters on Captain Kangaroo were Dancing Bear, Bunny Rabbit, Grandfather Clock, Mr. Moose and Mr. Green Jeans. Keeshan had previously had several other children's television programs appearing on Howdy Doody

where he played Clarabell the Clown as well as several other programs. Bob Keeshan and Fred Rogers, of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood, were longtime close friends and each paid visits to the other's show in 1970. In later life Bob Keeshan was a children's advocate and had strong opinions against video game violence and toys like He-Man and Transformers.

"Search for Tomorrow" ran for 35 years, beginning in 1951 and ending 1986. Between radio and television, the soap opera "The Guiding Light" ran for 72 years.

"I Love Lucy" starred Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, and everyone has their favorite memorable episodes. My favorite shows were when they forgot their passports while bicycling thru Europe, grape stomping, and Lucy trying not to drown in the shower stall. She made her uncoordinated physical comedy look so realistic I thought she had been watching me. In fact, she was very athletic and graceful. All the physical comedy was written by her writers, and she performed them exactly as written. She made them look so spontaneous, so genuinely awkward that she fooled us all. A new program about her and Desi's life called "Being the Ricardos" and is coming out on Amazon Prime starring Nicole Kidman as Lucille Ball.

Coryell Museum and Historical Center is open 10 to 4 Wednesday through Saturday.

We have 24,000 square feet of exhibit space including our School Exhibit, Doll House Exhibit, Doctor's Office, and Log Jail from 1854. Call 865-5007 to schedule a group tour, if you like, or just come by to visit us and see the museum.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

READER'S THEATRE: Members of the Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville practice reading in front of a crowd at the Gatesville City Auditorium.

C.A.F.E. to see 'Elvis' January 8

The Christian Adult Fellowship Event (C.A.F.E) group will be travelling to Belton to see Ken Elliott perform as Elvis at the Beltonian Theater on Saturday, January 8.

The group will leave from the parking lot at the First United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. to head for the theater. A meal will be served at the theater before the show, but it is not included in ticket price. The cost of the show and transportation will be \$30, and the meal will be self-pay.

C.A.F.E. is a group of individuals over 50 years of age who share the enjoyment of traveling and seeing various shows throughout central Texas.

For more information, please contact Ruth Jones at 254-865-2112.

First United Methodist Church is located at 2600 E. Main Street in Gatesville.

Boys and Girls Club holds reading theater

Children from the Gatesville Boys and Girls Club recently presented a program known as the Reader's Theater at the Gatesville City Auditorium. Reader's theater is a strategy for developing reading fluency and involves children in oral reading through reading parts in scripts.

Julie Hudson, branch director of the Boys and Girls

Club, said that her goal is to help kids with reading. Hudson said, "46% of grown adults can't read above a sixth-grade reading level in the U.S. To me, that is a large number. If we can instill a love for reading into our kids, then this will last them a lifetime."

Hudson said that about 40 children participated in the Reader's Theater ranging

in age from six to 17. They had been practicing since Thanksgiving. "We really liked having the older kids helping the younger ones. Throughout the readings, the older kids would help the younger ones that were stumped," Hudson said.

Paired off into groups, the program consisted of readings of Grinch, Bethlehem Story, Nutcracker, and Elf.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP

BAPTIST

BETHEL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH: Hemmeline Cemetery Rd.; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

BETHLEHEM 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: Roysie 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.

Resolve to Be Kinder This Year



"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
—Ephesians 4:32 NIV

Every new year inevitably brings with it the desire to improve our lives. Health and fitness centers and diet plans take advantage of this by offering deals this time of year, and one can only wonder how many people make it to February with their diet or exercise plan intact. While it is always good to turn over a new leaf and to improve our lives, I'd like to suggest that a better New Year's resolution would be to resolve to treat people with more love and kindness. This is not an easy thing to do. Family, friends and co-workers can all be difficult, and it can be especially hard to be kind to those who aren't treating us well, but treating others kindly is often the only thing that will turn an angry person around, and even if it doesn't soften the other's wrath, you will have maintained your own composure by treating them kindly and won't have anything to regret later. Resolve to be kinder and more civil this year. What the world needs is surely more love and kindness and this resolution, besides improving your own life, has a good chance to spread kindness and love to those who really need it.
— 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.; 254-679-3200.

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 Polishetty; 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; clases 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

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REFUGEE-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 am. 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. Mafwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 10:45 a.m.

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.gatesvilletop.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.

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EIGHT-POINT BUCKS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Cousins Chaney Heiner (left) and Mitchell O'Neal each shot an eight-point buck on their grandparent's ranch located in southeastern Coryell County. Chaney, the daughter of Duane and Shannon Heiner of Oglesby, is a Tarleton State University junior studying elementary education. Mitchell, son of Brian and Mindy O'Neal of Montgomery, is a graduating senior at Lake Creek High School in Montgomery.

AREA FISHING REPORTS

Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 2.20 feet low. This week's fishing steadily improved as we shook off the effects of the last cold front.

The best scenario was finding heavily schooled white bass still in under 25 feet of water and working the MAL Heavy Lure (white blade, chartreuse tail) with a sawtooth tactic whenever we could, or working a three-eighths ounce Bladed Hazy Eye Slab vertically when things were tougher.

Catfish are good, scattered from mid to deep water in the river channel. Relating to structures in this warmer weather. Drifting using fresh cut bait will put the cats in the boat. Report by Jason "SPUD" Barton, Cattin' Around Adventure's Professional Guide Service.

Stillhouse Hollow

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 1.79 feet low. 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; 2.92 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 Professional Guide Service.

Whitney

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 55-60 degrees; 2.16 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. Good numbers of striped bass biting to fill Santa's sack using artificial and live bait. Trolling over flats and ridgelines in mid to north lake, near the river the channel, in 15-40 feet of water. Report by Kraig Sexton, Sexton's Guide Service LLC.

Proctor

SLOW. Water clear; 50 degrees; 1.62 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 high point area. White bass and hybrid stripers are slow on slabs. Black bass are slow.

Brownwood

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 1.32 feet low. Largemouth bass are good with perch like crankbaits, brown or green Texas-rigged plastic worms, chartreuse bladed spinners, and shaky head jigs near timber, rocky shorelines, and docks.

Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in brush piles and near bridge pilings. White bass and hybrids are good on slabs, swim-baits, and live bait along the main lake channels, humps, and ridges. Look for birds diving over feeding schools of white bass. Catfish are good on shrimp, chicken liver, and live bait.

Granbury

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 0.49 feet low. The warm forecast will have Santa trading the red suit for red shorts this weekend. Winter is the time for reeling in those bigger catfish. They are biting in 4-15 feet of water on cut shad. Channel catfish are in deeper water using cut bait. Striper fishing continues to be slow. Report by Kraig Sexton, Sexton's Guide Service LLC.

Buchanan

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 4.80 feet low. Fishing is holding true, until the cold fronts roll in more consistently. The wind will influence the bite by pushing the baitfish, so look to windblown points to find fish chasing their food source.

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Local teams celebrate successful 2021

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Three local football teams earned trips to the playoffs this fall, with the Jonesboro Eagles continuing to build on their tradition of excellence, the Oglesby Tigers enjoying a new measure of success and the Gatesville Hornets wrapping up its second consecutive postseason berth.

Gatesville finished the 2021 campaign with a 4-7 record, but played to eventual state champions and a defending state champion in that 11-game stretch. The Hornets lost to Class 4A Division II state champ China Spring and Class 3A Division I state champ Lorena during the regular season. In the opening round of the playoffs, Gatesville drew the tough task of battling defending state champion Carthage, a team that China Spring later defeated. GHS fell to Carthage 35-0 to close the season.

The Hornets will look to regroup in 2022 with plenty of big game experience earned, but will do so under the direction of a new coach. Luke Howard resigned on Dec. 13 after three seasons as Gatesville's head football coach.

Jonesboro rolled through the regular season and first round of the playoffs before finishing the year with an 11-1 mark. After a 90-40 bi-district win over Leakey, the Eagles were outscored by May, 84-55 in the Six-Man Division I area championship contest.



Wesley Brown looks for an open receiver in the Hornets' game against the Robinson Rockets. Gatesville won, 37-20, and earned a spot in the playoffs for the second consecutive season.

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



The Oglesby Tigers' defense shut down Mount Calm in the regular season, and later helped the team beat Calvert in the playoffs.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Oglesby enjoyed a resurgence with a 9-win season, including a

bi-district playoff win over the Calvert Trojans in which Johnny Gomez rambled for 177 yards and four touchdowns in the Tigers'

triumph. Oglesby's season ended with a 53-0 loss to Richland Springs in the 6-Man Division II area championship game.

Gatesville's tennis team captured the district championship, winning all 19 matches against Glen Rose to capture the title.

It was the fourth straight season GHS qualified for the postseason in team tennis. In the first round, Gatesville won 15 of 19 games against Krum to claim the bi-district championship.

Gatesville's Carlo Martinez won the gold medal in boys cross country competition with a time of 16:19.8, and teammate Luis Macias finished second with a time of 17:15.16 as GHS finished second in District 6-4A.

Leading the girls was freshman Vania Martinez who won the two-mile race with a time of 11:49.6. Bethany Penrod also advanced to regionals with a third place finish.

The Gatesville quartet would advance to state competition at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. Carlo Martinez finished eighth in the Class 4A state cross country meet with a



Carlo Martinez

time of 16:02 in the 5K race, while teammate Luis Macias finished 11th with a time of 16:07.

In the girls two-mile race, Vania Martinez was 15th with a time of 11:56 and Bethany Penrod finished 70th with a time of 12:42.

"I am very proud of all of them," said coach Elliott Kelley. "Their positive attitude was the primary reason they all showed competitive greatness at the highest level. It enabled them to focus on their goals and not get burnt out throughout the grind of the season."

The Lady Hornet volleyball team finished the regular season with a 29-9 record and advanced to the playoffs for the 19th straight year. GHS fell to Graham in the bi-district playoffs by scores of 23-25, 25-20, 19-25 and 24-26.

UIL realignment means new districts for county schools

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Which teams can Gatesville, Evant, Oglesby and Jonesboro expect to compete against for district championships from 2022 through the spring of 2024?

For football, basketball and volleyball, the answer should be received at 9 a.m. Feb. 3. Other programs will have to wait until the middle of March to find out.

Every two years, the University Interscholastic League goes through a realignment process that will determine which districts high school teams and other extracurricular programs compete in. It's a process that coaches, administrators, students and fans anticipate. It can determine whether or not teams advance to the playoffs or other UIL competitions, and sometimes how far those programs advance.

While we won't have all the answers until Feb. 3, we do have some of the answers already.

China Spring, which won the 2021 Class 4A Division II state football championship, will not be able to repeat that distinction in 2022. The school district's enrollment moves it into District I, so it will now have to compete against programs such as defending state champion Stephenville for a state football title, and that should be a monumental clash.

If Gatesville plays China Spring in football in 2022, it will have to be a non-district game. Gatesville, like the rest of the district from the 2020 realignment, will remain in Division II. Now the question is whether those remaining teams - Salado, Connally, Robinson and Jarrell - will remain together and add another school (or multiple schools), or whether they will be split up into other districts.

Class 4A Division I is for schools with enrollments of 880 to 1299 (schools move into Class 5A Division II if they have 1,300 students) and Class 4A Division II is for schools



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville and defending state champion China Spring will be in different districts following UIL realignment in February.

with 545 to 879 students. It's fun to consider the possibilities, and the number of teams in a district will determine which non-district games - and how many - teams will need to schedule.

Here is a look at some of the enrollment numbers for area Class 4A programs:

- * Gatesville, 803, Division II
- * China Spring, 904, Division I
- * Connally, 622, Division II
- * Hillsboro, 567, Division II
- * Jarrell, 759, Division II
- * La Vega, 937, Division I
- * Lampasas, 1,005, Division I

- * Marble Falls, 1,229, Division I
- * Manor New Tech, 573, Division II
- * Robinson, 694, Division II
- * Salado, 676, Division II
- * Stephenville, 1,081, Division I
- * Taylor, 986, Division I
- * Alvarado, 1,180, Division I
- * Brownwood, 1,008, Division I
- * Burnet, 997, Division I
- * Caldwell, 573, Division II
- * Glen Rose, 588, Division II
- * Godley, 712, Division II
- * Navarro Geronimo, 634, Division II

Other numbers for area teams not in Class

4A:

- * Evant, 62, Class A Division I
- * Jonesboro, 87, Class A Division I
- * Oglesby, 55, Class A Division II
- Lorena, which won the Class 3A Division I state football championship and was a non-district football opponent for Gatesville in 2020 and 2021, remains in that division with 515 students. McGregor is also a Class 3A Division I school with 452 students. Hamilton is a Class 2A Division I school with 224 students. Crawford is a Class 2A Division I school with 180 students. Moody is a Class 2A school with 210 students.