

Tyler Morning Telegraph

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

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SPORTS

Bullard coach hits major milestone

Bullard picked up another volleyball win on Tuesday night. It was also the 500th career victory for Bullard head volleyball coach Cristy O'Bannon. **Page 5A**

Today's weather

Sun through clouds
High of 86

THREE-DAY FORECAST, PAGE 3A

What's inside

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Bible verse

"The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth."
(Psalm 34:16)

Need assistance?

Editorial/newsroom

Managing Editor Santana Wood
(903) 237-7749
santana.wood@tylerpaper.com

Circulation customer service

(903) 597-1121
csr@tylerpaper.com

Want to subscribe?

Have delivery questions?

Call 903-597-1121
or visit tylerpaper.com

Corrections

It is the policy of the Tyler Morning Telegraph to correct errors. Direct requests for corrections or clarifications to Managing Editor Santana Wood at (903) 237-7749.

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CBS 19



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Teen gets 25 years for 2024 murder

ZAK WELLERMAN
CBS19

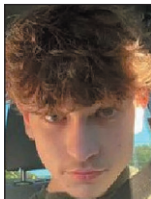
An 18-year-old was sentenced to 25 years in prison after pleading guilty to shooting a 20-year-old man and leaving him dead on Highway 69 in Tyler last year.

Caleb Ward, who was 16 at the time of the shooting and originally charged with capital murder, pleaded down to murder in connection with the death of Nathan Martin, 20, of Tyler, on Feb. 7, 2024.

Following his plea, he was sentenced to 25 years, according to online judicial records.

Martin was found lying in the roadway at the intersection of US Highway 69 North and County Road 489 with gunshot wounds. Ward was arrested nine days after the murder after he was found in Anderson County.

According to an arrest affidavit, a detective found fresh tire tracks near the body, where it seemed



Caleb Ward

like someone performed a U-turn and almost got stuck in mud. The tracks showed the vehicle accelerated onto Highway 69 North, heading toward Loop 323.

Later, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office said deputies found a wrecked, unoccupied Ford Mustang, which belonged to Martin, at FM 317 and FM 314. Both the driver's seat and front passenger dash area had been shot, and there was

blood in the car, the document read.

Joshua Bryant, a suspect at the time of the murder, was found nearby the vehicle and arrested for burglary of a vehicle during Martin's murder investigation. He told police that he had been driving Martin's car on Feb. 7, 2024. He said they went to a smoke shop, where Bryant purchased a THC edible gummy that he consumed, the document read.

MURDER >> PAGE 2

Reading with Royalty

Texas Rose Festival Queen Avery Craft Armstrong visits Tyler ISD students



FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas Rose Festival Queen Avery Craft Armstrong has been visiting Tyler ISD elementary campuses to read 'The Queen's Tea' to second-grade girls at Douglas, Griffin, and Birdwell. The tour will conclude on Wednesday at Caldwell Arts Academy.

This annual tradition connects the Texas Rose Festival with local schools, giving students the opportunity to meet the Queen, learn about community traditions, and get excited for the upcoming festivities.

The Texas Rose Festival Queen's Tea is

QUEEN >> PAGE 2

Texas Rose Festival Queen Avery Craft Armstrong visits Birdwell (right) and Griffin Elementary (above) to read 'The Queen's Tea' to students. The annual tradition allows students to meet the Rose Queen ahead of Saturday's Queen's Tea at the Rose Garden. (Tyler ISD/Contributed Photos)



92nd Texas Rose Festival events kick off today

LEEZA MEYER

The 92nd Texas Rose Festival officially kicks off today.

The grand opening of the festival begins with a 10 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony and morning prayer service at the Rose Garden Center, located at 420 Rose Park Dr. The public is invited to celebrate the Rose City's special tradition while admiring the beauty of the roses and artistry of the festival.

Before and after the ribbon cutting, guests can peruse the festival's rose display and art show and sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Texas Rose Festival

val Rose Display unveils hundreds of rose blossoms that match the Tapestry of Tales theme and is available to guests throughout the entirety of the festival.

After today's opening ceremony, a full slate of events are scheduled throughout the weekend.

The Texas Rose Festival's Men's Luncheon begins at 11:15 a.m. Friday at the Cascades of Texas, located at 4511 Briarwood Road. The Ladies Luncheon starts shortly after at 11:30 a.m. at the Green Acres Baptist Church Crosswalk Conference Cen-

EVENTS >> PAGE 3



Roses are on display for the 2024 Texas Rose Festival Ribbon Cutting and Morning Prayer Service. (Tyler Morning Telegraph File)

Return Serve

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