

KCM'S RED APPLE PROGRAM SEEKS DONATIONS FOR BACKPACK DRIVE
NEWS | PG 5

Katy Times

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

VOLUME 114, ISSUE 31

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THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026

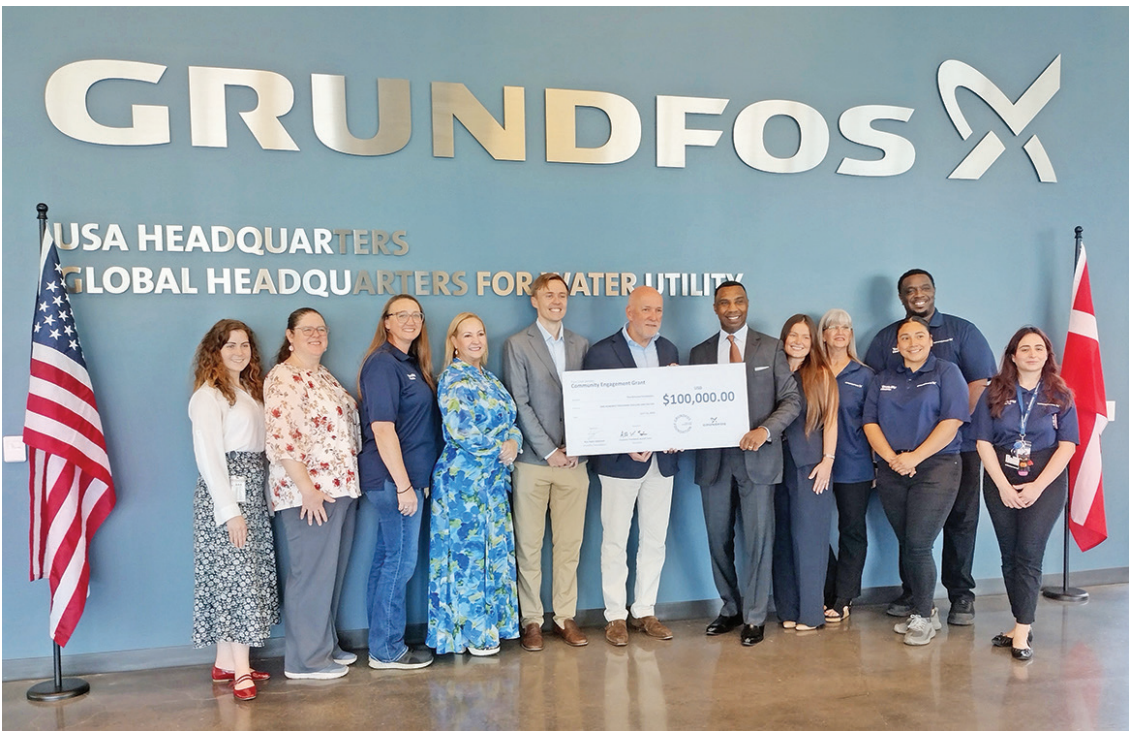


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Members of Grundfos' "Team Bigheart" employee giving committee present a mock check for \$100,000 to officials of the nonprofit Genuine Cup in ceremonies at the water utility manufacturer's global headquarters at 902 Koomey Road in Brookshire on July 21. Left to right: Team Bigheart team members Celine Martin, Lauren Santos, and Tonya Wallace; Goya Foods Public Relations Manager Mayte Weitzman; Bjorn Thomson, Genuine Cup director; Genuine Cup founder and local businessman and philanthropist Ignacio Torres; Grundfos Country President USA Ansell Sims; and Team Bigheart members Jordan Meyer, Theresa Kalinowsky, Natalie Huerta, TJ Howard and Bri Robles.

Grundfos makes \$100K donation to Genuine Cup

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

World Cup fever has certainly hit the Houston area – and now employees of Grundfos Americas are helping to bring the joy of World Cup soccer to neuro-divergent athletes around the world, through a \$100,000 grant to the Genuine Cup organization.

Grundfos' "Team Bigheart" – its "social giving" committee – made the grant presentation to Genuine Cup founder Ignacio Torres and his company director Bjorn Thomson, in a special ceremony at the

Grundfos campus at 902 Koomey Road in Brookshire on July 21.

The Genuine Cup, founded in 2024 by Houston businessman and philanthropist Torres, is a global soccer tournament celebrating inclusion for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism. Organized by the Genuine Foundation, the event is designed to provide athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and autism a platform to compete, connect, and be recognized on a global stage.

See **GRUNDFOS**, page 3

FORT BEND COUNTY

County reports 83% reduction in mosquito activity after control operation

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On July 23, Fort Bend County Health & Human Services (FBCHHS) Environmental Health reported a significant success in its mosquito control efforts, with surveillance showing an overall 83% reduction in mosquito activity following the county's recent aerial mosquito control operation. Mosquito trap counts dropped from 109,536 before treatment to 18,711 after treatment, demonstrating the effectiveness of the operation in reducing mosquito populations across the targeted treatment areas, county officials said.

Of the 15 targeted treatment areas, 12 experienced reductions greater than 75%, significantly lowering mosquito populations in some of the county's highest-risk locations. One area recorded an increase in mosquito activity and is undergoing additional surveillance.

The aerial control operation was conducted in response to extraordinary mosquito populations that emerged following heavy rainfall and flooding, which created ideal breeding conditions—resulting in a surge in mosquito activity.

"These results demonstrate that our aerial mosquito control operation was highly effective in rapidly reducing mosquito populations across the targeted areas," said Dr. Letosha Gale-Lowe, Local Health Authority

See **MOSQUITO**, page 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Local jewelry designer and entrepreneur Amber Gustafson (center, in white, holding scissors) prepares to cut the ribbon in a special ceremony held in partnership with the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce on July 24. Gustafson moved her company, Amber's Jewelers, into the 52,000 square foot space at 5510 Roberts Road in Katy in October 2025 and welcomed community and chamber members to tour the new facility this month.

Amber's Jewelers welcomes community to expanded location during ribbon cutting

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

For local entrepreneur and award-winning jewelry designer Amber Gustafson – it was the culmination of a 25-year dream – and a perfect way to celebrate her company's 25th anniversary.

Gustafson, in partnership with the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, hosted a ribbon cutting on July 24 to officially welcome her customers and the Katy community to the new expanded location of Amber's Jewelers at 5510 Roberts

Road in Katy. The new store is a custom two-story building with 52,000 square feet of space, plus additional storage space – and is located close to her old 2,000-square foot store in a nearby bank building.

Following two years of planning and then subsequent construction, Amber's Jewelers moved into the new space in October 2025, adding three new employees to her staff of 20 in the process. In addition to a larger bright and airy showroom and window

See **AMBER'S**, page 3

KATY ISD

Board hears presentation on AI and technology in classrooms

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

As technology continues to reshape education and the future workforce, Katy ISD is taking a thoughtful, balanced approach to preparing students for success, the district said in a July 20 press release. At its July board work study meeting on July 20, district leaders unveiled a comprehensive vision for classroom technology that emphasizes purposeful instruction, age-appropriate digital learning and the responsible integration of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance teaching while keeping educators at the center of every student's learning experience.

See **TECH**, page 3

Teachers' union delivers health care petition to KISD board

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Representatives of the Texas AFT delivered a 691-signature health plan petition to the Katy ISD board during the public comments segment of the July 20 work study board meeting. Texas AFT is a union of 66,000 pre-K-12 and higher education employees.

Portions of the public comments were reprinted in a July 20 Facebook message posted by Sarah Rivlin in a local Facebook group.

"We have some suggestions on how the plan

See **PETITION**, page 3

Back to school: Katy ISD's PowerSchool enrollment open

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD is preparing to welcome students for the 2026 – 2027 school year as New Student Registration, for first-time Katy ISD students or those returning to Katy ISD reopened through PowerSchool on July 24.

Families new to Katy ISD, or those returning after withdrawing from the district, can complete registration online through the district's PowerSchool enrollment system. Returning families are invited, through scheduled emails beginning July 27, to complete the Annual Student Enrollment Update to verify and update student and emergency contact

information.

Beginning in fall 2026, Katy ISD will offer High School Limited Open Enrollment. Through the Katy ISD High School Limited Open Enrollment transfer process, high school students living outside of Katy ISD may apply to attend a designated high school campus associated with their Extended Attendance Zone (EAZ). Students will select from the approved campus options associated with their current school district, rather than choosing among all Katy ISD high schools. The new High School Limited Open Enrollment program provides students with a wide range of

See **POWERSCHOOL**, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

New student registration began July 24 for families across Katy Independent School District and in the Houston area.

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Drone window-washing demo set for Aug. 6-7 on Katy Freeway

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Don't look as you are driving on the Katy Freeway near Kirkwood on August 6 and 7. Really. Don't look if you are driving.

But do look — from the ground level — at the future of exterior cleaning through drone-powered technology as AirWash Heights Cleaning conducts a demonstration of their window-washing drones. The

event will take place at 11777 Katy Freeway in Houston on August 6 and 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. You are invited to the live demonstration – as well as a “lunch and learn” featuring a free lunch, snacks

and drinks. You can also meet the team behind this cutting-edge technology. RSVP at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfzwnyaF-rXSBYVdBC46r3ht_gD5WnNlaf6Uz2rFQ4CeAHjQ/viewform.

NEIGHBORS WALK IN SUPPORT OF FAMILY OF EDDIE HALL



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Over a hundred people — most wearing blue to help raise awareness for autism — turned out on July 25 for a neighborhood walk in support of the family of Eddie Hall, a five-year-old autistic child from Katy who went missing earlier in the week and was later found dead. The walk from the intersection of Ryans Rock Court and Halle Ray to Amy Campbell Elementary, organized by neighbor Marie Freelon who has two autistic children, drew walkers, golf carts, and scooters. Freelon said that she organized the event to support the Hall family, who remain in seclusion, and to increase awareness for autism, to promote prevention and to “suspend judgment,” noting how quickly and easily a young child can get out of a house, despite precautions.

Get ‘Reading with Ringling’ at Fort Bend County Libraries to earn free circus ticket

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Reading has been all the rage this summer at Fort Bend County Libraries, and the excitement continues with a special partnership between Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey” and public libraries in the Houston area.

This partnership, the Reading with Ringling Program, allows children ages 2 – 12 who read five or more books to earn a free ticket to The Greatest Show On Earth” with the purchase of a full-priced adult ticket.

Eleven of Fort Bend County Libraries branches are participating in the program, including: the Albert George Branch Library in Needville, Cinco Ranch Branch Library in Katy, First Colony Branch Library in Sugar Land, Fulshear Branch Library in Fulshear, George Memorial Library in Richmond, Mamie George

Branch Library in Stafford, Mission Bend Branch Library in Houston, Missouri City Branch Library in Missouri City, Sienna Branch Library in Missouri City, Sugar Land Branch Library in Sugar Land and the University Branch Library in Sugar Land.

To participate, visit any of the Fort Bend County Libraries branches and request a Reading with Ringling voucher. To earn the free children’s ticket, the voucher must be stamped by a librarian after completing and returning each book.

The coupon can be redeemed at the NRG Stadium box office for the following performances: Thursday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m.; Friday, Aug. 7 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 pm; Saturday, Aug. 8 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 9 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.fortbendlibraries.gov/news.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sealy Lions set dance for Aug. 1

The Sealy Dance will be held on Saturday, August 1 at the Sealy American Legion Hall located at 1630 Meyer St, Sealy. The band, Scott Wilkinson & EZ Country will be providing live music from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. The public is always welcome.

HerWell hosts community breakfast on Aug. 4

Brookshire-based nonprofit HerWell invites local businesses to a special community breakfast from 8 to 9 a.m. on August 4 at 511 Velasco Street in Brookshire. Learn how you can partner with the team to make a lasting impact for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence and their families and hear updates about the recently opened Samario House shelter. Discover ways to partner, volunteer, lead and support families in Harris, Waller and Forst Bend counties. Free to attend but an RSVP is required at <https://herwell.org/events/>.



Waller Center back-to-school resource fair to be held Aug. 4

Brookshire area residents can receive free backpacks and school

supplies as well as free resources and food giveaways, at the Waller Center’s back to school resource fair from 4 to 6 p.m. on August 4. It all takes place at 531 FM 359 S. in Brookshire. The event is a project of the United Way.

Stop by Frost Bank for a sweet treat on Aug. 7

Is it hot enough for you? Cool down with a sweet treat, courtesy of Frost Bank, 21875 Katy Freeway in Katy, on August 7 from 12 to 2 p.m. Free to attend.



Grill and chill with Katy Responds on Aug. 7

Local nonprofit Katy Responds, in partnership with Bibles + Briskets Ministries, will launch its first annual “Grill and Chill” event on August 7 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Mary Jo Peckham Park, 5597 Gardenia in Katy. Enjoy great food and games with the home repair organization’s construction team, and shop local vendor booths. The H-E-B Buddy mascot and the Katy Fire Department fire truck will be a part of the fun. Meals are \$20 for adults and just \$7 for kids. Tickets may be purchased at <https://www.katyresponds.org/>



items/grill-and-chill. Proceeds go back into the community through safe and secure home repairs performed by Katy Responds.

See Garbage Girlfriend at Central Green on Aug. 7

From Katy roots to working with a Grammy-winning producer, the all-female rock band Garbage Girlfriend is bringing their high-energy live shows home to Central Green Park in LaCenterra on August 7. Turned from a text-message insult to a badge of honor, Garbage Girlfriend delivers raw energy, powerhouse vocals, and gritty guitar lines you have to hear live. Get a sneak peek of their debut album which drops July 31. The free concert is from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the park at 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. in Katy.

Come get all shined up at the VFW Auxiliary’s car wash on Aug. 9

Clean up your ride – and help raise money for the Sea Cadets – at the August 9 car wash hosted by the VFW Post 0182 Auxiliary. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the VFW Hall at 6202 George Bush Drive in Katy, you can get your small vehicle cleaned for a \$10 donation, or your truck or SUV for \$20. The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) is a non-profit charitable youth program developed by the United States Navy and the Navy League of the United States with cadets aged ten to the end of twelfth grade. Some Sea Cadets who participate are eligible for advanced enlistment pay grades in the United States Navy upon recruitment.



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The City of Katy Animal Control offers dogs for adoption when available.

To see pets in the shelter, go to <https://adopt.animalsfirst.com/shelter/city-of-katy-animal-services>.



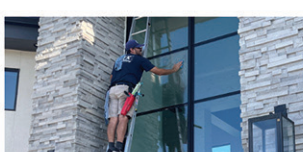
Persons wishing to visit any animals in the shelter may do so by making an appointment.

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GRUNDFOS

from page 1

The Genuine Cup is hosted at Rice University in Houston, with matches held on campus fields and finals at Rice Stadium from July 27 through August 1 this year. The event, which brings together over 1,000 athletes comprising 54 teams from 50 countries, includes volunteer opportunities, refereeing, and fan engagement. Grundfos employees will be volunteering at the event this year, a company spokesperson said.

Grundfos, a leading global manufacturer of pumps and residential, commercial and industrial water solutions, has its U.S. headquarters in Brookshire. The company's very active "social giving" group has stepped up to make a difference for causes around the globe but also in Brookshire.

The team chose the Genuine Cup as their next grant recipient after learning about the event from Goya Foods Public Relations Manager Mayte Weitzman. "Every single year, we are finding out more about the neuro-divergent community," said Grundfos employee Jordan Meyer. The current

project really brings people together in a time of need, she said.

The committee began work on the grant process in February. "It has been amazing to watch this unfold," said Ansell Sims, Grundfos Country President USA. Every 90 days, the Grundfos Foundation in Denmark reviews grant applications from all over the world and chooses which ones to fund.

Next, the committee plans to launch a turkey drive to support the local community. "We have a very big food desert in this community," Meyer said. There are also plans for a toy drive in December.

But one of the biggest initiatives is Grundfos' annual "Walk for Water" in October, through which the company raises funds for people around the world who do not have access to clean water. Over 400 million people around the world don't have access to safe water, Sims told the attendees at the July 21 event. All of the Grundfos offices around the world will participate, Meyer said, with all employees coming out to walk

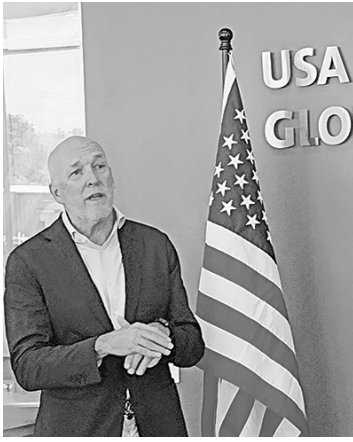


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Local Houston businessman and philanthropist Ignacio Torras describes how his organization launched the Genuine Cup in order to bring the joy of the World Cup to the neuro-divergent community around the globe. Torras' emotional remarks took place during a special July 21 ceremony in Brookshire when team members from Grundfos awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Genuine Cup.

more than three miles, to replicate the task of carrying water miles from its source to a remote village.

Grundfos has previously presented a \$58,000 check to Royal ISD in Brookshire, and local Grundfos employees regularly volunteer at The Hangar in Brookshire.

TECH

from page 1

The presentation highlighted how the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) guide technology instruction across all grade levels, ensuring students build digital literacy and technology skills through carefully paced progression. Highlighting the district's balanced approach to technology, administrators explained how digital learning experiences are intentionally aligned to classroom TEKS guided instruction and are introduced gradually as students develop age-appropriate digital literacy skills.

At the kindergarten level, students spend about 35 minutes per week building foundational technology skills through the district's core curriculum and lessons and activities that directly address the state's TEKS for technology application. In first and second grade, that increases to about one hour per week. That length of time gradually increases in measured steps as students progress through fifth grade, where they spend about 85 minutes per week strengthening keyboarding skills, organizing digital files and learning to choose the right digital tools for their work. At each level technology is intentionally aligned with classroom instruction and designed to support, not replace, high-quality teaching. Beyond the TEKS instructional benchmarks, teachers have the flexibility to integrate digital tools throughout the school day to enrich instruction, support learning and meet the needs of their students.

The presentation also introduced Katy ISD's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Framework, a comprehensive guide for the responsible integration of AI across district classrooms. The framework may be viewed at <https://www.katyisd.org/teaching-learning/instructional-technology/ai-framework>.

Designed to support innovation while maintaining high

standards for teaching and learning, the framework establishes clear expectations for the ethical, safe and purposeful use of AI. It reinforces that AI is a tool to enhance instruction, not replace the expertise, relationships and thoughtful decision-making that educators bring to the classroom every day. Developed by the District's Teaching and Learning team, the AI Framework is designed as a living resource that is expected to continue to evolve through ongoing feedback from teachers, principals, students and families.

"Artificial intelligence is transforming the world our students will inherit, and it is our responsibility to prepare them to use these tools thoughtfully and with clear purpose," said Sanée Bell, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. "The framework ensures AI strengthens teaching and learning while preserving the critical thinking, creativity and meaningful relationships that only educators can provide."

Before AI becomes commonplace in classrooms, Katy ISD's framework addresses many questions families have about AI in schools by making it clear that AI is a tool, not a teacher. Katy ISD educators remain responsible for designing lessons, evaluating student learning, building relationships and making instructional decisions.

"Our goal is not simply to introduce new technology," Bell said. "It's to ensure our students learn how to think critically about AI, use it responsibly and understand when human creativity, collaboration and expertise matter most."

More information about the Technology TEKS and Katy ISD's Artificial Intelligence Framework is available on the district's Technology TEKS webpage at <https://www.katyisd.org/teaching-learning/instructional-technology/teks-technology>.

AMBER'S

from page 1

display space to showcase the store's custom creations, the new facility offers private consultation rooms where jewelry designers can meet with clients to discuss their needs. An elevator has been added to provide easy access to the second floor. A casting room and a lunchroom have also been added.

Known for giving back to the Katy community, Gustafson made philanthropy a part of the ribbon cutting celebration too - offering raffle tickets for sale, to raise funds for Society Prosper, a local children's charity which helps break the cycle of child abuse by providing therapy for abused children in Katy. Raffle prizes included a pendant necklace, a man's watch and a certificate for \$2000 in personalized design services.

"We are pleased to be a part of the Katy community," Gustafson said to attendees. "We look forward to another 25 years."

MOSQUITO

from page 1

and Director of Fort Bend County Health & Human Services. "Protecting our community requires a science-driven approach, and this significant reduction reflects the value of timely intervention, continuous surveillance and strong community partnerships. While these results are very encouraging, mosquito season is not over, and residents should continue taking steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites."

Reducing mosquito populations is an important step in lowering the risk of West Nile virus transmission, but no single treatment can eliminate that risk entirely. Because West Nile virus is maintained through a natural cycle between mosquitoes and birds, it can persist or re-emerge as environmental conditions change.

For this reason, Fort Bend County Environmental Health uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach that combines year-round mosquito surveillance, laboratory testing, larval control, targeted adult mosquito control and public education. Surveillance data guide response efforts, ensuring resources are directed where they have the greatest impact on

protecting public health.

Mosquito populations can rebound after rainfall, as new adult mosquitoes emerge or through movement from untreated areas. FBCHHS will continue monitoring mosquito activity throughout the season and implement additional control measures when surveillance indicates they are needed.

Residents also play a critical role in preventing mosquito-borne disease by following the "four Ds" of mosquito safety:

- Dusk and Dawn: Limit outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active.
- Drain: Eliminate standing water around homes and businesses where mosquitoes breed.
- Dress: Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
- Defend: Use an EPA-approved insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Additional steps, such as maintaining swimming pools, cleaning gutters, changing birdbath water regularly and ensuring doors and windows are properly screened, can further reduce mosquito breeding around the home.

POWERSCHOOL

from page 1

opportunities to enroll in Katy ISD and be part of the Legacy.

Families across Texas may also enroll now in Legacy Virtual High School (LVHS) by visiting <https://www.katyisd.org/news-details/~board/news-headlines-katy-independent-school-district-100/post/legacy-virtual-high-school-katyisd-quality-with-texas-sized-options>.

The program is Katy ISD's statewide virtual high school, which offers full-time and supplemental online learning opportunities designed to prepare students for college, careers and beyond. Registration is available for families seeking a credentialed, high-quality, online Katy ISD option for high school students from anywhere in the state of Texas.

PowerSchool provides a convenient online process that helps families complete enrollment and ensures campuses have accurate information to prepare for the new school year.

To register a new student, families should be prepared to

provide:

- Proof of residence
- Student's official birth certificate
- Student's Social Security card
- Parent or guardian's government-issued photo identification
- Student's immunization records
- Report card or transcript from the student's most recent school.

Students entering Prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grade must also meet Texas age eligibility requirements.

For students who were in Katy ISD at the end of last school year, Annual Student Enrollment Update opens with specific emails to families beginning the week of July 27 to update annual information.

Families can begin the registration process and learn more by visiting the Katy ISD registration webpage at [tps://www.katyisd.org/registration/general-registration-requirements](https://www.katyisd.org/registration/general-registration-requirements).

PETITION

from page 1

can be improved, which we will also email to you," said Katy ISD and Texas AFT member Allison Knight during the board meeting's public comments segment. "We partnered with a KISD parent and community volunteer who specializes in benefits and compensation design and has 29 years of benefits, compensation and Human Resources experience. This parent has stated that switching to TRS is not the answer and would significantly increase premiums. Instead, this parent suggested the following, which we ask that you take into consideration:

1. It is possible that the Requests for Proposals for the health plans were written too narrowly,

excluding possible vendors which may have been able to provide cheaper and better options. Can this be remedied?

2. Memorial Hermann, though conveniently located, is rarely the cheapest option. Can this be looked into?
3. Are there better, cheaper pharmacy options, including mail order?
4. Having three plan options may be increasing our expenses. Should we move to two health plan options to increase the number of people in the risk pool?
5. Could the district look into expanding a system of incentives to encourage healthy behavior and preventative care to potentially reduce the risk for

common health complications? One educator told us that Alief ISD has a wonderful system of incentives that has brought the community together around improving their health. For example, everyone was given a pedometer, and when they reached a certain number of steps, they could get a gift card."

Knight's comments were immediately followed by comments from another KISD teacher who described her struggles with the district's health plan during her fight against breast cancer.

Board members cannot respond to public comments presented during a board meeting.

THEME: CAMPING

CLUES ACROSS

1. Soapy enemy

5. Architect's software, acr.

8. Professional number cruncher, acr.

11. Through, to a poet

12. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet

13. Garden pest

15. Chinese monetary unit

16. Sportscaster Andrews

17. Certain water birds

18. "Luxury camping

20. Scratch's target

21. Same as coho

22. DNA transmitter

23. Explanation backed by evidence

26. Gottfried ____, calculus co-creator

30. R in rpm

31. Er on Periodic table

34. Bowling ball path

35. Arabic VIPs

37. .0000001 joules

38. Financial woes

39. Cecum, pl.

40. "Et tu, Brute?" speaker

42. Food morsel

43. Siren, e.g.

45. * ____ camping, or camping without shelter

47. Siesta

48. "There it is," ‡ Paris

50. Gold or frankincense or myrrh, e.g.

52. *Fire starter

55. American chameleon

56. Antioxidant-rich berry

57. New Mexico art colony

CLUES DOWN

1. Eye infection

2. College party chant

3. Russia's ____ Mountains

4. Western European city-state

5. Collectible in a cabinet

6. Skirt shape

7. Animal waste

8. Chocolate candy, to a Brit

9. Essence

10. Marketing creations

12. Gentle breeze

13. Raspberry drupelets

14. *Like drinking water

19. Customs and conventions

22. "Losing My Religion" band

23. *Leave no ____

24. Egyptian falcon god

25. Put out on a curb

26. Totes or tugs

27. Orient's bigwig

28. Preface, e.g.

29. Piquant

32. * ____ bag or ____ canister

33. Rage

36. *Waterproof cover (2 words)

38. Funny

40. Large edible mushroom

41. Of low pH

44. Serve food at events

46. Restaurant staff member

48. "The ____ of Wakefield"

59. Nymph chaser

60. Nonclerical

61. Poet Pound

62. High school parent org.

63. Be off base

64. Ready for picking

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49. On the radio (2 words)

50. *Annoying biting fly

51. Tiny quantity

52. Leafy green

53. Like Hitler's Germany

54. *'Good Ol' Raisins and Peanuts

55. Venomous snake

58. Greek letters on campus

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	6			1			8	
	9					6		2
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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.

Houston Methodist
tips for recovering
from intestinal
illnesses amid the
Cyclospora outbreak

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Amid this summer's Cyclospora outbreak, Houston Methodist experts offered some simple steps to take after diarrhea or vomiting symptoms begin to subside. These steps can minimize the risk of dehydration, fatigue and digestive discomfort.

While recovery timelines may look different for each person, experts say gradually reintroducing fluids and bland foods can help the body heal while minimizing further stomach irritation, experts said.

"The priority is preventing dehydration and allowing the digestive system time to recover," said Dr. Saurabh Chandan, Interventional Gastroenterologist at Houston Methodist West Hospital. "Replacing lost fluids and electrolytes, while easing back into solid foods can help support recovery and prevent symptoms from worsening. Most people can return to their normal diet within about a week. Additionally, good hand hygiene and avoidance of food preparation while symptomatic is strongly advised."

Hours 0-6: Ice chips only

Once vomiting has subsided, start with:

- Ice chips
- Popsicles

Hours 6+: Introduce clear liquids and assess progress

If ice chips are tolerated, begin sipping small amounts of:

- Water
- Apple juice
- Grape juice
- Clear broth
- Avoid carbonated and opaque drinks (soda, dairy products)

You can take small sips every 15-30 minutes as tolerated. Try to drink more as you start to feel better.

After 24 hours: Try bland foods

As symptoms improve, begin eating bland, easy-to-digest foods, also known as the BRAT diet:

- Bananas
- Rice
- Applesauce
- Toast



Other options include:

- Crackers
- Plain oatmeal
- Plain grits

Foods and drinks to avoid

During recovery, temporarily avoid anything that may further irritate the digestive tract and can worsen symptoms including:

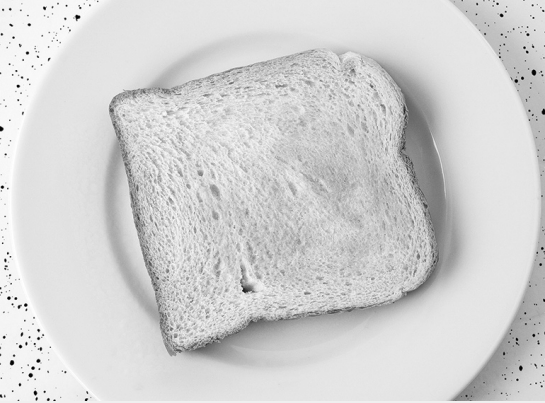
- Fried foods
- Fatty foods
- Spicy foods
- Alcohol
- Caffeine (unless avoiding it causes withdrawal headaches)

Infants and toddlers, older adults, people with kidney disease and/or poorly controlled diabetes are most vulnerable to the effects of dehydration and may require medical attention sooner.

Patients should seek medical advice if any of the following occur:

- Symptoms are not improving or continue to worsen
- Inability to keep water or other fluids down
- Signs of dehydration develop (severe fatigue, confusion, dizziness, thirst).

To learn more about prevention or treatment of intestinal illnesses, visit the Houston Methodist OnHealth blog at www.houston-methodist.org/blog/.



PIXABAY

Fort Bend County highlights
Epicenter mega shelter partnership

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County officials gathered July 23 at the Epicenter to highlight a new agreement that will significantly expand the county's ability to provide emergency shelter during hurricanes and other large-scale disasters.

The agreement between the Epicenter and the Fort Bend County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HS&EM), approved by Commissioners Court the previous week, establishes the Epicenter as a major emergency shelter resource that can be activated when the community needs it most, county officials said in a July 23 press release.

The announcement comes during hurricane season and as Tropical Storm Bertha was approaching the Texas coast,

serving as a timely reminder of the importance of preparing well before a major storm threatens the region.

"Emergency preparedness is about having plans, partnerships, and resources in place before disaster strikes," said Greg Babst, Director of the Fort Bend County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. "This agreement gives us another significant resource that we can incorporate into our emergency response planning and provides additional capacity to shelter residents when the need arises."

The Epicenter, located at 28505 Southwest Freeway in Rosenberg near the intersection at Highway 36, provides Fort Bend County with the ability to shelter a large number of residents in a centralized location, strengthening the county's overall emergency response

capabilities and giving emergency management officials greater flexibility when responding to a major hurricane or other disaster.

"The time to prepare for the next major storm is not when it is already in the Gulf... the time to prepare is now," said interim Fort Bend County Judge Daniel Wong. "We hope we never have to use the Epicenter as a mega shelter. But if the day comes when thousands of people need a safe place to go... Fort Bend County will be ready."

County officials are also encouraging residents to use hurricane season as an opportunity to review their own emergency plans, know where they will go if evacuation or sheltering becomes necessary, and ensure their families have the supplies and information they need before a storm approaches.

TXDOT EXHIBIT ENCOURAGES DRIVERS TO 'BE SAFE, DRIVE SMART'



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) brought its new "Be Safe. Drive Smart" speeding awareness campaign to Katy on July 24, with an interactive exhibit featuring safety quizzes, virtual reality games and videos on display in the Buc-ee's parking lot at 27700 Katy Fwy. The program urges motorists to slow down, to obey the speed limit and to adjust their speed to road conditions (when necessary). "Speeding is the number one contributing factor in traffic crashes in Texas and accounts for roughly one-third of all traffic fatalities statewide," a spokesperson said in an email to the Katy Times. "In 2025, there were more than 150,000 speed-related crashes in our state, and 1,247 people were killed and 5,652 people were seriously injured as a result." The "Be Safe. Drive Smart" initiative takes place alongside Operation Slowdown, a high-visibility speed enforcement period. From July 18 through Aug. 2, officers across the state will focus extra attention on motorists driving too fast, issuing citations to remind them that speeding is a choice that can be costly.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

State honors 2 Fort Bend Extension employees

BY FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service presented its Superior Service Award to two Fort Bend County employees on July 16 at the state's Texas 4-H headquarters in Bryan.

Honored were Lorraine Niemeyer and Brandy Rader. The Superior Service Award is the highest recognition given to AgriLife Extension Service employees in honor of their exemplary service and programming.

"Service is at the core of AgriLife Extension and the very heart of the land-grant mission," said Rick Avery, AgriLife Extension director, Bryan-College Station. "Our awardees reflect the highest standards of our agency."

Rader of Needville has worked for the Extension Service for 14 years. In awarding the honor, the state said: "Rader is an asset to AgriLife Extension's program in Fort Bend. One of her favorite quotes comes from Audrey Hepburn who said, "to plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." She provides the highest level of service and care for valuable volunteers. Her kindness and resolve are the perfect combination to keep Fort Bend's Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs thriving and active."

"I'm truly honored and humbled to receive the Superior Service Award," Rader said. "Supporting the work of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Fort Bend County. This recognition reflects not only my efforts but also the support and encouragement of the amazing colleagues, volunteers and community members I've had the privilege to work alongside. It inspires me to continue serving with dedication and making a



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension honored Brandy Rader, left, and Lorraine Niemeyer of Fort Bend County with Superior Service Awards on July 16.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

positive difference in our community."

Since 2022, Niemeyer has served as an administrative assistant in AgriLife Extension's Fort Bend County office. In recognizing her for the award, the state said: "She has significantly increased the productivity of the agriculture and horticulture unit by improving processes that support major events, including the Pecan Show and Pecan Harvest Festival, the AG'tivity Barn and the Vegetable Conference, all the while maintaining day-to-day operations professionally and efficiently. She is solution-oriented and committed to documenting processes that help the next person get a head start."

Niemeyer, a Village of Fairchild's resident, said, "Receiving the AgriLife Superior Service Award is a profound honor. I am incredibly moved by our director's kind words for the nomination and the beautiful commendation letters given for it. Having the award presented by Dr. Rick Avery made the moment even more meaningful, as we have been classmates since our grade school and high school days. I am filled with gratitude for the recognition and for the wonderful team support at the ceremony. Supporting this staff and community is a privilege and I am truly humbled. It's a moment I will not forget."



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KCM’s Red Apple Program seeks donations for backpack drive

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Katy Christian Ministries is currently in the middle of its annual Red Apple school supply program, and the organization has experienced a staggering response, new Executive Director Kyle Strickland said in a July 24 email blast. But the need for assistance is out-pacing the available supplies, and the drive, which began in June, has now been extended to August 2, KCM spokesperson Heather Peterson said in an email to the Katy Times.

“Many of the families we serve are working hard but continue to struggle financially,” Peterson said. “We regularly meet parents who are employed full-time yet still have difficulty covering basic household expenses such as food, housing, utilities, and school supplies. Rising costs have made it increasingly difficult for many families to make ends meet. Through Red Apple, our goal is to ease that burden by giving parents one less expense to worry about.”

“We now have over 900 local children registered for assistance,” Strickland said in the email blast. “We have been incredibly blessed by early backpack and monetary donations from several church partners, and we are eagerly anticipating a generous delivery of another 240 backpacks from today [July 24]. Additionally, our team will be out in the community at a school supplies drive hosted by Patten Title to help gather more resources.”

“The need in our community still heavily outweighs our current inventory,” Strickland said. “We currently have about 240 backpacks ready to distribute. We passionately want to assist every single child who has registered, but to cross that finish line and meet this massive need, we need your profound generosity.”

KCM’s greatest preference right now is for



REQUESTED SUPPLIES

- Backpacks appropriate for students in grades K-3
- 3-ring binders (1.5" size)
- Notebook filler paper wide ruled
- Composition books
- 24-count crayons
- Washable markers
- 12-count colored pencils
- Highlighters (4-count)
- Black sharpies
- Blunt scissors or student-size scissors
- School glue
- Glue Sticks
- Hard pencil box
- Zippered pouch
- 9"x12" colored construction paper
- Corded headphones
- Box of tissues
- Post-it notes

fully filled backpacks, Strickland said, but for potential donors who may be short on time, monetary donations can help bridge the gap and purchase exactly what students need.

Donations may be made online at <https://kcm.org/redapple/> or donors may mail a

check payable to Katy Christian Ministries to PO Box 986, Katy, TX 77492, with “Red Apple” in the memo line. In-person donations of supplies can be dropped off at 3506 Porter Road in Katy Monday-Thursday from 9 to 11:45 a.m. and from 1 to 4:15 p.m.

Over the past 50 years the Red Apple Program has supported thousands of children and during last year alone, KCM assisted over 900 students. This year, the organization wants to serve more students if they can achieve their fundraising goal of \$15,000.



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How to apply: Send resume / cover letter to kelly.hooten@alithya.com

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 478, will be electronically received, until **3:00 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, August 18, 2026**, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for construction of **Jubilee Section 13 Landscape** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 478, Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes but is not limited to the following: trails and pavements, furnishings, grading, sprinkler irrigation, planting, grassing, and landscape maintenance.

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. To join via Zoom call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 948 1961 8920 and use Passcode: 913085 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/94819618920?pwd=BNfk5nlV5maqFe1LaD2hi8WrxiYsFb.1>

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held remotely on **Friday, August 7, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 962 8758 1156 and use Passcode: 174616 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/96287581156?pwd=PbYOvJbPbKOiYlv3abpOKwCWw0qyGt.1>

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 and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. 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 SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder submitting electronic Bids through Civcast must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic 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 through the use of an electronic signature.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of 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 Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Electronic Bids addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 165, will be electronically received, until **2:00 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, August 18, 2026**, and then publicly opened and read at the office of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 for Construction of "Avalon at Cypress Section 14 & Avalon Meadows Crossing Landscape" for Harris County Municipal Utility District 165, Harris County, Texas"

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

In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Zoom. Meeting ID: 969 0928 4681 and use Passcode: 382308 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/96909284681?pwd=IIZEv9WJIikRYi3W27QpCNA45hWAh0.1>

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held by Zoom teleconference on **Friday, August 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** Local Time. Meeting ID: 937 9821 3241 and use Passcode: 610947 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/93798213241?pwd=N82ZA5w5Fn4INbWw7XAMs7CMOJwYEu.1>

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 and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor. 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 SWA project name. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and associated documents for this Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidder submitting electronic Bids through Civcast must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic 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 time of 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 Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless proposes to build a 50-foot non-utility telecommunications pole at the approx. vicinity of 23856 2/3 Cinco Ranch Blvd, Katy, Fort Bend County, TX, 77494 [Lat: 29°44'30.75"N, Long: 95°46'46.64"W]. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to: Trileaf Corp, Eve Gray, e.gray@trileaf.com, 7700 State Hwy 71 Ste 200, Austin, TX, 78735, 7700 State Hwy 71 Ste 200, Austin, TX, 78735, 512-519-9388.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SBA Monarch Towers III LLC proposes to increase the height of an existing 120-foot communications monopole to an overall height of 127 feet at the approx. vicinity of 13610 Cypress North Houston Road, Cypress, Harris County, TX, 77429 [Lat: 29° 56' 56.93"N, Long: 95° 37' 37.94"W]. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to: Trileaf Corp, Eve Gray, e.gray@trileaf.com, 7700 State Hwy 71 Ste 200, Austin, TX, 78735, 7700 State Hwy 71 Ste 200, Austin, TX, 78735, 512-519-9388.

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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. Facility is located at 17730 Keith Harrow Blvd., Houston, Texas 77084. Bidding will open on August 5th at 10:00 am and will conclude on August 19th at 12:00pm. 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 tenants. MOAYAD TOKMACHI, DESIREE & TITUS ANIOBI, MARLON GONZALEZ, ROBERT DURU JACQUELYN CROWE, CHRIS NORTHINGTON, DOMINQUE ANDREWS. Sale includes Furniture, household items, boxes, totes, toys.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the **City of Katy** will be received at the City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, attention Becky L. McGrew, City Secretary; for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence, and labor for the construction of the **Snow Goose Trail Phase 1 - Civil Improvements, until 3:00 p.m. Thursday, August 20, 2026**. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project consists of the construction of a concrete trail extending from Morton Road to Franz Road approximately 7,300 linear feet in length with varying widths ranging from 5-feet to 12-feet. Improvements generally include excavation, removal and disposal of existing materials, concrete trail construction and associated ramps, restoration, traffic control, and all associated labor, materials, equipment, and incidentals necessary to complete the work per the plans and specifications.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than 5% of total bid amount, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute the required bonds within ten days after notice of award. At the option of the bidder, the guarantee may be one of the following:

- Cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank, payable to the **City of Katy**.
- Negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value).
- Bid bond from a surety company listed in the latest issue of U.S. Treasury Circular 570, such bid bond being within the maximum amount specified for such company in that publication.

Bids without such guarantee will not be considered.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive responsible bid and references. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety or other Sureties acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Non-Mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **1:30 p.m. Thursday, August 13, 2026**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams is given below:

Meeting ID: 275 652 194 465 497
Passcode: Af9dT927

Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com. There is no cost to view or download the plans. Sets of hard copies of Bidding Documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not confer a license or grant for any other use.

First Publication: **Thursday, July 30, 2026**
Second Publication: **Thursday, August 6, 2026**

July 23 Puzzle Answers

3	2	7	4	5	1	6	8	9
4	9	5	8	6	3	2	1	7
8	1	6	9	7	2	4	3	5
5	8	1	6	2	7	3	9	4
2	4	9	3	8	5	7	6	1
7	6	3	1	9	4	8	5	2
6	5	4	2	1	8	9	7	3
9	7	2	5	3	6	1	4	8
1	3	8	7	4	9	5	2	6

A	C	C	R	A	E	T	A	P	E	A	T
F	R	E	O	N	L	A	C	T	E	R	R
C	A	C	A	O	A	G	E	O	S	I	E
G	A	R	D	E	N	R	A	M	O	N	A
S	I	X	O	B	I	T					
M	B	A	C	U	S	S	M	O	R	A	S
A	R	C	H	R	O	M	P	M	O	T	T
R	A	R	E	B	L	O	O	M	B	E	E
I	V	I	E	D	I	S	L	E	S	U	E
O	O	D	L	E	S	I	O	T	A	P	R
P	O	S	I	E	S	C	R	A	D	L	E
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Royal ISD announces 2026–2027 school meal policies and eligibility guidelines

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal Independent School District announced its school meal policies on July 20 for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2026–2027 school year. Royal ISD announced that all district schools—with the exception of Royal Prairie Elementary—will operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Schools qualifying for CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students at no charge (\$0) automatically. Families with students attending Royal Prairie Elementary will follow standard income eligibility guidelines to determine free or reduced-price meal benefits. Starting August 13, the campus will begin distributing letters to households regarding these benefits.

Royal Prairie Elementary households can apply online at mealappnow.com. Applications are also available at the Royal ISD Administration Building located at 3714 FM 359, Pattison, TX 77466. Applications may be submitted at any point during the school year. Households receiving SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR, or families with foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway children, are automatically eligible for free meals but should contact the district if they do not receive an automated notification letter. Eligibility determinations may be formally appealed by contacting Kim Bishop, CFO of Royal ISD, at kbishop@royal-isd.net. Eligibility for Royal Prairie Elementary families is based on household size and income. A complete, multi-tiered copy of the state income eligibility chart is available upon request at the district central office.

Royal ISD sets Aug. 7 date for annual convocation; local businesses invited

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Royal ISD is preparing to welcome its staff back for the 2026-2027 school year, and the district is inviting local businesses to participate in welcoming teachers and staff back to school. Royal ISD's Annual Convocation, one of the district's favorite traditions, will take place on Friday, August 7 at 7:30 at Royal High School, 34499 Royal Road in Brookshire. This year's theme is "Be the Coffee Bean," inspired by the bestselling book by Damon West, who will also serve as the event's keynote speaker. Damon is a personal friend of Royal ISD Superintendent Megan Pape. "We're excited to bring his powerful message of resilience, leadership, and positive influence to our team," district spokesperson Norma Martinez said.

The district expects approximately 650 Royal ISD employees to attend. Staff will begin arriving at 7:30 a.m. to enjoy breakfast and visit with business exhibitors during a 45-minute vendor fair before the program begins. Exhibitor tables are complimentary and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Setup will be available on the afternoon of August 6 or in the early morning on August 7. There are also additional sponsorship opportunities available; the district is seeking donations of door prizes and gift cards to help make the event special for RISD staff. Door prize sponsors will be recognized during the event. For more information, or to sign up as an exhibitor, please contact Norma Martinez, RISD Director of Marketing and Communications, at nmartinez@royal-isd.net.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION TO REVISE A SUBDIVISION PLAT FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

APPLICATION: Woods Crossing Venture LLC and E&P Projects LLC, owner(s), are requesting to be allowed to amend Block 1, Reserve B of Final Plat of Jordan Ranch Waller County Plat. The amendment will revise the western boundary of Block 1, Reserve B, and plat approximately 16.876 acres, west of Reserve B.

This Replat request, if approved, will only revise the applicant's property.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on August 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m., at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code Saums Road Self Storage located at 19936 Saums Rd, Katy, Texas 77449 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The auction will take place online at www.storage-treasures.com. The auction will start on July 31, 2026 at 12:00pm and will close August 14, 2026. Units are believed to contain household goods, unless otherwise listed. Saums Road Self-Storage may refuse any bid & may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the property. Clean up deposit required in CASH only. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants: BRIDGETT MUSE; DEMETRIA JOHNSON; JOANNE ROSEMIN; VERONICA VALDEZ; JAQUELINE PINEDA; ARTURO SANCHEZ; ARKADINA TAYLOR; MICHELLE PRICE

THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED PURSUANT TO Texas state law before the sale, the tenants listed may pay the amount necessary to satisfy the lien and the reasonable expenses incurred to redeem the personal property.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of T-Mobile, this will advise interested members of the general public as follows. T-Mobile intends to extend an existing 160-foot self-support telecommunications tower to an overall height of 179 feet and collocate antennas at a centerline height of 170 feet, located at 8019 Delynn Street, Baytown, Harris County, Texas 77520 [Lat: 29-48-24.81, Long: -94-56-00.98]. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects of the proposed co-location on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Mitra Rahimi, Trileaf Corporation representative acting on behalf of T-Mobile, 7700 West Highway 71, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78735, 512-519-9388.

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Section 106 Public Notice

SQF, LLC proposes to construct a 50-foot-tall Utility Pole tower located at South Mason Road, Katy, Harris County, TX 77450 at Latitude N29° 46' 58.01", Longitude W95° 45' 7.24". SQF, LLC seeks comments from all interested persons on the impact of the tower on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture, that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Specific information about the project, including the historic preservation reviews that SQF, LLC is conducting pursuant to the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. Sections 1.1307(4)) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 C.F.R. Part 800) will be made available to interested persons who request the information from the contact below. All questions, comments, and correspondence should be directed to Julia Klima at Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc., 3850 Lake Street, Suite C, Macon, GA 31204, 877-968-4787, Sec106@DynamicEnvironmental.com within 30 days from the date of this publication. Re: 22607029

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The project involves the purchase and delivery of one multistage centrifugal blower unit and accessories for the City of Katy Wastewater Treatment Plant Unit 4. The project includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

Award of this contract will be made on the basis of the lowest qualified bid. The right is reserved as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

Equal Opportunity in Employment – all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

A Complete set of the bidding documents are on file at www.civcastusa.com.

First Publication: Thursday, July 23, 2026
Second Publication: Thursday, July 30, 2026

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Local student wins first place in American Heroes Student Art Contest

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy-area student Jiyun Kim was named the Elementary National First Place winner in the American Heroes Student Art Contest organized by Freedom 250 in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

She attended the national awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on July 8, where student artists from across the United States were honored as part of the nationwide commemoration of America's 250th anniversary. Her artwork -- "Her World Beyond Sight and Sound," honoring Helen Keller -- was also exhibited at the Great American State Fair on the National Mall.

Kim was also recognized as the Southwest Regional Winner and the Texas State Winner.

"I loved doodling little things when I was young, and I still do," Kim told the Katy Times in an email interview. "After my family moved to the United States, I began taking



Dani Madda (left), Chief of Staff at Freedom 250 and an art contest judge for the state winners, presents the Elementary National First Place award to Jiyun Kim, a fifth grader at Tom Wilson Elementary School in Katy, during the national awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on July 8.

art classes. I have now been studying art for about six years."

"My art teacher entered my artwork in the contest," she said. "At first, I did not know

it was such a large national competition or that I might get to travel to Washington, D.C., for the national awards ceremony."

Kim was inspired to create "Her World Beyond Sight and Sound" after completing a school project about Helen Keller, and the following artist statement was displayed with her artwork at the exhibition: "I chose Helen Keller because I think her story is really inspiring. Even though she could not see or hear, she still learned how to communicate and understand the world in her own way. She shows that people can achieve great things even when facing difficulties. In my artwork, I showed her touching braille and holding a flower. The braille represents how she learned to read and connect with others, and the flower shows that she could still experience beauty through touch and smell. I used soft colors and visible brushstrokes to make the painting feel calm and thoughtful. I painted this to show that even in silence and darkness, there is still beauty, strength, and meaning. It reminds us that everyone experiences the world in their own unique

and meaningful way."

But Kim is already thinking about the world beyond art. "I would like to become an entrepreneur and run a green architecture company," she said. "I love math and science, which are important foundations for architecture, but I also love art and design. I think those interests would help me create buildings that are both functional and unique. I have always wanted to become an entrepreneur because I enjoy organizing and managing things. I would especially like to lead a green architecture company because I often think about the Earth and what people can do to help protect the environment."

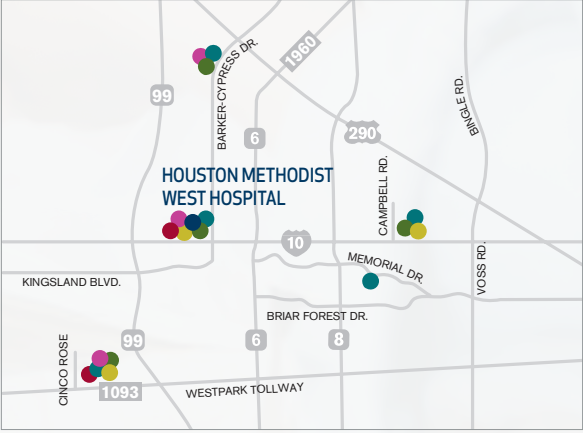
Kim was a fifth-grade student at Tom Wilson Elementary School, where she participated in choir and enjoyed performing and going on field trips with friends. She also served on the school safety patrol for 27 weeks. Kim is especially interested in math, biology, and physics, and her hobbies include dancing, reading, creating art, shopping, and singing.

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