

Tyler Morning Telegraph

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

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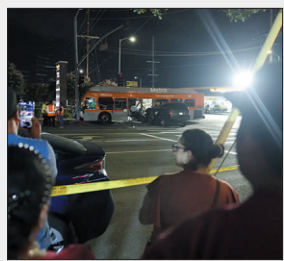
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NATION/WORLD Helicopter, bus incidents deadly

Three people were killed when an NBC4 news helicopter crashed and burst into flames Tuesday night in Chatsworth not far from a serious collision involving a Metro bus that also left three people dead. **Page 2A**



SPORTS

Apache Ladies top Wharton

After a slow start, the No. 6 TJC Apache Ladies, spurred on by the enthusiasm of the football, soccer, baseball, softball and tennis teams, got in gear to sweep Wharton County 3-0 on Tuesday in a Region XIV volleyball match at Wagstaff Gymnasium. **Page 5A**

Today's weather

Sunshine and
toasty conditions.
High of 97.



THREE-DAY FORECAST, **PAGE 3A**

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Bible verse

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." (James 3:13)

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Competency eval ordered for assault suspect

ZAK WELLERMAN
CBS19

A judge on Monday ordered that a Dallas-area man accused of assaulting a Smith County deputy while resisting arrest in June undergo an evaluation to determine his competency to stand trial.

Delano Davis is facing charges of assault on a peace officer and attempting to take a weapon from an officer in connection

with an altercation with a Smith County deputy on June 21 in the Flint-Gresham area.

On Monday, Davis' defense team filed a motion for a competency evaluation. The judge subsequently entered an order for the evaluation, according to court officials with the 7th District Court.



Delano Davis

According to an arrest affidavit, a deputy responded to reports of a man stepping in front of moving vehicles near County Road 165 and County Road 168 on June 21.

The man, identified as Davis, initially followed directions. However, as the deputy looked up Davis' record, Davis opened the passenger-side door of the deputy's vehicle and began throwing items onto the floorboard, the affidavit states.

Davis told the deputy that the officer was going to give him a ride, and the deputy repeatedly told Davis he would not give him a ride. The deputy held Davis at Taser point, and Davis said the deputy would have to shoot him. At that point, Davis became "fixated" on the deputy's firearm and tried to reach for it, the affidavit said.

As the deputy warned Davis about the use of his Taser, the law enforcement

officer said the situation became "tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving." The deputy then deployed the Taser, striking Davis in the chest, stomach and left leg. Davis pulled out the Taser prongs and moved toward the deputy.

The deputy then used the Taser on Davis three more times. Davis fell to the ground. The deputy tried

COMPETENCY >>
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New Smith County Habitat CEO Mike Landess and his wife, Maddie Landess, pose for a photo in front of a build in progress. (Contributed Photo)

Familiar Face

Habitat for Humanity of Smith County appoints Mike Landess as CEO

FROM STAFF REPORTS

There's a new leader for Habitat for Humanity

of Smith County.

While Mike Landess may indeed have been appointed to a new position, the longtime Habitat supporter is not a new face to the organization.

Landess, who was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer for the Smith County Habitat group this week, has served the local nonprofit for several years.

After retiring to Tyler following a career in broadcast journalism, Landess went from construction crew volunteer to board member to Chief Development Officer in just over six years. He was named CDO in June and appointed as CEO this week, the board of directors announced Monday evening.

Landess' decades-long career as a reporter and anchorman has enhanced



Mike Landess



Foundation is poured for three future Habitat for Humanity of Smith County homes on W. Shaw Street in Tyler in 2022. (Les Hassell/Tyler Morning Telegraph File)

his love of storytelling. Now, he's putting that experience to work telling the stories of Habitat homebuilding, its Critical Repair and Brush With Kindness

programs, and the continued growth of the ReStore.

Landess and his wife, Maddie, have strong ties to East Texas through family and friends. They have five

daughters, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren and recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

As CEO, Landess will

work alongside staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners to advance Smith County Habitat's

HABITAT >> PAGE 3A

Paxton says winning Texas Senate seat vital to nation's survival

JORDAN GREEN

LONGVIEW — Texas Attorney General and U.S. Senate candidate Ken Paxton told hundreds of East Texans on Tuesday night that he'll work to make everyday life more affordable for Americans if elected.

With fewer than 50 days before the Nov. 3 election, Paxton rallied campaign supporters at Carmela's Magical Venue just outside Longview and urged them to vote in what's expected to be a close race.

Paxton acknowledged that polls show he and his Democratic opponent, state Rep. James Talarico, are locked in a tight race. Several polls show Talarico leading.

Republicans' enthusiasm has grown following the Dallas midterm GOP convention, but they must get voters to the polls — or else, Paxton said.

"If we lose Texas, we lose America," he said. "There is so much at stake in this election



Texas Attorney General and U.S. Senate candidate Ken Paxton speaks to supporters Tuesday evening at Carmela's Magical Venue just outside Longview. (Jordan Green/Longview News-Journal)

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