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The Taking



Graphic by Todd Wiseman

Drought returns to Texas just months after Hurricane Harvey floods state

BY PAUL COBLER JAN. 24, 2018 🔍 16

Just five months after the monster storm gave Texas its wettest month in history, much of the state is now in a drought — including areas that saw historic flooding. The dry spell has hit the Panhandle particularly hard. FULL STORY →

RELATED

 Hurricane Harvey sparks renewed push for underground water storage projects



TRENDING

"The Texas Tribune is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics and statewide issues."



News + Data + Events









John Battaglia executed for killing his daughters despite late appeals

The Dallas man who killed his two daughters in 2001 was executed Thursday night. It was the third execution in Texas and the nation this year.

BY JOLIE MCCULLOUGH FEB. 1, 2018 UPDATED: 6 HOURS AGO



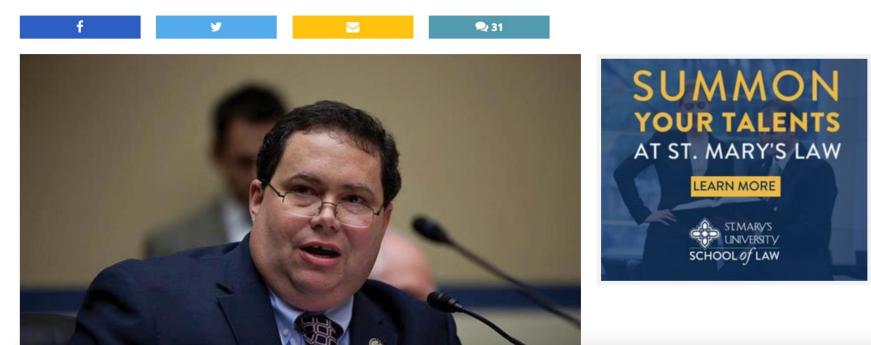




Republican Party of Texas sues to keep U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold off 2018 ballot

The Texas GOP is suing the Texas secretary of state to keep embattled U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold off the 2018 primary ballot — one day after he announced he will not seek re-election in 2018.

BY PATRICK SVITEK DEC. 15, 2017 10 PM





Liquor regulators partying on taxpayers' tab

Texas alcohol regulators know how to party: records show they've spent tens of thousands of dollars to travel to swanky resorts where liquor flows and industry lobbyists abound.

BY JAY ROOT MARCH 24, 2017 12 AM





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The Taking: How the federal government abused its power to seize property for a border fence

A decade ago, many border Texans got a raw deal when the federal government seized land for a barrier — while others pushed up the price. Will the government's rushed, haphazard process be repeated as it pushes for a border wall?

BY T. CHRISTIAN MILLER, PROPUBLICA AND **KIAH COLLIER** AND **JULIÁN AGUILAR**, THE TEXAS TRIBUNE DEC. 14, 2017 12 AM







SCHOOL of LAW

Daily Media Alert From The Texas Tribune

Thursday, December 14, 2017

🔁 THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Here's a look at The Texas Tribune's list of stories for Friday. Check <u>www.texastribune.org</u> for breaking news. All Tribune content <u>is available for you to</u> <u>republish at no charge</u>.

BREAKING NEWS

HO — James Ho, a well-respected Dallas attorney and former state solicitor general, was confirmed Thursday to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. He joins Don Willett, a longtime Texas Supreme Court justice who was confirmed Wednesday. — Emma Platoff Former Texas Solicitor General James Ho wins confirmation for federal court

FARENTHOLD — U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Corpus Christi, announced Thursday he would retire from Congress after finishing his current term following new allegations that included former employees describing him as verbally abusive and sexually demeaning. — Abby Livingston U.S. Rep. Farenthold of Texas to retire amid sexual harassment scandal

BALLOT — Since U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold missed the Tuesday deadline to withdraw his re-election bid, his name will almost certainly remain on the Texas Republican primary ballot on March 6, according to state officials. So what if he wins? — Alex Samuels Hey, Texplainer: U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold is retiring. Will his name still be on the ballot next year?

COMING FRIDAY

 $\rm FENCE-Scores$ of Texas landowners who have lived in the shadow of the border fence for years were never compensated for any damage to their property values. - Julián Aguilar and Kiah Collier, The Texas Tribune and T. Christian Miller, ProPublica

ANALYSIS: SENATE — A look at whether any Texas Senate races can be considered competitive next year, based on recent election results. — Ross Ramsey

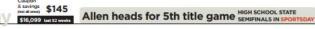
EVENT — On Friday at 8 a.m. Central, Tribune CEO Evan Smith will moderate a discussion with state Sens. Konni Burton and Royce West on the major policy debates of the 85th Texas Legislature — and what they mean for Dallas and its surrounding communities. The event will take place at the Communities Foundation of Texas headquarters (press welcome) and will be livestreamed on the Tribune's website. <u>RSVP</u> or watch online at texastribune.org/events.

MORE KEY STORIES

EXECUTIONS — Texas executed more people than any other state this year, but fewer new death sentences has led to a shrinking death row population. — Jolie McCullough Texas leads the nation in executions, but its death row population is dropping

THE TAKING — A decade ago, many border Texans got a raw deal when the federal government seized land for a barrier — while others pushed up the price. Will the government's rushed, haphazard process be repeated as it pushes for a border wall? — T. Christian Miller, ProPublica and Kiah Collier and Julián Aguilar, The Texas Tribune

The Taking: How the federal government abused its power to seize property for a border fence



The Dallas Morning News Dallas, Texas, Sunday, December 17, 2017 DALLASNEWS Texas' Leading Newspis

DATA ANALYSIS

PENTAGON

The truth is out there?

Secret \$22M Defense Department program studied reports of UFOs

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON - In the \$600 billion an nual Defense Department bradgets, the \$22 million spent on the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program was almost

mpossible to find. Which was how the Pentagon wanted it. For years, the program investigated reports f unidentified flying objects, according to De-imae Department officials, interviews with program participants and records obtained by *The New York Times.* It was run by a military intelligence official, Luis Elizando, on the fifth

INVESTIGATION

Power

abused

in land

seizures

Feds made unfair deals

with owners, bypassed

protections, bungled cases By T. CHRISTIAN HILLER KIAH COLLIER and JULIAN AGUILAR

ProPublica The Texas Tribune

agents started working the border be-tween Texas and Mexico in the spring

of 2007. Sometimes they were from the Army Corps of Engineers. Other times the U.S. Border Patrol. They

visited tumbledown mobile home

and suburban houses with golf course

emugglers and immigrants crossing into the U.S. illegally, they told prop-

erty owners. The structure was going to cut across their land. The government would make a

fair office to boy property, the agents explained. That was the law, But if the owners didn't want to sail, U.S. attorneys would file a lawout to seize it. One way or the other, the govern-

nent would get the land. That, too, rus the law

Sale PROPER Page BA

WORLD

Prince buys king of homes

Two years ago, Saudi Crown Prince Nohummed bin Salman purchased the Chateau Louis XIV, which Fortune magazine called "the world's most expensive

vorid's most expensive ," for \$300 million, 12A

Five new fields of dreams

On Tuesday, the Texas Rangers

and others will open a five-field

complex to bring baseball to an

A visit to the Four Corners region opens windows into the past. W

underserved community, 10

Glimpses of the past

SPORTSDAY

TRAVEL

NATION

Fire threatens enclave

mod stars. 8A

Trump administration officials are forbidding officials at the

Centers for Disease Control and

seven words or phrases, including "fetus," in any official documents

Mag: President Donald Trump

on Saturday defended the GDA tax cut as a good deal for the

middle class while suggesting it

could lead to explosive eco prouth BA

Prevention from using a list of

for next year's budget. 9A

Word ban at CDC

The largest of the Southern Cali-formia wildfires: burned through the outskirts of the wealthy en-clase of Montecito, home to many hidfwood stars da

They delivered blant news to nachers and farmen, sheet metal unrechars and annexes, sheet metal unrecharics and wealthy develop-res. The federal government was go-ing to build a fence to keep out drug

BROWNSVILLE - The land

Justin T. Gellenson/The New Yor

Luis Elizondo led a Pentagon program investigating UFOs until October, when he resigned in protest of internal opposition floor of the Pentagon's C Ring, deep within the

building's mass

The Defense Department has never ac-knowledged the existence of the program, which it says it shut down in 2012. But its backers say that, while the Pentagon ended funding for the effort at that time, the pro-

Same PENTAGON'S Page MA

Addicted to drugs, women die in jail

fight an old hernin habit; her scarth (sgal troubles isobed The 33-par-old dirabed into a cab in Mesquire an April 55, 2014; fire drys larger April 55, 2014; fire drys larger metal-health and addi-Detox treatment delays can be deadly as state fails to track problems By CARY ASPINWALL and STEPHANIE LAMM Staff unders she was found "unresponsive," tion problems. A recent fed-dead on the floor of the Dal-las County juil. Law enforce-a third of women in juils Alicia Skeats was a tall, blond Texan who believed in as commy juit. Law more-ment officials labeled her showed symptoms of serious death as 'natural causes.' Her natogsy said drag withdrawal killed her. second chances: for stray cats,

mreliable boyfriends and ar own battle with addic-As a record number of See LABELING Page 155 tion. She took methadone to

MEXICO By end of 2017, more than 27,000 will have died in drug violence



On May 15 in Cullacán, Mexico, onlookers took photos of siain journalist Javier Valdez, who reported on drug trafficking. The explosic of violence is a result of several factors, including a strategy to target the top heads of carbels, generating a dangerous power vacuum

The bloodiest year yet

By ALFREDO CORCHADO

so took to be the factor of the sector of th litical corruption and an increase in International, which fear the move Cancin. U.S. demand for drugs like heroin, will lead to more violence and hu- "It's not only that we don't have





The others as no demonstrate they provided adequate care for the teen ager, whose in custody death the Arner ican Statesman profiled earlier thi

Mesquite cops didn't inform

When Mesquite police arrived a a local middle school late on a sun mer night in 2015, Graham Dyer wa pounding his head on the grouns Earlier, witnesses reported seein him ram his head into a building.

jail of trauma or complete

medical intake form

ar Burnessly filed court door show that after the medics left, polit continued to observe Dyer acquit Dyer continued on A6

V IL 1

WHY DOMAIN

BUCKS RETAIL

Sunday

WHAT WE REPORTED

Robert Dyer's buttle to uncover what happenedit their aon during Craham's arrest by Mesoulte police as part offts "A Question o Restraint" series examinin in-custody deaths in Tesa

After its cubilcation. Tex legislators considered but old not pass legislation the

vould have required police

the Statesman first lescribed Kathy and

December 17, 2015

NEW DETAILS DEATHS IN POLICE CLISTOON

Records: Police

watched teen hit

his head 50 times

NORTHSIDE

INSIGHT, EI

Driving change

DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGES

66/50

CITIES PREPARE FOR DEATH OF

BUSINESS FI

TRENDS

Land seizures in 2007 for wall offer warning

rs of this report t through its K-12 and Campus Consertium nation? between Texas and Mexico in the spring of 2007. Sometimes they were from the Army Corps of Engineers. Other times the U.S. Border Patrol. They visited tumbledown mobile homes and suborban houses with golf course views. fews. They delivered blunt news

or ranchers and farmers, sheet netal workers and university professors, auto mechanics and wealthy developers. The federal Wall continued on A13



cane Barvey. If you feel like Texas has had a constant stream of 400- or 500-year floods in the past few years, you're not wrong. Texas rainfall estimates, the federal data used to describe flood ing, were last updated in the 1960 and 1970s, and the National Oce and any one various of the various of the anic and Aurospheric Adminis-tration is updating them to reflect the increased frequency of heavy rainsorms documented over the near two decodes.

By Sean Collins Waish

Onion Creek on Halloween 2013, Wimberley on Memorial Day weekend 2015, Houston's Tax Day flood in 2016, Hurri-

TRAVEL DIO

10 REASONS

WINTER PARK

ISAHITASSKI

DESTINATION

Austin American-Statesman

statesman.com | mystatesman.com

A 30% chance of rain

65/33 67/50

CONTINUING COVERAGE HURRICANE HARVEY

AUSTIN360, D

Smart silence

FOUND AN EDUCATION ONLINE

A 60% chance of rain

FEDS UPDATE DATA

FOR WETTER TEXAS

Major increases predicted in severity, frequency of rain

events; changes will expand size of state's flood plains.

HOW BOY WITH AUTISM, PARENTS

rainstorms documented over the past row docades. The data are not just for fore-custing the warbler and discribing storms. Once adopted, the new numbers will be used in engineer-ing stand in the National Flood Insurance Program's mapping of flood risk, potentially forcing more people to buy Bood Insur-mers or to indicate them to be used in the store people to buy Bood Insur-

higher elevations. "A lot of people are anxious about this," soid Nick Fang, an engineening professor and flood expet at the University of Thusa at Arlington whom NDAA invited to review the data. "It's poing to change or affect a lot of peo-ple's personal lives and also the design criteria." A performance you may not an and the prove moders, then some the prover moders. The shares angle increases in expected antiful live the listonean area. How county

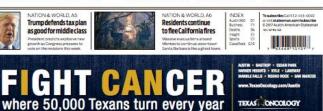


the Houston area, Have Court

data.

and the area along the Rio Gande near Del Nio - and Nage leaps in how often severe nainfall is expected to in those areas. A shour rainfall in Houston would have to drog an additional 4 to 7 inches for it be considered a 100-year event, meaning it has a 1 per-cent chance of occurring in any hier distribution of Gaussian theorem. The theorem of the second second second plantas, while Austin would see ind the area along the Rio Granda

Floods continued on A10





tone Carryo Vimberley la

PORTS CI

RECRUITS

Stateaman Weather App: Liveradar, weather rews and alerts.

WHY THIS IS

A HUGE WEEK

FOR FOOTBALL





Collier and Julian Aguilar ProPublica/The Texas Triburs BROWNSVILLE - The land agents started working the border between Texas and Mexico in



★ THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Government Salaries Explorer

y Tweet

f Recommend

Use The Texas Tribune's Government Salaries Explorer to review the compensation of hundreds of thousands of state and municipal employees in Texas, including those working for state agencies, public universities, school districts and masstransit entities. This data is obtained by requesting salary records from those public entities through the Texas Public Information Act.

The Tribune publishes this information because its journalists believe that disclosing how tax dollars are spent is in the public interest. To date, this database contains:



73 Public entities

We will update and expand this database periodically. Start searching below or read



***** THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Texas Public Schools Explorer

Your source for state public education data

	Search	Search by district or campus			
	E.g. A	ust	n ISD, Travis High School	s	Search
Γ	Statewide Data		All Districts		About the Data

Use our Texas public schools database to learn more about the state's 1,219 districts and 8,646 public schools, including hundreds of charter schools and alternative campuses. You can easily navigate through information on demographics, academic performance, college readiness and average teacher salaries for each school or district.

By Ryan Murphy, Annie Daniel and Miles Hutson



THE TEXAS TRIBUNE



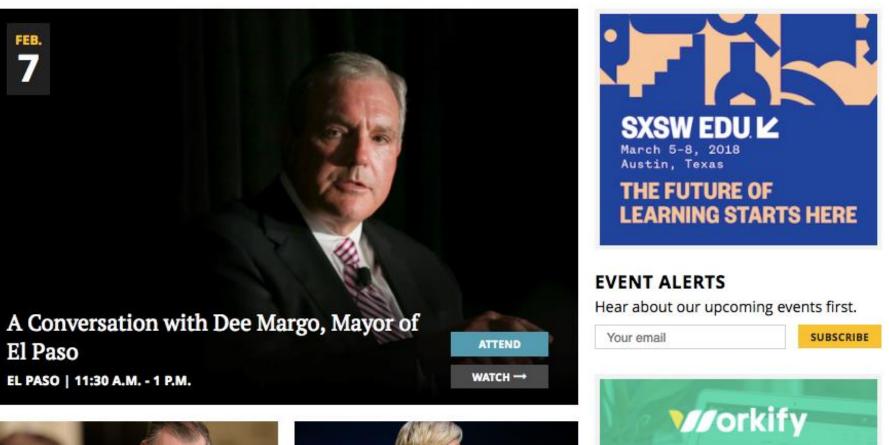




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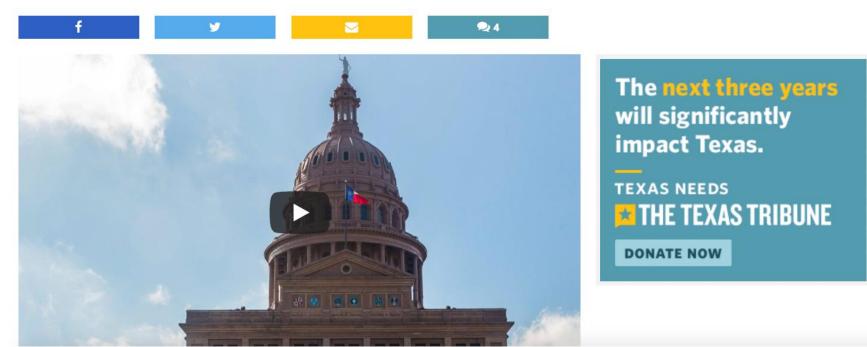
Register Log In

Q

Baylor still faces five sexual assault investigations. Here's where they stand.

At our conversation in Austin, Baylor University President Linda Livingstone offered updates on the five sexual assault investigations still facing the university. Watch the full video here.

BY EMMA PLATOFF DEC. 14, 2017 11 AM



THE TEXAS TRIBUNE FOSTIVAL Sept. 22-24, 2017









The big reveal...



ALL-TIME ACTUALS	
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Major Gifts — Foundations	\$12,620,273
Membership	\$5,272,617
Corporate Sponsorship	\$9,903,055
Events	\$9,100,106
"Earned"	\$2,796,369
TOTAL REVENUE	\$50,957,792

9 years, 9 takeaways



* Political donors = gold * "Nonpartisan" is a business model * A civic mission can't be behind a pay wall * But: free distribution isn't really free * Membership is the new uniques * Public education > programmatic giving * Give, get, message * Nothing sells like accountability



* You can always get more money. You can't get more integrity.



Thank you.

