



Police say woman's hanging was staged

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026 | GOSANANGELO.COM

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Paxton opening data center probe



The steel frame of data centers under construction is visible during a tour of the OpenAI data center in Abilene in 2025. A total of eight data center buildings are planned to exist on the campus. SHELBY TAUBER/REUTERS

State tightens water use reporting requirements

Mateo Rosiles
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The Texas attorney general's office is investigating hundreds of data center developments statewide in the state's latest effort to crack down on data cen-

ter expansion. Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced on Sept. 24 that his office is investigating data center developments that did not respond to the Texas Water Development Board's survey to ensure they comply with water-use reporting requirements. "It is our responsibility to steward our state's land well, and we cannot do that if companies are blatantly disregarding their legal obligations to Texas and to our citizens. We cannot sacrifice

our resources, water, or energy supply, and I will continue to fight for our communities across this state," Paxton said in a statement. The investigation comes three days after Gov. Greg Abbott ordered state environmental regulators to stop issuing permits that data centers need to move. Earlier in the month, Abbott also directed the TWDB to use its statutory authority to compel major water users

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ANALYSIS

3 TX U.S. House races are shifting to Dems

Mateo Rosiles
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Three congressional races in Texas are giving the Republican Party a headache, as a new political analysis shows they are shifting in Democrats' favor. The three races in Texas are among 15 U.S. House races nationwide whose ratings have shifted, indicating Republicans are on track to lose the House majority in the midterm elections, according to The Cook Political Report. The new analysis released on Sept. 25 shows Republicans are losing ground in Texas' 9th, 15th and 35th congressional districts, weeks before early voting begins on Oct. 19. Here's where each race stands and why analysts moved them for Democrats.

Bobby Pulido has pulled even with De La Cruz in TX-15
Incumbent: Rep. Monica De La Cruz, R-Texas
Rating: Toss Up
Why: The analysis moved the South Texas race from "Lean Republican" to a toss-up, based on public and private polling showing the race is still tied – or even that Democrat Bobby Pulido, the Tejano singer-songwriter, has a lead.

This is a departure from a district that favored Republicans and voted for President Donald Trump by 18 points in 2024 and three points in 2020. De La Cruz won reelection in 2022 by 14 points. "While the partisanship of the district barely changed after the new lines

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Rule change could hit beauty schools

John Pacenti
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK

BOYNTON BEACH, FL – Daniela Street and Angelina Rhodes came from single-parent households with limited income. For them and tens of thousands of other young people – most of them women, many of them people of color – beauty school offers a path to a profession and a living wage. Street and Rhodes rely on federal student loans to go to Robert Fiance Beauty Schools in Boynton Beach, Florida. "God forbid, this didn't work out – I wouldn't have been able to have money to go to another school. So that financial aid meant a lot," Rhodes said. Street concurred: "I didn't have to pay for anything. I had just lost my father, so he wasn't able to help me pay for school. I wouldn't even have been able to go

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Lexie Abaroa takes a class at Boca Beauty Academy in Boca Raton, Florida. A proposed change by the Trump Administration to who qualifies for federal student loans could leave many cosmetology students no way to pay for school. JOHN PACENTI/PALM BEACH POST

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Volume 100 | Issue 230
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