



The metal frame for what would have been the new Wadley Regional Medical Center is seen Oct. 26, 2023, in northwest Texarkana, just off Interstate 30 at the corner of University Avenue and West Park Boulevard. (Staff file photo by Stevon Gamble)

Hospital operators show interest in finished former Wadley project, property owner says

STEVEON GAMBLE
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Texas — The owner of the former Wadley Regional Medical Center construction project has the building on the market. MPT acquired the massive property at West Park Boulevard two years ago and is aiming either to sell or lease it. “We continue to entertain interest from potential hospital operators,” Charles R. Lambert, treasurer and senior vice president of finance, said Wednesday to the Gazette. Rumors have swirled around the fate of the property, including claims Baptist Health had purchased the nearly 400,000 square feet of hospital and medical office space. Though the building was constructed as a hospital, university systems and other types of operators could also purchase it, according to Lambert. Wadley parent company Steward Health Care broke ground on the the \$227 million project in September 2021 to replace Wadley’s longstanding hospital on Pine Street near downtown. Construction was scheduled for completion in 2024 and later rescheduled for 2025. MPT acquired the project in July 2024 after Steward Health Care filed for bankruptcy. Wadley was sold to CHRISTUS Ark-La-Tex in late 2024. The West Park Boulevard facility was not part of the purchase. In June, CHRISTUS discontinued inpatient services at the Pine Street campus, now known as CHRISTUS Health Pine Street.

Husband, wife accused in Texarkana ATM theft reportedly switched vehicles several times to flee

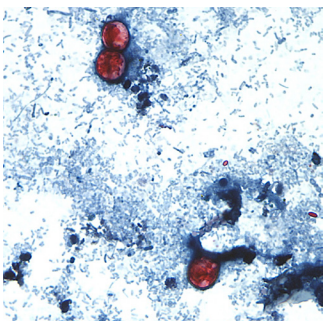
STEVEON GAMBLE
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Texas — A husband and wife are behind bars on accusations of stealing from an ATM on Tuesday on State Line Avenue. Keanu White, 29, and Andreana White, 28, of Texarkana, Arkansas, were arrested about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday after Rockport Police Department and Arkansas State Police located them in a Honda Accord near Malvern, Arkansas, according to Texarkana Texas Police Department. Money allegedly stolen from the ATM reportedly was found in the car. The Whites are being held in the Hot Springs County jail on armed robbery charges, according to jail records. Bail had not been set by late Wednesday morning, as the Whites are awaiting an extradition hearing, according to a jail employee. The theft was reported about 12:40 p.m. from the CapitalOne ATM in a parking lot at College Drive and State Line. Two people wearing masks drove up as an employee was servicing the ATM and took cassettes with an undisclosed amount of cash before fleeing, according to police. “Our detectives were able to quickly identify vehicles connected to the theft by using video from local businesses and Flock cameras. They determined the suspects switched vehicles shortly after the theft, and the second vehicle was later found abandoned by the Texarkana Arkansas Police Department on East 35th Street,” Public Information Officer Shawn Vaughn said. After a search of the second abandoned vehicle, investigators concluded the suspects were now in a Honda Accord. “This was a great example of good police work and agencies working together,” Vaughn said. Malvern is approximately 1 1/2 hours northeast of Texarkana on Interstate 30.

Cases of cyclosporiasis reported in Miller County

STEVEON GAMBLE
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, Ark. — Cyclosporiasis has been reported in Miller County as cases of the parasitic infection top 200 in Arkansas. Miller is one of 16 counties with fewer than 10 cases of the intestinal illness, according to Arkansas Department of Health data released Monday. Benton County, in the the northwestern corner of the state, has the highest number at 124. “Due to the small number of cases (less than 10) in Miller County, we cannot release any demographic information. We are unable to identify the exact source of



As of Tuesday, April 4, 2026, 205 cases of cyclosporiasis had been reported in Arkansas. (Arkansas Department of Health)

contaminated food associated with the cases identified in Miller County at the moment. However, the investigation is

ongoing,” Sarah Morris, ADH health program coordinator, said Thursday to the Gazette. In all, 205 cases of cyclosporiasis had been reported in Arkansas by Wednesday. The exact number of cases in Texas was not immediately available Wednesday. Email and phone messages were left with the Texas Department of State Health Services. The CDC reports between 50 and 199 cases in the Lone Star State. Cyclosporiasis is caused by consuming food or water contaminated with feces that contains the cyclospora parasite, according to Texas DHS. Cyclosporiasis outbreaks occur annually in the U.S., typically between May 1 and

Aug. 31. In 2026, the season began on May 1, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since May 1, the CDC has received reports of 10,468 laboratory-confirmed domestic cases of cyclosporiasis across 47 states. The outbreak has resulted in 517 hospitalizations and two deaths of people with underlying conditions, the CDC reported. Iceberg lettuce from Taylor Farms is one confirmed source of cyclospora-contaminated food. On July 17, Taylor Farms initiated a recall of all iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico, including those sold under the Market-side brand at Walmart.

White House helipad construction delays?



Construction continues on a helipad on the South Lawn of the White House on Wednesday in Washington. Workers used a jackhammer on the helipad, which no longer has the dark gray trim of a presidential seal. It’s unclear why the seal was removed. President Donald Trump’s administration says improvements are ongoing to meet White House needs. The president has said the helipad is necessary because new, more powerful Marine One helicopters damage the South Lawn grass. The helipad is part of a long list of renovations, including a new ballroom and changes to the Rose Garden and Oval Office. (AP Photo/Tierney L. Cross)

Iran and U.S. say a Strait of Hormuz deal is close, but one or both would have to back down

ELENA BECATOROS,
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AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO — Iran said Wednesday it is in the “final stage” of drafting an agreement with Oman over the Strait of Hormuz, and U.S. President Donald Trump has said a deal could be announced this week. That could potentially reopen the critical waterway, ease pressure on the world economy and help bring an end to the war. But the agreement is likely to be contingent on the U.S. lifting its blockade on Iran’s ports. The Trump administration has previously ruled out any deal that would cement Iran’s grip over the strait, which would amount to a major loss for the U.S. and a break with global norms. Iran has insisted on some measure of control over the strait, saying it will not go back to being an open international waterway, as it was before the war. The U.S., along with Israel, launched the war on Feb. 28,



President Donald Trump arrives Tuesday on Air Force One at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

citing various goals including toppling Tehran’s government and ending its nuclear program. Those have not been achieved, and the conflict has devolved into a fight

over the strait as Iran’s assertion of control and attacks on shipping have ground traffic to a near halt. Closure of the strait, through which a fifth of the

world’s traded oil and natural gas once passed, has driven up the price of fuel and basic goods, roiling the global economy. Trump is also under mounting pressure to end an unpopular war ahead of U.S. congressional elections. Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, said that the agreement with Oman is in the “final stage” of drafting, and that a joint statement will be issued “if certain parties do not obstruct this process,” apparently referring to the U.S. REGIONAL OFFICIALS TELL AP NEGOTIATORS HAVE FINALIZED A DRAFT Iranian and Omani negotiators have finalized the draft deal to reopen the strait and await final approval from Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, two regional officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Khamenei is believed to have been wounded in the war’s opening strikes and has not been seen in public since then. See IRAN, Page 2A