

THE VERNON DAILY RECORD

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 3, 2020

Free Fishing Day coming.

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Chillicothe's Wilson named top superintendent



Todd Wilson, Superintendent of Chillicothe Independent School District, has been named the 2020 Region 9 Superintendent of the Year. This award program honors outstanding Texas administrators for achievement and excellence in public school administration and is sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards.

Candidates are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving the quality of education in their school districts, commitment to public support and involvement in education, and ability to build good employee relations among teachers

and staff members.

The regional nomination has been submitted to the Texas Association of School Boards for the state judging with the winner being announced at the TASA/TASB State Convention on Oct. 2, 2020.

Wilson was hired by the Chillicothe ISD in 2015. He was born in Post, Texas, where he graduated from high school. He attended Abilene Christian University. Prior to being named as Chillicothe superintendent, he was an elementary school teacher in Clyde and was principal of McCord School in Vernon for five years.

Chillicothe ISD was recognized as an "America's Top High School 2015" campus. This recognition is based on College Readiness and Graduation Rate as compared with schools with a similar low income status. Newsweek named the top 500 in the nation. Chillicothe High School came in at number 94 and made the top 100. In Texas, there were only 44 schools that made the Top 100 and Chillicothe was the only school in North Texas.



First day of swimming

Tuesday was the first day for the Orbison Park Aquatics Center to be open for the summer, and a number of swimmers were on hand to enjoy the cool water. The pool is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The pool is closed on Monday. Pool parties can also be scheduled for the evening hours.

Joyce Ashley/Vernon Record

WGH alters policy

Wilbarger General Hospital announced Monday that it will now begin to allow individuals coming to the Hospital and Emergency Department one visitor per patient.

All patients and visitors must wear a mask or face covering when entering the hospital. Each individual is responsible for providing their own mask or face covering, one will not be provided.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Texas Department of Health and Human Services reports seven positive Covid-19 cases in Wilbarger County and one in Hardeman County. Of the seven cases in Wilbarger, three are considered active and four have recovered as of Tuesday.

WGH reports three pending cases, with 131 administered tests in their most recent weekly update. DSHS reports an additional 90 tests for the county, which includes two mobile testing sites at the library. Hardeman County has had 34 tests while Foard County has had 88 tests with none positive.

Texoma Alliance to Stop Abuse hires full-time director

A local non-profit dedicated to ending family violence in the area has recently ramped up its efforts to assist victims. Texoma Alliance to Stop Abuse (TASA) recently hired Rachel Lira to serve as the non-profit's first full-time executive director. Lira, who previously served as part-time executive director, assumed the full-time role in March of this year.

"I am so excited to be working on combatting the serious issue of family violence in my hometown and the surrounding area," stated Lira. "We are here to make sure that survivors of family violence have all of the support they need to remain safe and healthy."

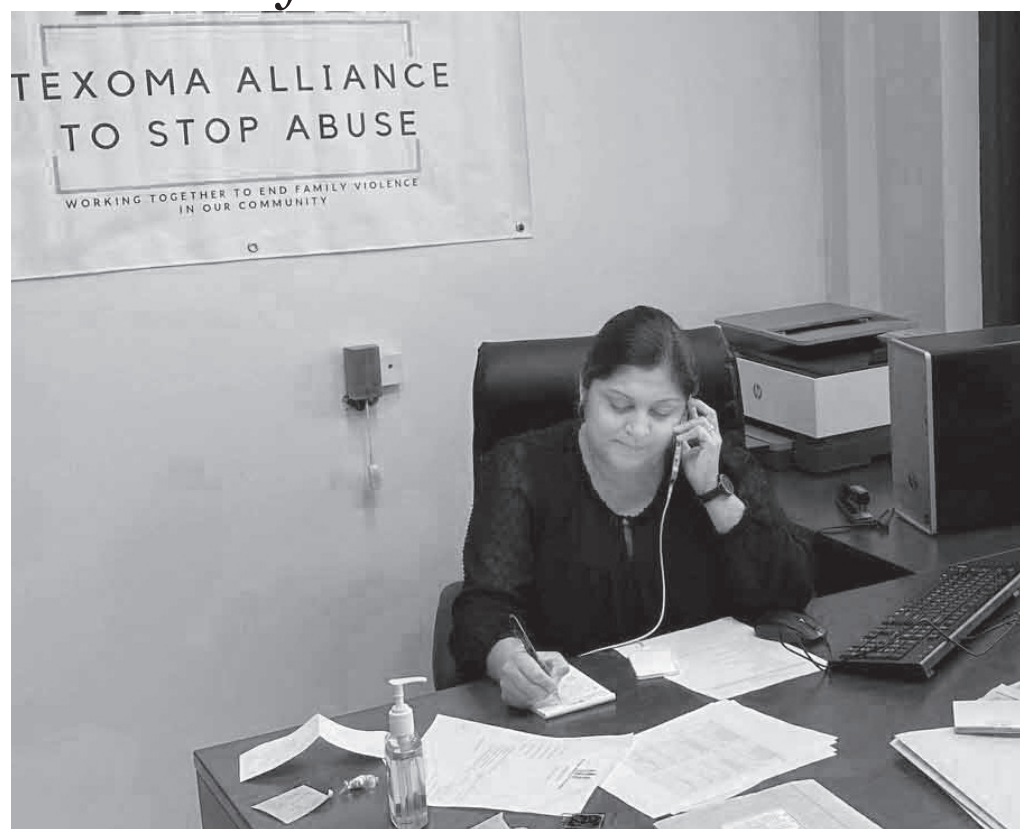
Lira graduated from Vernon High School, attended Vernon College, and received her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Midwestern State University. Prior

to becoming executive director, Lira was a rural case manager for at-risk youth for a nationwide non-profit. She says that while this is her first full-time job working in the family violence field, she became interested in the topic after taking a college class and then seeing a loved one go through an abusive experience. "A niece of mine was in an abusive dating relationship when she was in high school here in Vernon," stated Lira. "Seeing all of the difficulties that she experienced and the lack of available services really opened up my eyes to the need in our community."

Lira started as a volunteer at TASA who attended their annual family violence rallies each year. By 2017 she was a board member of the organization and eventually she began working directly with victims as assistant coordinator of the Do-

mestic Violence High Risk Team. She has received extensive training at the annual Conference on Crimes Against Women in Dallas as well as through the prestigious Institute for Community Coordinated Response. Lira says that she feels honored to serve as executive director. "I am dedicated to keeping victims safe and to raising awareness about family violence in our community."

TASA, founded in 2013, provides free, confidential and comprehensive services to survivors of intimate partner violence. This includes risk and needs assessments, safety planning, counseling, transportation to shelter outside of Vernon, assistance with protective orders, and limited temporary financial assistance. While TASA's primary objective is to provide services to victims, they also operate a batterer in-



Rachel Lira has been hired as director at the Texoma Alliance to Stop Abuse.

tervention and prevention program that is aimed at reorienting the thinking

and behavior of men who abuse. The twenty-seven week program is primar-

ily for men who have been court-ordered to participate, but others have

DEATHS:

Janet Bergman, Vernon
Dee Ann Bertram, Wichita Falls

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For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake His faithful ones.

Psalm 37:28

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NEWS POINTS

Relay meeting set Friday

The Relay for Life committee will meet at 6 p.m., Friday, June 5, 2020 in the Forum Room of Wilbarger Auditorium.

Marilyn Schoppa, chairman, said anyone interested in being on a team or forming a team is invited to attend.

Cancer survivors who have not yet registered for this year's Relay are also invited to attend.

A specific date has not yet been set for this year's Relay, Schoppa said it is hoped to be held in August.

Orbison Park Aquatics Center now open

The Orbison Park Aquatics Center is now open Tuesday through Saturday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The pool is closed on Monday.

Pool parties can also be scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Due to COVID-19 state restrictions on capacity, the pool has a maximum capacity of 111 customers and will operate on a first come, first serve basis.

For prices and additional information, contact City Hall at 940-552-2581.

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Post 67, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, June 9. A meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

Wilbarger County Commissioners meet

The Wilbarger County Commissioners Court will meet on Monday, June 8 at 9 a.m. in the commissioner courtroom at the courthouse. The meeting is open to the public.

The agenda includes paying bills, a equipment rental lease agreement renewal for Precinct 1, and the sale of tax property at

1212 Bismarck Street

Main Street meeting

The Main Street Advisory board will meet at noon, on Wednesday, June 3 at City Hall.

The board is scheduled to discuss new business development in downtown Vernon, discuss design plans developed by Texas main Street architects, take action on a Hotel Occupancy Tax application, and discuss and possibly take action on updates related to Covid-19. The meeting is open to the public.

Lorrie Morgan concert still set for Nov. 1

The Lorrie Morgan concert that was postponed from June is still scheduled for Nov. 1. Ticket holders who would like to return their tickets, may call 940-552-2564 ext. 301. Those who would like to go to the concert on Nov. 1 and already have tickets, the tickets are still good for this date. Tickets can be purchased at usashowtickets.com.

Building permits issued in May. Page 3