

96°

LIVE NOW

Watch KXAN+ stream 24/7



\$10M PLEDGE FROM GOOGLE FOR WATER
DATA CENTERS IN TEXAS

kxan
86° 6:00

TEXAS POLITICS

Google announces \$10M Texas water impact fund; makes data center water use pledges

by: [Adam Schwager](#)

Posted: Jun 3, 2026 / 06:00 AM CDT

Updated: Jun 3, 2026 / 07:20 PM CDT

SHARE



AUSTIN (Nexstar) — Google is making a \$10 million investment into Texas in the form of a water impact fund. This pledge comes as Google has numerous data center projects underway in the Lone Star State, including an operational site in Ellis County.

“This impact fund will complement our ongoing water stewardship and replenishment work, and further our promise to responsibly manage vital water resources where we build and operate data centers, while ensuring our growth never comes at the expense of local households,” Google said in a statement.

Data centers and water usage

Data centers aren’t very popular among Americans right now. Seven out of every 10 Americans oppose artificial intelligence data centers in their communities, [according to a May report from Gallup](#). Of those who opposed, 50% cited effects on resources — 18% specifically citing water usage.

The fear has some merit.

ADVERTISEMENT



“I think the concerns are valid,” Ben Townsend, Global Head of Infrastructure Strategy & Sustainability at Google, said. “If we just look back across other sectors where there’s been growth in the past 100 years, whether it be manufacturing, energy production... we have so many examples of water use gone wrong.”

[MOST READ: Austin Police, not ICE, requested EMS for man wounded in ICE shooting, city says](#) >

[An analysis from the University of Texas at Austin](#) found data centers could account for 3% to 9% of the Lone Star State’s water usage by 2040. The wide range of outcomes represents an uncertainty.

ADVERTISEMENT

“People don’t know the scale of how much water is going to be needed,” Mariam Arzumanyan, a postdoctoral fellow at the Bureau of Economic Geology, a research unit of the UT Jackson School of Geosciences, said in a release. “There is not a unified understanding of the technologies used for cooling, or how much water that technology would use.”

‘A blueprint of what responsible water use looks like’

Google said its “approach to water (in data centers) is different,” and made five commitments towards proving it:

1. Replenish more water than they consume at their data centers by 2030;
2. Help modernize water and wastewater infrastructure in the communities they operate in;
3. Use air-cooling in communities where water is at risk;
4. Annually report their water usage;
5. Pursue alternative and reclaimed solutions to protect water.

Townsend hopes to help set an example “so that if another data center operator developer comes in and is interested in developing, there’s a blueprint of what responsible water use looks like.”

Google will have three examples to set in upcoming years, as they have data centers under construction in Haskell, Wilbarger and Armstrong counties. All three will use closed-loop air cooling to limit water usage.

ADVERTISEMENT

“In many places, water cooling can reduce data center energy use by roughly 10% compared to air cooling,” Townsend said. “But we also take water concerns very seriously... in fact the data center that we have planned for Texas will not be using

evaporative cooling resources specifically to protect Texas watersheds.”

MOST READ: New videos show moments before, after ICE shooting >

The announcement comes a year and a half after Gov. Greg Abbott, R, declared water infrastructure an emergency items during the 2025 legislative session. Both [Texas Speaker of the House Dustin Burrows, R](#), and [Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, R](#), have also put the issue on their list of topics to discuss during the 2026 legislative off-year.

ADD AS PREFERRED SOURCE ON GOOGLE

Copyright 2026 Nexstar Media Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

SPONSORED CONTENT

[Privacy Policy](#)

MDs Say Mental Decline Begins When Seniors Can't Pronounce These 3 Phrases. Can You?

Doctors Memory Report

Chronic tinnitus is associated with a common practice

Health in focus

[Learn More](#)

The Overlooked Boxed Cereal Now Tied to 8 Out of 10 Forgetfulness Cases

The Wellness Beacon

[Learn More](#)

Who Charges The Most For Car Insurance In Texas? (Check Your ZIP Code)

OTTO Insurance

[Click Here](#)

Spinal Stenosis Is Not From Tight Muscles. Meet The Real Enemy of Stenosis (Stop Doing This)

RejuvaCare

Misplacing Things Lately? Experts Say: Notice If You Often Say These 3 Phrases

Today 55+: Neuro Health

A Harmless-Looking Bedtime Habit Now Tied to 8 Out of 10 Memory Cases

Mind Clarity Report

This Solar Dragon Light Makes Gardens Feel Enchanted

Topsseek

[Shop Now](#)

Seniors Above 55 Years Of Age Can Now Fly Business Class For The Price of Economy

Smart Travel Tips

[Learn More](#)

Texas: Worst Car Insurance Companies for Overcharging (Is Yours On The List?)

Auto Insurance

[Learn more](#)

The Missing Nutrient Behind Thin Hair

Beautiful Hair Again

The Real Reason Your Lower Back Hurts Might Surprise You

Health Journal

[Learn More](#)

BESTR[👑]VIEWS



This Walmart-exclusive kitchen brand looks so expensive ...

COOKWARE / 26 Minutes Ago

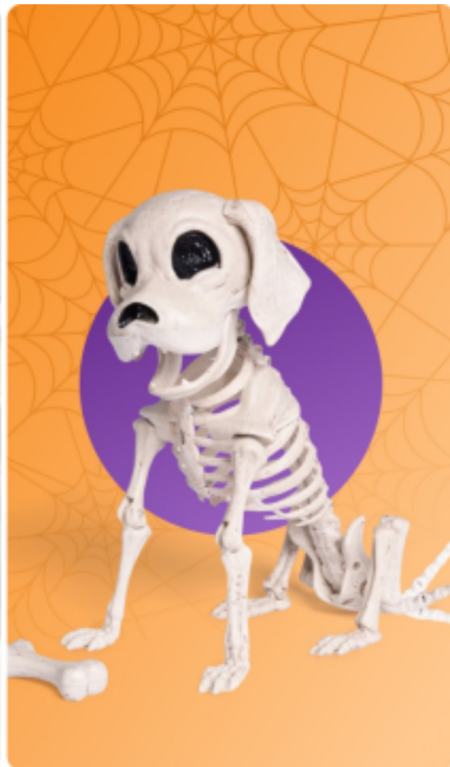
Thyme and Table is only available at Walmart If you're looking to update your kitchen with new bakeware, small appliances, cutlery and more, look no further than Thyme and Table, a brand exclusive to Walmart that looks a lot more expensive than it ...



Yankee Candle's fall cult-favorites are up to 51% ...

CANDLES / 1 Hour Ago

Spiced Pumpkin, anyone? Fall doesn't officially begin until you've lit that first seasonal candle. If you're a Yankee Candle devotee, you know exactly what I'm talking about. The brand's iconic fall collection is currently up to 51% off on Amazon, ...



Pro-tip: Get your Halloween skeletons early while ...

HOLIDAY / 24 Hours Ago

Skeletons get really expensive in October As September draws to a close, now is the time to shop for Halloween decorations — especially skeletons, while you still have time to comparison shop and find good deals. Right now, Walmart's skeleton aisle ...

[View All BestReviews](#)

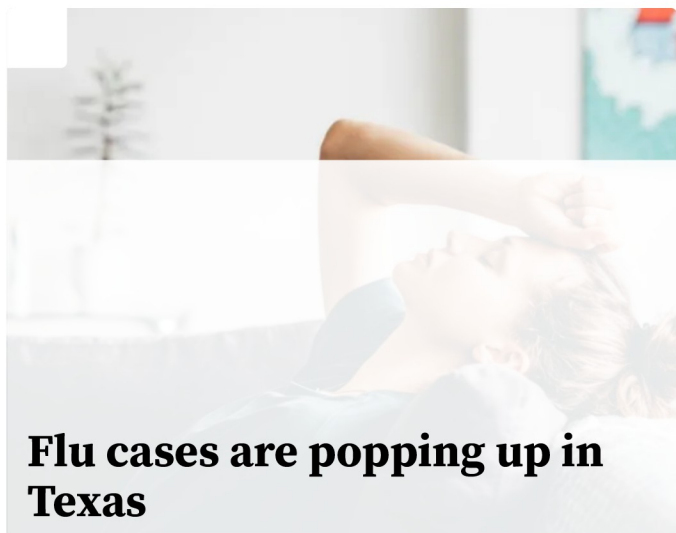
TOP STORIES



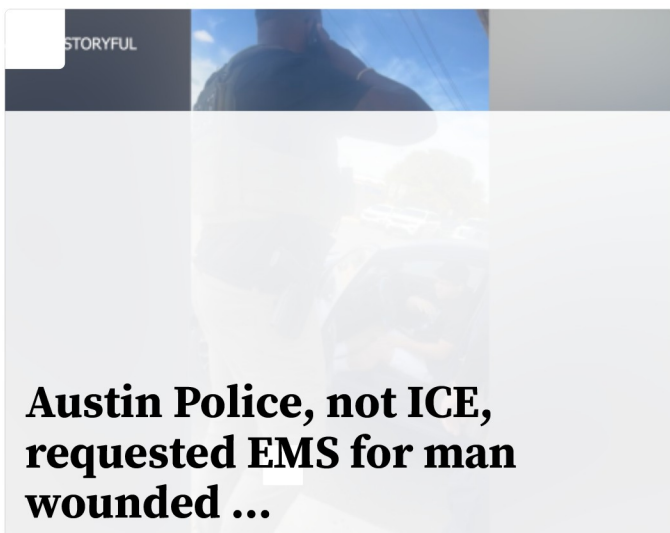
Judge temporarily blocks deportation of man shot ...



Atny: Man shot by ICE returned to detention after ...



Flu cases are popping up in Texas



Austin Police, not ICE, requested EMS for man wounded ...



Waymo driverless cars now allowed on Austin freeways

Top Stories

MORE STORIES



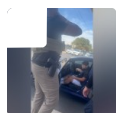
Judge temporarily blocks deportation of man shot ...



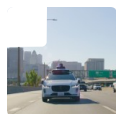
Atny: Man shot by ICE returned to detention after ...



Flu cases are popping up in Texas



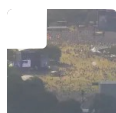
Austin Police, not ICE, requested EMS for man wounded ...



Waymo driverless cars now allowed on Austin freeways



Texas ordered to install AC in all prisons before ...



Zilker Great Lawn closes ahead of ACL Festival



SH 130 & Gattis School Rd may get new interchange

More Stories

AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY



Judge temporarily blocks deportation of man shot ...

Austin

40 minutes ago

- ▶ **Atny: Man shot by ICE returned to detention after ...**
Austin • 38 minutes ago
- ▶ **Flu cases are popping up in Texas**
Austin • 1 hour ago
- ▶ **Austin Police, not ICE, requested EMS for man wounded ...**
Investigations • 19 minutes ago
- ▶ **Waymo driverless cars now allowed on Austin freeways**
Transportation • 1 hour ago
- ▶ **Zilker Great Lawn closes ahead of ACL Festival**
Austin • 2 hours ago
- ▶ **SH 130 & Gattis School Rd may get new interchange**
Traffic Projects • 3 hours ago
- ▶ **Travis County wants help renaming a 299-acre park**
Travis County • 5 hours ago
- ▶ **Hit and miss showers through midweek, hot next 7 ...**
Forecast • 4 hours ago
- ▶ **HAAM Day Music Festival returns with largest lineup ...**
Austin • 1 hour ago
- ▶ **ICE 'surge' addressed at shooting press conference**
Austin • 3 hours ago
- ▶ **Protests continue after man shot by ICE agent**
Top Stories • 8 hours ago

► **Man shot by ICE shares experience in call from detainment**

Austin • 18 hours ago

► **3 arrested, officers injured after Austin ICE shooting**

Austin • 18 hours ago

► **New videos emerge after ICE shooting**

Investigations • 19 hours ago

► **Organizers plan 'emergency protest' in Austin**

Investigations • 18 hours ago

► **Mayor helped wife of man shot by ICE get answers**

Investigations • 19 hours ago

► **Authorities responding to 'large grass fire'**

Travis County • 21 hours ago

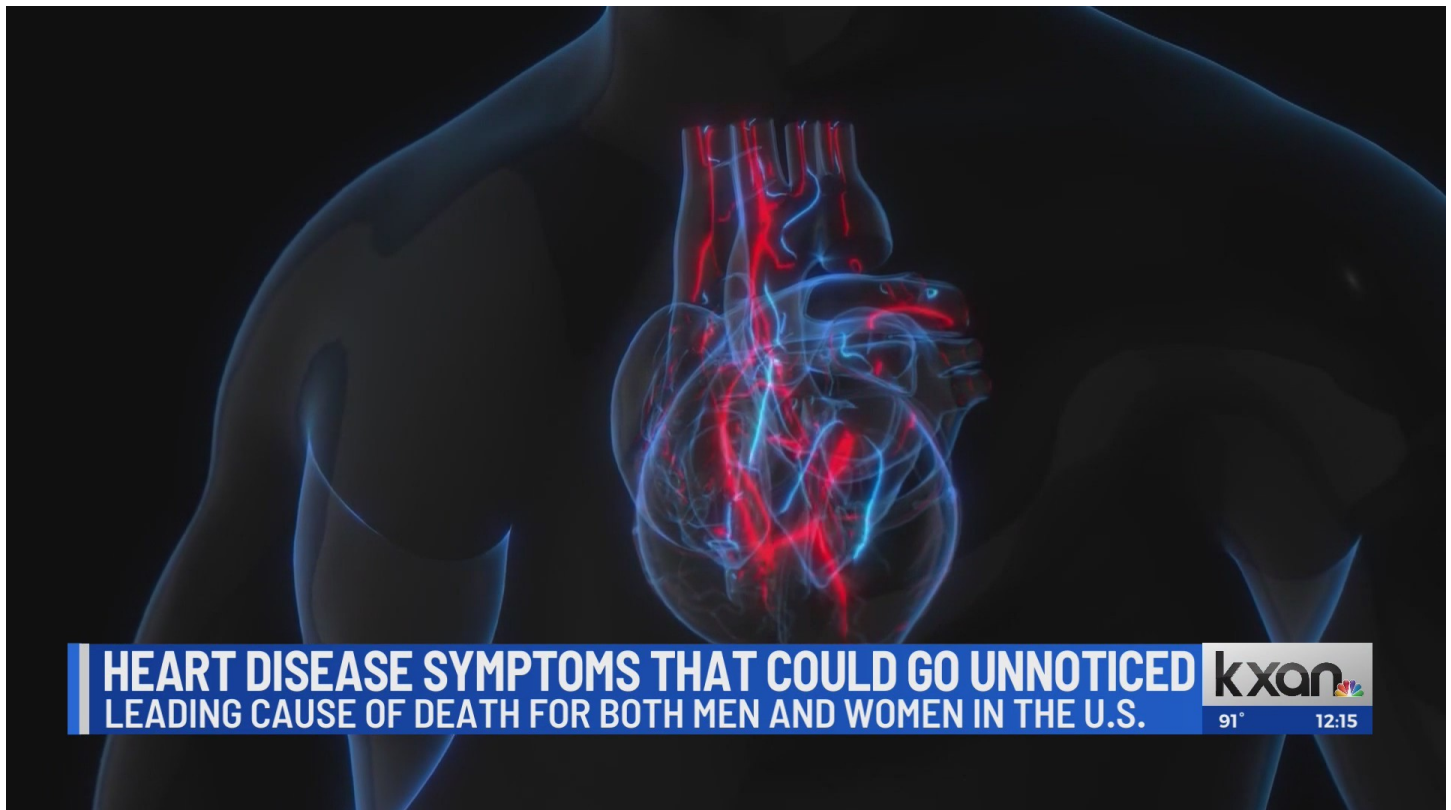
► **Musk working on Austin-San Antonio Hyperloop tunnel**

Elon Musk • 22 hours ago

► **ICE agents shot at least 28 people since last year**

Austin • 16 hours ago

KXAN Austin Video



**Heart disease symptoms that
could go unnoticed**
1 hour ago

**WARNING GRAPHIC:
Bystander video of the...**
2 hours ago

**New videos show moments
before, after ICE shooting**
3 hours ago

More Videos

SUBSCRIBE NOW

KXAN Texas Politics Newsletter

Enter Your Email

SIGN UP NOW 

SUBSCRIBE NOW

More Than the Score Sports Newsletter

Enter Your Email

SIGN UP NOW >

kxan Report!t

Send your story tips to our news team

AUSTIN WEATHER

Current

96°

Sunny

Tonight

76°

Partly Cloudy

Precip: 10%

Tomorrow

100°

Partly Sunny; Spotty Rain

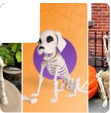
Precip: 20%

TRENDING STORIES

- 1 Austin Police, not ICE, requested EMS for man wounded ...**
- 2 Judge temporarily blocks deportation of man shot ...**
- 3 New videos emerge after ICE shooting**
- 4 Atny: Man shot by ICE returned to detention after ...**

5 Travis County wants help renaming a 299-acre park

BESTREVIEWS.COM - TOP PICKS TO MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY



Pro-tip: Get your Halloween skeletons early while ...

Holiday • 24 hours ago



Walmart's 'Flash Deals' are filled with hidden gems ...

Holiday • 24 hours ago



Prime Big Deal Days vacuum, floorcare and home deals ...

Holiday • 4 days ago



Our editors pick the very best of Amazon's Top 100 ...

Holiday • 5 days ago



Amazon just announced Prime Big Deal Days dates

Holiday • 41 minutes ago

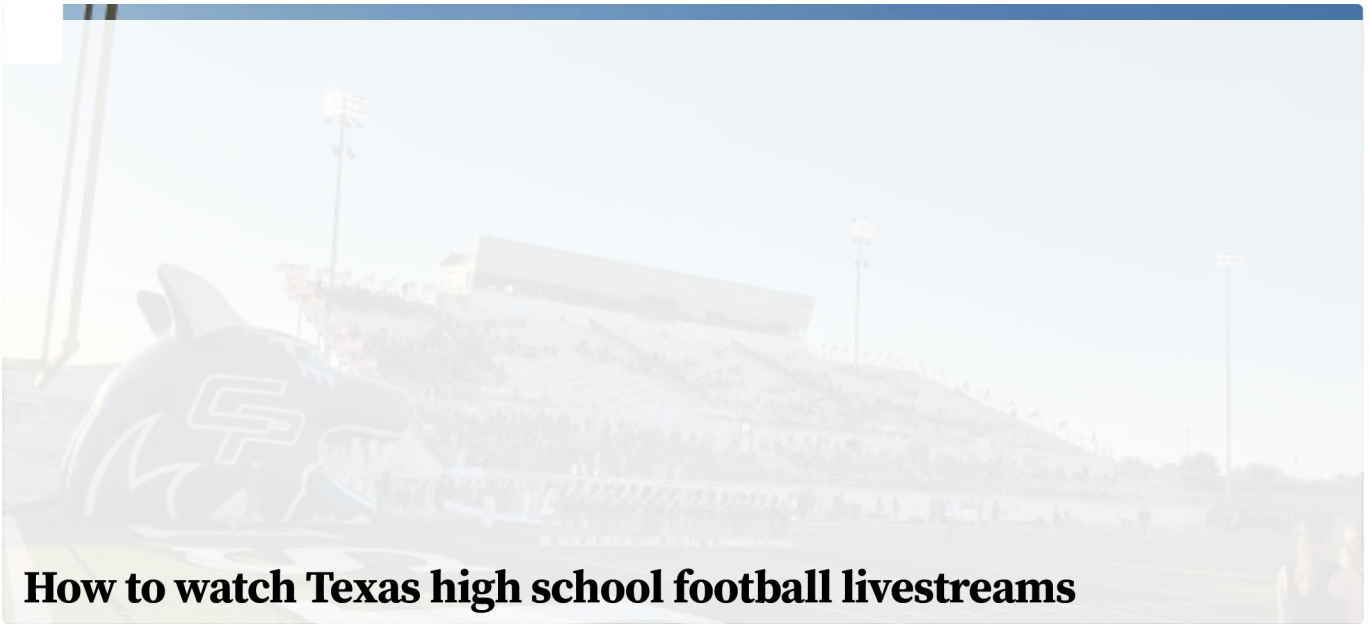


Balsam Hill's cult-favorite Halloween countdown calendar ...

Holiday • 2 weeks ago

View All BestReviews Picks

DON'T MISS



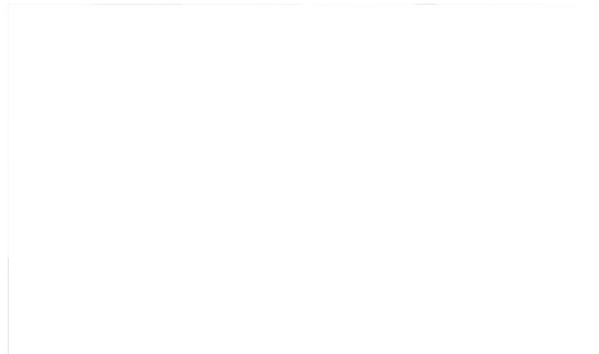
How to watch Texas high school football livestreams

Experts warn of 'concrete cancer' in nearly 30K pools

Join the KXAN Creator Lab

After the Flood: Anniversary of July 2025 floods

These were Texas' fastest-growing cities in 2025



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Loading survey...





News

Traffic

Report It

Studio 512

About Us

Weather

Investigations

Sports

Contests

Contact Us

About Our Ads

KXAN: Children's TV Programming

KNVA: Children's TV Programming

KBVO: Children's TV Programming

KBVO: FCC EEO Report 2025 – 2026

KXAN: FCC Public File

KNVA: FCC Public File

KBVO: FCC Public File

KXAN: FCC EEO Report 2025 – 2026

Artificial Intelligence

Get News App



Get Weather App



Stay Connected

[Privacy Policy](#) 09/30/2025

[Terms Of Use](#)

[FCC Applications](#)

[Public File Assistance Contact](#)

[Subscribe To KXAN Push Notifications](#)

[The Hill](#)

[NewsNation](#)

[BestReviews](#)

[Content Licensing](#)

[Advertise with Nexstar](#)

[Journalistic Integrity](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Your Privacy Choices](#) 