



Arch, Gunner center stage as showdown pits Texas-Georgia

SPORTS, 1B

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Harpole honored with TxDOT's top award



Former Amarillo Mayor Paul Harpole, center, holds his Texas Department of Transportation Road Hand Award certificate alongside Amarillo District Engineer Blair Johnson, left, and TxDOT Amarillo District Public Information Officer Jason Britsch. MICHAEL CUVIELLO / AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

One of regions most persistent transportation advocates

Michael CuvIELlo
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Former Mayor Paul Harpole, a decorated Vietnam War veteran and one of the Panhandle's most persistent transportation advocates, was surprised Tuesday, Nov. 11 with the Texas Department of Transportation's coveted Road Hand Award during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Texas Panhandle War Memorial Center.

The Road Hand Award — TxDOT's highest honor for non-employees — was established in 1973 by State Highway Engineer Luther DeBerry to recognize citizens whose leadership has advanced major transportation projects that benefit their communities. In 52 years, only 284 Texans have received the award; Harpole is the first from the Panhandle in 17 years.

TxDOT Amarillo District Public Information Officer Jason Britsch

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AMARILLO ISD

Tobacco use drops by nearly 50 percent

Nell Williams
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

According to information recently released by Tobacco Free Amarillo from data collected in spring 2025, more than 3,200 students from grades 6 through 12 participated in a survey that is providing a valuable snapshot of youth trends in our community.

Megan Williams, executive director of Tobacco Free Amarillo (TFA), along with Tracey Morman, Amarillo ISD director of Counseling / College & Career Readiness, announced the results at a news conference Wednesday morning, Nov. 12 at the Don Harrington Cancer Research Center.

"When TFA was formed, 49% of our high school students used tobacco. This underscores the challenge that we faced. The data we're presenting today comes from the 2025 Texas Prevention Impact Index Survey. The overarching news is overwhelmingly positive," Williams said. "We've seen a significant decline in the use of every tobacco product across the board ... a testament to the hard work of our community partners in the duration of this program."

The survey is supported by TFA, AISD and the Harrington Cancer and Health Foundation. Leaders from each organization emphasized that the data will be used to guide prevention strategies, classroom education and community partnerships.

Williams said the battle against traditional cigarettes continues to progress, and building on decades of work, 4.5% of 12th graders reported smoking cigarettes. "A generation ago, nearly half our kids were smoking. Seeing this number of 4.5% shows the

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Emails reveal how Epstein trashed Trump

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — "Dirty." "(Expletive) crazy." "Borderline insane." A Mafia don but with the "great dangerous power" of being America's president and commander-in-chief.

That's how the late Jeffrey Epstein described his former longtime friend and confidant Donald Trump, according to a trove of the convicted sex offender's texts and emails released Nov. 12 by the House Oversight Committee.

But perhaps the most intriguing thing Epstein said about Trump in the 20,000-plus pages of emails provided by his estate was this:

"I am the one able to take him down."

The White House and Trump himself tried to spin the document release — and a later one by Republicans — as being a giant nothingburger.

On Nov. 14, Trump said on social media he was asking the Department of Justice to investigate Democrats he says "spent large portions of their life" with the disgraced financier: "Bill Clinton, Larry Summers, Reid Hoffman, J.P. Morgan, Chase, and many other people and institutions."

At the same time, Trump railed against Republicans working with Democrats to force the full release of Ep-



Newly released correspondence with the late Jeffrey Epstein show the degradation of his relationship with President Donald Trump, in which he called Trump "borderline insane." STEPHANIE KEITH/GETTY IMAGES FILE

stein's federal case files, and urged them to stop digging into his relationship with the disgraced financier.

"Some Weak Republicans have fallen into their clutches because they are soft and foolish. Epstein was a Democrat, and he is the Democrat's problem, not

the Republican's problem!" Trump wrote. "Ask Bill Clinton, Reid Hoffman, and Larry Summers about Epstein, they know all about him, don't waste your time with Trump. I have a

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