

New Greystone class



Photo by Bonnie Arnold

THE 27 NEW GREYSTONE Program students at Schreiner University who arrived by Aug. 18 were welcomed in a two-day series of orientations and events for the students and their parents. After the final orientation session and before the Texas barbecue was served Thursday evening, CDR David Bailey had the new class form up on the staircase at the campus activity center for a class photo. About half are from Texas and the rest come from as far away as Oregon and California, to New York to Florida.

Browns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Dillon at greater risk.

"Dillon is Dillon and we love him the way he is," Janna said. "He's non-verbal, has left-side weakness, it's kind of like a stroke in utero.

Dillon has learned to walk, and attends the special education classes at Rocksprings, not far from the classroom where Janna teaches. Sterling has developed a special bond with his brother, and all are happy.

"He's very protective of him," Janna said of Sterling watching over Dillon. "Today Sterling took him out on the four-wheeler, gets him on and off and takes Dillon out by himself."

While vacationing in Port Aransas in June, however, Janna had a chance encounter with a man who had a son with cerebral palsy, who informed her there was a medical procedure that could possibly help Dillon's condition.

"This man approached me at Port Aransas, told us about stem cell research, and he had been there with his son, and seen accomplishments," Janna said. "He was like an angel, he appeared in the pool, and he was gone."

"After we had been back a while,

we found out his son went to Wimberley. I called the school, told them my story, and they had him call me."

The where turned out to be Dusseldorf, Germany, where the X-Cell Center performs stem cell research treatments on patients with disorders such as cerebral palsy, heart disorders, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's. The procedure involves taking the bone marrow of the patient and injecting back into the spinal column, where if successful, it helps the body regenerate damaged tissues and nerves.

While not approved for treatment in the United States, Janna and Troy researched the procedure, and applied to have Dillon submitted as a patient. He was accepted, and the family heads to Germany Sept. 25.

"Everyone has different outcomes," Janna said of the procedure. "Some it doesn't help at all. But if we don't go, he won't get any better. There's no time expectancy, some see it in weeks, others in months, some in years."

"I feel like I'm trying to better his future. We have to give him the opportunity. It would be holding him back if we didn't. It's the only thing we haven't tried. It's not approved by the USDA here, it's research, but the doctors we've talked to have told us it's minimal

risk."

And maximum expense. Besides the \$13,000 fee for the treatment, the Browns must have \$5,000 in airline expenses to get them and Grandmother Kay Brown, who lives in Camp Verde, to Germany, plus \$1,000 for week-long accommodations, plus food expenses.

Stacie Grimes, whose daughter Becky was a friend of Janna's at Tivy, has stepped in to help. Hearing the story of the boys from Cornelia Shanklin, Janna's mother and still a Kerrville resident, Stacie Grimes has set up a Love Fund for Dillon at Bank of the Hills, where donations can be made to help the family with expenses for the trip.

"We're just optimistic for anything," Janna said of the treatment. "If it doesn't help, we know we've tried everything. They do not guarantee a cure, but the stem cells regenerate the body, it's from your body."

"The closer it gets, I get nervous," Janna said. "I am so thankful for (the fund) and the prayers. There is no way I will ever be able to thank anyone enough for helping us at all."

Anyone interested in helping the Browns with a donation can contact Mollie Adams at Bank of the Hills at 895-2265, or mail donations to P.O. Box 2002, Kerrville, TX, 78029-2002.

Schreiner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Hospital, where he awaited test results.

Chrissie said doctors initially believed Bobby may have contracted a parasite while on his senior trip to Belize in June, but also were checking for the possibility of a low-grade tumor. The family was hoping for an official diagnosis Monday, but made no announcement.

The good news was Bobby rapidly improved each day following

his hospitalization, and was eager to get to Austin to start classes.

"He's back to normal, doing great," Chrissie said. "He's back to his old self, is ready to bust out of there."

A three-year starter for the Antlers' varsity team, Bobby earned All-District recognition for his tenacious defensive play during his varsity playing career, and helped lead Tivy this past season to a 32-6 record and its first Region IV championship game appearance under Coach Brian Young, who anxiously monitored details of the incident.

"He's a tough kid, a good kid,

and we just want the best for him,"

Young said of his former player. "There's a lot of prayers and well wishes going out for him, a lot of people concerned about him."

The Schreiners, descendants of Kerrville pioneer Capt. Charles Schreiner, endured their second scare this summer with Bobby's incident. Gus Schreiner IV suffered a serious accident while operating a backhoe while clearing brush at the family's Y.O. Ranch in West Kerr County in July, requiring hospitalization for a head injury, but recovered rapidly to resume normal activities.

Letters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4A

nity sessions came many suggestions by local citizens that TxDOT agreed to incorporate in design changes. For the Center Point Crossing Street Bridge, three meetings have taken place to date, two in the community and one in Commissioners' Court. Many suggestions for design change have been offered to TxDOT engineers who have agreed to incorporate these suggestions.

So where does that leaves us today?

There exists a vocal segment of the Center Point Community that opposes the replacement of the Crossing Street Bridge. In the meetings TxDOT and Kerr County have held to date, their sentiments have been made known. There exist also many in the Center Point that recognize the need to replace the bridge and eliminate any danger to the community.

So, why not abandon the project as some suggest? Three reasons immediately come to mind. First, the bridge has been identified as being in need of replacement due to struc-

tural deterioration. If Kerr County abandons this project at this point, any subsequent accidents that might occur on this crossing could be the sole responsibility of Kerr County.

This is a huge contingent liability the county should not be exposed to – and would not be if the bridge were replaced. Second, if the bridge is not replaced now when federal and state funding is in place, the bridge will not become eligible for replacement for another 10 years, and there is no guarantee of funding for this purpose 10 years out. Lastly, if the project is abandoned, Kerr County must reimburse TxDOT for monies expended to date for surveying, engineering, environmental. To date, that totals more than \$125,000. Your local tax money would have to be spent frivolously and public safety compromised, and Kerr County would receive nothing in return. Also, the potential liability to Kerr County continues.

Can the County close the road to vehicular traffic?

Road closing is within the authority of Commissioners' Court. But if the road were closed to vehicular traffic, allowing only pedestrian and bicycle traffic, nothing is solved. The bridge is still a threat to public safety and the liability issues still exist for Kerr County, and the coun-

ty would still owe TxDOT for its efforts to date.

Will Kerr County improve the adjacent park?

I have stated from the beginning of these discussions my willingness to work with a local committee to develop a realistic plan for park improvements. The park by the Center Point Dam is one of the few remaining public access points for recreation on the Guadalupe River in Kerr County and improvements are in order. To date a local committee is in the formative stages, and I will work to assist in the development and costing of a plan for improvements that can be submitted to Commissioners' Court for funding consideration.

What's next?

It is my understanding that in addition to the local park improvements committee, a similar committee is being formed to meet with TxDOT and Kerr County to deal specifically with bridge issues. Hopefully, community concerns can be fully and completely resolved and the project can move forward. The reality is that public safety should never be compromised, nor should local concerns be ignored.

– Bill Williams
Kerr County Commissioner
Precinct 2

KPD investigations focus on assault cases, local death

By DOUG MITCHELL
Staff Writer

Female suspects are the focus of parties of interest in three cases Kerrville Police Department investigators have opened files on since Aug. 15.

The past weekend saw officers called to the Wal-Mart store in the 1200 block of Junction Highway Saturday, Aug. 21, after the store's loss prevention staff spotted a potential shoplifter that turned into a robbery and child abandonment-endangerment case.

Community Services Officer Paul Gonzales said the loss prevention staff spotted the female, age 27, enter the store at 9:27 a.m. with two children and a shopping cart. Video surveillance showed the woman began selecting toys and other items, valued at \$111.82, and began placing them in a tote box.

The woman then attempted to leave the store, going past the registers and waving a small piece of paper at the greeter in an attempt to pass it off as a receipt, but was stopped in the parking lot by loss prevention personnel.

Gonzales said after being confronted by the loss officer, the woman first said she could pay for the items, then refused a request to return to the store. When she tried to leave, the officer grabbed her arm in an attempt to detain her, after which the suspect struck the officer multiple times with her fist.

The officer, fearing for his safety, then released the woman, who drove off in a gold-colored passenger vehicle. The officer then took custody of the two children left behind to ensure their safety before KPD officers arrived.

Gonzales said the incident report indicates the woman, a "well-known subject" to the department, was baby-sitting the two children, and called their mother after leaving the scene so she could come pick up the children.

"Due to the fact physical force was used, the charges are increased from shoplifting to attempted robbery," Gonzales said, noting the items were recovered at the scene.

Police later added two additional counts of abandonment-child endangerment to the charges. The case has been forwarded to KPD's Criminal Investigations Unit.

Confrontation leads to assault charges

Police responded to a report of an alleged assault with a deadly weapon incident in the 900 block of

Bulwer Saturday, Aug. 21, after a woman alleged she was struck by a vehicle.

The complainant reported returning home around 6:56 p.m. to find another female in her home. After telling the woman to leave immediately, the complainant said the subject began cursing her as she left.

Gonzales said the complainant reported after being addressed with "vulgar language" by the subject, the complainant decided she had to confront the subject, and attempted to open the passenger-side vehicle door of the subject's car. The alleged assailant then got out, got back in the car, and allegedly struck the complainant twice in the side with the moving vehicle, then attempted a third strike, before leaving the scene.

The report shows the alleged victim refused medical attention at the scene, and showed no signs of injury. Officers could not determine a reason for the alleged assailant being in the home, but did determine text messaging had been confirmed between the complainant's husband and the woman, and a custody issue also was involved.

Unattended death victim found

Officers found a deceased 56-year-old Kerrville man Wednesday, Aug. 18 in his residence following a request for a welfare check.

Gonzales said a 71-year-old friend of the victim requested a check on the man, who resided in the Three Hills Mobile Home Park in the 1400 block of Junction Highway, at 5:36 p.m. after coming to residence several times starting Aug. 10, and getting no answer at the door. The friend also told police he could smell a rancid odor coming from the residence.

Officers at the scene noted the odor, and looking through a residence window, observed the deceased victim. On-call Justice of the Peace Kathy Mitchell was summoned along with additional officers and investigators, who gained

entry to the residence.

The incident report shows Investigator John Latham found no signs of medication use or foul play at scene, Gonzales said, but with no known medical history, Mitchell ordered inquest autopsy for the victim, resulting in his body being sent to the state medical examiner's office in Austin, and the case being forwarded to CIU pending the autopsy results.

Brawl investigation slowed

Gonzales said the KPD investigation into an Aug. 15 beating incident at Louise Hays Park has been slowed by the department's unsuccessful attempts to make contact with the alleged victim in the case.

Gonzales said officers responded to the pavilion area of the park at 8:17 p.m. that evening after reports of 5-7 men beating a suspect. Officers arrived to find a male subject, age 25, lying in the parking lot, bleeding from his nose.

Spanish-speaking witnesses told officers through interpreters that the victim also was struck by a white mini-van moving at a slow rate of speed, driven by a woman with several children aboard. Witnesses attempting to stop the woman said she was confused and when informed police had been called and she needed to remain at the scene, became upset and left before officers arrived.

Gonzales said the van incident appears unrelated to the beating, and it appears the situation developed when several uninvited individuals arrived at the event at the pavilion, and the victim apparently tried to get the suspects to leave, upon which he was struck several times.

Gonzales said the victim was airlifted to University Hospital in San Antonio with head injuries, where he was released the next day. Gonzales said the victim, a Kerrville man, has refused to cooperate with attempts to talk to him about the incident.

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