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How can the Rams stop Tom Brady? **SPORTSDAY**

# The Dallas Morning News

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## DMN INVESTIGATION

### For years, UTD in How did on for so

By DAVE BOUCHER  
Staff Writer  
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The criminology professor was on the trail of a possible fraud. Even more troubling, it was happening inside his own school.

The first clue: A student told him he had permission to skip classes yet still get credit.

Then, when the professor tried to verify the story with his bosses, they belated.

"You need to be careful what questions you ask," said one.

## TRAVEL | TEXAS

# Follow your heart to a Texas getaway



Nick Simonelli

Left: Stella Hotel in Bryan exudes a casual vibe with plenty of open space, pet-friendly accommodations and access to hike and bike trails.

### As a dance hall ages with



Couples have been drawn to dance at Tom Sefcik's dance halls in the region, a fading piece of Texas culture.

## Whirling

By CHARLES SCUDDER  
Staff Writer  
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SEATON, Texas — Upstairs, silver-haired couples dance to polkas, country waltzes, two-steps, three-steps, line dances and chair dances, like they have here at Tom Sefcik Hall every Sunday for nearly a century.

Downstairs, as behind the Bud Light clock few minutes, beer for one of a few regulars.

There's only a handful tonight. They congregate near Alice Sulak's regular spot under the clock.

### Stella Hotel

Bryan, 174 miles southeast

The nearly 2-year-old Stella Hotel joins the Valentine's lineup with a prix-fixe menu on Valentine's Day, bar specials, a room discount Feb. 13-17 and in-room chocolates and sparkling wine. Think sea scallop crudo, citrus risotto with Gulf prawns and rib-eye for two. A speak-easy-style bar, Hershel's is offering a specialty cocktail and select wines for half off per bottle.

The hotel exudes a luxe casual vibe with plenty of open space, fun lawn culture, pet-friendly accommodations and access to hike and bike trails.

**Info:** Dinner reservations: [campfireatthestella.com](http://campfireatthestella.com). Hotel reservations: [thestellahotel.com](http://thestellahotel.com) (promo code VALSPEC).

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## Property relief as a cost

By REBEKAH ALLEN  
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AUSTIN — The city of Dallas' budget would have been \$32 million smaller this year — if the mayor's new plan to cap local spending for cities, counties and special taxing districts had been in place.

That's a hole the size of the library system, which serves 29 locations, or the size of the entire maintenance budget for parks, which serves 388 parks, playgrounds and fields.

If the cap had been in place, Dallas wouldn't have funded the \$10,000 pay bump for starting police and fire-rescue workers it approved last year, which cost an extra \$10 million, Mayor Mike Rawlings said. And the city wouldn't be able to pay for 100 new police recruits it's seeking, with a price tag of \$8.9 million.

North Texas local leaders say the plan Gov. Greg Abbott and top lawmakers in Austin unveiled last week threatens these services and protections. It would impose a 2.5 percent cap on the property tax levies and school district levies. School districts would be made whole, lawmakers have said, because the state would give them more dollars.

But local government leaders say they're being hung out to dry.

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## VENEZUELA

### Rival says wave against Maduro is 'unstoppable'

Tens of thousands march with hope their country can 'be beautiful again'

By MARIANA ZUÑIGA  
The Washington Post

CARACAS, Venezuela — Embattled President Nicolás Maduro confronted challenges on multiple fronts Saturday as massive anti-government rallies choked the streets, a top general defected, and the opposition urged European powers to join the international alliance against him.

The drama-filled events underscored the pressures mounting on Maduro. They also suggested the strategies ahead for opposition leader Juan Guaidó, a 35-year-old industrial engineer, as he tries to expand Maduro's global isolation and appeals for more Venezuelans to support him.

Guaidó, who heads the opposition-controlled National Assembly, has won the backing of the United States and a host of other nations after

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