

THE VERNON DAILY RECORD

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 1, 2020

Playoffs set.

Page 4



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Game Changers 2019

NTSH volunteers hard work, gamble pays off

A new and unusual thrift shop opened in Vernon on south Main Street in October, 2019. The store, Hidden Treasures, is located at 2201 Main. It is open Thursday's from 11-2. But plans are for the store to add a second day of operation, beginning in February, 2020.

Hidden Treasures is operated by the Volunteer Service Council for the North Texas State Hospital's Vernon campus. For their efforts in 2019 in bringing this new store to town, the VSC was named a Game Changer for 2019 by the citizens of Wilbarger County.

The VSC is the volunteer board overseeing volunteer activities at NTSH. In addition to overseeing volunteer activities, they also hold fundraisers to benefit patients and employees – such as purchasing Christmas presents for all patients and providing employee incentives. They also manage the Paradise House – a by-donation guest house for patient families to stay in while visiting a patient. All of the activities are funded by donations and fundraisers by the VSC – one of the main fundraisers in years past

has been yard sales.

But through more than two years of hard work and cooperation between the VSC and the NTSH Community Relations division, the thrift shop has opened as a central location for donations to be accepted and for a store to raise funds to support the NTSH mission.

“Our ‘mission’ is to support the needs of the patients at the NTSH beyond what the State is able to provide. The Main Street location makes it easier for the community to donate items for patient use. Hidden Treasures now has the opportunity to make use of the items not passed on to the patients. All profit made goes directly into the patient needs fund,” said VSC president Claudette Lowery.

The Volunteer Service Council board includes Lowery, secretary Judi Russell and members Clyde Conway, Mark Lytle, Daniel Walker, Sue Ann Streit, and Martha Keene.

“We have been working on this for a couple of years, it took a while to come

SEE GAME CHANGER, PAGE 2



NTSH Volunteer Service Council members (from right) Claudette Lowery, Clyde Conway and Sue Ann Streit wait on customers at the Hidden Treasures thrift shop, located at 2201 Main Street. The VSC opened the store in 2019 as a fund-raiser to support the council's activities. Daniel Walker/Vernon Record

A Look Back at 2019

JANUARY

For her selfless dedication to the community without receiving any monetary gain or recognition for her tireless hours as chairman of the Wilbarger County Salvation Army, Nancy Ritchey was nominated as a Vernon Game Changer for 2018.

Chief Randy Agan presented “Life Saving” awards to officer Justin Hiracheta, officer David Albineda, and Sgt. Cody Cook to recognize their quick response in providing CPR to a heart attack victim.

Vernon College trustees unanimously approved the employment of a new head volleyball coach, Michelle Barbaree.

Vernon school trustees unanimously approved nearly \$700,000 worth of roofing contracts for various district buildings with DK Roofing of Fort Worth.

Vernon school trustees approved a contract extension for Superintendent Jeff Byrd.

The Citizen of the Year award was presented to Charles and Mamie McArthur during the 108th annual Chamber of Commerce banquet held at Wilbarger Auditorium. The Director of the Year award was presented to Brenda Miller. The Farmer of the Year award was presented to Allen Lemon. The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Sharon and Billy Goins.

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration was held at New Hope Baptist Church with testimony, a community meal, songs, and a special message by Rev. Willie King, who called on residents to not just be bystanders but to speak out when they see injustice and mistreatment. \$1,000 was raised to assist those struggling with paying high water fees.

A total of \$156,000 in premiums went toward purchases of 107 livestock during the premium sale of the 2019 Wilbarger County Junior Livestock Show held at the Wilbarger County Exhibit Building.

The Red River Valley Museum was awarded a challenge grant by an anonymous foundation to help cover the costs of a redesign of the Bond Gallery and Art Gallery at the museum.

FEBRUARY

Gov. Greg Abbott announced that both chambers of

the Texas Legislature will push to curb property tax growth by limiting how much money local governments collect without voter approval.

Due to a large number of students and staff absent because of the flu, Vernon ISD cancelled all classes.

The Vernon Police Department officially unveiled 20 of their gun-mounted cameras as it is the first police department in Texas to implement their use.



Vernon Police Chief Randy Agan demonstrated the department's gun-mounted cameras in February.

SEE 2019, PAGE 3

Judge Tyra optimistic for 2020

DANIEL WALKER
VERNON RECORD

Wilbarger County Judge Greg Tyra said that 2019 was a good year for Wilbarger County, and he is optimistic for 2020.

“I think it’s going to be a good year for Wilbarger County. As always, there are challenges we will have to face, but there are no pressing issues that we have not dealt with. We have a dedicated group of elected county officials and employees that are working hard for the citizens and are watching the budgets tightly. The county finances are in good shape. Wilbarger County is a good place to live and there are a lot of opportunities,” Judge Tyra said.

Judge Tyra said the county had made several improvements to county facilities during 2019, including installing new custom fitted curtains at Wilbarger Auditorium. The previous curtains in the facility had been original with it from the 1950s. The county installed new lighting at the show barn exhibit building. County facilities got a technological upgrade by hooking onto fiber optic internet at the courthouse.

“Airport improvements were made to the runway and new lights installed. Other airport renovations will be coming in the next year,” Tyra said. “Precinct 4 is doing lots of road upgrades with material allotted from the state.”

Judge Tyra said that the closure of the AEP Oklahoma power plant, scheduled for this coming September, is a concern as it will significantly impact the county’s tax base and employs a number of local families.

“We have been planning for it and looking into all of our options. We will be all right,” he said.

Judge Tyra said that another wind farm is coming in the south part of the county, that will make four wind farms and other alternative energy company are considering wind and solar farms.

DEATHS:

Augustine Lozano, Jr., Vernon
Page 2

NEWS POINTS

New Year's Day closings

The Vernon Daily Record will publish the Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020 edition on Tuesday with the office to close at 12 noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31, and be closed all day on Wednesday, New Year's Day.

Vernon and area schools continue to be out for the holidays.

All banking institutions will be closed on Wednesday, New Year's Day.

The City of Vernon and Wilbarger County Courthouse offices will both be closed on Wednesday, New Year's Day.

Trash will not be picked up on Wednesday and will be on a one-day delay for the remainder of the week.

The Post Office will be closed on Wednesday, and there will be no postal deliveries that day.

Questions sought for Forum

Questions are being sought for a Candi-

dates' Forum to be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 28, 2020, at Wilbarger Auditorium.

Questions can be sent by email to dwalker@vernonrecord.com or brought to the Vernon Record office at 3214 Wilbarger

Questions will be asked of candidates by the moderator during the Forum.

Retirement party set for McArthur

A retirement party for Mamie McArthur, associate municipal judge, will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, Jan. 3, 2020, at City Hall.

Chamber Banquet to be held Jan. 16

The 109th annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020 in the Empire Room of Wilbarger Auditorium.

Citizen of the Year and other awards will be given out at the banquet.

Tickets are currently on sale in the

Chamber office at 1614 Main Street. Call 940-552-2564. Those attending should RSVP by Monday, Jan. 13, 2020.

Relay for Life meetings planned

Two meetings have been scheduled in January and February for Relay for Life, according to Marilyn Ramirez, chairman.

Ramirez said the first meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28, and the second at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, both in Wilbarger Auditorium.

All committee members and team captains are urged to attend as well as anyone interested in putting together a team.

The Survivors' dinner will be held at the First Baptist Church CLC at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25.

The 2020 Wilbarger County Relay for Life will be held from 2 p.m to 10 p.m., Saturday, April 4, 2020, at the First Baptist Church CLC.

Ramirez can be reached at 886-6006.

No mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

VOL. 94 NO. 18
8 PAGES
VERNON, TX 76384



7 53182 14415 3

Two killed in church shooting. Page 3

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