

# HILL COUNTRY NEWS

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 10

SERVING CEDAR PARK, LEANDER AND NORTHWEST AUSTIN SINCE 1968 ■ hillcountrynews.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

## Round Rock man charged in Northwest Austin credit union robbery

STAFF REPORTS

A Round Rock man remains in federal custody after authorities said he robbed a Northwest Austin credit union in late January and escaped with about \$113,000.

Syntedrick Tramaine Brown, 42, is charged with one count of bank robbery, according to a federal criminal complaint and statements from the Austin Police Department and the U.S. attorney's office. Brown was arrested last month after investigators executed a search warrant and said they recovered evidence tied to the case, including a large portion of the stolen cash.

The robbery happened about 10:09 a.m. Jan. 28 at the Austin Telco Federal Credit Union at 12188 Jollyville Road, police said.

According to the criminal complaint, the suspect entered wearing a disguise that included a wig and headband, red reflective sunglasses and a black mask. The suspect also wore a dark hooded sweatshirt and a reflective yellow safety vest, investigators said.

Court records say the suspect climbed over the teller counter while holding what appeared to be a semiautomatic pistol. Employees were ordered to lie on the floor and told not to look at him, the complaint says.

Investigators said the suspect directed employees to a back room and ordered the manager to remove cash from a machine. The suspect placed the money into a black plastic trash bag and asked whether it included "funny money" or



**SYNTEDRICK TRAMAINE BROWN**

See **ROBBERY**, page A5



Cedar Park officials and Cedar Park Public Library staff pose with the library's 2025 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award during a City of Cedar Park City Council meeting. CITY OF CEDAR PARK PHOTO

### Quick facts: Cedar Park Public Library

**AWARD:** 2025 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award (Texas Municipal Library Directors Association)

**STATEWIDE STANDING:** 1 of 101 recognized out of 516 Texas public library systems (top 20%), per the city

**2025 CIRCULATION:** 533,257 materials (up 39%), per the city

**STUDY ROOM RESERVATIONS:** 11,272 (up 949%), per the city

**PROGRAMS:** 1,050 events with 52,457 attendees, per the city

**DIGITAL USE:** 7.4 million Wi-Fi sessions; 155,202 digital checkouts, per the city

## Cedar Park Public Library wins statewide excellence award

STAFF REPORTS

CEDAR PARK, Texas — The Cedar Park Public Library has received the 2025 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association, the City of Cedar Park announced.

Cedar Park is one of 101

library systems in Texas to earn the honor, placing it in the top 20% of the state's 516 public library systems, according to the city.

"This award shows that others are starting to notice what we've all known for many years: the passion and dedication

See **LIBRARY**, page A2

## Austin downtown shooting: What we know about the gunman, victims and motive

Three people were killed and 13 wounded in a West Sixth Street attack. Police say the shooter fired from an SUV before getting out and continuing on foot.

BY BERENICE GARCIA  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

A gunman opened fire outside a bar in Austin's West Sixth Street entertainment district shortly before 2 a.m. Sunday, killing three people and injuring 13 others, authorities said.

Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis said the suspected gunman drove a large SUV around the block several times before the attack. He then rolled down the windows and began firing a pistol, striking patrons at the bar.

The gunman then parked, exited the vehicle and continued shooting with a rifle, police said.

Paramedics and police arrived within a minute after the first 911 call, Davis said. Officers fatally shot the suspected gunman at the scene. Here's what we know so far.



Flowers are left in front of Buford's on West 6th Street in downtown Austin on March 2, 2026. A third victim of a Sunday shooting died Monday, raising the toll to four, including the suspected gunman. MONTIQUE MONROE FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

See **SHOOTING**, page A5

## Anti-Muslim backlash shadows Austin following downtown shooting



Texas business leaders listen as Gov. Greg Abbott accepts the 17th Governor's Cup for economic development from Site Selection Magazine at the Governor's Mansion on March 2, 2026. BOB DAEMMRICH FOR THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

After a deadly downtown shooting, Texas Muslims report fear and backlash as political rhetoric intensifies and Austin's first Muslim city council member responds.

BY ANDREA BALL, ACACIA CORONADO AND AUSTIN CURRENT  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

When Austin Councilmember Zo Qadri heard the man accused of killing two people and wounding 14 at Buford's Sunday morning might be Muslim, three feelings rushed through him.

Disbelief. Shock. Worry. Disbelief and shock? Expected. Worry? That wasn't just for Austin as a city. It was also for the Muslim community, who, he feared, would be vilified and blamed for a crime they had

nothing to do with.

The downtown shooting and early speculation about the suspect's religion landed in the middle of an already charged political climate in Texas, where Republican leaders have escalated attacks on Muslim organizations. For Qadri, whose district includes the scene of the attack, the moment underscored how violence can quickly be folded into broader narratives that put Muslim communities on the defensive.

Long before the sun set on Sunday, Texas politicians attacked each other over

immigration and gun control laws. Social media users posted tirades against Muslims. Anti-Islamic posts and conspiracy theories filled Qadri's X timeline.

And the Muslim community feels it.

"I've had different folks reach out to me and say, 'We're concerned because we're at our house of worship until late in the night, and we're worried about a bad actor coming and causing trouble or causing harm,'" said Qadri, the first Muslim elected to the Austin City Council. "So

See **BACKLASH**, page A5

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# Family Place Libraries Grants awarded to 11 Texas libraries

**STAFF REPORTS**

Eleven public libraries across Texas will receive state-administered grants to expand early learning services for children ages 3 and younger and their caregivers, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission announced March 2.

The 2026 Family Place Libraries Project Grant recipients are Alpine Public Library; DeSoto Public Library; El Paso Public Library; Fort Bend County Libraries; Harrie P. Woodson Memorial Library; Leander Public Library; Lena Armstrong Public Library; Lewisville Public Library; Little Elm Public Library; Midlothian Public Library; and Montgomery County Memorial Library System.

The program, launched by the commission in 2015, is aimed at helping public libraries build fam-

ily-centered spaces and programming intended to support school readiness. The effort focuses on caregivers as children's first teachers and emphasizes welcoming environments for families with very young children.

Grant funding is expected to support training and equipment that participating libraries will use to host workshops for children from birth to age 3 and their caregivers, create interactive play-and-learn spaces inside library facilities, and develop partnerships with local organizations that serve young children and families.

A federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will cover tuition for up to two staff members from each participating library to attend an in-state Family Place Libraries Training Institute, according to the commission. The grant also

includes three years of follow-up support from Middle Country Public Library.

In addition, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission will use state funds to reimburse up to \$1,000 in travel costs for each qualifying attendee and provide each library up to \$8,000 to help develop its Family Place program.

Applications for the next cohort are expected to open this fall, the commission said. Libraries can review program requirements through the 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity, according to the agency.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission oversees statewide library development and archiving, and provides services that include support for public agencies' records management and resources for Texans with disabilities, the agency said.

## About the 2026 Family Place Libraries Project Grant

**WHAT THE GRANTS SUPPORT**

- Workshops for children ages 0-3 and caregivers
- Interactive early-learning space in the library
- Partnerships with local early-childhood organizations
- Training plus follow-up support

**FUNDING SNAPSHOT**

- Up to two staff members: tuition covered for training
- Up to \$1,000: travel reimbursement per qualifying attendee
- Up to \$8,000: per library for program development

**WHO GOT THE GRANTS**

- Alpine Public Library
- DeSoto Public Library
- El Paso Public Library
- Fort Bend County Libraries
- Harrie P. Woodson Memorial Library
- Leander Public Library
- Lena Armstrong Public Library
- Lewisville Public Library
- Little Elm Public Library
- Midlothian Public Library
- Montgomery County Memorial Library System

# PEC returns \$10 million in capital credits to members

**STAFF REPORTS**

JOHNSON CITY, Texas — Pedernales Electric Cooperative said it returned \$10 million to members through capital credits that appeared on January 2026 bills, a distribution approved by its board in December.

Pedernales Electric Cooperative distributed \$10 million in capital credits to members in January, with credits showing up on bills for current members, the utility said.

The PEC Board of Directors approved the distribution at a Dec. 19, 2025, meeting, according to the cooperative.

"As a nonprofit cooperative, PEC doesn't earn profits," the press release said. Instead, the cooperative said, any positive margins are reinvested in infrastructure or returned to members.

"Capital credits and the cooperative business model set us apart from other utilities — these credits represent our members' ownership and investment



FILE PHOTO / SCOTT W. COLEMAN  
Pedernales Electric Co-Op said it returned \$10 million to its members through capital credits appearing on January 2026 statements.

in the cooperative," PEC Chief Financial Officer Randy Kruger said in a statement. "PEC is committed to keeping our system strong, resilient, and member focused."

Capital credits are based on how much electricity each member uses, meaning payouts vary by member and by year, PEC said. The board decides

what portion of positive margins can be returned after assessing the cooperative's financial condition, according to the press release.

PEC said the average distribution for current members this year was about \$22.

The cooperative said the \$10 million distribution will go to current and former members who accumulated capital credits between 1995 and 2024.

Current members saw the distributions as credits on January bills, PEC said. Members with multiple accounts will receive a summary of their credits on one bill.

Former members with distributions totaling more than \$10 will receive a check, PEC said. Former members can request a check for distributions under \$10, or a check will be issued when unpaid distributions exceed \$10, according to the release. Former members should make sure PEC has a current address on file.

## LIBRARY

from page A1

our Cedar Park Library team has made our public library a true centerpiece for our community, a place where families and neighbors thrive, learn, and connect," Mayor Jim Penniman-Morin said in a statement.

The city said the library saw sharp increases in use in 2025, including circulation that rose 39% to 533,257 materials. Study room reservations jumped 949%, from 1,075 to 11,272, which the city attributed to an expansion from one study room to eight.

Attendance also climbed, the city said. A total of 52,457 people attended 1,050 library programs in 2025. Early childhood programs drew 5,500 more attendees than the prior year, and inter-generational programming increased by 6,600 attendees, according to the release.

The city also highlighted efforts aimed at serving residents who speak languages other than English. The library's World Languages collection includes Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Telugu, with materials grouped together for all ages, the city said. The library added LOTE4Kids, a digital resource offering audio picture books in more than 100 languages, according to the release.

Other offerings cited by the city include weekly English as a second language classes offered with Community in Action, bilingual story times with Asian Family Support Services of Austin, and a monthly book club with Austin Latinas Unidas.

The city said the library also offers large-print collections and assistive technology on public computers, with American Sign Language interpretation available by request. The release cited a monthly story time for children who use augmentative and alternative communication devices, offered in partnership with Leander ISD, the University of Texas and Texas State University.

More than 27,000 residents attended story time programs in 2025, the city said, and participation in the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program doubled. Through a Books for Babies initiative with the Cedar Park Public Library Foundation and Ascension Seton Hospital, the city said 1,500 newborns received books and early literacy materials.

The release also pointed to expanded technology access. The city said the library's makerspaces served 3,872 residents in 2025, while Wi-Fi was accessed 7.4 million times and digital collections were checked out 155,202 times.

The city credited partnerships with groups including Hill Country Community Ministries, Dell Children's Medical Center, Williamson County WIC and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for helping extend services.

# Lago Vista launches fentanyl awareness, safety effort

**STAFF REPORTS**

LAGO VISTA, Texas — The City of Lago Vista is launching a Safe Rx & Youth Protection Initiative aimed at fentanyl awareness, safe medication disposal and access to overdose-reversal resources.

City officials said the effort is designed to help families recognize the risks of counterfeit pills that can resemble prescription medication. Texas health officials have warned that a single pill can be deadly, the release said.

As part of the initiative, Lago Vista is partnering with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's "One Pill Kills" campaign to share prevention information and educational materials with residents.

The city said it will build a Safe Rx re-

source page on its website with fentanyl awareness materials, parent conversation guides and prevention information. The city also plans to regularly share campaign content through its communication channels.

Other steps include promoting participation in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day and publicizing options for disposing of unused legal medications. The city said a permanent medication disposal option is available at the CVS pharmacy drop-off location in Lago Vista.

The initiative also calls for coordination with Lago Vista Independent School District and local partners on a youth drug prevention education program, the release said.

In addition, the city said it will distribute naloxone, a medication that can

reverse opioid overdoses.

Officials said Lago Vista has received a donation of 144 doses of naloxone through the NaloxoneTexas program. The city is also coordinating with regional distribution partners to explore additional access to overdose response resources, according to the release.

"This initiative is about prevention and education," Mayor Shane R. Saum said in a press release. "We want parents to have tools, students to have awareness, and our community to have access to resources that can save lives. Even one life saved makes the effort worthwhile."

The city encouraged residents to dispose of unused medications safely and to visit the Safe Rx resource page once it goes live. Additional details are expected in the coming weeks, according to the release.

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**Here's How It Works:**

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!

**Answers found in next week's classified section.**

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## Law bans state-licensed mental health providers from giving gender-transitioning care to minors, AG Ken Paxton says

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued an opinion that says that a 2023 law that bans gender-transitioning medical care to minors also applies to mental health care.

BY STEPHEN SIMPSON AND AIDAN JOHNSTONE  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Mental health providers licensed by the state cannot provide gender-transitioning care to minors, according to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Paxton clarified in his legal opinion Friday that Senate Bill 14, a 2023 state law that bans health care providers from providing or facilitating treatment to minors that transitions their birth gender, such as with surgery or hormone treatments, also applies to mental health providers licensed by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council.

Those types of providers include professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, and social workers.

"This opinion should send a clear warning that there will be consequences for any medical professional, whether a doctor or a therapist, who is illegally 'transitioning' Texas kids," Paxton said Monday in a news release, adding he believes the path to youth transitioning from their birth gender often starts with mental health care providers.

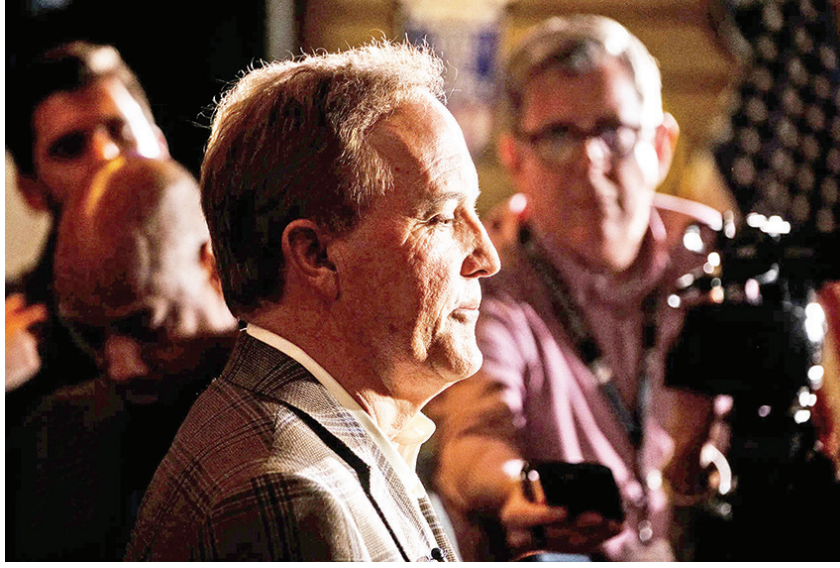
Gender-affirming health care is a range of services that help align a person's physical and mental characteristics with their preferred gender identity.

Mental health providers often help diagnose and recommend treatment to adults and minors with gender dysphoria, a psychological diagnosis widely accepted in the medical and mental health communities for someone whose gender identity doesn't match their gender assigned at birth. The treatment can include depression and anxiety, assessments for readiness for hormone therapy or surgeries, and support for families.

Darrel Spinks, executive director of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, asked for clarification from the attorney general's office.

Spinks, in his request, said that because SB 14 defines "health care provider" in the context of medical procedures such as surgery and dispensing of prescription drugs, the council believes mental health care providers were not intended to be included in SB 14's restrictions.

"The agency respectfully seeks clarification as to how such providers



Attorney General Ken Paxton speaks at a rally in Tyler as he campaigns for the U.S. Senate on Feb. 16, 2026.

For mental health support for LGBTQ youth, call the Trevor Project's 24/7 toll-free support line at 866-488-7386.

For trans peer support, call the Trans Lifeline at 877-565-8860.

You can also reach a trained crisis counselor through the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988.

are impacted by S.B. 14, given that the prohibited activities and services are exclusively medical in nature and fall outside the scope of practice for mental health professionals," Spinks asked in his letter to Paxton.

Paxton said he disagreed with Spinks' assessment, as the definition of "health care provider" does not require a prescription pad or a scalpel, and that the law clearly states public funds, such as Medicaid funding, can't go to the facilitation of gender transitions, and mental health providers often play a role in gender affirming care.

"We received several brief highlights that mental health professionals serve as the 'clinical gatekeepers whose assessments and recommendations initiate interventions' prohibited by SB 14," according to the opinion.

The opinion also noted that violating SB 14 could result in a mental health provider losing public funding, such as Medicaid reimbursements, and losing their license to practice in Texas.

"Any radical facilitating the 'transitioning' of our kids is committing child abuse," said Paxton in a news release. "The law is clear that these radical procedures are illegal, and in no world should Texans' tax dollars be used to permanently harm children."

Will Francis, executive director of

the Texas chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, said despite Paxton's opinion, mental health workers do not have to stop treating youth who suffer from gender dysphoria or need gender-affirming counseling because their counseling has long been considered protected speech under the First Amendment.

In his request for an attorney general's opinion, Spinks referenced that the U.S. Supreme Court is examining whether the counseling that a mental health provider gives is considered a free speech protection under the First Amendment. In that case, Kaley Chiles, a Colorado-licensed professional counselor, is challenging a state restriction that bars her from practicing conversion therapy. She says conversion therapy is a form of free speech rather than conduct, which can be regulated and has no First Amendment protection.

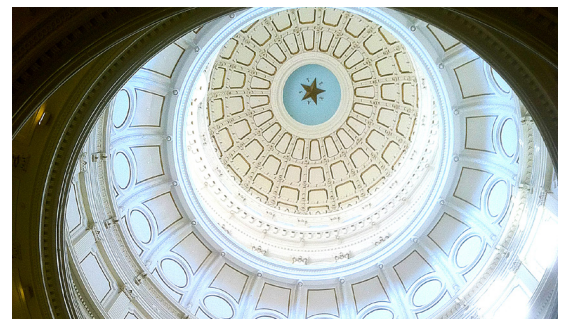
"(Paxton's) opinion doesn't change anything except scare and frighten both the clients and the social workers," Francis said.

Paxton's opinion did not address whether mental health counseling constitutes free speech, saying, in general, that his office declines to answer questions that are the subject of pending litigation. Paxton did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

When asked for clarification on what the opinion means for providers, the council licenses, Spinks told The Texas Tribune: "Our licensees are expected to comply fully with Texas law" and did not prefer further clarity.

Andrea Segovia, senior field and policy director at the Transgender Education Network of Texas, said that when SB 14 was still being considered, many legislators who supported it assured that the bill wouldn't impact mental health services for LGBTQIA+ kids in Texas.

See CARE, page A4



### CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### Texans urged to heed travel warnings about Mexico

Texans planning to travel to Mexico or currently visiting there are urged to closely follow warnings from the U.S. Department of State, which advises U.S. citizens to not travel to the states of Colima, Guerrero, Michoacan, Sinaloa and Tamaulipas. Travelers to other states in Mexico are urged to either reconsider or at least exercise increased caution. This comes after violence broke out in Jalisco following the death of a cartel leader in a gunfight with Mexican authorities.

Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to increase security along the border region.

Texans in need of immediate assistance can call the U.S. Department of State (from outside the U.S.: 1-202-501-4444; from inside the U.S.: 1-888-407-4747) or the Texas Fusion Center (1-844-927-0521).

#### Patrick seeks to block Camp Mystic's reopening

Texas should not renew the license for Camp Mystic this summer until necessary changes are made to ensure more lives aren't lost in a flood, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wrote in a letter to the state health commissioner, according to the Texas Standard.

"It would be naive to allow Camp Mystic to return to normal operations before all of the facts are known," Patrick wrote to Department of State Health Services Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. "Camp Mystic should have decided on their own to suspend operations this coming summer, but it appears they are planning for camp in 2026 and will likely be seeking your approval to operate with a renewed license."

Flooding last July 4 killed 25 campers, two counselors and the camp's executive director.

Parents of some of the campers who died have sued Shuford and other DSHS officials, claiming the state failed to follow Texas law when licensing the camp without ensuring it had adequate evacuation plans. In the months following the flood, Camp Mystic has announced plans to reopen its Cypress Lake property, which it says is independent from the older Guadalupe River location where the girls died.

#### Wildfires popping up across the state

Dry conditions and brisk winds are fueling a rise in wildfires across the state. The Texas A&M Forest Service reported that forecast rain could lessen the wildfire risk in early March.

As of Sunday, the service reported two active wildfires: one in Orange County, in Southeast Texas, and the other in Schleicher County, in Central Texas. Most of the wildfires reported last week and now contained were in East Texas. Burn bans are in place in 184 of the state's 254 counties.

#### Education board approves 4,200 curriculum corrections

The State Board of Education last week approved roughly 4,200 corrections and revisions to its elementary and secondary school curriculum, The Texas Tribune reported. The cost of making the corrections and changes has not been determined, but it will come at taxpayer expense, since the Texas Education Agency developed the materials using state funding. A TEA official said the agency planned to determine the costs now that the changes and corrections have been approved. The vote was delayed in January.

The state has been using the Bluebonnet Learning curriculum since November 2024. When unveiled, it attracted national attention for its references to the Bible and Christianity.

Approximately 1 in 4 school districts have indicated that they are using at least some portions of the reading curriculum, covering about 400,000 students. The materials come with a \$60 per-student incentive for districts.

TEA spokesperson Jake Kobersky said not all the changes to Bluebonnet are to fix errors.

"Some updates are simply improvements based on teacher feedback," Kobersky said. "Every change and/or edit made to the product must be submitted individually for SBOE approval, regardless of the nature of the change, hence the large number."

#### New state park open after years of delays

The gates to the state's newest park are now open. Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, located about 75 miles west of Fort Worth, consists of 4,871 acres of former ranchland, according to The Dallas Morning News. It marks the first time in more than 25 years that a new state park has opened in North Texas.

The park's planned opening in 2023 was postponed by safety concerns during construction. It has more than 16 miles of trails, a 90-acre lake and both recreational vehicle and tent-camping sites.

The site was purchased by the parks department in 2011. Funding for its construction came from a combination of legislative appropriation, the Sporting Goods Sales Tax, federal funding, and \$10 million in private philanthropy.

#### Four Texas counties report measles cases

Measles cases have been reported recently in four Texas counties: Frio, Bandera, Kendall and Lubbock. With five reported cases, Bandera had the most, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Lubbock was the center of last year's outbreak when people from surrounding counties with measles came there for hospital care.

The current outbreak of measles has been centered around South Carolina. Last year, Texas led the nation with more than 800 cases, mostly in West Texas.

Measles is highly contagious, spread by airborne particles. It has a 90% infection rate among unvaccinated people who are exposed to someone with measles. It can cause people to also lose their immune protection against other diseases.

*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.*

## Texas sales tax collections rise in February; oil and gas taxes fall

### STAFF REPORTS

AUSTIN — Texas collected \$4 billion in state sales tax revenue in February, a 3.8% increase from the same month in 2025, according to the Texas comptroller's office.

The agency said most of the February total reflects sales made in January and remitted to the state in February.

Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock said in a prepared statement that the figures show "steady economic

momentum" and described sales tax as "the backbone of our state budget." The release did not provide additional independent measures of the broader economy.

Beyond sales taxes, several major revenue streams declined year over year, including taxes tied to energy production. Texas collected \$386 million in oil production tax revenue in February, down 21% from February 2025, and

See REVENUE, page A4

### Texas February tax totals (year over year)

- State sales tax: \$4 billion (up 3.8%)
- Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes: \$641 million (down 1%)
- Motor fuel taxes: \$310 million (up less than 1%)
- Oil production tax: \$386 million (down 21%)
- Natural gas production tax: \$181 million (down 18%)
- Hotel occupancy tax: \$51 million (down 11%)
- Alcoholic beverage taxes: \$126 million (down 2%)



#### • WILLIAMSON COUNTY — WILCOTX.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 Lippe Instructional Materials Center located at 1775 W. New Hope Dr.,

Building B 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 — LAGOVISTATXAS.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.

**REVENUE**

from page A3

\$181 million in natural gas production tax revenue, down 18%, the comptroller's office said.

Other tax collections were also lower. Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes totaled \$641 million, down 1% from a year earlier. Hotel occupancy tax revenue was \$51 million, down 11%, and alcoholic beverage taxes totaled \$126 million, down 2%, the agency said.

Motor fuel taxes were one of the few non-sales tax categories that increased. The state collected \$310 million in motor fuel taxes, up less than 1% from February 2025, according to the release.

Within the sales tax report, the comptroller's office said results varied by sector. Collections tied mainly to business spending were "mostly down," with construction and manufacturing slightly below February 2025 levels. Wholesale trade collections rose by more than 8%, while mining-sector remittances fell significantly. The office said the mining decline was due in part to increased refund activity.

Sectors driven primarily by consumer spending increased, the agency said. Services collections rose by almost 10%, and retail trade — the largest sector — increased by more than 4% compared with February 2025.

Within retail, the office reported gains across most subsectors. Remittances from electronics and appliance stores and from sporting goods and hobby stores each increased by more than 10% compared with a year earlier. Receipts from home improvement stores and furniture and home furnishings stores declined, the release said.

Restaurant-related receipts increased by more than 4% from February 2025. The comptroller's office said that pace was slightly ahead of inflation for food away from home.

Looking at a broader window, total state sales tax revenue for the three months ending in February 2026 was up 5.6% from the same period a year earlier, the comptroller's office said. The agency said sales tax accounts for 58% of all state tax collections.

**CARE**

from page A3

Paxton's opinion will harm access to care because it will scare mental health providers from giving care to young trans people in Texas, according to Johnathan Gooch, communications director of Equality Texas.

"In no uncertain terms, trans young people will die as a result of this. Access to mental health care will become more complicated for some of the most marginalized people in our state," Gooch said. "To be messing with care for suicidal ideation among a population who face disproportionately high suicidal ideation is not just dangerous, it's morally without method."

Francis said his organization is planning to partner with organizations like Equality Texas, ACLU, and Lambda Legal to create legal guidance for mental health providers to educate them on their First Amendment rights and the protections it provides to the therapeutic space.

Gooch encourages mental health professionals to reach out to their lawyers to find out exactly what this opinion means

for their practice.

"In other words, don't be bullied," Gooch said. "Mental health practitioners need to do the work to understand what is and what isn't legal and shouldn't be bullied by someone like Ken Paxton, who just happens to have a megaphone through which he's projecting these ideas." Gooch also said parents who need help with mental health resources for their children can reference Equality Texas' Mental Health Toolkit.

Paxton's opinions aren't legally binding, although state agencies often use his conclusions to set policy. Despite this, Segovia and Gooch both said it's possible that mental health professionals may drop transgender clients out of fear of retaliation from Paxton.

Paxton's office has leveraged SB 14 to go after medical doctors that it has accused of illegally providing gender affirming care to youth.

May Lau, a Dallas pediatrician, surrendered her medical license last year after becoming

the first doctor Paxton sued under SB 14. He also sought similar claims against an El Paso endocrinologist, Hector Granados, that were eventually dropped, and against Brett Cooper, another Dallas pediatrician. Cooper's case is set for a court hearing in May.

Francis said that while Paxton's opinion is not legally binding, the Legislature could pass a bill enshrining his opinion to ban state licensed professionals from providing gender-affirming or gender-transitioning mental health care.

"We have seen legislators clearly understand that you need to talk to someone when you are having issues, and that the number one cause of suicide is related to mental illness. What we see is fear when it is related to LGBTQ+ issues," Francis said. "Mental health comes in many forms, and when you try to start to regulate that, you are starting to strip away the freedoms of Texans, but also silencing them."



**NORTH LAKE TRAVIS**  
CHAMBER & VISITORS CENTER

**Event Recap: Community Choice Awards + Dueling Pianos**



The North Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce continues to build momentum across Lago Vista, Jonestown, and Poin Our recent Community Choice Awards & Dueling Pianos Night was an unforgettable evening celebrating the businesses, leaders, and organizations that make the North Shore thrive. Guests enjoyed dinner, awards recognition shaped by community nominations and votes, and a high-energy piano performance that elevated the whole experience.

The night marked more than just an awards banquet — it was a celebration of collaboration, local success, and community. Thank you to everyone who attended, supported, sponsored, and helped create such a meaningful and fun evening for our community. t Venture—bringing people together through connection, celebration, and opportunity. From packed networking events and ribbon cuttings to unforgettable themed fundraisers, this season has been all about showing up, building relationships, and having fun while doing meaningful work in our community.



**Join Us in March**

**State of the City – Lago Vista**

Wednesday, March 11 | 5:30 PM

K-Oaks Clubhouse, 7000 Bar K Ranch Rd., Lago Vista

Join Mayor Shane Saum and City Manager Charles West for an important community update on the current and future direction of Lago Vista.

Free to attend. Dinner included with a ticket purchase. Chamber member discounts.

Register at [nlchamber.org](http://nlchamber.org)

*Featuring:*

**Mayor Shane Saum**

**City Manager Charles West**

*Join us for an important community update!*

- City accomplishments & development
- Infrastructure & growth plans
- Upcoming initiatives
- Community priorities for 2026

*Sponsored by:*

**K OAKS CLUBHOUSE**

**MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> 2026**  
5:30 PM

**Backstage Pass Luncheons – New Series Launch!**

Wednesday, March 18 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Oak Ridge Archery, 4940 Observatory Hill, Lago Vista

Step behind the scenes at local businesses you may not normally see. Tour the space, learn what they do, and build meaningful connections.

BBQ lunch included. Must RSVP. Chamber member discount.

**BACKSTAGE PASS**  
CHAMBER LUNCHEONS  
**BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS!**  
VIP ALL ACCESS

**Brunch Networking at Dax & Jade**

Thursday, March 26 | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

19621 RM 1431 Suite 200, Jonestown

Tour the space, mingle with fellow professionals, and enjoy a mimosa while networking in a relaxed setting. Free to Chamber members!

**Welcome New Members!**

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A&W Roofing LLC               | Puragain Water                       |
| Aliya Kay Photography         | KTS Photography                      |
| AAA Storage Lago Vista        | Defend Roofing                       |
| Highland Lakes Septic Company | Jess Hall                            |
| ALBA Wine Bar                 | The Barre Ballet                     |
| Thrifty Goat Graphics         | Stephen Braggs Youth Foundation Inc. |
| New York Life                 | Pinnacle Havens                      |

NEWS

# BACKLASH

from page A1

I mean, that's where my worry goes, right? People who are innocent who have nothing to do with this."

The shooting happened just before 2 a.m. Sunday, when police say 53-year-old Ndiaga Diagne drove to Buford's bar on West Sixth Street, rolled down his windows and began shooting out of his car with a pistol. Police say he then parked, got out of his vehicle with a rifle and continued shooting.

Police and paramedics arrived on the scene within one minute. Diagne was shot and killed. Two people — 21-year-old Savitha Shan and 19-year-old Ryder Harrington — died. A third was expected to be taken off life support, police said Monday. Fourteen others were injured.

Investigators say it is too early to definitively declare a motive, but FBI officials say there were indicators that the attack could be related to terrorism. Authorities pointed to symbols captured in images from the scene, including photos that show Diagne wearing a sweatshirt with "Property of Allah" across the front and a shirt with an Iranian flag design during the shooting as factors under review.

The assault came as the United States and Israel carried out airstrikes in Iran. It is also Ramadan, the holiest month of the Islamic calendar, when Muslims fast, pray, reflect and spend time with the community.

The shooting unfolded as Texas leaders have taken aggressive action against Muslim organizations, a backdrop many Muslims say has normalized suspicion toward their faith.

In November, Gov. Greg Abbott designated the Muslim Brotherhood and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) foreign terrorist organizations. The designation bans the two Muslim groups from purchasing or acquiring land in Texas. CAIR, a Muslim advocacy group, filed a lawsuit several days later.

Last month, Attorney General Ken Paxton sued to shut down CAIR, alleging the group is a "radical terrorist organization that exists to usurp governmental power and establish dominion through Sharia law."

Shortly after the shooting on Sunday, politicians across Texas and the country began denouncing immigration policies. It didn't come as a sur-

prise to some Muslims. They said the rhetoric often spills over into everyday interactions and online harassment.

Sajid Iqbal, an imam at a mosque in the outskirts of Austin, knows all about the negative sentiment directed toward Muslim communities when violent incidents with suspected ties to terrorism occur.

Iqbal describes his community as peace-loving. The motto at his mosque is "love for all, hatred for none."

"When we see that people are making these comments toward our population in general, it does hurt us in that these are our neighbors, these are coworkers or peers making these comments toward us," Iqbal said. "At the end of the day we don't have an answer or rebuttal because all we can do is pray for them and show with our example what true Islam actually is."

Safety is always a priority at his mosque when Muslims gather to pray, he said. Those who belong to the mosque count on volunteers to stand outside to keep watch for any security problems.

Violent incidents involving Muslims always become politically heated, said Haris Tarin, vice president of policy and programming at the Muslim Public Affairs Council, a national advocacy group.

"It's not like this is something new," he said. "This will continue. They use and they unfortunately exploit tragedies like this, rather than focusing on what the core issue is, whether it's mental health or something else."

The political fervor, he said, goes beyond scoring points with their supporters. It can embolden and motivate volatile people to harm others. They can set fire to mosques or attack Muslims, he said.

"It gets out to enough people where it starts to cause violence and it starts to cause anxiety amongst our communities," Tarin said.

On Monday, as police continued to investigate the shooting, Qadri's office hosted a blood drive outside City Hall. He sees himself both as a city leader and a Muslim and says his responsibility is to represent everyone.

"All I'm trying to do," he said, "is be the best example of a public servant, of a person, as I can be to give folks hope during this really difficult time."

# SHOOTING

from page A1

## WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

Authorities identified the victims as 30-year-old Jorge Pederson, 21-year-old Saditha Shan and 19-year-old Ryder Harrington, a student at Texas Tech University.

"It is unfair, to say the least, that my little brother was only given 19 years on this earth," his brother, Reed Harrington, wrote on Facebook. "Watching the man he had become, and seeing all the lives he touched, leaves me certain that this world was robbed of a great future."

Shan and Harrington were killed on Sunday during the shooting, and Pederson died from his injuries on Monday. Three people injured during the shooting remained in critical condition Monday, including one person who was expected to be taken off life support, Davis said during a Monday news conference. Authorities did not immediately clarify whether Pederson was the person taken off life support.

## WHO WAS THE GUNMAN?

Austin police identified the gunman as Ndiaga Diagne, a 53-year-old man originally from Senegal.

The Department of Homeland Security said Diagne entered the United States on a tourist visa in 2000, became a lawful permanent resident in 2006 after marrying a U.S. citizen and became a naturalized citizen in 2013.

In 2017, Diagne legally purchased the guns he used in the shooting in San Antonio, Davis said.

Diagne was arrested in 2022 on a misdemeanor charge of "collision with vehicle damage," typically issued when a driver leaves the scene of a crash.

The New York Post reported Diagne was ar-

rested for "illegal vending" in New York City in 2001. Citing unnamed sources, the tabloid said he was arrested in New York three other times between 2008 and 2016, but those records are sealed. The Post did not report on whether he was convicted of any crimes.

Authorities said they expect to release more information on Diagne's criminal history on Thursday as well as body camera footage and other details related to the officer-involved shooting that led to Diagne's death.

## WHAT WAS THE MOTIVE?

Investigators have not announced a motive. However, Alex Doran, acting special agent in charge of FBI San Antonio, said there were indicators that the shooting could be related to terrorism.

Diagne wore a sweatshirt emblazoned with the words "Property of Allah" and a shirt with a design of the Iranian flag, according to the Associated Press. The shooting came hours after the United States and Israel carried out airstrikes in Iran.

## WHAT ARE ELECTED OFFICIALS SAYING?

Reactions from Texas politicians have largely fallen along partisan lines. Democrats are calling for stricter gun laws, while some Republicans have focused on the gunman's immigration history.

After Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico called for proposals such as universal background checks, red flag laws and closing the gun show loopholes that allow for the private sales of firearms at gunshows, Gov. Greg Abbott said the problem wasn't gun laws but with "unvetted" immigration.

# ROBBERY

from page A1

contained "trackers," according to the complaint.

The suspect then ordered employees into a bathroom and told them not to leave, court records say.

Surveillance images show the suspect leaving the credit union about 10:16 a.m. and driving away in a vehicle later determined to be stolen, according to the complaint. Police said detectives used multiple investigative techniques and gathered enough evidence by early Saturday morning to file charges identifying Brown as the suspect.

During last month's search warrant, au-

thorities said they found items that matched the disguise seen in surveillance images. Police said the search also led to the recovery of a large portion of the stolen cash.

If convicted, Brown could face up to 20 years in federal prison. A federal judge would determine any sentence after considering sentencing guidelines and other factors.

The FBI and Austin police investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Buie is prosecuting, federal authorities said.

A criminal complaint is an allegation. Defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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**Notice of Public Hearing**  
Lago Vista ISD will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2026, in the MAC (5185 Lohman Ford Rd., Lago Vista) during the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the 2024–2025 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR).

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The City Council of the City of Leander, Texas (the "City"), will hold a public hearing in the Council Chambers at the Pat Bryson Municipal Hall at 201 N. Brushy Street, Leander, Texas, on **the 19th day of March 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** for the purpose of receiving public comments on the proposed initiation of annexation proceedings of the following generally described areas of land.

**A-25-0024:**  
Being a 11.369 acre tract of land out of the Polly Scritchfield Survey, Abstract No. 899, Williamson County, Texas, and Abstract No. 692, Travis County, Texas, and being all of a called 11.331 acre tract of land conveyed to Philip J. Hackett and Katerina Hackett, husband and wife as joint tenants by deed recorded in Document No. 2010010132, Official Public Records of Williamson County, Texas and Document No. 2010023808, of Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas.

**A-25-0025 & A-25-0026:**  
BEING a 55.152 acre tract of land in the William H. Monroe Survey, Abstract Number 453 and the Henry Garmes Survey, Abstract Number 269, Williamson County, Texas, being all of a called 55.152 acre tract of land conveyed to Mark Alexander, et al. by general warranty deed with life estate reservation recorded in Document Number 2013017775, Official Public Records, Williamson County, Texas, and affidavit regarding fact of death and expiration of a life estate reserved in a general warranty deed recorded in 2024057632, Official Public Records, Williamson County, Texas, and adjacent rights of way of CR 267.

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by Duffs Of Austin dba Duffs Famous Wings to be located at 12233 Ranch Road 620 N #205, Austin, Williamson County, Texas 78750. Tony Mansour, Owner/Vice President; Jean Maalouf, Owner/President.

**1st Public Notice**  
Notice to the Owner and Lienholder of the following vehicle:  
Orr Wrecker & Towing Svc., Inc.  
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TDLR WEBSITE www.tdlr.texas.gov  
2004 Toyota Camry VIN#4T1BE32K24U270500  
Total Charges Thru 2/26/2026 \$496.26.

**Request for Proposals**  
**Leander High School Utility Bid**  
American Constructors requests proposals for Select Utility Relocation for the Leander HS Master Plan Additions and Renovations Project.  
Proposals are due Wednesday, March 11th at 2:00 pm. 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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**February 26**  
**Puzzle Answers**

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

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**      **950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage License by FW Leander LLC dba First Watch Leander to be located at 19397 Ronald W Reagan Blvd., #100, Leander, Williamson County, Texas. Manager and officers of said LLC are Joseph M. Haik-President/Secretary, Brandon Poynter-EVP, Blaine Poynter-VP, Alec Poynter-VP. Member is MH FW Restaurants LLC.

The above-described tract of land is more particularly described in a map and materials related to the above referenced annexation, which is available for inspection at City Hall, 105 N. Brushy St., Leander, Texas 78641 and will be available at the public hearing.  
Robin M. Griffin,  
Executive Director of Development Services  
512-528-2763

## Ramirez scores in debut as Austin FC blanks D.C. United 1-0

### BOX SCORE March 1, 2026

Austin FC 0 1 - 1  
D.C. United 0 0 - 0

### SCORING PLAYS

82' — ATX: Christian Ramirez (header from rebound), unassisted

### KEY PLAYER STATS

Austin — Christian Ramirez: 1 goal (debut)  
Austin — Brad Stuver: 2 saves  
D.C. United — Sean Johnson: 8 saves  
Austin — Team totals: 16 shots, 9 on target, 55.5% possession  
D.C. United — Team totals: 8 shots, 2 on target

### TEAM RECORDS

Austin FC (1-0-1, 4 pts.)  
D.C. United (1-1-0, 3 pts.)

### STAFF REPORTS

AUSTIN, Texas — Christian Ramirez needed less than 15 minutes to make an impression in his Austin FC debut.

Ramirez, signed off waivers Friday, scored in the 82nd minute Sunday to lift Austin FC to a 1-0 victory over D.C. United at Q2 Stadium, securing the Verde & Black's first win of the 2026 Major League Soccer season.

Austin (1-0-1, 4 points) controlled much of the match but did not break through until late, when Ramirez headed home a rebound from close range after Besard Sabovic's shot was blocked and redirected at the goal line. The goal came just 14 minutes after Ramirez entered as a substitute in the 68th minute, capping a whirlwind week for the 34-year-old forward.

Ramirez was acquired from the LA Galaxy two days before the match and trained once with Austin before being called into action Sunday. He became the second player in club history to score in his first appearance and later was voted to the MLS Team of the Matchday bench.

Despite being fresh to the squad, Austin FC head coach Nico Estevez said Ramirez's experience was a key strength that created confidence in putting him



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Austin FC forward Christian Ramirez (21) celebrates in front of cheering fans after scoring the game-winning goal on Sunday.

into the game on Sunday.

"What he has is a very clear understanding of how the game is played... and he knows how to position himself in different phases of the game," Estevez said. "He has a very good sense of where to position himself to score goals."

Austin dictated play throughout, finishing with 16 shots and nine on target while holding 55.5% possession. D.C. United (1-1-0, 3 points) relied heavily on goalkeeper Sean Johnson, who made eight saves to keep

the visitors level deep into the second half.

Facundo Torres nearly opened the scoring in the 57th minute, forcing a fingertip save from Johnson. Austin goalkeeper Brad Stuver made two saves to earn the shutout.

The victory followed a 2-2 draw against Minnesota United in Austin's season opener and improved the club to 4-0-0 all-time against D.C. United in regular-season play.

Austin next travels to face Charlotte FC on Saturday in its first road match of the season.

## Nunn's 30 points lift Austin past Memphis

### STAFF REPORTS

CEDAR PARK, Texas — Jayden Nunn recorded a season-high 30 points along with 13 rebounds and seven assists as the Austin Spurs held off the Memphis Hustle 121-118 on Sunday afternoon at the H-E-B Center at Cedar Park.

Austin improved to 16-9 with the victory, overcoming a four-point halftime deficit by surging in the third quarter. The Spurs shot 60.9% from the field and 66.7% from 3-point range in the period, turning a 67-63 halftime deficit into a 99-87 lead entering the fourth.

Nunn scored 14 points in the first half and added 16 in the third quarter to pace the turnaround. Tre King contributed a season-high 26 points, while Kyle Mangas finished with 20 and Adam Flagler added a season-high 15 for Austin.

Memphis (5-21) led by as many as 16 points in the first half and took a 36-27

advantage after the opening quarter. The Hustle extended the margin to 67-63 at the break behind 14 first-half points from Colby Jones.

Austin responded after halftime, outscoring Memphis 36-20 in the third quarter to take its largest lead of the game at 17 points. The Spurs shot 51.9% overall (42 of 81) and made 15 of 36 from beyond the arc.

Memphis rallied in the fourth, outscoring Austin 31-22 to trim the deficit to three with 12 seconds remaining. The Spurs secured the win at the free-throw line down the stretch, closing out the three-point victory.

Tyler Burton and Dejon Jarreau each scored 22 points to lead Memphis, while Eric Dixon added 17. The Hustle shot 48.8% (41 of 84) from the field and made 14 of 36 from 3-point range.

Austin finished with a 41-34 rebounding edge and recorded 18 assists on 42 made field goals. The game featured one lead change.

## No. 4 Texas closes regular season with fifth straight win, eyes No. 1 seed

### STAFF REPORTS

No. 4 Texas closed the regular season Sunday with a 72-65 win over No. 24 Alabama, extending its winning streak to five games and strengthening its position for a coveted No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

Madison Booker scored 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds as Texas improved to 28-3 overall and 13-3 in the SEC. Jordan Lee and Kyla Oldacre added 11 points apiece for the Longhorns, who have won five straight since a Feb. 12 loss to then-No. 5 Vanderbilt.

The surge has vaulted Texas into the latest projected No. 1 seed line in ESPN's bracket reveal, joining UConn, UCLA and South Carolina among the top four seeds. The top 16 seeds host first- and second-round NCAA tournament games.

Texas wasted little time seizing control Sunday. Lee scored the Longhorns' first five points, and Brea Cunningham added a layup off a pass from Justice Carlton as Texas built an early 11-4 lead.

The Longhorns closed the first half on a 6-0 run to take a 29-20 advantage into the break, then opened the third quarter with an 8-0 spurt. Booker scored six consecutive points during that stretch, pushing the lead to 37-20 and helping Texas build a cushion it would not relinquish.

Alabama trimmed the deficit to 49-44 with 8:11 left in the fourth quarter, but a 3-pointer from Carlton and a three-point play from Booker stretched the margin back to double digits. Texas shot 53.8 percent in the fourth quarter to secure the win.

Booker's 21-point effort moved her into seventh place on Texas' career scoring list with 1,813 points. It marked her 13th 20-point game of the season and the 41st of her career.

Texas finished 27 of 63 from the field (42.9 percent), outrebounced Alabama 35-29 and held a 14-5 edge on the offensive glass. The Longhorns converted that



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS

Texas guard Madison Booker moved into seventh place on the Texas career scoring list after picking up 21 points to lead the Longhorns in a 72-65 win over Alabama on Sunday.

### BOX SCORE

Texas 13 16 20 23 — 72  
Alabama 11 9 17 28 — 65

### KEY PLAYER STATS

Texas — Madison Booker: 21 points, 9 rebounds  
Texas — Jordan Lee: 11 points, 5 assists, 4 steals  
Texas — Kyla Oldacre: 11 points  
Alabama — Jessica Timmons: 24 points

into an 11-4 advantage in second-chance points and led for 38 minutes, 45 seconds.

The win marked Texas' 12th victory this season against a ranked opponent, the most in the nation.

With the regular season complete, the Longhorns now turn their attention to the SEC Tournament in Greenville, S.C., beginning Friday, March 6. Selection Sunday is March 15, when the NCAA tournament bracket will be announced and Texas will learn whether its late-season surge secured a No. 1 seed and the opportunity to host the opening two rounds.

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