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Abilene Reporter-News

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West Texas Fair and Rodeo opens Sept. 10



Cattle judge Braden House congratulates a young presenter in 2025. The 2026 West Texas Fair and Rodeo is scheduled to begin Thursday, Sept. 10, featuring carnival rides, livestock shows and a pro rodeo. RONALD W. ERDRICH/REPORTER-NEWS

FBI: Texas violent crime rate declined

2024 to 2025 is largest year-to-year drop

John Oliva
Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Violent crime rates in Texas declined from 2024 to 2025, in line with a national trend that represented the largest year-to-year drop since the FBI began estimating crime trends in 1936.

In an email on Aug. 20, the FBI released detailed data tables on more than 13 million criminal offenses reported to the FBI by participating law enforcement agencies, focused on murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape offenses, aggravated assaults and robbery offenses.

From the national data, murder and nonnegligent manslaughter decreased by 18.1%, rape offenses by 7.6%, aggravated assaults by 7.2% and robbery offenses by 18.5% nationwide.

The state with the highest numbers of reported violent crimes and property crimes is California, with 170,300 violent crimes reported and 705,345 property crimes. Wyoming had the lowest numbers of reported crimes, with 1,059 violent crimes reported and 6,111 property crimes.

Based on those numbers, California had rates of 432.7 violent crimes per 100,000 people and 1,792.2 property crimes per 100,000 people. Wyoming had rates of 179.9 violent crimes per 100,000 people and 1,038 property crimes per 100,000 people.

By comparison, Texas had 634.8 violent crimes per 100,000 people and 2,283 property crimes per 100,000 people.

With a population of 31,709,821, here are the crime rates reported for the Lone Star State, compared to 2024 and 2023.

• **Violent crimes:** 109,357 (121,845

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Features family focused events and attractions, prizes

Lauren Dossey
Abilene Reporter-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

It's time to dust your boots off and get that hat on straight because the countdown is officially on for Abilene's annual West Texas Fair and Rodeo.

The fair's opening day is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 10, with the carnival and outside food and commercial vendors opening at 5 p.m., organizers said on the event's website. Additional attractions and entertainment begin Sept. 11 and continue through Sept. 19.

This year's fair will feature a variety

of family-focused events and attractions, including Magic Jay performances, Swifty Swine Pig Races, Lanky the Clown and cooking demonstrations in the H-E-B Spotlight Kitchen. Visitors will also have opportunities to participate in prize giveaways throughout the fair.

Youth and open livestock shows are also scheduled to take place during the fair, highlighting the best of Texas livestock and featuring cattle, poultry, sheep, rabbits and more.

Youth will also have the opportunity to enter the fair's annual calf scramble. The West Texas Fair & Rodeo awards

over \$7,500 to students each year to aid students in purchasing a livestock project to show in the fair the following year.

The Lone Star Region College Rodeo is also slated to take place during the first part of the fair with a pro rodeo presented by Abilene Rental Center to occur in the latter half of the fair.

Tickets are on sale now, including general fair admission, season passes, daily carnival armbands and reserved rodeo tickets.

For more information, go to www.westtexasfairrodeo.com.

One dead after two-vehicle collision

Lauren Dossey
Abilene Reporter-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

A 33-year-old woman from San Antonio has been pronounced dead following a fatal car crash in Jones County, 8.38 miles east of Stamford, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

On Wednesday, Sept. 2, at approximately 6:04 p.m., a 2025 Toyota Corolla passenger car driven by Milena Sueiro Ramirez, 29-year-old, of San Antonio was traveling northbound on Farm to Market Road 1661 with passenger Isolda C. Robledo Popa, 33-year-old of San An-

tonio, said the DPS media release.

The Toyota Corolla was approaching an intersection with Texas Highway 92, the DPS said. At that time, a second vehicle, a 2018 Toyota Camry passenger car driven by David Eric Rivera, 34, of Stanton with passenger Ricky Tijerina, 24, of Stanton was traveling westbound on Texas Highway 92, nearing the same intersection.

According to the media release, Ramirez, the driver of the Toyota Corolla, failed to stop at the posted stop sign and entered the intersection where the Toyota Camry had the right of way and struck the Toyota Corolla.

Both drivers were transported to

Hendrick North Medical Center with injuries, the DPS said.

The passenger of the Toyota Corolla, Popa, was also transported to Hendrick North Medical Center, the DPS said.

Popa was pronounced dead by Taylor County Justice of the Peace Shawna Joiner at 7:59 p.m., the DPS said.

The passenger of the Toyota Camry, Tijerina, was not reported to be injured following the collision, the DPS said.

The media release also states that no one involved in the incident was wearing a seatbelt, and road conditions were clear and dry.

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