

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

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Trials and turmoil across the globe, including a worldwide pandemic, have not been enough to dampen the spirits of our local community this year. We have continued to thrive, made improvements, broken down barriers and made big plans for our future. Here is a list we put together of some of the exciting, and in some cases, historic events that happened this year to set us apart.

Dr. Doug Brubaker begins his new role as the superintendent for Texarkana Independent School District. JANUARY 2021



Arkansas Middle School opens as the first new school construction project for Texarkana Arkansas School District since 1983. MARCH 2021



Former Texarkana resident Sarah Huckabee Sanders announces her candidacy for Governor of Arkansas. JANUARY 2021

CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System served as the core of COVID-19 treatment and prevention FEBRUARY 2021



Kristi Bennett was named Texarkana, Arkansas, Police Department Chief of Police—the first female to hold this position. MARCH 2021

Two winter storms in the same week resulted in 18-20 inches of snow for the region. FEBRUARY 2021

2021



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2021

The National Professional Fishing League hosted by the City of Texarkana, Texas and the Texarkana USA Chamber of Commerce held a three-day fishing tournament at Wright Patman Lake. APRIL 2021



The Pleasant Grove High School Baseball Team wins 4A UIL State Championship. JUNE 2021



The City of Texarkana, Arkansas hires a new city manager, Jay Ellington. JUNE 2021



Pleasant Grove High School wins 4A UIL Team Theatre State Championship. MAY 2021



The 76th Four States Fair and Rodeo takes place in the spring for the first time. APRIL 2021



Goodyear completes acquisition of Cooper Tire and Rubber Company. JUNE 2021

save the date
MAY 7, 2022

WE CAN'T WAIT TO UNWRAP THE 7TH ANNUAL
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Texarkana Regional Airport celebrated its 90th Anniversary and held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new airport passenger terminal. JUNE 2021



Dr. Christine Holt became the eighth chancellor of University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana. SEPTEMBER 2021



Red River Army Depot celebrated 80 years of supporting the Armed Forces. AUGUST 2021



The Union Pacific Big Boy Steam Engine No. 4014 rolled through Texarkana, Arkansas. AUGUST 2021



Steward Health Care and Wadley Regional Medical Center broke ground for the building of a new 254,000-square-foot hospital and 143,000-square-foot medical office building as part of a \$227 million dollar project. SEPTEMBER 2021



Liberty-Eylau High School pays for all students to take the ACT their junior year of high school. JULY 2021



2021

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



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Morning Consult Poll, 2021



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2021

Texarkana Symphony Orchestra took over management of the Perot Theatre. SEPTEMBER 2021



For the first time in more than 12 years, the Texarkana Regional Airport announces it will offer flights on United Airlines to Houston, Texas. OCTOBER 2021



The City of Texarkana, Texas hires a new city manager, David Orr. OCTOBER 2021



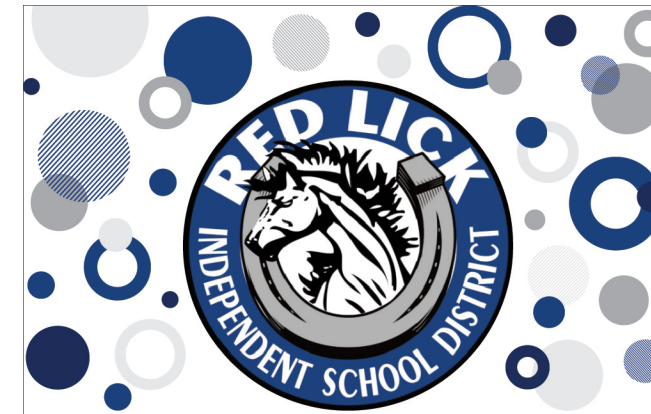
The completion of the dual city effort to improve Courthouse Square in Downtown Texarkana was celebrated. NOVEMBER 2021



Texas A&M University-Texarkana received a \$45 million capital project appropriation from the 87th Texas Legislature that will be used to house the university's business, engineering, and technology programs. OCTOBER 2021



The City of Texarkana, Texas re-elects Bob Bruggeman as mayor. NOVEMBER 2021



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Kindergarten

Transfer applications will be available January 5th-January 21st. Please pick up transfer applications at the elementary school office.

Out of district kindergarten students will be tested on January 28th. Families will be notified of transfer status by February 11th.

In-district Kindergarten Roundup will be held on January 18th from 5:30-7:00pm in the Red Lick Elementary cafeteria.

Grades 1-8

Transfer applications will be available January 5th-January 21st and can be picked up at any school office.

All grade levels will be notified by May 13th at the latest.

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2021

Texarkana College broke ground on the McCulloch Industrial Technology Center, a \$1 million facility that will provide new training facilities for Electrical Technology and HVAC programs along with expansion of existing workforce programs.

NOVEMBER 2021



photo by Allison Hales

TexAmericas Center announced it has acquired all contracts and assets from Lone Star Railcar Storage Company, which increases the size of TexAmericas Center's existing rail yard.

NOVEMBER 2021

TexAmericas CENTER
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Build | Lease | Manage | Sell | Incentives | Logistics

AR-TX REDI
Arkansas Manufacturing Center
East Texas Logistics Center

AR-TX REDI receives certification for the REDI Arkansas Manufacturing Center and REDI East Texas Logistics Center.

NOVEMBER 2021

Merry Christmas, neighbors.



I wish all my neighbors peace, joy and love this Christmas season and beyond. I'm blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.

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2021 TALK TUESDAY TOP 10

Talk Tuesday, *Texarkana Magazine's* weekly digital publication, draws thousands of readers online. Writers from across the community give us a first-person look into their lives and tell the stories that define our great twin cities. This year's top-ten most read stories reveal the diverse topics and people who truly make Texarkana Twice as Nice.

Get Talk Tuesday delivered to your inbox every week to read more stories like these. Sign up on our website, www.txkmag.com.



PROTECT AND SERVE
March 2, 2021

Zierre Spencer from the Texarkana, Texas Police Department, shared "A Day in the Life" of a local officer. "We are human, just like everyone else, but we do our best to serve and protect. Sometimes we can make mistakes. We all have rough days, we all make mistakes and I think if we could recognize we are all human, we could get along much better. All it takes is a willingness to see things from the other person's point of view."



FROM PAGEANTS TO PERSEVERANCE
July 6, 2021

Izzy Baughn, Miss Texarkana Twin Rivers 2019, shared her journey through the Miss America Organization. "I could not help but thank God for the opportunity to share my heart and my dreams, and to relentlessly pursue my deepest passions in my home state."



FROM GERMANY WITH LOVE
May 18, 2021

Ashley McClain, wife and mom to four young children, shared her family's experience as hosts of a German exchange student, Paula, who became a cherished part of their extended family. "Hosting an exchange student was by far the best experience our family has had... We gained family, experienced great adventures and had the chance to fulfill a dream in a child's life."



THE RESTORATION OF CHILDHOOD
January 26, 2021

Talk Tuesday monthly columnist, Tammy Lummus shared what the Atlanta Miller Grade School Restoration Project means to her hometown, Atlanta, Texas. "Take a second out of your day and think back on your time in grade school. It definitely brings a smile to my face when I remember that time in my own life... Grade school is where I got passed my first do-you-like-me-check-yes-or-no-box note. It's where I found my love for reading and writing and where I learned to use my own brain to figure things out."



IN MY LIFE
February 2, 2021

Lauren Davis Turner shared the joys and struggles of planning and executing a wedding through the crazy days of COVID-19. "If anyone told me on a Saturday afternoon in September, I would walk through Central Park wearing a mask, bouquet in hand, while a couple of friends held the train of my wedding gown, with my parents on a FaceTime call from Texas to watch my wedding... I would not have believed them."



THE SERVICE OF PEACE
April 6, 2021

Elizabeth Howe shared her struggles with intractable seizures and how Shiloh, her Labradoodle service dog, changed her life by bringing peace and assurance to an otherwise stressful situation. "The next thing I knew, I was on the ground! I had a seizure and was lying down on the edge of a neighbor's yard. When I became conscious and realized the leash was no longer in my hand, my first thought was 'where is my puppy?' I turned my head to the right and there he was, calmly lying down between me and the road."



I'M DIGGIN' IT
January 5, 2021

Jonathan Crain, metal detecting enthusiast, shared his passion for seeking buried treasures across the four states area. "You wouldn't believe how many relics of our town's past we walk right over every day. Just beneath our feet there could lie a 150-year-old quarter that meant a great deal to someone who regrettably dropped it years ago. Every old coin and object dropped has a story to go with it."



FINDING A GOOD THING
November 2, 2021

Hope Aubrey shared the beauty of a heart of gratitude even through life's biggest trials. "We cultivate a spirit of gratitude in our lives when we train our hearts and minds daily to see the good things around us. And I would be willing to bet that if you begin to count in your own life, you will find more than one good thing, too."



FINDING THEIR WAY TO YOU
May 4, 2021

Linsey Francis shared how her family of seven added a new addition through the wonderful world of adoption. "He fits in so perfectly with our family... I hear all the time that he is one blessed little boy to have us, but we are the blessed ones! When you begin the adoption process, you will be told that you will have the baby that is meant for your family. You may or may not believe this, but I do. I say it is 100% true."



STOP, DROP AND ROLL
March 16, 2021

Brad Thompson from the Texarkana, Texas Fire Department shared "A Day in the Life" of a firefighter. "Since I have been a fireman, I've seen the best and the worst of what mankind offers. We get fussed at frequently, sometimes praised and often, all on the same call. Whenever we are called out, it's usually on someone's worst day, so we always try to keep that in mind."