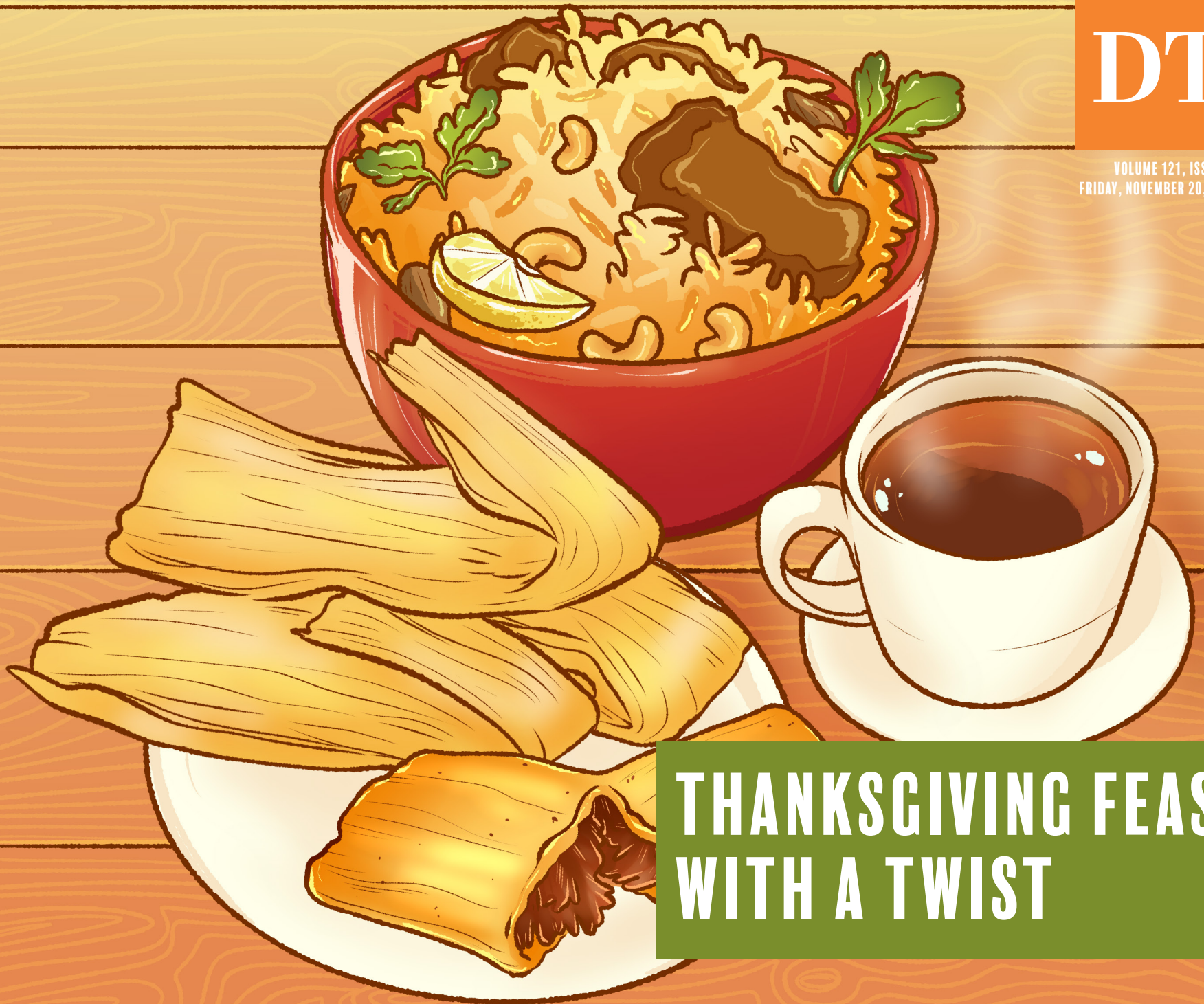


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UNIVERSITY

UT System approves \$1.25M salary for Hartzell

By Andrew Zhang
@andrewczhang

UT President Jay Hartzell will earn a \$1.25 million annual salary, which the UT System Board of Regents approved during a two-day board meeting ending Thursday.

Despite one UT staff member calling in to voice opposition to the proposed salary, the board approved it alongside construction projects, and an official spoke of the system's financial status.

UT System spokesperson Karen Adler said former UT President Gregory Fenves earned \$995,000 before he left UT for Emory University. Fenves said to the Austin American-Statesman in 2016 that a salary over \$1 million was "too high."

Hartzell previously earned \$795,000 as interim president, according to The Texas Tribune.

Greg Bosley, desktop operations manager in the College of Liberal Arts, said at the Thursday meeting he and other community members believe it is an "outrage" Hartzell would be given such a high salary during a time of layoffs and furloughs.

To deserve his salary, Bosley said Hartzell should make tuition more affordable and provide a living wage with full benefits for staff.

"Faculty and staff wages have risen less than 10% since 2007 and have been outpaced by the cost of living increase in Austin," Bosley said. "The president's salary, on the other hand, is



EDDIE GASPAR / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

set to be 138% higher."

Bosley asked for lifting the salary merit increase freeze, implementing hazard pay for essential workers, pausing layoffs during the pandemic and providing students and employees with needed technology.

In response to affordability concerns, Chairman Kevin Eltife said the board has committed \$165 million dollars for the Texas Advance Commitment.

"We are doing everything in our power to make this affordable and to help eliminate the student debt situation," Eltife said. "Our former president ... left in the middle of a national crisis. ... I'm extremely proud and grateful that Jay Hartzell was willing to step up."

UT System Chancellor J.B. Milliken said the board sets presidential

compensation to be competitive with other universities and is transparent by setting a "one number" salary rather than a base salary with bonuses.

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, a \$1.25 million salary would be the sixth-highest among public university leaders in 2019.

On Wednesday, Hartzell spoke to the board to amend the Capital Improvement Program, a system plan to fund construction projects costing over \$10 million, to include several UT campus projects.

Hartzell asked for \$27.8 million to renovate the Hogg Memorial Auditorium and \$11.1 to renovate the second floor of the Flawn Academic Center. He also requested \$46.6 million — up from the

\$38.5 million previously requested — for the ongoing realignment of Red River Street.

Scott Kelley, executive vice chancellor for business affairs, said Wednesday that the system made about \$400 million less in the fiscal year ending July 2020 than in the previous year but is still profitable.

UT-Austin is projected to end the year better than in previous years because of the \$130 million Moody Foundation grant and increases in the Available University Fund, according to previous Texas reporting.

"We project ending the year positively for all of our campuses," Kelley said. "We're actually doing a little bit better in many cases (now) than we were as of July 2019."

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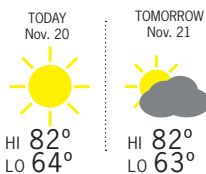
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AUSTIN WEATHER



thursday night lives on <3

CAMPUS

Give thanks to get a free meal

Students can now get a free meal from J2 or Kins Dining through a new program by UHD and UT Outpost.

By Samantha Greyson
@GreysonSamantha

University Housing and Dining partnered with UT Outpost for Giving Thanks Early, a program that gives a student a free meal for every paper leaf put on a giving tree.

The paper trees are located outside Jester 2nd Floor Dining and Kinsolving Dining, and students can write their thanks on paper leaves to paste onto the trees. For each

leaf put on the trees, a student who has requested food from the UT Outpost gets a free meal ticket for J2 or Kins Dining until Dec. 16.

The UT Outpost is connecting students with a meal card through their online survey, UT Outpost coordinator Will Ross said. Thank-you notes will be collected until Nov. 24, and the meal tickets can be used until dining halls close Dec. 16, said Cynthia Lew, UHD director of marketing and communications.

"Right now, we have a question on our food pickup request form to ask if you

would like this meal card that is good for one meal," Ross said. "So long as we have those meals, we will get students connected with that card.

Lew said UHD began the program as an alternative to the annual Friendsgiving dinner, which will not take place in person this year.

"This year, we're doing the dinner, but since we can't have big groups, it's just not going to be the same," Lew said. "All of our food now is served in to-go containers. We still wanted to do something to spread friendship

throughout the UT community since we couldn't do the normal dinner."

UHD collected over 600 thank-you notes at the Nov. 12 Longhorn Harvest event, Lew said. Students can also give thanks on a virtual survey, which will translate into paper leaves, Lew said.

"We didn't want to limit it to just people who are on campus," Lew said. "We wanted people who were studying remotely and not on campus to be able to participate."

The outpost has never given students meal tickets

to J2 or Kins Dining before, Ross said. He said this is an important opportunity for the outpost and for the students they serve, especially during the holiday season, which can be more challenging for students living with food insecurity.

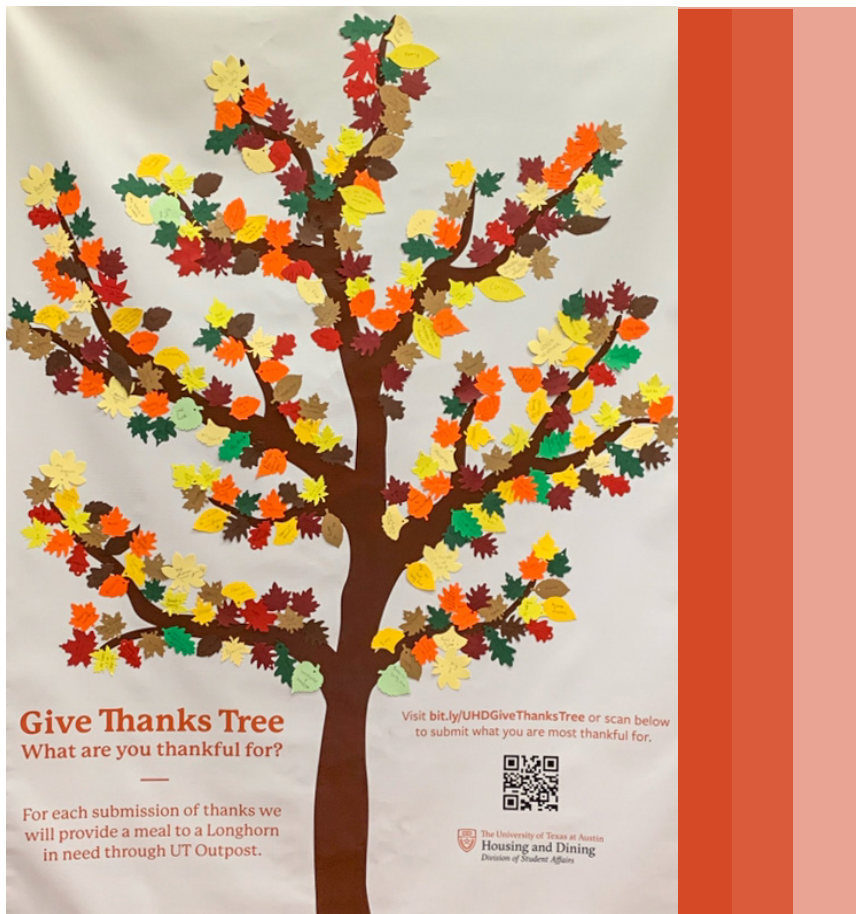
"After talking about what our current students need, from our perspective at UT Outpost, this really fell down to being the most unique and creative idea and something ... we haven't tried yet," Ross said.

The outpost is doubling the amount of food given out

to students from Dec. 1 to Jan. 19, Ross said. Instead of only one food pickup per month, students will be allotted two pickups in December and January.

Director of dining Rene Rodriguez said this is an appropriate alternative to the traditional Friendsgiving meal, which brings students together.

"We always (had) a bunch of students bring a whole group, just like a family dinner," Rodriguez said. "We wanted to be able to have something that showed it's part of giving back too."



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COLUMN

Reconsider admissions to major

UT should allow incoming students to remain undeclared for their first year on campus.

By Eva Strelitz-Block
Columnist

Every student at UT should have the freedom and time to determine the academic pathway that is right for them. Studies have shown that giving students more time to develop their interests before choosing their major leads to higher graduation rates.

This insight informs the mission of the School of Undergraduate Studies, which allows “undeclared” students to explore and hone their interests without having to know exactly what they want to study. UGS students don’t have to declare their major until the end of their fourth semester at UT.

Meanwhile, from day one on the Forty Acres, most UT students immediately begin the task of fulfilling their prescribed major requirements — oftentimes before they have clarity on what academic pathway is best suited to their interests and goals.

In order to support students in fully developing their areas of interests, all students should begin their journey as undeclared within their college.

UGS director Lara Harlan said 83% of all students in Texas colleges will change their major at least once in their

college career.

In contrast, Jeff Handy, director of the Vicks Center for Strategic Advising housed in UGS, said around 90% of UGS students stick with their chosen discipline once they have declared their major.

Outside of UGS, transfers typically happen within colleges rather than between colleges. Internal transfers are logistically less difficult given that majors within colleges generally have overlapping requirements.

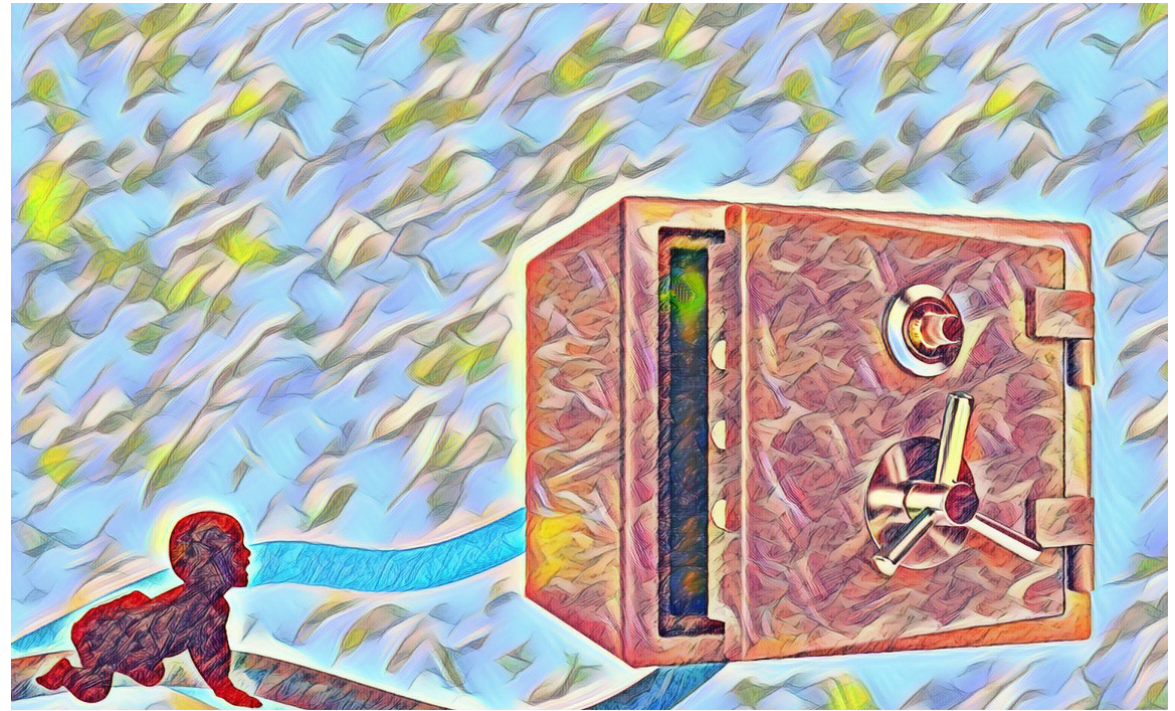
However, the internal transfer process is still stressful, difficult to navigate and could be avoided, given that the majority of students are not satisfied with their initial major choice.

Providing students space to experiment academically without committing to a major makes sense to a lot of students who want to avoid unnecessary administrative hurdles, including Will Schweizer, a Plan II and exercise science junior. Schweizer switched his major twice before landing on exercise science during his sophomore year.

“I think (it) would leave more doors open for the potential of switching to what you want because, at the end of the day, this is what you are going to be doing, hopefully, for the rest of your life,” Schweizer said. “So, I think it is really important that you study what you want.”

Many universities are moving to an admissions and major model that promotes discovery in students’ early academic pathway. The University of California, Berkeley only requires students in certain colleges to declare their major before they have 75 units. Students at the University of Washington must wait until they have completed 105 credits and five quarters to declare their major.

This system would take into account Longhorns’ generally



JUWON WOO / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

limited initial awareness of the majors and career pathways available to them at UT. Handy said that despite the 100+ majors available to UT undergraduates, high school students usually apply to only a handful of them.

“Students coming out of high school are really just guessing at what they want to do,” Handy said. “This is not to say anything negative about them; that is just what the circumstances are. But there is a lot to learn, and there is a lot that (they) don’t know exists.”

By doing away with direct-to-specific major admissions and admitting students to colleges instead, UT will offer students crucial time to create the academic and career pathway that is truly right for them — the first time.

Strelitz-Block is a Plan II sophomore from Austin, Texas.

GALLERY



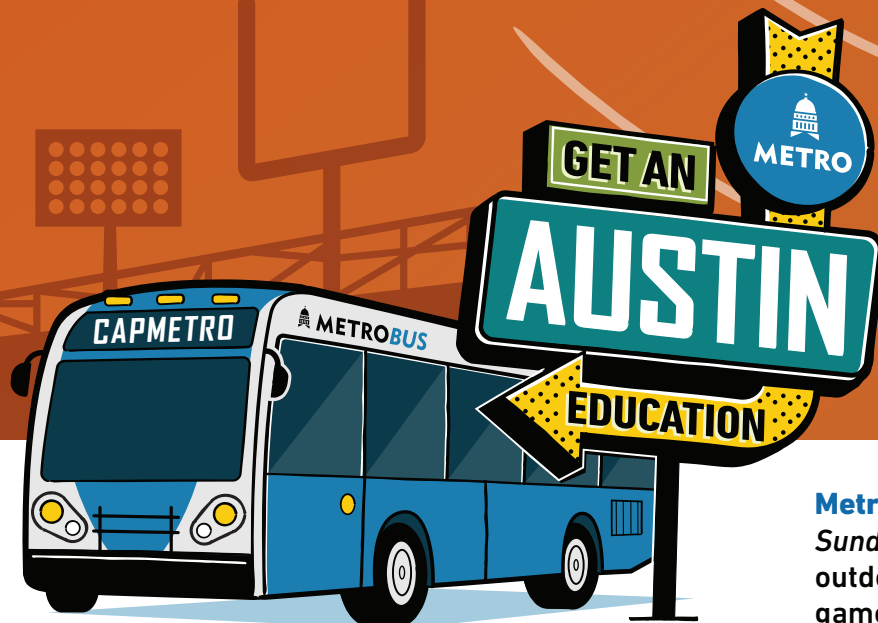
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KICKING INTO FIRST GEAR

Austin FC tries to bring city together around its first major league sports team.



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The Verde Leaders program is an initiative where members of Austin FC Academy and other leaders hold soccer and life skills training sessions for youth.

By Marcus Krum
@marcuskrum

Familiar sounds could be heard on a November evening at Dove Springs Recreation Center in southeast Austin. The shouts of children and teenagers and blaring music rose through the crisp air.

But with it came something unfamiliar — the sounds of sneakers sliding on concrete and a soccer ball slamming into a chain-link fence. The group of youth wore verde and black jerseys, and a nearby pop-up tent donned the crest of Austin FC, the city's new Major League Soccer club.

Next year, Austin FC will begin play in a city that's long been starved of a major professional sports team. The club hopes its impact will stretch farther than its sprawling stadium, which is nestled between several North Austin neighborhoods.

"How do we go beyond soccer

and the sport to make Austin FC something that is really emblematic of the city?" said James Ruth, Austin FC's senior vice president of marketing. "We want to be a catalyst for all the things that make Austin great."

This mission of creating a team that exemplifies Austin culture almost began in Columbus, Ohio. When Anthony Precourt, CEO of Austin FC's majority ownership company Two Oak Ventures, first decided to bring a Major League Soccer squad to Austin, the investor announced intentions to move the Columbus Crew Soccer Club from central Ohio down south.

But backlash from Columbus' fans and Precourt's sale of the club halted the move. Instead, Austin FC became Major League Soccer's 27th independent franchise, operating as an expansion team.

While Austin FC is set to begin play in 2021, it has worked to expand the soccer culture within the city since Precourt founded the team in 2019.

That's not to say that Austin wasn't already brimming with

soccer fans and players before the club's arrival. The city posted top-five national television ratings for both the 2018 and 2019 FIFA World Cups, according to Fox Sports.

But the question remained: How does an expansion soccer club take root in a city that has never housed a top-tier professional sports team? For Jordan Johnson, program director of the team's Verde Leaders initiative, this begins by developing the soccer culture and community outreach at the youth level.

"We know that Austin is a soccer city; we know that Austin loves this sport," Johnson said. "But from my perspective, it's about making sure that everyone can play the sport regardless of their background and where they came from."

Youth sports in America have been confronted with declining participation in the last decade, and soccer has taken a hit with the rest of them. According to a study by The Aspen Institute, the percentage of American children who

participated regularly in a sport of any kind dropped 4 percentage points from 2011 to 2017. Youth soccer in the United States saw a 9.5% decrease in participation from 2016 to 2017.

But the question remained: How does an expansion soccer club take root in a city that has never housed a top-tier professional sports team?

"Pay-for-play culture is one of the biggest (reasons) for that," Geoff Rich, an assistant professor of practice in UT's Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, said in an email. "(It is) costing more and more to play for club teams' (initial costs and travel costs). The responsibility falls to the parents to pay for those opportunities if they want to get any

kind of scouting for college.”

According to a Duke University study, the “pay-to-play” model that has taken over youth soccer has forced young athletes to play for expensive club teams in order to receive the best instruction and compete with other top talent. In turn, it has phased out many young players in low-income communities — the costs of club fees, travel and equipment can amount to thousands of dollars each year.

Now, Austin FC is actively trying to buck this trend at a local level. The Verde Leaders program is an initiative where members of the organization, players and coaches of Austin FC Academy and other leaders hold biweekly soccer and life skills training sessions, as well as other community events for youth.

“They help the underserved areas get access to soccer, so they work with a lot of the AISD (Austin ISD) school districts to help provide the opportunity for young players to have access to soccer,” said Tyson Wahl, Austin FC Academy general manager.

“

How do we go beyond soccer and the sport to make Austin FC something that is really emblematic of the city?”

JAMES RUTH

AUSTIN FC SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
OF MARKETING

In another effort to increase access and fervor around the sport at a young age, Austin FC has constructed two concrete “minipitches” in partnership with its nonprofit arm 4ATX Foundation. With one at the Dove Springs Recreation Center and the other in North Austin at Wooldridge Elementary School, the small courts complete with built-in goals and chain-link fences emphasize a quick, energizing style of play.

Kaitlin Swarts, Austin FC vice president of community impact, said outside of providing a space to hold events, she hopes the two futsal-style courts provide a venue for the sport to grow.



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Austin FC is still building its stadium in North Austin off Burnet Road and West Braker Lane. It is projected to hold 20,500 fans.

“They’re more than minipitches; they’re signals to the youth and the families in that community that you deserve a safe space to play soccer,” Swarts said. “As a club, we want to provide a place with a smooth surface, with lights, where you can just grab your friends, grab your family, show up and play.”

Ruth said the casual, unstructured fun that comes with playing pickup soccer is vital to the continual growth of soccer in Austin. Outside of the boundaries of organized sports, providing spaces for players of all ages to compete in an informal setting is a goal the club is working toward.

“Pickup soccer culture is really im-

portant to soccer culture in the city,” Ruth said. “It definitely exists. We think there’s some opportunities for us to supercharge that.”

On its face, one may see the glamour of an investment group that includes actor Matthew McConaughey or the gleam of the new \$240 million stadium. But at its core, Austin FC’s presence in the city begins in places like the Dove Springs minipitch — with a ball moving, music blasting and a community and its youth coming together to share a love for this sport.

“As a club, Austin FC believes that soccer can unify the city in a way that not much else can,” Swarts said.



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Austin FC, the city’s new Major League Soccer soccer club, will begin playing next year. Austin has never had a top-tier professional sports team before this.

STATE

Here are some proposed bills for the 87th Texas Lege that could impact universities



BARBRA DALY / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

By Lauren Goodman
@laurgoodman

Just over 800 bills have been filed for the 87th Texas Legislative Session, which will begin Jan. 12, including more than 100 education-related legislation.

About 550 bills were proposed Monday, Nov. 9, the first day to file legislation for the upcoming Texas Legislative Session. Proposed legislation includes designating polling places on college campuses, suicide prevention information on student identification cards and the carrying of handguns at higher education institutions.

Holly Ainsworth, a Universitywide representative in UT Student Government, authored the original SG resolution to include crisis information on student IDs in October 2019, which was voted for and implemented into new UT student IDs. Ainsworth said she started talking to state legislators to see if anyone could introduce it for the next session.

“(State legislators) said that it’s something that a lot of people agree about across the aisle,” nursing senior Ainsworth said. “Democrats, Republicans, independent parties — they all really want to work on mental health, especially with the pandemic going on.”

Ainsworth said other schools could benefit from the bill because all Texas students would have access to a mental health resource.

“I’m really hoping that they get to pass it because I think that mental health is just super important,” Ainsworth said. “The main challenge was ... showing the need for mental health resources and being able to show that to administrators to make sure that they understood that this is something really beneficial.”

State Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, proposed the designation of a polling place at every Texas higher education institution with at least 8,000 students enrolled. The legislation was brought to the representatives by Hook the Vote, a nonpartisan agency with UT Student Government, said Ainsley Dorsey, Hook the Vote co-director.

“These ideas are not new,” government sophomore Dorsey said. “These are things that students have been advocating for for many years now, so we don’t claim to reinvent the wheel.”

Dorsey said Hook the Vote’s goal is to get polling places on all colleges and universities in the state.

The debate over carrying handguns on campus will also resume, as State Rep. Terry Meza, D-Irving, filed a house bill for institutions to establish rules and provisions for license holders to carry handguns on campus grounds. State Rep. Kyle Biedermann is planning to file a bill for constitutional carry, which would allow people to carry a handgun openly without a permit.

Selina Eshraghi, director of the March For Our Lives Austin chapter, said they will continue to meet with lawmakers next year to propose new legislation.

“The last legislative session I came into it being bright-eyed and naive,” said Eshraghi, chemical engineering and radio-television-film senior. “I was so ready to pass all these bills. I realize it’s a large uphill battle ... (but) I’m glad about this conversation we keep having.”

Another education-related bill filed calls for a student loan repayment assistance program for front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. People who would qualify for student loan relief include medical professionals, nurse practitioners, child care workers and military personnel.

H.B. 403 would exempt people experiencing homelessness from tuition and fees at higher education institutions. The bill would go into effect for tuition for the 2022 spring semester.

S.B. 140 would authorize the distribution and sale of cannabis and cannabis products, including marijuana. As of Thursday, six bills have been filed by state representatives relating to the legalization of cannabis.

“Meeting with our representatives was super rewarding and exciting,” Dorsey said. “A dream of mine is to just personally be able to reach out to representatives with my concerns and hopefully get them passed through.”

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STUDENT LIFE

Thanksgiving feast with a twist

Students look forward to celebrating with their favorite meals from their cultures.

By Morgan-Taylor Thomas
@mtthomas_

Although he may have some turkey or buttery mashed potatoes, Oscar Armando Lopez III said he looks forward to his family's dishes, such as pozole and empanadas de cajeta, during Thanksgiving.

Some students celebrate Thanksgiving with food from their own cultures. They said taking the time to make and eat their traditional meals brings them closer to their

families and heritage.

Lopez, a business and government junior, said being from the border city of Laredo, Texas, Thanksgiving has always been odd for him. He said the mixture of American and Mexican culture within the community is highlighted through food during the holiday season.

Because his family makes them seasonally, chicken tamales are always the first dish he thinks about when the holidays come around, Lopez said. He said making tamales is very methodical and always results in a family assembly line the day before Thanksgiving.

"Usually we'll make the masa, which is like the batter," Lopez said. "Then, you have the corn husks where the masa is held, and you basically have to lather the batter into the corn husks. Then, you put whatever fillings you're going to have into it and steam them throughout the day."

Lopez said there's more than just food to be thankful for on Thanksgiving.

"Now that I'm older and a lot of my time is being spent in Austin,

it's always a reminder of those moments that I get to have with my family," Lopez said. "I have family that lives out of town ... so for me, the dish represents that idea of connection."

Corporate communication junior Romelia Acosta said one of her favorite holiday treats is champurrado, a hot chocolate-like drink. She said the hot beverage is known all across Mexico in different variations, but her recipe represents the warmth of her family.

"We use piloncillo (cane sugar), cinnamon sticks, chocolate abuelita (hot chocolate tablets), milk and corn flour," Acosta said. "It's all boiled in water and stirred until it's the right consistency, which is pretty thick."

Acosta said because she has to cross the border between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez to visit her family, the time she spends with them during the holidays is

always a gift.

"We appreciate being together and give thanks for having each other," Acosta said. "We really value that time at the dinner table."

With parents who immigrated from India, psychology junior Natania Christopher said her family didn't start celebrating Thanksgiving until she was around 10 years old. She said her family now celebrates the holiday season with other Indian immigrant families in Dallas who also do not have extended family close by.

Tandoori chicken, which is chicken marinated in hung yogurt and spices such as chili powder, cumin and mango powder, is Christopher's favorite holiday dish. But she said it's not a celebration without biryani.

"Biryani is basically a really spicy rice and chicken dish," Christopher

said. "(However), there are a lot of vegetarian Indians, so we usually try to have vegetarian biryani as well."

Christopher said for her family, Thanksgiving consists of a smaller lunch followed by a huge potluck dinner where you can find the biryani, tandoori chicken and tons of Indian desserts. This year, she will be celebrating with family and friends in a large outdoor area with masks and strict social distancing rules.

Even though she grew up in the United States, Christopher said being able to cook Indian food with her mother and aunt as well as celebrate with friends takes her to a place of comfort.

"It's our home. It's our culture," Christopher said. "It's just special."



ROCKY HIGINE / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

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CAMPUS

UT Outpost plans to offer double portions in December, January to combat food insecurity over holidays

By Sabrina LeBoeuf
@_sabinakaye

As students prepare for the winter closure of on-campus resources, UT Outpost, the school's food pantry, will offer double portions to students experiencing food insecurity.

UT Outpost coordinator Will Ross said the food pantry allows students to obtain 25 to 35 pounds of food once per month during the semester, including nonperishable items, fresh produce and snacks. From Dec. 1 to Jan. 19, Ross said students will be able to visit twice in a month to prepare for when the pantry is closed during the University holidays.

"I really encourage students who are on the fence about taking advantage of this resource to really consider this as a tool for your success," Ross said. "The equivalent is asking an academic adviser whether they should take this class or that class. We're here to help you be successful."

According to a 2018 study from the Journal of Nutrition & Food Sciences, 23.5%, or roughly 9,500, of UT's undergraduate students said they experience food insecurity. Many undergraduate students reported going hungry, skipping meals to make ends meet or having to choose affordable, nonnutritious foods over more costly healthy foods, according to the survey.

Ross said food insecurity is further exacerbated around the holidays when students can no longer rely on campus resources for food.

Noah Vaughan, who graduated from UT in 2018, said they started experiencing food insecurity as a sophomore. Without a car, they did not have access to a nearby, affordable grocery store. Vaughan found a few clubs serving food each week to make up for dinner and occasionally shared food with a friend who had a meal plan, but many food sources disappeared during breaks.

Vaughan said although they feel

more comfortable discussing food insecurity now, it was difficult to open up about when they attended the University.

"UT kind of felt like a rich kid school," Vaughan said. "It would have been sort of outing myself as one of those people, like I didn't belong there, which I recognize now is not necessarily true."

UT Outpost is working against the stigma around food insecurity by keeping the pantry open to any UT student enrolled in at least one credit course. People who want to pick up food are not required to share proof of need.

Since UT Outpost provides contactless service where students sign up for a pick-up time online, Ross said students who request food can have friends or family members pick up their bag on their behalf.

UT Outpost is also currently encouraging individuals to donate money, as opposed to food, so the organization itself can purchase what it needs.

Longhorns Eat, a student initiative that started as a class assignment, works with UT Outpost to raise awareness about the food pantry. Longhorns Eat member Aniket Matharasi said the group learned from UT Outpost that many students don't know about the resource.

"It was kind of heartbreaking to hear how people are facing these issues and don't necessarily feel comfortable seeking the help they may need because of the stigma attached to food insecurity," business honors sophomore Matharasi said.

In a survey of 100 students this semester, Longhorns Eat found 55% did not know about UT Outpost.

"It was honestly very surprising to us, but, at the same time, also not that surprising," Matharasi said. "I think a lot of people do kind of live in this bubble where they don't necessarily see the inequalities that are present around us."

LONGHORN FOOD INSECURITY

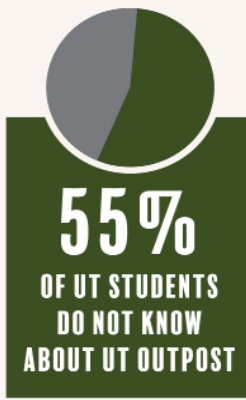


23.5%
OF UT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS SAID THEY EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY*

*ACCORDING TO THE 2018 JOURNAL OF NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCES



47%
OF UT STUDENTS ARE UNAWARE THAT FOOD INSECURITY IS AN ISSUE ON CAMPUS



55%
OF UT STUDENTS DO NOT KNOW ABOUT UT OUTPOST

SOURCES: COORDINATOR FOR UT OUTPOST WILL ROSS, LONGHORNS EAT

SIERRA WIGGERS / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

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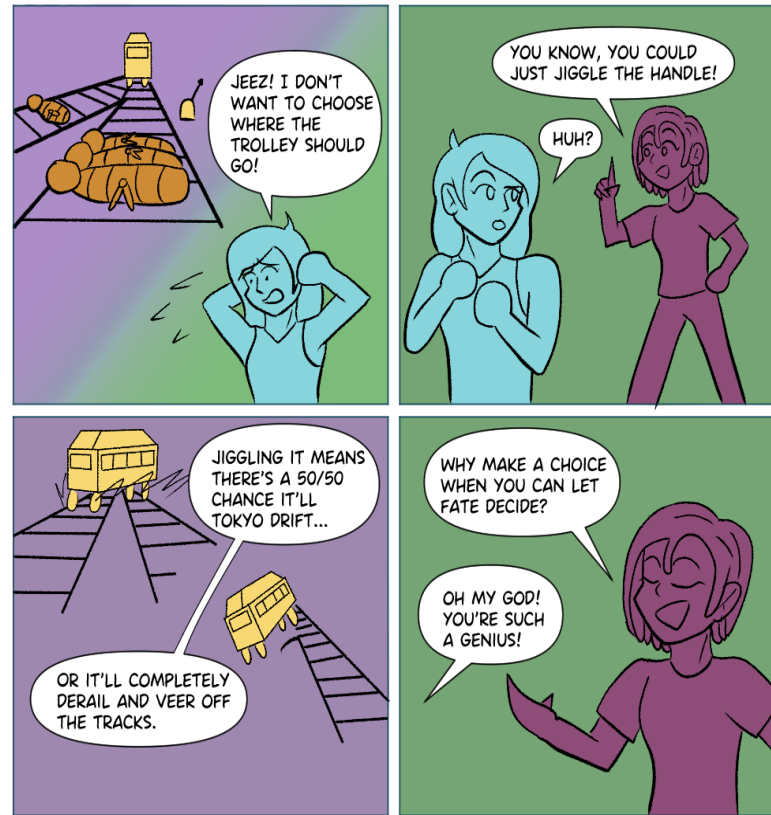
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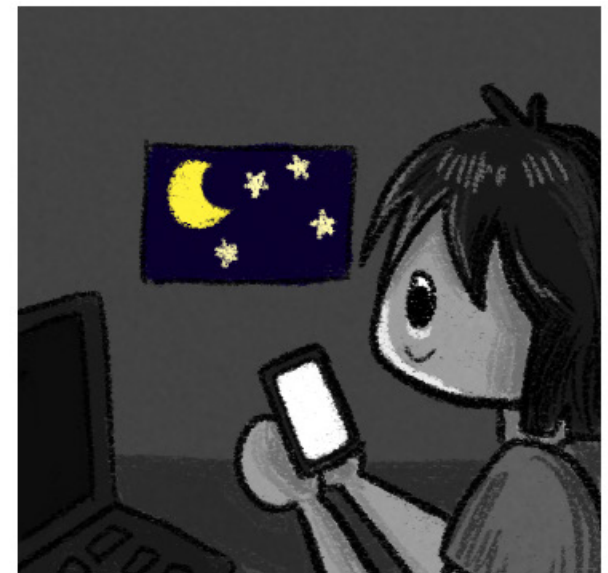
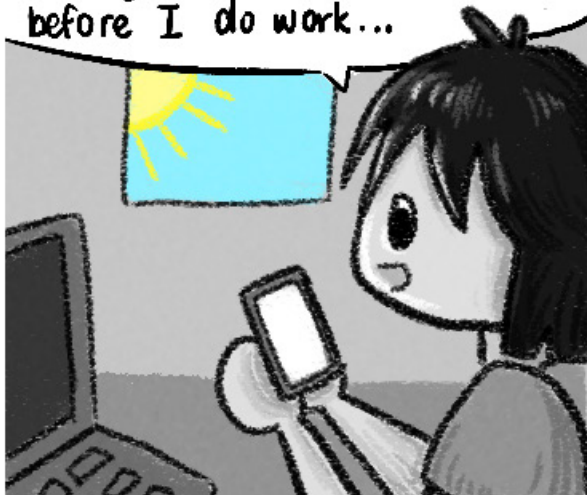
BY CATE LOWRY



@CATE_SKETCHES

PRODUCTIVITY

Just gonna check social media before I do work...



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CROSS COUNTRY

Just a hair length apart

Identical twins Trevor and Evan Williams are inseparable on the cross country course and in life.

By Taylor Hawthorne
@taylorleigh_

At first glance, you wouldn't be able to tell Trevor and Evan Williams apart, but thanks to Trevor's new haircut, it's a bit easier. The identical twins' sibling rivalry has reached new heights now that both sophomores run for the Texas cross country team, but the Williams brothers have been competing with each other their whole lives.

Evan said their parents used to tell stories of the competitions they would have as kids — like who could crawl out the crib faster.

"Trevor beat me in the womb," Evan said. "He was like a pound heavier than me, so we've had a rivalry since then."

Trevor and Evan have done everything together for as long as they can remember, so when it was time to take the next step in their athletic and academic careers, they decided to follow the same path to UT.

"I knew I was wanting to take the next journey in college with him," Evan said. "He has been such a big part of my life up to that point; I knew I wanted him to be part of my life at this point."

Growing up, the Williams twins usually played on the same sports teams, but when they took up distance running, the competitive dynamic changed and became a game of who could beat who because of the individual nature

of cross country.

Trevor and Evan said their friendly competition has made each of them better athletes.

"I think the reason we were able to excel (at) how we did in high school and just be at UT in the first place was because we always had each other to compete against in not only races but practices too," Trevor said.

Instead of letting the pressure of competition destroy their bond, the brothers rely on the support system they provide for each other — they both understand what it feels like to have a bad race or practice.

"I think the little comments go a long way, especially in hard or long workouts," Evan said. "Little things like Trevor tapping my back and shoving me forward a little bit is a push of courage and motivation."

Being together all the time is something Trevor and Evan are used to, but they do want their own space sometimes.

"I think with anyone, you can get tired of them at some point," Trevor said. "At the same time, we don't know any different. I don't know what it's like to not have a twin brother."

"Or ever live alone," Evan said.

Cross country isn't the only sport that brings the two together. The twins from McAllen, Texas, are a short trip away from South Padre Island, where they spend the day together when they're not running.

"We love the beach, and surfing we both have a passion for," Trevor said. "It's not so much competitive as it is an enjoyable pastime we can do together."

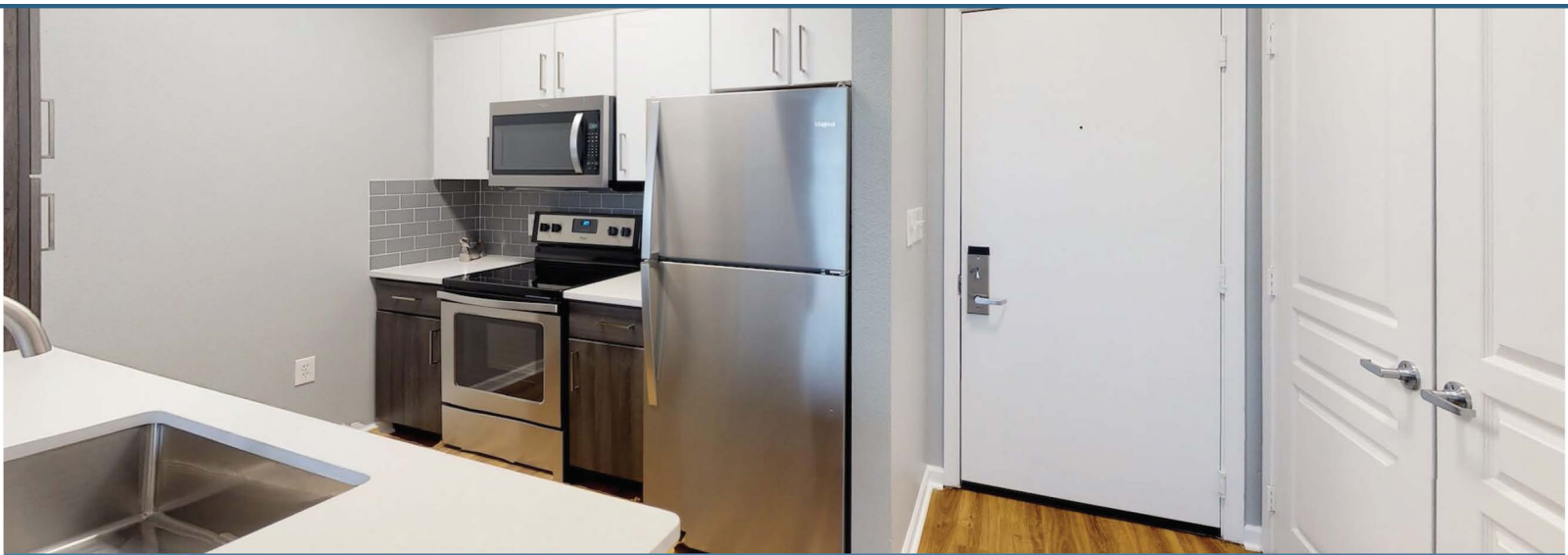
Evan said having his brother at arm's distance has benefitted his life in many ways.

"In my experience, it's been cool to always have someone push you to be your best self," Evan said. "I'll hear him drinking water at his desk behind me and be like, 'He's hydrated. I've got to be hydrated.' Every little aspect becomes competitive and a fun comradeship."



Trevor and Evan Williams pose for photos. The way to tell apart the two Texas cross country runners and twins is by their hair: Trevor with the short hair, and Evan with the long hair.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Guards Coleman, Ramey, Jones are key to offense this season

By Nathan Han
@NathanHan13

When the Texas basketball team rattled off an electric five-game winning streak to save its NCAA tournament bid last season, redshirt junior guard Andrew Jones said the trio of him, senior guard Matt Coleman III and junior guard Courtney Ramey began to gel on the court.

"We needed to trust each other," Jones said in a Thursday teleconference. "We're all three really ball-dominant guards ... , so once we learned how to trust each other, rely on each other and not feel like we have to make the super-hero play all the time, that's when we started to click."

In order for Texas to reach their preseason expectations this season, including a No. 19 ranking, those three guards will need to be a consistent spark for the Longhorn offense. Texas ranked 153rd in offensive efficiency out of all 353 Division I teams during the 2019-20 season and ranked 24th in defensive efficiency.

Much of the Longhorns' offensive struggles came in the half court, where head coach Shaka Smart relied on his guards and their streaky shooting to generate offense. When Coleman, Jones and Ramey were hot, the Texas offense was as well. But when that trio of guards was cold, the offense was stagnant

and inefficient.

With senior guard Jase Febres expected to miss the season opener because of injury, the trio's play will be even more crucial, especially when it comes to playing together in two-guard or even three-guard lineups.

"In practice, coach (Smart) has put us on the same team so that we could just get a feel and build the chemistry of playing with each other alongside each other," Coleman said.

Smart recognizes the importance of the guards, and last week, the head coach said he was giving Jones the green light to shoot the ball.

"He needs to shoot as much as he can," Smart said.

After the Longhorns ranked last in the Big 12 and 292nd out of all 353 teams in pace in the KenPom rankings last season, Coleman said the team put an emphasis on pushing the ball and playing fast.

"Everybody's strength on this team is getting up and down the court fast," Coleman said. "Just getting out in transition, less dribbling, more passing and allowing guys like Kai (Jones), Donovan (Williams) and Greg (Brown) to excel in their strengths. We just don't want to be stagnant."

Throughout preseason workouts and scrimmages, Smart pinpointed his three guards as three players

making substantial progress on the court, especially when it comes to communicating with each other and their teammates.

"Courtney is learning how to communicate with his teammates differently," Jones said. "So he has a greater understanding now than he did when he first got here on how to make his teammates better, what will make his teammates click."

When Texas kicks off its season Nov. 25 against UT-Rio Grande Valley, all eyes will likely be on the play of highly touted newcomer Greg Brown.

"(Greg Brown) asks questions," Coleman said. "He'll text me every day after prac-

tice and asks me, 'What did you see out there? What can I do better?'"

Almost every offense relies on its guards to generate buckets, but Smart and the Longhorns are particularly pinning the majority of their scoring and playmaking on Coleman, Jones and Ramey. UT-RGV senior guard Javon Levi, who earned All-America Defensive Team honors the last two seasons, will be the first in a long line of impressive backcourts the Texas trio must outplay to meet high expectations.

"At the end of the day, that's what it comes down to: making more plays than the other team and making life easy for one another," Coleman said.



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

Redshirt junior Andrew Jones drives on a TCU defender in a Feb. 19, 2020, game. The guard said he, along with junior Courtney Ramey and senior Matt Coleman, have been playing together in practice.