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**JAN. 6, 2021**

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## Five more deaths due to COVID-19 reported

By Julianne Hodges  
julianne.hodges@elgincourier.com

Five more residents of Bastrop County have died due to COVID-19 since last week, bringing the total number of fatalities since the beginning of the pandemic from 42 to 47.

As of Monday morning, 3,281 people have recovered from COVID-19 in Bastrop County, leaving 488 active cases, according to the county's dashboard, which can be found online at [www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus](http://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus). So far, Bastrop County has reported a total of 2,977 confirmed

positive cases and 839 probable cases. The probable case count includes cases where an individual has either had a positive antigen "rapid" test, or had known exposure to someone with the virus and has symptoms of COVID-19. As of Monday, 902 residents of

Bastrop County have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, according to a dashboard from the Texas Department of State Health Services, found at [dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm](http://dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm). Last week, 154 people had received a vaccine. See more COVID-19 news on page 8B.

**Inside Today's EDITION**

**Downtown Elgin businesses start year with sidewalk sales**

See story, page 3B

**Wildcats, Lady Cats start 2021 with defeats against Hendrickson**

See story, page 4B

**Neidig Elementary celebrates winter**

See story, page 5B

**Obituaries**

Jonna Mae Daly  
Shirley Ann Gibson  
Nellie Francis Frye Lawhon  
La Morse Madison, Jr.  
Joe C. Martinez, Sr.  
Jose Fidel De Nova Martinez  
Ruthie Matthews  
Milton D. Wilson  
Lillie Mae Polson  
Dorothy Anne Rountree  
Amos Jimmie Wenzel

**New Subscribers**

Lost Pines Groundwater  
Mary Kathleen Clark  
Harry & Verlyne Hosea  
Dale Kessel  
John & Pollye Hofstedt  
Carl Herring, DDS  
Cody Williams (Gift from Marie Richards)  
Virginia Longoria  
Harlan Neidig  
Avis Cureton  
Cheryl Smith (New)  
Amy McVay (New - Gift from Cheryl Smith)  
Nancy Torn  
L.B. Hall  
Glenda Gebert  
Phillip Bayer  
Molly Alexander

## Girl Scouts plant tree in memory of troop member



Girl Scout Troop 2334 and grandfather David Erwin plant a tree in memory of Jade Erwin. Photos courtesy of Amy Miller

Girl Scout Troop 2334 planted a peach tree on Sunday in memory of Jade Erwin, their fellow Girl Scout who died in March 2020. Her grandfather, David Erwin, helped with the planting. The tree is located in the Edible Arbor Walk at the Elgin Recreation Center and Elgin Memorial Park. The troop will dedicate a plaque later when her grandmother, Betsy, can attend. Troop 2334 is an Ambassador and Seniors Girl Scout troop in the Blackland Prairie Service Unit for Girl Scouts of Central Texas. The troop formed when several of the girls were in kindergarten and has had a strong consistent participation throughout the years. Over the years, the girls have enjoyed camping, hiking and earning variety of badges, and troop members have earned multiple Bronze and Silver awards and have candidates for the Gold Award. Ten of the girls will graduate in May and three plan to continue with the troop for their final year of high school. Their fondest memories of Jade include camping trips, dance parties and travel throughout Texas as well as to Tennessee and Colorado. They have a trip planned for a tour of Europe in 2021 after travel is allowed with the future containment of COVID-19. They encourage everyone to wear a face covering, practice social distancing and wash your hands to keep yourself and others healthy. More information about Girl Scouts is available at [www.gsctx.org](http://www.gsctx.org).



## Elgin parks department recognized for pandemic activities



TRAPS President Mary Hemenes (left) and Elgin Recreation Program Manager Elizabeth Marzec (right). Photo by Terrie Chavez

**Press release,**  
Elgin Parks & Recreation Department

Every year, the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) Central Region recognizes excellence in parks and recreation departments throughout Central Texas. The Elgin Parks and Recreation Department recently received two Central Texas TRAPS awards for their hard work in supporting community engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elgin's Parks and Recreation Department received the Lone Star Programming Award for TRAPS Central Region for the Cardboard Boat Race that took place over the summer 2020. The goal of this program was to support STEM programming by encouraging families and children to engineer and build a boat from cardboard and duct tape that would not only float but support their weight and be able to be paddled across our local public pool. Everyone, young and old, appreciates being creative and challenging their minds. This project was unique and sparked curiosity that many of us haven't felt in years. The multigenerational interactions made families work together and share ideas, building their communication skills.

Elgin's Parks and Recreation Department also received the Arts and Humanities Award for TRAPS Central Region for the Free Weekly Activity Books that were available to the public every Wednesday from March until September. These free activity books provided seven days of activities that ranged from arts and crafts to educational materials. By using crafts and art supplies, children and families were able to explore different topics such as the importance of pollinator, the Seven Wonders of the World, the water cycle and more.

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# RECORDS



## Dorothy Anne Rountree



1995, and were married for 62 years.

She is preceded in death by her parents, George and Dorothy Vosburg and her beloved Bill Rountree.

She is survived by her two sons, William C. Rountree, Jr. and his

wife, Marsha, Charles B. Rountree and his wife, Susan; a sister, Georgeanne Judd; her 11 grandchildren, Chris Rountree, Michelle Rugeley, Seth B Rountree, Charles W Rountree, Jacob Rountree, Jessica Nunley, Brooke Rountree, Adam Goldberg, Loren Goldberg, Evan Goldberg, and Seth Goldberg; her twenty-two great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family and dear friends. She is loved deeply and will be greatly missed.

Family Visitation will be held at Elgin Fu-

neral Home, Monday, January 4th from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Funeral Services will be conducted at New Sweden Lutheran Church, Tuesday, January 5th at 2:00 PM with the Reverend, Hans Lillejord presiding. Interment will follow at New Sweden Church Cemetery. Arrangements and care are entrusted to:



## Ruthie Matthews



Ruthie Matthews, 68, of Elgin, passed away, Friday, January 1, 2021. Survived by husband, Charles. Family Visitation will be held at Elgin Funeral Home, Friday, January 8th from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. A Home-Going Celebration will be conducted at Elgin Funeral Home, Saturday, January 9th at 11:00 AM with the Reverend, Byron Green presiding. Interment will follow at Elgin Latin Cemetery. Arrangements and care are entrusted to:



## J. Fidel De Nova Martinez



J. Fidel De Nova Martinez, 86, of Austin, passed away, Wednesday, December 30, 2020. He will lie in state at the Elgin Funeral Home, Thursday, December 31st, from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. A Celebration of Christian Funeral Mass will be at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Thursday, December 31st at 3:00 PM. Christian Burial will follow at Elgin Latin Cemetery. Arrangements and care are entrusted to:



## Jonna Mae Daly



Charles in 2010; her son Bill Stanton in 1998; and her great-granddaughter, Alliecia in 2015.

Jonna leaves behind two daughters, Deirdre and husband Broa-

us Dewey of Colorado and Heather and husband Kenneth Weldy of Texas; three sons, Charles M. and wife DeDe of Florida, Brian and wife Lisa of Texas, and Scott and wife Deb of Texas; her seven sisters and five brothers; 16 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; and many extended family and dear friends.

Family will receive guests at Elgin Funeral Home, Sunday, January 3rd, from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM. A Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be prayed at

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Monday, January 4th at 10:30 AM. Celebration of Christian Funeral Mass will follow at 11:00 AM with Father George presiding. Christian burial will follow Mass at Fairview Cemetery, Bastrop, Texas. Arrangements and care are entrusted to:



## Amos Jimmie Wenzel



Amos Jimmie Wenzel, 73 years of age, passed away Tuesday December 29, 2020 at home, surrounded by family after a year-long battle with cancer.

Amos was born on July 7th, 1947, to Hugo and Lizzie Wenzel in Sharp, Texas, the 7th of 9 children. He was drafted to the Army and served 2 years from 1966-1968. Amos then spent time in Houston and Austin, settling in Elgin to raise his family while farming various crops. In his later years, after grandkids softened his tough skin, he took pride in showing each of them off in any way he could.

Amos is preceded in death by his wife Shirley, parents Hugo and Lizzie, brothers Carol and Wilbert Lee.

He is survived by his 3 children; Hugh (wife Michelle) Wenzel, Darrell (wife Cheryl) Wenzel, Amy (husband Jonathan) Richter, grandchildren; Jacob, Grady, Hayley, Megan, Hayden, Reagan, Rylan, Rylee and Rainey. He is also survived by siblings; Delaris Barclay, Randolph Wenzel, Kenneth Wenzel,

Thomas (Dotty) Wenzel, David (Pearl) Wenzel, Marjorie (Terry) Robbins and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Visitation was held on Sunday, January 3, 2021 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life service was held Monday, January 4, 2021 at 1:00 pm at New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manor, Texas. Interment followed at Bushdale Cemetery in Rockdale, Texas.

Arrangements entrusted to Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home.



## Nellie Francis Frye Lawhon



hon and his wife Patricia Lawhon; nine grandchildren; nineteen great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family and dear friends.

Nellie spent ten years

with her loving companion Ed and had enjoyed spending time with her three favorite nieces, Phyllis Cockran, Bonnie McCurry, and Sandi Moyer. Nellie had a special place in her heart for the Frye family. Her special care was appreciated so much from her daughter-in-laws, Patricia and Sandra Lawhon.

Serving with Honor and Grace, Pallbearers are Lee Lawhon, Mark Lawhon, Isaac Lawhon, Ryker Lawhon, Johnny Lawhon, Matthew Lawhon, and John Clint Lawhon.

A visitation will be held at Elgin Funeral Home, Wednesday, January 6th from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Funeral Services will be conducted at Elgin Funeral Home, Thursday, January 7th at 2:00 PM with Pastor Brandon Cano presiding. Interment will follow at Youngs Prairie Cemetery. Arrangements and care are entrusted to:



## La Morse Madison, Jr

La Morse Madison, Jr., age 90, of Elgin, Texas, passed away on January 2, 2021.

Services are pending. Arrangements entrusted to Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home.



## Lillie Mae Polson

Lillie Mae Polson, 93, of Elgin, passed away Tuesday, December 29, 2020. Services will be private. Arrangements and care are entrusted to:



## Mitlon D. Wilson

Mitlon D. Wilson, 77, of Austin, passed away peacefully, Thursday morning, December 31, 2020. Survived by wife, Helen. Services are currently pending. Arrangements and care are entrusted to:



See more obituaries on page 8B.

## Shirley Ann Gibson



Shirley Ann Gibson, 61, of Smithville, passed away Saturday, January 2, 2021. She will lie in state at the Elgin Funeral Home, Friday, January 8th from 12:00 PM until 6:00 PM. A Home-Going Celebration will be conducted at Elgin Funeral Home, Saturday, January 9th at 3:00 PM with the Reverend, Joe Williams presiding. Interment will follow at Sayers Cemetery. Arrangements and care are entrusted to:



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 <p><b>ARCHIE</b> Breed: Retriever Age: 1 year Very sweet and dainty.</p>	 <p><b>BRUNO</b> Breed: Yellow Lab Age: 4 years Very sweet, outgoing and playful!</p>	 <p><b>ELVIRA</b> Breed: Bully Age: 4 years Very loving and outgoing.</p>	 <p><b>KORA</b> Breed: Rottweiler Age: 4 years Mellow and sweet.</p>
 <p><b>LANCE</b> Breed: Cattle Dog Age: 9 months Sweet, outgoing and dainty.</p>	 <p><b>NALA</b> Breed: Bully Age: 1 year Sweet, very loving, calm but can be playful too!</p>	 <p><b>WOODY</b> Breed: Bully Age: 9 months Playful, loving, great with people! Likes playing with other dogs, too.</p>	 <p><b>CLARICE</b> Breed: Husky Age: 2 years Very sweet and loves people!</p>

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# January 2021



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# BASTROP COUNTY

## I·N·S·I·D·E·R

Section B • Page 1  
Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021

Your Guide to Bastrop County  
News • Shopping • Entertainment

### Downtown kicks off new year with sidewalk sales



Leland Lundgren (left) and Barbara Sellars (right) set up shop on the sidewalk on Main Street.



Holly Taylor looks at the hot cocoa bombs for sale in Chemn Cafe.



Martha's Market (left) and Red Boutique (right) promote their merchandise on the sidewalk on Saturday.

On Saturday, a few vendors were set up on the sidewalks of Main Street, while other downtown Elgin shops offered sales outside of their front doors or hosted sales or vendors inside their stores, during the first Sidewalk Sale of the year.

Photos by Julianne Hodges

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### JANUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 5

##### VOLUNTEER AT DOWN HOME RANCH GREENHOUSES

The planting of 25,000 spring color plants is a huge task, and Down Home Ranch has a great need for help in their greenhouses. This opportunity is wonderful for groups and individuals, young and old. If you would like to come get your hands dirty for a good cause, please email stefaniel@downhomeranch.org to sign up! Around 20 volunteers are needed per day, and morning and afternoon shifts are available Mondays through Fridays from January 4 through February 5; Saturday dates are also available upon inquiring. For more information, visit www.downhomeranch.org/ways-to-give/volunteer.

#### DECEMBER 1 - JANUARY 29

##### SQUARE SHOW

Come enjoy an eclectic collection of works from regional artists in small square sizes at the annual Square Show at the Lost Pines Art Center, 1204 Chestnut Street, from December 1 through January 29. All artwork is for sale, as well as artist-made greeting cards and ornaments.

#### JANUARY 18

##### BASTROP COUNTY MLK WALK

The annual Bastrop County MLK Holiday Walk will be a virtual event this year. The program will be recorded and released at 10 a.m. on January 18. Take a walk with your family on MLK Day and upload selfies online, and walk the Black History Routes as well. To see the virtual event, visit www.BastropCountyMLKDay.com.

#### JANUARY 22 - 30

##### BASTROP OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS: THE ART OF REMEMBERING

The Bastrop Opera House will perform The Art of Remembering in January. Touching on stories as diverse as a feisty Polish-Jewish émigré taking America by storm, an Argentine who stands against his country's repression, and a woman who witnesses the fall of the Berlin Wall, The Art of Remembering reminds us of the beauty of life and the importance of our past. Reserved seating is \$15, and showings will be on January 22, 23, 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m. and on January 24 at 2:30 p.m. For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.bastropoperahouse.com.

#### JANUARY 16 - APRIL 24

##### MASTER GARDENER CLASSES

The Bastrop County Master Gardeners will begin their next Master Gardener class series on January 16, 2021. The classes will take place every Saturday through April 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will consist of a combination of virtual, outside and socially-distanced in-person classes. The Texas Master Gardener training program is designed to prepare members to volunteer in the community and offers a minimum of 50 hours of instruction taught by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension specialists and other experts. For more information and to apply, visit txmga.org/bastropcounty or email bcmga78602@gmail.com.

#### JANUARY 19

##### OPEN RIDE DAY AT MAYFEST PARK

Giddy up! Open Ride Days are every first and third Tuesday at Mayfest Park, 25 American Legion Drive in Bastrop, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. No deposit or fee is required. For more information visit the Parks & Recreation page at www.cityof-bastrop.org or call 512-332-8922.

#### JANUARY 23

##### BIG CHILL ADVENTURE RACE

This year, the 17th annual Big Chill Adventure Race, presented by Too Cool Racing, will return to the piney woods of Texas on January 23 at Lake Bastrop South Shore Park, 375 South Shore Road in Bastrop. Participation costs \$95 and up; choose the 3-6 hour sprint, the 12-hour adventure or the 18-hour extreme adventure race. For more information, visit toocoolracing.com.

2021

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# OPINION

## ELGIN COURIER

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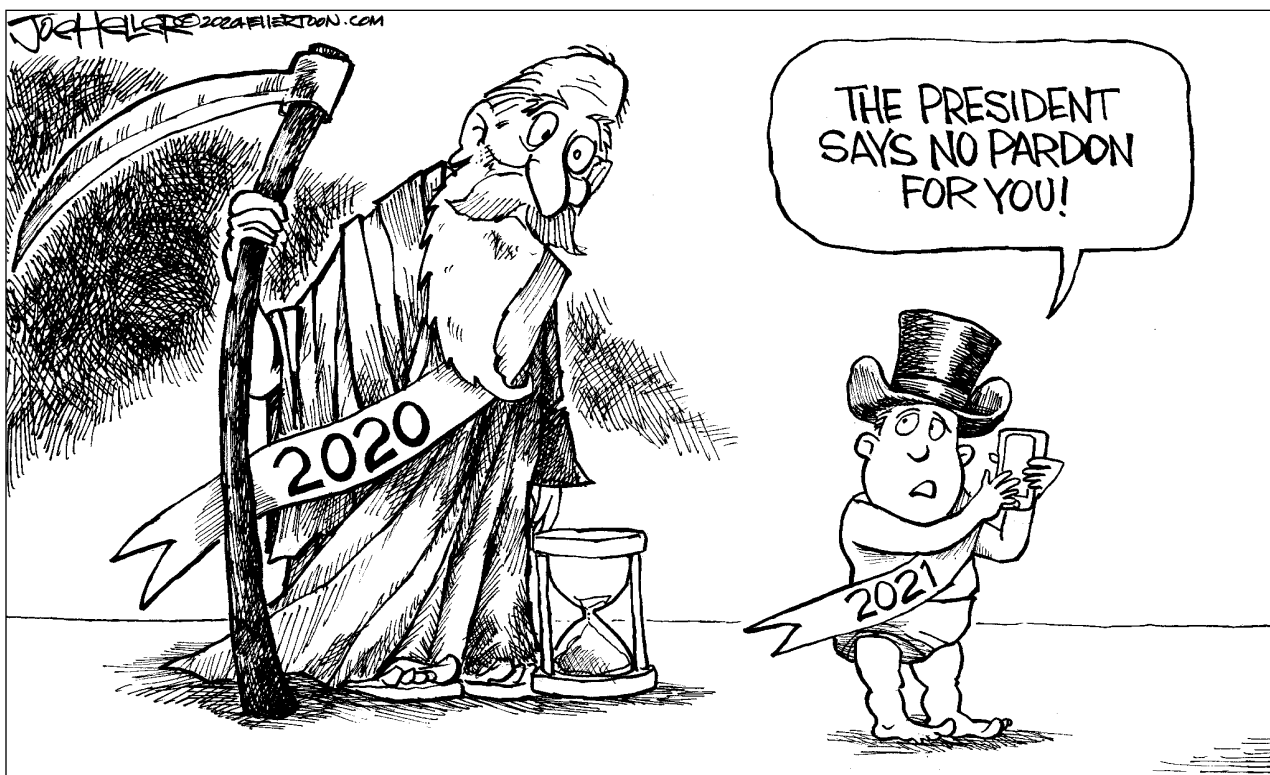
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### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is your new year's resolution for 2021?

Comment your response on our weekly question posted to Facebook @ElginCourier.

## Ascension Seton Bastrop reflects on first year

**Robbie Rabe**  
 Ascension Seton Bastrop administrator

This month marks one year since Ascension Seton Bastrop opened its doors to the community. As we celebrate our first anniversary providing medical care for Bastrop County and its surrounding areas, we also reflect on the emergence of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in early 2020, which presented our healthcare facility—and the world—with an unprecedented challenge.

Shortly after opening our doors to the public, it was clear our hospital, healthcare system, government and every American citizen would need to work together to conquer this invisible threat. Ascension Seton Bastrop doctors, nurses, facility management teams and other support teams quickly made adjustments in a new facility to address challenges faced due to COVID-19.

Ascension Seton Bastrop administrators worked closely with Bastrop County's Health Authority and Emergency Management teams, including leaders from other local healthcare systems and clinics, to implement a coordinated response to COVID-19 in Bastrop County. We consistently communicate with these community leaders to appropriately coordinate care for all patients in Bastrop County and beyond. Our dedicated caregivers are on the front lines providing exceptional and compassionate care to the community. We are so proud of their incredible and selfless work; they are



Ascension Seton held a ribbon cutting for the Bastrop facility in December 2019.

sponsibility—to continue providing high quality care and identifying new ways to connect with the communities we serve. We are in the process of expanding our laboratory capabilities and various clinical services, such as pulmonary and respiratory care. Additionally, two new surgical specialty teams began outpatient clinic services this summer.

While the last year had its challenges, I was personally inspired by the innovation, creativity, and teamwork I witnessed at Ascension Seton Bastrop. On behalf of all of our dedicated workers on the frontlines at Ascension Seton Bastrop, I want to thank the community for rallying behind doctors, nurses and support staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your acknowledgement and support throughout these unprecedented times, and look forward to serving Bastrop County for years to come.

the embodiment of our mission to serve.

While some services were halted earlier this year due to COVID-19, we are now offering our full scope of services, including 24-hour emergency care, cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary care, radiology services and more. As of last month, we've served more than 4,500 patients in our emergency room. Our outpatient clinics continue to care for patients virtually, or in-person.

As the Bastrop community grows, we have the opportunity—and the re-

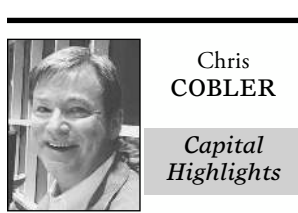
## New year can't yet shake focus from COVID-19

It's a new year, but the news out of the capital continues to focus on COVID-19.

Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted last week that "a significant portion of vaccines distributed across Texas might be sitting on hospital shelves as opposed to being given to vulnerable Texans. The state urges vaccine providers to quickly provide all shots. We get plenty more each week."

Many health providers and county health department officials responded that they were working as quickly as they could to give shots to front-line health care workers and lacked the doses necessary to move to what Texas calls phase 1B recipients. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, phase 1B recipients include those 65 and older and those 16 and older with medical conditions that would put them at greater risk from COVID-19.

Various state news outlets reported Texans in phase 1B could not find any vaccine available to them yet. The state health department encouraged the public to check its website weekly for updates on vaccine availability.



Chris COBLER

Capital Highlights

In the meantime, people should continue wearing a face mask when in public and follow all social distancing guidelines, health officials said.

### AG blocks Austin

The city of Austin and Travis County tried to impose New Year's weekend restrictions on restaurants, but Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Gov. Abbott won the final round of a legal battle.

The local officials' order limited restaurants to drive-thru, curbside pickup, take-out and delivery services between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. from Dec. 31 to Jan. 3. Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Judge Andy Brown imposed the three-day restriction to limit social gatherings over the holiday weekend after the state reported a record number of hospitalizations and new cases.

"Mayor Adler and Judge Brown do not have the authority to flout Gov. Abbott's executive orders by

shutting down businesses in Travis County and our state's capital city," Attorney General Paxton said in a statement.

District Judge Amy Clark Meachum denied Paxton's motion, saying the state had not shown "imminent and irreparable harm." The AG immediately asked the 3rd Court of Appeals to block the order, but that court rejected his appeal. Paxton then went to the Texas Supreme Court for an emergency stay of the order. The high court granted the injunction late Jan. 1 without comment.

### Food benefits increased

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will provide \$204 million in emergency SNAP food benefits during January as the state continues its response to the pandemic.

Recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program also will see an additional 15 percent in their total benefits in January because of recently passed federal legislation.

"As we continue through the new year, these benefits offer nutritious food to those who need it most, especially in these trying times" Wayne Salter, of

HHS, said in a statement.

The state received federal approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend the maximum allowable amount of SNAP benefits to recipients based on family size. The emergency January allotments are in addition to the almost \$2 billion in benefits previously provided to Texans between April and December.

Beginning in January, recipients will receive a 15 percent increase in their total benefits, which will continue monthly until June 2021. The additional 15 percent increase and the emergency allotment amount should appear in recipients' accounts by Jan. 23. Administered by the state agency, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to 1.7 million eligible low-income families and individuals in Texas.

Texans in need may apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at YourTexasBenefits.com.

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texapress.com.

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The Elgin Courier Letters to the Editor column is an open forum offering opportunities to the public to comment on issues of interest or concern to the community. They should refrain from making personal attacks on the individuals, and comments which in the opinion of the editors are potentially libelous or in bad taste will not be printed. Letters should be brief, 300 words or less, if possible. We solicit and encourage such comment. The deadline for Letters to the Editor is Friday at noon. It is our policy not to print letters with political opinions, ideals or views after early voting begins. All letters must be signed and include the address and phone number of the author. The Courier will not withhold the name of letter writers and anonymous letters will be discarded. Send e-mails to publisher@elgincourier.com. Website is www.elgincourier.com. Call 512-285-3333. News and ad copy deadline is Friday at 5 p.m. Letters to Editor deadline is Friday at noon.

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# THE BEAT

## ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT BLOTTER



**November 10**  
 1:31 a.m. 500 blk N Main St—Traffic stop. During a traffic stop, an open alcohol container was found in the center console. A citation was issued.  
 8:29 p.m. 18600 blk E U.S. Hwy 290—Disturbance. An employee at the business advised a subject was causing problems in the store, throwing things on the ground and arguing with customers. The subject left the property.  
 10:03 p.m. 100 blk Blue Ridge Trl—Theft. A caller advised a subject took a package from her doorstep. The area was searched but police were unable to locate the subject. The complainant would be contacted when she was available for a report.

**November 11**  
 10:01 a.m. 200 blk Depot St—Forgery fraud. Reporting party advised she wants to file a police report regarding fraud on her accounts. A follow-up was conducted the next day, and a report was created.

**November 12**  
 11:24 a.m. 200 blk E 1st St—Traffic stop. Bastrop County Sheriff's Office reported a collision on FM 1704 that resulted in apparent injuries; a description was shared of a vehicle involved in the hit-and-run, which left the scene northbound on FM 1704. Elgin police saw a vehicle, which was possibly the vehicle involved in the accident, turning around in circles throughout Elgin and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. A consent search was conducted, and the driver was released with a citation for driving with an invalid license.  
 9:06 p.m. 18600 blk E U.S. Hwy 290—Criminal trespass. Caller advised a subject reached behind the counter at the store and took cigarettes. A criminal trespass warning was issued to the suspect in lieu of theft charges.

**November 13**  
 7:55 a.m. 100 blk Burnet Forest Cv—Accident, leaving the scene. Complainant advised an unknown vehicle had hit her vehicle and caused damage overnight. An offense report was created. A few days later, police spoke with the resident regarding video footage.  
 8:41 a.m. 300 blk E U.S. Hwy 290—Unwanted person. A subject was outside the business,

bothering customers and asking for money. The subject was identified and left the area, walking to another business nearby. Soon after, the subject returned to the original business, came inside and yelled at the complainant for calling the police. The complainant wanted a criminal trespass warning issued.  
 10:46 a.m. 600 blk W Alamo St—Disturbance. A physical disturbance occurred. One subject was arrested for assault family violence and taken to Bastrop County jail.  
 2:07 p.m. 1300 blk U.S. Hwy 290—Vehicle theft. Complainant advised her mother's vehicle had been left at the business in January to be returned to the finance company, but the vehicle was not turned in as agreed upon. Information was taken for a theft report.

**November 14**  
 9:47 a.m. 100 blk E Brenham St—Narcotics. During a traffic stop, a probable cause search was conducted, and narcotics were located. One subject was arrested for possession of marijuana, and one citation was issued.  
 8:56 p.m. 100 blk S Ave C—Accident, leaving the scene. A vehicle left the scene after an accident, and the reporting party knew where the subject lives who drove the vehicle. The address was checked, but no vehicle matching the description was in that location. Information was gathered for a report.  
 10:55 p.m. 2nd St & Ave J—Traffic stop. When a traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle traveling 42 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone, the vehicle continued rolling and pulled into its residence. The subject was arrested for fleeing and taken to Bastrop County jail.

**November 15**  
 1:01 p.m. 18500 blk E U.S. Hwy 290—Information request. Reporting party, the manager of the store, advised a customer tried to steal pallets two days prior, but he stopped the subject before he could steal them. He wanted to make a report about it in case it happens again. No offense occurred, so police spoke to the reporting party about the situation.

**November 16**  
 7:33 a.m. S Hwy 95 & Grutzner Ln—Narcotics. Bastrop County Sheriff's Office advised of a vehicle with no license plate that pulled over into a gas station. The vehicle was found to be smoking a little bit, so a fire unit was called to the scene; the vehicle was eventually on fire,

and the fire was put out within about 20 minutes. A probable cause search was conducted on the vehicle, and one juvenile was arrested.  
 9:32 a.m. Old McDade Rd & MLK Blvd—Suspicious activity. Reporting party advised he heard a loud explosion or gunshots, but did not see anyone in the area. Another complainant advised she heard it too. More evidence was unable to be located.

**November 17**  
 7:47 a.m. 400 blk W U.S. Hwy 290—Traffic reckless. Reporting party advised of a vehicle serving in and out of lanes, and when they were stopped at a traffic light, the light turned green but the other vehicle did not move for a little while. Reporting party also advised the vehicle almost ran off the road and almost hit another vehicle. The vehicle was stopped, and Bastrop County Sheriff's Office advised of two active class C warrants for the subject. The subject was given a warning.

**November 18**  
 1:05 a.m. 18600 blk Hwy 290—Theft. Caller advised a subject took a beer from the store and drove away. The value of the stolen item was \$3.01, so a direct file packet was provided for the theft.  
 11:18 a.m. 18300 blk Willow Sage Ln—Criminal mischief. Caller advised that sometime between the night before and that morning, somebody flattened all four tires on their vehicle. A report was taken.  
 4:34 p.m. 1300 blk W U.S. Hwy 290—Theft. A theft was reported at the store, and a report was created.

5:14 p.m. 13800 blk County Line Rd—Theft. Travis County Sheriff's Office transferred a caller who advised someone stole items that go with her grill. She knows what apartment the subjects are in, but they wouldn't open the door. Reporting party wanted police presence to speak to the parent of a juvenile accused of taking the property from the reporting party's porch. The reporting party did not want to press criminal charges.  
 6:27 p.m. 1300 blk W U.S. Hwy 290—Theft. Caller advised a subject took tools and flashlights and ran down the highway, and as he was running, he was throwing merchandise out of his clothes. The employee at the store did not know the total amount of items taken. A direct file packet was provided for the theft, and the employee said he would contact police to issue a criminal trespass warning if the subject returned.

9:29 p.m. 200 blk E U.S. Hwy 290—Criminal trespass. Caller advised a subject that was issued a criminal trespass warning earlier that month was on the premises. The subject was arrested for trespassing and taken to Bastrop County jail.

**November 19**  
 6:53 a.m. Depot St & Ave C—Traffic stop. A golf cart was observed, and a warning was issued.  
 10:33 a.m. 500 blk S Main St—Accident/major. Two vehicles were in an accident, blocking the road and causing an injury. Fire and emergency medical services were called to the scene. A citation was issued to one of the vehicles, and a crash report was created. The roadway was reopened within about an hour.

11:40 a.m. Hwy 95 & U.S. Hwy 290—Accident/major. Two vehicles were in an accident, blocking the eastbound lanes of the highway and causing one injury. Fire and emergency medical services were called to the scene. One driver was issued a citation, and both drivers were transported to the hospital, one by ambulance and one by flight. The roadway was cleared after about an hour, and a crash report was begun.  
 2:03 p.m. 200 blk W Austin St—Theft. A complainant gave a statement in regard to theft of identifying and travel documents.  
 7:19 p.m. 200 blk E Hwy 290—Criminal trespass. Manager advised a subject came into the store and took four beers, then left the store. The license plate of the vehicle was given, but the direction of travel was unknown. The area was searched for the vehicle, and the vehicle was found at the store again and the subject ran inside the store. The manager wanted the merchandise back, and the subject returned the beer. The management did not want to file charges, but just requested a criminal trespass warning.

**November 20**  
 1:13 p.m. 400 blk N Main St—Theft. A theft occurred the previous day, where a subject took a thermometer.  
 3:19 p.m. 18600 blk Hwy 290—Forgery fraud. Reporting party advised he used his card at a store for \$13, but found a charge for \$125 a few weeks ago. The complainant advised he is getting in touch with the card company for more information and would call back with the information. More information was obtained the next day.  
 5:59 p.m. 18800 blk E U.S. Hwy 290—Unwanted person. The business kicked an unwanted subject out of the bar, but he refused

to leave the premises. The parties were separated and a criminal trespass warning was issued.

6:01 p.m. 1300 blk W Hwy 290—Forgery fraud. Complainant advised a customer gave her a counterfeit \$50; they did not know it was fraudulent and advised she got it from another store in Pflugerville. The customer was still there at the scene. An information report for forgery was taken.

7:31 p.m. 1300 blk W Hwy 290—Theft. A subject had merchandise in her purse and was running across the parking lot towards another business. The complainant lost visual, but police stopped a vehicle, found the subject and conducted a probable cause search. Reporting party advised the subject had taken fragrance in her purse, as well as an entire basket of merchandise, from the store past the point of sale and abandoned the premises. The evidence was photographed, the property was recovered and returned, and the subject was arrested for theft and taken to Bastrop County jail.

**November 21**  
 10:16 a.m. 300 blk E 8th St—Ordinance. Caller advised there were people burning things. The subjects were found to be burning lumber and brush. The subject was made to put out the fire, and a warning was issued for violating a city ordinance for burning.  
 11:14 a.m. 18400 blk Crestwind Ln—Criminal mischief. Caller advised his vehicles were vandalized overnight; someone damaged two of his vehicles' windshields. The complainant advised he is already getting the windshields replaced and just wants the incident documented.  
 8:13 p.m. 1000 blk W U.S. Hwy 290—Criminal mischief. A subject in a vehicle threw a beer bottle at the reporting party and was driving recklessly through town. The driver of the suspect vehicle was cited for no driver's license, and a criminal mischief report was created.

8:32 p.m. MLK Blvd & U.S. Hwy 290—Suspicious activity. Police and a caller both advised they heard multiple gunshots; the caller believed it may have come from a car, and saw a vehicle in the area at the time but was unknown if it was involved. More evidence was unable to be located.

**November 22**  
 12:17 a.m. 200 blk W U.S. Hwy 290—DUI/DWI. A vehicle was stopped, and the driver appeared to be heavily intoxicated. The subject was arrested for driving while

intoxicated.  
 12:33 p.m. Western Sky Blvd & Willow Sage Ln—Disturbance. Caller advised two subjects put something in the yard of a home and it blew up, then the subjects ran down the road and other people took off after them to catch them. Juveniles had lit a mortar firework at an intersection and it landed in the front lawn of a neighbor's home, causing a fire in the grass. The juveniles were released to parents and guardians.  
 12:47 p.m. County Line Rd & U.S. Hwy 290—Suspicious activity. Austin Community College police advised someone called and stated they heard three gunshots in the area. Bastrop County Sheriff's Office advised someone was en route and they handled the call.  
 4:57 p.m. 13800 blk County Line Rd—Theft. Reporting party advised her credit card was stolen a couple of days before, and she knew who did it. Further information would be gathered the next day for a report.

**November 23**  
 11:21 a.m. 200 blk E U.S. Hwy 290—Criminal trespass. Reporting party wanted to issue a criminal trespass warning on a subject who has been cursing at everyone in the store and refuses to leave after being asked too. A criminal trespass warning was issued.  
 11:46 a.m. 14000 blk County Line Rd—Warrant service. A suspect with a warrant was identified and taken into custody. The suspect complained of chest pain, and emergency medical services were called to the scene. Later, the subject was arrested for obstruction of police and booked into Bastrop County jail.  
 3:24 p.m. 100 blk Stubblefield Dr—Criminal mischief. Reporting party advised that someone punched in his washing machine door. The laundry room is disconnected from the house, and there were no other signs of a break-in. A report was created.

**November 24**  
 8:48 a.m. U.S. Hwy 290 & Harris St—Accident/leaving the scene. Bastrop County Sheriff's Office advised of a vehicle leaving the scene of an accident in Elgin. The reporting party was parked in a parking lot further down the highway. Information was collected for a left-the-scene collision report.

**November 25**  
 10:37 a.m. 1300 blk W U.S. Hwy 290—Accident/leaving the scene. Complainant said her vehicle was hit by another vehicle, and the other vehicle left

## BASTROP COUNTY JAIL LOG

**November 21**  
 Marco Antonio Barreira-Corella—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram.  
 Ashley Nicole Brewer—Open container in motor vehicle, passenger; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 4 grams, less than 200 grams.  
 Esparza Ernesto Chavira—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram.  
 Christian Efrén Gonzalez-Pargas—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram.  
 Arlen Jordan Hendricks—Injury to a child.  
 Alexanna Fonseca Ledesma—Injury to a child; license required; operation of vehicle with expired license plates; requirement of financial responsibility.  
 Treasure Xavier Murrell—Requirement of financial responsibility, second offense.

Charles Albert Judson—Driving while intoxicated.  
 Eric James Meyer—Operation of a vehicle with expired license plates; requirement of financial responsibility.  
 Raymundo Andy Sifuentes—Misdemeanor theft of property; no driver's license; no motor vehicle liability insurance; speeding, 16 to 24 miles per hour over.  
 Darian Savannah Blis Stephens—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 3, less than 28 grams.  
 Laurence Earl Stewart—Criminal trespass; terroristic threat of family/household; theft, greater than or equal to \$100, less than \$750.

**November 23**  
 Leondre Fairae Brown-Recor—Display expired license plates; no motor vehicle liability insurance.  
 Matthew Ryan Cagwin—Duty on striking fixture/highway landscape, greater than or equal to \$200; evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.  
 Dayan Demarcus Gadison—

Resist arrest, search or transport; unlawful possession of a firearm.  
 Jonathan Uriel Garcia—Following distance.  
 Katie Lynn Holdbrook—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams.  
 Ashanti Mwandishi—Theft of property, less than \$2,500, two or more previous convictions.  
 Lashay D Ockelberry—Drive on improved shoulder when prohibited; no driver's license when unlicensed, not CDL.  
 Rodolfo Muniz Torres—Assault causes bodily injury, family violence; criminal mischief, greater than or equal to \$750, less than \$2,500; ICE detainee.

**November 24**  
 Robbie McKay Cook—Burglary of habitation; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 3, less than 28 grams.  
 Luke James Hofferek—Operation of a vehicle with expired license plates; requirement of financial responsibility.  
 Kristina Nicole Nance—Theft

of property, greater than or equal to \$100, less than \$750.  
 Allison Marie Ringlaben—Driving while license invalid; compliance with or violation promise to appear.  
 Daytrin Latrell Shaw—Evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

**November 25**  
 Miguel Dominguez-Hernandez—Driving while intoxicated, second.  
 Matthew Rayshard Felix—Evading arrest or detention with a vehicle; unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.  
 Anthony Thomas Gibson—Public intoxication.  
 Karl D Ortiz—Driving while intoxicated.  
 James Aaron Slough—Forgery; possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams.  
 Gabriel Christopher Williams—Criminal mischief.

**November 26**  
 Emanuel De Jesus Perdoma-Soto—Display expired license plates; fail to display driver's license; operation of a vehicle with expired license

plates; driving while license invalid.  
 Karina Michelle Villa—Assault causes bodily injury, family violence.

**November 27**  
 Rosalie Benavides Barrios—Driving while intoxicated.  
 Eve A. Deleon—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams.  
 Jeffrey Michael Wilson—Possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia; possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces; possession of drug paraphernalia.

**November 28**  
 Desaray Andrea Gildon—Fail to control speed; speeding, 1 to 15 miles per hour over speed limit.  
 Xavier Ezequiel Gomez Jr—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 4 grams, less than 200 grams.  
 Toma Orlando Williams—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram; passing to the right.

**November 29**  
 Kristen Jervohn Crawford—Driving with license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution.  
 Dennis Ray Goodman—Display expired license plates/registration insignia; driving while license invalid; fail to maintain financial responsibility; no motor vehicle liability insurance; compliance with or violation promise to appear.  
 Darren Latodd Houston—Parole violations.  
 Salatiel Jaimes Macedo—Unlawful carrying a weapon on alcohol premises; driving while unlicensed; ICE detainee.  
 Prudencio Mendez Ortiz—Driving while intoxicated, second.  
 Kevin Alejandro Rios-Haro—Fail to maintain financial responsibility; operation of a vehicle with expired license plate; compliance with or violation promise to appear; speeding; unsafe start from parked/stopped/standing position.  
 Charles Sanders Jr—Driving while intoxicated.  
 Aaron James Teague—Possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.

## GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

*An indictment is a formal charge by the State of Texas for a felony offense. It is not a determination of guilt.*

**Joshua Anderson**—Assault family member with previous conviction, a third-degree felony.  
 The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about February 17, 2020, did intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause bodily injury to a member of the defendant's family or household by striking the person with the defendant's hand, and the

defendant had previously been convicted of an offense involving family violence in two cases in Travis County.

**Raymond Arellano Jr**—Unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, enhanced, a third-degree felony.  
 The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about August 9, 2020, did intentionally or knowingly possess a firearm after his conviction and before the fifth anniversary of his release from confinement for the felony of-

fense of evading arrest with a vehicle in Travis County.  
 A previous conviction for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on or about October 12, 2011 in Travis County was also presented.

**William Bird**—Fail to comply with sex offender registration with previous conviction, a second-degree felony.  
 The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about October 2, 2020, did, while knowing that he was required

to register because of a reportable conviction based upon indecency with a child sexual contact, fail to comply with a requirement by failing to register with the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office, the local law enforcement authority in the county where the defendant resided or intended to reside for more than seven days, and the defendant did not register by the seventh day after the defendant's arrival in said jurisdiction, or by failing to provide the local law enforcement

authority with proof of annual renewal of driver's license or personal identification, or by failing to report not later than seven days after the change of or beginning new employment.

A previous conviction for failure to comply with registration requirements on or about February 26, 2014 in Coryell County was also presented.

**Shelly Bonds**—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram, a state jail felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about February 12, 2019, did intentionally or knowingly possess methamphetamine in an amount of less than one gram.

**Thomas Fowler**—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram, less than 4 grams, a third-degree felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about

See **JURY**, Page B8

For **GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS**, visit us online at [www.elgincourier.com](http://www.elgincourier.com)



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**LEFT:** Cpeerit Plummer (#21) goes up for a basket during the November 23 game against the Lady Badgers of Lampasas. **RIGHT:** Anaya Freeman (#32) tries for a shot during the December 11 game against Pflugerville Connally.

File photos

## Elgin teams start year with losses to Hendrickson

The Wildcats lost their first game of the week to the Cedar Creek Eagles in a conference home game on December 29. The final score was 58-42, Eagles.

Highlights of the game for Elgin, according to MaxPreps, include a block by point guard Nathen Lewis (#10) and three-pointers by small forward Gregory Aguirre (#21) and point guard Adrian Jaimes (#1) in the first quarter; a steal by small forward Peter McFarlin (#31) in the second quarter; a three-pointer by Lewis in the third quarter; and a steal by power forward

Bo Gary (#4) and two three-pointers by Aguirre in the fourth quarter.

However, the next day, the Lady Cats traveled to Cedar Creek for an away conference game and were victorious 74-21, more than tripling the Lady Eagles' score.

The Wildcats and Lady Cats both started the new year with defeats that week-end at their Saturday games against Pflugerville Hendrickson, however.

The Wildcat varsity team faced the Hendrickson Hawks in an away conference game on Saturday, January 2; the final score



Tianna Upton (#22) gets physical in fighting for the ball against the Lady Rattlers of Navasota in the Lady Cat's opening game on November 21.

was 82-26, Hawks.

Highlights of the game for Elgin, according to MaxPreps, include three

three-pointers by Gregory Aguirre and a steal and another three-pointer by Nathen Lewis in the sec-

ond quarter, and another steal by Lewis in the fourth quarter.

The Lady Cats faced the

Hendrickson Lady Hawks in a home conference game, also on Saturday, January 2; the final score was 75-22, Hendrickson.

Highlights of the game for Elgin, according to MaxPreps, include a three-pointer each for Natasha Stafford (#23) and Cpeerit Plummer (#21) in the first quarter; three steals by Plummer and two more steals by Anaya Freeman (#32) in the second quarter; and a block by Tianna Upton (#22) and a three-pointer by Stafford in the third quarter.

The Wildcats next travel to Pflugerville for a game against the Panthers on Tuesday, January 5, then come home to Elgin for a game against the Manor Mustangs on Friday, January 8. As of last week's games, the Wildcats are 2-8 this season overall, 0-2 in district play, and are ranked sixth in the district.

The Lady Cats next face Pflugerville at home on Tuesday, January 5, then travel to Manor to play the Lady Mustangs on Friday, January 8. As of last week's games, the Lady Cats are 4-6 this season overall, 2-2 in district play, and are ranked fourth in the district.

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**Game Recaps**

	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Field Goals	Three Pointers	Free Throws
Elgin	40	10	2	1	31%	41%	60%
Cedar Creek	33	4	12	2	34%	14%	62%
Wildcats	15	5	2	0	28%	29%	80%
Hendrickson	32	19	9	3	57%	38%	67%
Lady Cats	35	4	6	1	9%	16%	60%
Hendrickson	47	21	23	2	36%	33%	67%

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**COURIER'S FOOTBALL CHOOSE 'EM**

	RON Ramirez	BRIAN Lundgren	SHORTY Russell	RANDY Reyna	ERIN Anderson
Indianapolis at Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo
LA Rams at Seattle	LA Rams	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle
Tampa Bay at Washington	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay
Baltimore at Tennessee	Tennessee	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore
Chicago at New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans
Cleveland at Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Last Week	10--5	13--2	8--7	10--5	10--5
Season Total	90--58	98--50	90--58	93--55	96--52

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# Neidig celebrates winter with parade



Fourth grade teachers at Neidig Elementary School.



Kindergarten teachers at Neidig Elementary School.



Teachers hold up signs at the reverse parade.



Neidig teachers Lauren Ritter and Laurie Hagen.



Teachers line up for the reverse parade.



Teacher Lindsey Wolfe hands out bags to students.

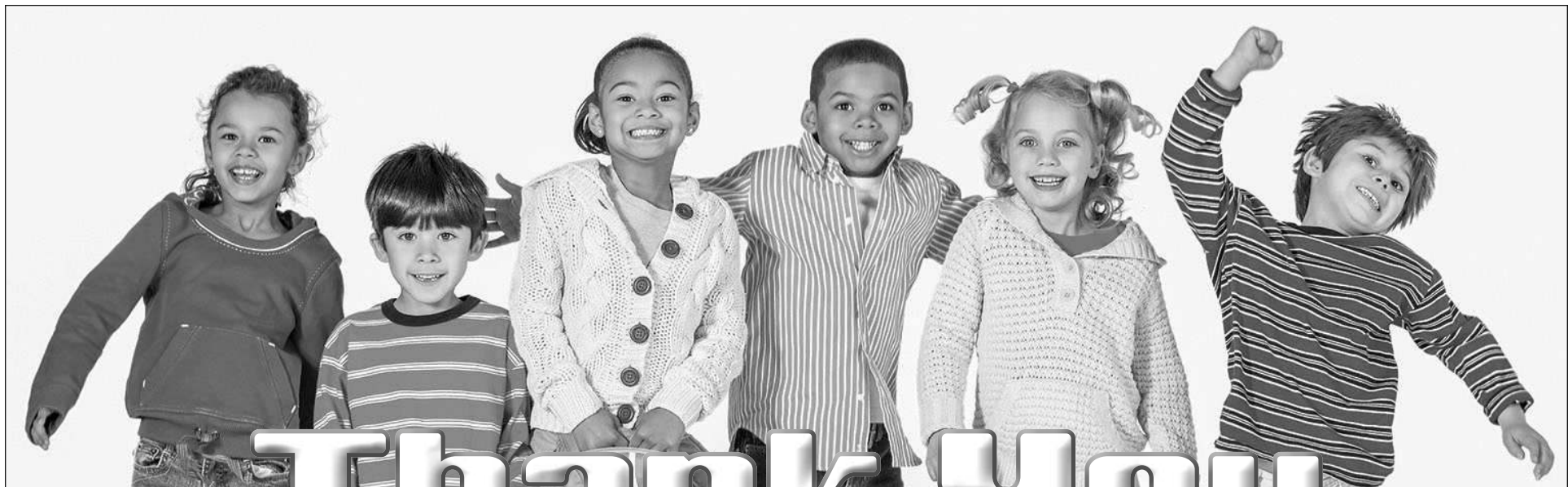


Santa, a reindeer and the Grinch make an appearance at the Winter at Neidig celebration.



In December, before the students left for their holiday break, Neidig Elementary School held its annual Winter at Neidig Celebration. This year included a reverse parade, and both remote and in-person learners had an opportunity to pick up a goodie bag of activities to complete with their families over the next week.

*Photos by Daniel Alvarez*



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# WORSHIP

## Stepping into a new year

Even though this Christmas may have been different for many people, most still love the joy and excitement of the holiday. In fact, some say that they wish we could be immersed in the festivities all year long. A magazine article actually featured a lady who celebrated Christmas everyday. Not talking figuratively like Ebenezer Scrooge who vowed to keep Christmas in his heart all year long, but the actual Christmas scenario. Gifts, music, decorations. In reality, though, after the New Year hits, holiday touches seem out of place and what looked fresh and sparkly a month earlier looks tired. Santa is droopy, and the inflatable snowman has lost its oomph, and Christmas lights still up in January give a sense of weariness. Granted that all of this takes place as part of the celebration of the most amazing event in history, the birth of our Precious Jesus. Blessedly, our Savior



Kathy FIGAT  
Guest Column

doesn't stay behind in the holiday activities of December, but walks with us into the promise and possibilities of the upcoming 365 days. Many of us pray for our lives to be different this year after the unprecedented upheaval of 2020. And on a personal note, we typically look at the new year as a starting point of dealing with habits that are causing us problems. We try, and we struggle and can wish we could have an on-the-road to Damascus experience similar to Saul of Tarsus where God literally zapped him off his high horse and totally changed his life.

Saul was a Pharisee and a devout, well-educated Hellenistic Jew bent on ridding the world of Christians and Christianity. Scripture

gives accounts of Saul encouraging the stoning to death of Stephen and of dragging Christians from their homes and throwing them in jail. He relished creating death and destruction for the Christian community wherever he went. Yet God saw something in Saul (later known as Paul) that Saul did not see in himself. He became a mighty advocate for Christ and traveled many miles preaching the gospel and instead of being the one persecuting Christians, he faced persecution, beatings and prison himself because of his belief in the risen Jesus.

We would think that after having such a dramatic conversion and being such a powerful voice for Christ that Paul would be free from things that would trip up the common man. Yet in Romans 7, Paul berates himself and says that he's a wretched man not doing the things he wants to do and doing the things he

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)*

does not want to do. Know this sounds familiar to most of us, and it can easily lead to discouragement and disappointment as we do the exact opposite of what our hearts desire. Yet even though Paul sounded frustrated, he knew that he had hope and the power to change, and it was to be found only in one place as he proclaims "thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

We, too, can have victory in Christ. One of the first steps, through the power of His Holy Spirit, is not to hold onto guilt and remorse from times gone-by. May we like Paul continuously accept God's gracious forgiveness for those times past and present that we have messed up and have done what we didn't want to or failed to do those things that we should have done. God tells us that once we have confessed our sin, He remembers it no more. And Philippians 3:13 states

that we are to forget those things that are behind and embrace what is ahead. We are told to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. Not to run, but walk. And it may seem at times that all we accomplish are baby steps. Yet through prayer, if we seek God's wisdom as to what steps He wants us to take and allow Christ moment by moment to be our strength, those changes that God desires for us and

that we desire for ourselves can become a reality. Be blessed and encouraged in Him and Happy New Year!  
Prayer: "Father, we want to do your will in all things, but often do the opposite of what we desire. We thank You that we do not have to struggle on our own, and thank You for the gift of your Son and for your forgiveness. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Love gives life to the lifeless.  
Love lights a flame in the heart that is cold. Love brings hope to the hopeless and gladdens the hearts of the sorrowful... there is indeed no greater power than the power of love.

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# PUZZLES & GAMES

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 in Castro County on highway 194

5 TXism: "beats anything I \_\_\_ saw"

6 in Starr County on the Rio Grande

7 course abbr. located in a business school

8 big Fort Worth event was first called the "Texas \_\_\_"

17 TX Robby 1976 film: "\_\_\_ to Billy Joe"

18 TX Ginger 1949 film: "The Barkleys \_\_\_"

21 "Crying" Roy (init.)

22 moving trucks

23 beer mugs

24 extinguished the campfire (var.)

29 TXism: "got as much \_\_\_ as a hibernating bear"

30 membership fees

31 Astros leag.

32 TXism for "vicinity"

34 Seth \_\_\_\_, TX

35 gobbled up vittles

36 tirade, harangue

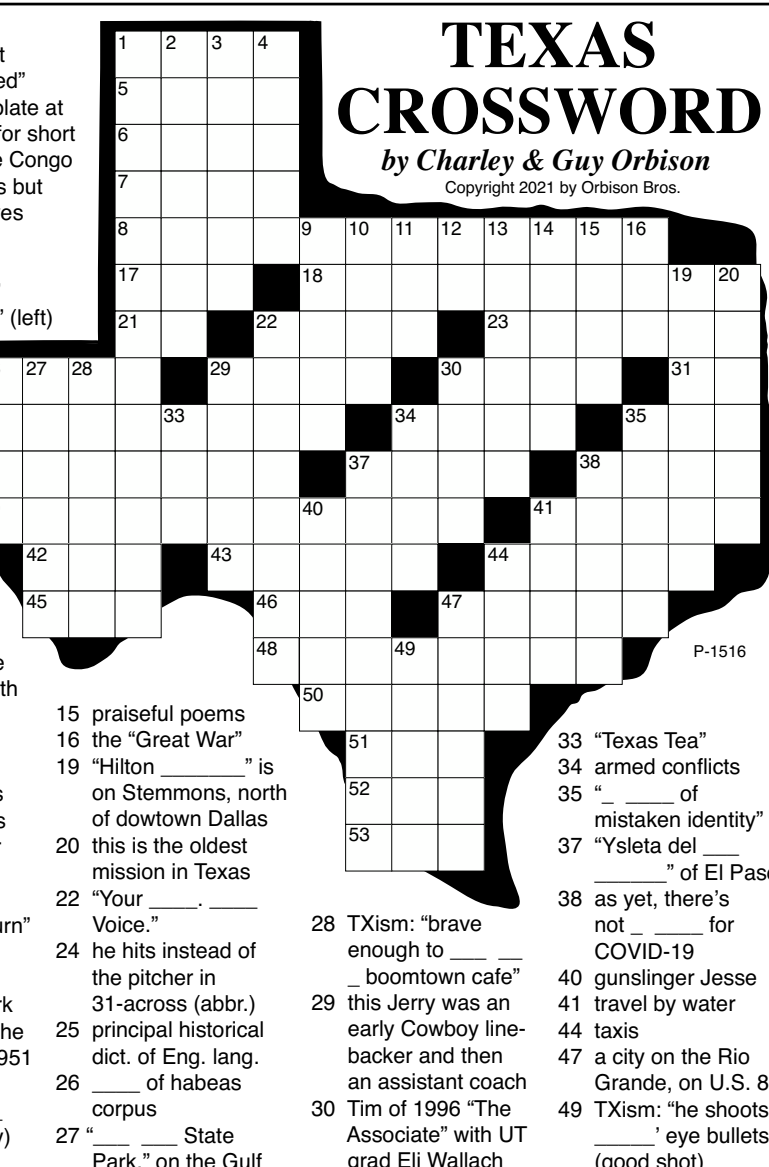
37 Black Friday event

38 at Alamo, Bowie had to be carried across Travis' line on \_\_\_

39 Texicans were denied this right under Mexico rule (3 wds.)

41 Gia in 1958 film "Ride a Crooked Trail" with TX Audie

42 "Fanthorp \_\_\_ State Historic Site"



**DOWN**

1 newspaper in the seat of Deaf Smith County (2 wds.)

2 guacamole fruit

3 TV controller

4 "\_\_\_-Pecos" is the area of Texas west of the River

9 TXism: "horny \_\_\_" (lizards)

10 "point \_\_\_ return"

11 TX Dan Rather was anchorman of this TV network

12 SMU RB, Rote, the 1st selected in 1951 NFL draft (init.)

13 "I'm not \_\_\_ about that" (leery)

14 detested

15 praiseful poems

16 the "Great War"

19 "Hilton \_\_\_" is on Stemmons, north of downtown Dallas

20 this is the oldest mission in Texas

22 "Your \_\_\_ Voice."

24 he hits instead of the pitcher in 31-across (abbr.)

25 principal historical dict. of Eng. lang.

26 \_\_\_ of habeas corpus

27 "\_\_\_ State Park," on the Gulf

33 "Texas Tea"

34 armed conflicts

35 "\_\_\_ of mistaken identity"

37 "Ysleta del \_\_\_" of El Paso

38 as yet, there's not \_\_\_ for COVID-19

40 gunslinger Jesse

41 travel by water

44 taxis

47 a city on the Rio Grande, on U.S. 83

49 TXism: "he shoots \_\_\_ eye bullets" (good shot)



## THE NEWSPAPER TIME TRAVELER

### New Year's Kiss Miss Part III

Beth seemed to take in what I was saying fairly well although I am sure she was confused by everything.

"Who was that man that was just in here?"

Once she calmed down a bit, she explained things. She had gotten involved with some not nice people since first arriving in the city. She had run out of the majority of the money she had saved for the trip from the small Ohio town. She had been in New York a week already and had placed a bet or two on a couple Giants games. Unfortunately, they weren't successful and now the bookies were looking to collect.

Beth gave me the name of the booky she had been communicating with.

I told her I would be back later and headed off to pay them a visit. She warned me to be careful, but I assured her that I always was.

Ryan was due to arrive tomorrow at noon. he was anxious, excited, and ready to see his beloved Beth.

The directions Beth gave me took me to a giant warehouse looking establishment. It looked nothing like a gamblers haven, but inside it was.

Inside, gambling was everywhere. Blackjack, craps, poker tables and more. The rather large section in back was where they did the sports gambling.

A rather large pen-guinesque man approached me and asked if I needed any assistance. I asked for the booky that Beth had given me the info of.

The man led me to him. He was called Bishop, and he looked like a 1940's mobster.

He started at me never blinking and asking what I wanted.

I told him I was there to care of Beth's debt. He chuckled informing me that football season was over. What was I going to bet on?

It was the last day of 1952, the only sport event I knew of happening was Jake LaMotta v. Danny Nardico in a light heavyweight non-title bout in Coral Gables, Florida.

I placed a bet of whatever Beth owed plus \$100 on Nardico over LaMotta in 7.

Bishop chuckled but agreed to both.

## PUZZLING WORD SEARCH

H K C N Z B U U W B G B G M W D H W C B  
 C K I H B K M K Y T I U N E G N I O S R R  
 A W R G L K E O J I R H I P M V N E O S  
 I S A A O I R R Y G S M L Z Z U P U L U  
 V K U D E M S O W T F D Z S N I U L U D  
 I I O F L S G E I D O S Z E P T K C T O  
 R S B H O G D M Z H B K U R U I M H I K  
 T U S N I I U R T A N S P B T A Z O O U  
 E E L I K L B E O S M Y R O M E M D N D  
 B F B O A S M J N W E L R B M A R C S G E  
 F N Y T R Y D S E C N E R E F F I D T H  
 S B I B I L R P L T C J C Z P V T N F S  
 G N M A R G O T P Y R C H T U S E V V I  
 G G C N W P W S V C J M E G O M Y S B L  
 C B S R U V S D Y Z A V S M Y S T G J P  
 L K R L V O S R D S M Y S O I H S L A M  
 J S A A H V O A Y G U I N Y B F T I F L O  
 Y R P B I V R O A F U S N I J E S R S T P C  
 A I J A B N C B S R E K C E H C L A L C  
 I S C T H R F B V Y S K C Y V J S K P A

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**WORDS**

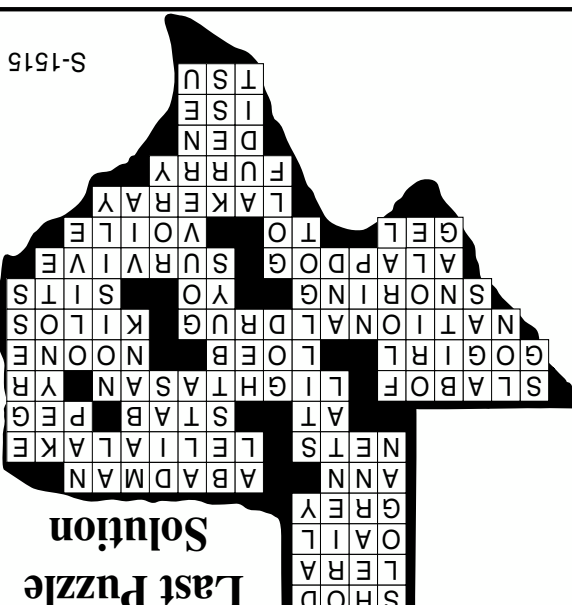
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 METHOD  
 PASTIME  
 POPULAR  
 PUZZLING  
 SCRAMBLE  
 SOLUTION  
 STIMULATING  
 SUDOKU  
 TRIVIA  
 WORD SEARCH

## • ANSWERS • ANSWERS • ANSWERS •

### Last week

4	1	8	9	7	5	2	9	3
7	3	6	2	8	1	4	6	5
2	5	9	3	6	4	8	7	1
8	7	4	5	1	2	9	3	6
5	9	3	7	4	9	2	1	8
6	2	1	6	3	8	7	5	4
9	1	2	9	3	8	7	5	4
7	8	6	3	5	4	2	9	1
6	4	5	8	2	7	3	1	9
3	8	7	1	9	6	5	4	2

### Last week




S-1515

Solution  
Last Puzzle


		2	8	4		
		7			6	3
	3			1		
		1		5	8	2
			9			3
						5
		2				4
	4					
6			8		1	
		8			9	6

Level: Advanced



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See more obituaries on page 2A or online at [www.elgincourier.com](http://www.elgincourier.com).

## Make your New Year's resolutions a reality at the Elgin Recreation Center

By **Elizabeth Marzec**

Program Manager, Elgin Parks & Recreation

**Did you know that the Elgin Recreation Center is open?** The Elgin Recreation Center is open seven days a week to serve our community. Hours are Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., by reservation only. Reservations can be made at <https://secure.rec1.com/TX/elgin-tx/catalog>.

In order to protect our patrons, the Elgin Recreation Center is limiting usage to up to four people

from the same household per half of the basketball gym for up to two hours, up to four people from the same household in the studio room for up to two hours, and up to two people from the same household in the weight room for up to 45 minutes.

There's new adult fitness equipment by the Elgin Memorial Park Playground that utilizes bodyweight to give you a total body workout, and outdoor fitness classes starting soon! Follow @ElginTXParks for more information on what classes will be offered.

Joe C. Martinez, Sr., of Taylor, Texas, gained his angel wings on December 31, 2020 at S&W Hospital in Round Rock, Texas at the age of 81.

He was born in Taylor, Texas. He married the love of his life, Susie Flores Martinez, and from this marriage were blessed with two sons, Joe Martinez, Jr. and Adam Martinez.

Joe worked alongside his wife at the UT as custodians for many years until retirement. He loved to fish, spend time with all his grandchildren, and lately, with his great grandchildren. His all-time favorite was relaxing in his recliner and watching his favorite football team, the Washington Redskins.

## Joe C. Martinez, Sr.



He was preceded in death by his wife, Susie, his son, Joe, Jr., his mother, Margarita Martinez, grandmother, Francisca Cortinas, and brother, Ray Martinez.

Joe is survived by his son, Adam Martinez and his wife, Lina, grandchildren, JohnAdam Martinez and his wife, Kelly, Melanie Martinez,

Amanda Martinez, Elizabeth Martinez, Bianca Martinez, and Elli Martinez, and great grandchildren: Jaiden, Lucas, Ayce, Bria, Jacob, Cooper, Nicolas, Modesty, Renee, Gaby, and Jordan. All loved him dearly.

He is also survived by his sisters, Lillie Meier of Thrall, Texas, Virginia Dominguez of Round Rock, Texas, Emily Ojeda and her husband, Orlando, of Hutto, Texas, Lupe Rico and her husband, Epifanio, of Round Rock, Texas, brother, Frank Chapa and his wife, Martina, of Marbank, Texas, and sister-in-law, Amelia Martinez.

Pallbearers are George Jonse, David Jonse, Tomas Rodriguez, Michale Zapata, Dell Buck-

alew, and Paul Trevino. JohnAdam Martinez is an honorary pallbearer.

A visitation was held on Monday, January 4, 2021 from 6:00 – 8:00pm at Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home with the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm. The Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 11:00am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Interment followed at Elgin Latin Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to Providence-Jones Family Funeral Home.

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# COVID-19 cases: 488 active, 3,281 recovered

By **Julianne Hodges**

[julianne.hodges@elgincourier.com](mailto:julianne.hodges@elgincourier.com)

As of Monday, 902 residents of Bastrop County have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, according to a dashboard from the Texas Department of State Health Services, found at [dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm](https://dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm). Last week, 154 people had received a vaccine.

According to the Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) weekly update last Tuesday, the county's two community testing sites in Bastrop and Elgin performed 440 tests between December 22 and December 28. The positivity rate for the molecular PCR tests given at the county testing sites between these dates is 11.2%.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 across the 11-county Trauma Service Area O, which includes Bastrop and Travis coun-

	As of Jan. 4	As of Dec. 28
Active cases	488	470
Recovered cases	3,281	3,054
Total confirmed cases	2,977	2,844
Total probable cases	839	722
Total deaths	47	42

ties, was at 10.88% as of last Tuesday, which is higher than the previous week but still the lowest in the state, the update from OEM said.

"Please continue minimizing the spread of COVID-19 by following CDC guidelines by following the three W's: wearing masks correctly, washing hands frequently, and watching social distancing," last week's post said. "Consider keeping your gatherings small and holding them outdoors or limiting them to those that live within your household."

Beginning January 4, only the testing site at St. David's in Bastrop will remain open. For more information about receiving

a test at the county testing site, visit [www.bastrop-countycovid19.org](http://www.bastrop-countycovid19.org) or call 512-972-5560. For local questions about COVID-19, call the Bastrop County hotline at 512-303-4300.

For the latest update, posted each Tuesday, visit @BastropCountyOEM on Facebook.

According to the City of Austin's COVID-19 dashboard, found at [www.austintexas.gov/covid19](http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19), the portion of the 78621 zip code in Travis County has reported 246 cases. Last week, this number was 244.

The City of Austin dashboard also includes information about hospitalized patients in the five-county Austin-Round Rock Met-

ropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in addition to the case numbers for Austin and Travis County. The MSA includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson County.

As of Monday afternoon, the MSA has 484 inpatients in the region's hospitals, with 151 patients in the intensive care units (ICU) and 92 ventilators in use.

Last week, 422 people were in the hospital as inpatients due to COVID-19, 132 patients were in the ICU and 77 ventilators were in use.

In May, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) began gathering and reporting data from nursing homes about the number of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 in residents and staff. As of Monday, data was available through the week ending on December 20 at [data.cms.gov](http://data.cms.gov).

Since August 2, the Elgin

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center has reported no new confirmed COVID-19 cases or deaths among residents, and no new staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 during the last two weeks of data. A total of 36 residents and 21 staff members have been confirmed with COVID-19 over the 28 weeks of data reported so far, and six residents have died due to the virus.

In early September, Elgin ISD launched a school district dashboard of daily reported COVID-19 cases by campus, found online at [www.elginisd.net/Page/6358](http://www.elginisd.net/Page/6358).

So far, one case of COVID-19 has been reported for January: one staff member at a non-campus facility tested positive on January 2.

Throughout December, a total of 19 cases were reported at Elgin ISD. This includes two students and

one staff member at Booker T. Washington Elementary School; three students and two staff members at Elgin Elementary School; two students and one staff member at Neidig Elementary School; one student and two staff members at Elgin Intermediate School; one student and one staff member at Elgin Middle School; one student at either Elgin High School or Phoenix High School; and two staff members at non-campus facilities.

According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons website, [www.bop.gov/coronavirus](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus), the federal correctional institution in Bastrop has 15 inmates and 26 staff members with active cases of COVID-19 as of Monday afternoon. Last week, 62 inmates and 26 staff members had active cases. One inmate has died of COVID-19, and 453 inmates and four staff members have recovered so far.

## JURY ...

From Page B3

February 15, 2019, did intentionally or knowingly possess methamphetamine in an amount of one gram or more but less than four grams.

**Eric Gibson**—Assault a pregnant person, enhanced, a third-degree felony enhanced to a second-degree felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about August, 27, 2020, did intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause bodily injury to a person the defendant knew was pregnant, by striking the person with the defendant's hand.

A previous conviction for possession of a controlled substance on or about May 11, 2000 in Travis County was also presented.

**Devin Louis Greene**—Aggravated sexual assault of a child, a first-degree felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about July 1, 2019, did intentionally and knowingly sexually assault a child who was then and there younger than 14 years of age.

**Windell Green**—False statement to obtain property or credit, a third-degree felony; theft against a nonprofit, a second-degree felony.

The indictments allege that the defendant, on or about December 16, 2016, did intentionally and knowingly make a

materially false or misleading written statement to a bank, namely a commercial loan request, with the intent to obtain credit, namely a mortgage loan, and the value of the property was \$30,000 or more but less than \$150,000; and that the defendant, on or about April 5, 2013 through August 3, 2019, did unlawfully appropriate, by acquiring or otherwise exercising control over currency of the value of \$30,000 or more but less than \$150,000 from a church, which was then and there a nonprofit organization, without the effective consent of the owner and with intent to deprive the owner of the property.

No arrest on either charge.

**Sydney Lock**—Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a second-degree felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about July 19, 2020, did intentionally or knowingly threaten a person with imminent bodily injury by threatening the person with a knife, and the defendant did then and there use or exhibit a deadly weapon, a knife, during the assault.

**Chester Newman III**—Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a second-degree felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about July 26, 2020, did intentionally or knowingly threaten a person with imminent bodily injury by threatening the person with a motor vehi-

cle, and the defendant did then and there use or exhibit a deadly weapon, a motor vehicle, during the assault.

**Isaiah Scott**—Aggravated assault, family violence, serious bodily injury with a deadly weapon, a first-degree felony; manslaughter, a second-degree felony.

The indictments allege that the defendant, on or about January 14, 2020, did intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause serious bodily injury to a person the defendant knew was pregnant, and a member of the defendant's family or a person with whom the defendant had a dating relationship, by striking the person with the defendant's hand, and the defendant used or exhibited a deadly weapon, the defendant's hand, during the assault; and the defendant did recklessly cause the death of an individual, namely the unborn child of the person assaulted in the previous charge while the unborn child was in gestation of the person, by striking the person in the abdomen with the defendant's hand, and the defendant used or exhibited a deadly weapon, the defendant's hand, during the assault.

**Daytrin Shaw**—Evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, a third-degree felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about August 11, 2020, did, while using a vehicle, intentionally flee from a person the defendant

knew was a peace officer who was attempting lawfully to arrest or detain the defendant.

**Edward Stanford**—Tamper or fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair, a third-degree felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about December 23, 2018, did, knowing that an investigation was in process, namely confirmation of outstanding warrants, intentionally and knowingly conceal an illegal substance, namely methamphetamine, with intent to impair its availability as evidence in the investigation.

**Keidric Rashad Wesley**—Possession of a controlled substance, penalty group 1, less than 1 gram, a state jail felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about April 16, 2019, did intentionally or knowingly possess methamphetamine in an amount of less than one gram.

**James Williams Jr**—Fail to comply with sex offender's duty to register for life annually, habitual, a third-degree felony enhanced to habitual.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about September 8, 2020, did, while knowing that he was required to register because of a reportable conviction based upon indecency with a child sexual contact, fail to comply with a requirement by failing to report in person not later than the seventh day before

the intended change of address to the local law enforcement authority designated as the defendant's primary registration authority, the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office, and by failing to provide the law enforcement authority with the defendant's anticipated move date and new address, or by failing to apply the department for the issuance of an annually renewable identification card, or by failing to ensure that the defendant's sex offender registration form was complete and accurate, namely, by failing to provide each alias used by the defendant or any cellular telephone number of the person or the identification of any online identifier established or used by the defendant or an indication as to whether the defendant is employed.

Six prior convictions—four convictions for burglary of a habitation on or about February 11, 2004, a conviction for failure to comply with registration requirements on or about February 24, 2010, and a conviction for injury to a disabled person on or about January 29, 2014 in Travis County—were also presented.

**Samuel Woods**—Assault family member with previous conviction, a third-degree felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about April 7, 2020, did intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause bodily injury to a member of the defendant's family by striking the person with the defendant's hand, and

the defendant had previously been convicted of an offense involving family violence.

**Sean Zeugin**—Unauthorized use of a vehicle, a state jail felony.

The indictment alleges that the defendant, on or about May 7, 2020, did intentionally and knowingly operate a motor-propelled vehicle, namely a motorcycle, without the effective consent of the owner.

*No Bills: After careful inquiry, the Grand Jury has voted a "no bill" in the following cases, meaning insufficient evidence exists for indictment and prosecution on a criminal charge. The Sheriff of Bastrop County is directed to release the defendant if they are in custody, unless they are being held in other matters not covered by said complaint, and any outstanding warrants for arrest of said defendant for this offense shall be recalled.*

**Magdalena Hernandez-Perez**—Endanger a child, two counts, on or about February 24, 2020.

**Raymond V. Steele**—Aggravated assault, family violence, with a weapon, on or about January 7, 2020.

**Andy Rivera Jr**—Sexual assault of a child, on or about November 22, 2019.

**Aspion Crespo**—Sexual assault, on or about July 21, 2019.

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**Public Notice**  
 RFB No.: 20BCP12A  
 Bastrop County is requesting sealed bids for **Annual Crack Seal Project**. Copies of the request for bids may be obtained from the Bastrop County Purchasing Department website at <https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/pur.bids> or by calling (512) 581-7110. Sealed bids must be received by the Bastrop County Purchasing Office, which is located at 803 Pine Street, Room 101, Bastrop, Texas 78602. All submissions must be received by Bastrop County Purchasing Department no later than 2:00 PM, January 14, 2021. Sealed envelopes must be marked with: **RFB#: 20BCP12A and the proposer's company name**. Submissions received in the Bastrop County Purchasing Office after deadline shall be returned unopened and will be considered void and unacceptable. Bastrop County is not responsible for lateness of mail; private carrier; etc. Time/date stamp clock in the Purchasing Office shall be the official time of receipt. Bastrop County will not be responsible for unmarked sealed bids delivered to the wrong location. Successful bidders must be able to meet all requirements for insurance and bonds to include Bid, Payment and Performance Bonds. Bastrop County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and strives to attain goals for Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) as amended. Contractor SHALL abide by all Local, State and Federal requirements within the bid document.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS / STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (RFP/SOQ) FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES**

The City of Elgin, TX has received funding from the Texas Department of Transportation for a Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program ("Project") award in the amount of \$415,059 for new construction of sidewalks in the overall downtown area.

Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified Engineering Firm (individual/firm) to conduct all administrative and financial services regarding this project in compliance with all applicable requirements under the TxDOT program to include certification in the program or ability to become certified.

Please submit electronically your proposal of service and statement of qualifications to Amy Miller RFQSubmit@ci.elgin.tx.us. Proposals shall be received by the City no later than 2pm January 21, 2021 to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. The City of Elgin, TX is an equal opportunity employer and encourages all Small and Minority Businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, Historically Under-Utilized Business (HUB's) to submit a proposal.

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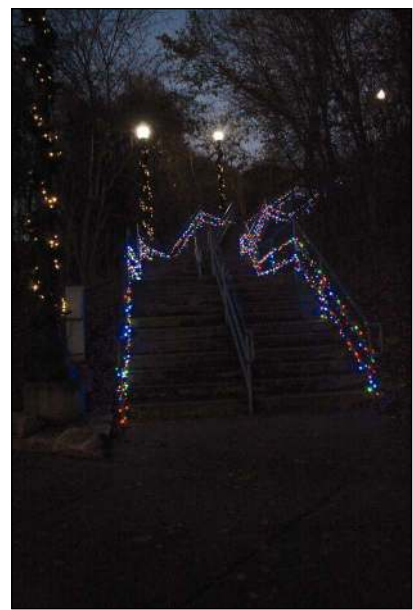
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# Colorado River lit up for holidays



Throughout December and early January, the path along the Colorado River at Bastrop's Fisherman's Park was decorated in lights of all kinds and colors for the holiday season.

Photos by Julianne Hodges

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