

BULLETIN BOARD

Birthday greetings to:

Tevan Evans, 10, son of Bobby & Misti Evans - Jan. 2

Game Changer

FROM PAGE 1

to fruition," Lowery said in describing how Hidden Treasures came to be. "Judi and I were working at the yard sale at Paradise House. And we were talking about wouldn't it be nice if we had more space. She said, 'You know, we have a building on Main Street and its used for storage.' We thought maybe we could have our yard sales there, or maybe a thrift shop. Then the idea took off."

The idea was presented at VSC board meeting and unanimously approved to request use of the building. The Community Relations department, under director Ronna Akins with staff including James Turner, Sandra Walker and Lana Adams were instrumental in the creation of the thrift store Lowery said.

"Ronna talked to (NTSH superintendent James Smith) Jim and got the ball rolling," Lowery said. "Mr. Smith has been wonderful to us. He has helped us in any way that he could. This could not have happened without Jim, Ronna and so many other terrific people at the state."

After receiving approval for the use of the main street building, the Vernon VSC slowly began to work out the details during their board meetings.

VSC members took a long road trip to Big Spring in March 2018. The Big Spring hospital's volunteer council has operated a thrift shop for several years known as the "Chalet."

Akins wrote the Big Spring Community Relations that the Vernon VSC is "hoping to open a resale shop in our Vernon Community and would love to hear and see, first hand from your Chalet volunteers/staff on how they have made it such a success."

With help and advice from that council, Vernon "did not have to reinvent the wheel" Conway said. "It really opened our eyes to what was possible."

But the Vernon council still faced tremendous challenges of getting a business up and running from scratch. "We had to get this building cleaned out. it was packed full of mattresses," Lowery said. And there was no place for the mattresses to go, until the DOC industries could come get them.

The Council took a gamble. It allocated funds to purchase racks from several businesses closing, including Beall's and Barbwire and Roses along with displays and other fixtures from Coy's and George's Guns.

Finally, after months of hard work by state employees and dozens of volunteers recruited by Lowery and others, the store opened with a ribbon cutting in October. Business has been brisk, and at times it has been difficult to have enough volunteers to staff it and sort all of the donations. Donations from the community are welcome for drop off Monday through Friday 8-5, excluding holidays.

Lowery said they are always looking for people to help, even if just for an hour or two. "Hidden Treasures also offers an opportunity for anybody wanting to have social interaction by volunteering since it operated by all volunteer labor," she said.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, come by or call (940)553-1447.

Don't fire guns on New Year's Eve

Although rare, people being shot by celebratory gunfire on New Year's Eve and other holidays like the Fourth of July does happen, prompting law enforcement authorities to caution people that bullets fired into the air can endanger people's lives.

A 9-year-old boy in Cleveland was wounded by a stray bullet last New Year's Eve as he watched

television inside his family's home. Another 9-year-old boy in Atlanta was shot in the abdomen by celebratory gunfire early Jan. 1 while he and his family set off fireworks.

A 4-year-old boy was killed in 2010 in Decatur, Georgia, when an AK-47 round penetrated a church roof and struck him in the head as he sat next to his parents during a New Year's Eve service.

A 2004 study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said people struck by gunfire shot into the air are most likely to be hit in the head.

That's what happened to Texas state Rep. Armando Martinez as he celebrated the new year in Weslaco, on Jan. 1, 2017. He and his family had waited in the friend's garage until gunfire had subsided to let off fireworks, he said.

Martinez said his wife had just wished him a happy new year with a kiss when a .223-caliber round fell from the sky and penetrated his skull. It felt, he said, as if he had been "hit by a sledgehammer."

"I was extremely lucky," Martinez said.

WEATHER

Rainfall Last 72 hrs: 0.25 2019: 28.52 2018: 25.18

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

POLICE CALLS

-- 1:24 p.m. Friday, a one-vehicle accident was reported at Main and Frontage. A vehicle took the turn to wide and ran over the stop sign.

-- 1:44 p.m., Adam Sanders, 36, was arrested by Vernon Police during a traffic stop on Texas Street. An officer recognized Sanders as a passenger in a vehicle and knew there was a valid warrant. The warrant dated to a Nov. 26 incident. "He was caught on a home security system with an identifiable picture," Vernon Police Capt. Wayne

Hodges said. "His photo was identified through Crime Stoppers and a warrant issued."

-- 8:21 p.m., an arrest for public intoxication was made at Cefco.

-- 10:03 a.m. Saturday, an accident was reported at 287 SB and FM 1763. The report was incomplete.

-- 1:57 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1800 block of Marshall. The report was incomplete.

-- 8:51 p.m., an arrest for driving while intoxicated was made in the 2600 block of Crescent.

-- 12:00 p.m. Monday, a two

vehicle accident was reported at Hillcrest and College Drive. The report is incomplete.

-- 3:50 p.m., a rollover vehicle accident with injuries was reported on 287 near CR 128.

FIRE CALLS

-- 1:11 a.m. Sunday, a house fire was reported at 13082 W 2nd in Lockett. Fire Chief JJ Oznick said no one was home at the time of the fire and its cause is currently under investigation. Personnel were on scene approximately 5 and a half hours.



Wreck at Hillcrest and College

Vernon Police Sgt. Cody Cook investigates a two vehicle accident that occurred on Monday afternoon at the intersection of Hillcrest Drive and College Drive. Vernon Fire Chief JJ Oznick reported no injuries in the incident. Daniel Walker/Vernon Record

Airman hit by car in Vernon continues recovery

LAS VEGAS -- A Nellis Air Force Base airman has been hospitalized since Dec. 14 after he was hit by a car in Texas, Las Vegas Fox 5 reports.

Austin Weimorts is a mechanic at Nellis, near Las Vegas. He and his wife moved to Las Vegas in 2018 and were going to visit family in Wichita Falls, Texas for the first time since moving.

He spent Christmas in the hospital, but he said he is thankful to be around to ring in the new year.

"I really think it was a freak accident," he said.

He and his wife Jaylene were near the end of their 16-hour road trip when their tire blew out in Vernon, Texas. Weimorts got out to fix it.

"As soon as I looked up I got hit," Weimorts said. "I just remember waking up on my back and seeing both my bones sticking out of my legs."

Jaylene said she thought she had lost him. "His stomach was cut open pretty deep."

Emergency crews had to fly Weimorts to the nearest trauma center in Lubbock. He went through 12 hours of surgery.

"I can't put any weight on my left leg," Weimorts said.

With shattered bones in his legs and nerve damage, doctors thought it would take weeks for him to just stand up.

Vernon Police reports state that Weimorts, 21, was southbound on 287 when his 2008 red Honda Accord suffered a blow out tire. Weimorts pulled over onto the shoulder before the Bentley Street exit. He got out of the car and was checking on flat the tire.

"A vehicle approaching from behind struck him

and he suffered severe injuries," Vernon Police Capt. Wayne Hodges said. "He was transported to Wilbarger General Hospital and then care flighted to UMC in Lubbock. Weimorts was thrown into the ditch.

Reports show that Weimorts was hit by a 2007 maroon Buick Lucerne, with a Vernon registration, but driven by Jonna Naylor, 59 of Wasilla Alaska.



Photo from Austin Weimorts GoFundMe page

Russians try to rewrite WWII history

WARSAW, Poland — The U.S, German and Israeli ambassadors in Warsaw weighed in Monday against claims by Russian President Vladimir Putin that Poland bears part of the blame for the outbreak of World War II.

"Dear President Putin, Hitler and Stalin colluded to start WWII. That is a fact. Poland was a victim of this horrible conflict," Ambassador Georgette Mosbacher said on Twitter in English and Polish.

The Russian Embassy countered with a tweet saying: "Dear Ambas-

sador, do you really think that you know about history any more than you do about diplomacy?"

World War II began on Sept. 1, 1939, when Nazi German troops invaded Poland. Two weeks later, the Soviet Red Army also attacked embattled Poland from the east, in what Poles still refer to as a "stab in the back." Days earlier, Germany and Russia had signed a pact with a secret protocol to carve up Poland and the Baltic states between themselves. Some six million Poles lost their lives during the whole of WWII.

Recently, Putin has argued that collusion

between Western powers and Adolf Hitler paved the way for World War II. He also cast Poland as an anti-Semitic country that welcomed Hitler's plans to destroy Europe's Jews.

German Ambassador Rolf Nikel and Israeli Ambassador Alexander Ben Zvi took a stand Monday to blame the war's outbreak on the August 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact.

Polish historian Mari-

usz Wolos told the Onet portal that Putin is aiming at "creating discord between Poland and the U.S. and the international Jewish diaspora."

He said Putin is trying to erase Stalin's alliance with Hitler from history.

Relations between Russia and Poland have been tense since Poland threw off Moscow-controlled communist rule 30 years ago and has since joined NATO.

OBITUARIES

Augustine Lozano Jr.

Augustine Lozano Jr. passed away on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019. Funeral services are pending under the direction of Sullivan Funeral Home.

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