



## 'Elvis and Friends'

Tribute show to benefit  
Municipal Auditorium, PAGE 1D



## Bending history

Arc of history is trending to  
revisionism at national parks, 8D



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# Texarkana Gazette

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## Grant reductions hit local, state children's advocacy

JAMES BRIGHT  
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

Decreased funding is creating financial struggles for Children's Advocacy Centers across Arkansas, including in Texarkana.

The gap in funding comes from the reduction of grant money from the Victims of

Crime Act and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grants across the state.

"This is pretty unprecedented as far as a funding shortfall," Breanne Bradshaw, chief advancement officer for CASA for Children and the Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center said in a previous

Gazette interview. "Our annual budget is only a little more than \$2 million a year."

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, TANF grants are handed down from the Department of Health and Human Services to the states, which then distribute the funds to state agencies,

who then distribute the money to local service providers like CASA and Child Advocacy Centers.

"Our goal is to help serve all kids possible and (it) takes money to be able to do that," Children's Advocacy Center of Arkansas Executive Director Elizabeth Pulley said. "We

really need to diversify funding with fundraising events and private donors; we need other streams of funding to help satisfy our services."

TANF grants have seen a 25% reduction in this funding cycle, according to Pulley. She said two years ago, management of the grant moved

to the state Department of Human Services. At the time, there was an overage in the grant fund that DHS used to fund other services in the state.

Pulley said DHS has informed her they want to move Arkansas CAC funding to another

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## Keeping his head in the game



A plume of dust rises as Bucks Maintenance player Joel Whisenhunt dives into first base as Jefferson Bulldogs' Grayson Smith gets the out in a Fall Ball game at Ed Worrell Memorial Park on Saturday in Texarkana, Ark. **See Monday's edition of the Gazette for extended coverage of the Baseball Association of Texarkana Texas baseball event.** (Staff photo by Stevon Gamble)

## Bridge work to delay traffic in New Boston around Interstate 30

GAZETTE STAFF

NEW BOSTON, Texas — Motorists can expect delays starting Sunday night because of maintenance on bridges crossing Interstate 30.

All traffic on I-30 at U.S. Highway

82 and Texas Highway 98 and on the highways will be stopped in 15-minute intervals between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. daily as Texas Department of Transportation crews replace bearings pads and rocker joints on bridges, according to a news release.

The eastbound entrance ramp from Highway 98 will be closed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

Crews are scheduled to wrap up their nightly work by 6 a.m. each day.

The work is expected to take a week.

## Arkansas side receives \$455,000 from state for County Avenue sidewalks

STEVON GAMBLE  
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Ark. — The city is in line for \$455,000 to clear the path for pedestrians, bicyclists and other nonmotorized forms of transportation.

The money is part of about \$18.9 million the Arkansas Department of Transportation has awarded for 60 projects through the 2025 Transportation Alternatives Program.

TAP is a reimbursement-type grant program that provides for an 80% federal share and a 20% local match from recipients, ARDOT said in a news release. Eligible projects can include construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities that include sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure.

Texarkana's award is earmarked for sidewalk improvements on County Avenue. Specifics of the

project were not immediately available.

Other area recipients are —  
• city of Hope: \$440,000 for downtown sidewalks  
• city of Nashville: \$483,000 for Main Street sidewalks  
• city of Ashdown: \$156,000 for Ellen Drive sidewalks

ARDOT also awarded approximately \$1.8 million for seven projects through the Recreational Trails Program.

"The RTP is funded through a portion of TAP funds set aside specifically for recreational trails. These funds are eligible for maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, and construction of new trails," the news release states.

To be notified of future funding cycles for the TAP and RTP programs, subscribe to ARDOT's Local Public Agency information at [ardot.gov/LPA](http://ardot.gov/LPA).



Denver Bell trims grass along the sidewalk outside his home in the 1000 block of County Avenue on Friday in Texarkana, Ark. The city is receiving \$455,000 from the Arkansas Department of Transportation to improve sidewalks on County. (Staff photo by Stevon Gamble)

## January trial set for man charged in 2022 murder

Defendant found fit to stand trial earlier this year

LORI DUNN  
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Ark. — A trial date has been set for a first-degree murder suspect who was found fit to proceed in his case earlier this year.

Ja'mauri Martavious Davis, 20, is charged in the December 2022 shooting death of 19-year-old Keeunta Gilliam.

Davis is scheduled for a status hearing Oct. 21, a pretrial hearing Jan. 6, 2026, and a jury trial Jan. 26, according to court documents. He remains in Miller County Detention Center on a \$500,000 bail.

Davis also faces a second-degree battery charge in the alleged assault of a correctional officer at the Miller County jail. Bail on the battery charge is set at \$50,000, according to jail records.

Davis is represented by attorneys Jordan Tinsley, Bobby Forrest Jr. and Daniel Marks, according to court records.

In an Aug. 6 letter addressed to Judge Brent Haltom, Dr. Martin Watts, a forensic psychiatrist with Arkansas State Hospital, wrote that Davis had completed his inpatient observation and treatment and was found fit to proceed to trial. The treatment team found no clinical indication for continued hospitalization and no evidence of a psychotic disorder, according to the letter.

Davis was evaluated on July 24, according to court records.

In another letter written to Haltom, Dr. Abigail Taylor wrote that Davis declined to participate in a

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## Fear and vigilance rise as attacks on houses of worship intensify

DAVID CRARY,  
PETER SMITH  
AND TIFFANY STANLEY,  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Every week hundreds of millions of people around the world gather to worship in peace. But for some, there comes a day when deadly violence invades their sacred spaces and shatters that sense of sanctuary and safety.

It happened recently at a synagogue in England and two churches in the U.S. Before that, there were high-profile attacks at mosques in New Zealand, a synagogue in Pennsylvania and a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. This violence can intensify anxiety and outright fear among clergy and worshippers worldwide.

Security measures have been bolstered, congregants have been placed on alert, and yet the key question lingers: Can believers feel safe — and at peace — continuing to worship together?

The Oct. 2 attack on a synagogue in Manchester, England, left two congregants dead and, according to police, was carried out by a man who had

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