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Trial is next week for man accused of punching officer

LORI DUNN
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Texas — Testimony in the trial of a Bowie County man charged with assaulting a police officer is expected to start next week at Bowie County Court-house.

The trial for Jeffrey Dale Troxel, 45, of DeKalb, is scheduled for 5th District

Court before Judge Bill Miller. Jury selection is Tuesday. Testimony is set to begin Wednesday morning.

Troxel is charged with assault on a peace officer, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and aggravated assault. The trial is for the assault on a peace officer /unlawful possession cases due to those two offenses



TROXEL

have a separate trial week. Troxel is represented by

occurred in a single criminal episode. The aggravated assault with a deadly weapon charge will remain pending and will

the Bowie County Public Defender's Office, according to court documents. First Assistant District Attorney Kelley Crisp is prosecuting the case.

On each of Troxel's indictments, the state has given notice to seek enhanced punishment because Troxel is a habitual offender. If the jury convicts him of the offenses and the jury agrees to en-

hancement, the punishment range is enhanced to a minimum of 25 years -maximum of life.

Assault on a peace officer is a second-degree felony, with regular punishment range of two to 20 years in Texas Department of Corrections. Unlawful possession of firearm by felon is a third-degree felony, with reg-

ular punishment range of two to 10 years in TDC.

The state previously filed a motion of intent to use extraneous offenses in the case. This means in the punishment phase of the trial, prosecutors can introduce the prior criminal record of the defendant,

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Suspect shot after dragging officer by car



Investigators from the FBI survey the scene where an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer shot and killed a suspect after the suspect drove his car at the arresting officers Friday in Franklin Park, Ill. The Department of Homeland Security said in a news release that the officer was trying to arrest a man with a history of reckless driving who had entered the country illegally, but he refused officers' orders and instead drove his car at them. An ICE officer who was hit and dragged by the car felt his life was threatened and opened fire, the department said. See the story on Page 3A. (AP Photo/Paul Beaty)

Official: Arkansas is among leaders in school choice

Participation in program up in private and homeschools

JOSH SNYDER
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas ranks high as a national leader in the school choice movement, the head of the state's Educational Freedom Accounts program said Thursday, citing standings from several think tanks and

advocacy groups.

Darrell Smith, assistant commissioner for school choice and parent empowerment, spoke about the rankings while presenting an update on Arkansas' Educational Freedom Accounts program to the state Board of

Education. He also said that more than 50% of the state's homeschool population is participating in the accounts program during the 2025-26 school year, the first in which applications were open to all Arkansas students. The number of private schools

participating in the program has also increased by roughly 29% over the previous school year, and other participating providers increased five-fold, according to Smith.

Only about 3% of this year's participating students came from D-or-F-rated schools, which Smith said

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TEXAS

State police are aiding in immigration crackdown

More than 3,000 arrests have been made since late January

ALEJANDRO SERRANO
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas Department of Public Safety officers have helped arrest more than 3,000 undocumented immigrants across the state this year, according to public records obtained by The Texas Tribune that provide the most detailed glimpse yet of how state police are shifting their focus from the border toward aiding the Trump administration's mass deportation crusade — an effort that state officials have kept largely under wraps.

From late January through early September, DPS recorded 3,131 previously unreported arrests connected to specialty teams created at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott to help President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, the agency's records show. Roughly 88% of the people arrested were picked up on suspicion of violating federal immigration laws like improper entry into the country, marking what may be an unprecedented use of state resources for a role once performed exclusively by federal authorities.

"Operation Lone Star 2.0 is under way statewide — with DPS personnel working to combat and interdict criminal activity with a nexus to the border," DPS spokesperson Sheridan Nolen said in an email, referring to Texas' border initiative under the Biden administration for which thousands of troopers were dispatched to the border.

Amid a sharp fall in illegal border crossings, DPS has moved some of its troopers and investigators onto "strike teams" that work with federal agencies across Texas — including in each of the largest metro areas — to arrest people "who have entered the United States illegally and then gone on to commit crimes in the state," according to the agency.

The federal government has sole authority to enforce immigration violations under federal law. State and local police can't arrest someone simply for

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Trump vows to punish critics after slaying of Charlie Kirk

EMILY DAVIES
AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM
THE WASHINGTON POST

President Donald Trump, following the death of GOP activist and close friend Charlie Kirk, vowed to unleash the weight of his administration onto those he said contributed to an environment of "radical left political violence."

How that might translate into policy remained unclear Thursday, as the president and his aides spent part of the day grieving while strategizing their next steps.

Trump invoked Kirk's memory to urge supporters to refrain from retaliatory violence. But he also indicated a desire to not just punish the killer, but also to tackle what the president and his staff described as a movement bent on the destruction of the American

INSIDE

► A 22-year-old Utah man who was arrested in the assassination of Charlie Kirk held deep disdain for the activist's views, according to authorities. 8B

way of life.

"The radicals on the left are the problem, and they're vicious and they're horrible and they're politically savvy," Trump said Friday morning on Fox News, where he also announced that authorities had detained a suspect in the case.

Other senior administration officials spoke of a broad plan to focus on public speech and rhetoric, declaring that those who speak in

violent terms about Trump and his allies will face consequences. Some suggested a more expansive campaign, calling out schoolteachers and college instructors who have made public statements criticizing Kirk since his death, and promising to deport noncitizens who do the same.

The statements from Trump and his top advisers provided early insight into how the president will respond to both the personal loss and political juncture he faces in the wake of Kirk's fatal shooting Wednesday on a Utah college campus. Trump appeared to be positioning himself to launch a campaign against some of Kirk's — and his — opponents who have spoken out since the conservative activist's death.

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White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller listens to Trump speak last week at the White House. (Tom Brenner/For The Washington Post)



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