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A&P Commission reappoints bar owner

KARL RICHTER
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Ark. — Meredith Mills, co-owner of Fat Jack's Oyster and Sports Bar, will remain on the city Advertising and Promotion Commission despite member Steven Hollobush's recent attempt to oust her using a parliamentary technicality.

During the Commission's regular quarterly meeting Tuesday, its other members present voted unanimously to reconsider Mills' reappointment and then to give her a new four-year term. Commissioner Ellen Holmes was absent. Dozens of members of the public were in attendance to express their strong disapproval of Hollobush's maneuvering during a called Commission meeting June 26.

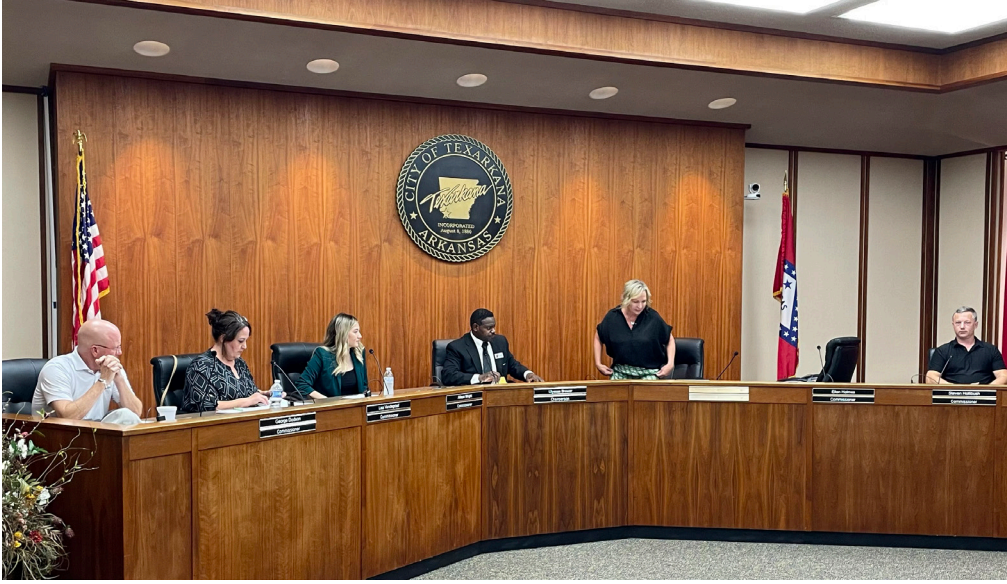
After the vote, Mills took her seat on the dais and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

"Thank you for everyone

Meredith Mills, second from right, takes her seat on the dais after the city Advertising and Promotion Commission voted to reappoint her during a regular meeting Tuesday at Texarkana, Arkansas, City Hall. At a previous A&P Commission meeting that only four members attended, Commissioner Steven Hollobush, right, moved to reappoint Mills and then voted against his own motion in an attempt to remove her from the Commission. Hollobush also represents Ward 3 on the city Board of Directors. (Staff photo by Karl Richter)

who spoke on my account today. It's very overwhelming and heartfelt, and I appreciate it," she said.

Chairman Ulysses Brewer was absent from the June 26 meeting, so Hollobush presid-



ed. Mills and Commissioner Lisa Vandegraaf also were absent, leaving a quorum of four commissioners in attendance: Hollobush, Ellen Holmes, Allison Wright and George Dodson.

To begin that meeting, Hollobush, who also represents Ward 3 on the city Board of Directors, moved to reappoint Mills, an action item not on the meeting's pre-published agenda.

"Her term is expired, and I think she needs to be reappointed," Hollobush said. Dodson, Holmes and Wright voted for Mills' reappointment, and then Hollobush voted no. His own motion

had failed, he said, because a majority of the whole Commission, at least four votes, must approve an appointment.

"What happened was illegal" according to the Commission's bylaws, Brewer said Tuesday. Hollobush remained silent and after the meeting declined to comment.

Dodson, co-owner of Hopkins Icehouse and the Commission's newest member, on Tuesday called Hollobush's behavior "political BS" and admonished him for discouraging people from public service.

"What happened was premeditated. It was thought out. ... The problem with that is this is why no one wants to get involved. This is exactly why," he said. "At some point in your brain, you said, 'OK, now's my chance.' It looks like a monarchy when you do

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Instructor Jody Digby leads Gunner Hensel, left, and Ayden Kennington through a bass drum exercise Tuesday at Pleasant Grove High School in Texarkana, Texas. The Pride in Motion marching band will have 114 student musicians for the 2025-26 school year, according to Haley Turner, communications director for Pleasant Grove Independent School District. See related photos online at texarkanagazette.com.

Sounds of summer

Drum tech Evan Estes leads a drumline workout on the stage of the Performing Arts Center on Tuesday at Pleasant Grove High School in Texarkana, Texas.

(Staff photos by Stevon Gamble)



Mother formally charged with manslaughter in infant son's death

LORI DUNN
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

NEW BOSTON, Texas — A Bowie County woman accused of bathing her infant son in scalding water has been indicted on charges of manslaughter and injury to a child.

Jatoria Renae Cleamons, 21, of Texarkana, Texas, is being held in Bi-State Detention Center on a \$5.5 million bail, according to jail records. She is represented by the Bowie County Public Defender's Office. Her case has been assigned to 5th District Judge Bill Miller.

Cleamons is scheduled for arraignment July 21, according to court records.

Manslaughter is punishable by two to 20 years in prison. Felony injury to a child is punishable by five to 99 years or life in prison.

Cleamons was arrested June 20 by officer Jonathan Matlock of Hooks Police Department. She allegedly had been on the run since June 13, when officers attempted to serve warrants for her arrest.

Cleamons was apprehended at an apartment in the 100 block of Kennedy Circle — the same place where the child died in February.

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Tariff-driven inflation that economists feared begins to emerge

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AND JOSH BOAK
AP WRITERS

WASHINGTON — Inflation rose last month to its highest level since February as President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs push up the cost of everything from groceries and clothes to furniture and appliances.

Consumer prices rose 2.7% in June from a year earlier, the Labor Department said Tuesday, up from an annual increase of 2.4% in May. On a monthly basis, prices climbed 0.3% from May to June, after rising just 0.1% the previous month.

Worsening inflation poses a political challenge for Trump, who as a candidate promised to immediately lower costs, but instead has engaged in a whip-sawed frenzy of tariffs that have jolted businesses and consumers. Trump insists that the U.S. effectively has no inflation as he has attempted to pressure Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell into cutting short-term interest rates.

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Trump to Texas Republicans: Redraw the state congressional map to help keep House majority

JOEY CAPPELLETTI
AND NICHOLAS RICCARDI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he is pushing Texas Republicans to redraw the state's congressional maps to create more House seats favorable to his party, part of a broader effort to help the GOP retain control of the chamber in next year's mid-term elections.

The president's directive signals part of the strategy Trump is likely to take to avoid a repeat of his first term,



when Democrats flipped the House just two years into his presidency. It comes shortly before the GOP-controlled Texas Legislature is sched-

uled to begin a special session next week during which it will consider new congressional maps to further marginalize Democrats in the state.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott speaks as President Donald Trump listens during a roundtable discussion with first responders and local officials at Hill Country Youth Event Center during a tour to observe flood damage Friday in Kerrville, Texas. (AP photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Asked as he departed the White House for Pittsburgh about the possibility of adding GOP-friendly districts around the country, Trump respond-

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