



## Scientists seek extreme-weather fix

NEWS, 2A

# Standard-Times

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## Chief Griffith honored with state award



From left to right, Tom Green County Judge Lane Carter, San Angelo police Chief Travis Griffith and Mayor Tom Thompson at the Texas House of Representatives in Austin. PROVIDED BY MAYOR TOM THOMPSON

### Trish Choate

San Angelo Standard-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

San Angelo police Chief Travis Griffith was honored with a state award Friday in Austin in recognition of his overhaul of the department and innovative, forward-thinking approach, according to the city of San Angelo.

Griffith was recognized with a State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Public Service, the city said in a Facebook post Friday.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, a state agency, presented awards for public service, professional achievement and valor.

A TCOLE media release said this about Griffith:

*Since being elected as the Chief of the San Angelo Police Department, Travis Griffith has revamped the department in several areas through innovative practices and his forward-thinking approach. As a result of his initiative, the department has expanded staffing, strengthened regional coordination, and secured significant modernization grants.*

*Chief Griffith formed a regional Narcotics Task Force in partnership with the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Department of Public Safety. He also established the Concho Valley Threat Assessment Team*

*(CVTAT) — a multiagency collaborative focused on the early identification, assessment, and intervention of individuals exhibiting concerning behavior.*

*His emphasis on transparency, community trust, and collaboration has strengthened relationships between law enforcement and the citizens they serve, while fostering a culture of accountability within the department.*

*Some of the notable funding secured in his tenure includes a \$2,000,000 COPS grant for 161 in-car radios, 206 handheld radios, and 135 rugged*

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## US opens fly plant in Mexico to battle parasites

### Mateo Rosiles

USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture marked the opening of a sterile fly production plant in southern Mexico to combat the New World screwworm and reported two additional cases in Texas — bringing the U.S. total to 27.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins was joined by Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and other officials on Saturday, June 27, in Metapa, Mexico, to open a 22,000-square-foot facility capable of producing sterile flies to combat the parasitic fly.

"Today represents a major milestone in that fight with the official opening of that facility," Rollins said on social media. "Within 8 weeks, we should have 30 million flies, in 12 weeks - 50 million flies, and by this fall an additional 100 million flies to deploy."

According to the USDA, sterile New World screwworms are released in and around infested areas to increase the likelihood that wild NWS flies will mate with them, while the department continuously monitors new detections and adjusts release patterns to maintain suppression and prevent spread.

It helped eradicate screwworm from the U.S. in 1966 and eliminate a small outbreak in the Florida Keys in 2017.

USDA also reported two new cases over the weekend. One case was confirmed on Friday, June 26, in Jim Hogg County — the county's first reported case. The second confirmed case over the weekend was on Saturday, June 27, in Crockett County — the county's sixth case.

As of Monday morning, June 29, there are 27 cases in the U.S., with Texas as the only state reporting active cases.

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## Video shows suspects smiling during arrest

### Mateo Rosiles

USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

Three women have been arrested and charged with murder in the death of a mother of five in South Texas.

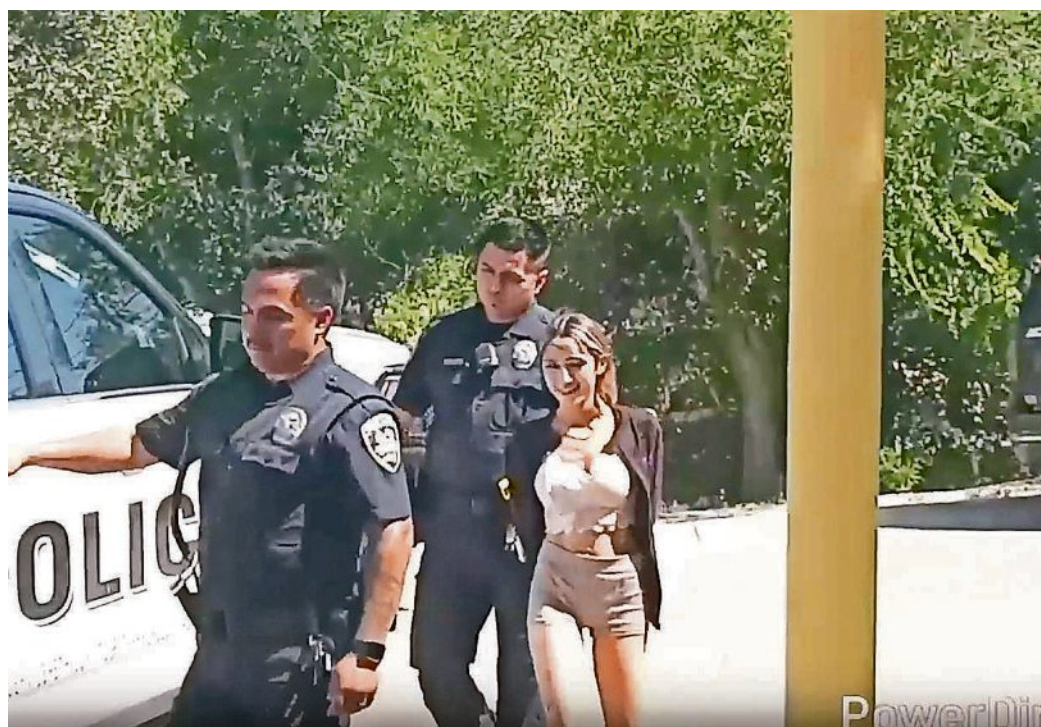
The Del Rio Police Department initially responded around 2:10 p.m. Thursday, June 25, to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center after receiving a report of a woman with multiple stab wounds. Upon arrival, officers determined the assault had occurred in the 800 block of East 10th Street.

Del Rio police on Thursday, June 25, took into custody Kitty Mia Diaz, 21, Amaya Cooke Diaz, 19, and Kyandra Renee Faz, 21, in connection with the murder, according to the department's media post.

The woman, identified as Caroline Peña, 32, according to KENS 5 in San Antonio, was transported to a medical facility in San Antonio for treatment but later died from her injuries.

According to the department,

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3 women accused of murder after fatal stabbing in Del Rio. PROVIDED BY STORYFUL

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