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# Waco Tribune-Herald

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Thursday, December 4, 2025

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INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

## MANY REJECTED STATE FLOOD GRANTS



MICHAEL CAVAZOS, THE TEXAS TRIBUNE AND PROPUBLICA

Kilgore Public Works Director Clay Evers points to a map showing areas of the city that were inundated during a 2016 flood. When it comes to the statewide flood infrastructure fund, Evers faced a choice facing many cities and counties across Texas: spend more resources for a chance at some state money or cut their losses.

Kerr County among dozens who couldn't make numbers work

BY LEXI CHURCHILL AND ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ  
The Texas Tribune

Three weeks after flash floods in Texas' Hill Country killed more than 100 people, state lawmakers chastised Kerr County leaders for rejecting money a year earlier to create a warning system that could have alerted residents to rapidly rising water.

Several lashed out as a Kerr official representing the local river authority tried to

explain why it declined money from a \$1.4 billion state fund to help guard against destructive flooding.

One state senator on the special legislative committee tasked with investigating the deadly floods called the decision "pathetic." Another said it was "disturbing." State Rep. Drew Darby, a Republican from

Please see FLOOD, Page A7

## Midway board picks Barry as new trustee

BY CARL HOOVER  
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Midway Independent School District trustees on Tuesday chose American Bank executive Jordan Barry to fill the Place 1 seat recently vacated by long-time Trustee and board President Pete Rusek.

Barry, 41, is president of the Midway Education Foundation, which he has been part of since 2022. He also chaired the facilities study committee whose recommendations shaped the district's \$83.5 million bond package that voters approved last month. He is a senior vice president and chief credit officer for American Bank and treasurer of the Heart of Texas Builders Association.



Barry

"I'm extremely excited, honored and humbled to be chosen," Barry said Wednesday. "This is another opportunity to give back to a community that has served us well."

Barry will fill the unexpired term for the Place 1 position held for 29 years by Rusek, who resigned as trustee upon his appointment by Gov. Greg Abbott as judge for Waco's 74th State District Court. Rusek, Midway's school board president for the last 21 years, took the bench Monday.

It is the first time Barry has served as a school trustee. He said his interest in the trustee position came from his years of experience and contact with Midway schools. His wife, Sarah, is a Midway High School testing coordinator who previously taught in Midway schools for more than 15 years, and their three children are enrolled in the district.

That involvement with the district, coupled with his time on the education foundation and the district's facilities study committee, gave him "great insight" into the issues facing the board, Barry said.

"We are grateful for Jordan's dedication to our schools and community,"

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WACO REGIONAL AIRPORT

## 40% skipped parking bill in 1st month

BY CHRISTOPHER DE LOS SANTOS  
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Fees for about 40% of the vehicles parked at Waco Regional Airport went unpaid in October, the airport's first month charging for parking.

The mobile payment system, however, worked as expected, and airport officials said they are confident the share of paying parkers will grow as they refine

the system and finalize their approach to enforcement. The first month brought in a little more than \$24,000 across 1,299 transactions, for an average charge of \$18.70 and an average parking duration of a little more than four days, according to a report airport manager James Harris presented to the city council Tuesday. To reach the projected \$402,000 in annual revenue, the monthly average will

need to reach \$33,500.

The airport uses the ParkMobile platform, which can take payments through its app, online or by phone. The payment system went into effect Oct. 1, at a daily rate of \$5.75 and a weekly cap of \$26.35, with \$5 per day or \$25 per week going to the city and the rest going to ParkMobile.

Waco Regional takes the parking fee in advance, unlike many other

airports where people pay on the way out, returning traveler Brant Pratt said Tuesday.

Pratt said he is in college in Waco and parks his car at the airport for two weeks at a stretch when he flies out to visit relatives.

"I almost didn't see that the airport was charging for parking when I left two weeks ago," Pratt

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Things get Christmasy on stages, with holiday concerts,

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