

## STATE Digest

### KILGORE

#### Wreck kills two, shuts down Texas 31

Two people were killed and both directions of the four-lane, divided Texas 31 linking Longview with Kilgore were closed Saturday night in a multivehicle wreck.

Department of Public Safety troopers were focused on sorting the wreckage and preventing further catastrophe at 8:45 p.m., less than an hour after they were called to the scene north of the Interstate 20 overpass.

The identities of the victims were unknown, but DPS spokeswoman Jean Dark confirmed the two fatalities. Dark also said both directions of the highway were closed.

No hazardous materials units had been summoned, she added.

### DALLAS

#### Teacher placed on leave after lecture

A Dallas teacher has been placed on administrative leave after a 12-year-old student recorded him delivering a nearly seven-minute profanity-laced lecture.

KTVT-TV of Dallas-Fort Worth reported the middle-school student played the cellphone recording for her mother Monday after school.

Besides the profanity in the seven-minute lecture, the teacher refers to his own genitals.

In a Tuesday statement, the Dallas Independent School District said the teacher had been placed on administrative leave after its attorney learned the teacher "may have spoken to students using inappropriate language, tone and behavior during a class recently."

### FORT WORTH

#### Man dies in fall from bridge

Fort Worth police say icy conditions were likely a factor when a man fell to his death from an interstate bridge after getting out of his car following an accident in which his vehicle spun out of control.

Officer Daniel Segura says the investigation is continuing, but icy conditions Thursday evening likely contributed to both the man's wreck while traveling eastbound on Interstate 20 and his fall.

The 51-year-old driver crashed into a concrete barrier of the bridge. He then got out of the vehicle and fell off the bridge. He landed on railroad tracks below.

### FORT WORTH

#### Lawsuit claims sex abuse in diocese

A man is seeking over \$1 million in damages in a lawsuit against the Fort Worth Roman Catholic Diocese, alleging he was sexually assaulted by a now deceased priest in the 1990s.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported the man, who now lives near Spokane, Washington, said priest John Sutton was his seventh-grade history teacher at Notre Dame Middle-High School in Wichita Falls.

The lawsuit accuses Sutton of threatening the plaintiff if he told anyone about the abuse. Sutton died in 2004.

The suit accuses the diocese and Fort Worth Bishop Michael Olson of "stringing the victim along" to silence him until the statute of limitations ran out. The lawsuit was filed in Tarrant County.

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

# Bangs, bursts help Miracle League

## Fourth of July Patriots to help group build accessible baseball complex

BY RICHARD YEAKLEY  
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Part of the money raised by supporters of this year's Fourth of July Fireworks and Freedom Celebration will go to a group working to build a universally accessible baseball field in Longview.

The Miracle League of East Texas, which is set to break ground Aug. 21 on its Lear Park facility, is nearing completion of fundraising, and the Longview 4th of July Patriots this year will be helping the group reach its goal.

The Patriots — an informal group of business and individual donors — was formed a year ago in response to a call to recoup the funds the city had to pay to cancel a deal with rocker Ted Nugent, who had

### Fourth of July Patriot sponsorships

■ Sponsors are being sought to help sponsor the city's growing Fourth of July gala and help the Miracle League of East Texas.

■ Sponsorship levels range from \$500 to \$5,000.

■ For more information contact Dixie Golden at (903) 237-1230.

been booked to headline the event.

"Last year it was sort of a standalone group really focused on helping the city get back to even," said John Green, an organizer for the

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## February fundraisers rake in support for Longview groups

BY RICHARD YEAKLEY  
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Donors turned out in force for fundraisers across Longview this past month, helping to raise more than \$200,000 for area nonprofit organizations.

The annual events saw an increase in donations from a year ago as they expanded ticket sales, changed event formats or venues, or publicized efforts to raise money for specific projects.

Here's a look:

### Bourbon & Bowties

Longview World of Wonders, which is raising money to open a hands-on discovery center in downtown Longview, moved its second annual



Kevin Green/News-Journal File Photo

E.J. Smith, left, and Randy Lott, center, both of White Oak watch Anup Bhandari paint Feb. 14 during the Death by Chocolate fundraiser.

Bourbon & Bowties event to the Summit Club to allow more people to attend.

Lisa Yarbrough, WOW board president, said the

event grossed about \$70,000 for a net of about \$46,000 to be used for operations.

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Michael Cavazos/News-Journal Photo

Autumn and Abigail McLaughlin of Neches High School walk out of the Zonta Prom Boutique with the prom dresses of their choice Saturday during the Zonta Antiques Show at the Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center.

## Service group sells antiques, gives away prom dresses

# Zonta-palooza

BY GLENN EVANS  
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A pair of annual events made for a good fit Saturday as Zonta Club of Longview staged its seventh annual prom dress giveaway and hosted the service club's trademark antiques bazaar.

"I need a dress," Christopher J. Nicholson of Gilmer quipped as he signed up his daughter, New Diana High School senior Anne Brooks.

The bearded dad might have realized he stood out among some 160 girls and mothers in the Eitelman Room at Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center.

But, he played along anyway. "Yes, sir. I've got to have one for the prom," he said, before praising the an-

### If you go

- **What:** Zonta Antiques Show
- **When:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today
- **Where:** Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center, 100 Grand Blvd., Longview
- **Cost:** \$5



Michael Cavazos/News-Journal Photo

Eileen Harpster and Sandra Palmer look over the items on display at the Acres Antiques booth Saturday during the Zonta Antiques Show at the Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center. The show continues today.

nual dream dress distribution. "I think these people are a godsend to do what they do for these young ladies."

Prom dress co-chairwoman Cady

Martin said Zonta began collecting donated dresses from local boutiques

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## Longview temple dedicates state historical marker

BY GLENN EVANS  
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Mendy Rabicoff was accustomed to driving to Johnny Cace's Seafood & Steakhouse to borrow chairs when worshippers at Longview's Jewish temple outnumbered places to sit.

That was to be expected on high holy days in past decades, when Temple Emanu-El was the center of a three-city Jewish population.

The temple, aptly situated on Eden Drive in Longview, still is the garden of worship for Jews in Kilgore, Marshall and

### Temple Emanu-El

- **Address:** 1205 Eden Drive, Longview
- **Phone:** (903) 753-6512
- **Online:** www.templemanuel-texas.org/

its host city. And the unveiling of a Texas Historical Commission marker, beneath the boughs of a double-trunk live oak that might have been a sapling when services began in 1958, opened doors of memories Saturday.

"For 57 years, the members of Temple

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Mayor Jay Dean, left, Rusty Milstein, Natalie Rabicoff, Judge Bill Stoudt and Rabbi Jeremy Simons unveil a Texas Historical Commission marker on Saturday outside Temple Emanu-El.

Les Hassell  
News-Journal Photo

## UT Health Northeast to close facilities

### Longview, Gladewater clinics will shut down at the end of April

BY JO LEE FERGUSON  
Special to the News-Journal

UT Health Northeast officials said patient volumes helped drive decisions to close its Longview and Gladewater clinics at the end of April.

Not including physicians at each clinic, eight people worked at UT Physicians of Longview and UT Physicians of Gladewater.

"Employees at the UT Health Northeast clinics in Gladewater and Longview have been offered positions at other UT Health clinics," said Tim Ochran, chief administrative officer for hospital and clinics. "The physicians will return full time to clinics on our main campus and in Tyler."

A UT Health spokesman said one of the employees decided not to take another position within the system.

UT Health Northeast previously said the decision to close the Gladewater clinic came after the owner of the building where it was located — Continental Realty of Topeka, Kansas — defaulted on its loan and received a foreclosure notice. The clinic was allowed to remain at the location on a month-to-month basis. With no long-term solution, though, and "lack of the developer's building support," UT Health officials decided to close the clinic.

"Please know that we did not make this decision lightly. UT Health has been a part of Gladewater through the patient care we have provided to its citizens and the community events we support, long before we opened UT Physicians of Gladewater in 2009," said Executive Vice President Joe Woelkers.

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