

## Incident comes amid drone focus

El Paso's airspace was shut down as U.S. looks to expand defenses against attacks

By Brandon Lingle  
STAFF WRITER

Days before alleged cartel drones from Mexico were blamed for shutting down airspace around El Paso, the U.S. military published new guidelines for its bases on how to protect themselves against the technology.

It appears the push for increased drone defense — and disagreement over testing of U.S. capabilities — may have been behind the disruption early Wednesday. The new rules, along with more spending on

drone defenses and a meme-driven propaganda campaign about small drones and laser weapons, illustrate the Pentagon's concerns about the devices that can spy, disrupt airspace and even carry small bombs.

Such moves have accelerated under the Trump administration and appear to have contributed to Wednesday morning's confusion with the Federal Aviation Administration suddenly closing, then reopening, El Paso International Airport and surrounding airspace. Transportation Secretary

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U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz gathering information on flight pause. **A2**

Sean Duffy said the FAA and Pentagon were reacting to a Mexican cartel drone entering U.S. airspace, a claim that was soon shown to be untrue.

The agencies "acted swiftly to address a cartel drone incursion," Duffy said Wednesday morning on social media. "The threat has been neutralized, and there is no danger to commercial travel in the region."

Rather than a cartel drone, though, the airspace closure apparently stemmed from disagreement between the Penta-

**Drones continues on A4**



Jeff Schultes/Dreamstime.com

A short-term closure of airspace near the Mexican border came after the Pentagon released guidelines on drone defense.



Photos by Robin Jerstad/For the San Antonio Express-News

Attendees speak with Lennar Homes representatives during a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality public hearing.

## Wastewater plant plans stir up outrage

Canyon Lake-area residents demand state block housing development

By Liz Teitz  
STAFF WRITER

CANYON LAKE — Several hundred people filled the Canyon Lake High School cafeteria on Tuesday night, demanding state regulators reject a permit for a planned development that would release treated wastewater into a Comal County creek that flows into Canyon Lake.

During a raucous and at times contentious meeting that lasted more than three hours, residents said the facility would damage drinking water quality and harm the environment, frequently citing concerns about both potential flooding and overflows and about the ongoing drought.

Lennar Homes of Texas Land and Construction, and



A meeting attendee confronts Brad Patterson, a staffer with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

landowners Bobbie Neff and Jeanette Morris, applied for a permit allowing them to discharge an average of 600,000 gallons of treated wastewater per day into a tributary that flows into Potter Creek and then to Canyon Lake.

The water treatment plant would serve Broken Cedar Ranch, a planned 850-lot subdivision, according to the application. The treatment facility would be near FM 484 and Rocky Ranch Road, in the unincorporated Fischer community. The site is on the north side of Canyon Lake and is in the Edwards Aquifer contributing zone, an area where water drains to the recharge zone and enters the groundwater system.

**Plant continues on A8**

## Builder facing lender pressure

By Patrick Danner and Madison Iszler  
STAFF WRITERS

Prominent San Antonio builder Darren Casey is in a world of hurt.

With his various operations facing a cash flow crunch and pressure from lenders, Casey has sought bankruptcy protection for 31 of his businesses.

All but three of the businesses filed last week in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Fort Worth on its "Mega Docket," which handles huge cases with assets or liabilities of \$50 million or more. The other three were also filed in Fort Worth but not on the Mega Docket.

All told, the 31 businesses have more than \$50 million in assets and \$25 million in debt, court filings indicate.

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## Orchestra director Kahane resigns

By Deborah Martin  
STAFF WRITER

Jeffrey Kahane was a big get for the San Antonio Philharmonic.

The respected conductor, who became the orchestra's first music director in 2024, has conducted major orchestras across the country. He also is a noted pianist who was a finalist at the 1982 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and has worked with some of the biggest names in classical music, including Yo-Yo Ma and Joshua Bell.

Philharmonic patrons praised his programming, the way that he and the musicians worked together and the clear joy he took conducting them.

That's all over now.

Kahane has resigned from the

**Kahane continues on A4**



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