



SPORTS
Boerne sends two squads to state soccer tourneys. **B1**



STATE
Complaint to FEC focuses on Sen. Cruz's podcast. **A5**

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SAISD prepares for 'tough decisions' amid budget talks. **A3**

San Antonio Express-News

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Photos by Sam Owens/Staff photographer
Martin Weiss of Munich, Germany, shares photos that he captured of the total solar eclipse with other visitors at Marktplatz on Monday in Fredericksburg. An estimated 3,000 people were at Marktplatz for the eclipse.

Hill Country eclipse turnout was more fine than fabulous

Area didn't get as many tourists — or problems — as it expected

By Richard A. Marini, Liz Teitz and Ricardo Delgado
STAFF WRITERS

Ahead of Monday's total solar eclipse, the expectations were huge. With the Hill Country among the nation's best places to watch the celestial event, experts predicted hundreds of thousands of visitors would stream in, bringing hundreds of millions of dollars of economic impact with them. It didn't quite pan out that way. A lot of people did show up and spend money, but cloudy weather limited views of the eclipse and kept the crowds smaller



A Fredericksburg spokesperson said traffic flowed smoothly and complimented tourists on their manners.

than expected, local officials said. The smaller crowds likely helped avoid some of the problems Texas officials had feared, such as nightmare traffic, supply shortages and medical emergencies. Despite the smaller-than-expected crowds, local officials and business owners said the eclipse

wasn't a total disappointment. "It wasn't the heyday they were looking for, but hopefully they can recoup their costs and were able to see some advantage," said Whitney Walston, city secretary for Johnson City. Fredericksburg, Kerrville and Johnson City were expected to be among the Hill Country hot spots for eclipse viewers, but all three reported smaller crowds than expected. About two hours before totality in Johnson City, there were still dozens of empty parking spots in the Blanco County town and traffic was moving quickly, with most cars heading **Eclipse continues on A8**

Shooter's parents ordered to prison

10-year sentences follow Michigan school massacre

By Ed White
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PONTIAC, Mich. — The first parents convicted in a U.S. mass school shooting were sentenced to at least 10 years in prison Tuesday as a judge lamented missed opportunities that could have prevented their teenage son from possessing a gun and killing four students in 2021. "These convictions are not about poor parenting," Oakland County Judge Cheryl Matthews said. "These convictions confirm repeated acts, or lack of acts, that could have halted an oncoming runaway train." The hearing in a crowded, tense courtroom was the climax of an extraordinary effort to make others besides the 15-year-old attacker criminally responsible for a school shooting. Jennifer and James Crumbley did not know Ethan Crumbley had a handgun — he called it his "beauty" — in a backpack when he was dropped off at Oxford High School. But prosecutors convinced jurors that the parents still played a disastrous role in the violence. The Crumbleys were accused of not securing the newly purchased gun at home and acting differently to signs of Ethan's deteriorating mental health, especially when confronted with a chilling classroom drawing earlier on the day of the shooting. The Crumbleys were convicted of involuntary manslaughter earlier this year. "The blood of our children is on your hands," **Parents continues on A8**



Clarence Tabb Jr./Associated Press
Jennifer Crumbley stares at her husband, James, during sentencing in Pontiac, Mich.

Nirenberg: Be patient with work program

By Molly Smith
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Ron Nirenberg spent part of his second-to-last State of the City speech urging business leaders not to give up on the struggling job training program that he pitched to voters four years ago. "The program's engines are just revving up," Nirenberg said Tuesday at the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's annual event. "We're now entering uncharted territory as we



Salgu Wissmath/Staff photographer
Mayor Ron Nirenberg has pinned his four-term legacy on Ready to Work and other long-term initiatives.

create a coordinated workforce development ecosystem at a scale unparalleled in our city's history — maybe in any city's history." "Training for new careers and finishing degrees is vital, but it will take time," he said. The city launched Ready to Work **Mayor continues on A4**

Council Member Peláez will seek mayor's post

By Greg Jefferson
STAFF WRITER

City Council Member Manny Peláez, who publicly mused about running for mayor last summer and has been noisily positioning himself ever since for a citywide campaign in 2025, made it official in a video announcement early Tuesday. "As your mayor, I will never shy away from difficult conversations about the challenges we face," Peláez said in the three-minute, 18-second video on YouTube that features a montage of historic and cultural landmarks across San Antonio and includes the tagline "Safer. Stronger. Smarter." While offering no specific

policies, Peláez promised "fearless and innovative solutions for crime, the increasing cost of living, homelessness, unreasonably high taxes and a job market that excludes too many San Antonians." Peláez, 50, is the second City Council member to launch a campaign to replace Mayor Ron Nirenberg, who can't seek reelection next year because of San Antonio's term limits. District 9 Council Member John Courage announced his candidacy in January. **Peláez continues on A8**



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Prosecutors: Evidence was suppressed in Lucio case

By **Juan A. Lozano**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melissa Lucio, a Texas woman whose execution was delayed in 2022 amid growing doubts she fatally beat her 2-year-old daughter, had evidence suppressed at her murder trial, according to prosecutors in the case, which has become a cause celebre among people including Kim Kardashian.

As part of an agreement on findings in Lucio's case, prosecutors and her attorneys say the suppressed evidence, including witness statements and a report by Child Protective Services, would have corroborated Lucio's defense that her daughter Mariah died of a head injury sustained in an accidental fall down a steep staircase two days before her death.

"She would not have been convicted in light of the suppressed evidence," according to the 33-page agreement between the office of Cameron County District Attorney Luis Saenz and Lucio's attorneys. The document lays out what both sides say are agreed findings of fact

and conclusions of law in the case.

The agreement, which recommends that Lucio's conviction and death sentence be overturned, is being called unusual and extraordinary by one death penalty expert. But it has remained in limbo for 16 months before a Texas judge, who has yet to say whether she will give it her approval and forward it to the state's highest criminal court, which would make a final decision.

Lucio, 55, had been set for lethal injection in April 2022 for the 2007 death of her daughter in Harlingen, a city of about 71,000 in Texas' southern tip. But the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals stayed her lethal injection two days before her scheduled execution so state District Judge Gabriela Garcia could review Lucio's claims that new evidence would exonerate her.

Prosecutors had long maintained Mariah was the victim of abuse and noted her body was covered in bruises. In a sometimes contentious hearing with Texas lawmakers two weeks before the scheduled execution,

Saenz had said he disagreed with claims from Lucio's attorneys there was new evidence that would exonerate her.

But in a joint statement with Lucio's attorneys that was issued Friday, Saenz acknowledged her legal team "did not have access to information favorable to her defense at the time of trial." Saenz was not the district attorney at the time of Lucio's trial in 2008.

The statement did not provide more information on why the favorable evidence wasn't given to Lucio's lawyers. Saenz's office and Lucio's attorney, Vanessa Potkin, declined to comment beyond their joint statement.

"We are grateful to District Attorney Saenz for recognizing that evidence that our baby sister Mariah's death was an accident, not a murder, was never presented to the jury. We are also thankful to Melissa's legal team. We hope and pray that our mother can soon come home to her family," Lucio's son, John Lucio, and his wife, Michelle, said in a statement.

The suppressed Child Protective Services report indicat-

ed that one of Lucio's children told a CPS worker he was present when Mariah "fell down some stairs."

The report also revealed all of Lucio's children told the CPS worker their mother was not abusive to them or Mariah.

The agreed findings also say Lucio's trial attorneys were not provided statements from two of her other children, who had corroborated to Harlingen police their mother's claims that Mariah had been injured in a fall and that Lucio had grown increasingly worried about Mariah's deteriorating health before her death.

Prosecutors provided the suppressed evidence to two experts, including a forensic pathologist, who "concluded that the likely cause of Mariah's death was an accidental fall resulting in head trauma," according to the agreed findings.

Saenz and Lucio's attorneys submitted their agreed findings to Garcia on Dec. 20, 2022. But she has yet to issue a ruling and forward her decision to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, which makes the final decision.

Garcia did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Robin Maher, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, said the time Garcia is taking to issue a ruling suggests the judge is "giving this case the serious, thoughtful consideration it deserves."

Maher, whose nonprofit group takes no position on capital punishment but has criticized the way states carry out executions, called the agreement between Saenz and Lucio's attorneys "quite extraordinary" and "one of those rare instances where both sides have acknowledged an injustice and agree about the remedy."

Lucio's case has garnered support from Kardashian and a bipartisan group of lawmakers, including GOP state Rep. Jeff Leach.

"I have long maintained that the system failed Melissa Lucio — and her daughter, Mariah — at every turn and that she should be given a new chance for justice ... and a new chance for life," Leach said in a post Sunday on the social platform X.

MAYOR

From page A1

Work nearly two years ago, and it has struggled to meet its targets. It aims to enroll far fewer San Antonians than Nirenberg promised to voters ahead of the November 2020 city charter amendment election, and it's currently behind on its target for placing program graduates in jobs that pay at least \$15 an hour.

The program's advisory board chair warned

last week that if the multimillion-dollar program doesn't make improvements, San Antonio's next mayor could force changes to the initiative.

Nirenberg reiterated Tuesday a refrain that has defined his tenure since first being elected mayor in 2017.

"Hardly any of my major initiatives have been short-term projects because truly investing in our people, our families, our community takes time," he said to a crowd of politicians, city employees and business

leaders in a Marriott Rivercenter hotel ballroom.

Nirenberg has pinned his four-term legacy on Ready to Work and other long-term initiatives centered on affordable housing, mass transportation, the \$2.5 billion expansion of San Antonio International Airport and climate change adaptation.

Though some business leaders and City Council members have soured on Ready to Work, Nirenberg told reporters after his speech the program is "absolutely not" a failure.

"This is a work in progress," he said. "We're not counting widgets — we're changing peoples's lives. And it takes significant work. Each individual participant has a different story, a different set of challenges that have to be overcome through case work, case management."

Nirenberg recognized four Ready to Work graduates, who attended the lunchtime speech, for their accomplishments.

As of January, the program had spent just 14% of the \$240 million in sales tax dollars that will be allocated to it through December 2025.

A new subsidy

Nirenberg highlighted two new Ready to Work initiatives that will pay for job training for 33 companies — instead of training San Antonians whom the companies



Salgu Wissmath/Staff photographer

City Manager Erik Walsh listens to Mayor Ron Nirenberg deliver one of his last State of the City addresses at a luncheon Tuesday at Marriott Rivercenter.

would hire and then train themselves. The City Council will vote on the subsidies Thursday.

The two pilot programs amount to about \$3 million to the companies to provide on-the-job training to new hires and skills training to existing workers looking to advance in their careers. The money will cover up to 722 new hires and 666 current workers, according to city documents.

There is no stipulation that these workers must have graduated from Ready to Work, which enrolls San Antonians living below the federal pov-

erty line in training for industry-recognized certificates or in associate's or bachelor's degree programs — free of charge.

It costs about \$6,000 to train or educate each participant. The cost includes case management, housing, food, transportation or child care assistance for trainees.

The companies include large, for-profit employers, including Holt Cat, Methodist Healthcare System and auto parts maker Toyotetsu Texas, Inc. University Health, the Bexar County-run hospital system funded partly through property

tax dollars, would be another recipient.

Enrollment goal

Despite its rocky start, Ready to Work has supporters. Alamo Colleges District Chancellor Mike Flores touted the program as he introduced Nirenberg on Tuesday, calling it "the largest single investment in job training in United States history."

Of the more than 6,500 San Antonians who have enrolled in Ready to Work since its 2022 launch, 1,800 participants signed up for Alamo Colleges District certification or degree programs, according to city figures.

The program aims to enroll more than 28,000 people — a goal that will be reached long after Nirenberg leaves office in May or June 2025, depending on whether there's a runoff in the race to replacement him.

Nirenberg told reporters he would like his successor to keep the program intact.

"I hope we continue our commitment to the voters, which is to continue to work to train folks and earn higher paying careers," he said.

Still, changes are needed, he said. That includes better data collection and management to correct what he believes is "an under-reporting" of the number of graduates who have found employment paying at least \$15 an hour.

There also must be ongoing talks with area employers to learn what type of training they require in new hires.

"What we are doing here is creating generational change in terms of turning back, reversing cycles of poverty," Nirenberg said. "That is an enormously important goal."

To date, 628 people have found a job through the program.

1-15
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 4.004, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007, Texas Election Code
09/2023

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION FOR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS
(AV/SO DE ELECCIÓN GENERAL PARA OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS)

To the registered voters of the County of **Bexar**, Texas:
(A las votantes registradas del Condado de **Bexar**, Texas)
Noticia is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., **MAY 14, 2024** for voting in a general election to elect
Three (3) Board of Trustees
(Notifiquese por la presente, que los sitios de votación citados abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el **14 DE MAYO** para votar en la elección general para elegir
A Tres (3) Miembros de la Mesa Directiva Escolar
On Election Day, voters must vote in the precinct where registered to vote, unless the countywide polling place program is being used in the election.
(El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en el precinto donde están inscritos para votar, a menos que el programa de sitios de votación del condado se está utilizando en la elección.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios de votación el Día de Elección) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Precinct Number(s) (Número de precinto)
Big Country Elementary, 2250 Pue Rd, SATX 78245	On Election Day, Southwest ISD voters will have the opportunity to vote at any of the polling places listed.
Bob Hope Elementary, 3022 Reforma, SA TX 78211	
McAuliffe Middle School, 9390 SW Loop 410, SATX 78242	
Sky Harbour Elementary, 5902 Fishers Bend, SATX 78242	
Southwest ISD Administration Office, 11914 Dragon lane, SATX 78252	
Horace Fincher Center, 19031 Priest Blvd, Lytle TX 78052	

During early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:
(Durante Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de los sitios de votación nombrados abajo.)

Location of Main Early Voting Polling Place Include Name of Building and Address (Sitio principal de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Horas Hábiles
Southwest Admin Office, 11914 Dragon Ln, SATX	April 22-25 8am - 6pm April 29&30 8am - 8pm

Locations for Branch Early Voting Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios sucursal de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Haras Hábiles
McAuliffe MS, 9390 SW Loop 410, SATX	April 22-25 8am - 6pm April 29&30 8am - 8pm
Weekend Early Voting Dates & Times: (Same Locations as above)	Saturday, April 27 8am - 8pm Sunday, April 28 12pm - 6pm

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Jacque Callanen

Name of Early Voting Clerk
(Nombre del Secretario/a de la Votación Adelantada)
1103 S. Frio, Suite 100
Address (Dirección)
San Antonio 78207
City (Ciudad) Zip Code (Código Postal)
210-335-VOTE (8883)
Telephone Number (Número de telefono)
votebymail@bexar.org
Email Address (Dirección de Correo Electrónico)
bexar.org
Early Voting Clerk's Website (Sitio web del Secretario/a de Votación Adelantada)

Applications for Ballots by Mail (ABBM)s must be received no later than the close of business on:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)

4/23/2024

(date)/(fecha)

Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) must be received no later than the close of business on:
(La Tarjeta Federal Postal de Solicitud deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)

4/23/2024

(date)/(fecha)

Issued this 16th day of January, 2024.
(day) (month) (year)
(Emitida este día 16th de enero, 2024)
(dis) (mes) (año)

Signature of Presiding Officer (Firma del Diriefente que Preside)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT OF IMPACT FEES, INCLUDING UPDATES TO LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANS AND THE MAXIMUM IMPACT FEES FOR WATER SUPPLY, WATER FLOW, WATER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION.

May 16, 2024 • 9:00 a.m.

Municipal Plaza Building City Council Chambers
105 Main Plaza, San Antonio, Texas 78205

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the five (5) year updates to the land use assumptions, capital improvements plan, and the imposition of maximum impact fees for water supply, water flow, water system development, wastewater treatment and wastewater collection.

2024-2029 MAXIMUM IMPACT FEES

Water Supply	\$2,592	Wastewater Collection	
Water Flow	\$1,368	- Medio Creek	\$1,836
Water System Development		- Upper Medina	\$1,702
- High	\$2,027	- Lower Medina	\$768
- Middle	\$1,744	- Upper Collection	\$4,436
- Low	\$1,510	- Middle Collection	\$2,792
Wastewater Treatment		- Lower Collection	\$1,138
- Medio Creek			\$1,527
- Clouse/Leon Creek			\$1,105

Any member of the public has the right to appear at the hearing and present evidence for or against the update of the Land Use Assumptions, the Capital Improvements Plan or Maximum Impact Fees.

For information, please call San Antonio Water System at 210-233-3286 or 210-233-3492. Copies of the reports have been filed with, and are available at, the City Clerk's Office and can be viewed on the SAWS website at <https://www.saws.org/ImpactFees/>