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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**UT System approves first building of UTA's upcoming west Fort Worth campus:** The [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), [Fort Worth Report](#), and the [Weatherford Democrat](#) reported on the UT System Board of Regents approving funding for the first building on the UTA West campus. [Yahoo!](#) shared the big news.

## EXPERT INTERVIEWS



**Witness in Meta trial testifies to prevalence of child sex abuse online:** Associate Professor of social work Jennifer O'Brien served as an expert witness for the New Mexico Department of Justice, the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) reported, in its ongoing civil case against Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta. The state claims the company's social media platforms violate the state's Unfair Trade Practices Act by exposing underage users to sexual predators.

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**New species of venomous snake found in Denton County:** [Telemundo39](#) is the latest outlet to report on the new species of rattlesnake recently found in Denton County. The snake was caught and delivered to UTA's Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center (ARDRC). Greg Pandelis, ARDRC Collections Manager, explains why this is an important find. Watch the segment to the right.



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## MORE NEWS

**Pediatric brain health research focus of Cook Children's, UTA partnership:** The [Fort Worth Report](#) covered the announcement of a new partnership between UTA and Cook Children's Hospital—the UTA Pediatric Brain Health and Neurosciences Center—that will be spearheaded by Christos Papadelis, a professor of bioengineering and assistant vice president of neuroscience research at Cook Children's.

**A new UT System policy limiting "controversial topics" will impact UTA, UT Dallas:** The University of Texas System Board of Regents voted Thursday to enact a policy that will limit when and how "controversial topics" can be discussed by professors in the classroom, the [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#) reported.

Some websites require registration or subscription before viewing the entire story.

This briefing is prepared by [UTA Media Relations](#). Send questions or comments to Jeff Caplan, director of media relations, at [jeff.caplan@uta.edu](mailto:jeff.caplan@uta.edu).

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