

Virus

FROM PAGE 1

as the number of active covid19 cases in the county was 20 or lower. Wilbarger County surpassed that number Thursday night when DSHS reported 48 active cases in the county. The county will need to go 30 days, with active cases under 20, before it can reapply for a waiver.

NTSH NUMBERS

NTSH-Vernon reports 40 patients are positive and 9 staff as of Monday night. The number is down from last week's 45 patients and 15 staff with active cases. Patients are reported in their home counties.

CONCERT CANCELLED

The Lorrie Morgan concert has been officially cancelled.

The show that the country music singer was playing the night before Vernon in this region was cancelled, so she and her crew told Vernon officials that they could not justify the expense of traveling to Vernon for the one show.

"We are disappointed to say the least, but we understand. We know this pandemic has been hard on musicians as well. We have issued refund checks to all sponsors and ticket holders via mail," said Vernon Tourism Director Amanda Lehman.

Those checks went out Monday morning. For questions, people can call Amanda Lehman, Tourism and Main Street Director with the City of Vernon at 940-552-2564 ext. 301.

Aware

FROM PAGE 1

18 holes of golf. Both individuals and teams are encouraged to sign up by contacting the Pro Shop at 940-552-5406.

On Thursday, October 15, TASA will have an informational booth at the Wilbarger General Hospital health fair located at the Wilbarger County Auditorium. Those attending can swing by the booth from 9am-noon and receive some TASA goodies, brochures, and informational resources.

On Thursday, October 22, residents are encouraged to wear something purple, the color of domestic violence awareness. "It can be purple socks, a ribbon, shirt, tie, or even a hat," said Jon Whitsitt, TASA board member. "We just want people to see the color purple out in the community to show support for survivors of domestic violence."

According to Lira, some of the usual awareness events have been impacted by Covid-19 and will not take place this year. TASA is considering holding their annual Domestic Violence Awareness Rally virtually, but no date has been announced.

DA Staley Heatly emphasized the importance of citizens educating themselves about family violence and being familiar with the resources that are available locally. "Talk to your friends and family members about the importance of a safe and healthy relationship," stated Heatly. "Be aware of the signs of a potentially abusive relationship, and if you see something wrong, make sure to offer support and information about local resources."

Big Diamond found at Ark. park

A bank manager discovered a 9.07-carat diamond at a state park in southwestern Arkansas after thinking the precious gem was a piece of glass.

Kevin Kinard of Maumelle found the second-largest diamond in the 48-year history of Crater of Diamonds State Park on Labor Day.

Kinard said he and his friends hauled sifting

equipment to the state park in Murfreesboro. Kinard noted that he's been visiting Crater of Diamonds regularly since he was a kid but had never stumbled upon a diamond until Sept. 7.

'Lame ducks' need money to operate

DANIEL WALKER
VERNON RECORD

Two weeks ago the Wilbarger County Commissioners Court took action to limit the spending ability of county officials that had not been reelected to office.

The terms of commissioners John Wright, Kelly Joe Neel and Sheriff Bill Price end after one-quarter of the current fiscal year, and the commissioners court was afraid the "lame ducks" could spend all of their department's money before new office holders take over in January.

The court required that any expenditure over \$500 required pre-approval from the commissioners court.

This week, in Monday's commission meeting, the court received a number of requests

for expenditures from the three officials.

But before they handled those, they tried to take care of routine business. A motion to pay previous bills was made and Judge Greg Tyra called for a vote. Commissioner John Wright voted no.

"What's the problem?" Judge Tyra asked.

Wright said that some items in the bills had not been pre-approved.

He said the court's spending resolution stated it was in effect immediately, and he had not been allowed to make road repairs for two weeks, until he could get pre-approval. He questioned why other outgoing officials got to make purchases.

One item was a \$2,300 bill for the sheriff's department.

Sheriff Bill Price said

it was for groceries for the jail and he said the county couldn't just shut off the funding and require pre-approval.

"We have food coming in. That's federal law -- we have to feed the prisoners. You can't just let them starve for a few weeks. I have no idea what it will cost each week to feed them,"

Price said, adding the number of prisoners fluctuates and that causes the price of groceries to change week-to-week. he said his Jail Administrator had full authority to make purchases she needed to stay in compliance.

The payment of bills passed by a 3-1 vote with Wright opposed.

The officials then presented their requests for pre-approval for the next few weeks.

Wright said he needed

oil and gravel for road work on an already planned project with Freeman's. he said he was going to need fuel, and metal for a couple of bridge projects.

Commissioner Kelly Joe Neel said he needed about \$10,000 worth of fuel and \$6,700 worth of construction material.

Sheriff Price said he had food coming in. he said he would also like to send Chief Deputy Clint Nava to a school to study investigation of unattended deaths. the cost would be \$1,567.

The funding requests were unanimously approved on a motion from commissioner Josh Patterson.

In other action, a FY2020 budget amendment was approved for the General Fund, related to attorney fees

Lingnau

FROM PAGE 1

decapitated.

"It scared the heck out of me. There was glass everywhere, there was blood everywhere," he said.

Lingnau saw a 6-month old baby in the seat. She wasn't breathing.

"She was just slumped over in the seat. I picked that booger up. I lady pulled up and had a pillow. I laid that baby on the pillow. She wasn't breath-

ing. I started giving her CPR, like I'd just learned. As the ambulance pulled up, the baby started to cry," Lingnau said.

Foard County Judge Charlie Bell, in a 1988 newspaper article, said that Abilene paramedics told the child's family that she would have died before they arrived if Lingnau hadn't been there. The baby's grand-

mother called Lingnau the next day to thank him, and say it was their only grandchild.

The child's name was Laura Whiteside, Lingnau said she attempted to see him one time, after he had left the Foard County SO in 1995. "She came to see me one time at the Sheriff's office, but Sheriff Bobby Bond told her I'd moved away. Well,

I hadn't. He just didn't want me to know," Lingnau said.

Lingnau is hopeful that he will get to meet the baby some time, who now will be a 32-year-old woman.

Anyone with information on the family can contact dwalker@vernonrecord.com and we will get them in contact with Lingnau.

More virus cases found in older students

The vast majority of known coronavirus cases among Texas public school students who have returned to classrooms in person this school year were found in older students, new state data released last Thursday shows.

According to the data, which includes self-reported, test-confirmed cases from hundreds of school districts across the state, 69% of infected students were in grades seven through 12, while just 15% were in grades four through six and 16% in grade three or lower.

Experts say that split makes sense, since there is some evidence that older students are more likely to be symptomatic and thus more likely to be tested.

Statewide, at least 3,735 Texas public school students who have returned to campus in person this school year have tested positive for the corona-

virus — less than 1% of students who are learning in person, according to enrollment estimates from the Texas Education Agency.

Cases among students or staff were reported by some 700 districts and charter schools across the state, according to the data, which is current through Sept. 20. The

state recorded 1,212 new cases among public school students between Sept. 13 and Sept. 20 and 660 new cases among staff.

Those figures are a minimum, since many people contract the coronavirus without ever showing symptoms, and testing is rare and particularly difficult to obtain for children.

OBITUARIES

JoAnn Hudgins

JoAnn Hudgins died Sept. 23 at her home in Horseshoe Bay, Texas, in the presence of her husband Tom Hudgins.

For the past many years, she suffered with dementia. JoAnn Donges Thompson Hudgins was born March 18, 1937 in Elliott, Texas to the late Charles George Donges and the late Elsie Raines Donges Lemon. She and Tom met in Dallas where they married in February 1980. In the summer of 2000, they moved to Horseshoe Bay.

JoAnn was preceded in death by her three older brothers, Charles, Lloyd and Curtis Donges. In addition to Tom, she is survived by sons Dale Thompson of Garland, Texas; Jeff Thompson (wife Paula) of Heath, Texas; stepson Tom Hudgins, Jr. (wife Laura) of Wall, Texas; granddaughters Jessica McFall (husband Ross) of Houston, Texas; Jennifer Fedosky (husband Jacob) of Atlanta, Georgia; and, Allie Hudgins of Wall, Texas.

Pursuant to her wishes there will not be a memorial service.



Paid

OBITUARIES

Flora Belle 'Tody' Baldwin

Flora Belle "Tody" Baldwin, 93, of Vernon, Texas died on Monday, Sept. 28, 2020, in Vernon, Texas.

Funeral service will be Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 at 3 p.m. at Sullivan Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be held at Eastview Cemetery under the direction of Sullivan Funeral Home.

Denis Baustert

Sherman — Mass of Christian Burial for Denis Edward Baustert was held at 10 a.m., Tuesday Sept. 29 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Father Lito Abiog will officiate. Burial followed at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery with Mike Baustert, Greg Baustert, Mike DeLong, Brice DeLong, and Austin Lewis serving as pallbearers. Mr. Baustert, 80, died Friday, Sept. 25 with family at his bedside.

Denis was born Sept. 19, 1940 in Okeene, Okla. to the late Walt and Leona (Luetkemeyer) Baustert. He attended St. Mary's School in Okeene, St. Gregory's College in Shawnee, Okla. and St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kan., graduating in 1962. On Oct. 6, 1962, he and Jean Ann Descher were married in Okeene. Denis worked at the Van Horn State Bank and retired from the First National Bank in Chillicothe where he served as president. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sherman.

Mr. Baustert will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He loved his hobbies, especially golf, hunting, and fishing. He is survived by his wife Jean of Sherman; two sons, Michael and wife Kelli of Chillicothe, Texas and Greg and wife Justyna of Ft. Collins, Colorado; daughter, Michele DeLong and husband Mike of Sherman; five grandchildren, Brenna Lewis, Brice DeLong, Carter Baustert, Carli Baustert, and Amber Baustert; four sisters, Carole McKenna of Oklahoma City, Barbara Helton of Fairview, Oklahoma, Beverly Selling of Oklahoma City, and Patty Rother of Oklahoma City; and one brother, Don Baustert of Oklahoma City. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Jane Boeckman.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Parkinson's Research. The register book can be signed online at waldofuneralhome.com.



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Phone: 940-552-5454
Fax: 940-553-4823
e-mail: vdr@vernonrecord.com
Business office hours:
Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
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WEATHER

Rainfall
Last 7 days: **0.00**
2020: **27.86**
2019: **21.84**

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