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AHS school day to be bit longer because of winter storm

MALLORY WYATT
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Texas — Texarkana-area school calendars are remaining largely unaffected by last week's inclement weather and freeze closures.

Dr. Genia Bullock, communications di-

rector at Texarkana Arkansas School District, said Arkansas High School will have to make up time by reducing class transition times between passing periods.

"The state requires more minutes in the day at the high school level," Bullock said. Bullock said other TASD campus schedules weren't affected by the closure days.

Haley Turner, Pleasant Grove Independent School District communications chief, said students would not have to make up any days or minutes.

"We have additional minutes built into our calendar for instances like this," Turner said.

Communications Coordinator Allison

Brown said Liberty-Eylau Independent School District's calendar would not be affected.

Texarkana Independent School District made a post on its social media indicating the same. The post said the district's calendar meets state requirements, so extra minutes would not be added.

James Bramlett receives C.E. Palmer Award



James Bramlett walks onto the stage to a standing ovation after being named the 2025 recipient of the C.E. Palmer Award at the annual Texarkana Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Thursday evening at Northridge Country Club. The award is the Chamber's highest honor. First given in 1941, the C.E. Palmer Award recognizes an individual who has made a lasting impact on Texarkana. Bramlett, a past mayor of Texarkana, Texas, is Texarkana market president for Farmers Bank & Trust. He is the founder of Bramlett Beans and Cornbread — a nearly 30-year-old community fundraiser that supports food baskets for local families at Christmastime. **See extended coverage of the Chamber banquet in Saturday's edition of the Gazette.** (Staff photo by Stevon Gamble)

Area schools increase police presence after teen shootings

One teen has died while two remain hospitalized; suspects have been arrested

LORI DUNN
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

De QUEEN, Ark. — Law enforcement will have a bigger presence at De Queen schools in response to community concerns after the recent shooting of three local teenagers.

"In recent hours, rumors have circulated through social media and other sources," De Queen Public Schools said in a statement. "At this time, based on information from law enforcement and school safety officials, there are no credible threats to De Queen Public Schools students, staff or campuses. School safety procedures remain in place, and classes and school operations continue as normal."

Three people have been arrested on first-degree murder and battery charges after three juveniles were shot Monday night. One 16-year-old victim died Tuesday, De Queen Police Chief Scott Simmons said Wednesday. The other shooting victims remain hospitalized, Simmons said. Their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

Kaytlen Huesca, 18, Tristan Mendoza 21, and a juvenile are charged with murder, battery and firing a weapon from a vehicle, according to police.

The district takes safety concerns seriously and works closely with law enforcement to investigate any reports or information brought to their attention, according to the statement. If parents or community members have specific concerns, they are encouraged to contact their child's school office.

The shooting happened at 9:05 p.m. Monday in the 200 block of Vandervoort Avenue. De Queen Police and Sevier County Sheriff's Office responded to the shooting and called the Arkansas State Police to assist in the investigation, according to a news release.

At the scene, officers discovered three male teens with gunshot wounds. The victims were taken to Sevier County Medical Center.

Airport to receive \$11M in federal funding for construction project

STEVEN GAMBLE
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Ark. — Texarkana Regional Airport now has what Executive Director Paul Mehrlich described as the final piece to a more than \$60 million infrastructure project that could land big planes and more jobs.

On Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman of Arkansas announced \$11 million was secured to construct a taxilane and widen a taxiway at the airport. Westerman collaborated with Rep. Nathaniel Moran of Texas on the appropriation, which the U.S. House of Representatives recently approved as part of a federal funding package.

"This project would improve the primary taxiway at Texarkana Regional Airport to allow for larger/heavier aircraft to operate at the airport and support economic development of the local community and the region," Westerman said in a news release.

Mehrlich expressed gratitude for the funding Thursday after a regular meeting of the Airport Authority Board.

"We could not have done this without Congressman Westerman, Congressman Moran and the AR-TX REDI group," he said.

The taxiway/taxilane work is a component of a comprehensive undertaking that includes lengthening and strengthening Texarkana Regional's main runway. The work is driven, in part, by a project to construct a maintenance, overhaul and repair facility for wide-body aircraft like the Boeing 777.

Upgrading the runway and pathways is critical to accommodating larger aircraft, making the airport attractive to businesses on the grow.

Texarkana Regional is working to bring in a national aircraft paint com-

Airline chose to cancel local flights after winter storm, airport officials say

STEVEN GAMBLE
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Ark. — After a regular meeting of the Airport Authority Board on Thursday, a few board members and administrators took time to address what they said are misconceptions about the airport's response after Winter Storm Fern.

The storm dropped a reported 4 inches of wintry precipitation on the region starting Jan. 23, leading to a cancellation of flights.

Operations Director Russell Henderson on Thursday said the runway was open by Jan. 25. The airstrip had an overall field condition rating of 1, meaning some ice was present on the runway and could compromise aircraft braking, Henderson said.

A rating of 0 would mean no braking action was possible.

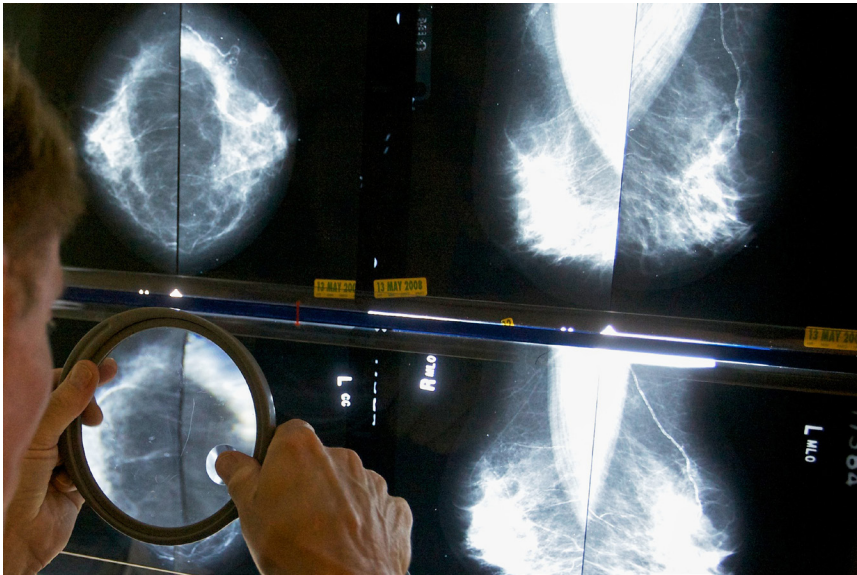
Though the runway remained

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pany that has indicated it would expand its operations to the airport by 2028. The expansion could bring about 150 jobs with an average salary of \$50,000 each,

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Trump administration to launch website for discounted drugs, **9B**



A radiologist uses a magnifying glass to check mammograms for breast cancer May 6, 2010, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File)

Pandemic disruptions to health care worsened cancer survival, study suggests

MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK — During the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic, experts worried that disruptions to cancer diagnosis and treatment would

cost lives. A new study suggests they were right.

The federally funded study published Thursday by the medical journal JAMA Oncology is being called the first to assess the effects of pandemic-related disruptions

on the short-term survival of cancer patients.

Researchers found that people diagnosed with cancer in 2020 and 2021 had worse short-term survival than

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