

ADVERTISEMENT

LEAN ON ME IT BUSINESS IT SUPPORT Essential IT support to make your life easier **CONTACT US**

Hewitt: Chiefs say new radio system was worth it



(Photo by Matthew Ablon) (KWTX)

By Rissa Shaw

Published: Jun. 30, 2018 at 1:48 AM CDT



A pricey new purchase has paid off for the City of Hewitt, according to the city's top public safety officials.

A week after one of the largest, and most dangerous, fires McLennan County has had all year, the fire and police chiefs in Hewitt said their new radio system was a success.

"It worked well," said Fire Chief Lance Bracco. "This is one of the biggest grass fires we've been on in a while."

The 175-acre blaze that straddled the Lorena-Hewitt line demanded the attention of at least ten fire and police agencies from around the county who all needed to communicate with each other.

ADVERTISEMENT


DEMAND Daniel Stark INJURY LAWYERS **CALL MY LAWYER** **CONTACT A LAWYER TODAY!** **Danny Daniel**

"It was the real reason why we needed this radio system," said Police Chief Jim Devlin.


The multi-agency event put the city's new 800 digital radio system to the test.

our engine which was covering our city because we had some houses which we thought the fire was coming towards it was able to talk to them (his firefighters on the engine), and Lorena's command and our brush trucks all at the same time," said Bracco.

ADVERTISEMENT



4 IPHONE 16
ON US



With 4 elig. trade-ins & new customers. Tax & \$35 connr req'd.

Prior to May 31, Hewitt was on an older system that prevented direct radio communication with many other agencies in the county, said Devlin, adding that the "antiquated" system wouldn't allow the city's own police officers and firefighters to radio each other if they were too far away or inside of a building.

Devlin said plugging into Waco's "core" system makes their radios more powerful and reliable.

Last Friday's fire was the first major, multi-response event since they went live with the system, and Devlin said it went off without a hitch.

"It worked fantastic, we were able to talk to every entity that was out there," said Devlin.

"I could flip over to the fire channel talk to Chief Bracco who then spoke to fire command and then we could relay that information back and forth, it was readily available, it was accessible, things happened instantaneously because we had the information and the communication to flow back and forth, and we also were able to communicate and listen to the S.O. (Sheriff's Office) and the other law enforcement entities that responded out there as well."

The chiefs said the \$750,000 system was worth every penny.

"Every second that we can save in communicating with one another, that's a potential life or property to be saved," said Devlin.

Two of the Hewitt firefighters working the wildfire to save lives and property were sent to the hospital for dehydration and smoke inhalation, however, they both recovered quickly and are back on-duty.

No citizens were injured.

No homes were damaged.

Lorena fire officials said the grass fire was caused by field shredding.

[Hewitt: Police Dept. goes live with \\$750k digital radio system](#)

CEO says this is worth 26 Nvidias

Motley Fool | Sponsored

The best walking shoes are suitable for men to wear all day.

Bestbestones | Sponsored

Shop Now

Man Who Called Nvidia at \$1.10 Says AI Stocks Will Rise Even Faster

Oxford Club | Sponsored

Learn More

Seniors Baffled: "It's Like My Knee Pain Never Existed - I Feel Brand New!"

Knee Patella Stabilizer | Sponsored

Who has the cheapest car insurance in Texas (check zip code)

Ottoinsurance.com | Sponsored

The Real Enemy Of Neuropathy & Nerve Pain (Not Vitamin B)

Neuro Reports | Sponsored

Most Read

👉 **'As though he were a ragdoll': Teacher at Temple, Texas daycare charged after infant suffers injuries from 'aggressive bouncing' in baby bouncer**



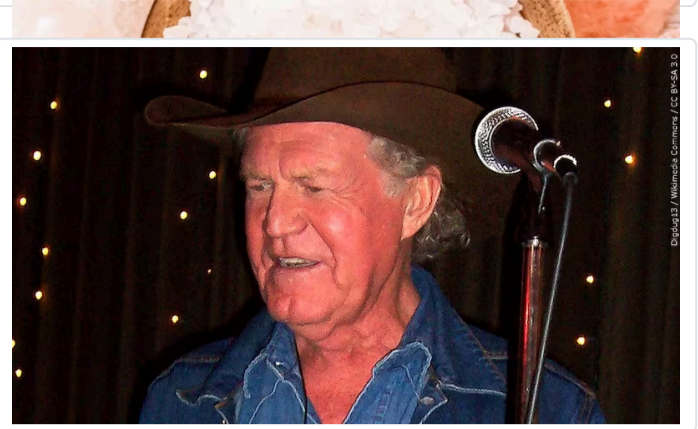
👉 **Salado ISD teacher killed, son hospitalized after head-on collision**



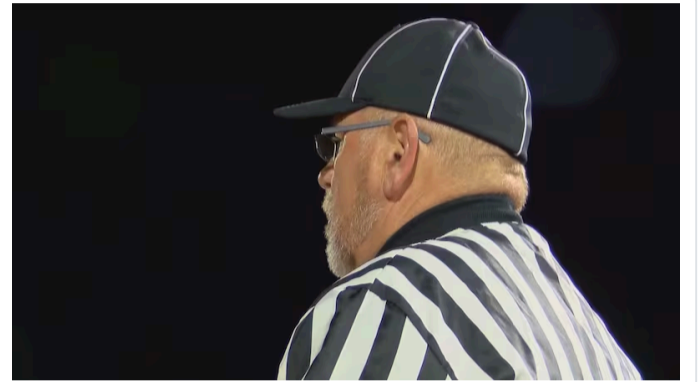
Experience the Refreshing Feeling of Salt Halo Therapy.



▶ **'I can't let them get my songs': Testimony reveals country legend Billy Joe Shaver grew tired of family members, changed his will**



▶ **Whitney ISD releases statement after issues with fans interacting with referees during football games**



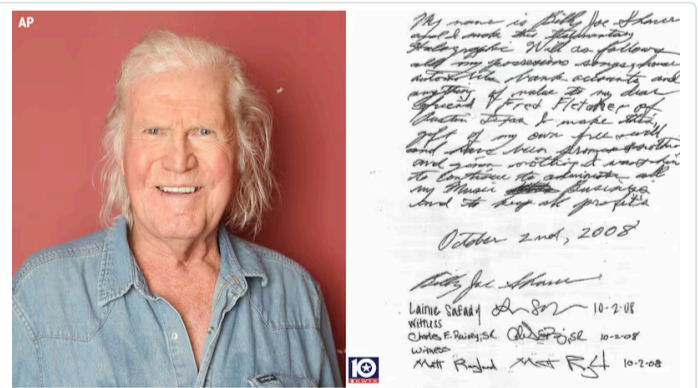
▶ **Central Texas High School football player released from hospital after injury during game**



Authorities respond to devastating bus fire on I-35, 10 people escape



▶ **McLennan County jury declares Fred Fletcher as sole beneficiary of Billy Joe Shaver's estate**



Latest News



Aranda buys suite access for 2013-2014 Championship Teams, says SicEm365

Copperas Cove PD asking for help to identify owner of vehicle that fled scene of accident



Kamala Harris says she'd take a cognitive test; challenges Trump "to take the same one"



Temple PD searching for missing teen



🔍 Fire destroys Burleson County home



Central Texas High School football game halted after player gets injured, teams come together in support of recovery.



Fire destroys Burleson County home



Baylor pickleball to play in DUPR National Tournament



[Public Inspection File](#) publicfile@kwtx.com - (254) 776-1330 [FCC Applications](#) [EEO Statement](#) [Terms of Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Advertising](#)
[Digital Marketing](#) [Closed Captioning/Audio Description](#) [Customize](#)

At Gray, our journalists report, write, edit and produce the news content that informs the communities we serve. [Click here](#) to learn more about our approach to artificial intelligence.