

UIL LONE STAR
CUP WINNERS
ANNOUNCED
SPORTS | PG 8

KatyTimes

GET OUT
AND ABOUT
THIS SUMMER!
Area events, page 2

Royal ISD breaks ground for new high school campus

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On June 29, Royal ISD celebrated a significant milestone – the groundbreaking for its new high school. The campus will be located on a piece of land at FM 362 and Mourning Dove Blvd. that the district purchased in February 2026, which spans approximately 141 acres. The high school design is currently approximately 586,337 square-feet and designed to serve up to 3,000 students at full capacity. “This high school will accommodate the district’s rapid enrollment growth, where Royal ISD is projected to have more than 10,000 students in the next 10 years,” said Royal ISD spokesperson Norma Martinez. The anticipated opening is in the fall of 2028 and will serve as the single high school for the district. The current campus at 34499 Royal Rd. in Brookshire will be repurposed for a different use, possibly as a junior high school, officials said. The new high school will offer state-of-the-art educational and Career and Technical Education (CTE)

See **ROYAL**, page 8

36A North public scoping meetings set for July 14, 16

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) invites area residents to a virtual public scoping meeting with in-person open houses this July. TxDOT proposes to construct a new highway, designated 36A North, to improve north-south mobility from Interstate (I)-10 west of Katy, to U.S. Highway (US) 290 west of Waller, with portions of the alignment potentially utilizing existing transportation corridors. These public meetings are being held to present the proposed project, engage with the local community and listen to public feedback. A pre-recorded presentation will be available for viewing online. The in-person open houses will include the same pre-recorded presentation, and project staff will be available to discuss the project. Interested persons may comment on the proposed project in any language by email, mail or may leave written comments at the open house.

See **HIGHWAY**, page 3

Commissioner Andy Meyers leads celebration of Fort Bend County's first all-abilities park

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers hosted a ribbon cutting on June 13 at Galaxy All-Abilities Park, a 1.6-acre outdoor recreational facility designed for residents of all ages and abilities. The park is located at 151 Stadium Drive in Sugar Land’s Imperial neighborhood, adjacent to the Fort Bend County Precinct 3 Annex. The \$1.6 million facility features a space theme as a tip of the hat to the Sugar Land Space Cowboys, the AAA professional baseball team which plays home

See **PARK**, page 3

250 AMERICA celebrates a milestone

BROOKSHIRE INSTALLS NEW MONUMENT



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Brookshire community members join Mayor Robert Richards (third from right) at the July 4 dedication of the city’s new monument commemorating the 250th birthday of the United States. The new monument is located on the north side of U.S. 90 between Cooper and Otto Streets. The unveiling coincided with Brookshire’s 250th Anniversary Independence Day Milestone Celebration at Hovas Park, 1412 FM 359 South, on the same day, featuring live music, vendors, and fireworks.

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 4 KICKS OFF AMERICA’S BIRTHDAY PARTY



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Wide-eyed youngsters watch as Uncle Sam performs juggling feats during Harris County Precinct 4’s America 250 celebration on July 3 at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road in Cypress. The free carnival-themed event treated attendees to performances by a magician, a mariachi trio and the CC Rider Band, as well as appearances by superheroes Spiderman, Captain America, Wonder Woman and Super Girl. Family-friendly activities included carnival and yard games, a henna artist, balloon artists, a foam party, a “touch a truck” event and a patriotic photo booth. Free hot dogs, ice cream and drinks were also available.

DAR STAR OF DESTINY CHAPTER DONATES AMERICA 250 EXHIBIT



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARILYN FRISHMAN

Celebrating the June 30 opening of the America 250 exhibit at Katy’s City Hall are (left to right) City Administrator Byron Hebert, Katy Heritage Society President Adrienne Davitz, Susan Creech Stormer, DAR Star of Destiny Regent Laurel Cull, DAR Star of Destiny America 250 Chair Marilyn Frishman and Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele. The exhibit, which the DAR developed in partnership with the Katy Heritage Society, depicts historical timelines and includes information on Katy city founders J.O. Thomas, Adam Stockdick and others. It will be on display at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy, through July.

VFW HOLDS ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY LUNCHEON



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

VFW Post 9182 of Katy held its annual Independence Day luncheon on July 4 at VFW Hall, 6206 George Bush Drive in Katy, featuring a BBQ lunch and silent and live auctions. During the program, James F. McCain (left) of Katy presented a handcrafted American eagle sculpture, which he carved, painted and gilded, to Post Commander Ken Bullock (right). City of Katy officials, including Mayor Dusty Thiele and council members Paul Follis, Johnston Dietz and Michael Meihls, also presented an “America 250” commemorative plaque to the post.



PATTISON HOLDS CELEBRATION WITH PARADE, FREE HOT DOGS



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The City of Pattison held “Patriotic Pattison Day” on July 4 at City Hall, 3410 First Street in Pattison, with free hot dogs and snow cones, along with music and games. The event also featured a patriotic parade which included city vehicles, golf carts, tractors, and farm trucks.

Fort Bend County District Clerk’s Office expands public access with new E-Certify system

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County District Clerk Beverley McGrew Walker announced on June 23 that phase II of the District Clerk’s new, modernized document certification system is now in place,

effective June 22. This new phase enhances online service that provides faster, more convenient access to certified court documents while improving transparency and accessibility for the public, attorneys, and litigants, her office said.

The enhanced certification process allows users to obtain certified copies online with just a few clicks, eliminating the need to visit the courthouse or wait for documents to be processed

See **CLERK**, page 3

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Women of Katy to host “Energy Audit” symposium July 16

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Women are carrying more than ever; careers, businesses, families, relationships, and communities but many are doing it while running on empty. On Thursday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Women of Katy will bring together local women, medical professionals, wellness experts, and community leaders for “The Energy Audit.”

Hosted at Flix Brewhouse at 2707 Commercial Center Blvd., Ste. K-100 in Katy, the event will feature mental health and physical health, allowing attendees to learn practical, evidence-based strategies they can immediately apply to their daily lives.

Topics will include:

- Understanding the nervous system
- Burnout prevention and recovery
- Hormonal health
- Sleep and energy optimization
- Nutrition and inflammation
- Movement, strength, and longevity
- Mental resilience and emotional well-being

“One of the most beautiful things we’ve witnessed through Women of Katy is what happens when women come together with honesty instead of perfection,” said Stacy Jacobs, co-founder of Women of Katy. “This symposium isn’t about having all the answers. It’s about giving women permission to ask

better questions about their health, their energy, and the way they’re living. We hope every woman leaves feeling encouraged, connected, and empowered to take care of herself with the same intention she gives everyone else.”

“As women, we’re constantly told to push harder, do more, and keep going,” said Olivia Martin, Co-Founder of Women of Katy. “What we aren’t taught is how our nervous system, hormones, sleep, and stress affect every decision we make. ‘The Energy Audit’ is about giving women practical, science-backed tools, not just inspiration, to better understand, protect, and optimize their energy. Because when women are healthier, more informed, and more

connected, our families, businesses, and communities are stronger for it.”

Seating is limited and tickets may be purchased at <https://womenofkaty.com>. Since launching in 2023, Women of Katy has brought together hundreds of local women through leadership events, educational programming, and meaningful connections while investing over \$35,000 back into the community through scholarships and their four staple events: luncheon, synergy, symposium, and soirée designed for women in every season of life; from entrepreneurs and executives to mothers, caregivers, educators, healthcare professionals, and community leaders.

Fort Bend County Libraries’ Multicultural Festival offers free performances, exhibits, and interactive workshops throughout July

FROM STAFF REPORTS

While not unusual, it’s not often that a singular event can effortlessly appeal to a range of age groups and interests, but when it happens at Fort Bend County Libraries, it’s likely a community festival is afoot — and this is precisely the case for Saturday, July 25, when the public is welcome to experience the revelry that is Fort Bend County Libraries’ Multicultural Festival.

Prepared by the FBCL Outreach, Partnership & Program Department in collaboration with George Memorial Library, this free public festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the George Memorial and will feature performances, exhibits, activities, and workshops that spotlight customs from the various cultural and ethnic backgrounds in Fort Bend County. The George Memorial Library is located at 1001 Golfview Drive in Richmond.

Attendees will have the chance to sample delicious offerings from local vendors at the festival’s “food hall,” which will be stationed in the library’s meeting room on the first floor from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., head to the food trucks in the parking lot, visit ongoing exhibits, or enjoy and learn from the scheduled cultural activities.

“The Art Exhibit Featuring Betirri” will give the public a chance to view the dynamic work of internationally acclaimed, Houston-based muralist Betirri in an exposition celebrating art, culture, and the global spirit of soccer.

“Just like those iconic painters in the past captured the spirit of their times, I’m here to capture the essence of football — a game that’s more than just sport; it’s a universal language of joy and

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

• **July 17: South Asian Heritage Celebration** 2 p.m. First Colony Branch. First Colony Branch will celebrate South Asian heritage with a program that includes a screening of a Bollywood movie, crafts, and Malika’s Henna Art, a local henna artist. The “South Asian Heritage Celebration” is made possible by the Friends of First Colony Branch Library and will take place on July 17 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the First Colony Branch Library. Henna will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, so plan to arrive at the start of the program if interested in henna designs. The artist may not be able to accommodate special requests. Each person receiving a henna design must sign a waiver. Anyone younger than 18 years old will need a parent or guardian to sign the release form before they can participate. The First Colony Branch Library is located at 2121 Austin Parkway in Sugar Land. For more information, call 281-238-2800.

• **July 20: Bollywood Zumba** 3 p.m. Sugar Land. Children in grades 4-8 are invited to learn fun and easy dance steps, enjoy music, eat ice cream, and win prizes during “Bollywood Zumba.” This energetic program was made possible by the Friends of the Sugar Land Branch Library and will take place in the library’s meeting room. The Sugar Land Branch Library is located at 550 Eldridge Road in Sugar Land. For more information, call 281-238-2140.

• **July 23: World Cultures Celebration** 3 p.m. Mission Bend Branch. Celebrate cultures from around the world through fun, hands-on activities at the Mission Bend Branch Library. On July 23, families can explore different traditions, crafts, and experiences representing a variety of countries and cultures during the library’s “World Cultures Celebration.” The celebration will run from 3 to 4 p.m. in the library’s meeting room. Please note that the library is unable to accommodate daycares and school groups in this program. The Mission Bend Branch Library is at 8421 Addicks Clodine Road in Houston. For more information, call 832-471-5900.

• **July 27: Henna History & Art.** 5:30 p.m. Cinco Ranch Branch. Learn the history of henna, how it’s made, and why people use it as body art on July 27 at the Cinco Ranch Branch Library. From 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the meeting room, participants in the “Henna History & Art” program will have the chance to learn and apply designs with their own henna cone. This hands-on, interactive experience will be presented by Nadiyah of Paisleys & Swirls. Space is limited, so please register in person, online, or by calling the library at 281-395-1311. A signed liability waiver is required for participation. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Cinco Ranch Branch Library. The Cinco Ranch Branch Library is located at 2620 Commercial Center Blvd. in Katy. For more information, call 281-395-1311.

unity,” he said. “Through my art, I want to capture the magic of football — not just the players on the field, but the energy, the colors, and the spirit of the game. Each painting is a window into the exhilaration and camaraderie that football brings to our lives—a reminder of the timeless joy of the beautiful game.”

The exhibit will be in the Bohachevsky Gallery in the library’s basement from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. The artwork is inspired by Houston, the FIFA World Cup, and communities from around the world. Visitors can also view a replica of Betirri’s 2026 FIFA World Cup mural in this exhibit. As a bonus, Betirri will speak during a presentation from 1 to 1:30 p.m. in the gallery about his artistic journey, recent collaboration with the FIFA World Cup, and the cultural influences and experiences that inspire his artwork.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS

Gardeners attending the recent Fort Bend County Master Gardener composting class visit with Clarence Gray (right) at the Master Garden Demonstration Gardens composting bins.

Master Gardeners encourage composting

BY FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Starting to convert your leaves, grass clippings and organic debris to compost now means the soil amendment is likely to be ready to apply to your fall garden.

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Clarence Gray of Missouri City and Sam Guardiola of Houston talked about composting and vermicomposting on June 13 to about 45 people at the Bud O’Shieles Community Center at 1330 Band Road in Rosenberg as part of the “Grow Your Own” class series.

Gray called composting “a natural process” Each year tons of leaves, yard wastes and grass clippings are taken to landfills, representing about 20 percent of trash. The collection and disposal of yard waste adds up to more than \$200 million annually, he added.

Composting is a mix of “greens” - nitrogen-rich materials - and “browns” - carbon-rich materials. The ratio of the mix is three parts browns for every one-part green.

Homeowners can create a pile in their backyard of compostable materials, avoiding shady areas. Or homeowners can use wood pallets or wire to build a unit to hold the compostable material. Recycling bins also can be purchased.

In answer to an audience question, Gray said that weed killers applied to grass from which clippings are used in the compost bin isn’t a problem. However, you should not add

grass immediately to your pile. The compost pile/bin will heat up. “It will kill weed seeds,” he said. He said it’s also OK to use chlorinated tap water in the composting process.

Gray added that the homeowners can also use material cleaned from their chicken coops in the composting process but in moderation because of the high nitrogen content. Never use dog or cat feces, he said.

“Composting is not hard,” said Gray.

Guardiola does both composting and vermicomposting, but he focused on vermicomposting in the presentation. In vermicomposting, red wiggler worms (Eisenia fetida) do the work. He said his worms live in a bin on a shelf in his laundry room and their diet includes apples, cabbage leaves, coffee grounds, and eggshells, among other foods. They can produce compost in as early as three months.

He said their diet cannot include meats, butter, dairy products, fish and poultry among other items. Moist shredded paper or shredded coconut coir lines the bottom of the bin with a sheet of moist paper at the top of the bin, which has screened holes to provide ventilation.

Visit “Easy Gardening: Composting” at <https://cdn-de.agrilife.org/extension/departments/hort/hort-pu-102/publications/files/easy-gardening-composting-2.pdf> and “Vermicomposting & Compost Tea” at https://www.tcmastergardeners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Composting_with_Worms_TJC_06092018.pdf to learn more.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

‘Sensory Extravaganza Event: Summer Edition’ to take place at Radack Community Center on July 11

Indulge your senses as a family in soothing experiences that spark joy led by Autism Moms of Houston. Children of all ages can expect touch-and-feel stations, sand exploration and resources to take home. The event will be held in collaboration with Autism Moms of Houston at 1 p.m. on July 11 at the Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road in Houston. Free to attend.

John Paul Landing Park to host ‘An Evening Under the Stars’ on July 11

Observe the night sky after an out-of-this world presentation in the Environmental Education Center at John Paul Landing Park, covering topics as vast as the universe. The event takes place July 11 from 8 to 10 p.m. at 9950 Katy Hockley Road in Cypress. Precinct 4’s Naturalists will ensure you have all the information you need before heading out to stargaze through powerful telescopes guided by a member of the Houston Astronomical Society. Free to attend. Email johnpaullanding@hcp4.net or call 713-274-3131 for more information.

Come to AARP on July 14

The Katy Chapter of AARP will meet Tuesday, July 14, at Midway BBQ, 6191 Hwy. Blvd., in Katy. The function will start at 6:30 p.m. with a short meeting and announcements. Entertainment will be provided by Buddy and Jeanie Trotter who sing many of the classics from country, rock and pop. Visitors are welcome. Please come early to get food or drinks before the meeting starts.

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Marcus & Millichap arranges sale of Katy shopping center

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On June 26 Marcus & Millichap (NYSE: MMI), a leading commercial real estate brokerage firm specializing in investment sales, financing, research and advisory services, announced the sale of The Shops at Katy Trails, a 10,675-square-foot multi-tenant retail property.

"Like many retail properties in Houston's growing western suburbs, this offering generated significant investor interest immediately after hitting the market," said Justin Miller, senior managing director investments. "Katy continues to attract substantial residential growth, which supports retail sales and drives demand for well-located shopping centers."

Miller and Ben Weaver, investment specialists in Marcus & Millichap's Houston office, exclusively



The Shops at Katy Trails shopping center at 23053 Clay Rd. in Katy has been put on the market.

marketed the property on behalf of the seller, a local developer. The buyer is a local investor who completed a 1031 exchange.

The Shops at Katy Trails is located at 23053 Clay Rd. Built in 2019 on 1.26 acres, the retail center features a mix of national, service-oriented and daily-needs

tenants. Tenants include Tropical Smoothie Café, Leslie's Pool Supplies and a variety of medical, food and neighborhood retail users. The property attracted multiple competitive offers within its first week on the market, with the seller selecting a buyer shortly thereafter.



A ribbon cutting was held June 13 for a new all-abilities park in Fort Bend County, located at 151 Stadium Drive in Sugar Land, adjacent to the Fort Bend County Precinct 3 Annex. The project was funded through voter-approved Fort Bend County parks bonds.

PARK

from page 1

games just half a mile away. It includes a wheelchair-accessible playground, interactive sensory walls allowing children to explore various textures and shapes, covered seating areas for year-round use, and shaded rest areas for family gatherings. The project was funded through voter-approved Fort Bend County parks bonds.

"Creating a park accessible to people of all abilities represents my commitment to bringing com-

munities together, allowing individuals of every capability to play together, form connections and share life's joys," Commissioner Meyers said. "As one of the most diverse counties in the nation, it's essential that we honor unique differences while establishing environments and experiences where everyone can share a sense of belonging and have fun."

Joining Commissioner Meyers at the ribbon cutting were fellow

members of the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court, Sugar Land Mayor Carol McCutcheon, members of the Sugar Land City Council, numerous dignitaries and people who live in the Imperial neighborhood where the park is located.

Orion, the beloved mascot of the Sugar Land Space Cowboys, was also on hand for the celebration and the enjoyment of residents and their young children.

TRIBUTE

Betty "Lynne" Dolph, 81, of Katy, Texas, passed away Sunday, June 14, 2026, in Cedar Park, Texas. She was born to the late William Robert Bechtel and Betty Sue Bechtel, in Covina, CA. Lynne spent her childhood years raised and surrounded by loving family in Southern California. She graduated from Montebello High School in 1962. Following high school, Lynne completed dental assistant school and went on to work in a children's dental office. Lynne was a natural connector with people and later discovered a talent in sales. She held various sales positions, including Mary Kay Cosmetics and Star Furniture. Her proudest position was establishing and managing her own Farmers Insurance agency.

Lynne married her former husband, Loren Dean Dolph, in February of 1964. A job transfer brought the young family to Texas in 1975. She established their daughters in the First United Methodist Church of Katy and began serving in their Sunday school program. In addition to serving her church, she spent a great deal of her time supporting her daughters with their school endeavors and activities such as basketball, twirling and Girl Scouts.

In her later years, Lynne was a proud grandmother who loved being a cheerleader at all her grandchildren's events. Whether it was sports, dance, color guard, band, theater or choir, you could always count on her to clap loudly and yell "Woo Hoo!" This made her easily found in a crowd! She was gifted in the kitchen and made the best fried chicken, and no holiday would escape without her making her Great Grandma Gladys' "Lemon Goop." A favorite tradition she began was baking and frosting beautifully decorated Christmas sugar cookies. She was the most loving, one-of-a-kind, caring person. She truly embodied the expression "She never met a stranger" as she was an outgoing, friendly person who could strike up a conversation



BETTY LYNNE DOLPH
JANUARY 12, 1945 – JUNE 14, 2026

and connect with anyone she met. She will be deeply missed by her family and many others who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Lynne is survived by her two daughters: Traci Hickman and her husband Steve of Jonestown, Texas, and Amy Leonard and her husband Kevin of Dawsonville, GA; grandchildren: Jessica Hickman of Katy, Texas, Rebecca Berger and husband Ethan of Tomball, Texas, and Kyle Hickman of Austin, Texas; her brothers: Ken Bechtel and his wife Debbie of Rancho Cucamonga, CA, and Don Bechtel and his wife Margie of Henderson, NV; her uncle Tom Dossey and his wife Kathy of West Covina, CA, along with many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Betty Sue Bechtel (2003) and William Robert Bechtel (2012), and her sister, Janet Fuller (2024).

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Friday, July 10 at 3 p.m. at North Way Bible Church, 589 W. San Gabriel Pkwy., Leander, Texas.

The family wishes to thank the staff at New Hope Manor in Cedar Park, Texas, and Gentiva Hospice of Austin, Texas, for their love and care of Lynne during the last year of her life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American Fibromyalgia Syndrome Association, Inc. at Fibromyalgiafund.org.

HIGHWAY

from page 1

A pre-recorded presentation and all relevant project materials will be available: Meetings have been set as follows:

- Virtual session on Tuesday, July 14 by 5 p.m. The virtual public scoping meeting can be found at: [https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meet-](https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html)

ings.html

- Open house, Tuesday, July 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. Royal Early Childhood Center Gymnasium, 2505 Durkin Road, Brookshire
- Open house, Thursday, July 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. Waller County Fairgrounds (Edmonds Hall), 21988 FM 359, Hempstead

CLERK

from page 1

and delivered.

Key features of the new service include:

- Document preview capability – Users may preview case documents of up to 50 pages before purchasing copies.
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- Secure access for attorneys and parties – Attorneys and authorized parties may securely log in through the attorney and party portal to purchase eligible unredacted documents.
- Enhanced transparency and

accessibility – Users can quickly identify and obtain the documents they need through an efficient online process.

Please note that access to certain case types and documents may be restricted from viewing or purchasing in accordance with

applicable laws, court orders, standing orders, confidentiality requirements, or other legal restrictions.

"The launch of Phase II reflects our continued commitment to leveraging technology to improve public service and provide secure, efficient access to court records

for all constituents," said McGrew Walker.

For more information, please contact the Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office at 281-341-4514 or visit the official website at <https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments/county-clerk>.

THEME: BEVERAGES

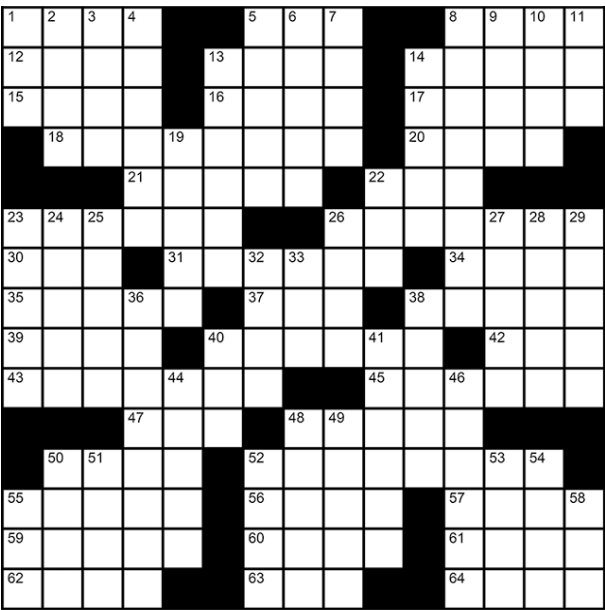
CLUES ACROSS

1. Every which way
5. *Whole milk has about 8 grams of this per cup
8. Sound rebound
12. Not yet final, in law
13. Tibetan teacher
14. Twig of willow tree
15. Bad wishes
16. Like certain tradition
17. Separated
18. *Fermented tea
20. Trampled
21. Hermey and Buddy, e.g.
22. Pronoun
23. *Bee's favorite beverage
26. Like blabbermouth
30. Freud's concern
31. Becoming
34. Uncontrolled swerve
35. Type of heron
37. Unidentified John
38. Pocket change
39. Ding follower
40. Kenya's neighbor
42. "Five down" fighter pilot
43. Cuddle, romantically speaking
45. Eras
47. Film director's cry
48. Opinion
50. ____ Bora
52. *Blended fruit beverage
55. *Most-consumed beverage
56. Abbreviation, abbr.
57. Miniature whirlpool
59. The Brady Bunch, e.g.
60. Hanukkah gift
61. Came by horse
62. "For ____ the Bell Tolls"
63. Schiller's famous poem, e.g.

64. One-armed bandit

CLUES DOWN

1. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
2. *Most popular choice for official state beverage
3. Nobel Peace Prize capital
4. It's meant to be
5. Travesty
6. Wet nurses
7. Samoan money
8. *Caffeinated "shot"
9. Bye, in Palermo
10. *Group of bovine milk producers
11. Table scrap
13. Mona Lisa's home
14. Presidential promises, e.g.
19. Detonation
22. *Plant-based "milk" choice
23. Must-haves
24. Encourage (2 words)
25. Cornua, sing.
26. Late country singer-songwriter Campbell
27. Relating to ilium
28. *Popular party beverage
29. Affirmatives
32. Competitive advantage
33. New Zealand's bygone bird
36. *Milk+carbonated water+syrup
38. Head of a body part, anatomically speaking
40. Preceding month
41. Send back to mother country
44. Road-crossing helper
46. Not these or those
48. Implant
49. Like duchess or count



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50. Johann Sebastian of music fame

51. Sgt. Snorkel's dog

52. Palm starch
53. Object of worship

54. Starchy tuber

55. "Amazing!"

58. Thus far

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

Fort Bend County confirms year's first human Case of West Nile virus

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Health & Human Services (FBCHHS) Epidemiology Division has confirmed the county's first human case of Neuro-invasive West Nile virus (WNV) for 2026. The individual resides in ZIP code 77478. No additional information will be released to protect the patient's privacy.

FBCHHS urges residents to be vigilant in protecting against mosquito bites. As of today, FBCHHS Environmental Health Division's Vector Control Program has identified 36 mosquito samples that tested positive for West Nile virus in Fort Bend County.

"This confirmed human case underscores the importance of preventing mosquito bites, as mosquitoes can spread diseases such as West Nile virus and dengue," said Dr. Letosha Gale-Lowe, Director and Local Health Authority for Fort Bend County Health & Human Services. "The best way to protect yourself and your family is to use insect repellent, wear protective clothing outdoors, eliminate standing water around your home and avoid being outdoors during dusk and dawn, when mosquitos are most active."

West Nile virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with the virus experience no symptoms. About one in five people develop a fever with symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. In rare cases, the virus can cause serious neurological illness, particularly in adults over age 60 and people with certain underlying medical conditions.

Fort Bend County's Mosquito and Vector Control Program conducts year-round mosquito surveillance throughout the county to monitor mosquito populations and test for West Nile virus activity. Positive mosquito samples help guide targeted mosquito control efforts, including surveillance and treatment where appropriate.

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites by following the 4 "Ds" of mosquito safety:

- Avoid Dusk and Dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Drain standing water around your property.
- Dress in long sleeves and long pants when feasible.
- Defend yourself by using repellent containing DEET or other CDC-approved mosquito repellents.

For more information on mosquito control in Fort Bend County, please visit: <https://www.fortbend-countytx.gov/government/departments/health-and-human-services/environmental-health/mosquito-control>.

Houston Methodist health experts urge precautions amid record mosquito surge

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Heavy rain across the greater Houston area in recent weeks has created ideal breeding conditions and led to a record surge of mosquitoes. Fort Bend County officials have declared a public health emergency in response and are preparing for aerial spraying. Houston Methodist experts are urging residents to take precautions to reduce their risk of mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile virus.

Best ways to prevent mosquitoes at home

- Eliminate standing water at your house: Mosquitoes lay eggs in even small amounts of water found in planters, toys, gutters and outdoor furniture.
- Use effective repellents: Products with DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus offer the most reliable protection.
- Skip ineffective solutions: Citronella candles and bug zappers provide little meaningful protection against bites.
- Wear protective clothing: long sleeves, pants and permethrin-treated clothing can add an extra layer of defense.

"Not all mosquito repellents are created equal," said Dr. Olivia Tomasco, primary care physician at Houston Methodist West Hospital. "Science-backed ingredients like DEET or picaridin are your best option, especially when mosquito activity is high like we're seeing right now."

Know the health risks

While most mosquito bites are harmless, some can transmit serious illnesses. West Nile virus is the most common mosquito-borne disease in the United States and can lead to severe complications particularly in people who are immuno-compromised or over 60 years old.

Signs to watch for include fever, headache and rash. Anyone experiencing concerning symptoms after a mosquito bite should seek medical care, experts advise.

Heightened vigilance needed during surge

With mosquito populations at unusually high levels this season, Houston Methodist physicians say residents should be especially cautious when spending time outdoors, particularly at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

"Eliminating mosquito breeding grounds and using effective repellents can dramatically reduce your risk," Tomasco said. "Taking these simple steps can help keep you and your family safe, even during a surge like this."

For more information about mosquito safety and prevention, visit the Houston Methodist blog at <https://www.houstonmethodist.org/blog/articles/2022/aug/when-should-you-worry-about-a-mosquito-bite/>.

response, community engagement and efforts to ensure the equitable provision of basic human needs, FBCHHS works to build healthier communities. FBCHHS is proud to be accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), demonstrating its commitment to meeting national standards for excellence in public health practice and continuous quality improvement. Our vision is healthy neighbors living, learning, working and playing together in vibrant, thriving communities. Learn more at www.fbchhs.org.

TACODELI OPENS IN KATY



PHOTO COURTESY OF TACODELI

Tacodeli, the Texas-based, award-winning taqueria founded by Chef Roberto Espinosa, opened its newest Houston-area location in Katy on July 1. Tacodeli offers a menu of breakfast, lunch and dinner tacos alongside bowls, salads, soups, and other offerings. The 2,400-square-foot location at 19302 Katy Freeway features seating for approximately 40 guests indoors and a 500-square-foot patio with seating for an additional 40, designed with Tacodeli's signature aesthetic blending Mexico City heritage with Texas roots. Tacodeli will be open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Pictured are Eric Wilderson (left) and Roberto Espinoza, founder.

Lightbridge Academy of Katy-Spring Green celebrates International Mud Day with hands-on learning

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Children at Lightbridge Academy of Katy-Spring Green, 1711 Spring Green Blvd., Suite 900, marked International Mud Day on June 29 with a day of outdoor, sensory-based activities designed to encourage early learning through play.

International Mud Day is observed globally each year on June 29 to promote nature-based, unstructured play for young children. Early childhood educators say the activities support sensory development, creativity, problem-solving and social skills by allowing children to explore natural materials such as mud and water in guided environments.

At the Katy center, about 100 children participated in the daylong event. Classrooms and outdoor spaces were transformed into activity stations featuring mud play, water exploration, sensory bins, storytelling, art activities and gross motor play. Staff

also offered alternative, non-messy activities so all children could participate comfortably.

Lightbridge Academy serves children from infancy through kindergarten and incorporates experiential learning throughout its curriculum. The organization follows a "Circle of Care" philosophy focused on supporting children's academic, social and emotional development in partnership with families and educators.

"This kind of learning allows children to explore, create and problem-solve in a way that feels natural to them," said the Center Director at Lightbridge Academy of Katy-Spring Green. "We see increased confidence, curiosity and collaboration when they're engaged in hands-on, sensory experiences like this."

International Mud Day programming is part of the center's broader emphasis on experiential learning and outdoor exploration throughout the year.

Harris County Precinct 4 distributes free portable A/C units to preselected 'Cool 4 Summer' recipients

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On June 27, Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones and her staff distributed 300 portable A/C units to help Precinct 4 families stay cool and safe. More than 60 of the units were given to families in the greater Katy area. The distribution took place at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street in Houston.

As record-breaking heat continues to impact Harris County, Commissioner Briones and Precinct4Forward launched year two of "Cool 4 the Summer" to help protect the community's most vulnerable residents. Building on last year's success, when

250 portable A/C units were distributed, the program provided 300 free portable air conditioning units in 2026 to eligible residents of Harris County Precinct 4, including:

- Seniors (age 60+)
- Low-income households
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities

"Relief should not be a luxury, especially as heat-related illnesses continue to rise throughout the county," said Commissioner Briones.

According to Harris County Public Health (HCPH), heat-related illnesses surged by 329% between 2019 and 2023, and

heat-related deaths surged by 231% between 2022 and 2023.

"Excessive heat is a pressing public health issue that disproportionately affects our most vulnerable community members," said Leah Barton, Executive Director of HCPH. "By staying informed, taking preventative action and supporting community initiatives like this one we can reduce our risk and save lives."

"Cool 4 the Summer" is funded by donations from DRC Emergency Services of \$10,000, Tetra Tech of \$5,000, AshBritt of \$5,000, and an anonymous donation of \$35,000.

Help shape future of regional bus service with H-GAC's regional bus transit survey

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Getting to work, school, medical appointments, or other essential services isn't always easy — especially when your trip crosses county lines.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is conducting its first-ever Regional Bus Transit Study to understand how people travel throughout the 13-county region and where better connections are needed. The study will identify opportunities to improve regional bus service between communities and connect people to jobs, education, healthcare, and other important destinations.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Regional Bus Transit Study seeks to evaluate interlocal bus connections

across the thirteen-county H-GAC region. The Core MPO Region includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties. The Extended Region includes Austin, Colorado, Matagorda, Walker, and Wharton counties.

By sharing your experiences, you will help us understand:

- where people travel
- why they travel between counties
- challenges people face when traveling
- whether regional bus service could help meet these needs

This survey should take about five to eight minutes to complete. Take the survey at https://engage.h-gac.com/regional-bus-transit?tool=survey_tool#tool_tab.

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KATYTIMES.COM

Katy resident wins seven medals at Warrior Games

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Despite a near-fatal cardiac event in 2024, a Katy resident is putting his heart and soul into recovery through adaptive sports – and he has earned the medals to prove it.

Ret. Capt. Tony J. Smith is a retired Logistics Officer, who commissioned from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2019 and who has served more than six years with assignments at Fort Bragg and Fort Hood. On June 14, 2024, Smith — now just 30 years old — suffered a near-fatal heart attack and blood clot that significantly impacted his health and military service. This medical event led to him being reassigned to the Soldier Recovery Unit at Fort Hood, in September 2024, for focused medical treatment and rehabilitation.

During his recovery, Smith was introduced to adaptive sports, which became a critical component of his physical and mental rehabilitation and provided renewed focus and motivation. Through the support of SSG Mary Rangel, a cadre member at the Soldier Recovery Unit, and the Army Recovery Care Program, Smith was introduced to the Warrior Games pathway.

The Warrior Games are open to wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans who are

enrolled in their military branch's recovery and adaptive sports program. Athletes compete in training camps, clinics, and service-level trials, where they are evaluated on both athletic performance and recovery potential. Top performers are selected to represent their branch at the Department of War Warrior Games.

With the encouragement and guidance of the Soldier Recovery Unit, he competed at Army Trials and ultimately earned the opportunity to represent Team Army at the 2026 Department of War Warrior Games. He won seven medals at the June event in San Antonio, including cycling, powerlifting and track.

Competing at the Warrior Games represents perseverance, recovery, and continued service through sport. Smith credits his progress to God, the support of his family, fellow soldiers, and the Fort Hood Soldier Recovery Unit medical team.

"It gave me a new sense of purpose, a new sense of light, and something to look forward to." Smith said regarding his participation in his first Warrior Games.

Smith previously lived in Katy for 18 years. He grew up in the Kelliwood neighborhood and attended Katy schools and currently lives with family in Cane Island. His nephew attends Robertson Elementary School. The Smith family is active



RET. CAPT. TONY J. SMITH

in the Katy and Houston community through volunteer and service organizations including The Ballard House which supports families facing medical crises, and are involved with the West Point Society of Greater Houston. They also support the mission of Females in Action (FIA), which empowers young women through mentorship, leadership development, and educational opportunities.

Smith currently works part-time as a caretaker/caregiver for Texas Personalized Care, assisting clients with daily living activities and providing companionship and support. He is preparing to return to school to pursue a degree in kinesiology with the goal of building a career in health, rehabilitation, and adaptive sports.

Fort Bend Junior Service League opens 2026 Sugar Plum Market event beneficiary applications

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJS�) announced on June 29 that event beneficiary applications for the 2026 Sugar Plum Market are now available on the League's website at <https://www.fbjsl.org>. Local nonprofit organizations serving Fort Bend County are encouraged to apply for funding consideration.

Each year proceeds from FBJS�'s Sugar Plum Market are returned to the community through grants awarded to nonprofit organizations making a meaningful impact across Fort Bend County. Over the past 25 years, FBJS� has proudly provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to over 100 local nonprofits, supporting programs and initiatives that strengthen and serve our community.

Event beneficiary applications for the 2026 funding cycle include updated guidelines and requirements. Nonprofit organizations are encouraged to carefully review all application materials before submitting their requests.

In addition to Event Benefi-

ciary funding, FBJS� continues to support the local nonprofits throughout the year through its Community Assistance Fund (CAF). CAF grants, available in amounts up to \$5,000, support critical needs, pilot programs, or emergency expenses for local nonprofit organizations.

In May, FBJS� awarded four CAF grants to Fort Bend County nonprofits: iCurea Foundation received \$1,000 for diapers and baby wipes; Rosenberg-Richmond Helping Hands received \$3,500 for socks and underwear for families experiencing financial hardship; Family Roots for Life received \$3,500 for life skills classes and apartment and dormitory gift baskets; and Clothed by Faith received \$5,000 for new shoes.

"The Fort Bend Junior Service League is honored to continue supporting organizations that work tirelessly to meet the needs of our community," said Misty Gasiorowski, 2025-2026 Co-Chair of the Beneficiary Review Committee. "We encourage eligible nonprofits to apply and share how these funds could help further their mission and impact."



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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a New Mixed Beverage Permit by Chama @ Katy LLC. dba Chama Gaucha Brazilian Steakhouse, to be located at 24205 Katy Freeway, Katy, 77494, Harris County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Joao Ongaratto, owner and Giocondo Angeli, owner.

July 2
Puzzle Answers

C	L	O	A	K		G	O	P		S	P	E	W		
L	E	T	G	O		N	F	L		P	O	L	I	O	
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9	1	4	7	3	8	2	5	6
8	7	2	5	6	9	1	4	3
3	8	1	2	9	5	7	6	4
2	5	6	3	4	7	9	1	8
7	4	9	6	8	1	3	2	5

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at storagetreasures.com beginning 07/24/26 at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude 07/27/26 at 11:00 a.m. All sales to the highest bidder; subject to add'l terms noted on website. Facility address: 4125 Schlipf Rd, Katy, TX 77493. Tenant name: Kendrick Ray. General description of property: Unit contains large assortment of household goods and furniture.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at Storagetreasures.com. Facility is located at 20131 Schiel Rd., Cypress, Texas 77433. Bidding will open July 15, 2026 and conclude July 25 at 8:00 a.m. Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to the highest bidder. Property includes the space of the following tenant: Joan Scott. Furniture, household items, boxes, totes, toys.

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Native arrowheads wanted. Point tipped Yuma, Clovis, Folsom, Eden, Midland. Must be old, authentic, unbroken. Top dollar paid, \$10-\$10,000 depending on type and condition. Buy 1 or a box full. 979-218-3351.

Need Extra Cash — I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes—Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition — Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title — No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171, Attention Duane Heckmann, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 10 a.m. Local Time, August 6, 2026, and then publicly opened and read at SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for “Elyson Section 75 Landscape, Harris County, Texas” In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/92758674918>.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: concrete trail, site furnishings, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely** on **July 23, 2026, at 10 a.m.** Local Time, via ZOOM. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/97674287308>. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search **NWCt515**. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

Katy Family Eye Care Practice Closure

Located inside the Walmart at
1313 N Fry Road
Houston, Texas 77449
The practice will close Friday, July 31st, 2026.
Authorized Patient records release by Veritrust
<http://veritrust.net/client-support/medical-records-request/>
Phone: 713-263-9000 Fax: 281-758-8316
Email: medicalrecords@veritrust.net
Mail: Medical Records Fulfillment, P.O. Box 550748, Houston, TX 77255

Katy ISD Provides Evaluations
for Students
with Suspected Disabilities

The Katy Independent School District Department of Special Education provides evaluations for students with suspected disabilities to identify every student with a disability living within the district's boundaries. These evaluations are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education or Section 504 program.

Students with all categories of disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their success in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Special Education services are also available to children who are visually and/or auditory impaired starting at birth.

If you are aware of a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Katy ISD Department of Special Education at 281-396-2066. The Department of Special Education will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to obtain academic and non-academic benefit. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions.

Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, TX 77494

Katy Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees, and its agents, officers, and staff members shall not discriminate based on gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

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HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL
UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 71
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF
RULES AND PENALTIES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 (the “District”), at a meeting held on June 22, 2026, adopted:

- an Amended Rate Order and Regulations Regarding Water, Sewer and Drainage System (“Rate Order”) providing rules and regulations for connection to the District's water, sewer, and drainage system as well as charges for these services; and
- an Order Adopting Amended Rules and Regulations Regarding Use of District Recreational Facilities providing rules and regulations governing the use of the District's recreational facilities.

Violation of any of the rules contained in the District's Rate Order will subject the violator to penalties, which includes a fine of up to \$20,000 per breach and/or day, disconnection of water and sewer service, payment of any costs or damages resulting from the violation, and civil and criminal legal action.

Violation of any of the rules contained in the District's Amended Rules and Regulations Regarding Use of District Recreational Facilities will subject the violator to penalties, which includes a fine of up to \$20,000 per violation or criminal penalties, including imprisonment, or both.

Copies of the Rate Order and Amended Rules and Regulations Regarding Use of District Recreational Facilities are on file at the principal office of the District, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, where they may be read in full.

/s/ Pam Kerr
President, Board of Directors

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed to Katy West Municipal Utility District, Attention Ms. Suzanne Corbin, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 11:00 a.m. Local Time, July 23, 2026, and then publicly opened for “Construction of Basin Expansion for Katy West Municipal Utility District, City of Katy, Texas.” You may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams. Below is the contact information to attend the bid opening by Microsoft Teams.

You can dial in using your phone.
United States: (832) 856-3756
Access Code: 218 092 319#

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: expansion of an existing stormwater detention basin to provide additional detention capacity and floodplain mitigation for a future adjacent commercial development, including excavation and grading to the lines and grades shown on the Drawings and adjustment to existing backslope interceptor structure outfalls. All work shall be performed in accordance with the Contract Drawings and Technical Specifications.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely** on July 16, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Local Time, via Microsoft Teams. Below is the contact information to attend the pre-bid by Microsoft Teams.

You can dial in using your phone.
United States: (832) 856-3756
Access Code: 573 949 973#

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at 2322 W Grand Pkwy N Suite 150, Katy, TX, the *original* certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

Katy ISD presented with Texas Educational Theatre Association’s Exemplary District Award of Distinction

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD has earned the Texas Educational Theatre Association (TxETA) Exemplary District Award of Distinction for its continuous commitment to theatre education, student achievement and artistic excellence, the district announced

on July 1. The Exemplary District Award is the highest honor given by the TxETA and recognizes districts that make outstanding contributions to a range of criteria, including quality theatre productions, support for theatre technology, access to acting spaces, administrative

support and student participation in UIL contests. Highlighting programs that demonstrate distinction across multiple advanced categories, TxETA honors districts that not only contribute to their communities, but fully represent the passion, hard work, dramaturgical learning

and theatrical creativity that define outstanding theatre programs. “We work to create dynamic and inclusive environments where theatre education can thrive at the campus and district level,” Katy ISD Assistant Director of Fine Arts Susan Chiboroski said. “This award affirms the vision and sustained

efforts that inspire students, empower teachers and positively impact the community.” Katy ISD’s fine arts programs inspire students to discover their talents, pursue excellence and achieve success on the stage and in every aspect of life, a district spokesperson said.

19 Harmony campuses, 3 districts earn national PLTW distinguished program recognition for STEM excellence

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Harmony Public Schools announced on May 27 that 19 of its campuses and three districts have earned national recognition from Project Lead The Way (PLTW) for their commitment to STEM education and hands-on learning opportunities. Project Lead The Way, a nationally recognized nonprofit organization focused on science, technology, engineering and math education, honored multiple Harmony campuses and districts with its Distinguished Program Recognition. The award recognizes schools and districts that demonstrate strong student access, participation and achievement in PLTW programs. According to PLTW, the recognition celebrates schools and districts “committed to unlocking student potential through PLTW programs.” PLTW develops hands-on, project-based curriculum for elementary, middle and high school students nationwide. Programs are designed to help students build real-world skills in engineering, biomedical science, computer science, problem-solving, design thinking, collaboration and innovation. The organization also partners with schools to provide curriculum, teacher training and career-connected learning experiences. The recognition reflects Harmony Public Schools’ systemwide commitment to STEM education and preparing students for future college and career success through innovative, hands-on learning pathways. The following Harmony districts and campuses received the PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition:

- Houston South West District**
 - Harmony – Houston South & West District
 - Harmony School of Excellence – Sugar Land
 - Harmony School of Ingenuity
 - Harmony School of Innovation – Houston
 - Harmony School of Innovation – Sugar Land
 - Harmony School of Innovation Katy
 - Harmony Science Academy – Sugar Land
 - Harmony Science Academy High – Houston
 - Harmony Science Academy Katy
 - Harmony Science Academy Katy Middle School
 - Harmony Science Academy – Beaumont
- Houston North District**
 - Harmony – Houston North District
 - Harmony School of Achievement – Houston
 - Harmony School of Advancement – Houston
 - Harmony School of Discovery – Houston
 - Harmony School of Endeavor – Houston
 - Harmony School of Enrichment – Houston
 - Harmony School of Excellence – Houston
 - Harmony School of Excellence – Katy
 - Harmony Science Academy – Bryan
 - Harmony Science Academy – Cypress
- “Receiving the PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition highlights the dedication of our students, teachers and campus leaders to creating meaningful STEM learning experiences,” Ramazan Coskuner, Harmony Public Schools Houston South & West

District Superintendent said. “These programs help students develop critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving skills that will serve them well in college, careers and beyond.”

About Harmony Public Schools

Harmony Public Schools are 60+ high-performing PreK-12 college preparatory charter schools throughout Texas. Harmony blends the highest standards and expectations, with a rigorous math- and science-centered curriculum and dedicated and engaged teachers and families to cultivate excellence and prepare students to succeed in college, careers and life. To learn more about Harmony Public Schools and its 60+ campuses across Texas, please visit: www.HarmonyTX.org.

About PLTW

For nearly 30 years, Project Lead The Way (PLTW) has prepared PreK-12 students for careers, college, and life by equipping them with the STEM knowledge, credential preparation, transferable skills, and confidence to succeed. Its hands-on, real-world learning, deep industry partnerships and clear, scaffolded curriculum guide students from early career curiosity to postsecondary readiness. With strong professional development taught by a national network of more than 116,000 trained teachers in 12,200+ schools across all 50 states, PLTW enables schools to design scalable, future-focused programs that inspire students, empower educators, and connect learning to life after graduation. Visit pltw.org to learn more.

Miller CTE students honored at annual SkillsUSA workforce development event

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

A pair of students from Miller Career and Technical Center in Katy were recognized with a certificate of accomplishment at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) held June 1-5 in Atlanta. SkillsUSA made the announcement on June 29. An all-time high of 7,000 students competed in the 2026 SkillsUSA Championships at NLSC, which is the largest gathering of the future skilled workforce. As an indicator of proficiency, Skill Point Certificates were awarded to SkillsUSA Championships competitors who met a predetermined threshold score for their respective competition. Students can add this certificate, an indicator of career readiness, to their employment portfolio.

Team M (consisting of Bryson Temple and AlHassan Duamni), from Miller Career and Technology Center in Katy ISD, was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Mechatronics. To be invited to the SkillsUSA Championships, students first had to win their state-level competition, demonstrating their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills. The national competition featured state champions from middle school, high school and college/postsecondary divisions across the country in 115 hands-on career and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance, public speaking and more.

“This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest,” said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. “Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels.” The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.79 million square feet, equivalent to 31 football fields or 41 acres. It’s supported by leaders from 850 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions who planned and evaluated the competitors against their industry standards. More than 2,000 industry judges and technical committee members also volunteered their time to ensure a successful event. The next NLSC will be held June 21-25, 2027, in Atlanta. Learn more about SkillsUSA, the No. 1 workforce development organization for students, at www.skillsusa.org.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is the #1 workforce development organization for students, empowering them to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. SkillsUSA represents more than 440,000 career and technical education students and teachers in middle schools, high schools and college/postsecondary institutions nationwide. Those members represent 130 in-demand occupational areas, from 3-D animation to welding. A vital solution to the skills gap, SkillsUSA has served over 16 million members since its founding in 1965. Learn more at skillsusa.org.

Havenpark Communities awards record 50 scholarships, with 7 to Katy students

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Havenpark Communities, a leading owner and operator of manufactured home communities, announced June 23 that its Education Success Program has awarded 196 total scholarships since its inception. For the 2026–2027 academic year, Havenpark expects approximately 120 students to receive scholarship support, including 50 new recipients from 26 Havenpark communities in 12 states. Seven students from the Katy area have been selected as scholarship recipients this year:

- Leonardo Benavides Alvarado
- Carolina Gallegos
- Julian Mandujano

- Evelyn Ramirez
- Amelia Rodriguez
- Juan Santiago
- Dulce Vasquez

To be considered, students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and confirmation of full-time or part-time enrollment at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, community college, or vocational-technical school in the U.S. for the 2026–2027 academic year. Recipients must also live in a Havenpark community or have a parent or guardian who resides in one. Awards are transferable from a two-year program to a four-year program. “For many students, the path to higher education is shaped not only

by ambition, but on whether they have the financial resources and guidance to take that next step,” said Robbie Pratt, CEO of Havenpark Communities. “The Education Success Program was created to help close that gap for residents and their families. Seeing this program grow from two recipients to approximately 120 students receiving support in a single academic year is a meaningful reminder of what long-term investment in communities can make possible.” The 2026 scholarship class reflects the program’s continued focus on expanding access to higher education, a company spokesperson said. Seventy-eight percent of this year’s new recipients will be

first-generation college students, and the class will receive \$160,000 in new scholarship awards to help cover tuition and other academic expenses. In total, Havenpark will disburse \$409,000 in scholarship funding during the 2026–2027 academic year, including \$249,000 in continued support for previous scholarship recipients. Since 2021, Havenpark has awarded 196 scholarships through the program, which supports residents pursuing education at colleges, universities, community colleges, and vocational-technical schools. Fifty-one scholarship recipients have graduated from their programs to date. The scholarship was renamed

the J. Anthony Antonelli Scholarship in 2024 in honor of Havenpark’s late chairman and co-founder. Antonelli, who grew up in a mobile home community and faced educational barriers in his own childhood, helped inspire Havenpark’s commitment to creating pathways to higher education for residents. “These scholarships help with the cost of education, but they also send an important message to students and families,” said Jason Hale, director of education success at Havenpark Communities. “We want each recipient to know that they belong, that their goals are within reach, and that Havenpark is proud to support them as they take the next step.”

Seven Lakes student wins national engineering essay contest

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) has announced the winners of its 2026 EngineerTeen Writing Contest with a local Katy student taking top honors among high school participants. Grace Xie, an eleventh-grade student at Seven Lakes High School, placed first among high school students with her entry “Sketching Solutions.” This year’s contest prompt, “The Art of Engineering,” invited students in elementary through high school to explore the connections between art and engineering by creating an original piece of artwork that illustrates how engineers make the world a better place, accompanied by written reflections on their creative process. Students were challenged to apply the engineering design process—from

research and planning to creation, testing, and reflection—to showcase at least three engineering contributions that improve society. Prizes were awarded to students based on grade level. Awards for contest winners are \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place. Winning entries, along with honorable mention entries, are published on the EngineerTeen website at <https://www.engineerteen.org/23279>. “Congratulations to the students selected as winners of this year’s EngineerTeen Writing Contest,” said NAE President Tsu-Jae Liu. “While art and engineering are distinct disciplines, both rely on observation, imagination, and the ability to bring ideas to life. It is especially inspiring to see creative expression used to communicate the impact of engineering and the many ways it shapes our world.”



YOUR LOCAL NEWS

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2025-26 UIL Lone Star Cup Winners announced; top 25 6A schools include Seven Lakes and Katy

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The University Interscholastic League announced the six winners of the 2025-26 UIL Lone Star Cup presented by Texas Farm Bureau Insurance on July 1.

Seven Lakes High School and Katy High School were among the top 25 teams in Class 6A.

The UIL Lone Star Cup program began during the 1997-98 school year and recognizes six high schools (one in each of the six UIL conferences) based on their overall team achievement in a variety of sanctioned academic, athletic and music championships. All UIL member high schools in good standing are included in contention for the UIL Lone Star Cup. Trophy presentations will take place in the fall at events chosen by the winning schools.

The UIL Lone Star Cup is awarded annually to six high

schools, one in each of the six UIL classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A), based on their team performance in district and state championships. The winning schools in each classification will receive the UIL Lone Star Cup trophy and a \$1,000 scholarship.

After back-to-back top-10 finishes, Comal Davenport won its first Lone Star Cup title, capturing the Conference 4A crown. The Wolves finished as state runner-up in marching band and registered fourth-place finishes in girls cross country, boys swimming & diving and spirit. The school also advanced to the state semifinals in girls basketball and girls soccer; the regional finals in football, boys basketball, boys soccer and baseball; and the area playoff round in girls and boys water polo, volleyball and softball. Davenport added a postseason appearance in team tennis.

After finishing as run-

ner-up in the 2025 Lone Star Cup, Southlake Carroll ended back on top by winning its 10th Conference 6A title. The Dragons won state championships in boys cross country and volleyball, finished as state runner-up in VEX robotics and girls golf, placed third in boys wrestling and boys swimming & diving, and finished fourth in girls swimming and diving and fifth in girls cross country. Carroll also advanced to the state semifinals in football and girls soccer; the regional finals in team tennis and girls water polo; the regional semifinals in boys soccer; and the area play-off round in boys water polo, girls basketball and baseball. The Dragons also won district titles in boys basketball and academics and made a state appearance in spirit.

At right are the Top 25 schools in conferences 4A and 6A for this year's UIL Lone Star Cup Standings.

UIL Lone Star Cup Standings					
CONFERENCE 4A			CONFERENCE 6A		
Place	School	Points	Place	School	Points
1	Comal Davenport	103	1	Southlake Carroll	132
2	Canyon	100	2	Lewisville Flower Mound	112
3	Salado	95	T3	Austin Westlake	107
4	Wimberley	91.5	T3	Conroe The Woodlands	107
5	Celina	82	5	Allen	99
6	Brock	81	6	Austin Vandegrift	88
7	Frisco Panther Creek	79.5	7	Conroe Grand Oaks	85
8	Corpus Christi Tuloso-Midway	76	8	Humble Summer Creek	82
9	Bullard	75	T9	Bridgeland	81
10	Lindale	74	T9	Lewisville Marcus	81
T11	Lubbock Cooper Liberty	72	11	Keller	80
T11	Sulphur Springs	72	12	Pearland Dawson	76
T11	Sunnyvale	72	13	Tomball	75
14	La Vernia	71	14	The Woodlands College Park	71
15	Decatur	70	15	Houston Memorial	69
T16	Corpus Christi Calallen	69	16	Duncanville	66
T16	Prosper Richland	69	17	Katy Seven Lakes	65
18	Canyon Randall	68	18	Austin Lake Travis	64
19	Canyon West Plains	65	19	Waxahachie	63
20	Andrews	61	T20	Cibolo Steele	62
21	Texarkana Pleasant Grove	59	T20	Northwest Nelson	62
22	Fort Bend Crawford	56	T22	Fort Bend Clements	59
23	Stephenville	55	T22	Katy	59
T24	Bridge City	52	T22	Northside Brennan	59
T24	Waco La Vega	52	T22	Waco Midway	59
T24	Zapata	52			



Royal ISD personnel gather with officials from PBK Architects, LAN and Durotech for a groundbreaking ceremony for the district's new high school on June 29. The 141-acre campus, set to open in 2028, is located on the west side FM 362 at the intersection of Mourning Dove Blvd. in Pattison, south of FM 529.

ROYAL

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programs, including automotive technology, welding, cosmetology, and culinary arts. The culinary arts program will feature a full-service student-operated bistro, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities while creating a unique dining experience for the campus community. In addition, the campus will include an Early College component, allowing students the opportunity to continue to earn an associate's degree while attending RHS through the district's early college high school.

Fine arts and student life will be central to the campus experience, highlighted by an approximately 1,000-seat performing arts theater, a state-of-the-art media center, and a campus student-run store where students can make items in all classes, such as CTE and life skills, and sell them in the space designed specifically for this student leadership and ownership experience.

Athletics will also play a significant role in the campus design, with facilities including

"This high school will accommodate the district's rapid enrollment growth, where Royal ISD is projected to have more than 10,000 students in the next 10 years."

NORMA MARTINEZ, Royal ISD spokesperson

a competition gymnasium, auxiliary gym, and practice gym, along with extensive outdoor athletic amenities such as turf baseball fields, softball fields, two practice football fields, and a junior varsity football field with spectator seating.

To further support agricultural and hands-on learning opportunities, the campus will also feature a husbandry barn, providing students access to agricultural sciences and livestock programs, housing and caring for their animals right on site.

The district has partnered with LAN as the program manager, PBK as the architect, and Durotech as the general contractor.

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