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Orchestra to spotlight works of Elton John, Billy Joel , PAGE 5B



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# Texarkana Gazette

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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)

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

STEVON 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 taxiway 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

STEVON 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.

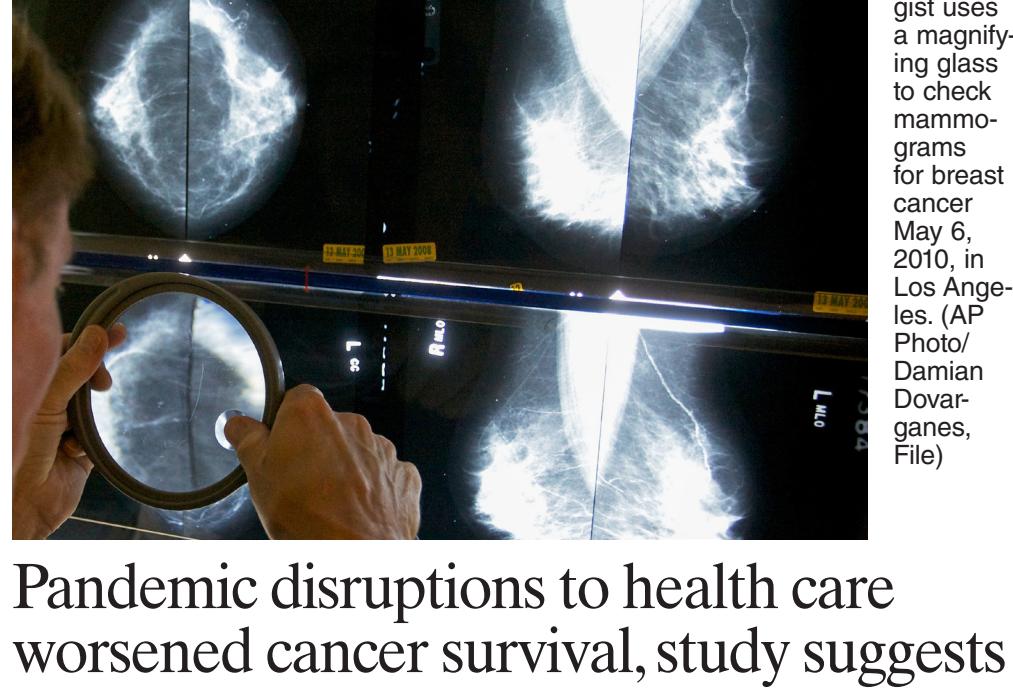
Though the runway remained

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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**



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

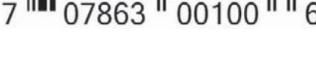
cost lives. A new study suggests they were right.

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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