Children, whose faces only hours before were filled with joyful grins as they received certificates for making good grades, exhibiting stellar behavior, and attending school regularly, cry as they sprint across the Robb Elementary School campus. The students were directed to the nearby Hillcrest Memorial Funeral Home, where staff and students remained locked inside, and away from the second- through fourth-grade campus, where a gunman was barricaded in a classroom after killing 19 fourth-graders and two teachers, and causing injury to more than a dozen others. The shooting, presently billed as the second-worst school shooting in United States history, happened May 24, just two days before the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District was set to end classes, and three days before more than 300 seniors were set to graduate from Uvalde High School, Uvalde Early College High School, and Crossroads Academy.
In a fitting unrehearsed moment Thomson Memorial Day speaker William Wright, left, and Thomson American Legion Commander Merrill Beck, right, exchange “fist bumps” at the conclusion of Wright’s Memorial Day address to those assembled at the Thomson Veterans’ Memorial during services held on Memorial Day. The centerpiece of the Memorial is framed by the men and accented at either side by the symbols recognizing the six branches of service to the country. Wright is a retired educator and long time principal at the former Savanna High School. In his remarks he gave a brief history of the evolution of Memorial Day from its beginning as Decoration Day after the Civil War on May 30, 1868, to honor those U.S. Military personnel serving in the U.S. Armed Forces who lost their lives in the Nation’s worst civil conflict.
A HERO’S WORK — Jacob Boyd anxiously watches as Boone County Fire Protection District firefighters Joey Rimel, left and Reagan Delima work to revive his dog “Spud,” and his cat after they were rescued from Boyd’s burning mobile home northeast of Hallsville the afternoon of January 12. Another dog died in the fire as well.
Musher Matt Paviglio runs his sled dog team at Safety Sound, near Nome, Alaska, approximately 20 miles shy of the finishline of the 1,000-mile Iditarod Sled Dog race, on March 17, 2022. The race starts in Willow, Alaska and finishes in Nome, Alaska.
Rocinante High School Senior Shana Mud gets emotional during her valedictorian address to her peers and the crowd during the commencement ceremony on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at the Hutchison Stadium.
The thunderstorm pictured above, approximately 2 miles west of Leola, was one of the few storms to pass through the area during an unusually dry summer of 2021. (September 30, 2021)

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE TRACK — Nearly 30 members of Centralia Boy Scout Troop 90 and Centralia Cub Scout Pack 90 packed into the gym at the Centralia First Baptist Church the evening of Saturday, Feb. 26 and raced nearly two-dozen hand-carved wooden cars down a 50-foot aluminum track for the organizations’ annual Pinewood Derby. Shown above, from the left, are Ashlee Adams, Daniel Adams and Garon Stowers eagerly watching their cars come to crashing conclusions at the finish line.
Local resident Salvador Estrada, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, places a balsam wreath on the grave of U.S. Army Cpl. Gus Leon Routh, who served in Korea. Routh was born on May 1, 1925, and died Nov. 17, 2011. The wreath-laying was part of the Wreaths Across America observance held Dec. 18 at Hillcrest Cemetery, which honored and remembered local veterans.
Bryson Dubes makes a takedown in the semifinals of the Missouri high school wrestling championship. (Feb. 23, 2022)
To the delight of his built-in cheering section, ‘Wild’ Willie Walling places the cowboy hat he had just plucked from atop his own head over the eyes of the raring bull that failed to buck the young competitor in requisite time during Mini Jack competition of the 10th-annual Cactus Jack bull riding fundraiser. Walling, competing in the 9 to 11 age group, earned raucous applause and cheers from the May 6 crowd at the Uvalde County Arena at the Fairplex. (May 12, 2022)
Fort White outfielder Gracie Clemons reacts after making the final out of the Class 1A state championship game against Jay at Legend Way Ballfields on May 25 in Clermont. The Royals won 6-5, holding on after the Indians loaded the bases with two outs in the seventh inning.