

# THE VERNON DAILY RECORD

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 2, 2019

Lions compete in holiday tourney.

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## Walmart Employee #14 – Overcomer

Obesity, diabetes, amputations, early mortality, rural healthcare

BRET MCCORMICK  
VERNON RECORD

On Oct. 23, 1986, Willie Joyce Thompson Krieg, died. She had been taken by the silent killer known as diabetes. Mrs. Krieg had weighed over 300 pounds for some time. Her daughter, Kim Ballard, age 20 at the time of her passing, was left to navigate the genetic predisposition for obesity and environmental health challenges of rural America.

Who is Kim Ballard? Kim is proud of the fact she is employee # 14 at the local Walmart store. Although she didn't start there, Kim has worked her way through various departments, eventually becoming a pharmacy tech. Since employee #1 through #13 are no longer employed there, Kim enjoys the distinction of being the longest serving employee at the Vernon, Texas Walmart.

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## The big stories from the second half of 2018

NADIA KHAN MERCADO  
VERNON RECORD

A great turn out at Summer's Last Blast and a showcasing of Vernon on "American Pickers" TV show highlighted activities in the last half of 2018.

### JULY

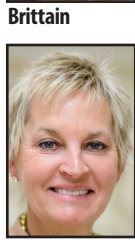
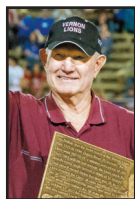
--A massive early morning structure fire completely burned the Quannah Country Club to the ground.

--The Vernon High School Roarin' Lion Band took a few days off from its summer break to march at a parade amid the neon and glitz of Las Vegas, Nev.

--The Vernon Police Department welcomed two new officers, Matthew Fortunas and Geoffrey Wright, with a public swearing-in ceremony at City Hall.

--Leo Brittain, Vernon Lions football coach from 1976 to 1994, including the state championship team in 1990, died in Wichita Falls on July 3 at the age of 79.

--Wilbarger General Hospital chief executive office, Claudia A. Eisenmann, announced her resignation to WGH employees.



Eisenmann

--A combined federal, state and local investigation took down two separate drug trafficking organizations across North Texas.

--George Records took the pulpit at the First Presbyterian Church as the new pastor of the local congregation.

--Vernon's Christine Lyday Park hosted a commemoration and celebration of Christine Lyday's memory with the long-time Vernon civic leader's grandson, Louis G. Haywood Jr., in attendance.

--The History Channel aired an episode of "American Pickers" that was filmed in Vernon earlier this year where Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz visited the former R. L. More service station at Wilbarger and Fannin.

--Northside school trustees approved a resolution authorizing the sale of the district's school farm.

--Matthew T. (Matt) Crewse began his duties as the new pastor for Faith United Methodist Church.

--A new Hyper-Reach Alert System was enacted in Wilbarger County to permit residents of both the City of Vernon and the



Records



Crewse

county to receive alerts about severe weather warnings and other potential disasters within the county.

--The Vernon Police Department started a new chaplain program in conjunction with local churches for both the department and the community.

--Vernon City parks were declared off-limits to everyone from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily.

### AUGUST

--With over 800 cruisers taking to the street, the 29th edition of Summer's Last Blast rolled through town for another successful year.

--The participants in the 23rd annual Vernon Burnin' Bike Ride had a cool ride after sunrise from the south parking lot of Vernon College beneath an overcast sky.

--The Wood Street Baptist Church celebrated its 65th anniversary.

--The last market of the season of the summer Vernon Farmers Market was held with live music, baked foods, fresh produce, farm eggs, jam and jellies and homemade items.

--A longtime Vernon resident, Lee Wilkinson, who has held a pilot's license for seven decades, was honored by the Federal Aviation Administration with an award.

--The "Friday Night Lights" will not be

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## No foul play in NTSH deaths

DANIEL WALKER  
VERNON RECORD

Autopsy results have been received for two patients that died on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 on a unit at the campus of North Texas State Hospital.

Vernon Police Chief Randy Agan said that autopsies showed both male subjects died from heart attacks and there was no foul play.

"It was just an unfortunate coincidence that it happened to both on the same day," the chief said.

Police reports show that Vernon EMS was called at 2:23 a.m. Dec. 19 for a subject not breathing and then were called again at 2:44 p.m. the same day for another subject.

### DEATHS:

Tommy Lankford, Chillicothe  
Chelsey Shepherd, Vernon  
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*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. — Hebrews 11:1*  
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### NEWS POINTS

#### Gunman kills 7-year-old girl

HOUSTON (AP) — A man in a pickup truck pulled up next to a car that was leaving a Houston-area Walmart parking lot and started shooting, killing a 7-year-old girl inside the car and wounding the girl's mother, authorities said Sunday.

Three other girls were in the car, but it wasn't immediately clear if they also are related to the woman, who authorities say was shot in the arm.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said in posts on Twitter and Facebook that the girl who died was 7-year-old Jazmine Barnes. He said her mother, 30-year-old LaPorsha Washington, was wounded but survived her injury.

It wasn't immediately clear what prompted the Sunday morning shooting. An arrest hadn't been made as of Sunday night.

The red pickup fled the scene after the

shooting. The car also sped away before it came to a stop and the woman called 911, authorities said.

#### Judge clears way for health law appeal

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge in Texas who recently declared the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional has stayed his ruling to allow for appeals.

That means "Obamacare" remains in effect while litigation continues.

In a ruling issued Sunday, Judge Reed O'Connor in Fort Worth wrote that he stands by his earlier conclusion that the entire law is invalidated by congressional repeal of its fines on people who remain uninsured, like a house of cards collapsing.

However, because "many everyday Americans would ... face great uncertainty" if that ruling were immediately put into effect, O'Connor issued a stay to allow for appeals.

A group of Republican-led states brought the lawsuit. A coalition of Democratic state attorneys general, led by California's Xavier Becerra, intends to appeal. Congressional Democrats also plan to appeal.

#### U.S. citizen arrested on spying charges

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's domestic security agency said Monday that it has arrested a U.S. citizen on espionage charges.

The Federal Security Service, or FSB, the top KGB successor agency, said that Paul Whelan was detained in Moscow on Friday. The agency said in Monday's statement that he was caught "during an espionage operation," but didn't give any details.

Spying charges carry a prison sentence of up to 20 years in Russia.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the U.S. Embassy was duly notified about the arrest, but wouldn't give any further information.

The big sports events of 2018. Page 5