

# Community mourns as Rusk County crash leaves two dead, one hospitalized

AMBER LOLLAR  
Staff Writer

A head-on collision on Rusk County's FM 225 on the afternoon of July 28, has left the community reeling over the deaths of an 11-year old girl, a 24-year old woman, and the extended hospitalization of a an 18-year old man.

According to reports released from the Department of Public Safety at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, July 28 a Kia Sportage driven by Kayla Brooke Henderson was traveling south on FM 225 and for undetermined reasons veered into the northbound lane, striking a 2023 Ram 2500 Promaster box van owned by Henderson's RES Air Conditioning, driven by 18-year-old Marlow

Salazar. The Sportage rolled onto its left side and came to rest in the southbound ditch, facing west. The van went to its right, where it rolled onto its right side, coming to rest partially off the northbound side of the roadway in the ditch facing east. The driver and her 11-year-old passenger, Aubree May Edney, were pronounced deceased on the scene. Salazar was transported via Flight for Life to Tyler's CHRISTUS Mother Francis Hospital, where he remains hospitalized.

Services to celebrate the lives of Kyla Brooke Henderson, 24, and Aubree Mae "Aubs" Edney, 11, both of Henderson, will be held at



The local community mourns the deaths of Aubree Edney. (Contributed Photo)

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## CHRISTUS Health hosts ER ribbon cutting

Special to The Henderson News

HENDERSON -- CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Health System celebrated the opening of its newest facility, the CHRISTUS Emergency Center Henderson, with a ribbon-cutting and blessing event held Tuesday morning.

"When we stood here back in 2024, I made a promise to the community that we would be open by summer 2025, and here we are celebrating this amazing facility," said Todd Hancock, president of CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Health System.

More than 300 guests, including representatives from CHRISTUS, the city of Henderson, Rusk County and elected officials, got a sneak peek of the 12,500 square-foot facility, which opened to the public at 7 a.m. on Thursday, July 31.

Located south of Wylie Elementary on U.S. Highway 259, the emergency center features 24-hour emergency services with 13 exam rooms, four triage room, advanced imaging and onsite laboratory services for easy access to care. The emergency center is the second CHRISTUS facility in Henderson, joining the CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic family medicine clinic on Zeid Boulevard.

"You can have the best health care in the world, but if people cannot access it, then what good is it," Hancock said. "Today is a manifestation of expanding the CHRISTUS ministry, having a larger presence in this area and bringing high-quality healthcare to the people that deserve it."

The CHRISTUS Emergency Center Henderson will serve walk-in patients, is built for EMS delivery and transport, and will be accessible for CHRISTUS Flight for Life.

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# DID YOU FEEL THAT...

### Pipeline rupture shakes rural Rusk County community



**TOP:** Flames and thick, black smoke were visible from nearby properties. **BOTTOM:** Smoke from the pipeline explosion could be seen from as far as State Highway 42, according to reports from traveling witnesses. (Contributed Photos)

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Staff Writer

An early evening explosion rattled residents and sent multiple fire departments and law enforcement rushing to the fiery scene along County Road 447, just a few miles south of Henderson off of FM 225.

The rural area near the Whispering Pines Youth Camp erupted Wednesday just before 5 p.m., as an area resident worked to excavate a patch of property, nicking the pipeline. The property owner was not injured but witnesses said the heavy equipment is a total loss.

"It shook my entire house," said nearby resident

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## NFL player Tyree Wilson donates school supplies to West Rusk students

AUDREY BLASCHKE  
Staff Writer

NEW LONDON -- West Rusk CCISD students were treated to a special back to school giveaway event arranged by former Raider and current Las Vegas

Raider Tyree Wilson this week. The 2018 graduate who made his mark in West Rusk football and went on to even bigger things in college and the NFL donated 300 sets of backpacks and school supplies for a giveaway held at the West

Rusk cafeteria on Tuesday morning. Though he couldn't be there in person due to his ongoing training camp obligations, Wilson's parents and grandparents were there in his stead. "He went to school here for 14 years from pre-K to 12th grade. He was here half his life, so it means a lot to him to be able to give back to everybody here," said Wilson's mother Tiffany Williams as she and his grandparents, Havard and Mary Weatherton, distributed the school supplies to a long line of kids with

their parents. Wilson has regularly donated to school supply drives in neighboring Henderson and this year he wanted to start one of his own. Williams said he came up with the idea not even a week ago and his family, who live nearby, ably handled the logistics. Wilson was a defensive lineman at Texas Tech and was the seventh overall pick for the Las Vegas Raiders in the 2023 NFL Draft.



The grandfather of NFL player Tyree Wilson, Havard Weatherton, hands out school supplies donated by Wilson to students at his former school district West Rusk CCISD on Tuesday, July 29. (Audrey Blaschke/The Henderson News)

### SPORTS

Blue Sox go 2-2 at Majors World Series... more on 10A.



### SCRIPTURE

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### WEATHER

Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 92, low around 73. 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms.



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