

# The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading News Source

\$3.99

Dallas, Texas, Tuesday, November 28, 2023

DallasNews.com

## DALLAS MAVERICKS

### Support dog cheers on players and staff

Cuddly trailblazer has become an MVP by making team smile

By BRAD TOWNSEND  
Staff Writer  
btownsend@dallasnews.com

Having been on the road 14 of 16 days, the Mavericks on Monday returned to their training facility, greeted one by one by the pitter-patter of paws and the precious face of their most faithful follower.

Her name is Bailey. She is a

23-month-old mini Bernedoodle. She is black and white and hypoallergenic and cuddly all over. She is the NBA's only trained and registered emotional support dog.

Mavs' best friend.

Bailey doesn't care that Dallas is coming off a loss to the Clippers. She simply knows Mavericks assistant athletic trainer Heather Mau is her mom and their extended family includes many tall guys, a

See MAVS Page 6A



Dallas Mavericks

"Everybody loved her,"

Heather Mau said of 23-month-old mini Bernedoodle Bailey, the Mavericks' emotional support dog.

## ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

### Fighting paused for 2 more days

Prisoner, hostage swaps may continue

By TIA GOLDENBERG, JACK JEFFERY and SAMY MAGDY  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their cease-fire for two more days past Monday,

VERMONT man is charged in shooting of Palestinian students. 5A

raising the prospect of further exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and a longer halt to their deadliest and most destructive war.

Eleven Israeli women

and children, freed by Hamas, entered Israel on Monday night in the fourth swap under the original four-day truce, which began Friday. Thirty-three Palestinian prisoners released by Israel arrived early Tuesday in the West Bank town of Ramallah. The prisoners were

See HOPES Page 5A



Josie Norris/San Antonio Express-News

### An experience worth sharing

Gov. Greg Abbott and 106-year-old World War II veteran Al Blaschke of Georgetown completed tandem skydives from about 8,000 feet over the suburbs of Austin and San Antonio on Monday. "The most shocking sensation is when you immediately exit the plane, and you're just in freefall," Abbott told reporters after landing. It was the governor's first jump, but Blaschke previously held the Guinness World Record for oldest tandem skydive, earned when he was 103.



Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman

## TEXAS SUPREME COURT

### Abortion bans under scrutiny

Justices to hear case seeking clarity over 'life threatening'

By MARIN WOLF  
Staff Writer  
marin.wolf@dallasnews.com

Texas' top court will hear oral arguments Tuesday in a case that challenges the state's exemptions for abortion for Texans with medically complicated pregnancies, which critics say are so vague that hospitals and doctors are unwilling to allow the procedure in almost all circumstances.

The lawsuit — Zurawski vs. State of Texas — now includes 20 women who say their abortions were denied or delayed because of unclear wording in the state bans, which currently allow for an exemption only when a pregnant person's life is at risk. Two Texas doctors are also part of the lawsuit, filed by the Center for Reproductive Rights in March.

Plaintiffs in the case had a brief victory in August when Travis County Judge Jessica Mangrum granted their request for a temporary injunction that exempted pregnant women with risky pregnancies, including

fatal fetal diagnoses, from the state's abortion bans. Two weeks prior to the ruling, four women in the case testified about their own experiences in seeking abortions because of medical emergencies.

The Texas attorney general's office immediately appealed the ruling straight to the state Supreme Court, placing a stay on the injunction that was active for only a few hours. First Assistant Attorney General Brent Webster said the state's appeal was a response to "an activist Austin judge's attempt to override Texas abortion laws."

The Texas Supreme Court will decide whether to uphold the injunction or overturn the Travis County court's decision.

Texas joined a number of other states in banning abortions in nearly all cases after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned federal abortion protections in June 2022. The trigger ban makes it a felony to perform an abortion unless the mother has a "life-threatening physical condition" or is at risk of "substantial im-

See ABORTION Page 8A

THE HEARING will start about 10 a.m. and will be streamed at youtube.com/@SupremeCourtOfTexas.

Sunny and cool  
5  
H 60  
L 38  
Metro, back page

## NATION & WORLD

### Saying goodbye

Hundreds turned out to salute Rosalynn Carter as her family began three days of memorials following her death. 2A

INSIDE

Nation/World	2-7A	Jumble	6B
Editorials	11A	Obituaries	9B
Letters	11A	Sports TV	2C
Business	3-5, 7B	Dear Abby	1E
Autos	6B	Comics	2-4E
Classified	6B	TV	4E

## METRO & BUSINESS

### Chases with deaths up

Car chases by Texas officers resulting in deaths have jumped since Gov. Greg Abbott launched his border operation, a report says. 1B

### Wages up for some

Texas workers in the same job for a year have seen their pay rise nearly 6%, according to a new report. 3B

## DALLAS ZOO

### New CEO brings 'track record'

She led Knoxville's turnaround, comes to facility seeking lift

By JAMIE LANDERS  
Staff Writer  
jamie.landerson@dallasnews.com

In a move both parties consider to be a "full circle moment," the Dallas Zoo has named Lisa New, longtime leader of Zoo Knoxville, its next CEO.

New, who has served at the helm of Zoo Knoxville

since 2013, will assume the position Jan. 15, becoming the first woman to hold the title in the Dallas Zoo's 135-year history.

Her appointment follows the 16-year tenure of Gregg Hudson, whom she called a mentor and friend. Hudson died in April after a battle with cancer. He was 64.

"The Dallas Zoo has been very special to me, so it is full circle, having the opportunity and the privilege

to build on Gregg's legacy," New told *The Dallas Morning News*. "I'm just so honored that I can have an impact at another organization."

It's the culmination of a seven-month-long national search conducted by a zoo board committee, with the help of Los Angeles-based firm Shelli Herman and Associates. Dallas Zoo Board Chair Dawn Moore said

See TENNESSEE Page 3A



Amy Smotherman Burgess

Lisa New, who has served at the helm of Zoo Knoxville since 2013, will assume the position at the Dallas Zoo on Jan. 15.

MAVS vs ROCKETS  
TONIGHT | 7:30 PM  
TICKETS @ MAVS.COM | Bally SPORTS  
PRESENTED BY chime



# Tennessee zoo CEO poised for Dallas role

Continued from Page 1A

dozens of candidates were evaluated before conducting video and on-site interviews with a select few.

"It was a very thoughtful process," Moore said. "Everybody really dedicated themselves to this."

Much is expected in such a role, one that's obligations cross into conservation, education, animal welfare, community impact, guest experience and sustainable funding, to name a few.

Perhaps more than anything else, Moore said, the board leaned toward finding a leader who could inspire staff members "to another level."

"Needless to say, everything that we've gone through this year was very difficult, and I commend our team for keeping the morale that they had," she said, a nod to not only the loss of Hudson, but a series of "unprecedented and disturbing" crimes the Dallas Zoo endured earlier this year, including cut enclosures that allowed a clouded leopard to escape, the suspicious death of a lappet-faced vulture and the theft of two emperor tamarin monkeys.

"But we needed a shot in the arm, someone who I could see cared about our staff as much as the animals, because that's important to us, and that can carry us forward," Moore said.

In New, who is also chair of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' board of directors, Moore said that's exactly what she found.

"She's got the kind of track record where she doesn't have to brag about herself," Moore said. "You can just see it, what she brings to the table."

## 'Was it fate?'

New has spent the entirety of her career at Zoo Knoxville, where she was first hired in 1990.

Working toward a master's degree in ethology, or the study of animal behavior, at the University of Tennessee at the time, New was tasked with hand-raising two orphaned chimpanzees — Mugsy and Lu. Figuring out how to integrate the pair into a social



Zoo Knoxville chief Lisa New talks with zookeeper Stephen Nelson at the zoo's Clayton Family Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Campus. New will become the Dallas Zoo's first female CEO in its 135-year history.

group was supposed to be the basis of her thesis. It ended up laying the foundation of a career that has spanned three decades.

"Once the zoo gets in your blood ... it sets the course for everything," she said. "It completely changed my trajectory."

After getting her start on the zoo's conservation science team, New went on to serve in several leadership roles, including director of animal collections and senior director of animal care and conservation.

As the years went on, New said she watched as the zoo began to struggle, weighed down by debt, infrastructure decline and soon enough, a provisional accreditation.

By the time its director retired, New said she was planning to leave. Then she was enlisted to help with an on-site accreditation inspection at the Dallas Zoo.

"Looking back I think, oh my God,

was it fate?" New said.

There she saw how, under Hudson's leadership, the Dallas Zoo had undergone "substantial growth and change" in its transition from being owned by the city to being owned by a nonprofit.

She remembers how it felt to see its staff members so united, how just listening to them talk about their vision brought her to tears.

New decided she wanted to be that person for Zoo Knoxville, so she applied for the top job.

"The rest is history," she said.

## 'The numbers don't lie'

When asked if New became the kind of leader she had aspired to be, Russ Watkins, vice chair of Zoo Knoxville's board of directors, said "the numbers don't lie."

Under New's leadership, a comprehensive campus master plan, market-

ing and rebranding effort, \$39 million capital campaign, and some of the largest, most ambitious construction projects in the zoo's history came to life. It paid off. When New took over in 2013, Watkins said attendance had averaged under 400,000 people a year. Now, it repeatedly exceeds 500,000. In the same time frame, Watkins said the zoo's operating revenue increased from roughly \$8 million to nearly \$17 million.

"She was very instrumental in pushing that growth, and I think that's her experience of being boots on the ground, of being able to say, 'I know what that's like,'" Watkins said. "It's one of the things that made her so incredibly valuable to Zoo Knoxville, and I see that as being a huge win for the Dallas Zoo as well."

In 2019, the Dallas Zoo created its own master plan, designed to guide its team through the next few decades of growth, conservation work, education



File Photo/Staff

Gregg Hudson served as Dallas Zoo president and CEO for 16 years before he died in April after a battle with cancer.

and accessibility. When the zoo first presented it to the city's Park and Recreation Board in May, Moore, the Dallas Zoo's board chair, said it got a standing ovation.

## Delicate balance

It will be a delicate balance, Moore explained, figuring out how to honor the future the zoo has already created, with the hope New's touch will set its sights even higher.

"I think with the team we have, and now Lisa, we're going to be successful," Moore said. "The city will be so lucky to have this zoo in place."

"They already are, but it'll be better than ever."

It was that enthusiasm, Dallas' belief in its zoo, that compelled New to take the leap, she said.

"The kind of momentum that can come from a public institution offering that kind of support, can skyrocket the opportunity to raise the funds to get it done," New said.

"This city believes in the organization, the community believes in the organization and I want to be a part of that," she said.

 BankUnited

# FALL INTO SAVINGS!

Take advantage of our most competitive advertised CD rate.

12-MONTH  
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

5.50%  
APY\*

\$1,000 minimum opening deposit



Open your account online in just a few simple steps.  
Scan the code to get started.

Or visit a BankUnited branch near you to open an account.

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 10/5/2023. Advertisd rate is fixed for the initial term of the Certificate of Deposit (CD) only. APY assumes interest earned remains on deposit until maturity. CD minimum opening deposit of \$1,000 required. This promotional offer is limited to a maximum deposit of \$1,000,000 when the CD is opened within a BankUnited branch but otherwise limited to a maximum deposit of \$250,000. Early withdrawal penalty may apply if you withdraw any principal from the CD before the maturity date. Account fees could reduce earnings. Additional terms and conditions apply. CD will automatically renew at maturity into a standard CD closest in length to the initial term (which may be shorter or longer than the initial term) at the then current standard rate in effect at the time of renewal unless you instruct us otherwise. Please refer to our Depositor's Agreement and applicable Schedule of Fees for additional information. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotional rate, bonus rate or special rate offer. BankUnited reserves the right to cancel or modify this offer at any time. Rates are subject to change at any time and are not guaranteed until the CD is open. Deposit products and services are offered by BankUnited, N.A. Please contact a BankUnited representative for additional details. Offer is for consumer accounts only.

 [www.bankunited.com](http://www.bankunited.com)

Member  
FDIC