



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Jan. 15, 2022

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 121, No. 5, ISSN No. 0894-4954



## Hunter named new GHS football coach

### Gatesville ISD turns to defensive coordinator, 2007 GHS grad

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

It's official - Aaron Hunter, who guided the Gatesville Hornet defense as defensive coordinator for the past two football seasons, will take over the role of head coach for the Gatesville High School football team.

Hunter will be entering his third season with the Hornets.

He is a 2007 graduate of Gatesville High School and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 2011 with an emphasis on exercise sports science.

He began his coaching career as a

graduate assistant at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene where he coached defensive backs and earned a master's degree in counseling and human development.

Hunter spent four years as a defensive backs coach and special teams coordinator at New Caney High School, which is located in the Houston area.

He then returned to Central Texas and coached defensive backs and was special teams coordinator for the Class 6A Belton Tigers football team.

Hunter and his wife, Roxy, have a daughter, Nayvee, 5, and a son, Briggs,

age 2.

Hunter takes over the head coaching spot from Luke Howard, who took over the team in 2020 and helped guide the Hornets to back-to-back playoff berths in 2020 and 2021. Howard and Hunter were teammates at GHS.

As a senior during the 2006 football season, Hunter played linebacker and earned honorable mention all-district honors, finishing that season with 48 tackles for the Hornets.

For more on Hunter being named head coach of the Hornets, see the story on page A8.



Aaron Hunter

## Fun at the Coryell County Youth Fair



(Above) Carter Janish tends to his pig during the Coryell County Youth Fair. (Left) Hadleigh Ament poses with her lambs on Jan. 12. (Right) This creative milk churn and dairy truck was among the award-winning items in the home economics category. The youth fair continued through today.

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

## Police needed locally

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER & EDITOR

Gatesville Police Chief Nathan Gohlke could use a modified version of an old U.S. Marine Corps recruiting slogan - he is looking for a few good men and women to help fill the depleted ranks of the Gatesville Police Department.

Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry said because of rampant inflation (7% according to the Consumer Price Index), despite 3% raises city staff were actually making 4% less than they were a year ago.

He said there are fewer applicants for police vacancies and Gatesville's pay scale was "almost at the bottom" compared with other area communities.

"People will walk for 50 cents an hour, and that's basically what we're facing," Parry said.

He asked the Gatesville City Council to improve the starting salary for a Gatesville Police Officer to \$46,598, up from the current starting salary of \$41,246.

The city can offset the additional pay by not hiring a narcotics officer that had been budgeted. Gohlke said while that position is something he eventually would like to fill, having enough patrol officers was even more important.

Gohlke said the shortage of police officers "started about a year ago. We had one vacancy with no applicants, and then we had another leave. Recently, we had three vacancies and another two resigned. That would put us at five vacancies."

A council member asked Gohlke how many patrol officers Gatesville had. He said when the department is fully staffed, there are 11 assigned to patrol, including two sergeants.

Gohlke recently received a little good news when one of those officers rescinded his resignation, but that was offset when another announced their departure.

"Two officers who left went to other departments that are higher paying," he said, and another is going into nursing.

"We are losing our employees to pay but we are not able to attract new officers. We're in a bind - a huge

PLEASE SEE POLICE | A2

### QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: When does early voting start for the March 1 primaries?  
A: Early voting begins on Monday, Feb. 14.

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editor@gatesvillemessenger.com  
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Write: P.O. Box 799, Gatesville, TX 76528

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Tim Crosby, Pastor



# COVID-19 concerns continue in Coryell County

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER & EDITOR

Nearly two years since Coryell County and Texas first began grappling with a pandemic, COVID-19 issues continue and have caused local disruptions.

"I wish I had some good news about numbers but I don't," said Coryell County Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Harrell. He noted that at least 174 cases had been reported by Coryell Health, which does not include any cases in which a patient is diagnosed and/or treated elsewhere.

The silver lining to the concern is that there have been fewer hospitalizations from the most recent variant than there were from previous variants.

"We have a 12.62 percent hospitalization rate, and when we reach 15 percent is when it takes on a dif-

ferent (approach)," Harrell said.

There have been 10,781 cases of COVID-19 reported since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 (not including the most recent 174 cases), "and we'll be over 11,000 before too long," Harrell said.

A total of 173 fatalities in Coryell County since March 2020 have been attributed to COVID-19, he said.

The highest vaccination rate is among people age 65 and older, with nearly 75 percent being fully vaccinated in Coryell County.

At-home tests are being manufactured by multiple companies, including one of which is in the Austin area "for folks that can order them online," Harrell said. He added that he has heard a family can apply to receive eight of those tests each month.

One area that has been hit hard

by COVID-19 is in education, with some schools experiencing some staffing issues.

"There is a shortage of substitute teachers because of illness and a lot of kids and staff are out," Harrell said.

In a note to parents, Gatesville Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard talked about the effects of COVID at local schools.

"We wanted to inform you that COVID-19 continues to rise in our schools and community," he said. "After having gone several weeks with zero cases, we now have reported cases of students and staff at each of the five campuses."

He said campus nurses will contact parents if their children need to quarantine, and they will also offer guidance on what to do regarding a positive test or exposure to COVID-19.

Updated information about COVID-19 cases districtwide is available at [www.gatesvilleisd.org](http://www.gatesvilleisd.org) on the "COVID Dashboard and Safety Plan" tab.

Healthcare has also been impacted significantly.

"A great deal of those in the healthcare system are out with COVID also," Harrell said.

Asked about the availability of beds in intensive care units, Harrell said, "In our county we're still good. We don't have any ICU beds occupied by COVID patients right now."

Coryell County Judge Roger Miller said that "across the region, ICU beds are being filled rapidly. That's not just because of COVID (but other medical issues, too). What's being done about staffing?"

Harrell said Coryell Health's hospital and clinic were both helping to staff RehabLiving at The Mead-

ows nursing care facility, and noted there are staffing shortages in the medical field across the state of Texas.

During an update at the Gatesville Lions Club, Tom Creek said he had talked to Dr. (Adrian) Dirk at Coryell Health and had received information about the most prevalent strain of COVID-19.

"Omicron is a little bit different than the Delta variant - it spreads 20 times faster," he said. "It's like a wave and some people may get it and not know it, while others develop flu-like symptoms."

He added that "less than 2 percent of the Omicron cases are serious," but that people who develop symptoms or test positive should quarantine for at least five days, and should continue to wear a mask for at least five days afterward.

## POLICE

FROM PAGE A1

huge staffing shortage with COVID running rampant, so our overtime is through the roof. Officers normally work 10-hour shifts, and we are asking them to work 12- to 16-hour shifts. The officers we have are experiencing burnout and we're running out of people. I don't have the applicants."

While the department doesn't have the funds to compete with departments such as Temple, Harker Heights or Waco, Gohlke said there are smaller departments including Clifton, Cameron, Marlin and Lampasas that were paying more than Gatesville. The Council's approval of higher salaries would change that."

Mayor Gary Chumley asked if the experience level of the officers mattered.

"We're trying to get starting pay up there so we can compete with (other departments) and maybe some of their officers might want to come here," Gohlke said.

In addition to higher salaries, he said that signing bonuses and sponsoring candidates through the police academy were options. However, completing the police academy takes nine months, and Gohlke said he needed qualified applicants immediately.

Making sure there are enough officers to respond to calls is crucial, he said.

"We have a lot of family violence in Gatesville and you do not want to send just one officer to respond to that," Gohlke said. "We had a sit-

uation on New Year's Eve where we had two officers respond to a 2-3 hour standoff and we had to call the Coryell County SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team to help.

"You have issues like that, and believe it or not they're more prevalent now than ever before. We need to make sure we have the resources to respond to whatever we face."

Parry said the staffing shortage "was a rapidly evolving situation ... two years ago we were OK."

"(Police applicants) are looking at the bottom dollar, and we are not there right now," Gohlke said.

Parry said it is important to adjust all of the officers' pay upward.

Asked about benefits, Parry said Gatesville already had an edge over some of the other area cities in what was offered.

"I need people on patrol," Gohlke

said. "That's my focus today. Belton is paying (a starting salary of) \$48,500 and Salado is right there with them. We need to pay more, and sustainability is the key. We need to make sure we establish and keep our lead."

Parry said he wants to avoid the situation becoming even worse.

"My concern is this is the tip of the iceberg," he said. "People don't see the intrinsic value of public service these days. There's a much greater focus on the salary."

Gohlke said the department is also short two dispatchers and one animal control officer.

"We're trying to get the salaries comparable so we can attract quality applicants," he said. "Gatesville is a safe community and we want to keep it that way. It is also a growing community, and people moving in

bring their problems with them."

To help meet the need, Gatesville has established a reserve police force, with officers appointed by Gohlke. Although these officers have the same authority as other officers, they serve as unpaid employees and work 16 hours a month in order to hold their commission.

The reserve officers are Michael Seabolt, a retired educator, and Robert Taylor, who is employed by Copperas Cove Independent School District.

The officers go through the same approval process as full-time employees, according to a city council memorandum.

Those interested in GPD jobs can visit [www.gatesvillex.com/finhr/page/employment-opportunities](http://www.gatesvillex.com/finhr/page/employment-opportunities).

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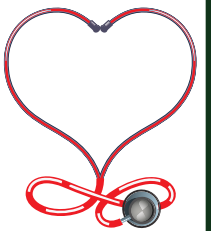
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**DEADLINES:**

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

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

All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and

newspaper format as determined by management.

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(ISSN-08944954) | P.O. Box 799, Gatesville, TX 76528 | 116 South 6th St., Gatesville, Texas 76528 | 254-865-5212  
The Gatesville Messenger is published every Wednesday and Saturday by Messenger Publishing Co. Inc., Periodical class postage paid at Gatesville, TX 76528.

**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.



# Local closings in observance of Martin Luther King Day

In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, several local businesses and governmental offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

The birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. is a federal holiday observed on the third Monday of January each year.

Closings in the area include:

clude:

**SCHOOLS**

The campuses of Gatesville ISD and Oglesby ISD will be closed on Jan. 17. Evant ISD and Jonesboro ISD will remain open.

**GOVERNMENT**

The City of Gatesville,

Evant and Oglesby will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

The Coryell County Courthouse will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17

The Farm Service Agency will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Extraco Bank, Bancorp-South, and the First National Banks of Gatesville, Evant and Oglesby will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

Educator's Credit Union will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

**POST OFFICES**

All local post offices will

be closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

**LIBRARY**

The Gatesville Public Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

**MUSEUM**

The Coryell Museum and Historical Center will be

closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

**SENIOR CENTER**

The Gatesville Multi-Service Center will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17.

**NEWSPAPER**

The Gatesville Messenger will be open on Monday, Jan. 17.

## JANUARY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce's January Business of the Month award goes to F8 Tech which helps small businesses with their Information Technology. The company was founded by Brent Wolff in 2011 and provides solutions to client's needs. F8 Tech is located 2611 S. TX Hwy. 36 and can be reached by calling 877-867-9057 or emailing contact@f8tech.com. Business of the Month is sponsored by Extraco Banks and The Gatesville Messenger. The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recognizes an outstanding business to spotlight each month and nominees must be a member of the Chamber.

## JANUARY YARD OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Keep Gatesville Beautiful's January 2022 Yard of the Month goes to Kim Nguyen and her daughter Quynh Pham. Kim purchased this beautiful turn-of-the-century craftsman-style home on Main Street last summer. The nearly 5,000 sq. ft. home featuring a guest home was built in 1897, and still contains many features from its past. With the help of a friend, they have remodeled and redecorated the inside and outside, much to the delight of those who drive past it. The results are stunning. Thanks Kim and Quynh, for helping keep Gatesville beautiful.

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# HOUSES OF WORSHIP

**BAPTIST**

**BETHLE 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:** 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.

## Leaders Are Servants

"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
—Mark 10: 42-45 NIV

In order to be a good leader one must be willing to be a servant. Government officials and political leaders who do their job well invariably stress that they are public servants and therefore take pains to actually serve and benefit the public. Religious leaders must do the same, serving their flocks as a good shepherd does his sheep. Jesus did not consider it beneath him to wash the feet of his apostles on the night before he was arrested. And in our working lives, we all know that the best managers and supervisors aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and serve their employees almost in the same way that a loving parent serves his or her children, educating them and helping them when necessary with difficult tasks. We are all called to serve God by serving our fellow man and in the process of doing so we lead by example. Don't consider it beneath you to serve others. Service to others is our highest calling. — 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 McConnaughay, 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:** Interim Pastor: Eddie Taylor; 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

**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 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. 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.gatesvilletop.org. 254-2062-1826.

**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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www.tpcgatesville.org

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WEDNESDAY SERVICES: 6:00 pm  
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## Pearl Community Center meeting

The Pearl Community Center will hold its annual meeting on Monday, Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m. The community center is located at 6301 FM 183. For more information about the meeting, please contact Connie Long at 254-223-0621.

The Pearl Community Center is a historic building that was formerly known as the Pearl School, built in 1917 after the first school burned. The last graduating class in

the current building was in 1956 after which the school closed and consolidated with Evant.

Later, local bluegrass musicians came up with the idea to begin holding bluegrass jams at the old school. The building was restored by community volunteers and has ever since been home to the Pearl Bluegrass Jam and Stage Show the first Saturday of each month.

## 45th annual Lions chili supper Jan. 18

The Gatesville Lions Club will host its 45th annual Homer Davis Lions Club Chili Supper on Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 4-7 p.m. in the Gatesville High School cafeteria.

In addition to chili, other

menu items will include soup, beans, drinks, and dessert.

The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from any member of the Lions Club.

## MOUND NEWS

# Several Mound residents are spending the week at the youth fair

BY BARBARA HOPSON

**C**olbi and Costin Allison, Trystin Altum, Graham and Greyson Bay, Samuel, Charles and Thomas Belt, Shelbi and Steven Bomar, Zianna Cole, Eve Fulton, Zoie Gribble, Aubree Long, Addsyn Morgan, Lillie and Matti Mann, Kinsley, Anna and Allie McPherson, Elizabeth Schoenewolf, Emily, Lash and Kannon Turner, Autumn, Bailey and Jozie Wolff are participating in the Coryell County 2022 Youth Fair.



Barbara Hopson

Nancy Dixon and Barbara Hopson hosted the 2021 Hopson family Christmas Eve Bash at the home of Barbara Hopson. The group had their Christmas program and music held at the Mound Cemetery in memory of their parents and grandparents, Truett and

Lois Hopson. The group enjoyed the scavenger hunt, cookie and ornament decorating, a music sing-along and fajita dinner afterwards.

Cecil and Morgan Woodson, Jr., and their children, Jacy, Adi and Quinlyn of Crawford were Sunday lunch guests

with Daniel Wood, Margaret and Barbara Hopson.

Martha Lawhorn was a Friday lunch guest in Gatesville with Doris Hoff.

Bruce Cox of Robinson visited Wednesday afternoon with Martha Lawhorn.

## ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

Property owners have certain rights that may reduce their property tax burden

### HOMEOWNERS

Persons who own and occupy their principal residence on January 1st may claim their home as a residential homestead. The filing of this document is only necessary if the homeowner has changed homesteads since last January 1st or has become eligible for additional exemptions since last year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the Coryell Central Appraisal District (Coryell CAD).

### DISABLED VETERANS

The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50% of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to the disabled veterans and their surviving spouse. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100% homestead exemption for 100% disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and for surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed in the line of duty.

### DISABLED PERSONS

Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons now receive the same tax benefits on their home that are available to over 65 persons (see below).

### PERSONS WHO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

Persons who are over 65 years of age may file for additional exemptions for their residential homestead if they become 65 during this year. Persons over 65 should apply for this exemption at the Coryell CAD office. A ceiling on school, county, and certain city and special district homestead taxes will be established in the first year of qualification.

### PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL FOR PERSONS AGE 65 OR OLDER, DISABLED OR DISABLED VETERAN HOMEOWNERS

Over 65 persons, disabled persons or disabled veterans are also eligible to postpone (defer) paying the tax on their residential homestead by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. The taxes continue to accrue during the deferral along with interest at a rate of 5% per annum, but no attempt will be made to force payment during the deferral period. Details and applications may be obtained from the Coryell CAD.

### RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD TAX DEFERRAL

Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local county appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed, but not cancelled, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.

### SURVIVING SPOUSE OF FIRST RESPONDER

The eligible surviving spouse of a first responder killed in the line of duty is allowed a total (100%) tax exemption on his or her residence homestead if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the first responder.

### PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to the Coryell CAD by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the "Freeport" exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

### FARM AND RANCH OWNERS

Property owners who use land for agricultural purposes, wildlife management or timber land production can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to the Coryell CAD for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on how much the property owner produces, versus what the land would sell for in the open market. Applications are due April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS

If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with the Coryell CAD by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming. State law **requires** the filing of a rendition declaring the type(s) of business personal property that a person or company owns. Failure to file the rendition will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition form can be obtained from the Coryell CAD office. **The filing deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>.** A 30-day filing extension is available if a written request is received prior to the deadline.

### PROPERTY TAXPAYER REMEDIES

This Comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the options of taking a property owner's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or binding arbitration if the property owner is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.

### APPRAISAL NOTICES

Coryell CAD property owners will receive a notice of appraised value from the appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.

### PROTESTING PROPERTY APPRAISAL VALUE

Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's ARB. Protests are due by **May 15<sup>th</sup>** or 30-days after the appraisal notice is mailed, whichever is later.

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

In appraisal districts located in counties with more than 200,000 populations or that have authorized electronic communications, and that have implemented a system that allows such communications, chief appraisers and ARBs may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically in place of mailing.

### FORM AVAILABILITY

All property tax forms including those for exemptions, special use valuation, renditions, etc. may be obtained from the Coryell CAD or from the State Comptroller's Office at 1-800-252-9121. Applications are available as downloads from the appraisal district website <http://www.coryellcad.org/commonly-used-forms/> or the comptroller's website <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/forms/>. Homesteads, disabled veterans, agricultural appraisal (1-d-1) and business personal property forms may be filed online at <https://forms.coryellcad.org/>.

This is a public service announcement by:

Coryell Central Appraisal District  
705 E. Main St. Gatesville TX 76528  
207 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Suite 200 Copperas Cove, TX 76522  
Phone: 254-865-6593



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 Send resumes to: [jobsinctx@gmail.com](mailto:jobsinctx@gmail.com)  
 00029042

**Position available for Part-time House Keeping**  
 We are seeking a reliable, outgoing, motivated, self-starter to join our exciting Safari team.  
 Essential Requirements:  
 Weekends and Monday are a must between 11 am to 5 pm, on-call for additional days when needed. 10-20 hours per week - specific days and hours of work will vary depending on scheduling and level of business. Must be self-motivated and able to work with very limited supervision, have good organization skills, and attention to detail. Must be able to bend, stoop and lift 25 pounds. Need reliable transportation. Background check - NO PAST CRIMINAL HISTORY

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045  
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**R&M FENCING & DOZING:** barbed wire, custom pipe, entryways, corrals, barns, fence row clearing, metal buildings, residential & game fencing, solar gate openers, dozer work. Free estimates. **Larry Riddle, 254-248-2205; Joyce Mc-Adams, 254-248-4318.**

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**Cecil Woodson, 254-216-3835.** 00029024

055  
**LOST & FOUND**

Found small short hair black & white female dog on Osage Rd. Has black collar. Had injured upper lip. For return call 254-216-0481 or 254-253-2365. 00029046

037  
**HELP WANTED**

099  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 On January 11, 2022, the Gatesville City Council, acting as the Building Standards Commission conducted a meeting regarding the code violations of the structure located at 308 Fennimore Street, legally known as Original Town Gatesville, Block 29, Lot 3 N 1/3. The Commission voted unanimously to order the owner to repair the structure. A complete copy of the order and the minutes of the meeting may be obtained during regular business hours from the City Secretary's office, 110 North 8th Street, Gatesville TX 76528.

Wendy Cole  
 City Secretary  
 00029045

060  
**GARAGE SALE**

**DOLLAR SALE** Tues., 01/18 - Sat., 01/22! Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main.  
 00029027

070  
**LAND & LOTS**

Land for sale: 3/4 acre, 104 Sandy Lane, Gatesville, TX 76528. Call 430-342-1428 for more information. Land goes to highest bidder.  
 00029034

072  
**HOUSES FOR SALE**

**I BUY HOUSES, LOTS AND ACREAGE. CASH OFFERS, ANY CONDITION.**  
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 00029023

074  
**HOUSES FOR RENT**

Country Living: 2BR, 2 Bath, 10 miles west of Gatesville on CR 177. \$850 per month, \$850 security deposit. Available mid-February. Call 214-683-3931.  
 00029047

102  
**REAL ESTATE**

102  
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**For complete listings, go to [www.burksrealestate.com](http://www.burksrealestate.com)**

- ▶ 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



# Saving Coryell County's history on Facebook



**MARY MAXWELL**

Almost nine years ago, Mary Maxwell, the wife of Coryell County native, Dwaine Maxwell (GHS Class of 1962), was going through their collection of photos of Coryell County people and places and thought to herself, "I should start a Facebook page and post all these pictures." So, she did just that. The page is called Coryell County History and Photos and with almost 5,000 members, the page has over 10,000 images of Coryell County places, people and history.

The co-administrator of the

Facebook page, Carol Cornish Vaughn, also has strong ties to the county. Vaughn's great-grandfather, Robert J. Brown, was a prominent business owner in Gatesville.

Mary and Dwaine, who live in Midlothian, make routine trips to Coryell County where they can be found at the library, the newspaper office going through old issues of the paper, the basement of the courthouse, the cemeteries, and her favorite place, the Coryell County Museum. She proclaims that Coryell is her adopted county, even though she was born and reared in Oak Cliff (Dallas).

Over the years, she has been able to scan or photograph many of the museum's collections and has posted these on the Facebook page. She has also shared many of their Coryell County collections with The Portal to Texas History, where the digitized images will live on through generations.

She often says that she hopes the work she has done will preserve the rich history of the county, but she is always quick to give credit to the members of the page who, she states, have generously shared their collections.

Every chance she gets, she



COURTESY PHOTO BY MARY MAXWELL

One of the photos from the Coryell County History and Photos Facebook page started by Mary Maxwell. The photo shows the downtown square in Gatesville from the past.

encourages members to dig out their family collections and post their pictures. Since she does photo restorations, she has said, "Send me your

old negatives. I can bring them back to life." And she backs that up, having posted several images she has converted from negatives.

If you are on Facebook and you haven't joined the page, it can be done with a click of the keyboard.

When asked for a sample

of the images, Mary responds with, "Oh, how to choose?" But the photo above is one that she selected at random.

## The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of January 9 - 11. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police dept. should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

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182 and N. Hwy. 36.  
 9:46 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of Pheasant Circle.  
**Jan. 10**  
 8:20 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 4600 block of FM 183.  
 3:07 p.m., an animal bite was reported in the 2700 block of Abbott Lane.  
 3:32 p.m., an assault was

reported in the 1800 block of CR 182.  
**Jan. 11**  
 2:04 p.m., a welfare concern was reported at Stripes on E. Main Street.  
 4:26 p.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.  
 6:19 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported at FM 1783 and CR 139.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Jan. 9**  
 2:35 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.  
 11:06 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 100 block of FM 116.  
 2:53 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 10000 block of State Hwy. 36.  
**Jan. 10**  
 8:02 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.  
 5:17 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 500 block of Watts Lane.  
 8:56 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3500 block of E. Main Street.  
**Jan. 11**  
 1:59 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.  
 7:26 p.m., a utility cable/pole was reported down in the 2200 block of Waco Street.  
 8:52 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1000 block of Highland Drive.  
**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**Jan. 9**  
 11:12 a.m., a dog bite was reported in the 2700 block of Tanglewood.  
 2:59 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM

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## Chamber of Commerce Membership Banquet Jan. 29

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce members and members of the community are cordially invited to attend the Chamber's annual Membership Banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Texas Station Event Center.

There will be a reception followed by dinner and an awards ceremony where the

Chamber's 2021 Citizen of the year and 2021 Business Awards will be presented.

Tickets are available at the Chamber office at the visitor's center at the Cotton Belt Depot for \$25 each.

Proceeds from the annual Membership Banquet are used to market Gatesville Chamber Member Business-

es and provide scholarships to high school students.

The Texas Station Event Center is located at 4105 S. State Hwy. 36. For more information about the banquet, please call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.

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## Hornets hunt ends with Hunter

BY TRISTON MCGEEHEE  
STAFF WRITER



After about a two-hour hiatus at the Gatesville ISD Administration Building, a decision was made by the Gatesville ISD School Board of Trustees to put a familiar face in a new position.

On Jan. 11, it was announced that Aaron Hunter will be taking the reins as head football coach for the Gatesville Hornets football team, replacing former head coach Luke Howard. Hunter has been the defensive coordinator for the Hornets for the past two seasons.

"I think we made a great hire in Aaron Hunter ... his passion, vision, expectations, and standards are top-notch," GHS Athletics Director Rickey Phillips said in an email. "I think it's also a nod to the current coaching staff on how they have rebounded from an 0-10 season three years ago and gotten things headed in the right direction. I have no doubt that Coach Hunter, in that leadership role, is the person that can take the GHS football program to the next level."

According to Gatesville ISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard, there were about 60 applications sent in, but only seven were selected for the interview. Pollard expressed that all seven were "very good candidates."

Pollard shared via email what differentiated Hunter from the others.

"His passion for the game of football and his commitment to our current and future Hornet football players was unmatched," Pollard said in an email. "He has gained the trust and loyalty of both players

and coaches. He is highly respected on campus as a teacher, leader and on the field for his excitement and enthusiasm.

"Coach Hunter is a motivator and has high expectations for his athletes to demonstrate hard work and character. He has hit the ground running, and we are all excited to see Aaron at the helm."

Coaching has been a dream for Hunter since he was a kid. He is grateful to have the opportunity to coach his hometown Hornets.

"I walked these hallways; I played on McKamie Stadium, and my family bleeds black and gold," Hunter said. "To hear my name called as the head football coach to this school is a blessing and an honor. I'm excited for the opportunity."

Hunter credited the staff and the players as instrumental parts of the Hornets' success the last couple of years.

Hunter is driven to impact the kids he coaches.

"I have a passion for that," Hunter said. "But to know that I have an impact on kids and I can change a kid's life. And win some games doing it. There's nothing better than that."

The Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees voted 6-0, with one abstention, to promote Hunter.



COURTESY PHOTO

Aaron Hunter with his wife Roxy, son, Briggs and daughter Nayvee. Hunter was named head football coach for Gatesville High School during a Jan. 11 Gatesville ISD school board meeting.

### HORNET SOCCER



TRISTON MCGEEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

Jeffrey Tesar looks to move past a Lamapas player in the Hornets' recent game against the Badgers. Gatesville was scheduled to play Harmony School of Innovation on Friday.

### AREA FISHING REPORT

**Belton**  
GOOD. Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 2.54 feet low. Our coldest weather to date this winter swept in early in the week and was then reinforced by a milder front late in the week, causing our greatest water temperature rate of decrease so far. Winds and post-frontal conditions led to limited fishing this week.

The star of the show this week was a five-eighth ounce white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab worked vertically in conjunction with Garmin LiveScope.

Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are good, scattered from mid to deep water in the river channel and in structure. 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; 2.31 feet low. Our coldest weather to date this winter swept in early in the week and was then reinforced by a milder front late in the week, causing our greatest water temperature rate of decrease so far. Winds and post-frontal conditions led to limited fishing this week. The star of the show this week was a five-eighth ounce white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab worked vertically in conjunction with Garmin LiveScope. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

**Waco**  
GOOD. Water stained; 57 degrees; 3.41 feet low. Fishing is good on Lake Waco. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around brush piles in 15-25 feet of water. Black bass have moved out into the 5-15 feet range biting on drop shots and jigs.

White bass are good from 15-30 feet of water on jigging spoons. Some nice hybrid bass are still being caught trolling, or with jigging spoons and umbrella rigs over deep humps and drop-offs. Fishing report provided by Prisocks Fishing Guide Service. Crappie are good using ATX Lure Company's 2.25-inch wicked shad, and a two-inch baby shad. Report by Zach Minnix, Jig N' Jerk Guide Service.

**Whitney**  
GOOD. Water lightly stained; 51 degrees; 2.24 feet low. Striped bass are good on 12-45 feet of water using chartreuse/white swimbaits and deep diving crankbaits. Catfish are good in 6-14 feet of water using cut bait. Report by Kraig Sexton, Sexton's Guide Service LLC. Striped bass are good, active throughout the day feeding on shad, biting on artificial lures. Report by Blake Stritz.

### CORYELL COUNTY YOUTH SHOW 2022



COURTESY PHOTO BY LISA BURT

Cayleigh Coursey won senior showmanship for rabbit entries at the Coryell County Youth Fair.



COURTESY PHOTO BY LISA BURT

Emma Treadway won junior showmanship for rabbit entries at the Coryell County Youth Fair.

More Coryell County Youth Fair photos and results will appear in upcoming issues of **The Gatesville Messenger**