

Tyler Morning Telegraph

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016

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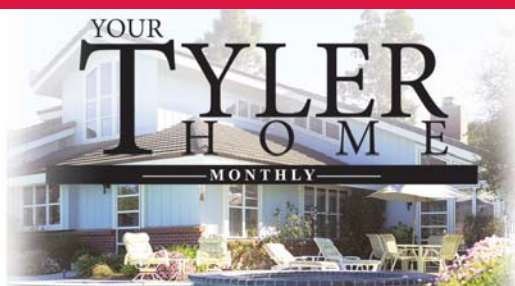
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INSIDE

SMITH COUNTY

Legal bills \$46K for ATS, open meetings

FAITH HARPER AND ROY MAYNARD
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Suspended Smith County Judge Joel Baker will have to fund his legal defense, officials said, but the county has already spent more than \$46,000 on legal matters involving the judge, American Traffic Solutions and the closed-door meetings that formed the basis of the grand jury indictment handed up against Baker last week.

"He'll have to spend his own money for his defense," Commissioner Jeff Warr said Friday. "The county can't do that."

Yet Smith County has spent \$46,514.78 on outside legal representation stemming from investigations into how the county commissioners handled a contract to place unmanned speed cameras in school zones.

The legal work pertains to a plan to partner with Arizona-based American Traffic Solutions to place 10 unmanned speed cameras in school zones. Smith County Commissioners approved it Aug. 12, 2014, and County Judge Joel Baker signed the contract in late January 2015.

The investigation conducted by

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IS IT JUST ME

A reminder to cherish life

Note to readers: This week, my son, Jamie Clyde, wrote my column. Jamie is 17 and has been processing the loss of Kendall Spinks, as have many in our community. He asked me if he could express his thoughts on the subject in my column today.

The impact of someone you never knew can still have a staggering effect on your life

Last week, a girl named Kendall Spinks, who attended All Saints High School and was planning on college, was taken from her family and the community.

She was one year older than me.

As I stated before, I didn't know Kendall personally, but this tragedy has put many things into perspective in my own life, as I'm sure it has for many others. Life is precious and its fragility is sometimes forgotten in the hectic lives we lead.

I believe everyone in the community has had a chance to step back and realize what is really significant and what is fleeting. There is a misconception that as life goes on, problems will vanish. As we have seen this last week, the longevity of life is never guaranteed, so why live passively?

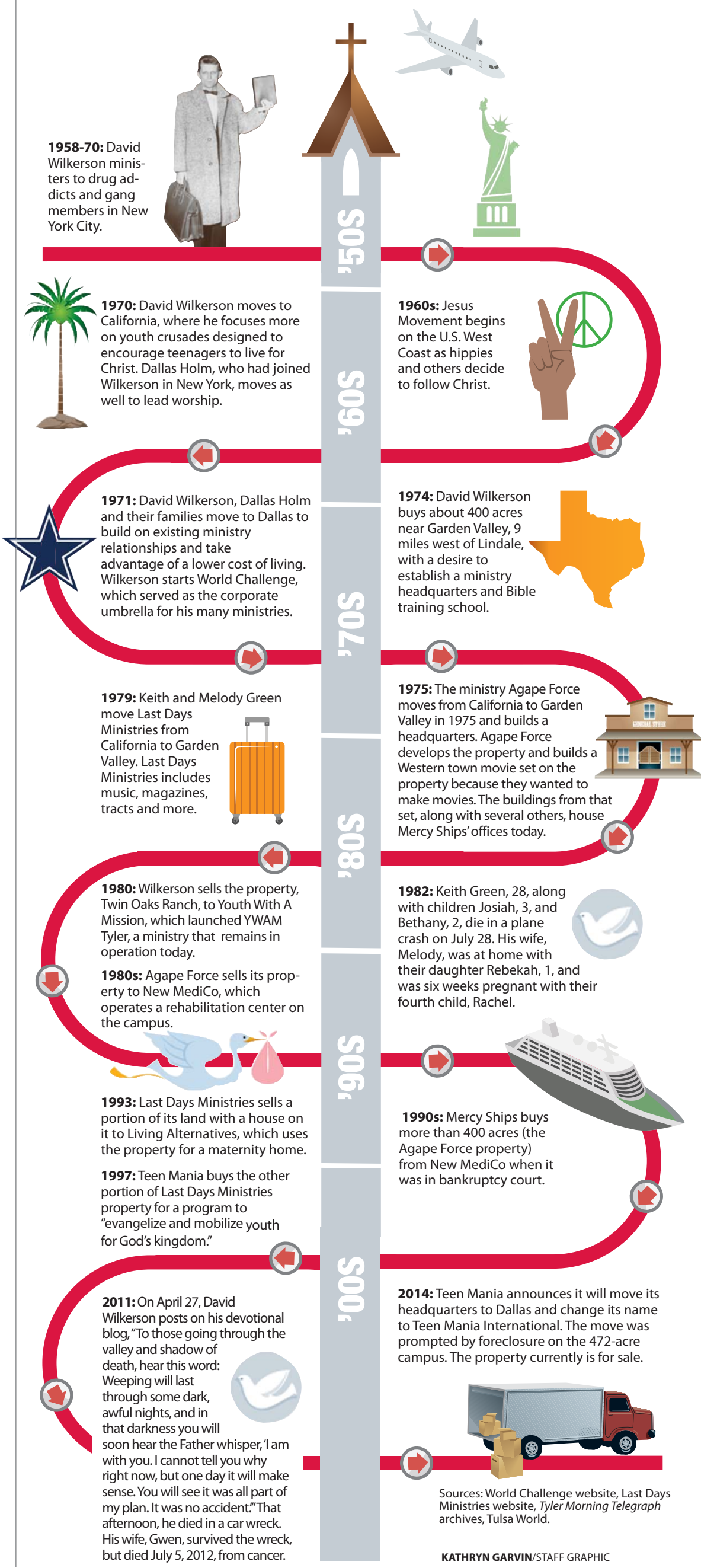
This is a time to live actively in cherishing and loving those who are close to us. If there is anything I have taken from this event, it is to cherish life and to cherish those who are in my life. Kendall's mother, Kimber Spinks, said in an article

CLYDE >> PAGE 8A

ON A PATH TO EAST TEXAS

PIONEERS & PROPHETS

50-PLUS YEARS OF HISTORY



GARDEN VALLEY

Worldwide ministries at home in East Texas

EMILY GUEVARA
eguevara@tylerpaper.com

On both sides of Texas Highway 110 north of Interstate 20 sit hundreds of acres that for more than 40 years have served as the headquarters for nationally and internationally known Christian ministries.

When they moved in decades ago near the community of Garden Valley, about 9 miles west of Lindale, they were looking for a quiet place to practice their faith and grow their ministries.

The landscape around them has changed — chain restaurants and retail options now dot the once rural stretch of I-20 and Lindale is on the cusp of explosive growth — but the mission hasn't, even if new ministries have replaced the old.

Today, some of them are household names, such as Mercy Ships, Youth With A Mission and Living Alternatives, but decades ago, it was David Wilkerson, Keith Green and his Last Days Ministries and Agape Force.

"I think it's really neat that here in simple laid-back East Texas, we've really impacted around the world," said Dallas Holm, a Christian singer and songwriter who ministered with David Wilkerson. "Hundreds of millions of lives have been impacted by these ministries that are all headquartered in East Texas."

ORIGINAL SETTLER

David Wilkerson is best known for his years of ministry to drug addicts and gang members on the streets of New York City.

The story of that ministry was told in the book, "The Cross and the Switchblade," and the 1970 movie by the same name.

It was Wilkerson who first made the move to East Texas and encouraged other ministry-minded individuals to do the same.

That move, however, came after stints on both coasts — first New York City and then California.

In 1970, Wilkerson and his team moved to California, where they would focus more on youth crusades designed to encourage teenagers to live for Christ.

At the time, California was the hub of sorts for the Jesus Movement, which was somewhat like a spiritual revival that began when hippies started converting to Christianity.

Dallas Holm, who lives in Lindale and ministered with Wilkerson, said the Jesus Movement came out of a time when people were really hungry for something more.

The mid-to-late 1960s was a tremendously transitional time in the U.S. culture, he said. The Vietnam War was at its height. The country was shifting from the idea of this "good-old days, perfect America" to an anti-authority, anti-war, anti-everything youth culture. Plus, there was a spiritual hunger, Holm said.

People were doing drugs, experimenting with transcendental meditation, Buddhism and Hinduism. But in all of that, what they were looking for was a spiritual experience, Holm said.

"So there was this quest for

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Bible
verse

"Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 23:24)

Weather

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See the complete CBS19 Day Planner forecast on **Page 5C.**



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LOTTERY RESULTS

AUSTIN — Here are the winning numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery:			
PICK 3 DAY 9-4-7 SIU: 20		DAILY 4 DAY 4-4-5-3 SIU: 16	
PICK 3 NIGHT 9-6-6 SIU: 21		DAILY 4 NIGHT 0-1-5-6 SIU: 12	
LOTTO TEXAS 8-15-17-40-42-46		POWERBALL 3-27-36-56-69 PB: 25 PP: 2	
CASH 5 14-15-21-24-35			

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Versace under fire for ad campaign shot in Chicago

CHICAGO (TNS) — Luxury fashion brand Versace is under fire for ads featuring models Karlie Kloss and Gigi Hadid in Chicago that some say promote teenage motherhood and slavery symbolism.

Versace posted a short video called “Chicago is my Beat” online this week as part of its fall/winter 2016 campaign that intermixes shots of posing models with performances by African-American dancers. Photographer Bruce Weber told *The New York Times* he “wanted these pictures to mean something to the city,” but some of the images have been blasted on social media.

“When slavery wasn’t enough so you put a chain on the African baby,” read one meme posted on Instagram with a Versace shot of an African-American girl in a stroller with a chain across her lap. Some critics also said the images of Kloss and Hadid, who are both in their early 20s, toting young children around the city suggest the models gave birth as teenagers.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

Today is **Sunday, June 26**, the 178th day of 2016. There are 188 days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:
On **June 26, 2015**, a divided U.S. Supreme Court, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, ruled 5-4 that same-sex couples had the right to marry nationwide as it overturned bans in 14 states.

ON THIS DATE:
In **1483**, Richard III began his reign as King of England (he was crowned the following month at Westminster Abbey).
In **1870**, the first section of Atlantic City, New Jersey’s Boardwalk was opened to the public.
In **1925**, Charles Chaplin’s classic comedy “The Gold Rush” premiered at Grauman’s Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.
In **1936**, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a second term of office by delegates to the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia.
In **1945**, the charter of the United Nations was signed by 50 countries in San Francisco.
In **1950**, President Harry S. Truman authorized the U.S. Air Force and Navy to enter the Korean War.
In **1959**, President Dwight D. Eisenhower joined Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II in ceremonies officially opening the St. Lawrence Seaway. Swedish boxer Ingemar Johansson knocked out Floyd Patterson in the third round of their match at New York’s Yankee Stadium to win the heavy-weight title.
In **1963**, President John F. Kennedy visited West Berlin, where he delivered his famous speech expressing solidarity with the city’s residents, declaring: “Ich bin ein Berliner” (I am a Berliner).
In **1973**, former White House counsel John W. Dean told the Senate Watergate Committee about an “enemies list” kept by the Nixon White House.
In **1988**, three people were killed when a new Airbus A320 jetliner carrying more than 130 people crashed into a forest during a demonstration at an air show in Mulhouse, France.
In **1996**, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the Virginia Military Institute to admit women, or forgo state support.

TEN YEARS AGO:
President George W. Bush said it was “disgraceful” that the news media had disclosed a secret CIA-Treasury program to track millions of financial records in search of terrorist suspects.

FIVE YEARS AGO:
New York City’s gay pride parade turned into a carnival-like celebration of same-sex marriage as hundreds of thousands of revelers rejoiced at the state’s new law giving gay couples the same marital rights as everyone else.

ONE YEAR AGO:
Former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, 85, died in Moscow.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS:
Jazz musician-film composer Dave Grusin is 82. Actor Josef Sommer is 82. Singer Billy Davis Jr. is 78. Rock singer Georgie Fame is 73. Actor Clive Francis is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brenda Holloway is 70. Actor Michael Paul Chan is 66. Actor Robert Davi is 65. Singer-musician Mick Jones is 61. Rock singer Chris Isaak is 60. Rock singer Patty Smyth is 59. Singer Terri Nunn (Berlin) is 57. U.S. Bicycling Hall of Famer Greg LeMond is 55. Rock singer Harriet Wheeler (The Sundays) is 53. Country musician Eddie Perez (The Mavericks) is 48. Rock musician Colin Greenwood (Radiohead) is 47. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson is 46. Actor Sean Hayes is 46. Actor Matt Letscher is 46. Actor Chris O'Donnell is 46. Actor Nick Offerman is 46. Actress Rebecca Budig is 43. MLB All-Star Derek Jeter is 42. Contemporary Christian musician Jeff Frankenstein (Newsboys) is 42. Country singer Gretchen Wilson is 42. Rock musician Nathan Followill (Kings of Leon) is 37. Pop-rock singer-musician Ryan Tedder (OneRepublic) is 37. Actor-musician Jason Schwartzman is 36. Actress Aubrey Plaza is 32. Actress-singer Jennette McCurdy is 24. Actress-singer Ariana Grande is 23.

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SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF
CHRISTIAN MUSICIAN DALLAS HOLM is pictured by some of his album covers at his office in Garden Valley on May 18. Holm, who lives in Lindale, ministered with David Wilkerson.



MINISTRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5A

to these larger ones have started ministries.

CURRENT LANDSCAPE
Today, Mercy Ships, Youth With A Mission and Living Alternatives operate on the land occupied by the original ministries in Garden Valley. Of the three active ministries, only one, Living Alternatives, focuses its work on only local missions. Mercy Ships, which began as a YWAM ministry, but is now separate, is a nonprofit that uses hospital ships to provide life-saving and life-changing surgeries to people in places where medical care is almost nonexistent.

Although the ministry serves people on the other side of the world, primarily in Africa, much of the behind-the-scenes coordination and preparation happens here in Garden Valley at the ministry’s International Operations Center. With more than 400 acres, the campus, which once housed the Agape Force ministry, is about half farmland and forest and half office space. About 160 people work at the headquarters in Garden Valley, overseeing departments such as programs, human resources, marine operations, warehousing and logistics.

It is here every person from around the world who wants to serve on the ship for more than nine months must come to train. They spend several weeks learning about Mercy Ships as an organization, its culture and the country they will be going to work and serve as well as how to live on a ship. Since its inception in 1978, Mercy Ships has provided more than \$1.2 billion worth of medical procedures, medical equipment, hospital and clinic construction, renovations and gift-in-kind donations to more than 2.5 million people. Down the road from Mercy Ships, people come from all over the world to attend Youth With A Mission Tyler’s Discipleship Training Schools, Schools of Evangelism and other specialized

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SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF
THE FATHERHEART MATERNITY home at Living Alternatives, a ministry for single, pregnant mothers, is pictured in Garden Valley on May 18. The facility is on property that once belonged to Keith and Melody Green’s Last Days Ministries. Living Alternatives Founder and Executive Director Bev Kline said the nonprofit bought the property from Last Days in 1993 and opened the maternity home in 1994.



SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF
THE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN Fellowship Church in Garden Valley is pictured May 18. The church congregation is largely made up of current and former staff members of neighboring Christian ministries in the Garden Valley community.



SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF
BUILDINGS AT MERCY SHIPS in Garden Valley are pictured May 18. Mercy Ships provides international health care through hospital ships. Mercy Ships, which began as a YWAM ministry, but is now separate, is a nonprofit that uses hospital ships to provide life-saving and life-changing surgeries to people in places where medical care is almost nonexistent.

MINISTRY

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training programs.

The programs are designed to help students learn more about God and how to share his love with people. Many people who complete these programs go on to serve at YWAM ministries around the world or start their own ministry.

Paris, the YWAM Tyler founder/director, said YWAM bought the Twin Oaks Ranch from Wilkerson in 1980 for a price well below its value.

Wilkerson told Paris at the time that God had told him the land was no longer his, but should go to YWAM. Paris prayed about it and agreed to the purchase.

"It's been such a blessing because we've trained thousands of young people through here," he said, adding that more than 200 ministries worldwide have been started by people trained at YWAM Tyler.

"We're a discipling center that pioneers, so I think that pioneering all these ministries out from here is a natural for us," Paris said.

Finally, Living Alternatives, a nonprofit ministry operated by YWAM missionaries, has its Fatherheart maternity home on property that once belonged to Keith and Melody Green's Last Days Ministries.

Living Alternatives Founder and Executive Director Bev Kline said the nonprofit bought the property from Last Days in 1993 and opened the maternity home in 1994.

The home provides emotional and spiritual support, educational opportunities, medical care and counseling to young mothers. The home is just one part of the multi-faceted Living Alternatives ministry.

MINISTRY LIVES ON

The current ministries are an extension of the original movement that arrived in East Texas in the 1970s, representative of the spiritual

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SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF

BUILDINGS AT MERCY SHIPS in Garden Valley are pictured May 18. Mercy Ships provides international health care through hospital ships. Although the ministry serves people on the other side of the world, primarily in Africa, much of the behind-the-scenes coordination and preparation happens here in Garden Valley at the ministry's International Operations Center.



SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF

THE GUARD HOUSE at the entrance to Teen Mania in the Garden Valley community is seen abandoned May 18.



SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF

A ROAD SIGN marks the boundary of the Garden Valley community May 18. For more than 40 years, on both sides of Texas Highway 110 north of Interstate 20, hundreds of acres have served as the headquarters for nationally and internationally known Christian ministries.

50

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BILLS

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the Texas Attorney General's Office into possible violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act resulted in Baker's indictment on three counts of violating the TOMA, a misdemeanor that qualifies as official misconduct, if convicted. Baker would be removed from office if found guilty.

The Attorney General's Office investigation was initiated after an official complaint by Grassroots America — We The People.

There's also an investigation by the FBI, but its stage is unclear.

The county District Attorney's Office recused itself from any legal work stemming from the matters due to a conflict of interest, because one of the office's employees, Assistant District Attorney Phillip Smith, advises the Commissioners Court.

Warr said the money spent so far is for legal advice, not Baker's legal defense.

"We've spent money getting some legal opinions on what we should do," he said. "That's normal. There's a big misimpression out there that we're spending money defending people. We're not."

THREE LAW FIRMS

In total, three law firms have been retained since May 2015 for matters relating to the investigations and the contract.

The attorneys include Ron Stutes at the Potter Minton Law Firm, Robert Davis at the Flowers Davis law firm and Shannon Dacus with the Dacus Law Firm.

The bills come to more than \$46,000 for services rendered from the three firms.

Stutes was brought in the earliest, in May 2015, and he billed \$22,254.70, according to invoices received through a public information request. His last bill was submitted in February 2016.

According to the bills, Stutes handled legal questions about the ATS contract after it was signed. He also drafted a motion to quash a grand jury subpoena from the Attorney General's Office for commissioners' executive session tapes.

Those tapes eventually were turned over to the AG investigator by a judge's order.

Legal research was billed for appealing the decision to a higher court, but Ms. Dacus has said the commissioners decided against that, opting instead to turn the tape over.

Dacus and the Flowers Davis Law Firm were brought on in November 2015.

Robert Davis, with the firm, has said he was brought in as an open meetings expert. In total, he billed \$12,540.58 to the county, according to information received from the information request.

His work spanned November 2015 to December 2015. He billed for attending Commissioners Court meetings and for legal research relating to open meetings, including reviewing case law and attorney general opinions.

In December, Davis billed the county \$234 for spending 1.2 hours reviewing "articles from several hate websites attacking the Smith County Commissioners Court and tracked their affiliations back to JoAnn Fleming's (executive director of Grassroots America) network of radicalism," according to his invoice.

Ms. Dacus said her firm was retained to represent the county in any possible civil litigation resulting from the ATS deal. Her case name is billed as "matter regarding Attorney General Complaint."

She billed \$11,719.50 for work done from November 2015 to April 2016.

Of the firms involved, Ms. Dacus billed for the widest array of actions.

Her firm's work included conferences with other experts, reviewing media reports, reviewing public information requests, discussion with the county's IT department and other county employees about information requests.

The firm also reviewed documents and email exchanges related to the attorney general subpoena.

MINISTRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7A

fruit that continues to grow from that time.

Other pieces of the past and the messages those leaders brought to East Texas can be found close to home. Three of the spiritual leaders are buried locally, the words on their tombstones speaking in death the messages of their ministries.

Wilkerson, who died in a car crash in 2011, is buried at the Lindale City Cemetery. His headstone reads, "A man who simply followed after the Lord's heart."

The headstone in Garden Valley Cemetery for Green and two of his children — all of whom died in a plane crash in 1982 — reads "Gone to be with Jesus" and includes the Bible verse John 12:24, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the Earth and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit."

And evangelist Leonard Ravenhill's headstone, located mere feet from Green's in the Garden Valley Cemetery, reads, "Are the things you are living for worth Christ dying for?"

CLYDE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

posted on Caring Bridge that Kendall has "reminded us of what is really important in this very short life."

Life is too short, life is not fair and there is sometimes no good explanation for why disasters plague good people.

I pray the Spinks family has comfort during this time and hope everyone connected to Kendall is brought closer.



SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF

THE GRAVESITE of David Wilkerson is seen inside the Lindale City Cemetery May 18. David Wilkerson is best known for his years of ministry to drug addicts and gang members on the streets of New York City.



LEFT, THE GRAVESITE OF KEITH GREEN is pictured May 18 at the Garden Valley Cemetery. Green was a Christian musician. He died in a plane crash with two of his children. Right, the gravesite of Leonard Ravenhill is pictured May 18 at the Garden Valley Cemetery. Ravenhill was a Christian evangelist and author of books and sermons.



SARAH A. MILLER/STAFF

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