



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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City has several improvement projects slated

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The city of Gatesville has an ambitious list of capital improvements planned for 2023, and much of the cost of this work will be paid for by state or federal grants.

These projects will be underway either before or soon after City Manager Bill Parry retires. Parry, who took the city administrator post in June 2015, is building a house in Denton (north of Dallas-Fort Worth) to move closer to family. Before coming to Gatesville, he served as director of the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, and prior to that he served as garrison commander at Fort Hood.

With a goal of leaving the city in good shape, Parry has worked closely with the Gatesville City Council on prioritizing infrastructure upgrades.

"A capital improvement project is anything that costs greater than \$5,000, and we have five major ones planned for 2023," Parry said.

The first project is to replace water lines in an area that includes Mill, Barnes and Mary streets on the north side of the Gatesville Housing Authority.

"This is almost a million-dollar project and it's funded by water and sewer rates," Parry said. "There is a significant amount of infill construction - new houses - and that area has some of the oldest infrastructure in Gatesville. This project will start shortly."

A second project is replacing and upgrading water lines on Lovers Lane from Business Highway 36 to Lowrey Drive.

"This will upgrade lines from 6-inch cast iron to 10-inch PVC," Parry said.

Often when people complain about water pressure issues, it is a function of the size of the water meter at a property, but the type of lines determines the volume of water a property can receive.

"A 6-inch line (often blocked by a buildup of debris over the years) will push about a third the amount of water that can be pushed through a 10-inch line," Parry said.

Upgrades in this area "will give us a properly-sized loop system," he added.

"100% of the cost of this project is funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds," Parry said. "The city was allocated \$3 million (in ARPA funds) and half of the funds will go to replace water and sewer lines."

The improvements will also allow the Gatesville Independent School District to place a fire hydrant in the area if it chooses to do so, he said.

"We will advertise for bids after the first of the year," Parry said.

A third project involves city hall.

"City hall is approximately 85 years old, and after approximately 60 years a lot of the



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

City Manager Bill Parry talked about several upcoming city projects during a recent meeting.

PLEASE SEE CITY | A2

Ray Ashby about to depart from commissioners court



COURTESY PHOTO

Ray Ashby joined the commissioners court in 2016.

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

For six years, Ray Ashby has served as a Coryell County commissioner for Precinct 4, but his last official day in office will be Dec. 31.

While Ashby will no longer be an elected leader, he still plans to continue serving the community in a variety of ways - including as a board member of Central County Services - which provides mental health assistance for five counties: Coryell, Bell, Lampasas, Hamilton and Milam.

Ashby, who was born and raised in Flat before moving to Mesquite when his father took a job there, resides in Gatesville and considers Coryell County his home.

"I was 7 years old when we moved, and as soon as I graduated from high school I came back to Coryell County," he said. "I was born at the old Coryell Memorial Hospital."

He worked as a youth pastor and a teacher at Gatesville High School before going to work for the county.

"When Justin Latham stepped down from the commissioners court to become administrator of the county road and bridge department, several people told me they thought I would be a good commissioner," Ashby said. "I looked

into it and ran for it, and I enjoyed being able to work to help people in our county."

Ashby spent 14 years working for the Gatesville school district, and I know a lot of kids here," he said. "I also was able to work with kids as a youth pastor, and that's always something I enjoyed."

Ashby said he has been offered a youth pastor job once his term on the commissioners court comes to an end, but for now he said he is taking time to consider options for what he will do next.

"I will definitely stay involved with Central County Services," Ashby said. "That is a great organization that helps so many people, and being a part of that board is one of the things I enjoyed most during my time as a commissioner."

Ashby said he had already worked with a significant number of special education students during his time as an educator, so helping the adult special needs population was a natural transition.

One of the biggest highlights for him as a commissioner was helping the county to receive a grant that paid the salaries of five deputies who focus on mental health issues, and also funded

the vehicles for those law enforcement officers.

"That was a great program and really benefited our county," Ashby said.

He was also a member of the Hill Country Community Action board, which oversees programs for seniors, Head Start, and provides other types of assistance to area residents. Unlike the CCS position, Ashby will no longer be a member of that board as of Jan. 1.

Asked what the biggest adjustment was for him once he became a county commissioner, Ashby said it was "the politics."

"You go to commissioners' school to learn, and there are so many things a commissioner does that I didn't realize," he said. "There are 24 hours of political education, and it opened my eyes to a lot of things. Commissioners set the budget for the county and the tax rate, and those things were new to me. It's a lot more than making sure the roads are taken care of, although that's a big part of it, too."

Another highlight of his time in office was helping to author a 2019 resolution which made Coryell County a Second Amendment Safe Haven, which reaffirmed the constitutional gun

PLEASE SEE ASHBY | A2

GISD, city working out policing details

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

As the year comes to a close, the Gatesville Independent School District continues to finalize the transition to its own police department's responsibility for issues arising on campus and in the community.

"We are ironing out the details in our split from the Gatesville Police Department (which previously provided the district's school resource officers)," said Superintendent Barrett Pollard. "Chief (Gary) Stiles (with the GISD Police Department) and Chief (Nathan) Gohlke (with the Gatesville PD) are working out a MOU (memoran-

dum of understanding).

"If anything happens on campus GISD will have the primary response, with GPD as a secondary or backup (agency)."

Because of a lack of clear authority established when multiple agencies responded to school shootings in the South Texas community of Uvalde earlier this year, when those types of tragedies occur "the first agency responding is authorized to take care of it," Pollard said.

When responding to a concern on a school bus that is off school property, that area's primary law enforcement agency, whether city or county, would respond first.

GISD Police have rotating duty after hours, and a call related to a concern on school property would go through 9-1-1 and then be dispatched to the officer on duty.

"If there are any changes (to the preliminary agreement between the school district and the city), I'll bring them back to you again," Pollard said.

During the transition period, while the school district worked to have the department officially approved by the state law enforcement licensing agency, the city of Gatesville's police continued to assist the school district with any concerns.

Price shock delays county plans

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

An unexpected jump of \$3 million in the cost estimate of a new justice building delayed approval of financial plans to proceed with the project and also at least temporarily delayed financing approval for expansion of the county jail.

Commissioner Scott Weddle said Butler-Cohen, tapped as the construction firm on county projects, submitted an estimate of \$8.56 million to complete work on a proposed justice building that would house two county justice of the peace offices. The previous estimate was \$5.5 million.

"I got some very disturbing news from Butler-Cohen, and there are still a lot of questions," Weddle said. "Their estimated price on the Leon Street annex went up from \$5.5 million to \$8.56 million. That's a 36% increase. My personal opinion is to set that aside" (to

PLEASE SEE COUNTY | A2

Public has a chance to meet police chief candidates

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The city of Gatesville has announced four finalists for chief of the Gatesville Police Department, and local residents will have a chance to meet the candidates during a Meet the Finalists presentation set from 4:30-5:30 p.m. today (Jan. 4) in the Gatesville City Council Chambers at 110 N. Eighth St.

City Manager Bill Parry and a selection committee selected the four finalists from a list of 31 applicants and 13 semifinalists. The four finalists were notified in December.

The new chief will replace Nathan Gohlke, who is retiring

from the position after serving as the Gatesville police chief since 2005.

Finalists for the post, who are all from Texas, include: * Brad Hunt, the current police chief in Keene, a position he has held since April 2022. Before that, Hunt was a police officer and division commander with the Temple Police Department, where he served for 20 years.

* Carrie West, the current police chief in Willow Park, a position she has held since 2017. From 1995-2016, West served in the Corinth Police Department, where she advanced to the rank of lieutenant in charge of support services.

* Cody Lee, who currently serves as the operations lieutenant for the Criminal Investigation Department of the Gatesville Police Department. Lee's 25-year law enforcement career includes service with the Stephenville Police Department, and the Hamilton and Bosque County sheriff's departments. Lee joined GPD in 2010.

* Matthew Briggs, who is currently a recruiter/adjunct instructor at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Briggs previously served as police chief in Josephine from 2016-2021. Before that, he served 10 years in the Frisco Police Department.

CITY

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time things quit working right," Parry said.

The city has an option to consider moving its operational headquarters to an old bank building at the corner of Main and Eighth streets.

"We have enough money built up in the fund balance to cover most of the cost (of moving city hall), but we want to have an asbestos abatement done first," Parry said.

Project four is one that has received plenty of attention over the years - the old rotunda at the corner of Osage Road and Lovers Lane.

"We will demolish the old rotunda nursing home," Parry said. "The city received a brownfield grant from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and an engineering firm in Austin is working on the technical specs.

"The process is going so we can get this done. Once the structure is down and the lot is cleared, we will design a new police station for that location."

The current police station is located in the old Lone Star Gas building near city hall, and is an older structure without much room for upgrades.

"As the city continues to grow we need to have a facility for the police department that can grow along with it," Parry said.

"Also, most of the police calls we receive are east of Lutterloh

(Street), and this will allow for a quicker response. Getting closer to the east side of town is probably a smart move, and the city owns that property."

The new police station "will be paid for with debt service bonds and there will be no impact on the tax rate, which will remain the same," Parry said.

A fifth project involves the building of a new city park, but it will be in addition to the current parks instead of replacing the city parks. However, natural conditions will eventually result in big changes at Faunt Le Roy Park, although the process could take years.

"In 2015 and 2018 the city experienced significant flooding from rainfall and that impacted Faunt Le Roy Park both years," Parry said. "The park is essentially on a peninsula and engineers have told us the river will change that area and it doesn't want to route through hairpin turns."

Although millions could be spent as a temporary solution, "at some point Faunt Le Roy Park will fall into the river and no longer be there, but that's a long way away."

With funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the city will build a new park across from the Gatesville Fitness Center at 34th Street. The plan is to move the skate park to that location, and to have fitness stations there.

"We received a \$1.3 million grant that will require a city match," Parry said. "The Texas Department of



COURTESY IMAGE

The city of Gatesville has scheduled five capital projects for 2023.

Emergency Management (TDEM) has already approved the project, we are just waiting on FEMA approval."

Until nature runs its course, "we plan to leave Faunt Le Roy Park the way it is now - it will remain where it is with its current amenities. We won't close Faunt Le Roy Park, but someday it will eventually fall away."

Parry said the new park project will be 75% FEMA funded and 25% city funded.

Another project which is set to take place is not a city endeavor, but a plan of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

At the intersection of Business Highway 36 and Texas Highway 36 directly east of Walgreens and south of Wal-Mart - which is state property - TxDOT plans to build a monument area with a stone wall and plants that will serve as an entrance to the city.

"The city is not involved in that project, and it is 100% state fund-

ed," Parry said.

The city's previous involvement included a grant application made by Cheri Shepherd, director of the Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We are pretty excited about these capital improvement projects and we're moving forward," Parry said. "We'd like to do more but as always, there is a limited amount of funding."

4-H programs help enrich youth skills

Coryell County's 4-H program is open to children who are at least 8 years old and in third grade to those who are 18.

The mission of the program is to prepare youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adulthood, through a coordinated, long-term series of educational experiences that enhance life skills and develop social, emotional, physical and cognitive competencies.

Projects include not only livestock but a focus on food and nutrition, photography, textiles and public speaking.

The cost for those joining after Oct. 31 each school year is \$25.

Children ages 5 and in kindergarten through second grade can participate in the Clover Kids program.

For more details, email Becky.Coward@ag.tamu.edu or call 254-865-2414.

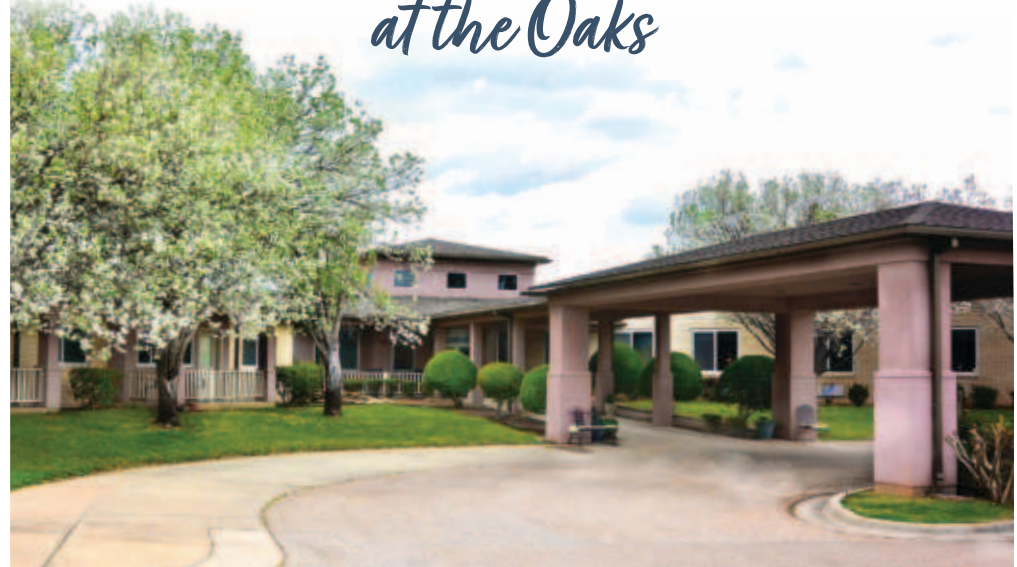


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COUNTY

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resolve issues related to the projected cost).

The county had also approved plans to expand the jail, which has been cited for not complying with state jail standards. Weddle suggested moving forward with jail expansion but delaying approval of the proposed justice building, which would be located on Leon Street.

"In my opinion the jail expansion is our number one priority," Weddle said.

"Yes sir," said Commissioner Kyle Matthews.

The state could impose severe financial penalties on the county if jail overcrowding

issues are not resolved.

County Judge Roger Miller noted that money had been set aside in the budget specifically for the justice building - and not work at the jail.

"The jail addition was not discussed or considered during budget," Miller said. "The funds were allocated for a particular reason, and the jail expansion was added as a way to piggyback on constriction for cost savings."

In order to resolve questions and concerns, further discussion and decisions were delayed. The commissioners court was scheduled to place the item on the Dec. 27 agenda.

Approval of projects and financing could come at the Jan. 10 meeting, if details can be ironed out.

ASHBY

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ownership rights of county residents, Ashby said.

"We wanted to be sure that people's rights remain protected, so I worked with the sheriff and other commissioners on that," he said.

One thing Ashby said he is disappointed that did not get done while he was in

office was the proposal to build a larger jail on property near the Texas Department of Corrections' Woodman Unit.

"I would have loved to have seen a new jail built based on the plans and discussions that started in 2016 and 2017," he said.

So what's next for Ashby?

"I'm going to take a little time off, probably do some construction work and see

where God takes me next," he said.

Ashby and his wife Lani have six children ranging in age from 22-40, and family time will also be a priority.

"I want to thank everybody who supported me, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve Coryell County," he said. "Without community support, things would have been a lot harder."

Three of Texas 10 Most Wanted captured in different locations

Three of Texas' 10 Most Wanted offenders are back in custody. Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender Patrick Carrier was arrested in Houston. Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive Eduardo Fuentes was arrested in Edinburg, and Jaquille Chefney was arrested in Austin.

Patrick Paul Carrier, 47, of Houston, was arrested by Texas DPS Special Agents and Troopers on Nov. 21. In 1993, Carrier was convicted of murder and received a 45-year sentence. In 2013, he was convicted of possession of cocaine and subsequently sentenced to six months of confinement. He was last released on parole in October 2020.

Carrier had been wanted since January 2021, when the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles issued a warrant for his arrest for a parole violation. Additionally, in March 2021, the Harris County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. For more information, view his captured bulletin.

Eduardo Quinones Fuentes, 28, of Edinburg, was ar-

rested by members of the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Violent Offender's Fugitive Task Force, including the U.S. Border Patrol, on Nov. 23. In 2016, Fuentes was convicted of assault of family/household member by impeding breath/circulation and sentenced to two years of confinement. The following year, he was convicted of smuggling aliens and served time in federal custody. In 2021, he was convicted of sexual assault after an incident involving a 29-year-old woman. He received 10 years of probation.

Fuentes had been wanted since July 2021, when the U.S. Marshals Service issued a probation violation warrant for his arrest. Additionally, Fuentes had been wanted by the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office for a probation violation, two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm by felon. For more information, view his captured bulletin.

Jaquille Carl Chefney, 25, of Austin, was arrested by members of the U.S. Marshals Lone Star Fugitive

Task Force, including DPS Special Agents on Nov. 28. The Austin Police Department, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, Texas Attorney General's Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement all assisted in the multi-agency fugitive investigation. In 2020, Chefney was convicted of terroristic threat and sentenced to two years of probation. In 2021, he was convicted of aggravated robbery and sentenced to six years of probation.

Chefney had been wanted since February 2022, when the Austin Police Department issued warrants for his arrest for aggravated sexual assault and arson. Additionally, in July 2022, the Travis County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for a probation violation. For more information, view his captured bulletin.

Texas Crime Stoppers, which is funded by the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, offers cash rewards to any person who provides information that leads to the arrest of one of Texas' 10 Most Wanted Fugitives or Sex Offenders.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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

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

All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and

newspaper format as determined by management.

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

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Did you get what you wanted for Christmas?

SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is a newspaper publisher, an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

Christmas is a time of joy, but amongst all the gifts, food, and family time, there are parts that can be a real challenge. Most of the challenge centers around gift giving and gift receiving.

Times have changed. Years ago, children would spend hours looking through the JC Penny, Sears, or Montgomery Ward catalogs, searching for just the right item to be added to their Christmas list. Sometimes we would mark the catalog, or we handed the catalog to Mom or Dad and pointed out what Santa should bring us. We never really figured out exactly what telecommunications were necessary for Mom and Dad to contact Santa, but we were confident the message would get through.

It took hours of time and significant analysis for an 8-year-old to determine what they wanted from the catalog. It was important not to "squander" the opportunity to receive a truly special gift. The examination was methodical, and sometimes frustrating getting the catalog away from your brothers and sisters.

Evidently the selection process for gifts has been changed here in the 21st century, and significantly modernized. There is no more looking through catalogs like I did as a child, but there are alternatives. More than one person in my family sent a link to an Amazon product as something they wanted. The process was easy and ef-

ficient, though it seemed to lack the intimacy of spending hours pouring through a catalog. Maybe I am just being nostalgic. After all, it is the gift that counts, right? Seems to me like children receive a great many more gifts than they did a generation ago. Do they appreciate opening so many presents? Seems to me there was something glorious about selecting one or two presents and hoping Santa would show up on Christmas morning. The entire week of Christmas I would wonder if Santa would bring what I had asked for. It was all that was on my mind and consumed my very being. Do kids still have those sorts of thoughts, or do they know they are going to get almost anything they want?

Of course, there is the frustration of not knowing what to get that someone in your life who is difficult to buy for. There are people who have a Christmas list as long as your leg, and it is easy to select something for them. Then there is the grandfather, or brother or whatever, that simply goes and buys the things they need, and does not really consider someone giving them a gift. I probably fall into that category. If I don't

need it, I really don't care to have it. I am fortunate, because my family usually comes up with something I like, which I would never go and buy for myself.

Then there are the gifts one receives that are so crazy or in such bad taste, that you would never, ever use or wear it. Some people simply have poor judgement about what to gift, and others simply do not put enough thought into what gift might best suit someone. Right now, I am thinking about the fruitcake a distant relative sends me each year. It is like they fulfill the obligation of sending a gift, but whether I enjoy or like the present, is immaterial. I send them Texas pecans each year and for all I know they may think my gift is as bad as the fruitcake. But then again, they live up north, so what do they know about anything? Who doesn't like Texas pecans?

I am not even going to get into returning gifts to the store, regifting presents to another, or simply taking the item and leaving it in the gift box and sticking it in a closet. These are all subjects for another time, but surely issues all of us have traversed in our years of celebrations.



Houston

The worst thing at Christmas must be giving a small child a practical gift. I know we all need new underwear at one time or the other, but no child wants to get underwear or socks on Christmas morning. Such gifting should be criminal and suffer the consequence of eating the fruitcake I left in my hall closet from last year's Christmas. Wait, that might be defined as "cruel and unusual punishment."

I hope you got what you wanted on Christmas morning, and the items you gave away were warmly received by your family and friends. I know I got all I ever wanted by being healthy, having sweet family, friends and coworkers, and being able to say I live in Texas. What gift is better than that?

Thought for the day: Christmas is the season when you buy this year's gifts with next year's money. Until next time.

sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of December 20 - 21. 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. 20
12:16 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 300 block of Avenue C.
7:37 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 5000 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
8:18 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2400 block of S. Business Hwy. 36.
3:41 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2000 block of E. Main Street.
5:14 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 9000 block of E. Hwy. 36.
7:40 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2100 block of Waco Street.

Dec. 21
9:02 a.m., a hit and run accident was reported in the 100 block of N. 19th Street.
11:22 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 500 block of Andrews Street.
1:06 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
1:28 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of Old Waco Road.
5:28 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 2800

block of Business Hwy. 36.
7:50 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2400 block of S. Business Hwy. 36.
11:08 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of E. Main Street.

Coryell County Sheriff's Office

Dec. 20
9:46 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 580 between FM 116 and FM 580.
12:20 p.m., an assault was reported in the 200 block of FM 1996.
1:36 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of Cattle Drive.
2:32 p.m., illegal dumping was reported on CR 251 between CR 263 and CR 265.
2:38 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of Straws Mill Road.
3:16 p.m., a threat was reported on Old Osage Road.

Dec. 21
6:14 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 500 block of Nathan Drive.
8:33 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of CR 3390.
10:40 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 9500 block of S. FM 183.
11:06 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 2400 block of CR 127.
12:55 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1500 block of CR 274.
7:00 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of Ames Road.
10:32 p.m., a welfare concern was reported at the Oasis Worship Center.

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Some highlights of Jefferson

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Tumbleweed Smith of Big Spring is newspaper columnist and producer of The Sound of Texas radio series

Jefferson was once one of the largest inland ports in the United States. Riverboats brought merchandise and people to town.

"They came from New Orleans up through Shreveport and they would hit Caddo Lake off the Red River and come on in. We still have the wharf there, or remnants of it. That's why Jefferson is such a unique city. It looks like New Orleans because all those New Orleans Riverboat Captains would have a second home here. So, they designed the town to look like their home."

Marion County Judge Leward LaFleur of Jefferson said that one of the major events in Jefferson is the spring tour of antebellum homes. The city has dozens of them.

"Everybody dresses in period attire, and you can tour all these beautiful old mansions. It's good for the little town and fills up restaurants and tourist venues. We're the bed and breakfast capital of Texas and these places are all full during the tour. We call it the pilgrimage and it takes place April 28th through May 1st this year. This is the 75th year for it."

A play titled "The Diamond Bessie Murder Trial" is presented during pilgrimage.

"It's a bunch of local folks who like to tell the story of how Diamond Bessie was murdered and how Mr. Rothschild got off for murder not once but twice. It's the reason we have the double jeopardy law that says a person can't be tried twice for a crime. This is the 68th year for the play."

Another event in Jefferson is the annual Bigfoot conference in October.

"We are the Bigfoot capital of the great state of Texas. People come from all over the country for this. They're hunters, scientists all sorts of people who are curious about the legend of Bigfoot, a cross between a human and an ape. A Bigfoot movie was filmed around Jefferson. There's a lot of swamp in the county where he could live and not ever be seen."

Pearl divers used to hunt for pearls in Caddo Lake. The city has ghost tours. "Pay your money and you

get an hour ghost tour. Those are offered every Friday and Saturday nights year-round."

Jefferson is a tourist destination. It has 2,000 residents and 84 historical markers. You can ride a train, a riverboat or a horse-drawn carriage where the driver gives a history of the town. You can dine in one of the city's fine white tablecloth restaurants and shop in a general store, gallery, or unique boutique. You might even stay at the historic Ex-



Smith

celsior House Hotel, one of the longest continuously functioning hotels in Texas.

"I think it's the most beautiful hotel in Texas and it has an outstanding breakfast."

Home burglarized Dec. 16 in 500 block of Stoneridge Drive

Centex Crime Stoppers - Crime of the Week

Centex Crime Stoppers can use your help in solving a case of burglary of a habitation. On Dec. 16, 2022, between the hours of 8 p.m. and 11:15 p.m., an unknown person(s) made entry to a residence in the 500 block of Stoneridge Drive. No suspect description was provided. The homeowner reported personal electronic/computer items, as well as a Bluetooth-enabled motorcycle helmet, among the stolen items.

If you have any information about any case or any

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

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WINTER WONDERLAND OF TOYS



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2022 Winter Wonderland Walkthrough recently collected a massive number of toys and monetary funds for the Hidden Gem Family Care Center. Admission to the walkthrough event, which was held on Dec. 17, was an unwrapped toy. John and Sharon Myers, along with various sponsors, were instrumental in making the event a success and delivering toys to the Hidden Gem office. Pictured from left are Diana Barnett, Jennifer Featherston, John Myers, Julia Smith, Chanell Howard, and Chesney Smith.

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers

Meals on Wheels is currently in need of volunteer drivers. Meals on Wheels is a federally funded program for older adults who are homebound, unable to prepare a meal, don't drive, and have no one to cook for them. The program provides home-delivered nutritious meals to seniors in our community on local routes only.

The Gatesville Senior Center is looking for four drivers per day to drive four different routes. The shifts will be Monday through Friday, starting at 10:30 a.m. The Meals on Wheels run will take approximately one

hour to complete. Volunteers can build their own schedules with no contract necessary. If you are a volunteer age 55 or older, you may be eligible for different perks.

Meals on Wheels America is the oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based senior nutrition programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation. This network exists in virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million volunteers, delivers the nutritious

meals, friendly visits, and safety checks that enable America's seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, research, education, and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time.

The Gatesville Senior Center is located at 208 N. Lutterloh in Gatesville. For more information contact the Senior Center Director, Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234.

Mother Neff to host First Day Hike

Mother Neff State Park will be kicking off the new year and 100 years of Texas State Parks with the First Day Hike of 2023. Bring family and friends to participate in the 11th year of a national partnership with America's State Parks.

The First Day Hike will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue through 3 p.m. The program is free, but there will be a park entry fee of \$2 per person 13

years or older. Children 12 years of age and under will be admitted free. Those wishing to participate can meet at park headquarters for information.

Be sure to bring water, wear sensible shoes, and dress accordingly to the weather.

The Leon River Dutch Oven Gang will be serving black-eyed peas beginning at 11 a.m. and will continue to serve them until the peas

run out. Mother Neff will have interpretive stations throughout the park, sharing the park's history and natural resources.

Mother Neff's First Day Hike is sponsored by H-E-B and Texas Parks and Wildlife. For more information call 254-853-2389 or visit TexasStateParks.org/100years. Mother Neff State Park is located at 1921 State Park Road 14 near Moody.

PEARL NEWS

Pearl residents spread Christmas cheer

BETSY CLARK

Pearl News Correspondent

Pearl Church of Christ members enjoyed a time of caroling, visiting, and fellowship last Sunday when a group of 14 young and young at heart went to The Oaks, The Meadows, Hillside Manor, and then finally to sing (and eat!) at Studebaker's.

They also handed out 226 Christmas cards! The group enjoyed a warm reception wherever they went, and everyone especially loved the kiddos. Thank you to Kristy and Lane Campos; Chris, Misti, Trent, Ryley, and Linda Ray; Rhonda and Cooper Dickey; Peter, Hannah, Daisy, Gideon, Benji, Andy, and Judah Lewiston for the wonderful singing and for making so many people feel the joy of the season!

The next Pearl Bluegrass event and Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day will be Jan. 6. What a great way to celebrate the beginning of a new year! Live music in the Community Center usually begins around 10 a.m., and the Book Cottage opens at 10 a.m. Don't forget that there are full hookups available for RV parking on the grounds of the Pearl Community Center (30 amps is \$25 and 50 amps is \$30) for those who would like to come in early or stay late. If you have a group and would like to play on the stage for at least 45 minutes, you can get either a free meal or a free night's stay in your

RV! Best deal around! Picking can be enjoyed starting around 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 6 for those who would like to come early. The Bluegrass kitchen opens at 11 a.m. on Saturday and closes at 5 p.m., and you don't want to miss the homemade food this kitchen has to offer at very reasonable prices! The Pearl Book Cottage has more than 6,000 used books in various genres, all in excellent condition. The price in most cases is "buy what you want, pay what you want," and all proceeds benefit the bookstore's various local charities. It's the friendliest store in Texas, and you can't beat the music and fun at the Pearl Community Center. Y'all come and bring friends! There's no place like Pearl!

This week's Bible verse: "One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 NIV
Happy New Year from Pearl!!!



Clark

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center's Facebook page and the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Re-sale Shop Facebook page! Please send any Pearl news to betsyclark47@yahoo.com.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES KIER

Dec. 1, 1949 - Dec. 19, 2022



Jim Kier, age 73, of Gatesville, passed away on Monday, December 19, 2022, at his home.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, December 29, 2022, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor John L. Dublin officiating. The family will receive visitors following the service. For those unable to attend, Mr. Kier's funeral services will be livestreamed in the service details link.

James Perry Kier was born

on December 1, 1949, in Mankato, Kansas to the late Charles Edward and Marie Theresa Benjamin Kier. He went to school in Washington, Kansas and graduated from Washington High School in 1968. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Kansas Wesleyan University, graduating in 1972. After college in 1974, he purchased the family grocery business, Kiers Thriftway. He owned and operated them and expanded to other locations, until his retirement in 2010. Jim rode horses since the age of five. He competed and judged cutting horse competitions for over forty years, throughout the United States. He married Patricia Grimm on November 22, 1994. They resided in Washington, Kansas and Scottsdale, Arizona before moving to Gatesville in 2014, to be closer to family. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed working in his yard, mowing, and spending time with his family and cutting horse friends. Jim had a special way with horses and cherished his special horse, Smooth Knitty Kitty.

He was preceded in death

by his parents; brother, Tom Kier; and by close friends, Frances "Doc" Beam and Vivian Tinkham.

Jim is survived by his wife, Patty Kier; daughters, Ashley Wilson and husband, Ben, of Gatesville, Julie Carter and husband, Kevin, of Lees Summit, Missouri, Kandyce Potter and husband, Grady, of Arkansas City, Kansas; son, Travis Kier and wife, Misty, of Washington, Kansas, Toby Furnas of Arkansas City, Kansas; sisters, Mary Becker of Washington, Kansas, Margaret Stratton and husband, Mick, of York, South Carolina, Nancy Beeman and husband, Terry, of Topeka, Kansas; brother, John Kier of Newton, Kansas; brother-in-law, Sandy Grimm of Jacksonville, Florida; grandchildren, Tyler Wilson, Zoe Roach, Emma Carter, Ian Carter, Logan Kier, Hunter Kier; three great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Jim and his family were also close to his former wife and friend, Terry Williamson.

AMELIA BOGARD

July 15, 1939 - Dec. 18, 2022



Amelia Bogard, age 83, of Gatesville, passed away on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at her home.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28, 2022, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Stephen Schmidt officiating. Visitation with the family will be one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Amelia will be laid to rest in Weaver Chapel Cemetery, on land donated in 1879 by Reverend John Wilson, her great-great-great grandfather, where at least seven generations of her relatives have been buried.

Amelia Juanita Forrest was born on July 15, 1939, to the late J.O. and Ethel Lucille Wilhelm Forrest in Gatesville. She graduated from Gatesville High School in 1957, received an Associate of Science degree from Tarleton State College in 1959 and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education degree from Texas Technological College in August 1961. Amelia began her teaching career in Crosbyton, Texas in the fall of 1961 teaching high school English.

Amelia was united in marriage to Michael Henry Bogard on December 27, 1961, at the Jonesboro Methodist

Church by Mike's uncle, Pastor Plez Todd. From this marriage a son, Aubrey Wayne Bogard, was born on October 11, 1962, in Stephenville. Soon after Aubrey's birth, the Bogards moved to the Bogard farm near San Saba.

The Bogards moved to College Station in 1965 and Michael got his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in 1967. Amelia worked in the Plant Sciences department of Texas A&M during that time, processing soil samples and counting microscopic nematodes.

Following graduation, Michael went to work for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Vernon and Amelia went back to teaching sixth grade reading at Vernon Junior High. Michael's career with the SCS moved them to Memphis, Texas in 1968, Lamesa, in 1970, and Groesbeck in 1974. Amelia was a dedicated public-school teacher and was a positive influence on the lives of many students in Crosbyton, Vernon, Lamesa, and Groesbeck.

She taught English at Groesbeck High School from 1975 until her retirement in 1994. She had joined the Groesbeck Study Club shortly after moving there and was instrumental in the beginning of the Academic Sweater Awards Program which would give sweaters and scholarships to students who were outstanding academically. She was a

sponsor of the National Honor Society and was responsible for starting a school museum in the foyer of the new high school building.

After retirement, Amelia began serious research on family history. She completed her application with over sixty pages of documentation and was accepted into the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mexia Jonathan Hardin Chapter in 1995. She served in multiple leadership positions of the Chapter from 1997 until 2003. Amelia's membership in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Sterling C. Robertson Chapter in Waco was approved in 1999. She served the chapter in multiple roles including president from 2011 to 2013. After her husband's retirement in 2003, they moved to Gatesville.

Amelia was preceded in death by her parents, half-sister, Marianna Forrest Brown Foust; brothers, Walter Ray Forrest and Nathan Kelly Forrest.

Amelia is survived by her husband, Michael Henry Bogard, son, Aubrey Wayne Bogard and wife, Susan Hughston Bogard; grandson, Noah William Bogard; brother, Robert Forrest; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Republic of Texas Museum fund in Amelia's name would be appreciated at www.drinfo.org.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TSU

Tarleton State University guard Teresa Da Silva, a junior from London, England, scored a team-high 19 points on Dec. 19 in an 80-77 overtime loss to Ball State University.

TSU women take Ball State to OT in 80-77 loss in Puerto Rico tournament

Tarleton Sports Information

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Tarleton State University's women's basketball squad had yet to play in a close game this season, win or lose, but the Dec. 19 game in the Puerto Rico Clasico opener was as close as it could get.

With Tarleton and Ball State within striking distance of each other throughout, it was only fitting the afternoon affair at Roberto Clemente Coliseum in San Juan, Puerto Rico, went to overtime. The Cardinals made big buckets early in the extra segment and held off the Texans, 80-77.

Tarleton (6-4, 0-0 WAC), lost its first overtime game of the season against a tough

Ball State team, one that has now won seven straight games to improve to 9-2 on the year out of the Mid-American Conference.

Tarleton is now 14-7 (.667) in non-conference play over the past two seasons. The Texans have their last non-conference game of the year scheduled for Wednesday at 1 p.m. CT to wrap up their Puerto Rico Clasico slate.

Four of Tarleton's five

starters reached double figures versus Ball State, led by Teresa Da Silva's 19 points, adding nine rebounds, six assists and a steal in 41 minutes. Mayra Caicedo recorded 12 points, six rebounds, five assists and three steals in 40 minutes. Jenna Dick, making her first start of the year, finished with 11 points (3-6 3-pointers) and three rebounds. Nyajah Mitchels notched 10 points on 5-of-7 shooting and eight rebounds in 18 minutes.

Viktoria Ivanova, who came off the bench for the first time since Nov. 12, responded from a tough stretch of games to the tune of 16 points on 7-of-11 shooting and five rebounds in 21 minutes, tying her season-high in scoring. Starr

Omozee added two points, eight rebounds, three assists and two blocks in 33 minutes off the bench.

With both teams sporting similar numbers and shooting percentages across the board, Ball State had the main advantages in turnovers (10 to Tarleton's 17) and free throws made (20 to Tarleton's nine).

The Cardinals were led by Ally Becki and Thelma Dis Agustsdottir, who each scored 17 points. Becki added six assists and five rebounds, while Dis Agustsdottir pulled down six boards. Annie Rauch had the game's lone double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The Texans went on an early 9-0 run, with Mitchels

scoring six of those points, to take a 9-3 lead just three minutes in. When Ball State got within four at 13-9, the Texans cruised again to a 6-0 spurt to take a 10-point lead. Tarleton led 21-13 after the first quarter.

Both teams went back and forth in the second frame, going into the locker room with Tarleton ahead 39-32. The Texans opened up the third quarter with another 10-point lead, 44-34, when the Cardinals responded with an 8-0 run to get within two. Tarleton maintained a close lead the remainder of the quarter to enter the fourth up 58-54.

When it was 61-54 Tarleton, Ball State made its biggest push, a 9-0 run to take its first lead since be-

ing up 3-2 in the first two minutes. Over the final 8:30 of regulation, the difference was never larger than a one-possession game. Tarleton led 70-67 with under two minutes to play, but late turnovers and fouls gave the Cardinals the chance to tie it at 70. The Texans had last possession with a chance to win the game, but Dick's three-point shot at the buzzer was off.

In overtime, Ball State drained a three on its first possession, and went up five on its next possession on second-chance free throws. Da Silva tried to will her team to the win by scoring all seven Tarleton points in the extra period, but Ball State held on to take the three-point win.

Despite hot shooting early, Texan men's basketball fall to Air Force on road, 81-67

TSU Sports Information

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado — Tarleton State University's Texans shot over 60% from the field to start their Dec. 18 men's basketball matchup against the Air Force Falcons but lost their touch in an 81-67 loss on the road.

Tarleton (5-6, 0-0 WAC) came out hot in the first half, making their first three field goals and trading the lead with Air Force (8-4, 0-0 MWC) over the first five minutes of play.

"Third tough outcome in a row for us," TSU head coach Billy Gillispie said. "We obviously have some things to figure out."

Down by three points, the Texans went on a 12-2 run, led by Javontae Hopkins and Tiger Booker, which silenced the home crowd at Clune Arena. Tarleton's nine-point lead was its largest of the game. The Texans maintained their lead over the Falcons until 27 seconds were left in the first half. A buzzer-beater step-back jump shot from just outside the paint by Booker gave Tarleton a one-point advantage going into the locker room at halftime.

The Texans were dominant in the first half, making 17-of-28 (.607) shots from the field compared to



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSU

Tarleton State University's Tiger Booker (12), a 5-10 junior guard from Chicago, scored a season-high 18 points in the Texans' 81-67 road loss to the Air Force Falcons.

the Falcons' 13-of-23 (.565). Tarleton led in almost every scoring category including points from turnovers, in

the paint, off second chances and from turnovers. The Texans managed to force 10 turnovers in the first half

alone while recording seven steals.

The second half belonged to Air Force, however.

The Falcons quickly regained the lead, and an early three-pointer pushed them ahead by four. The

Texans kept the Falcons close but were never able to string enough possessions together to regain the lead. Tarleton and Air Force battled back-and-forth throughout the second half.

The Texans kept within five points up until 7:42 was left in the game. From this point the Falcons slowly built their lead to double digits. The Texans couldn't get shots to fall and six Air Force three-pointers in the second half sealed the fate of the game.

Tarleton's Booker scored a season-high 18 points, which led the team. He also grabbed two steals. Jakorie Smith picked up 15 points (5-6 FG), his fifth double-digit game of the season, and five rebounds on his first game back from an injury. Shakur Daniel played his third consecutive 40-minute competition, scoring 12 points and securing four rebounds.

In his first start of the season, Hopkins picked up 10 points, his second double-digit scoring performance of the season, four rebounds, three assists and two steals. Shamir Bogues scored eight points, secured four rebounds and grabbed a team-high three steals. Lue Williams and Tydan Archibald each picked up two points on the game.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joseph Brian Hyatt, Deceased, were issued on 11-15-22, in Cause No. 22-10741, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Kathryn Marie Hyatt.

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

c/o: Kathryn Marie Hyatt
Estate of Joseph Brian Hyatt
201 W. Avenue F, H8
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

DATED the 15 day of Dec., 2022.

Dori Ray Mistic
Attorney for Kathryn Marie Hyatt
State Bar No.: 04091800
P.O. Box 246, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000 or 6800
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099
PUBLIC NOTICES

PROCUREMENT OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

The City of Gatesville will be developing an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2023-2024 Community Development Program Fund for eligible activities associated to the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG). Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified Engineering Firm to perform required surveys, prepare all preliminary, final design plans and specifications, assist in bidding/negotiation, perform construction administration, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections. These services are being solicited to assist the City in its application preparation and project implementation of a TxCD-BG contract, if awarded, to support an Infrastructure Improvement project in the City of Gatesville.
Please submit 3 hard copies of proposal of services and/or a statement of qualifications to: William H. Parry, III, Gatesville City Manager, 110 N. 8th St., Gatesville, TX 76528 and at wparry@gatesvilletx.com with a cc to anna@LC-MSinc.com
Submittals for these services must be received by the City no later than 3:00 PM on January 9, 2023. The City reserves the right to negotiate with all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals. All respondents must be registered with SAM.gov. The City of Gatesville is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. 00029802

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Thomas Winfred Bell, Deceased, were issued on 11-15-22, in Cause No. 22-10739, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Tilly Bell.

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

c/o: Tilly Bell
Estate of Thomas Winfred Bell
1007 Tyler Drive
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

DATED the 15 day of Dec., 2022.

Dori Ray Mistic
Attorney for Tilly Bell
State Bar No.: 04091800
P.O. Box 246, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522
Telephone: (254) 547-6000 or 6800
Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
E-mail: doriraymistic@hotmail.com
00029807

Sealed bids for furnishing Coryell County with a Depository bank will be accepted in the office of the Coryell County Treasurer until 9:00 A.M. on January 27, 2023, at which time the bids will be opened for inspection by the Commissioners' Court. The bids should be addressed to the Honorable County Treasurer and the Commissioners' Court of Coryell County, Texas. The contract will be awarded to the successful bidder on February 14, 2023. For bid packet or questions, contact Randi McFarlin, County Treasurer at 254-248-3104 or county_treasurer@coryellcounty.org. 00029805



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He visited with club members who were more than willing to share their breakfast with him.

For more information about the Boys and Girls Club, contact Gatesville Club Director Julie Hudson at 254-865-8347.



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Brian Riddle
Project Manager
brianriddlerunningmroofing@gmail.com

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Dodgeball blitz ends 2022 at Gatesville High School

Photos by David Scott

