

HILL COUNTRY NEWS

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Long-time Leander Council members Czernek, Pantalion-Parker not running for reelection

Newcomer member McDonald running for reelection to Place 3

BY JOSH MONIZ
SENIOR REPORTER

Long-time Leander City Council members Kathryn Pantalion-Parker and Chris Czernek have announced they won't seek reelection to their seats this year.

Both council members have served on the council for the last six years during some of the most turbulent times in the city's history.

Pantalion-Parker, in a social media post about her decision, spoke about how she had to make the decision "with a heavy heart."

"As many of you know, serving on City Council can require a significant investment of time and attention. In recent years, and especially the last 6 months, there have been significant changes in regard to my husband's

health. While my commitment to do the right thing for this city and its future has never wavered, it has become clear that, in the face of ongoing health challenges, my time must shift. While I do my best to follow God, Family, Work (and) Community as a principle, my responsibility to my husband is taking more time — particularly as I step into the role of caregiver," Pantalion-Parker said.



KATHRYN PANTALION-PARKER



CHRIS CZERNEK

See LEANDER, page A8



EVAN L'ROY/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Officers test classroom doors and patrol an elementary school in Uvalde on the first day of classes in September 2022. How to pay the cost of armed guards at schools is on the agenda for Texas lawmakers.

Legislature considers paying much more for school safety

Texas law requires an armed officer at each school. Districts are asking lawmakers to pay the full yearly cost, which they say is \$100 per student.

BY PAVAN ACHARYA
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Since Texas passed a law in 2023 requiring public school districts to have an armed officer at each campus, districts have repeatedly asked the state for more money to fulfill the requirement.

In this year's legislative session, lawmakers have pledged to increase school safety funding. The 2023 law, House Bill 3, increased that annual safety allotment to \$10 per student and \$15,000 per school in a district.

The question legislators face this session: will they come close to increasing that allotment to the \$100 per student that districts say is necessary to finally fill the funding gap?

HB 3 passed in response to the 2022 shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde that left 19 children and two teachers dead.

But since its passage, more than half of Texas school districts do not meet the one armed officer per school requirement, according to a January Senate Education Committee report.

Many school district officials call HB 3 an unfunded mandate, saying the increases to the existing school safety allotment it created pay only a small part of the cost of adding full-time personnel to all schools.

A possible increase is part of the conversation this session. In his State of the State address this month, Gov. Greg Abbott asked the Legislature to invest an additional \$500 million for school safety. Both the House and Senate's proposed budgets for 2026 and 2027 would increase school safety funding by \$400 million over the next two years.

Still, school leaders say the amount proposed may not be enough. On top of that, a law enforcement shortage nationwide and in Texas makes it more difficult to staff armed officers at all schools.

"We would spend every penny we have protecting these kids, these staff and this community if we could," said Zack Kleypas, superintendent of Thorndale Independent School District. "If you know we need it: Please fund it."

See SAFETY, page A2

Firefly Aerospace awarded \$8.2 million Texas Space Commission grant to expand facility

Funding to boost workforce development, STEM outreach and internship opportunities in Central Texas

STAFF REPORTS

Cedar Park-based Firefly Aerospace announced that it has been awarded an \$8.2 million grant from the Texas Space Commission to expand its spacecraft manufacturing capabilities in Central Texas.

The funding, approved during a public meeting of the TSC board of directors, will support critical infrastructure improvements, workforce training and STEM outreach programs.

"With the support of the Texas Space Commission, Firefly is expanding our spacecraft production capa-

bilities, creating more high-skilled jobs, and strengthening our collaboration with universities to equip the next generation of aerospace innovators," said Jason Kim, CEO of Firefly Aerospace. "We're proud to continue growing here in Texas, helping to shape the future of space exploration while fostering the next generation of industry leaders."

The grant comes from the Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF), which supports the development of emerging spaceflight technologies, workforce training, and infrastructure crucial to Texas' growing aerospace sector.

Firefly's funding will advance its spacecraft manufacturing capabilities and support its growing production of Blue Ghost lunar landers and Elytra orbital vehicles that provide full mission services from low Earth orbit to the Moon and beyond. Key investments from the funding will include the following:

See FIREFLY, page A4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Firefly Aerospace said it will expand its Cedar Park headquarters facility and hire additional employees related to a new grant from the Texas Space Commission.

Grandview Hills PTA challenges YMCA exclusivity agreement with LISD



LEANDER ISD

Grandview Elementary's PTA is challenging Leander ISD's exclusive agreement with the YMCA of Central Texas for district-wide after-school care programs, citing concerns about transparency as well as the existing agreement's impact on PTA-led after-school programs.

BY JOHN D. BOYLE
SPECIAL TO THE HILL COUNTRY NEWS

A recent controversy surrounding an exclusive agreement between Leander Independent School District and YMCA of Central Texas has sparked debate about transparency and its impact on parent-teacher association led after-school programs.

According to Carly Murray, PTA president at Grandview Hills Elementary, her school's PTA has long organized enrichment programs such as chess clubs, cooking classes, and gardening activities. These programs, coordinated with third-party vendors and volunteers, offer students unique opportunities to explore interests beyond the classroom. However,

"We received an email stating that clubs not run by the YMCA were not permitted. This was the first time we'd ever heard of such a rule. When we asked to see the request for proposal and bidding process, actual policy or contract, but we were stonewalled."

CARLY MURRAY, PTA President at Grandview Hills Elementary School

er, in October 2024, PTA operations were abruptly halted after district officials invoked a previously undisclosed exclusivity agreement with the YMCA.

"We received an email stating that clubs not run by the YMCA were not permitted," Murray explained. "This was the first time we'd ever heard of such a

rule. When we asked to see the request for proposal and bidding process, actual policy or contract, but we were stonewalled."

The contract, reportedly signed in 2022, grants the YMCA rights to run

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Travis County approves \$1.9M for Austin Habitat for Humanity

Funds will be used to build 48 affordable homes as part of the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project

million in funding for the Austin Habitat for Humanity that will be used to develop 48 affordable homes for homeownership in the Whisper Valley.

The county said that the investment will provide low-income families with a place to live and an opportunity to build wealth to break the cycle of in-generational poverty.

"This partnership with the Austin Habitat for Humanity will result in life changing investments for families in the historically underserved Eastern Crescent," said Jeff Travillion, Travis County Commissioner, Pct

1. "Every family should have the opportunity to purchase an affordable home that can be passed on to the next generation. With this investment, may we honor the legacy of President Carter by continuing to serve, build and uplift our communities."

The single-family homes will be three and four bedrooms and will be sold at an affordable cost to families earning up to 80% of the annual median income for the area. All the homes built by Habitat for Humanity will include a 99-year affordability covenant, ensuring these homes will stay affordable

over the long-term.

"This investment serves as yet another example of Travis County's commitment to spark development across the affordable housing spectrum, from housing for the homeless to homeownership," said Ann Howard, Travis County Commissioner, Pct 3. "The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project is the lasting legacy of a loving couple whose mission was to serve the underprivileged. I am proud that the Commissioners Court has a vested interest in continuing this mission."

WilCo Organized Crime Unit seizes meth, fentanyl

STAFF REPORTS

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office Organized Crime Unit responded to an overdose incident and ended up seizing fentanyl and methamphetamine at the scene.

The department said that on Feb. 4 at approximately 2 a.m., the Organized Crime Unit was notified by patrol deputies of an overdose incident at a residence in the 16400 block of FM 1325 in Austin.

Deputies on the scene administered Narcan to a 46-year-old female before she was transported to a local hospital for further medical care.

Following the incident, OCU obtained a search warrant for the residence, leading to the discovery and seizure of fentanyl and methamphetamine.

"Fentanyl remains the leading cause of death for individuals aged 18 to 45 across the nation, and we remain committed to eliminating these dangerous drugs from our communities," the sheriff's office said in a statement. "We urge families and friends who know someone struggling with addiction to seek help. Resources are available for those battling substance use disorders, and intervention can save lives."

SAFETY

from page A1

THE ORIGINS OF HB 3

Signed into law in June 2023, HB 3 increased how much districts receive for school safety each year to \$10.00 per student from \$9.72 per student, with an additional \$15,000 for each campus in a school district. HB 3 also provided the Texas Education Agency a one-time figure of \$1.1 billion to distribute to school districts for safety upgrades.

Under HB 3, an average-sized Texas elementary school — which has about 600 students — would receive about \$21,000 per year from the school safety allotment. That figure comes well short of the at least \$60,000 to \$70,000 school officials say is necessary to pay an armed guard each year.

New funding for the armed guard requirement was in addition to several other new measures, like one mandating that certain school personnel must undergo a "mental health first-aid training program." The law also gave the state more power to require active-shooter plans.

Though it received bipartisan support, HB 3 was not universally praised. Before and after the bill was signed into law, school district officials said the state wasn't providing enough money for the new mandates.

During debate in early 2023, some lawmakers said that requiring an armed guard at each school could endanger students instead of making them more safe. A 2021 study by researchers at The Violence Project suggested that adding armed guards in schools doesn't reduce gun-related injuries.

Efforts that session to tighten Texas' gun laws were also a non-starter, with Uvalde parents left disappointed after a bill died that would have raised the minimum age for Texans purchasing semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21.

With no school safety funding increases since HB 3 passed, many school districts have taken "good cause exceptions" from the armed guard requirement. Districts can take an exception if, for example, they have school marshals that act as security guards or safety-trained employees who carry handguns on school grounds.

The Thorndale leader, Kleypas, said his district, which serves about 600 students in a rural area 45 miles northeast of Austin, would hire armed guards for each of its three schools if they had much more than the \$50,000 or so they receive from the school safety allotment each year.

Instead, the district for the past five years has taken part in the Texas School Guardian Program, in which about 10 safety-trained school employees from the three campuses have access to district-owned firearms. Kleypas said he would rather have paid full-time armed guards at each of Thorndale ISD's three schools instead of putting an additional responsibility on employees who have other primary focuses.

HOW MUCH NEW FUNDING

With some money in the proposed budgets for 2026 and 2027, the door is open this session for school safety funding increases. Lawmakers from both parties have introduced legislation to increase the spending. The question remains:

How much?

A bill with sponsors from both parties proposed by Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, would double the school safety allotment. Districts would receive \$20 per student and \$30,000 per campus each year for safety. Huffman, the Senate Finance Committee chair, is also the sponsor of the Senate's proposed budget for the next two years, which incorporates the proposed safety spending.

In late 2023, she proposed an \$800 million increase to safety funding that passed the Senate but didn't get a vote in the opposite chamber. A similar \$1.3 billion House bill met the same fate. In the final special session that year, the state legislature was unable to pass school vouchers legislation, and other priorities like safety funding increases also fell short.

"This session, I have prioritized making increasing school safety funding a separate issue from education policy issues," Huffman said in an emailed statement to The Texas Tribune. "I am confident that increasing school safety funding will be supported in both houses of the legislature."

Huffman said she's trying to move the legislation through the Senate "as quickly as possible." Sen. José Menéndez, D-San Antonio, who proposed increasing school safety funding to \$100 per student before HB 3 passed in 2023 said he thinks there's "an appetite to increase" the allotment this legislative session.

Other legislation introduced this session would increase school safety funding by even more than Huffman's bill. A proposal from Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, would give districts \$100 per student and \$60,000 per campus under the school safety allotment. West said the bill is a "marker, so to speak, to be a part of the discussion."

The \$100 per student figure, he said, is more in line with the needs of districts than the current \$10 figure. Some district leaders are in agreement.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES SOUGHT

For her district to be able to fully fund armed officer requirements mandated by HB 3, Tomball Independent School District Superintendent Martha Salazar-Zamora said the school safety allotment would need to be about \$100 per student and \$30,000 per campus. Tomball ISD is in full compliance with HB 3, she said, and has at least one armed officer at each of the district's 22 schools. But her district has to pay about \$2.1 million from its own funds to cover the cost.

Proposals to double the allotment are an "incredible starting point," she said, but still well short of what her district needs. Tomball ISD currently receives about half-a-million dollars from the allotment each year.

For the past two school years, Tomball ISD has taken on deficit budgets. The mandates from HB 3 are partly to blame, Salazar-Samora said.

In late 2023, Texas school districts warned they would have to take on deficit budgets to comply with HB 3 and keep up with growing costs. That wound up being the case, with many of the largest ISDs in the state facing deficits for 2024-25.

"It's not because we're not managing the dollars properly," said Salazar-Zamora, who is also president of the Texas Association of School Administrators. "It is because of increased unfunded mandates."

Northside Independent School District, the fourth-largest district in the state, has enough funds allocated to have one armed guard on each campus, superintendent John Craft said. But the district largely uses its general funds to do so, a common thread in Texas.

To be in compliance with HB 3, Craft said his district was spending more than \$10 million. Though the nearly \$3 million the district gets from the school safety allotment each year is helpful, he said, it still leaves a large gap. Even doubling the allotment wouldn't be enough to cover expenses. If just the per student allotment was increased to \$100, then the funding gap would be filled, Craft said.

But even though Northside ISD can pay for an armed person at each school, it has bumped into another challenge. There are about 36 officer vacancies at the 132 campuses in the district, Craft said. Though the district has its own police department, he added local law enforcement shortages and competition with the San Antonio Police Department have made it difficult to keep all schools in the district staffed.

It's not just a Northside ISD problem.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SHORTAGES

Law enforcement gaps have made it more difficult for school districts to find people to hire, including those — like Hays Consolidated Independent School District and Northside ISD — that have allocated enough money.

"It sent a lot of districts searching to hire the same kind of personnel at once," said Amanda Brownson, deputy executive director of the Texas Association of School Business Officials, said of HB 3. "In some cases, those folks aren't out there to hire."

In recent years, law enforcement officials have reported hiring shortages both in Texas and nationwide. Though hiring increased in 2023, local law enforcement agencies — and some large cities — have had staffing shortages. In early 2024, the Austin Police Association said it was at a "breaking point" and was struggling to fill hundreds of open positions.

At Hays CISD, located about 20 miles south of Austin, superintendent Eric Wright said though his district is able to pay for armed persons in all 26 of its schools through general funds, only a little over half — 16 — have full-time officers assigned because of local law enforcement shortages.

Jeri Skrocki, head of safety and security at Hays CISD, said the state Legislature should make contact with local law enforcement agencies to better understand their recruiting struggles.

"Although I know that there was the best of intent when you talk about having an officer in every school," Skrocki said, "the reality is local law enforcement across the entire state and, quite frankly, the country are suffering at being able to recruit qualified applicants into this job."

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		8	6	1		3		
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Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

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6	3	8	1	9	4	5	2	7
9	7	2	5	3	6	4	8	1
5	1	4	2	7	8	6	3	9
1	8	9	7	2	3	6	4	5
3	5	7	6	4	1	2	9	8
2	4	4	2	6	8	3	7	1
4	9	5	8	6	2	1	7	3
7	9	3	4	6	6	1	8	5
8	2	1	2	5	3	7	9	6

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Texas Republicans want more property tax cuts. Here's how they may do it.

Gov. Greg Abbott said cutting taxes is a top priority, however, state lawmakers don't have as much money to plug into tax cuts as they did two years ago.

BY JOSHUA FECHTER
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

DALLAS — Texas' top officials have pledged to cut property taxes for homeowners and businesses this year, building on a mammoth package of tax cuts lawmakers passed two years ago.

Signaling his urgency around the matter, Gov. Greg Abbott on Sunday declared property tax cuts an "emergency item" for the Texas Legislature — a label that enables lawmakers to fast-track legislation. He called on state legislators to put \$10 billion toward cutting property taxes.

"Texans are facing an affordability crisis," Abbott said in a video published Sunday. "That's especially true as it concerns the affordability of owning a home or renting a home. And one reason for that crisis is because of skyrocketing property taxes."

Texans pay among the highest property taxes in the country — in part because the state doesn't have an income tax and relies heavily on property taxes to pay for public schools and other public services.

Texas Republicans have been on a crusade the past six years to rein in property taxes. That push reached a high-water mark in 2023 when lawmakers adopted a massive \$18 billion tax-cut package, including substantial breaks for homeowners.

"There's an appetite for more. Half of Texans surveyed in January by the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston want lawmakers to use the state's \$24 billion budget surplus to send more tax relief to homeowners."

"Property taxes people pay is a concrete issue that affects every homeowner's life directly," said Mark Jones, a political scientist at the University of Houston. "Even if the relief isn't huge, it's relief — especially if it's reducing



Texas' Republican leadership says they want to cut property taxes. A smaller budget surplus will make that more challenging.

what might have otherwise been." State lawmakers don't have as much money to plug into tax cuts as they did two years ago.

Texas still boasts a budget surplus, but it's not as large as the \$33 billion the state had heading into the 2023 legislative session. Lawmakers have set aside \$6 billion in the state's upcoming two-year budget to put toward new tax cuts. Of that, \$3 billion is already spoken for — leaving \$3.5 billion for lawmakers to toy with. Given Abbott's decree to spend \$10 billion, lawmakers will likely be under pressure to find more money to pay for cuts.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who leads the Texas Senate, has made his opening bid for what should be done with that \$3.5 billion: a boost in the state's main tax break for homeowners and targeted tax cuts for businesses. House lawmakers under new Speaker Dustin Burrows haven't yet unveiled their banner tax-cut proposal, which is in the works.

Lawmakers have sunk tens of billions of dollars — and a lot of political capital — into curtailing the state's high property taxes. Of the state's upcoming \$333 billion budget, legislators expect to spend upwards of \$51 billion to maintain existing tax cuts, including to property taxes, and enact new ones over the next two years. For roughly every six to seven dollars the state plans to spend in the next two years,

one dollar will pay for tax cuts.

Texas doesn't collect property taxes; school districts and local governments do. Texas lawmakers in recent years have sent billions of state dollars to school districts, which make up the bulk of a given property owner's tax bill, to replace funds that otherwise would have been collected via property taxes — compelling districts to lower their tax rates.

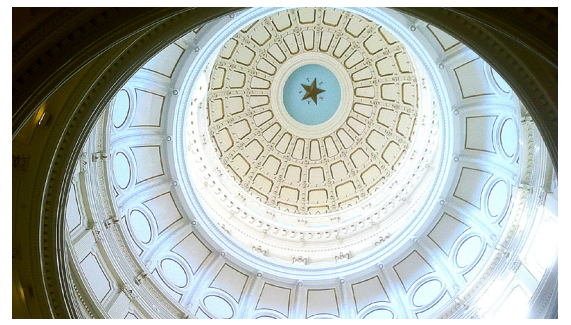
That price tag speaks to how difficult and expensive it is to cut property taxes, said state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, a Houston-area Republican who is Patrick's chief lieutenant on the property tax issue.

That amount "basically says that we just need to continue to make progress," Bettencourt said. "But it's not like there's some giant panacea out there that if we just, oh, spent one more billion dollars, everything's going to go away."

For others, putting so much money toward cutting property taxes is a shaky proposition. Texas has seen massive budget surpluses amid strong economic growth in recent years — which lawmakers have used to fund tax cuts. That money won't always be there, said Shannon Halbrook, a fiscal policy expert at the left-leaning Every Texan.

"There's going to be an economic

See TAXES, page A4



CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Abbott unveils new border strategy

Gov. Greg Abbott said last Thursday the state is initiating a billboard campaign across Central America and border cities in northern Mexico to discourage migrants from attempting to enter Texas, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The billboards are in multiple languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Russian. They tell stories of migrants being sexually assaulted while trying to enter the United States.

"This is tough medicine," Abbott said. "But we want no more rape trees in Texas. Do not make the dangerous trek to Texas." He was referring to the ashes of a tree where migrant women were sexually assaulted by human traffickers and left to die, according to the Statesman.

Abbott is seeking another \$3 billion in the next legislative session for Operation Lone Star. Since launching in March 2021, the state has spent \$11 billion to deter migrants and fortify the border.

Regulators: More than 250 new cases of groundwater contamination

Nearly every county in Texas has at least one case of groundwater contamination, according to an annual report outlined in The Texas Tribune. The latest report compiles 2,870 open cases of groundwater contamination, some of which go back decades, according to the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee.

During 2023, 252 new cases were reported that could affect public drinking water. In addition, 289 property owners were notified that such contamination could affect their private wells.

The state relies on groundwater from aquifers for roughly 55% of its water supply. Voters in 2023 approved a \$1 billion fund to develop more water resources, including desalination of brackish groundwater.

Groundwater contamination falls under the purview of either the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or the Railroad Commission, depending on its source, with the former handling 80% of the cases.

The single most common source of groundwater pollution in Texas is gas stations, which make up a third of all cases. A map of groundwater contamination cases can be found on the TCEQ site by going here: <https://tinyurl.com/375xrerk>.

New space institute is up and running

The Texas A&M Space Institute, to be located next door to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, recently broke ground on a 400,000-square-foot facility. The \$200 million facility is funded by 2023 legislation creating the Texas Space Commission with the purpose of keeping Texas at the forefront of the space program, the Texas Standard reported.

Institute Director Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg, a former astronaut and an engineering professor, noted the U.S. and Texas face competition from many other nations with their own space programs. Among the projects to be tackled at the new institute will be rover and spacesuit development, and possibly developing concepts for a space hospital.

"It's really meant for collaboration between academics, industry and government to achieve government goals or to achieve, just quite frankly, commercial space goals," she told the Standard. "But it's all about collaboration."

Currie-Gregg added the long-term goal is traveling to Mars, but first "we really need to return to the lunar surface."

Investigation: Big truck oversight has waned

An investigation by the Austin American-Statesman indicates commercial vehicles are being stopped for safety inspections far less than they used to be, even as commercial traffic has increased. The Statesman found that random roadside safety inspections dropped 20% statewide over the past decade.

The reasons include staffing at state and local law enforcement agencies failing to keep pace with the state's growth and thousands of Department of Public Safety troopers being sent to the border for Operation Lone Star and other immigration-related issues.

DPS spokeswoman Sheridan Nolen acknowledged that the border assignments have hamstrung commercial vehicles oversight operations. The agency plans to ask the Legislature for more money in the next session.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles reported the number of commercial vehicles operating solely within state lines rose to 459,000 last year from 340,000 in 2013.

At least one Republican elected official is critical of the decrease in safety inspections.

"With the safety concerns that we have, I think that pulling officers off for Operation Lone Star or any other gimmick is just bad governance," Ector County Judge Dustin Fawcett, from Odessa, said.

School districts asked to refund \$16 million to feds

Federal officials are asking Texas schools to return \$16 million they say was billed incorrectly to Medicaid, The Tribune reported.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sent an email recently to 572 school districts in the state asking them to return anywhere from \$100 to \$800,000 for services billed in 2011. A 2017 audit found Texas schools had improperly billed the agency 238 times.

The state has already paid the \$16 million and now is required by law to recoup its costs from the districts, many of which are struggling financially.

"Because this comes in the middle of a budget year, it makes planning for schools virtually impossible," said Brian Woods, director of advocacy at the Texas Association of School Administrators. "Had this clawback been known prior to schools approving their budgets in the summer of 2024, then at least it could have been planned for, right?"

More than 40 schools owe more than \$100,000 while more than half owe less than \$10,000.

Gary Borders, a veteran award-winning Texas journalist, compiled this report. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and, once upon a time, the Hill Country News in Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

State sales tax revenue totaled \$4.3 billion in January

STAFF REPORTS

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office reported that state sales tax revenue totaled \$4.3 billion in January, 6.8% more than in January 2024.

"State sales tax collections grew steadily compared with January 2024, coming in at above the rate of general price inflation, which remains slightly elevated," Hegar said. "This followed only meager growth in the previous month — average growth for the last three months outpaces inflation by a slim margin."

Despite an overall gain, several key categories continued a declining trend.

Natural gas production tax, reported at \$174 million, was down 8% from last January, while oil production tax was down 6% to \$471 million and motor vehicle sales and rental taxes were down 5% to \$589 million.

Motor fuel taxes, reported at \$313 million, were up 2% from January 2024. "There were gains in receipts from

most sectors, most notably from the services, information and retail trade sectors, with retail trade results improving as holiday spending shifted into December following a Thanksgiving shopping season that was somewhat muted and fell late in the month.

Hotel occupancy tax was up 90% to \$47 million, with Hegar noting that last January's reported number was unusually low because of a high transfer to the city of Dallas project finance zone.

"Services sector growth was principally due to increases from technology service and facilities management companies, while remittances for live entertainment events declined from a year ago, Hegar said. Sectors driven mainly by business spending were generally positive last month, with the construction sector up slightly while manufacturing and wholesale trade sectors had moderate growth. The lone exception among these sectors was the mining sector, which was down for the 10th consecutive month."

Alcoholic beverage taxes — \$155 million, were up 1% from January 2024.

"Retail trade, the largest sector, grew by more than 5 percent compared with a year ago. Within the retail trade sector, holiday-driven receipts from online shopping and general merchandise stores were strong, while receipts from home improvement and furniture stores were both down compared with the same month a year ago," Hegar said. Receipts from restaurants increased slightly from a year ago, coming in below the rate of inflation for food away from home for December."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in January 2025 was up 4.2% compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58% of all tax collections.

The majority of January sales tax revenue is based on sales made in December and remitted to the agency in January.



• WILLIAMSON COUNTY — WILCOX.GOV

The Williamson County Commissioners Court is the county's governing body. Commissioners meet beginning at 9:30 each Tuesday morning at the Williamson County Courthouse in downtown Georgetown. Agendas and packets are available, and the meetings are streamed live, on the county's website. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register.

• LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT — LEANDERISD.ORG

Leander ISD Board of Trustees meet the second and fourth Thursday each month at Cedar Park Middle School library located at 2100 Sun Chase

Boulevard at 6:15 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register. Agendas, board meeting packets and a live stream are on the district's website.

• LAGO VISTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT — LAGOVISTAISD.NET

Lago Vista ISD Board of Trustees meet at 6:15 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at 8039 Bar-K Ranch Road in Lago Vista. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register. You can find agendas and board meeting packets on the district's website.

• CITY OF CEDAR PARK — CEDARPARKTEXAS.GOV

Agendas and minutes for all boards and commissions are available, and many meetings

are streamed live, on the city's website.

• CEDAR PARK CITY COUNCIL

Meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month at City Council Chambers, 450 Cypress Creek Road, Building 4. Council agendas and packets are available on the city's website. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register.

• CITY OF LEANDER — LEANDERTX.GOV

Agendas and minutes for all boards and commissions are available, and City Council meetings are streamed live, on the city's website.

• LEANDER CITY COUNCIL

Meets at 6 p.m. the first and

third Thursday of each month in the City Council Chambers, Pat Bryson Municipal Hall, 201 N. Brushy Street. Council agendas and packets are available on the city's website. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register.

• CITY OF LAGO VISTA — LAGOVISTATEXAS.ORG

Agendas and minutes for all boards and commissions are available on the city's website.

• LAGO VISTA CITY COUNCIL

Meets 6:30 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 5803 Thunderbird Drive. Council agendas and packets are available on the city's website. Meetings are open to the public. If you wish to speak, arrive early and register.

Lago Vista one of 15 Texas cities to earn Scenic City certification

STAFF REPORTS

The City of Lago Vista was named one of 15 cities to earn the Scenic City Certification for the 2024-2029 period. The certification program is part of Scenic Texas, Inc., which provides a diagnostic program for a review of existing municipal infrastructure ordinances relating to public roadways and public spaces.

The evaluation compares each city's standards to the unique Scenic City model applied by the organization, and official certification can be earned by cities that score in the upper range and meet stringent scenic streetscape standards.

"Lago Vista is a vibrant community that takes a lot of pride in putting its best foot forward," said Mayor Kevin Sullivan. "All citizens, city staff, council members and partner organizations such as Keep Lago Vista Beautiful should take great pride in helping the city retain its Scenic City designation and this year surge to the highest level of recognition."

Lago Vista was awarded 345 points out of a possible 368 points on the evaluation, exceeding the 90% threshold needed to qualify for "Platinum" status.

"Scenic City Certification shines a light on Lago Vista's strong commitment to high-quality standards for public roadways and public spaces," said Anne Culver, executive vice president of Scenic Texas. "This recognition is intended to support cities that have a long-range vision, and



FILE PHOTO / SCOTT W. COLEMAN

The City of Lago Vista earned the highest level of Scenic City Certification for the 2024-2029 period, and also won the 2024 Scenic City People's Choice Award for the entire state of Texas.

we hope it incentivizes other cities to follow Lago Vista's example."

In all 28 other cities in Texas have earned the Platinum distinction.

Lago Vista also won the 2024 Scenic City People's Choice Award for the entire state of Texas, receiving more public votes than any other community in the state.

FIREFLY

from page A1

- An additional 5,600 sq. ft. of ISO-8 cleanroom space at Firefly's spacecraft facility in Cedar Park
- Added ground support and test equipment
- Spacecraft pressure proof test facility at Firefly's Rocket Ranch in Briggs, Texas
- Upgraded IT infrastructure for mission operations and labs

With its increased manufacturing capacity, Firefly plans to add 50 new jobs in engineering, quality assurance, manufacturing and spacecraft operations. Additionally, Firefly said it will expand its STEM outreach and internship programs, working closely with University of Texas System schools to provide students hands-on experience in spacecraft development.

The facility expansion is expected to be completed by Q4 2025, with all funding spent in Central Texas, primarily in Cedar Park and Briggs.

TAXES

from page A3

downturn, there always is," Halbrook said. "And then we're going to be stuck holding the bag on these tax cuts. More tax cuts are, I think, irresponsible in the long term."

RECENT TAX CUTS

Two years ago, state lawmakers passed \$12.7 billion in new tax cuts. That included a big boost in the state's main tax break for homeowners. The state also sent billions of dollars for school districts to drive down the amount of taxes they collect from property owners.

Those efforts appeared to translate into lower tax bills for homeowners in 2023, according to a Texas Tribune analysis of homeowners' tax bills.

Signs abound that tax bills are on the rebound. After falling by more than 10% in 2023, schools' property tax collections grew by more than 6% last year, according to estimates from the Texas Comptroller's office.

The typical Dallas County homeowner, for example, saw their tax bill fall by about 7% in 2023, according to a Tribune analysis of appraisal and tax rate data. But that bill grew by about 10% in 2024, adjusted for inflation. Local tax rates have fallen for several years, said John Ames, Dallas County tax assessor-collector. But growth in property values in 2024 ate into those gains.

"If you're in a zone where the properties are just selling like crazy and the values are going up year after year, it doesn't matter how much they lower the tax rate," Ames said. "Your taxes are going to go up."

WHAT'S ON THE TABLE THIS YEAR?

Lawmakers in the House and Senate expect to send an additional \$3 billion to school districts over the next two years so they can bring down their tax rates — a cost lawmakers committed to in previous sessions.

The price tag lawmakers are weighing for brand new property tax cuts is significantly less than it was two years ago — \$3.5 billion, compared with \$12.7 billion in 2023.

One reason for that: The tax cuts lawmakers enacted in 2023 cost about \$4.7 billion more than they anticipated, owing to a mathematical error by the Texas Education Agency.

For tax-cut proponents, that news is a mixed bag. On one hand, lawmakers cut taxes more than anticipated. On the other, the state now must pay for that amount going forward — and there's less wiggle room this legislative session to enact new cuts, about \$3.5 billion.

The Senate's main tax-cut proposal would use \$3 billion to expand the state's primary tax break for homeowners — its homestead exemption on school district taxes, which exempts a portion of a home's value from being taxed by public schools.

Senate lawmakers want to boost that exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000. The owner of a home valued at the median sales price last year — \$339,000 — would have saved about \$393 on their 2024 taxes had the additional homestead exemption been in effect, according to a Texas Tribune calculation.

Senate budget writers have also set aside \$500 million to pay for tax cuts for businesses.

House lawmakers haven't laid out their proposal for how to use the \$3.5 billion. Burrows, who previously chaired the chamber's tax-writing committee, said he is "working with House members to identify additional funding for property-tax relief within our base budget."

"As Speaker this session, it is now up to my colleagues in the House to hammer out the details of a tax-cut package and work with our counterparts in the Texas Senate to provide all Texans with meaningful property-tax relief," Burrows said in a statement.

What other ideas will gain traction remains to be seen.

Abbott on Sunday called on lawmakers to make it harder for local governments to raise their property tax rates — requiring cities and counties to get approval from a two-thirds majority of voters if they want to hike rates. City and county tax rates have fallen on average since 2019 — when state lawmakers passed legislation aimed at slowing growth in tax bills and driving down tax rates.

Some legislators have once more introduced proposals to limit how quickly property values can grow as a means to slow rising tax bills — a notion that tax-cut experts and proponents across the political spectrum is a bad idea. Lawmakers have long been drawn to the idea because homeowners and property owners routinely complain about rising appraisals, which they perceive as the root cause of their growing tax bills. Senators and House members have introduced bills to reduce the state's cap on annual increases to a home's taxable value from 10% to 5%.

"We think the goal should be to lower property taxes overall and appraisal caps don't do that," said Jennifer Rabb, who heads the business-backed Texas Taxpayers and Research Association. "They only shift one person's property tax over to another person."

Some conservative lawmakers have long dreamed of getting rid of property taxes altogether — and have once more filed long-shot bills to do just that. Eliminating property taxes would be prohibitively expensive. Texas would need to spend about \$81.5 billion a year to get rid of property taxes collected by school districts, cities and counties, the Legislative Budget Board told Senate lawmakers last year. Legislators would likely have to significantly hike the state sales tax — an idea that has proven politically toxic in the past, in part, because doing so would fall hard on lower-income families.

Unlikely to see direct tax relief are the state's 4.2 million renter households. Though tenants pay property taxes via a portion of their monthly rent, Texas doesn't provide direct tax relief to renters as some other states do. Tax-cut proponents have argued that landlords pass along benefits from property tax cuts to renters to stay competitive.



100 N Brushy St, Leander, TX 78641 • 512-259-1907 • www.leandercc.org

Ribbon Cuttings



Lash & Co • January 10, 2025



David Weekley Homes • January 15, 2025



Remedy Roofing • January 17, 2025



Agape Women's Center • January 23, 2025

Leander Chamber of Commerce
Community & Non-Profit EXPO

Presented by:
Cedar Park Regional Medical Center

Date/Time:
Friday, February 28th 2025
3:00-7:00pm
Location:
Premier Athletic Complex
8220 183A Toll Road

Win \$1000
Grant for your non-profit!

Join us for Leander's premier community fair!

- ✓ Showcasing cultural community events
- ✓ Engage with interactive exhibitions
- ✓ Learn about developments in our community
- ✓ Door prizes offered to attendees throughout

Partners: Cedar Park Regional Medical Center, ACDI, Workforce Solutions, H-E-B, Hyatt Leander, PAC

Congratulations
on your anniversary!

10 years- Mallach and Company Residential and Commercial Real Estate

10 years- Reveal Resource Center

Welcome
to our January New Members

St. Davids CareNow Urgent Care
SHINE HardCORE Pilates
Porch Light Productions
Texas Dumpster and Services
Seven Oaks Coffee
Cara Dentistry
JOL HEALTHCARE

Jessica Skupien LLC
MAGCCO LLC
Project Management Services
Arista San Gabriel
Book Drive for Kids Austin
Advanced Pain Care
Paint EZ of North Austin

Chamber Calendar

February 19
Mayor's Power Breakfast presented by Citizens National Bank
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Pat Bryson Municipal Hall, 201 N. Brushy St., Leander

February 21
Cara Dentistry Ribbon Cutting
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM
15201 Ronald Reagan Blvd., Ste. 206, Leander

February 25
Monthly Lunch & Learn: Lessons Learned from Small Businesses
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Facilities Resource, 1641 Scottsdale Dr., Cedar Park

February 26
LAWNS Tree Farm Ribbon Cutting
4:00 PM to 4:30 PM
400 Honeycomb Mesa, Leander

February 27
Verena at Leander Ribbon Cutting
4:30 PM to 5:00 PM
11350 Hero Way W., Leander

February 28
Living Leander Community & Nonprofit Expo
3:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Premier Athletic Complex, 8220 183A Toll Rd, Leander

March 1
Remedy Roofing Grand Opening
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
3600 W. Whitestone Blvd., Cedar Park

March 5
Bright Spot Pediatric Therapy Ribbon Cutting
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM
706 Leander Dr., Unit 503, Leander

International Women's Day
WOMEN OF WILCO
AWARDS RECOGNITION

Join the Chambers
in honoring the achievements, resilience, and contributions of women!

On **MARCH 6TH**
From **11:30 to 1 PM**
At **SHERATON**
Georgetown

Chamber Partners:
RR, Georgetown

McDONALD'S LISD HIGH SCHOOL ALL "A" HONOR ROLL - 3RD 6 WEEKS

Cedar Park High School Grade 9
 Colton Alderman
 Sulaiman Ali
 Dawson Anderson
 Parker Andres
 Serenity Aristhene
 Nethraa Ayyadurai
 Raya Bailey
 Baron Bauer
 Parker Bauerlein
 Tyler Beane
 Harper Bohnen
 Emmajan Boswell
 Ryan Bowermon
 Haylen Box
 Dane Branch
 Isa Cachila
 Noah Caldwell
 Cooper Camacho
 Andrew Campa
 Caleb Carey
 Ethan Carlson
 Maiya Casner
 Maurice Caycedo
 Meghana Chari
 Peter Chen
 Xibei Chen
 Vedh Chilukuri
 Joshika Chintamneedi
 Zafredo Chiti
 Dillon Conte
 Lane Cooper
 Grant Cummins
 Kellen Curmutt
 Zoey D'amico
 Rishin Dasmunshi
 Vanessa Davis
 Nolan Deangelis
 Macie Decker
 Emerson Derocher
 Sreenidhi Dhanikonda
 Isabelle D'Mello
 Averie Dominguez
 Reesha Dosapati
 Lila El-Hitamy
 Aubrey Elizondo
 Chloe Enberg
 Anjali Eswaramoorthi
 Robert Everett
 Maxence Famechon
 Sophia Farnsler
 Aubrie Filippoff
 Rafael Fisher
 Allie Garcia
 Jacob Gaudreau
 Brayden George
 Julian Gfeller
 Blake Gilkey
 Rishith Gogineni
 Taylor Gooden
 Joseph Gorordo
 Collin Green
 Anthony Greer
 Ilya Gutierrez
 Linnea Hagen
 Samuel Hamburg
 Amanda Hamsa
 Gyu-Bin Han
 Michael Harvey
 Troy Hobbs
 Rylan Hudson
 Adelyn Hughes
 Grant Hutchings
 Carl Isom
 Jesus Jaramillo-Gallegos
 Rithanya Jayakumar
 Sebastian Jimenez
 Johan Jin
 Tucker Johnson
 Doxun Jung
 Jaxon Kane
 Ava King
 Veronica Kingstong Beitia
 Mehmet Asim Kocaskan
 Madeleine Koltz
 Peyton Kondorffier
 Kayaana Kotharia
 Aiden Kovacic
 Eva Kramer
 Mia Krupp
 Blake Kuntz
 Morgan Lafeuillade
 Nolan Legrand
 Greta Lerche
 Desmond Lin
 Liam Malevsky
 Ashaiz Maredia
 Ayaan Maredia
 Asher Martindill
 Elizabeth Massey
 Jenna Massey
 Daniella Matheny
 Leilana Maul
 Liam McClure
 Blaise McFarland
 Mei-Li McGrath
 Serena Emma
 Meitang Ngatchou
 Cynthia Melendez
 Julyssa Melendez Teran
 John Mihealsick
 Andrew Miner
 Ethan Moracchi
 Andrew Murati
 Lauren Murphee
 Sanjana Namala
 Tess Neibel
 Ryker Neubauer
 Leen Nourachi
 Madison Ong
 Owen Orth
 Alexis Osuna
 Amisha Pandey
 Hannah Paulus
 William Petercitt
 Maxwell Peters
 Emily Pham
 Caleigh Pish
 Lillian Pope
 Sarah Poroj Hernandez
 Gwen Porter
 Cruz Poynter
 Mia Ramirez
 Sofia Ramos Rodriguez
 Madilyn Ramsey
 Daksh Rasquinha
 Ashmitha Ravala
 Anagha Reddy
 Landon Reed
 Kaitlyn Reynolds
 Evelyn Richards
 Jackson Rocha
 Seth Rodriguez
 Davin Ryan
 Sean Ryan
 Lucas Saene
 Tyler Schmidt
 Sheza Shameel
 Benjamin Shvartsman
 Stella Silva
 Harshaan Singh
 Avery Slaughter
 Brielle Smith
 Hannah Smith
 Ishan Sooryavaram
 Pranav Sriram
 Hudson Stavrou
 Olivia Stavrou
 Lucas Sterling
 Khyathi Syagonda
 Prisha Thakkar
 Tyler Thompson
 Connor Triolo
 Rocco Triolo
 Ian Tseng
 Mason Ulrich
 Amelia Vilalta
 Santiago
 Villena Bustillos
 Jordan Baudusso
 Taylor Walters
 Ryan Wang
 Nicholas Watson
 Emry Whittington
 Andrea Wijaya
 Ava Williams
 Dejanca Williams
 Emelyn Winans
 Ron Yaakovi
 Jocelyn Yonezawa
 Ayse Yumusak
 Haoban Zhang
 Boaz Zimmerman

Halli Cantu
 Anjali Carl
 Mihir Chandurkar
 Shao-Fu Chao
 Yu-Hong Chen
 Sindhu Chidambaram
 Lydia Chin
 Leah Cho
 Ridwan Chowdhury
 Natalie Christ
 Olivia Common
 David Cooper
 Rock Crockett
 Hudson Cuevas
 Gavin Culp
 Isla Davila
 Abigail Davis
 Calista Davis
 Aarsh Desai
 Denzel Elveyel
 Torben Endl
 Camille Engstrom
 Colin Ferguson
 Alexis Fisher
 Daniel Ford
 Caleb Forrister
 Carter Frith
 Alexander Gallimore
 David Garcia
 Makayla Garcia
 Joseph Gaudreau
 Grant Gauchier
 Anna Gertsema
 Norah Goett
 Grant Gonzales
 Brooklyn Gregerson
 Roel Guerra
 Victoria Harangus
 Vanessa Hart
 Audree Hearnberger
 William Hegedore
 Camila Hernandez
 Sara Hernandez
 Jacob Herrera
 Misha Herrera
 Hayden Hollander
 Mackenzie Huang
 Azzura Iotti
 Jacob Jackson
 Aryana Jahadi
 Maddox Jameson
 Jonah Johnson
 Byungho Kang
 Madelyne Kanlagna
 Jacob Kaplan
 Nitya Katapuraj
 Thomas Kemp
 Madden Kiev
 Yongtaek Kim
 Tristan Kirby
 Hudson Komendera
 Sarath Kondabolu
 Morgan Kondorffer
 Shay Kriesel
 Zoe Kunzel
 Kristin Kurk
 Brayden Lin
 Kyle Lind
 Christopher Lo
 Anika Luangaphay
 Romy Magruder
 Emma Main
 Kaylee Marsh
 Jayden Martin
 Hailey Martinez
 Lauren Maynard
 Addison Mayo
 Sadie Mayo
 Beckett McAbee
 Emma McDougal
 Aubrey McPhail
 Kendyl Meyer
 Elizabeth Miller
 Zvonimir Misura
 Kyla Mitchell
 Tia Mittra
 Mia Moore
 Katelyn Mossman
 Lincen Most
 Caoilinn Mullally
 Hyerin Na
 Anika Neroth
 Talan Neubauer
 Natalie Nguyen
 Michael Odonoghue
 Josue Oroxo-Itxabalán
 Lydia Ota
 Anton Paolo Pajarillo
 Ava Parente
 Juliette Payton
 Evan Pechal
 Caitlyn Peconga
 Keira Pinon
 Anna Poinar
 Jay Poynter
 Miyao Qu
 Ishaani Rai
 Evelyn Raines
 Audrey Ramirez
 Sidney Raney
 Margaret Renkenberger
 Gabriella Reynoso
 Kasandra Reynoso
 Eliza Roberts
 Emily Roman
 Brandon Rubel
 Jaxon Sallade
 Kai Schamper
 Isaac Scherer
 Samuel Scoville
 Isabella Sedillo
 Omotayo Segun
 Jayden Serebfiok
 Christian Sexton
 Sarina Shahid
 Wyatt Wilks
 Gabrielle Wollenberg
 Luke Worley
 Hemanth Yajat Nayak
 Jayden Yeoman
 Jane Yermakov
 Mia Stebe
 Finley Stephens
 Emmett Stone
 Gian Sukhtankar
 Landon Sullivan
 Jackson Summers
 Ernest Surell
 Jillian Swan
 Travis Tang
 Yujie Tang
 Namya Sahasra
 Tarikonda
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 Agrav Thakur
 Sarina Thapa
 Alivia Towns
 Anderson Townsend
 Kaitlyn Tran
 Vienna Tran
 Allie Tseng
 Quinn Twellman
 Lucas Vilorio
 Autumn Wallace
 Wesley Warren
 Kota Watanabe
 Tomer Werpoler
 Lauren Wickert
 Joshua Wicketts
 Zoey Winkler
 Vincent Wu
 Melody Yasutake
 Nevaeh Yu

Mary Anne Goehan
 Paige Gorenc
 Brianna Grandow
 Emma Grasmuck
 Charlotte Griffin
 Micah Gross
 Julia Guttschow
 Valerie Hall
 Maxwell Hamburg
 Milo Harris
 Beatriz Heredia Fuentes
 Elliott Hexter
 Rock Crockett
 Trae Hill
 Ava Holmes
 Katelyn Hughes
 Kayla Hutchings
 Nabil Ismail
 Sophia Jacobs
 Irene Jin
 Claire Johnson
 Hayden Johnson
 Owen Johnson
 Kate Jones
 Charvith Kanamarlapudi
 Aiden Kim
 Brayden Kim
 Eddy Kim
 Skyler King
 Finn Koch
 Bilvani Kondabolu
 Taylor Lam
 Taylor Lambert
 Angela Lamb
 Daniel Landaverde
 Natalie Le
 Marie Lemke
 Sara Leon Briceño
 Victoria Lerche
 Sophie Levano
 Noah Levy
 Shihwei Li
 Kylie Ligas
 Raymond Lin
 Alison Lindsay
 Katherine Liu
 Bella Lo
 Isabella Lopez Bencosme
 Addison Losurdo
 Andrew Lozano
 Tiffany Ly
 Luella Lynch
 Sofia Manauer Mujica
 Stephanie Manoel
 Ana Martin Figueroa
 Riley Mast
 Lincoln Matte
 Ava McCarthy
 Skylar McFarland
 Avani Mehrotra
 Alexandra Moll
 Michael Moracchi
 Sophia Morgan
 Mia Morneault
 Cathryn Moyer
 Kiana Muck
 Giana Mullen
 Elena Munoz Mansoa
 Nathan Murray
 Marin Neibel
 Tori Nguyen
 Darius Normandi
 Sibley Oster
 Satvik Palagummi
 Andrea Pastrana Morales
 Bennett Patton
 Molly Pinkerton
 Isla Powell
 Madeleine Pressler
 Arjun Ram
 Addison Kaney
 Hope Richardson
 Tanner Richardson
 Cadeleigh Rogers
 Brody Rowe
 Adriana Ruano
 Mikhail Rudakov
 Daniela Ryabov
 Zachary Ryan
 David Sanchez
 Gianpaulo Sanchez De
 Ita Sbrissa
 Layla Schwager
 Nhu Tam Shafer
 Aryen Sharma
 Krishen Sharma
 Madeline Sharp
 Addison Simon
 Grace Slaughter
 Jacob Slaughter
 Aissa Smith
 Rafael
 Solorzano Figueroa
 Kimberlie Sosa
 Kacie Spahr
 Art Su
 Kristi Tabor
 Mykaela Tapia
 Kendall Taylor
 Michael Taylor
 Hadas Tepper
 Benjamin Thai
 Minh-Tuyet Tran
 Aerin Tryals-Meyer
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 Jessica Vajrale
 Maysa Valle
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 Adeline Vogan
 Charlotte Wallace
 Andrew Wang
 Zachary Warmerdam
 Maximus Wells
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 Cecelia Wijaya
 Penelope Wilkinson
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 Abigail Petthey
 Mia Petty
 Sophie Poulsen
 Ava Poulter
 Chloe Pratt
 Isabella Racusin
 Nicole Reiningger
 Ryan Rios
 Haley Roberts
 Danika Robinson
 Gabrielle
 Romero Cardenas
 Westin Roussel
 Sara Sadic
 Tanvi Sankolli
 Bharath Sathyaseelan
 Sophia Sathyanathan
 Logan Schannault
 Julia Seiden
 Carlee Selin
 Jacob Snyder
 Annabelle Staples
 Logan Streit
 Emery Taylor
 Mattia Tomini
 Helene Grace Townley
 Itzel Trejo
 Mia Trejo
 Kenzie Vo
 Truc Vu
 Kimberley Walters
 Lavinia Weber
 Reagan Wehman
 Emma Weltens
 Cassidy West
 Heidi Williams
 Savanna Williamson
 Andrea Winans
 Emilee Yonga
 Eden Yu

Early College High School Grade 9
 Tulasi Annabathula
 Mauricio Balza Blanco
 Ryan Bazyn
 Chase Bergman
 Patton Boyd
 Abigail Chakkumcal
 Hila Cohen
 Noga Cohen
 Ysela Cruz
 Joslynn Del Bosque
 Corah Flache
 Phoebe George
 Deepshika
 Gunia Omprakash
 Haclon Hamilton
 Zariah Hayes
 Logain Ismail
 Trenton Kirchem
 Igor Kulikov
 Teshan Liyanage
 Maryel Adonia Milan
 Kelly Minto
 Siya Narale
 Meri Nooria
 Karis Palooran
 Benjamin Schultz
 Dante Torres

Grade 10
 Melvina Aloysius
 Annabelle Astoria
 Ileri Babalola
 Ava Ballesteros
 Abigail Castillo
 Garrett Coupar
 Taylor Culver
 Mohamed Eltahir Eltahir
 Rosabelle Gallant
 Brody Grove
 William Grande
 Andres Jaimes
 Ewan Keith
 Ophelia Kinzler
 Adrianna Kirchem
 Brooklyn Landers
 Ray Livingston
 Ximena Logo Rodriguez
 Zen Mahoney
 Jessica Mena
 Isabelle Mompremier
 Nermeen Nasereeddin
 Vuong Nguyen
 Kaitlin Noeth
 Grace Rieger
 Micah Seneer
 Yuvan Senthilkumar
 Shaurya Singh
 Simarjeet Singh
 Hayden Stevens
 Tanvi Priyal
 Tirimalasetty
 Jensen Tower
 Hayleigh Tran
 Bianca Vazquez
 Hazel Villafuerte Buehse
 Cecilia Williams
 Tyler Yates

Grade 11
 Alejandro Aguirrechu
 Kai ry Allen
 Layna Bazyn
 Beatrice Bempoh
 Natalie Croydon
 Nathaniel Rudy Cruz
 Olivia Cruz
 Haasini Danda
 Brandon Gottner
 Cecelia Jackson
 Rachel Jezreel
 Youisf Kallash
 Skyler Le
 Laken LeBlanc-Hayes
 Mazin Lohrstorfer
 Sharon Muwanguzi
 Nadeen Nasereeddin
 Sidney Nguyen
 Aarohie Nimje
 Aarushie Nimje
 Kalan Palooran
 Camila Prada Centeno
 Aryan Sabharwal
 Delnaaz Sanjana
 Victor Scarano
 Kayla Sigue
 Robert Simonson
 Lance Snow
 Margarita Vatazhok
 Michelangelo Vera
 Sophie Whittlinger

Evan Lavrichev
 Everleigh Leal
 Seth Lee-Shurish
 Aidan Le-Poeng
 Reina Looper
 Safa Malik
 Lucas Mann
 Devadath Manoj Menon
 Maysen Martin
 Preston Marzan
 Kyle McCaughrin
 Lexi McElroy
 Loki McNiff
 Arnau Mendu
 Manvi Merothiya
 Bavishya Meruva
 Naitik Mishra
 Ivonne Morales-Aguilar
 Makayla Motloch
 Sarah Mullens
 Deepti Nagarajan
 Hannah Negru
 Jaisyn Nelson
 Ella Niemann
 Kennedy Nunnery
 Holly O'Daniel
 Twila Maria Oliva
 Ignacio Osegueda
 Jazmyin Paichaud
 Alexis Parker
 Kenzie Peavy
 Tais Perez Aversa
 Saul Placeres Marines
 Kharishma Prabhu
 Ashritha Pushpalayari
 Noah Raymond
 Joshua Regalado
 Oscar Remmas
 Nora Rivas
 John Molinar
 Alyssa Moore
 Jenna Salmons
 Ananya Saraswatula
 Soha Sattar
 Madina Seluck
 Madeline Sellers
 Jiya Shah
 Spoorthi Shanigaram
 Nimisha Sharma
 Saanvi Singh
 Olivia Soldan Galdo
 Joana Solera
 Anaydia Solis
 Benjamin Stokes
 Izabella Stompel
 Parikshit Tanwar
 Ellen Truong
 Charitha Uyyala
 Harihar Vadrevu
 Elijah Valleau
 Sarvdev Varadharajan
 Evan Vega
 Pia Virani
 Ariana Weintraub
 Evan Wernersbach
 Jerri Wilson
 Pranetha Yacharam

Grade 10
 Minal Akif
 Akshit Albughelli
 Ananya Anandkumar
 Liberty Beck
 Milan Benavides
 Sharanya Bhumra
 Colton Bolen
 Naomii Boudreaux
 Nicholas Beach
 Charlotte Beasley
 Leah Benavidez
 Addison Byrd
 Addison Camp
 Garrett Coupar
 Taylor Culver
 Jonathan Cheng
 Delaney Cohen
 Ella Curry
 Keri Davis
 Quinn Davis
 Diego De Leon Cortez
 Madelyn De Los Santos
 Raphael De Oliveira
 Yadhikri Deshmukh
 Mia Estrada
 Jesse Ferrell
 Jacob Ferrara
 Leticia Flores
 Capri Garrisi
 K'Lyana Gil
 Anelle Giron
 Larissa Goppy
 Landon Gordon
 Aiden Ha
 Levi Heater
 Kamry Jackson
 Seth Jackson
 Madeline Johnson
 Jeremiah Jones
 Jason Jurells
 Scarlett Justus
 Piper Kalyta
 Hritvika Karthik
 Juhi Kashi
 Aditya Kashyap
 Lilly Kennedy
 Shane Kenney
 Alessa Kimball
 Elijah King-Torberg
 Aiden Kolb
 Drake Krause
 Joshika Krishnasamy
 Pratyush Kulkarni
 Laalithya Lakkaraju
 Elizabeth Lee
 Mason Lo
 Allen Lolis
 Katiana Looper
 Harlow Lynch
 Willow Mallory
 Luke Maxwell
 Jackson Meekma
 Lillian Melton
 Lydia Menjivar
 Naomi Millard
 Nevaeh Miller
 Eliana Moreno
 Megan Morris
 Isabella Mueller
 Bhavishya Mutyala
 Kaelyn Nunn
 Special Omoma Edosa
 Rhianna Orbeta
 Diya Papudesi
 Joshua Parsley
 Andrew Pham
 Melody Portilla Cortes
 Grant Potter
 Amani Richard
 Eben Rivera
 Syed Rizvi
 Eric Rose
 Kamila Rosich Perez
 Samreen Sachin
 Evan Saunders
 Nora Schlung
 Indira Sengupta
 Raina Shah
 Sophia Smith
 Harshitha Suresh Kumar
 Bella Tamayo
 Naomi Tate
 Deethya Trivedi
 Shelby Turner
 Advik Venkatesh
 Olivia Whipp
 Jayla Williams
 Mckenzie Wisbauer
 Aadithri Woddi
 Makenna Worley
 Likitha Yacharam
 Kendall Zenkovich
 Alexander Zimmer

Jennavecia Garcia
 Peyton Garrison
 Kayden Gayda
 Srivatsa Gilakattula
 Keaton Gordon
 Sanjana Guduru
 Grayson Gunderson
 Masen Harlow
 Riley Hassell
 Yasmine Hayes
 Aarush Hemanth
 Dallas Hernandez
 Lusiano Hernandez
 Grant Honea
 Mukhammad lunusov
 Natallynn Jackson
 Savannah Jackson
 Vishwa Jaikumarr
 Sneh Joshi
 Neha Juluri
 Lauren Kernan
 Lucy Kidney
 Kamdyn Kilpatrick
 Rafael Kommu
 Lillie Kuhlman
 Brooklyn Ligor
 Claire Lin
 Katelyn Lorenz
 Yaraslau Makarevich
 Teak Math
 Nidhish Mattapalli
 Niyathi Mattapalli
 Maia Matthews
 Judith McCarthy
 Melina McGirr
 Katie McHenry
 Ava Miller
 Emma Mitchell
 John Molinar
 Alyssa Moore
 Dominic Moreno
 Evan Morrisey
 Deetya Mutupuru
 Spurthi Nannapaneni
 Anvitha Narlinga
 Caden Niemann
 Phailin Ojeda
 Nguyen Pham
 Shreehan Pippalla
 Layla Pope
 Kathleen Powers
 Oliver Remmler
 Hallie Riegen
 Gabriel Rios
 Mia Rosas
 Sophia Santos Soto
 Brandon Schmuck
 Jaxson Spinks
 Brennen Sullivan
 Keziah Taylor
 Dawn Teske-Wright
 Maxwell Thomas
 Brandon Thompson
 Devoon Toney
 Natalie Zoumas
 Samhita Vajrapu
 Bara Vanatoku
 Benjamin Vanderwerf
 Addison Vargas
 Hasita Velaz
 Camila Veliz Valdez
 Amelia Vickers

Grade 12
 Vaishnavi Banda
 Emerson Barrow
 Nicholas Beach
 Charlotte Beasley
 Leah Benavidez
 Sophie Berlinger
 Matthew Bernard
 Addison Blatchley
 Jackson Boelter
 Tiffany Borsari
 Joseph Breman
 Brynn Camacho
 Ximena Carreno
 Thinh Chau
 Animesh Chhetri
 Cannon Coburn
 Jackson Cohen
 Esmeralda Coneche
 Addison Conly
 Logan Cooper
 Emma Crissey
 Raylee Crook
 Joshua Davison
 Aminata Diomande
 Jaslyn Dobbins
 Armando Don Juan
 Avery DuBois
 Akpevwe Erukanure
 Miley Escamilla
 Emma Faria
 Valeria Fernandez Garcia
 Mackenzie Galbraith
 Alaena Garcia
 Haley Garcia
 Ayush Gilmore
 Samuel Gilmore
 Ridhi Goka
 Sun Gonzales
 Avani Goyal
 Fallon Green
 Kaelyn Heil
 Kyzar Hernandez
 Marissa Hernandez
 Guillermo Hernandez Segura
 Ellie Hernandez-Cruise
 Sawyer Homec
 Bella Interiano
 Kade Jackson
 Olive Jewell
 Ally Johnson
 Kaitlyn Johnson
 Nicholas Johnson
 Kimberly Jones
 Randalei Jones
 Sangit Kafle
 Maya Kendall
 Olivia Kernan
 Leah Kumwenda
 Juan Lame Alvarez
 Jesse Letts
 Megan Lindsey
 Kailey Looney
 Kamryn Lowery
 Emma Ludwig
 Sai Varun Mallela
 Nathaniel Mann
 Keller Marchant
 Janae Martinez
 Andrea Martucci Guerrero
 Vaishnavi Matli
 Madison Matula
 Levi McAllister
 Brock Meador
 Brooklynne Menchaca
 Brandon Menteer
 Jordan Mitchell
 Beckham Mohr
 Judah Morgan
 Kamryn Netherthon
 Chance Newton
 Jordyn Nguyen
 Emmanuella Okolo
 Kurt Moen Oliva
 Jocelyn Ortega
 Vincent Pasaribu
 Blythe Peel
 Noah Perkins
 Logan Phipps
 Sri Amit Pranav Posina
 Brandon Qiu
 Daniel Qiu
 Sofia Ramirez
 Savannah Rasmussen
 Addison Reed
 Maxwell Ribar
 Jenna Richie
 Blake Rickmers
 Darren Rodriguez
 Eduardo Rodriguez
 Madison Rogers
 Kenyeth Rutledge
 Elizabeth Salazar
 Sebastian Sanchez-Rivera
 Robert Sandoval
 Sahana Harshini Sankaradoss
 Madeleine Shangreaux
 Rishi Shanigaram
 Kendall Shuck
 Madelynn Simmons
 Bella Bissanti
 Zahida Blacutt
 Madeleine Blanchard
 Alina Soto
 Nicole Sparks
 Aryan Srivastava
 Joe Prince
 Stephen Jayaraj
 Meadow Stevens
 Jacob Stempel
 Alicia Stolt
 Ephraim Sturup
 Dominic Tanyag
 Vladislava Tashkinova
 Courtney Thompson
 Caleb Toler
 Niranjan Uppiliappan
 Audrey Valdez
 James Vaughan
 Joshua Vinek
 Denise Vires
 Mia Viveros
 Caden Walker
 Owen Walrond
 Niyah Williams
 Natalie Wilson
 Sofia Wolfard

Breyann Wright
 Josiah Yang

Leander High School Grade 9
 Maxwell Accola
 Easton Aguirre
 Fernanda Aguirre Ruiz
 Benjamin Alanis
 Velia Alvarado
 Isabella Arevalo
 Jasper Arnold
 Dela Azameti
 Melody Balusek
 Harlee Blackburn
 Alexa Boyd
 Andrew Bradley
 Owen Bray
 Mischa Castoldi
 Eryn Kidd
 Ariana Chun
 Britney King
 Dhruv Knauf
 Brittan Kuhn
 Jared Croffitt
 Reagan Crum
 Ranger Crumley
 Evelyn Curtis
 Andreas Day
 Paxton Deason
 Joselyn Diaz
 Aarav Donakanti
 Kalea Douglas
 William Duvall
 Kade Edwards
 Ibn-Kalif Elam
 Emery Ericson
 Weston Evers
 Jake Forbis
 Marlee Fowler
 Safina Galiullina
 Hanna Galster
 Alejandro Galvan Stankiewicz
 Skylar Gardner
 Imriel Gomes
 Avery Gonzalez
 Clara Grant
 Gracie Gundy
 Shreyas Guthikonda
 Evangeline Hardie
 Rex Hauenstein
 Olivia Heaton
 Aryn Nguyen
 Nathan Nguyen
 Ethan Nishimura
 Anathia Hernandez Vera
 Maxim Hodgins
 Oliver Hodgins
 August Holtrop
 Reese James
 Benjamin Jansta
 Elizabeth Johnson
 Cyan Johnston
 Emily Jozwiak
 Daniel Judys
 Grace Kelly
 Katelyn Kerin
 Rashi Khairam
 Emery Lamm
 Hannah Le
 Zaiden Le
 Mia Leday
 Georgia Lee
 Anna Rodriguez
 Evan Rodriguez
 Abigail Ruiz
 Charles Lyman
 Viviana Sanchez-Suarez
 Gabrielle Schneider
 Liliana Schulz
 Olivia Sefon
 Mary Shammus
 Nicholas Mendoza
 Aiden Singh
 Joven Singh
 Elena Slaton
 Max Smedley
 Kylie Still
 Anna Tenah
 Ariana Tower
 Evan Tran
 Aditi Trivedi
 Aishwarya Parab
 Dhairya Patel
 Ariel Perez
 Harper Phillips
 Megan Prater
 Karen Prater
 Olivia Putnam
 Mia Quirk
 Mikayla Ramirez
 Charlotte Reid
 Taylor Rhoton
 Domenico Riccio
 Sienna Rich-Jones
 Serena Rodriguez
 Ostris Rodriguez Escobedo
 Misha Sharma
 Sri Vibhu Siddabathula
 Nikhil Sinha
 Griffin Sisk
 Rebekah Smith
 Draco Soto
 Saya Sura
 Lucas Taylor
 Shiloh Turner
 Allison Uribe Vera
 Isabella Vantatenhove
 Andrew Waterman
 Logan White
 Caleb Williams
 Aaron Wilson
 Eliza Wingate
 Lexie Winters
 Lilly Winters
 Avery Worley
 Lanika Zaman

Braxton Hernandez
 Ky Ho
 Tanner Hoffman
 Trinity Hood
 Katelyn Horvath
 Keira Houdek
 Elizabeth Hui
 Avery Huling
 Madelyn Huling
 Jeffrey Jackson
 Jacob Jansta
 Thomas Jansta
 Jessica Jantz
 Emma John
 Saanvi Kadgi
 Illia Karpenko
 Peter Keeskes
 Kaushik Kelkar
 Madison Kellum
 Eryn Kidd
 Ariana Kim
 Britney King
 Dhruv Knauf
 Brittan Kuhn
 Jared Croffitt
 Reagan Crum
 Ranger Crumley
 Evelyn Curtis
 Andreas Day
 Paxton Deason
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 Skylar Gardner
 Imriel Gomes
 Avery Gonzalez
 Clara Grant
 Gracie Gundy
 Shreyas Guthikonda
 Evangeline Hardie
 Rex Hauenstein
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 Nathan Nguyen
 Ethan Nishimura
 Anathia Hernandez Vera
 Maxim Hodgins
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 Elizabeth Johnson
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 Emily Jozwiak
 Daniel Judys
 Grace Kelly
 Katelyn Kerin
 Rashi Khairam
 Emery Lamm
 Hannah Le
 Zaiden Le
 Mia Leday
 Georgia Lee
 Anna Rodriguez
 Evan Rodriguez
 Abigail Ruiz
 Charles Lyman
 Viviana Sanchez-Suarez
 Gabrielle Schneider
 Liliana Schulz
 Olivia Sefon
 Mary Shammus
 Nicholas Mendoza
 Aiden Singh
 Joven Singh
 Elena Slaton
 Max Smedley
 Kylie Still
 Anna Tenah
 Ariana Tower
 Evan Tran
 Aditi Trivedi
 Aishwarya Parab
 Dhairya Patel
 Ariel Perez
 Harper Phillips
 Megan Prater
 Karen Prater
 Olivia Putnam
 Mia Quirk
 Mikayla Ramirez
 Charlotte Reid
 Taylor Rhoton
 Domenico Riccio
 Sienna Rich-Jones
 Serena Rodriguez
 Ostris Rodriguez Escobedo
 Misha Sharma
 Sri Vibhu Siddabathula
 Nikhil Sinha
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 Rebekah Smith
 Draco Soto
 Saya Sura
 Lucas Taylor
 Shiloh Turner
 Allison Uribe Vera
 Isabella Vantatenhove
 Andrew Waterman
 Logan White
 Caleb Williams
 Aaron Wilson
 Eliza Wingate
 Lexie Winters
 Lilly Winters
 Avery Worley
 Lanika Zaman

Grade 11
 Troy Acevedo
 Masiela Aleman
 Katherine Alvaro
 Alfaro Guandique
 Alexander Alvarez-Icaza
 Jackson Arnold
 Kylee Arnold
 Arjun Arunkumar
 Liane Bagby
 Toriana Bazaldúa
 Alexander Becerra
 Connor Black
 Prahaas Bokkisam
 Zachary Bosman
 Lucy Boyd
 Mauricio Bryant
 Aditi Busa
 Natalie Campbell
 Kasandra Castro
 Elizabeth Chaison
 Srinija Chukkappali
 Jiy Coats
 Addison Cooper
 Tayten Cortez
 Colin Crow
 Riley Crum
 Nhi Cu
 Connor Dinh
 Connor Duncan
 Hadley Ellis
 Madelyn Enriquez
 Maxwell Evans
 Mason Flores
 Emma Funes
 Allan Galeas Aguilar
 Renata Galiullina
 Javier Garcia
 Agnes Gijo
 Zev Gisser
 Nivhas Gogineni
 Michael Grasso
 Rachel Grundel
 Abhinav Gundumogula
 Chenni Pranamayi
 Jaylie Crespo
 Emma Davis
 Evan Davis
 Kevin Davis
 Joaquin Diaz De Leon
 Brodie Dunn
 Sarah Eltgani
 Benjamin Foronico
 Brooke Frushour
 Amanda Gamboa
 Jackson Garner
 Ella Giauque
 Ryan Gomez-Ferre
 Caidyn Gonzales
 Isabella Grundi
 Shreyas Gubbala
 Akshara Gudavalli
 Reese Hamilton
 Marshall Hammond
 Sean Leavitt
 Srihan Ledalla
 Isabel Leyva-Ross

Grade 12
 Ojaswi Acharya
 Shreyas Ananth
 Erin Anderson
 Gabriella Baede
 Amani Badrapura
 Saket Balaji
 Tanuj Balaji
 Meiko Barnard
 Eileen Bercu
 Ashton Bernal
 Ella Bowman
 Morgan Brannan
 Kaitlyn Brischke
 McKenna Burkman
 Blake Butler
 Joonwon Byun
 Emmanuel Cady
 Carolina Cardenas-Bushell
 Erik Carmona
 Jacy Carrejo
 Isabella Casso
 Ciara Catton
 Evelyn Catton
 Madelyn Codina
 Natalie Cox
 Jazlyn Davis
 Mya Davis
 Nikolai Day
 Andre DeField
 Sofia Dinanno
 Sepria Doherty
 Jessica Egelsee
 Kyra Emerson
 Ivanna Esquivel Garcia
 Gaeden Evans
 Lindsay Fernandes
 Malik Fortunus
 Haven Fier
 Cody Gray
 Sadie Guzman
 Avery Hamilton
 Ella Hamilton
 Liliana Hardie
 Lorieann Harris
 Luke Hatten
 Carmen Hauenstein
 Cobin Holmes
 Sophia Horvath
 Lauren Ice
 Sarai Jacobson
 Mahima Jyosula
 Oliver Jozwiak
 Arnab Kamath
 Arva Karedia
 Ryan Kazmir
 Ahmed Khalaf
 Kayla King
 Audrey Knott
 Roman Kocheisen
 Siri Kota
 Karthik Kurapati
 Amit Lari
 Daisy Laczano
 Keira Leday
 Joel Lopez Lara
 Madison Mabus
 Deborah Madden
 Inaaya Marediya
 Sage Martin
 Sienna Martin
 Emma Martinez
 Laine Mason
 Emilee McCoy
 Melany Melchor
 Alison Mendoza
 Kayla Metcalf
 Jovie Micef
 Gianna Mitchell
 Rehnum Quarshie
 Rahul Ramadugu
 Sydney Reisdorph
 Chloe Rees
 Peyton Rhoton
 Paulo Rubio Ibarra

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McDONALD'S LISD HIGH SCHOOL ALL "A" HONOR ROLL - 3RD 6 WEEKS

Maggie Ryder
Tristan Shoemaker
Arnav Sivakumar
Chloe Smith
Claire Smith
Kaden Sosa
Aiden Spicer
Serenity Sturdivant
Bryson Suges
Samantha Svetlik
Kiana Thompson
Elizabeth Torres Socorro
Maithili Trivedi
Pavithra Vellengar
Lily Walker
Jackson Whiteis
Jack Wood
Madison Young

Rouse High School
Grade 9
Nia Aby
Vaishvi Acharya
Jahnvi Addepalli
Lasya Adusumilli
Aditya Alapati
Ethan Alex
Kalilah Ali
Dillan Amirtham
Gahna Anand Raj
Rithvik Anantha
Micah Anderson
Hannah Liz Antony
Sangeetha Antyakuila
Savian Armerdizar
Isabella Arroyo
Juhimirza Asarafali
Omar Awad
Sahithya Balaji
Ronit Baldaniya
Ananya Balusu
Coen Bendle
Amrutha Bikki
Sisira Bikumala
Avery Birely
Mukesh Bokam
Aditi Reddy Bollampally
Rishika Bommana
Lyndon Bond
Gaurav Bondalapati
Rima Botlagunta
Brayden Campbell
Jackson Carrejo
Abbey Carter
Grace Carter
Madoline Chambers
Aditri Chanavala
Aarnav Chandraganti
Pia Chatterjee
Pooja Chidambaram
Connor Clanton
Jordan Cooke
Lia Cooper
Baylen Cortez
Samyukta Darisipudi
Caspars Decker
Ajay Dev
Akul Dev
Sameehan Devadiga
Akshaj Devara
Huy Do
Ashmi Doodapati
Snigdha Dugparthi
Sai Pranavi Duggirala
Bharath Dumitru
Kalyan Kalyan
Erusalagandi
Kaylie Anne Espada
Kristofer Espino
Ever Estes
Sloan Foster
Sofia Fricano
Nolan Fritsch
Samanya Gaddamanugu
Aayush Ganta
Max Gao
Ginger Gardner
Janina George
Gwendolyn Gill
Rhythmay Girdhar
Dhaani Gohel
Kartheeyan
Gopalakrishnan
Ananya Govind
Samay Goyani
Evelyn Granzow
Cameron Graves
Bailee Green
Isabella Guerra
Devanshi Gupta
Izzabella Halbach
Masa Hammad
Swetha Hariharasudhan
Fletcher Harrington
Molly Hawkins
Nirnhani Hester
Alex Heter
Lela Hitchcock
Allison Holmes
Evelyn Holmes
Avery Huotari
Zainab Hussain
Jophiel Infant Prabu
Ruth Jacob
Swasti Jain
Pranav Jaishankar
Vedansh Jalagam
Malia James
Amartyam Jami
David Jeon
Esha Jeyaram
Owen Johnson
Liya Joseph
Rohan Joseph
Arya Kallurwar
Minsuh Kang
Sreeharsha Kannegundla
Sakshar Karki
Saketh Katakam
Viren Katti
Cambrie Kearns
Morris Killebrew
Aiden Kim
Dohyun Kim
Audrey Kinman
Sreevardhan Kondapalli
Akhil Konduru
Manas Koradiya
Ryker Koury
Sophia Kraft
Srikanth Krovvidi
Ananya Kunda
Gautham Kurapati
Laura

Pranaya Sharma
Saavni Sharma
Sandeep Shenoy
Hansika Shetty
Satvik Shukla
Cassie Sieber
Shaurya Singh
Tushar Singh
Devin Sio
Naina Sivalingala
Collin Smith
Jazmin Smith
Jordan Sprigg
Raghavi Srinivasan
Abigail St Clair
Carley Stapleton
Bryson Stone
Jayden Stoops
Steven Stoppenhagen
Rosemary Stover
Laney Suman
Sohan Sunkari
Shaun Sweeney
Connor Tackett
Vivian Tang
Connor Tanksley
Ramchandra Kanav
Thonda
Ram Thota
Anastasia Titovitch
Sam Tracy
Nguyen Minh Tu Tran
Sienna Traube
Selah Treiber
Diya Vanam
Abel Varnado
Srisha Veeramani
Isabella Vincent
Olivia Wahl
Wynn Wallace
Luke Wallis
Dylan White
Jayden White
Thanvi Yadlapalli
Akhilesh Yannam
Audison Young
Yaryna Zakharko
Ariel Zatlavi

Grade 10
Molly Abernathy
Chahniita Achanta
Zain Afzal
Anushri Agrawal
Hans Akarapu
Ishya Alapati
Jaxon Allen
Christopher Aluko
Anna Alvarez
Prabhaya Anand
Jordan Anyabine
Maren Archer
Madeline Asbell
Ambika Ashok
Nevo Assouline
Ray Auten
Snehasni Bachala
Joonhee Bae
Kaitlyn Barton
Miller Bass
Meghana Baiy
Kaitlyn Becher
Tess Benkenedorfer
Lauren Bint
Christopher Bishop
Manas Bondada
Shrethan Bodla
Jacob Bradshaw
Santiago Brinks
Paige Brune
Rithika Bysa
Emma Byrd
Phoebe Campbell
Sophia Cantu
Claire Carnett
Francisco Carrera-Zavala
Mohammed Abdullah
Bin Akhil Chakva
Hasini Chandrakumar
Ridhima Chelani
Tristan Chen
Hannah Christopher
Kylie Connolly
Lena Cramer
Tanish Dasari
Aubryn Davis
Sydney Davis
Maranda Dean
Cassidy Defriesce
Sarah Ashley Dequeiroga
Yash Deshpande
Kylee Dippel
Effie Eljan
Dima Elizayat
Vineeth Erram
Vishal Erram
Audree Foster
Sophia Franklin
Isabela Gelamo
Aditri Gilakattula
Aubrey Glynn
Briana Goodly
Abigail Gray
Carter Griffith
Vaishnavi Gudimella
Aditi Junasekar
Yashika Gupta
Ashvith Gurram
Tanmayi Gutta
Marcus Hafner
Alyssa Hall
Nina Hammit
Mckenna Hartnett
Finley Heinrich
Hallie Heitzmann
Angelica
Hernandez Garcia
Bailey Higginbotham
Reese Hile
Ava Hodges
Aislinn Holdren
Amanda Hollowell
Lilyan Howard
Jo En Hua
Samantha Hunninghake
Mason Hunt
Aaira Hussain
Sophia Izadi
Kalia James
Chelsea Jones
Nithya Kadiyala
Gowtham Kakani
Haani Shahzad
Kakkidi Valiyaveetil
Tanya Kale
Kavin Kannan
Tejavaradhan Karamala
Ameya Katari
Eisa Khatri
Jacob Koester
Siddharth Kommuri
Sai Sri Tanmayi Konduru
Huckleberry Layport
Huy Tuan Le
Scott Lee
Siddarth Maheshwaran
Dhruvath Mallayagari
Aran Mani
Abhinav Varma
Manthana
Loganathan Rangasamy
Sung Yen Ma
Sahana Mahendran
Saharsh Manne
Varun Markala
Alise Martin
Yarezi Martinez
Coen May
Karson McDonald
Logan McKee
Zachary McQuiddy
Bennett Mendoza
Brinda Morissety
Maya Mraz
Camdyn Munoz
Srihitha Muppala
Seyda Nace
Wanita Ndazi
Cordin Nguyen
Breklyn Nielson
Vedika Obhrai
Dahlia Ocana Montufar
Amelia Ogden
Kieran O'Hara
Geetesh Parely
Kavya Patel
Robert Perkins
Christian Peters
Michelle Phuong
Breely Pletsch
Matvi Ponorily
Sai Preetham Polepalli
Adithya Reddy
Aadhira Prasad
Shri Punukollu
Surya Radhakrishnan
Oscar Ralston
Derek Reid
Rylin Rheinlander
Karmelic Rose
Arman Rout
Addison Rucker
Rohini Saha
Stella Salazar
Arya Salvaji
Isaac Sanchez
Varshana
Sangeeth Kumar
Ramin Sanjana
Shrainya Sankepally
Alissa Savinskaya
Kailey Searles

Alexis Secrest
Isabel Sevilla Fernandez
Serhii Shecherbyna
Ryker Sieber
Advik Sieber
Chase Skemp
Lola Smith
Valentina Solis
Abigail Solomon
Jacob Stoops
Maanit Surti
Anvi Taada
Parnika Sai Taluru
Angela Thella
Anina Thomas
Ryan Thomas
Peyton Thompson
Harper Tibbetts
Akhil Tirumalaseti
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Mattias Traube
Chase Tsai
Sophia Turquette
Julia Tusken
Shiven Uppuluri
Amruta Velamuri
Jacob Velez
Ritvik Mourya
Vemavarapu
Lakshitha
Vengadeswaran
Vidit Verma
Lily Walsh
Logan Washam
Lillian Welch
Tatum West
Jaehee Yoon

Grade 11
Ifrah Afsar
Dante Alden
Lucas Alden
Neha Allammeni
Samie Alswafta
Asvik Anand
Shreendhi Anand
Tarini Anantha
Zeyad Awad
Nathaniel Bartholomew
Riddhima Bavanla
Morgan Berkeley
Laasya Bokka
Nethra Bommidi
Manasi Borde
Chris Brough
Raffi Brown
Lessandro Bugarin
Joseph Bury
Hansika Buryani
Cristian Caro
Emma Carver
Charleston Cash
Yashwanth Challa
Sanvi Chaudek
Eva Chick
Sungbin Cho
Anna Cipriano
Broderick Corneille
Kamryn Curtis
Emma Dahlvig
Ayden Davis-Timmons
Elizabeth Decker
Sanjeev Deepak
Logan Deville
Anish Dew
Evelyn Dillard
Jacob Dodard
Colby Driskell
Pranathi Dumpala
Sam Durgaraman
Madeline Ellis
Alexis Frank
Carson Frank
Ximena
Fregoso Jaramillo
Garrett Gabriel
Ruth Gardner
Bojidar Geshev
Tiana Gjonaj
Maanas Gondipalli
Mason Gonzalez
Claire Goodwill
Akshaya Gummadaavelli
Atharv Gupta
Aubryn Gupta
Claire Harris
Marley Harrison
Layne Hashbarger
Tate Hatch
Mckenzie Hecht
Marin Heitzmann
Reed Henson
Brenna Hoffiman
Jesse Hogge
Sarah Huh
Ava Hume
Arya Jain
Mahi Jain
Rithwika Jitta
Tattva Jivani
Ethan Jones
Jacob Kramer
Madeline Krause
Soleil Lajauinie
Jack Lee
Jonas Lerway
Jacob Letkeman
Sophia Lewis
Sarah Loranger
Almudena
Macazaga Hermida
Ashmita Madabusi
Graylin Malwitz
Jackson Mann
Sudith Marti
Alexandra Martin
L Hannah Maryott
Logan Matic
Carter May
Caitlyn McLarty
Sydney McNair
Gabriel Mel
Georgia Miller
Sophia Minney
Isaac Montgomery
Miah Mora
Tanish Muralidhar
Daniel Myers
Laasya Nadiminti
Aashritha Nandiyala
Colby Nash
Brooke Newman
Haley Nguyen
Tyson Nguyen
Caden O'Hara
Nadia Okunowo
Cooper O'Neill
Christian Palacios
Krishna Chaitanya Perla
Amani Person
Jacob Peters
Brittany Pham
Bernice Phoebe
Asher Pittman
Ayushi Priyadarshani
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Delfina Soldan Galdo
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Sophia Summers
Adelynn Tackett
William Taff
Sriya Tanguturi
Ellis Taylor
Jacob Thompson
Ayden Thurman
Tyler Topham
Wesley Turner
Ivana Ulloa
Alexis Vannoy
Jake Vincent
Marcus Vizey
Grace Walsh
Keely Walters
Noah Welker
Renushri Yannam
Aditi Yarram

Grade 12
Abhishek Aithabathula
Lucia Aleman
Staffina Alexander
Anoohya Naga Allenky
Sarayu Andhe
Ciana Arguijo
Maya Armenious
Mason Azios
Eunji Bae
Blakely Barber
Mya Barry
Sarah Beard
Mayank Bharadwaj

Seohyun An
Leticia Angelim
Aarush Arun
Annabelle Atherton
Srishti Attelli
Jion Antonio Avanzado
Mariana Basualdo
Andrea Becerra Davaalos
Audrey Benning
Sage Boyd
Nicklaus Brennan
Braden Bugbee
Ava Campbell
Wilder Carlson

Sana Vastani
Sai Satya Sridutti Vavilala
Aarush Wallis
Jiahao Wang
Caroline Warfield
Caris Wells-Barker
Sydney Wigley
Charlotte Wong
Barrett Woodruff
Amrit Yadav
Eliana Yao
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Request for Proposals Leander ISD Early Childhood Center

American Constructors, as the Construction Manager-at-Risk, requests proposals for Leander ISD Early Childhood Center: ALL TRADES.

Proposals are due Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 2:00 pm (CST).

Proposals may be emailed to estimating@americanconstructors.com or mailed/delivered to American Constructors at 11900 West Parmer Lane, Suite 200, Cedar Park, TX 78613, or submitted via fax to (512) 328-2520.

Documents are also available for downloading from American Constructors' ftp site. Please visit www.americanconstructors.com for details. Please contact American Constructors at (512) 328-2026 for additional information on this project.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SEALED PROPOSALS

Sealed competitive bids, in envelopes addressed to the City of Lago Vista, 5803 Thunderbird Street, Lago Vista, Texas 78645, for **RFP No. 25-04 Street Resurfacing Phase 2**, in the City of Lago Vista, Texas, will be received at the above-mentioned address until 1:00 P.M., March 13th, 2025 and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Submittals can be submitted in sealed envelopes and marked "RFP No. 25-04 Street Resurfacing Phase 2".

The Contract Documents and Specifications are available at the City of Lago Vista. Questions and requests for additional information shall be sent by email to: Victor.manzano@lagovistatexas.gov. For this project, all bidders will be required to accept Addenda and other pertinent information by email, as well as provide written acknowledgement of Addenda as prescribed in the Instructions to Bidders. **No questions or requests for additional information will be accepted later than 12:00 p.m., March 3rd, 2025.**

Bid packages will be available on the City's website at www.lagovistatexas.gov/Bids.aspx. Project general conditions and standard specifications manual can be found on the City's website at www.lagovistatexas.gov.

An optional pre-bid conference will be held on **February 27th, 2025**, at 1:00 P.M. at 5803 Thunderbird Street, Lago Vista, Texas 78645 in the City Council Conference Room.

A bid security of 5% of the bid amount must accompany each bid or proposal. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Lago Vista may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

After contract is awarded, the contractor will be required to furnish insurance, performance, and payment bonds.

The City of Lago Vista reserves the right to waive any informality that is not detrimental to any other bidder or potential bidder or to reject all bids or to accept the lowest responsible bidder that in the judgment of the City Council will be in the best interest of the City of Lago Vista.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of opening thereof.

City of Lago Vista, Texas
Kevin Sullivan, Mayor

NOTICE OF INTENT TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION

This is to give notice of intent to introduce in the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, a bill to be entitled an Act relating to the creation of River Ranch Municipal Utility District, a special district operating under Section 52, Article III, and Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution and Chapters 49 and 54, Texas Water Code, providing authority for the District to impose assessments, fees or taxes and issue bonds, and granting a limited authority of eminent domain, affecting lands in Williamson County, Texas, for possible purposes of water, wastewater, drainage, roads and parks. The property is approximately 3,486 acres located at least partially within the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of City of Liberty Hill and located south and along portions of State Hwy 29 generally near the intersection of State Hwy 29 and Butler Farms Blvd. The property includes approximately 518.25 acres out of the Benjamin S. Mudd Survey, Abstract No. 438, approximately 29.6 acres out of the John B. Berry Survey, Abstract No. 56, approximately 787.64 acres out of the Stephen Thornton Survey, and approximately 199 acres out of the Richard West Survey, Abstract 643. The costs for the publication of this notice were paid by Andy Barrett, Andy Barrett & Associates, PLLC.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jonestown Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council will hold public hearings to receive citizen input and consider action on the following:

Subdivision Variance: A request by Kermit and Yen Le Chain for a variance from the Jonestown Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10: Subdivision Regulations, Section 10.02.086(2)(Q)(i) and (ii), to allow construction of a pool located in the front yard and to allow the front of the home to be facing the street side setback of a corner lot for property located at 8823 Hunters Creek, (Lot 1 Hunters Creek Subd), Jonestown, Texas.

The public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing before the City Council will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Both public hearings will be held at the City of Jonestown Council Chamber, 18649 FM 1431, Suite 3A, Jonestown, Texas.

Information concerning these requests is available for viewing at Jonestown City Hall, 18649 FM 1431, Suite 4-A, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may call 512-267-0359 or e-mail cjolly@jonestowntx.gov for more information.

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Williamson County breaks ground on Juvenile Justice Center expansion project

STAFF REPORTS

Last Friday, Williamson County broke ground on its Juvenile Justice Center expansion project, which includes 48 new beds, a new regional courtroom to focus on family services, associated learning and exercise areas, new dedicated control room, larger intake and release area and a reorganization of the existing spaces to create additional visitation, counseling and administrative areas.

"In the field of juvenile justice, our agency has a history of leading new initiatives focused on improving outcomes for marginalized youth and families all while providing for public safety," said Scott Matthew, Williamson County Juvenile Services executive director. Here in Williamson County, how we address emerging trends or challenges often becomes best practices adopted by the state and other county youth services agencies," added Matthew. "We will have a state-of-the-art trauma informed facility soon to match our state-of-the-art services."

The facility's expansion and reorganization create a facility that aligns with the county's ideals to treat the individual rather than the crime, which has been



COURTESY PHOTO

(Left to right) Judge Donna King, Judge Sarah Bruchmiller, Judge Betsy Lambeth, Congressman John Carter, Commissioner Russ Boles, Commissioner Terry Cook, County Judge Bill Gravell, Scott Matthew, Commissioner Cynthia Long, Commissioner Valerie Covey, Judge Ryan Larson, Representative Caroline Harris Davila.

shown to reduce recidivism. The project will help address the Juvenile Services department's needs as it continues to see an increase in more serious offenses and more complex cases.

"In the nine years that I have served as the Juvenile Judge in Williamson County, it has been a point of pride that we don't follow trends, we set the standard," said Judge Stacey Mathews, of the 277th Judicial District Court. "This facility expansion isn't just another building project; it is brick and mortar evidence of our commitment to a trauma-informed juvenile system that is a catalyst

for positive change for our young people and an indispensable part of the larger system of justice focused on improving the safety of our community."

The expansion project aims to address the community's needs for the next 25 to 30 years as Williamson County continues to see rapid growth.

"The expansion of our Juvenile Justice Center will address the needs of Williamson County well into the 2040s," said County Judge Bill Gravell. "The additional courtroom will address the needs of our judges throughout the county as the need for space rises and caseloads continue to increase. This project aligns with our strategic plan aimed at meeting the increasing demands for all services across the county."

Treanor HL was selected as the engineers and BLDG was chosen as the project architect. SpawGlass was picked as the contractor. The project at 200 WilCo Way in Georgetown will cost an estimated \$90 million and will be completed in two phases. The first phase will include the construction of a new building estimated to be completed in 18 months. The second phase will renovate the existing facility and is anticipated to be completed by summer of 2027.

Alexis Frezza challenging Bobbi Hutchinson for Cedar Park Council Place 1; Kevin Harris seeking reelection to Place 5

Cedar Park City Council Place 1 incumbent Bobbi Hutchinson, who won her first council seat in 2023, will seek reelection to her seat.

She is also already being challenged by Alexis Frezza, a program coordinator at Jeremiah Program Austin, who also filed to run for Place 1.

Meanwhile, long-time Place 3 incumbent Anne Duffy and Place 5 incumbent Kevin Harris are also running for reelection to their seats.

So far, no one else has filed for the council races in the upcoming May 3 municipal elections.



ALEXIS FREZZA

BOBBI HUTCHINSON

KEVIN HARRIS

LEANDER

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"This has not been an easy decision, but I believe this is the right decision at the right time for the right reason. I am proud of the progress we've made together, we have a tremendously capable Council, dedicated staff and I know that Leander is in good hands."

She also spoke about how she felt grateful she was able to start and end her council journey with Czernek.

Czernek said in a social media post about his decision that he feels it is time to step aside and let someone else "add value" to the council by building on their work so they can "lead our city forward."

"After much time praying and fasting, my family and I have decided to not seek a third term on our Leander City Council. Like it was originally intended, and like it still should be, people elected to governmental positions should serve their constituents with all they have for a time, add value and improve the place they serve...and then let others build off of the work they put in," Czernek said.

Because they are not seeking reelection, Place 1 and Place 5 will have open-seat elections this year, which could result in a larger pool of new candidates since it is less challenging to run for an open seat instead of against an incumbent.

Meanwhile, newcomer council member David McDonald, who won his first term in 2022, has filed to run for reelection to his Place 3 seat.

"For the past two and a half years I have worked to keep a 'big picture' perspective when it comes to our city. That means, ensuring a safe community, protecting our resources, promoting economic development and improving the quality of life by continuing to work on our roadway infrastructure," McDonald said in a post about his decision. "Hopefully I have gained your trust to represent you for the next 3 years! Thank you for your support and vote!"

The filing period for running for Leander City Council Place 1, 3 and 5 is open through Feb. 20. The municipal elections will be held on May 3, with Early Voting starting on April 22.

KATHRYN AND CHRIS

Pantalion-Parker and Czernek are the last remnants on the council of the wave of insurgent candidates in 2019 who unseated many long-time council members on the Cedar Park and Leander city councils. They sought to transform their respective cities, seeking to guide their city's unprecedented growth while also advocating for more limited government policies, reduced taxes, more aggressive pursuit of commercial development, and changes to some policies that previous councils had implemented.

In Leander, Pantalion-Parker and Czernek joined former Leander Mayor Troy Hill and former council member Jason Shaw in forging a new council majority and instituting major changes to city policy, ranging from terminating the city manager to making the SmartCode zoning rules, which were heavily criticized by developers, optional to passing several tax rate cuts.

They also served during some of the most chaotic moments any city council has faced in Leander's history, including repeated water outage issues, a historic ice storm that paralyzed local and state government and even the global COVID-19 pandemic.

They were the only candidates to be reelected after Hill lost the mayoral race to the current Leander Mayor, Christine DeLisle, in 2021.

Pantalion-Parker, who also runs her own clothing business and sells generators, has been a strong, independent voice on the council, both under Hill's council majority and as a voice who challenged and questioned council decisions under DeLisle's council majority. She has repeatedly taken on an informal leadership role during her years on council, most notably leading the charge to Leander's membership in the CapMetro rail system on the voting ballot in 2022. The majority of voters ultimately decided to remain in the system, but it started a conversation in Leander that still echoes to this day.

Czernek, who even served as Mayor Pro Tem during Hill's tenure, frequently sought to be a calming force on the council, urging civility and collaboration between the council members even on hotly debated issues.

As part of this approach, he didn't push any major agenda item himself but played a big role as a critical vote for everything from helping to pass policies under Hill to Leander's major water system improvements in recent years to tax rate cuts.

In his post, he spoke about feeling grateful he was able to serve and hopeful he could still continue to serve the city as a civilian and volunteer in the coming years.

GRANDVIEW

from page A1

after-school programs for schools in LISD with first right of refusal for elementary schools. While such agreements aim to streamline district offerings and ensure consistent programming, they can inadvertently restrict community-driven initiatives and critical parental involvement. The policy prevents elementary PTAs from contracting third-party vendors for enrichment activities involving tuition payments, even when such programs have been popular for over a decade. The policy does not, however, apply to LISD middle and high schools.

The exclusivity arrange-

ment also states that additional third-party enrichment providers are unnecessary at the elementary level, as the YMCA's offerings and teacher-led programs suffice. However, critics argue this "need" was determined without input from parents or PTAs and YMCA after-school programs are more geared towards day care.

One of the key concerns raised by PTA leaders is the lack of transparency. Efforts to access the contract or relevant policies through LISD's website and open records requests have yielded little information. "We asked to see the rule and the con-

tract multiple times, and we were ignored or given vague responses," Murray said. "It's hard to comply with a policy that isn't publicly available."

The situation escalated when the PTA was informed that continuing its programs could lead to financial repercussions, including potential refunds of tuition already paid to vendors. This threat placed significant financial strain on the PTA, which operates on limited funds.

Parents and PTA members say the exclusivity agreement restricts students' access to diverse learning experiences. While the YMCA's offerings—such as sports and "wacky

science" clubs—may appeal to some, they don't meet the varied interests of all students. For instance, a beloved chess program at Grandview Hills Elementary, taught by a certified chess master, has consistently garnered high enrollment and positive feedback for many years. Instead of working with the PTA, the YMCA now offers its own after-school chess offering. "The PTA driven activities have always offered more for kids than just filling time in after school care," Murray said. "They're about fostering skills, creativity, and passions that can shape a child's future. Limiting those opportunities is a disservice to our kids and to parental involvement."

Four Points News contacted a LISD school board member for comment but was informed that district officials could not respond due to the potential for the issue to enter the LISD grievance process. The grievance process includes three stages: the school principal, district executives, and, ultimately, the school board.

The lack of clarity surrounding the contract's origins has also raised questions. Murray noted that no record of a public vote or competitive bidding process is available online, raising concerns about whether the contract aligns with LISD's procurement guidelines. "The PTA's programs existed for over a decade without issue," Murray said. "It feels like this decision was made behind closed doors."

The PTA's next steps include refining its open records requests to obtain more specific information about the exclusivity contract and advocating for a review of the policy at upcoming school board meetings. Advocacy from parents and community members could push LISD to reassess the agreement's impact on student enrichment and its alignment with district values and state transparency laws.

Critics of the exclusivity agreement argue that it's time for LISD to embrace a more collaborative approach. Allowing PTAs to continue their programs alongside YMCA offerings would foster innovation and cater to a broader spectrum of student needs. "We're not against the YMCA," Murray clarified. "They provide important services for many families. But parents and students deserve choices, and the PTA has always stepped up to fill gaps that larger organizations can't."

As of now, the PTA's beloved clubs are on hold, leaving students without access to some of their favorite activities. "The kids are the ones losing out," Murray said. "At the end of the day, this should be about giving them choices of things to explore and the very best possible opportunities to learn and grow."

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