

Hopefuls offer plans on rising costs

Paxton focuses on tax deductions; Talarico eyes tax crackdowns on companies, wealthy

By Casey Murray
STAFF WRITER

With affordability concerns dominating this year's election cycle, both candidates in the U.S. Senate race in Texas are

pitching plans to address the rising cost of living. Attorney General Ken Paxton's plan focuses on tax deductions that tax experts say will disproportionately benefit the wealthiest Americans, and he



Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, and state Rep. James Talarico, a Democrat, are running for U.S. Senate.

hasn't outlined a way to pay for it. State Rep. James Talarico's focuses on programs that will benefit middle- and low-income people through tax crackdowns on corporations and wealthy Americans that experts warn could stifle the economy. Both are pitching themselves to voters as candidates who will help regular people.

Paxton said his plan would "put thousands of dollars back into the pockets of hardworking Texans." Talarico said that "I'll fight to unrig this economy. I'll fight to raise your pay. I'll fight to lower your costs." Of course, the effect of tax legislation is difficult to anticipate in the abstract. And any reform
Election continues on A2

TIME TO MOOOV-IN



Letters opposed opening Mystic

After flood, many spoke, a few in favor of operating again

By Peggy O'Hare
STAFF WRITER

Before Camp Mystic abandoned plans to reopen part of its grounds this summer, the Texas Department of State Health Services received more than 900 letters and emails from people who felt moved to weigh in on whether the agency should grant the century-old retreat a license to operate. The state health department — which was conducting a by-the-book administrative review of the camp's application — didn't ask anybody to write in. It didn't seek public testimony. It wasn't staging town halls. But the possibility of the Hill Country camp resuming business a year after a flood killed 25 children and two counselors stirred strong emotions among its critics and supporters. In one letter, a woman whose niece died in the flood at Camp Mystic begged state health officials not to allow it to reopen. "There is no way to fully understand what this has done to our family and the 25 other families who lost girls that day," wrote Colorado resident Maggie Stevens, the aunt of the late Mary Barrett Stevens, 8, of Austin. "A bomb has gone off, and every day we discover a new piece of our lives that has been destroyed by the shrapnel caused
Camp continues on A4

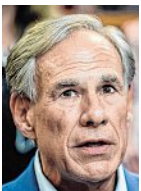
ABOVE: Rudy Castillo IV gives Miranda Mendoza, a transfer student from the University of Texas at San Antonio, her dorm key on Saturday during Mooov-In at UFCU Disch-Falk Field. UT fall classes begin Monday. LEFT: Students bring belongings from the Brazos garage during Mooov-In.

PHOTOS BY AARON E. MARTINEZ/
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Abbott's data center audit won't be done before the election

By Benjamin Wermund
STAFF WRITER

The sweeping data center audit that Gov. Greg Abbott ordered earlier this month won't be completed until late this year, potentially punting a politically volatile issue to after the November midterms. The Public Utility Commission approved the timeline on Thursday as



Abbott

officials from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas said they hope to complete the audit of hundreds of projects currently in the pipeline by December.

Under growing pressure from a brewing
Data continues on A2

Canada's coercion fears being tested

By Rob Gillies
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO — Mark Carney drew international attention as Canada's prime minister by warning that middle powers must resist economic coercion by more powerful countries. Now President Donald Trump is putting that warning to the test with sweeping new tariffs that could show how much economic pain Canada can absorb. Tensions escalated late Friday when Canada walked away from negoti-



Associated Press

Canadian leader Mark Carney warned that middle powers must resist economic coercion.

ations after Carney concluded the United States was demanding too much in exchange for tariff relief. The U.S. imposed 50% duties Saturday on

about \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods, and Carney announced dollar-for-dollar retaliation beginning Sept. 8. "We're going to hit back," Carney said. Carney is doing what many other American allies have so far avoided: risking economic pain rather than yielding to tariff pressure. For Carney, the showdown is the clearest test yet of his argument that middle powers must stand up to economic pressure from great powers such as the United

States and China, even when it comes at a cost. Canada's response could show how countries navigate a world in which long-standing alliances offer less protection and economic ties themselves become sources of leverage. It could also shape how Carney is viewed at home and abroad, and how other U.S. allies respond to the Republican president. The trade dispute also has become a test of sovereignty. Carney said Washing-
Canada continues on A3

