

# texas tea newsletter

A home-brewed publisher devoted to exposing the secrets of the Texas Civil Commitment Center in Littlefield, Texas.



## in this issue

### What's Brewing This Month?

This month's tea includes two articles, one detailing an abandoned ankle monitor and the other of a representative accused of having sex with an aide. This month, the Editor has a lengthened section to detail events within this quarter's TCCO Board Meeting.

### Want to Share Your Story?

Send any crucial documentation you want to share with us to [texasteanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:texasteanewsletter@gmail.com) or to P.O. Box 3226, San Marcos, Texas 78666 to allow us to enact change within the Texas Civil Commitment Center.

## let's spill the tea

By the Editor

Greetings readers! Welcome to the May Issue of the Texas Tea Newsletter.

It's so hard to believe that May is almost over! I intentionally waited late to send out this issue because we had a few important things we wanted to include in the newsletter. Some of you may know that Texas Tea tries to attend hearings at the Capitol when there are issues involving civil commitment. This was true at the end of April when one of us listened in on the presentation of SB 4886.

I was eating a snack in the Capitol Cafe with my friends and fellow advocates when I looked up to see a bunch of MTC cronies one table away. Once Facility Administrator Schmoker recognized me, he told the others and they got up and moved. I couldn't help but laugh at the immaturity and stupidity of it. Almost as if I had cooties.

Oh well, I stayed there way into the late evening, as SB 4886 was read last. MTC spoke in favor of the bill and how they needed it. Therapist Winslow threw his patients under the bus discussing how it would make things easier for him to have stricter punishment.

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## Austin Property Owner Finds Ankle Monitor on His Roof

By **Nabil Remadna** with **KXAN** | May 11, 2023

A south Austin property owner said he is fed up and concerned after he found an ankle monitor on the roof of his business.

“We put up the fence on Tuesday,” said Peter Morales as he walked through his property on South Lamar.

Morales noticed someone had recently moved into the alley on his property, leaving the area trashed.

“Laptops and a bunch of bags, and needles and drugs,” said Morales as he showed video of the camp. “I actually had to hire someone to do the removal.”

He also found an ankle monitor on the roof of his business, with bedding and an area he said looked like someone was living at.

Morales said he called police who stopped by to escort someone off his property.

Morales said an ankle monitor was picked up by a detective, but so far he has not heard who the person was or why they were required to wear the monitoring device.

“Is there a predator or violent criminal sleeping on top of my building?” Morales said.

He said whoever was living on his roof also damaged his property and that is why he’s hoping to get more information.

“The insurance company is going to want to know, obviously, what caused the damage, who caused the damage,” Morales said.

KXAN reached out to the Austin Police Department to find out more information. APD said it is still working on getting information.

“It is costing all of us peace of mind, it is costing us money,” Morales said.

“If you are a defense attorney, you would get an email from pre-trial services if the clients monitor dies or if they cut it off,” said Ben Gergen, a criminal defense attorney with Gergen, Hale & Campbell Law Firm.

Gergen, who is not associated with this case, said he has represented many clients wearing these devices.

He said someone’s bond will usually be revoked for cutting off a monitor and they could face a higher bond to get back out of custody when they are rearrested.

“That judge may increase that bond \$50,000, and if you ever get back out of jail, now at \$100,000 bond, you will have to deal with the same monitor,” Gergen said.

Morales said he’s hoping to get answers soon on who the person is. He is also hoping he doesn’t have to deal with more camps popping up on his property.

“Right now this area of Austin seems to be deteriorating more and more,” Morales said.



## Rep. Bryan Slaton Steps Down After House Report Finds He Had Sex with Aide

By **Taylor Goldenstein** with **Austin Bureau** | May 8, 2023



State Rep. Bryan Slaton stepped down Monday under pressure from conservative groups after the release of a House report that found he had sex with a 19-year-old legislative aide and gave her alcohol.

The announcement came just a day before the House was set to vote on his expulsion, as an investigating committee had recommended.

The Roysse City Republican and former youth minister did not respond to the report's findings in his resignation letter, but he said he was leaving in order to "ensure that (voters') expectations will continue to be met by a new representative who will also work hard on their behalf."

"I am grateful to my many colleagues who fought with me to improve our state for all Texans, and to those who, even when we could not agree, extended their friendship," Slaton said in his letter to the governor. "I look forward to spending more time with my young family, and will continue to find ways to serve my community and all citizens across our great state."

State Rep. Andrew Murr, R-Junction, who chairs the investigating committee, said in a statement Monday that he will still call a vote for Slaton's expulsion, as "he is considered to be an officer of this state until a



successor is elected and takes the oath of office."

A number of state representatives and conservative groups, including a majority of State Republican Executive Committee members with the Texas GOP, had called on Slaton to step down. The Texas GOP chair Matt Rinaldi had declined to comment, saying he was waiting for the House to deliberate. He issued a statement Monday.

"These actions have betrayed the trust that the people of Representative Slaton's district put in him as an elected official, and he has rightly resigned," Rinaldi said. "We are encouraged that this investigation signals that the House has entered a new era of accountability where all members will be held to the same fair and high standards."

The report detailed how Slaton grew close to the aide and invited her to his condo one night and offered her and other Capitol staffers alcoholic drinks. Interviews showed he had sex with her that night, then later pressured her and other staffers to stay quiet about the incident.

According to the Texas Constitution, the governor must call a special election within 20 days after a vacancy.

## Editorial Continued.

STRICTER THAN BEING SENT TO ANOTHER PRISON AFTER PRISON FOR AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT OF TIME?????? OK, well wasn't impressed with him. I felt eyes behind me and looked around. In the back was TCCO people sitting there listening. After it was over, McLane shot me a look probably wishing I would get struck by a bus on my way home. Not yet, ma'am.

On to May, we had plans in the works out here and y'all were busy at the facility.

I completely applaud all that participate in the FREEDOM WALK each week. It's very important to know your constitutional rights and to be able to practice them as y'all are doing. As the family members on the outside prepared for May 25th, several organizers were working to gain support inside.

At the quarterly TCCO board meeting, advocates waited outside the door to be let in. I'm happy to report that we had a crowd of 20, the most we have ever had at a single meeting. As always, the families had many questions for McLane and the board, but they always go unnoticed. By now several of us are recognized by them; I always wonder what they think when they see me at every single meeting. We presented our complaints and our disgust and a few of us cried. In all, 7 family members signed up to speak. It was very impactful.

After that it was off to the Capitol. We had signs and fliers and stood in the hot Texas sun making passersby listen to us. We took pictures together and shed a few tears. After a couple of years some of us have really become like family and really look forward to seeing each other. In the beginning we might have been doing this for just our loved one, but now we do it for all that are in the walls of TCCO.

At the end of this newsletter, you will find photos of those who work tirelessly to advocate for change. When you find yourself thinking that you are alone, look to these photos and know that someone out there is working for your freedom.

That's all folks!

