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# San Antonio Express-News

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## Flu sickens recruits at Lackland

Outbreak hits two months after vaccine made optional

By Sig Christenson  
 STAFF WRITER

A flu outbreak has sickened more than 150 Air Force recruits in basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, according to the service and national news reports.

The upsurge comes two months after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said annual influenza vaccines no longer would be mandatory for military personnel.

A Lackland spokeswoman, Angelina Casarez, confirmed the outbreak but did not say how many recruits had fallen ill. The New York Times reported that 160 were sick, and ABC News said the number was 159.

Asked who had contracted the flu, Casarez said, "Right now, they're looking at trainees in basic military training."

A recruit in his sixth week of basic training at Lackland died Tuesday after experiencing "a medical emergency" four days

earlier. It was not immediately clear whether the death was flu-related. The cause was under investigation.

The trainee, identified as Keon McDaniel, was taken to Brooke Army Medical Center, where he died. "A comprehensive medical review is being conducted to determine the facts," the Air Force said.

Hegseth announced the new policy on flu vaccination, making it optional rather than required, *Recruits continues on A7*



San Antonio Express-News file photo  
**More than 150 Air Force recruits at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland reportedly have been sickened in a flu outbreak.**



Leo Correa/Associated Press

Smoke rises Friday in an area near Beaufort Castle following an Israeli military strike in southern Lebanon.

## Israel, Hezbollah agree to truce

Fighting threatened to upend U.S.-Iran agreement to end war

By Erin Cunningham,  
 Jon Gambrell  
 and Aamer Madhani  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group agreed Friday to halt the heavy fighting in southern Lebanon that had threatened to unravel an interim agreement between the United States and Iran to end

their war, officials said. Neither Israel nor Hezbollah immediately confirmed the truce.

It came after a heavy exchange of fire killed 47 people in Lebanon and four Israeli soldiers.

Hezbollah and Israel went to war shortly after the outbreak of the wider conflict, with Hezbollah firing rockets and drones at civilian communities in northern Israel and Israel

seizing large swaths of southern Lebanon.

The interim agreement to end the Iran war has already reopened the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran effectively closed, cutting the global economy off from significant supplies of oil and natural gas. The deal would also relaunch talks on Iran's nuclear program, the core issue over which Israel and the U.S. began the war on

Feb. 28.

But the accord already faces threats, chiefly from Lebanon, with the fighting there leading to a delay in the start of talks planned for Friday in Switzerland. The agreement calls for a halt to military operations in Lebanon and for its sovereignty to be respected. Neither Israel nor Hezbollah is a party to the deal.

*Lebanon continues on A5*

## Council delays SAWS rate hike

By Liz Teitz  
 STAFF WRITER

The San Antonio City Council has decided to wait until the fall to make a decision on a proposed increase to city water and sewer rates — a move San Antonio Water System officials said will result in them seeking a higher increase.

SAWS leaders have been discussing plans to seek a rate hike since last summer, and the utility's board of trustees voted unanimously last month to approve a plan that would raise rates up to 32.8% over four years.

But because SAWS is owned by the city, the council has the final say on the rates the utility charges its customers. Last week, city staffers recommended a lower range of rate hikes, ultimately raising bills between 26% and 30% by 2029.

Six council members voted Thursday to push back the vote until October: Sukh Kaur, Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Edward Mungia, Marina Alderete Gavito, Misty Spears and Marc Whyte.

SAWS CEO and President Robert Puente said the delay means SAWS will have to reassess the proposed hikes and that the rates will probably be "adjusted upward."

"I doubt if contractors will hold their prices," he said, as *SAWS continues on A7*



Jason Fochtman/Houston Chronicle

Matagorda County Against Data Centers hosts a June 11 forum. Texas is on track to soon be the world's largest data center hub.

## Data center backlash posing a test of the GOP's hold on rural Texans

By Benjamin Wermund  
 STAFF WRITER

The Democrat running for Texas agriculture commissioner won a boost from an unexpected source last week: the Republican he's trying to replace.

Sid Miller, the outgoing commissioner, appeared at a packed campaign event in Matagorda

County for Clayton Tucker and told the crowd he agrees with the Democrat on many things — but especially Tucker's calls for a statewide moratorium on data centers.

"It's not a Republican issue, it's not a Democrat issue," Miller told the crowd. "This is one of those red, white and blue issues about protecting our communi-

ty." Texas is on track to be the world's largest data center hub in just a couple of years. Most Republican state leaders, in-

*Centers continues on A8*

