



Dyess AFB to receive record-breaking funding, U.S. Rep. Arrington says

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Standard-Times



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Smashers pickleball complex now open



Smashers at 2521 Southwest Boulevard near Cavender's and multiple hotels on Dec. 15. ROSANNA FRAIRE/STANDARD-TIMES

Rosanna Fraire  
San Angelo Standard-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Smashers, a mutimillion-dollar pickleball complex in San Angelo, is now open. Owner J.C. Gallagher and his wife

Amber opened Smashers on Sunday at 2521 Southwest Boulevard near Cavender's and multiple hotels. There are multiple indoor and outdoor pickleball courts, a full bar and playground and yard area for kids, as well as outdoor seating and other yard games like cornhole.

"Come enjoy great food, cold drinks, and nonstop pickleball action — all under one roof," the business said on Facebook on opening day. "Whether you're here to play, eat, drink, or just hang out, Smashers is the place to be." Smashers is open 7 a.m.-10 p.m. seven days a week.

Terror all too familiar for some at Brown

Frequency of shootings brings back past trauma

Dinah Voyles Pulver, Karissa Waddick and Bailey Allen  
USA TODAY

Mia Tretta was sitting in her Brown University dorm room with friends when she got a text message about an active shooter. She didn't believe it at first – despite her own painful experience with school shootings. Tretta was a freshman at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, California, on Nov. 14, 2019, when a gunman armed with a .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun shot and killed two students and injured three others. Tretta's best friend died, and she was shot in the stomach. "I came to Brown because I wanted to get away from what happened to me in Saugus, and I wanted to be able to kind of live my life without constantly thinking about this," she said. "Now it's followed me here." On Dec. 13, a gunman burst into a building on Brown's campus and fatally shot two students and injured nine others studying for an economics exam at the school in Providence, Rhode Island. For two students at the Ivy League school, the response to an active shooter on their campus was all too familiar. "I was terrified, like everyone else, and confused and kind of just disgusted that this could happen, not only once in a lifetime, but twice," Tretta said. A junior at Brown studying international relations and education, Tretta recalled the moment when she learned of the shooting on the college campus.

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Police investigating crash involving unit

Trish Choate  
San Angelo Standard-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

A crash involving a San Angelo police car and a disabled vehicle were involved in a crash Sunday morning, police said in a media release. About 6:54 a.m. Sunday, police were dispatched to the 900 block of Houston

Harte in response to a collision involving the police unit and a disabled vehicle stopped in the roadway, the media release said. The driver of the disable vehicle and the police officer were transported to Shannon Medical Center for evaluation and treatment of minor injuries, police said. The Texas Department of Public

Safety is investigating the crash, police said. Trish Choate is the executive editor for the Wichita Falls Times Record News, San Angelo Standard-Times and Abilene Reporter-News. Contact Trish with news tips at tchoate@gannett.com. Read her recent work here. Her X handle is @Trishapedia.

Australia laws in spotlight after shooting

Kim Hjelmgaard  
USA TODAY

Three decades ago, almost 650,000 firearms – about one-third of all privately owned guns in Australia – were surrendered, loaded into trucks and destroyed. In exchange for these firearms, part of a mandatory gun buyback program, the government paid out \$200 million. Gun-related murder and suicide rates plummeted. Now, a Dec. 14 mass shooting at a Hanukkah celebration at Sydney's Bondi Beach, which left 15 people dead as well as one of the two suspects, has raised fresh questions about whether Australia's gun laws, already among the world's toughest, remain fit to prevent further

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Hundreds of thousands of firearms were surrendered and destroyed as part of a mandatory gun buyback program in Australia after a deadly mass shooting in 1996. PROVIDED BY DAVID GRAY VIA REUTERS

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