

THOMAS O. HICKS | 1946-2025

## Visionary helped win titles

Former owner of Stars, Rangers changed North Texas sports landscape



File Photo/Staff

Tom Hicks was a key driver of the construction of American Airlines Center, the centerpiece of the Victory Park development that followed. Before getting into sports ownership, Hicks had built his fortune with leveraged buyouts and company mergers.

By EVAN GRANT  
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Thomas O. Hicks, who parlayed an early mastery of leveraged buyouts to create one of the world's first modern professional sports empires, died Saturday in Dallas surrounded by family. He was 79.

Hicks, described by those who knew him as an "eternal optimist" and someone who "dreamed big," built his fortune by forming private equity groups — Hicks & Haas in 1984, then Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst in 1989 — and then turned toward his love of sports. He may have made his fortune in business, but he made headlines in sports, first by purchasing the Stars a year after they arrived from Minneapolis, then adding the



1998 File Photo

Then-Gov. George W. Bush cheered on the Rangers with owner Tom Hicks and Hicks' son, William, 6, at what is now Choctaw Stadium on opening day in 1998. Hicks later shocked baseball by signing Alex Rodriguez to a 10-year, \$252 million deal.

**COWLISHAW:** Dallas has no Stanley Cup championship without Tom Hicks. **1C**

Rangers three years later. He eventually added a 50% stake in Liverpool FC of the English Premier League.

He won a Stanley Cup as the Stars' owner in 1999. Until the Mavericks' title more than a decade later, it served as the only non-Cowboys league championship won by a Dallas professional sports team.

"Tom was a close friend and a great partner," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement. "He dreamed big and watching him bring the Stanley Cup here to Dallas was something that I

See **EX-STARS** Page 4A

DALLAS POLICE

## AI use for face IDs may broaden

Controversial recognition software has played role in felonies; privacy alarms arise

By CHASE ROGERS  
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Teenagers suspected of gunning down a security guard at a CVS in downtown Dallas. A man who used a dating app to talk his way into a Lake Highlands apartment before robbing his match. A woman accused of stealing from a north Oak Cliff convenience store and flashing a gun before driving off.

Images of those suspects were among dozens Dallas police ran through an artificial-intelligence facial recognition platform during the department's first months under contract to use the technology, according to newly obtained internal police records and related court filings reviewed by *The Dallas Morning News*.

An internal police spreadsheet obtained by *The News* shows the department logged more than 140 facial recognition search requests in cases ranging from sex crimes and human trafficking to robbery and homicide. The spreadsheet lists searches entered between October 2024 — when the tool was rolled out — and September.

*The News'* review offers a partial glimpse of how the department is using Clearview AI, a powerful and controversial facial recognition platform that has drawn privacy concerns in the United States and regulatory crackdowns abroad. The department is also weighing whether to expand the tool's permitted use beyond mostly violent felonies and sexual offenses to include certain misdemeanor cases.

Since the tool's rollout, the public record on the department's investigative outcomes resulting from Clearview searches is thin.

The department has said little publicly about what ultimately comes of cases in which Clearview is used — a gap two privacy law attorneys tracking the spread and use of facial recognition technology told *The News* warrants

See **RECORDS** Page 5A

DALLAS

## Man charged in crash out on bond in 2 cases

Records show he faced charges in Travis County involving drugs, weapon

By JANE HARPER  
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Emma Hackney had a lot to be thankful for this past Thanksgiving.

The 29-year-old grew up in a close-knit, supportive family in the upscale Preston Hollow area of Dallas, had loads of dear friends and was in a long-term relationship with a man she planned to eventually marry. She also had a rescue dog she adored and a job she loved, working as an attorney for a large law firm in Dallas.

"She was so funny, so vivacious,"

Hackney's mother, Dr. Gail Hackney, said as she gathered with family Wednesday at her home. "A true original," added Hackney's brother-in-law Ian Pinholster.

Hackney's life tragically came to an end the Sunday after Thanksgiving in a car crash in the Turtle Creek area of Dallas. Police said it was caused by a speeding and intoxicated driver.

Preston Petty, 26, was arrested and charged with intoxicated manslaughter with a vehicle and intoxicated assault with a vehicle. He was booked into the Dallas County jail after his bond was set at \$650,000.

Online records show Petty is a graduate of Highland Park High

See **MAN** Page 5A



Hackney Family

Emma Hackney died Nov. 30 in a car crash in the Turtle Creek area of Dallas. Her dog, Rocco, was injured in the crash.

DALLAS

## Officials explain policy changes

City shifting gears to comply with federal directives banning DEI

By DEVYANI CHHETRI  
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Amid budgetary constraints and federal directives to end diversity, equity and inclusion programs, Dallas officials have developed a plan to help them decide when to take the lead in addressing resident needs.

City officials presented the products of their nearly year-long effort to sift through pol-

icies, laws and programs to comply with President Donald Trump's executive orders from earlier this year. The president's directives require recipients of federal contracts or grants not to operate or support any programs that give benefits or contracts on the basis of race, sex, national origin or religion.

The orders don't explicitly ask cities to discontinue equity programs, but city officials, who have \$980 million in federally funded projects in the pipeline, said they were pre-

See **CITY** Page 8A



INSIDE	
Nation/World	2-3A
Editorials	7A
Letters	7A
Autos	4B
Classified	4B
Jumble	4B
Obituaries	5B
Sports TV	2C
Dear Abby	1E
Comics	2-4E
Puzzles	2-4E
TV	4E

### SPORTSDAY

#### Tech snags No. 4 ranking

Texas Tech will make its College Football Playoff debut in the Capital One Orange Bowl on Jan. 1 after securing the No. 4 overall seed. **1C**

### NATION & WORLD

#### Ceasefire expected to go on

Israel's prime minister said his country and Hamas are "very shortly expected to move into the second phase of the ceasefire." **3A**

### METRO

#### City vaping rule to start

Starting Wednesday, vaping will be prohibited in public and enclosed spaces in Dallas, including at bars, workplaces and parks. **1B**

