TWIN SISTERS HELP LAUNCH KATY TEEN COUNCIL

NEWS | PG 4

THSCA ACADEMIC ALL-STARS

SPORTS | PG 9

Katy Times

VOLUME 114, ISSUE 47 | THE GREATER KATY AREA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1912 ■ katytimes.com | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026



Council approves zoning variance expanding drone delivery service in Katy

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

At its November 9 meeting, Katy's city council approved a zoning variance for the West Ten Business Park Planned Development District, to allow the installation of a drone charging station to be operated by Zipline International Inc. at the West Ten Business Park located at 28450 W. Ten Blvd., Katy, just west of Cane Island Parkway and north of Interstate 10. Approval of the variance was recommended by the city planning and zoning commission.

Zipline International Inc. is an American company that designs, manufactures, and operates delivery drones, with distribution centers in the United States, Rwanda, Ghana, and other countries. The company was founded in 2014, making its first delivery to a hospital in Rwanda in 2016. In 2025, Zipline launched a precision delivery service designed to make instant deliveries of food, retail goods, and health products to people who live even in dense cities, according to the company's website. Customers in the U.S.

See **CITY**, page 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele (third from left) presents a proclamation designating November 11, 2026, as Veterans Day to area veterans, including (left to right) American Legion members Phil Malsbary and Dennis Wells, VFW Senior Vice Commander Jeffrey A. Williams, and veterans Ward B City Councilmember Paul Follis, Fire Marshal Gregg Peterson and Rotarian Rocky Blair. The presentation took place during the November 9 city council meeting at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The family of U.S. Air Force World War II veteran Sr. Airman Vincent Moreno pays tribute to him during the November 14 "Hometown Heroes" banner installation along George Bush Drive between VFW Park and Avenue D in Katy.

'Hometown Heroes' installs banners honoring 12 veterans at unveiling Nov. 14

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy has a new set of heroes to look up to – literally.

On November 14 the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the City of Katy, held the second annual Hometown Heroes banner unveiling ceremony, recognizing twelve additional men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The ceremony began with a reception at the VFW Hall, located at 6202 George Bush Drive in Katy. VFW Post 9182 and American Legion Jonathan D. Rozier Katy Post 164 provided the Honor Guard, and Senior Vice Commander Jeffrey A. Williams of VFW Post 9182 welcomed guests, honorees and their families.

After remarks from Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Vice President Adrienne Davitz, attendees walked together along historic George Bush Drive to view the twelve newly installed banners and to hear

See **BANNERS**, page 3



Family member Airman FC Adam Moreno, U.S. Air Force (inset) was also honored with a separate banner.

Bobby Katsabas, former owner of Snappy's Café & Grill, passes away at 69

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Well-known and well-loved local restauranteur Bobby Katsabas passed away on November 9, 2026, according to multiple reports on social media. He was 69.

Bobby Katsabas was the long time owner operator of Snappy's Café & Grill at 5803 Highway Blvd. in Katy, a role he held for nearly 24 years until retiring in 2021, after which the restaurant was purchased by current owner Anna Liu.

Katsabas and his wife Effie, along with Effie's brother Alex Tsounakas, ran Snappy's for nearly two decades. The restaurant became a community hub, welcoming local leaders, nonprofit directors, and even state and federal politicians. Katsabas was recognized in 2017 by Katy Magazine as a "People of the Year" honoree for paying all staff for two months after Hurricane Harvey flooded the restaurant.

"He was the creator of our restaurant, and he will truly be missed," the Snappy's Facebook page said on November 12. "There [are] no words that could describe Bobby other than he was an outgoing, awesome personality, great family man and he loved this restaurant."

Services are being arranged by Schmidt Funeral Home – Grand Parkway South, Katy. Visitation will be held Thursday, November 19, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Schmidt Funeral Home, Grand Parkway South, 1344 W Grand Pkwy S, Katy.



FILE PHOTO

Anna Liu (left) purchased Snappy's Café & Grill at 5803 Highway Blvd. in Katy from Bobby Katsabas (right) and his wife, Effie Katsabas in 2021. The Katsabas family, along with Effie's brother Alex Tsounakas, ran Snappy's for nearly two decades. Under Katsabas' ownership, the restaurant became a community hub and a gathering place for local leaders, nonprofit directors, and even state and federal politicians.

CenterPoint hosts 'Community Connect' meeting in Katy

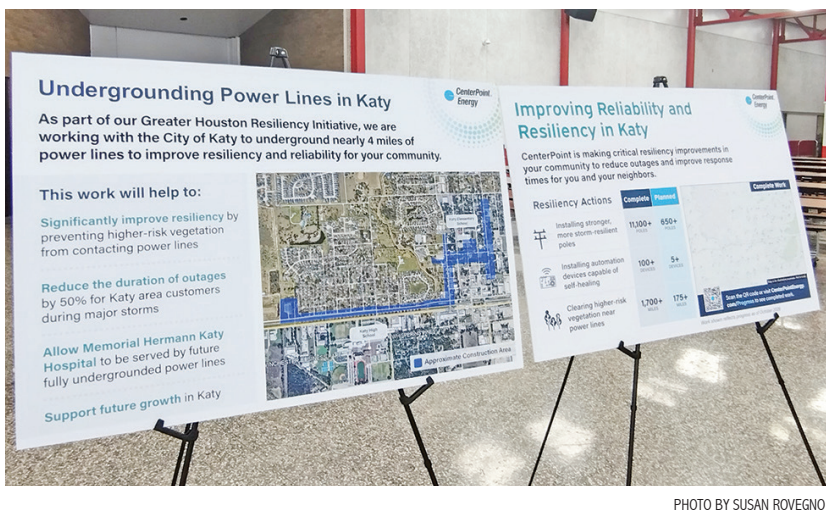


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

At its November 9 "Community Connect" meeting held at Katy High School Main Cafeteria, 6331 Hwy. Blvd. in Katy, CenterPoint provided additional information on its current project in the Katy area to underground nearly four miles of power lines.

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

As a part of its "Community Connect" series of meetings across the greater Houston area, CenterPoint hosted a stop in Katy on November 9 at the Katy High School Main Cafeteria, 6331 Hwy. Blvd. About a dozen participants were in attendance as the event opened.

The come-and-go event did not have speakers or a formal program but featured a series of exhibits along with four information stations: customer service, energy efficiency, vegetation

See **CONNECT**, page 3

BOARD MEETS NOV. 9 FOR NEXT UPDATE TO STRATEGIC PLAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

The board of trustees of the Katy Independent School district came together in a special meeting on November 9 to continue discussion of an update to the district's strategic plan. Gathered at the table are (left to right) Trustees Jim Davidson and Cicely Taylor, Vice President Dawn Champagne, President Lance Redmon, Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Secretary James Cross and Trustee Nathan Shipley. The board was also scheduled to meet on November 16 for a work study meeting, after the Katy Times went to press for this issue.

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Celebrate the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Indigenous peoples at Fulshear library

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Signature Fort Bend County Libraries event honors National Native American Indigenous Heritage Month

Set aside an upcoming Saturday to learn about the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Indigenous peoples across North America at the Fulshear Branch Library's celebration of National Native American Indigenous Heritage Month.

National Native American Heritage Month celebrates the traditions, languages, and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities, ensuring the rich histories and cultural contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation — and, on Saturday, Nov. 21, Fulshear Branch Library will showcase aspects of this heritage to the public.

Throughout November, locations across the Fort Bend County Libraries system will host free public programs, discussions, performances, and activities highlighting Indigenous heritage; however, the system's signature event, sponsored by HEB, will take place at the Fulshear Branch Library, 6350 GM Library Rd in Fulshear, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A look at innovation and everyday life: "Indigenous People of North America"

Fulshear Branch's opening program will be presented by Houston Museum of Natural Science's Docents to Go volunteers who will help visitors explore how Native communities developed tools, technologies, and ways of life shaped by their environments and traditions.

The Indigenous People of North America program will run from 10 to 10:45 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room. It will cover a range of topics including indigenous tools and weapons, food preparation, clothing, challenges and contributions in the modern world, and adaptations to environments, schooling, languages, artifacts, and cultural changes.

The Docents to Go volunteers come from varied backgrounds and "all share a desire to learn and appreciate the contributions Indigenous people have made to the Americas," shared the museum. They have also trained in the museum's John P. McGovern Hall of the Americas, which is dedicated to celebrating the diversity, heritage, and resilience of Indigenous peoples of the Americas.

The HMNS Docents to Go will also offer this same lecture at the Sienna Branch Library in Missouri City from 2 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 21.

Find inspiration and explore antistatic traditions: "Aztec-Inspired Art"

From 11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m., visitors can check out the Art in the Heart Art Bus stationed in the library's parking lot. As a nonprofit, Art in the Heart brings accessible arts programming to families and children, and its Art Bus is a mobile art studio equipped with supplies for a hands-on experience for visitors. During the library's celebration, the bus will feature Aztec art, traditional regalia, and cultural symbols meant to inspire participants to create their own paper regalia on-site. This is a come-and-go activity, with a maximum of 14 participants allowed on the bus at a time.

Create and discover: "Clay Buffalo Creations"

At 12 p.m., guests can learn about the importance of the buffalo to many Native American peoples while creating buffalo-themed art under the guidance of ARTReach's teaching artist Danny Russo.

ARTReach, which serves the tri-county area of Katy, including greater Fort Bend County, Harris County, and Waller County, is a nonprofit that connects community partners with artists to impact the underserved and the community, and offers a variety of visual and performing arts workshops as well as community events and performances.

Russo, who has been an ARTreach lead teaching artist since 2004, leads educational and enriching programs for children and adults and is known for conducting workshops in libraries, institutions, and schools throughout Texas. During his workshop, "Clay Buffalo Creations," taking place from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room, Russo will teach participants how to personalize their own buffalo-inspired air-dry

See **LIBRARY**, page 7

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sofi Lakes hosts 'Season of Giving' Nov. 21 benefitting Wounded Warrior project

Sofi Lakes, a new-home community in Katy, has a free community event coming up on November 21 at 1262 Sofi Lakes Blvd, Katy. "Season of Giving," a Thanksgiving community celebration, will take place November 21 with open house all day beginning at 11 a.m. Attendees will receive drinks and sandwiches and it is open to everyone. Guests can RSVP at sofilakes.com, or call 281-868-9526 with questions.The festivities will benefit the Wounded Warrior Proect. Anyone who would like to give can donate at qrfy.io/G9msraWUfs. Sofi Lakes is located near the intersection of FM 529 and FM 362 in Katy.

Texas Borders celebrates 30 years on Nov. 25

Thirty years, three locations and a million memories. Legendary local restaurant Texas Borders will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary with a parking lot party on November 25 at its location at 1251 Pin Oak Road in Katy, starting with Keely Bell and the Borders 99 inside from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by the In Time Band outside from 7 to 10 p.m. A champagne toast is planned for 8:30 p.m. Drink specials will be offered during the evening, along with free chips and salsa, an anniversary cake and giveaways.

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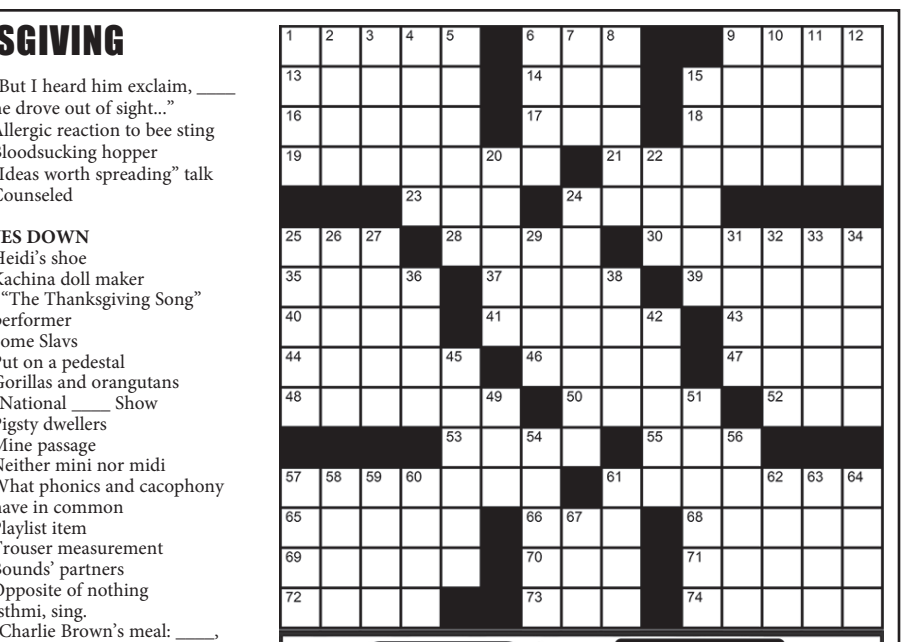


Katy Times
will be closed Thursday, November 26 in observance of
Thanksgiving
Deadline for all advertising in November 26 issue is Thursday, November 19 at Noon
We will also close at 1 p.m. on Friday, November 27. Deadline for display advertising in December 3 issue is Wednesday, November 25 at Noon.
Best Wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving!

THEME: THANKSGIVING

CLUES ACROSS
1. Chevy of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"
6. Broadcast breaks
9. Electrical current unit, pl.
13. Mineral veins
14. Neighbor of Ger.
15. Gem state
16. 1960s abstractionism
17. "I" mania
18. *The only First Lady to issue official Thanksgiving Day proclamation
19. *First department store to host Thanksgiving parade
21. *Keeping turkey juicy
23. Use one's eyes
24. Same as island
25. Chasing game
28. 4th planet from sun
30. Milk-related
35. 1952 Olympic site
37. *Brad who starred in a Friends Thanksgiving episode
39. Remus Lupin's nickname
40. Continent
41. Most common vowel in English language
43. Try
44. Ascetic holy Hindu
46. Fail to mention
47. Ditty
48. Interruptions
50. "Do ____ others..."
52. P in m.p.g.
53. Partiality
55. Pie ____ ____ mode
57. *Gizzard, heart, liver, neck
61. *Soaking turkey
65. Heart chambers
66. Polite form of address
68. Outspoken
69. Behave like a coquette
70. "But I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight..."
71. Allergic reaction to bee sting
72. Bloodsucking hopper
73. "Ideas worth spreading" talk
74. Counseled

CLUES DOWN
1. Heidi's shoe
2. Kachina doll maker
3. * "The Thanksgiving Song" performer
4. Some Slavs
5. Put on a pedestal
6. Gorillas and orangutans
7. *National ____ Show
8. Pigsty dwellers
9. Mine passage
10. Neither mini nor midi
11. What phonics and cacophony have in common
12. Playlist item
15. Trouser measurement
20. Bounds' partners
22. Opposite of nothing
24. Isthmi, sing.
25. *Charlie Brown's meal: ____, popcorn, pretzels, jelly beans
26. Allegro ____, in music
27. Move like on ice
29. Organized crime-related ____ Act, acr.
31. Selling price minus profit
32. Add (2 words)
33. Absurd
34. *____ Monday after Thanksgiving
36. Hawaiian island
38. "The Parent Trap" child
42. Rose oil
45. Cheerful
49. Dog command
51. Dickens' Twist
54. Opposite of liability
56. Positive electrode
57. Gamecock's spur
58. It will
59. French hors d'oeuvre staple
60. Turkish money
61. Raised
62. Like some cakes
63. ID info
64. Happy
67. Ill temper



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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.

CITY

from page 1

use the Zipline app to choose from tens of thousands of items, with many more being added all the time. The company partners with Walmart, Chipotle, Wendy's and many others for product delivery, the website says. "Most orders arrive at homes in less than 30 minutes from the time the order is placed, which means fries arrive hot and crispy, and drinks arrive still cold and refreshing," the website says. Each drone can carry roughly eight pounds of food, officials said.

The company, which claims to be the world's largest drone delivery company, has made over three million commercial drone deliveries and flown over 150 million autonomous miles across three continents during its ten years of commercial operation, Zipline officials said in their presentation to council. The company plans to service a delivery area with about a three-mile radius around the proposed site. Zipline has six facilities within the greater Houston area, with the closest one located in Cypress near Highway Six, with another planned in Fort Bend County.

Zipline officials Jason Drews and Kerry McCormick said that their drones fly at about 70 mph and are designed for neighborhood delivery, flying at about 300 to 400 feet, and are quiet, safe and energy-efficient. A Zipline delivery – at about 60 decibels – sounds like a window unit air conditioner or a refrigerator in the next room, company officials said. The noisiest part of the operation is during take-off which is the reason the charging stations are located in commercial areas, Zipline officials said. The drone operation is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under strict guidelines and there are numerous preflight safety checks and in-flight safety features as well as built-in back-up systems. Drones are also equipped with a parachute which can be deployed if necessary.

Drone delivery offers a better alternative than product delivery via cars or trucks, by creating less traffic, reducing impact on the environment, and creating safer streets, presenters said. Client companies have also seen an increase in sales of up to 26 percent, they said, and can offer a delivery channel for small businesses to allow them to bring in extra revenue.

Zipline searches for under-utilized commercial space for locations for its charging stations – such as the corner of a parking lot, presenters said. The site is slated to have six charging towers with a gravel base and Zipline will provide power and all utilities.

After the presentation Ward A Councilmember Paula Taylor asked whether the company would make deliveries to students at schools, and Zipline officials said that they would not deliver to schools, parks, sports facilities nor would they fly over them.

Ward A Councilmember Johnston Dietz asked about weather monitoring and



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Jason Drews (left) and Kerry McCormick from Zipline International, Inc. display one of their drones, used to deliver goods such as coffee and meals to residential neighborhoods. The company was seeking a zoning variance to allow installation of a drone charging station near Interstate 10 and Cane Island Parkway, from which drones would be deployed for deliveries. The variance allowing the drone operation to move forward was approved 5-0 at the November 9 meeting of the City of Katy's city council meeting at City Hall.

company representatives said that they had teams of meteorologists on both coasts who monitor conditions and adjust flight paths to changing weather conditions. The company also has direct communication with local first responders, officials said. Dietz also asked about products that have certain age restrictions on them, such as alcohol and tobacco, and prescription deliveries. The company does not provide alcohol or tobacco products, Zipline officials said.

At Large Councilman Paul Follis asked whether the drones have cameras and about privacy concerns, and company officials said that there are sensor cameras on each drone which are used to ensure that the drone is delivering safely and properly. There are no live feeds, they said, but there is a short-term storage of the video.

Council voted unanimously to approve the zoning change.

Zipline officials said that construction on the charging station would start in about four to eight weeks, after approval of permits, and would take about an additional eight to ten weeks to complete.

In other action, council:

• Approved the addition of a part-time education specialist to the staff of the 3B Learning Center

• Via resolution read by Mayor Thiele, designated November 11, 2026, as Veterans Day

• Via resolution read by Ward B Councilmember Michael Meihls, recognized November 2026 as National Adoption Month in Katy. Meihls and his wife Lauren are adoptive parents as well as former foster parents.

The next meeting of city council was scheduled for November 16 as a special workshop to study potential new regulations for e-bikes. That meeting took place after the Katy Times went to press for this edition.

BANNERS

from page 1

tributes from families and city officials. Displayed on the vintage-looking light posts along historic George Bush Drive in the heart of Old Katy, the banners feature the photographs, names, and branches of military service of local heroes.

Two of the honorees — Airman FC Adam Moreno and Sr. Airman Vincent Moreno — are related and come from a family that has served in the military for multiple generations. Adam Moreno is still on active duty, working in the intelligence service in Florida, his family said.

Former City of Katy Mayor Bill Hastings was also honored with a banner but was unable to attend the ceremony; he and his wife were in Beaumont for their son's celebration of life. Mayor Dusty Thiele spoke on Hastings' behalf.

Here is the complete list of new honorees:

• Private First Class Richard Barker, U.S. Air Corp, World War II

• Airman FC Adam Moreno, U.S. Air Force, global war on terror

• Sr. Airman Vincent Moreno, U.S. Air Force, World War II

• Seaman Apprentice William Hastings, U.S. Coast Guard, Vietnam conflict

• Specialist Dionne Horton, U.S. Army, global war on terror

• Private First Class Josiah Barnhardt, U.S. Army, global war on terror

• Sergeant Alan Richards, U.S. Army, global war on terror

• St. Sergeant Daniel Morrissey, U.S. Army, global war on terror

• Spec 5 Newell Cheatham, U.S. Army, Vietnam conflict

• A2C Mack Travers, U.S. Air Force, Vietnam conflict

• Master Sergeant Christopher Clee, cold war

• Master Sergeant E-7 Davis McClain, U.S. Air Force, global war on terror

The Hometown Heroes Banner Program is not a one-time tribute. It is an ongoing initiative designed to recognize additional military heroes each year, ensuring that more stories of service and sacrifice are shared with the community. As part of the program's annual rotation, the twelve banners displayed during the inaugural year have been removed and replaced with twelve new Hometown Heroes for 2026.

Importantly, the original banners will not be discarded. They will be carefully preserved for future displays, commemorative ceremonies, and other community opportunities, allowing the stories of previously recognized heroes to remain part of Katy's ongoing tribute to military service.

The program was brought to the area by Adrienne Davitz, Vice President of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, with a vision of creating a lasting tribute to military service.

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce continues to welcome nominations of deserving veterans and military service members and is seeking individuals, businesses, and organizations interested in sponsoring banners. To nominate a Hometown Hero, sponsor a banner for a deserving veteran, or learn more about supporting the program, visit www.katychamber.com or contact the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce.

CONNECT

from page 1

management and electrical grid programs.

One of the exhibits provided information on the work that CenterPoint is currently doing in the City of Katy, CenterPoint will soon kick off strategic "undergrounding" work in Katy, a company official told the City of Katy's city council October 12.

"As part of our Greater Houston Resiliency Initiative, we are planning to underground nearly four miles of power lines to improve resiliency and reliability for the Katy community," said Aaron Coronis, service delivery manager at CenterPoint at the council meeting. The work will significantly improve resiliency by preventing higher-risk vegetation from contacting power lines, leading to an anticipated reduction of 50 percent in the length of outages during major storms. The project will also reduce customer outage minutes by 25 percent and will improve overall day-to-day reliability for about 5,600 customers in Katy, he said. The work area will be near Katy Elementary School, according to the map shown during the presentation to council. A potential future project will benefit Memorial Hermann Katy.

Through November 20, CenterPoint is holding ten Community Connect events across the Greater Houston area to provide customers with the opportunity to meet with CenterPoint Energy representatives in person. Through the program customers can learn how the Greater Houston Resiliency Initiative (GHRI) is improving reliability and resiliency, ask questions and share feedback about their service, and learn about vital resources and programs that can help save energy, stay informed, and prepare for the winter season.

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Twin sisters lead formation of Katy Teen Council, modeled after Katy chamber's 'Leadership Katy'

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The next generation is stepping up to partner with the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce for leadership development of Katy ISD students.

Twin sisters Avantika Manish and Antara Manish are the combined force behind the Katy Teen Council, a new partnership between students and the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce (KACC).

The Katy Teen Council is a six-week summer leadership program for Katy ISD high school students, designed to provide exposure to students from across the district about potential career paths to help them in solidifying their career interests. Through field trips, industry workshops, and panels, members of the council gain real world insight, professional development, and the experience necessary to empower the next generation of leaders.

The sisters developed the idea after Antara Manish entered the chamber's local competition in the National Civics Bee in April 2025 as an eighth grader, placing third and winning $125 for her compelling essay on community unification. Following that experience Antara became interested in other opportunities for civic engagement offered by the chamber and discovered its "Leadership Katy" program, which is the civic leadership development program in the Katy area, run by the Katy chamber, designed to connect, convene, and mobilize a pipeline of promising leaders to address key business and community issues.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Avantika Manish (left) and her twin sister Antara (not shown), both sophomores at Seven Lakes High School, helped launch the Katy Teen Council in partnership with the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce with guidance from KACC board member Charles Stein (right). The program, the teen equivalent of the chamber's "Leadership Katy," will launch next summer.

But there was no equivalent leadership program for students. So, the sisters decided to develop one. The pair, now sophomores at Seven Lakes High School, talked with their parents about a "passion project" to make a difference in the community. Avantika and Antara felt that there would be interest in a teen version of the "Leadership Katy" program. Her peers at Seven Lakes are focused primarily on grades and credits and are under enormous pressure to perform academically, Avantika said. Many of them don't know yet what they want to do or what careers may be of interest to them, and are taking courses to boost their grade points, rather than on true career interests, she said. A program like "Leadership Katy" could help them choose a career path and also to learn how to make a difference in their community.

The sisters approached the chamber with their idea, and the Katy Teen Council was born.

The program will officially begin in the summer of 2027 as a six-week experience – meeting on Tuesdays at the chamber offices for workshops and seminars, followed by site visits on Thursdays. The site visits will include excursions to area employers and attendance at civic meetings such as city council or commissioners court. The program will culminate in a trip to Austin to visit with state legislators.

An important part of the program will be a community service project – or possibly a group of projects – that participants will choose, design and execute during the six-week session. Avantika says that she wants to help other teens find their own "passion projects," just as she and her sister have found theirs.

The Katy Teen Council program can accommodate around 20 participants, said Charles Stein, KACC board member, who has been working with the sisters on the project. Tuition has not yet been finalized but will be in the range of $250, he said. The chamber wants to keep the program affordable and does not want to turn away anyone who is in financial difficulty. The chamber has already secured a $2,500 grant from the Rotary Club of Katy to get the program started and is currently working with additional business sponsors for additional funding.

Applications for the 2027 program are being accepted through December 31, 2026. The application may be found at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ROl1r4iTRl-15tjEfb2cvx_3PVWMdiANooL-3r4ym_Chk/viewform?edit_requested=true.

For more information on the Katy Teen Council program, go to https://www.katychamber.com/katyteencouncil.

Meanwhile as the program develops, the sisters, with the encouragement of their parents, stay active outside of schoolwork and their passion project with the chamber. Both have competed in the World Scholars Cup which features a scholar's bowl, collaborative writing, a scholar's challenge and team debate. Their competitive journeys have taken them to Slovenia and to Yale. Antara is also active in coaching debate for other participants in the World Scholars Cup, while she also competes locally in debate as well.

The pair have no other siblings but do have a golden doodle named Milo. Post high school, Avantika wants to purse a career in psychology or psychiatry, while Antara is interested in law.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Eyemart Express is set to open at 22720 Morton Road on November 23, offering affordable same-day glasses.

Eyemart Express expands with new Katy store opening on Nov. 23

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Eyemart Express, the national optical retailer known for its affordable same-day glasses, is opening its first location in Katy on Nov. 23. The new 2,857-square-foot store, located at 22720 Morton Ranch Road in Grand Morton Town Center, next to Little Caesars, carries more than 2,000 frames at a variety of price points. The newest store marks Eyemart Express' third location in the greater Houston area.

Eyemart Express helps people see clearly faster with free same-day service thanks to its in-store lens labs and skilled technicians who can have most glasses ready in as little as 30 minutes. The optical retailer carries thousands of frame options for adults and kids. The new Katy store's selection includes popular brands like Versace, Michael Kors, Kendra Scott, and Nike. Kids also have a wide assortment of frames to choose from, including brands like Jonas Paul, My Little Pony, and Dr. Seuss. Glasses at the new Katy location will feature affordable prices, including a 'buy one, get one free' deal on prescription frames for a limited time.

"As the first Eyemart Express in Katy, our team is proud to bring a new standard of convenient and affordable eye care to the community," says Roberto Estrada, Eyemart Express general manager in Katy. "Our eyewear experts and lab technicians are here to help make eye care easy and stress-free for everyone who walks through our doors. Our goal is to help the community see every moment clearly."

Beyond providing affordable eye care, Eyemart Express has a long-standing commitment to giving back to the communities it serves. The optical retailer recognizes teachers, school staff, military members and their families, veterans, healthcare workers, and first responders with 20% everyday discounts on all eyewear purchases. Additionally, Eyemart Express supports nonprofit organizations, including Stand Up To Cancer and Petfinder Foundation, by making sizable donations to them every year.

Shoppers in Katy can bring in their current prescription to Eyemart Express or plan an exam with the doctors at Morton Ranch Eyecare, located inside Eyemart Express.

Eyemart Express is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The optical retailer is closed on Sunday. All store details can be found at https://eyemartexpress.com/pages/store/katy_tx.

About Eyemart Express

Doctor-founded in 1990, Eyemart Express has grown alongside its customers and their families, bringing quality and accessible eye care services to each town served. Partnerships with local optometrists, skilled lab specialists, and local labs enable the company to deliver glasses within an hour in its 274 stores nationwide. Eyemart Express is a VSP Vision™ company that ranks among the top optical retailers in the country with its family of brands: Vision 4 Less, Visionmart Express, and Eyewear Express. For more information about Eyemart Express, visit eyemartexpress.com.

Hogg Foundation awards Fort Bend County Libraries $46K grant to 'build up and build out mental health information'

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health announced it awarded $598,000 to 13 public libraries in Texas through its Mental Health's Libraries Supporting Community Mental Health initiative. The foundation said this initiative will help the libraries strengthen mental health and well-being in their communities by supporting "current community partnerships and establishing new connections."

Fort Bend County Libraries is one of the 13 recently announced grantee partners and, like the other libraries, will receive $46,000 over a two-year grant term. The grant period began November 1 and will continue for two years.

To implement the foundation's initiative, FBCL's Special Projects Department will collaborate with Fort Bend County Health and Human Services, Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services, and Fort Bend County AgriLife Extension.

"The primary purpose of our project, Mental Health Matters: Empowering Fort Bend Residents Through Library Services and Partnerships, is to increase mental health awareness, strengthen community well-being, reduce stigma, and connect Fort Bend County residents with reliable mental health information and local support services," the department shared.

"To achieve these goals, Fort Bend County Libraries will implement a county-wide initiative that includes educational programs, community outreach, wellness activities, staff training, and partnerships with local organizations. Through these collaborative efforts, we hope to position the library as an accessible and welcoming resource for mental health education, awareness, and community support."

The other 12 new grantee partners are: Alice Salinas City of Alice Public Library, Allan Shivers Library and Museum, Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library, Comanche Public Library, Dickinson Public Library, Friends of the Pottsboro Area Library, Hewitt Public Library, Jarrell Community Library and Resource Center, Montgomery County Memorial Library System Central Branch, Pharr Memorial Library, Sgt. Fernando de la Rosa Memorial Library, and Taft Public Library.

Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Senior Program Officer Rick Ybarra emphasized that public libraries are "increasingly evolving beyond their traditional role as caretakers and lenders of books."

"Because they are trusted, low-barrier institutions, many libraries now also serve as community resource centers to offer information, programs, resources, and foster social connections," Ybarra said. "This exciting project is focused on supporting libraries to build up and build out mental health information, education, resources, and support to improve community mental health and well-being."

The Hogg Foundation will also host a learning community for all grantee partners to share knowledge, learning, strategies, and resources.

"The Libraries Supporting Mental Health Initiative will unlock new opportunities for local partners to share ownership in strengthening mental health, education, and supports to the communities they serve," said Vicky Coffee, director of foundation initiatives.

An independent advisor, Clover Educational Consulting Group, will provide additional technical assistance to help libraries build sustainable evaluation capacity for continuous learning and improvement.

"Overall, this grant initiative aims to foster lifelong learning and strengthen social ties, ultimately enhancing mental health, well-being, and the quality of life within communities across Texas," says Dr. Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., executive director.

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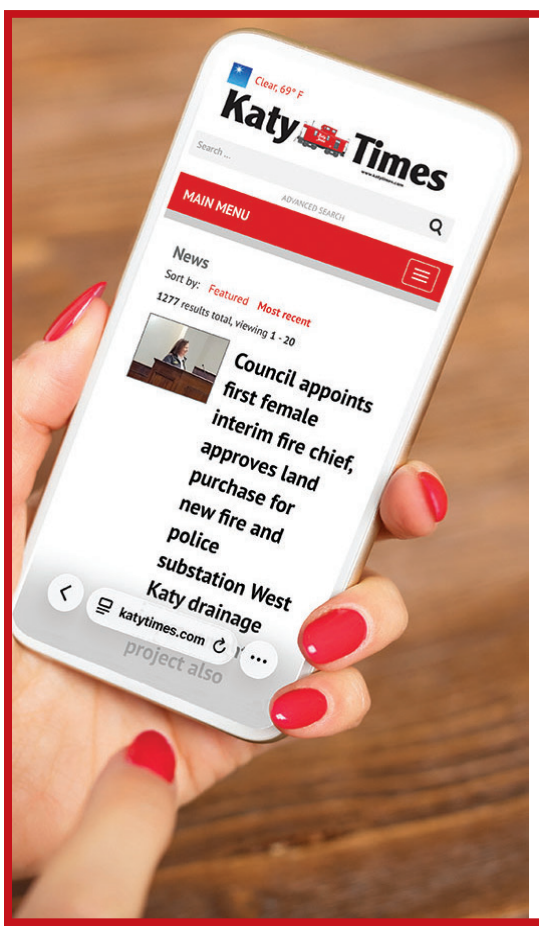
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

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LOCAL POSTS HONOR VETERANS ON NOV. 11



Katy's two veterans service organizations — VFW Post 9182 and American Legion Post 164 — teamed up for an Honor Guard at the Sunterra subdivision to begin a long day of celebrating and recognizing their fellow veterans on Veterans Day, November 11. Both posts are based in Katy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LT. COMMANDER JAMES SCOGGIN, U.S. NAVY (RETIRED)

MAYOR VOLUNTEERS AT 'MILK 4 MANY' AT KATY ELEMENTARY



"Milk 4 Many" coordinator Brenda Hunter Martin (left) and Katy Elementary Principal Beth Grimet (center) look on as City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele (right) loads milk donated by the campus' students into a cooler for transport to Katy Christian Ministries. The program, which dates back to 2011, once had five participating Katy ISD campuses but Katy Elementary, 5726 George Bush Drive in Katy, is now the lone participant. Martin, who took over the program in 2013, said that she planned to speak to the Katy ISD board of trustees about expanding the program to additional campuses but that she had not yet confirmed a date to do so.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

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Remember sacrifice of veterans through 'Wreaths Across America' on Dec. 19

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

"Remember me."

That is all that local American Legion Post 164 is asking – to remember veterans who gave their time, their health and even their lives in service to their country.

And that is the theme of this year's "Wreaths Across America," an American nonprofit organization established in 2007 by wreath producer Morrill Worcester, assisted by veterans and truckers. Its primary activity is distributing wreaths for placement on veterans' graves in military cemeteries. Over 5,500 participants are expected to participate this year at locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad, on December 19, according to the national organization's website.

"We often speak of "our service members" as though they are one unified group," said Karen Worcester, Executive Director for the national organization, on its website. "Yet within that group are countless individuals, each with a name, a family, and a story that helped shape the freedoms we cherish today. While we honor them collectively, we can sometimes overlook the deeply personal sacrifices: the parent who never met a grandchild, the young recruit asked to shoulder more than any teenager should, the veteran who returned home carrying memories too heavy to share."

The local American Legion post is leading the "Wreaths Across America" effort in Katy, scheduled for December 19 in conjunction with the national program. Every December, American Legion Post 164 Katy, along with its auxiliary and many other Katy military and community groups, will remember and honor fallen veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of fallen heroes buried at the Katy Magnolia Cemetery, 6801 Franz Road in Katy.

The ceremony will be open to the public and will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the laying of the wreaths. Everyone is welcome.

In addition to attending the ceremony, the Katy community can also be involved in the project in two ways – through sponsorship of wreaths or through volunteering to help place wreaths on veterans' graves. Individuals may sponsor a veteran's wreath in honor of or in memory of a loved one who served in the armed forces, or can choose to sponsor a wreath to be placed at a veteran's grave that has not otherwise been designated to receive one. Sponsorships are $17 per wreath and may be purchased at https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/43364/Overview/?relatedId=42114.

Volunteers are also needed to lay wreaths at Magnolia Cemetery on December 19.

For further details or to volunteer, email the post at info@legionpost164katytx.org.

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit(Q) by Quality Licensing Corp. dba Sam's Club #4913, to be located at 29153 Katy Fwy, Katy, Waller County, Texas 77494. Sarah Little, Assistant Secretary; Matthew Allen, Vice President; Carey Fenton, President; Brandon Vick, Assistant Secretary; Wal-Mart Lone Start Licensing, LLC. Stockholder/ Shareholder.

Application has been made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit by QUALITY LICENSING CORP., dba Quality Licensing Corp #4592, to be located at 24919 Westheimer Pkwy, Katy, Fort Bend, TX 77494. The officers of QUALITY LICENSING CORP. are Carey Fenton, President; Matthew Allen, Vice President; Sarah Little, Assistant Secretary; and Brandon Vick, Assistant Secretary.

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THEKATYTIMES

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

APPLICATION: IU Heritage LP, owners are requesting to be allowed to amend Restricted Reserve "A", Block 1, Second Final Replat of Pederson Road Business Park. The amendment will create 3 commercial reserves.

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 December 9th 2026 9:00 a.m. at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street., Hempstead, Texas 77445.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council of the City of Katy, Texas, will Conduct a Public Hearing at Their Regular Meetings to be held at Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 8, 2026

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m., Monday, January 11, 2027

The Hearings are Being Conducted to Receive Comments from the Public on a Proposed Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Katy, Texas, Amending the City of Katy Zoning Ordinance No. 621; Establishing a Special Use Permit that Allows, a Special Use, To-Wit: Educational and Philanthropic Institution in a "C-1" Commercial District at 1508 East Avenue; Providing for an Effective Date; Repealing all Ordinances and Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing for a Fine not to Exceed $2,000 for each day a Violation of this Ordinance Exists.

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.

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code Saums NOTICENotice of Public Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at storagetreasures.com beginning 11/20/26 at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude 12/03/26 at 11:00 a.m. All sales to the highest bidder; subject to add'l terms noted on website. Facility address: 20220 Morton Rd, Katy, TX 77449. Tenant name: Amanda Knox. General description of property: Unit contains assorted kid and baby items, name brand adult shoes, duraflame heater in box, storage containers.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Owner: *Mason Creek Utility District*
Owner's Office: *847 Dominion Dr., Katy, Texas 77450*
Project (the Work): *Section 2 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation*
Project location: *In Harris County Texas south of IH-10 near Rennie Dr. and Houghton Rd.*

Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed, and physically submitted at Owner's Office by **December 8, 2026, at 11:00 AM,** when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A pre-bid conference is set for December 1, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Owner's Office. /s/ Brian Connolly, Project Officer.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF PATTISON, TEXAS

Pursuant to Texas Local Government Chapter 211, Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Pattison will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall of Pattison, 3410 First Street, Pattison, Texas 77466 for the purpose of considering the adoption of a comprehensive zoning ordinance.

Contact the City Secretary at 281-934-3715 or via email at citysecretary@pattison.texas.gov with any questions.

Any person may attend and may participate in the Public Hearing.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Willow Fork Drainage District, Attention: Mr. John Savage, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of LJA, Inc., the office of the Engineer, LJA, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Tuesday, December 1, 2026, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Ditch VA3B Rehabilitation for Willow Fork Drainage District, Fort Bend County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 714 419 198#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Drainage and storm sewer improvements to Ditch VA3B within Willow Fork Drainage District, Fort Bend County, Texas.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, November 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time at LJA, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 639 680 057#.

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.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, or at https://civcast.com.

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, 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.

Public Notice

Cellco Partnership and its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless proposes to build a 44-foot and 4-inch telecommunications pole at the approx. vicinity of 7833 2/3 Antoine Drive, Houston, Harris County, TX, 77088 [Lat: 29-52-46.89, Long: -95-28-26.31]. 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 West Highway 71, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78735, 512-519-9388.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN **ORDINANCE NO. 3213** BEARING THE FOLLOWING CAPTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, ON NOVEMBER 9, 2026:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 621, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3043 "WEST TEN BUSINESS PARK" PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT; AMENDING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE "WEST TEN BUSINESS PARK" PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $2,000.00 FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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November 12 Puzzle Answers

2	7	1	6	9	3	5	4	8
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PostNet adds U-Haul trucks and trailers in Katy

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

U-Haul Co. of Texas announced on November 2 that PostNet, a shipping and packing store, signed on as a U-Haul® neighborhood dealer to serve the Katy community.

PostNet at 19214 Clay Road, Ste. C in Katy will offer essential services like U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment and moving supplies.

Normal business hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (346) 257-2003 or visiting https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Katy-TX-77449/035605/.

PostNet owners Mehlum Essa and Abdul Hussain are proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Harris County, they said in the announcement.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

PostNet at 19214 Clay Road, Ste. C in Katy has partnered with U-Haul to offer essential services such as U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment and moving supplies.

U-Haul has teamed with independent dealers to offer rental equipment to do-it-yourself movers since 1945. During these challenging times for small businesses, more than 23,000 dealers across the U.S. and Canada are generating supplemental income through their U-Haul affiliation. When customers rent from a U-Haul dealer, they are directly supporting an independent small business in their community.

Because no financial investment is required to be a dealer, these local affiliates are not U-Haul franchises. They are simply small businesses that have committed a portion of their lot space for U-Haul equipment, and a portion of their time to help meet the mobility needs of their neighbors. Learn more about the dealer program and how to join by visiting uhaul.com/dealer.

The U-Haul 1-Year Storage Price Lock is now available at U-Haul-owned and -operated facilities across the U.S. and Canada. It provides customers with cost certainty while national competitors face scrutiny for predatory pricing tactics involving deceptive introductory rates, frequent price hikes, and hidden fees. U-Haul fixed-rate storage ensures one year with no price increase on your rental unit, and U-Haul never charges admin fees or deposits. New customers renting a self-storage unit and existing customers renting additional units qualify for the 1-Year Price Lock.

GRANTS AWARDED TO THREE NONPROFITS AT NOV. 14 KATY EXCHANGE



PHOTO COURTESY OF AVALYNN DAVITZ

At the November 14 Katy Exchange, three area nonprofits were awarded grants from the event's proceeds. Receiving grants of $3,000 each were Operation Salvation, which teaches work skills to veterans and first responders struggling with PTSD: Christ Clinic, which provides healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. On stage for the presentations were Katy Area Chamber of Commerce member Ida Franklin, City of Katy City Administrator Byron Hebert, KACC Vice President Adrienne Davitz, Operation Salvation founder Richard King, City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele, Christ Clinic Chief Operating Officer Shea Johnson and City of Katy Ward A Councilmember Paula Taylor.

COASTAL PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY 'PUTS DOWN ROOTS' AT ANNUAL PLANTING FESTIVAL



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy held its annual "Putting Down Roots Festival" on November 14 at the Indiangrass Preserve & Katy Prairie Welcome Center at 32235 Hebert in Waller. Volunteers manning the raffle booth – where entrants could win native plants to take home – are (left to right) Han Nguyen, a University of Houston public policy intern; Jenny Claycombe, CPC Advancement Director; and Denis Martin, prairie steward. More than 200 volunteers to came together to plant 1,200 native prairie plants, helping create an acre of restored prairie habitat. The festival also featured a petting zoo and a catered lunch for the volunteers.

LIBRARY

from page 2

clay creation while learning about the buffalo's cultural and historical significance in Native American culture.

Experience energy, movement and rhythm: "Danza Azteca Esplendor"

From 1 to 2 p.m. in the Lobby, Houston Aztec Dance & Drum will showcase the energy, movement, and rhythm of Aztec dance and drumming for guests. Through traditional dance, music, and regalia, performers will share cultural traditions and offer audiences an opportunity to learn more about the history and meaning behind the performance.

More highlighted heritage happenings

In addition to the celebratory events Fulshear Branch Library offers, more free National Native American Indigenous Heritage Month events and programs will be held across the Fort Bend County Libraries system. For a look at these additional events, visit www.fortbendlibraries.gov/news/celebrate-ingenuity-and-resourcefulness-in-digenous-peoples-during-national-native-american.

Participating branches include:

• George Memorial Library (a three-part "Native American History Celebration" on Nov. 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

• First Colony Branch Library ("Celebrating Native American Heritage Month: Art Class" on Nov. 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

• Mission Bend Branch Library ("Stories in Color: Native American Legends" on Nov. 23 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.)

• Missouri City Branch Library ("Native American Heritage Month: Disney Classic Movie" on Nov. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. and "After School Break: Native American Heritage Month, Washi Tape Rain Sticks" on Nov. 24 from 4 – 4:45 p.m.)

• Sienna Branch Library ("HMNS Docents to Go: Native Americans" on Nov. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.)

For details, visit www.fortbendlibraries.gov/events, select the desired branch, find the date, and click on the listed event.

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Royal ISD seeks community partners to help celebrate staff

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Royal ISD is asking the community for help in order to show its teachers and staff members how much they are appreciated.

"At Royal ISD, we believe in celebrating the incredible employees who make a difference in the lives of our students and families every day," said Norma Martinez, RISD Director of Marketing & Communications in an email to area businesses. "As we continue our staff appreciation initiatives throughout the 2026–2027 school year, we are reaching out to the valued contractors, vendors, and business partners we work with each day to invite you to be part of these special celebrations. We are grateful for the partnerships that help our district thrive, and we would love the opportunity to work together to recognize the dedicated individuals who make Royal ISD such a special place."

Some of the upcoming celebrations for partnership with the district include:

• "12 Days of Christmas:" The district's annual holiday celebration includes special surprises for staff, along with an Administrative Open House, where employees from across the district are invited to enjoy festive treats and enter raffles for gift baskets.

• Monthly staff appreciation surprises: RISD administration plans to visit each campus monthly with a special surprise, such as a favorite drink, snack, or treat, to show employees how much they are valued.

• Teacher Appreciation Week: In the spring of 2027, the district will celebrate its outstanding educators with special activities, treats, and recognition throughout the week.

To help make these celebrations possible, RISD is seeking monetary or gift basket donations from its business partners and community members. Contributions of any amount would be appreciated, Martinez said.

For more information, or to make a donation, please contact Martinez at nmartinez@royal-isd.net.

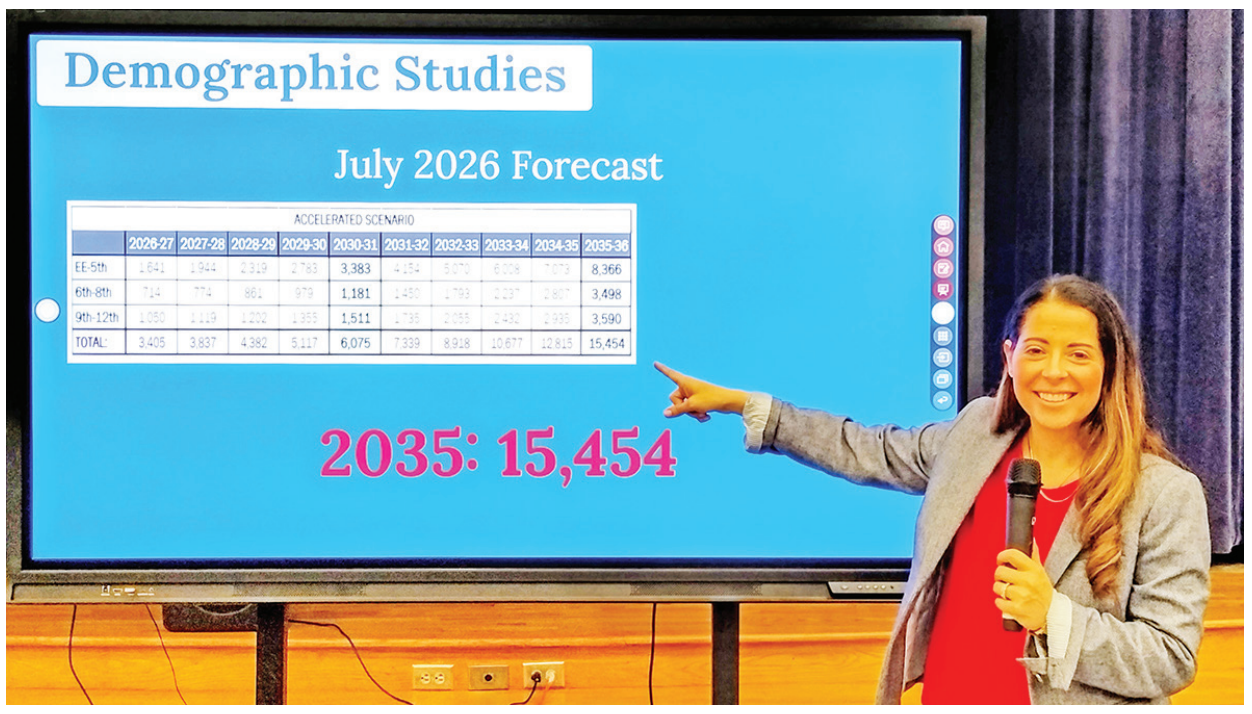


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Royal ISD Superintendent Megan Pape points to the district's bright future – and its continued explosive growth which is outpacing even the most optimistic projections – during the November 11 bond update meeting held at Royal Elementary School, 2222 Durkin Road in Pattison. Pape, along with project managers from LAN, the general contractor managing the construction of the district's new high school, provided updates to the community on the progress of construction projects which will add a new high school and a new stadium to the district.

RISD holds bond update meeting for bond oversight committee members

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Fast-growing Royal ISD has passed a series of bond issues in the past few years in order to cope with explosive enrollment as builders and homeowners in search of affordable housing flock to the Brookshire-Pattison area in southern Waller County.

On November 11, RISD Superintendent Megan C. Pape hosted bond task force members at a Bond 2025 and Bond 2026 Oversight Committee meeting held at the Royal Elementary School cafeteria at 2222 Durkin Road in Pattison.

During this meeting, Pape provided updates on the progress of voter-approved bond projects and shared information regarding ongoing construction and district growth.

The bond issue passed in 2025 provides funding for the construction of a new high school, which is now underway and which is expected to open in 2028, Pape said.

In 2025 the district attempted to pass a bond to fund the construction of a new stadium to replace Royal's current outdated and aging facility, but the measure failed. The district tried again in 2026, and voters approved the construction of a new stadium to be built adjacent to the new high school.

Pape said that the new stadium will have improved concessions, with four stands – two on the home said and two on the visitors' side. Concession visitors won't miss a minute of game time, since TV screens will carry on-field action which can be viewed from the concessions area.

Safety at the stadium is a primary concern, speakers said, and options under consideration include metal detectors, a clear bag policy and enhanced lighting in the parking lots. ROTC leaders will help man both sides of the stadium in order to help with security. Parking lots will be shared between the home and visitors side and personnel will be stationed where needed.

Pape said that the stadium would be available for community events and for youth groups and that groups using the stadium would be able to prepare their own food onsite.

Pape also provided updated enrollment projections. The district, now with an enrollment of 3,405, is projected to have more than 15,000 students in ten years, she said. Although the district opened a new elementary school in 2025 — Royal Prairie Elementary in the Sunterra subdivision — that campus only has a functional capacity of 850 students, which it has already reached. The board will be looking at potential attendance boundary modifications in order to shift some of those students to Royal Elementary School, Pape said.

One of the board's goals this year is to ensure that growth does not impact student learning, and that means that seats need to be available for students, Pape said. Pape said that an undated demographic survey is now being conducted, which will be presented to the board in January.

Pape said that the new study shows that the district growth is outpacing even the most aggressive growth predicted in previous studies. A third elementary school will soon be needed, she said.

Pape also noted that the district must still take care of its current aging facilities, and that the state does not provide additional money for deferred maintenance. The current high school will likely be repurposed as a junior high school, but plans have not yet been developed for the current junior high school, which has undergone a number of renovations in recent years, with more than $2 million invested in the campus after the 2023 bond, Pape said.

Participants at the meeting discussed the value of new buildings and facilities to both students and staff. Several of the district's coaches spoke of the importance of having good facilities for student athletes while Pape said that having good facilities helps attract and retain teachers and staff. Royal ISD is uniquely situated between Katy ISD and Lamar CISD, both of which are building new facilities. Teachers have a choice on where they work, she said.

Participants provided feedback to the district on additional information that they needed in order to understand the progress of the bonds, what the highest priorities should be and what opportunities the district should consider next.

"Fast growth also requires forward thinking and forward planning," Page said as she concluded the meeting.

KATY ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION HOSTS 'FIREFLIES AND FOOD TRUCKS' NOV. 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADRIENNE DAVITZ

The Katy ISD Education Foundation hosted a fabulous night under the stars during its annual "Fireflies and Food Trucks" fundraiser, at Katy Beer Garden at 5345 E. Third in Katy on November 12. The capacity crowd enjoyed all night food truck bites and Katy Beer Garden bar access plus drink tickets. All proceeds from the event benefit the Katy ISD Education Foundation and its "Inspiring Imagination" teacher grants.

Cardiff JHS seeks sponsors for '12 Days of Christmas Countdown' for teachers and staff

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The holiday season is just around the corner, and the Sunshine Club at Cardiff Junior High School is getting ready to celebrate the school's amazing teachers and staff with its annual "12 Days of Christmas Countdown."

Throughout the countdown, the Sunshine Club will be spreading holiday cheer at the campus at 3900 Dayflower in Katy with festive activities, special treats, and door prize drawings to recognize the hardworking individuals who make a difference in the lives of Cardiff students every day.

The school is seeking donations of gift cards, gift baskets, merchandise, services, or other items to use as door prizes for teachers and staff.

Participating business sponsors will receive:

• Community recognition: A special thank-you featuring the business in a campus communication shared with Cardiff families

• Social media shout-outs: Recognition on the campus social media platforms, where permitted

• Staff recognition: Acknowledgment of the business when its donated prize is awarded during the Christmas countdown

"Your generosity not only helps us make the holidays special for our staff but also allows our school community to recognize the local businesses that invest in Cardiff Junior High," said a representative of the Sunshine Club in a November 13 email blast.

To participate or for more details, email SarahEEnamorado@katyisd.org.





HTX Soccer announces two Katy area students as college commits

FROM STAFF REPORTS


KEELY GORMAN


KAYLEN ALVAREZ

HTX Soccer announced on November 11 that 19 members of the Class of 2027 have already committed to college programs as the first signing day arrives for prospective student-athletes to sign financial aid agreements with their chosen schools.

Program participants from the greater Katy area include:

• Keely Gorman, Jordan High School, who has committed to Dallas Baptist University

• Kaylen Alvarez, Patricia E. Paetow High School, who has committed to Alabama A&M University

"Getting our girls placed in college is something we're really proud of as a club," said Andrew Squire, Girls Director. "We put real resources behind the process and work hard to open doors for our players. For me personally, it's one of the most rewarding parts of leading this program. When a player's time with us ends, a new journey begins in college, and we want to be the bridge that helps them thrive there. Seeing so many of our players succeed at the next level tells us the program is working, and it pushes us to keep improving. We are proud of this U19 team's individual success, their team success and the mentorship they are providing to our younger players. Congratulations to the 2027 class."

Since 2006 more than 830 HTX players have committed to college soccer programs, more than any club in the Houston area, the organization said. Every player in the club receives access to free college planning and recruitment tools through the College Center and SportsRecruits, providing guidance for families every step of the way through the recruiting and college selection process.

About HTX Soccer

HTX Soccer is the largest youth soccer club in the Greater Houston area, serving more than 8,500 players ages three to 19 across recreational, competitive, and elite programs. For locations and more information, go to https://htxsoccer.com/about/.

THSCA announces Academic All-State Teams for cross country, team tennis, volleyball, and water polo

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On November 12 the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) announced the 2026-2027 Academic All-State Teams for cross country, team tennis, volleyball, and water polo. The Academic All-State Award honors senior student-athletes who demonstrate exceptional commitment both in the classroom and in competition.

Honorees included many athletes from Katy ISD and Royal ISD and from Fulshear High School.

No Katy area athletes named to the Academic All-State Team for water polo.

To access list of Academic All-State Team recipients: https://www.thsca.com/academic-all-state/

As one of THSCA's most prestigious honors, this award recognizes students from fourteen different U.I.L. sports, who excel in three categories: GPA, class rank, and ACT/SAT performance.

To be eligible for nomination, an athlete must meet the following criteria:

• An athlete, student trainer or manager in good standing with the team

• Of good moral character

• A senior

• Have an overall grade point average of 92 or above

These honorees represent the spirit of dedication, discipline, and determination that THSCA works to encourage in students across the state.

CROSS COUNTRY

School	Athlete	Rank
Fulshear	Shepherd Steen	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Juan Di Lascio	ELITE
Cinco Ranch	Haralambos Kypriotakis	1st Team
Cinco Ranch	Roman Green	1st Team
Cinco Ranch	Kathryn Stuart	2nd Team
Cinco Ranch	Julian Neira	Hon. Mention
James E. Taylor	Alfonso Cruz	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Cooper Kowalski	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Caden Thompson	Hon. Mention
James E. Taylor	Tayln Cooksey	Hon. Mention
Jordan	Brennan Krom	ELITE
Jordan	Alice Frame	1st Team
Jordan	Ella Kempe	1st Team
Jordan	Eli Parrish	1st Team
Jordan	Maya Venugopal	2nd Team
Jordan	Noah Rotolo	2nd Team
Jordan	Alexander Flynn	Hon. Mention
Katy	Ethan Gobar	ELITE
Katy	Oliver Braithwaite	1st Team
Katy	Pierce Caldwell	2nd Team
Katy	Justin Matute	Hon. Mention
Katy	Feranmi Olaonipekun	Hon. Mention
Katy	Jacob Anderson	Hon. Mention
Katy	Jasmine Avalos	Hon. Mention
Morton Ranch	Carson Dawkins	ELITE
Morton Ranch	Joshua Bonilla	Hon. Mention
Morton Ranch	Eneke Eyong	Hon. Mention
Morton Ranch	Anthony Martinez	Hon. Mention
Morton Ranch	Zakaria Ayub	Hon. Mention
Paetow	Natalia Morales	2nd Team
Paetow	Isabel Atherton	2nd Team
Paetow	Aalyia Phillips	Hon. Mention
Seven Lakes	Kushi Kumar	1st Team
Seven Lakes	Andrea Hernandez-Torres	1st Team
Seven Lakes	Mitchell Zarate Diez	2nd Team
Seven Lakes	Jack Chambers	Hon. Mention
Tompkins	Isabelle Schubert	1st Team
Tompkins	Belen Reyes	1st Team
Tompkins	Jackson Armenta	2nd Team

TEAM TENNIS

School	Athlete	Rank
Royal	Katerina Castillo	2nd Team
Royal	Madeleine Salazar	2nd Team
Royal	Greyson Dillard	2nd Team
Royal	Isiah Dewayne Vaughn	2nd Team
Cinco Ranch	Lakshya Sachdeva	2nd Team
Cinco Ranch	Jacob Shin	2nd Team
Cinco Ranch	Sophia Tian	2nd Team
Cinco Ranch	Lourdes Malvicino	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Alex Mclain	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Stephanie Startzell	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Stepan Nadikta	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Ryan Schurter	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Diana Smarandache	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Philip Rusu	Hon. Mention
James E. Taylor	Milan Genoux-Lubain	ELITE
James E. Taylor	Jacob Giem	ELITE
James E. Taylor	Ethan Ho	ELITE
James E. Taylor	Joseph Hwang	ELITE
James E. Taylor	Isabella Scalise	1st Team
James E. Taylor	Braden Koehn	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Kenan Almubasher	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Lauren Hanson	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Jeselle Castillo	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Sean Chua	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Joshua Colomine Puentes	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Yossif Arafah	2nd Team
James E. Taylor	Isabella Hayak	Hon. Mention
James E. Taylor	Dona Mclin	Hon. Mention
Jordan	Brandon Zhou	ELITE
Jordan	Sahana Arvind	ELITE
Jordan	Kamran Jabiyev	1st Team
Jordan	Shyam Arvind	1st Team
Jordan	Shaina Shreeva	1st Team
Jordan	Zach Snyder	1st Team
Jordan	Elizabeth Jia	1st Team
Jordan	Dani Abrar	1st Team
Jordan	Aaditya Vinod	2nd Team
Jordan	Leo Adama	2nd Team
Jordan	Tamara Perron	Hon. Mention
Jordan	Gabriella Diaz	Hon. Mention
Katy	Andy Wu	ELITE
Katy	Jillian Griffith	1st Team
Katy	Sarah Roberts	2nd Team
Katy	Rafael Garcia	Hon. Mention
Paetow	Gabriel Cajigas-Tavarez	2nd Team
Paetow	Christian Bustos	2nd Team
Paetow	Jocelyn Beane	Hon. Mention
Seven Lakes	Diana Chen	ELITE
Seven Lakes	Nimay Harish	ELITE
Seven Lakes	Joshua Koi-Tyler	2nd Team
Tompkins	Eesha Kumar	ELITE
Tompkins	Alexander Lebsack	1st Team
Tompkins	Eric Phan	1st Team
Tompkins	Shivam Nagwanshi	1st Team
Tompkins	Sonia Nagarajan	1st Team
Tompkins	Soichiro Kato	1st Team
Tompkins	Eric Wang	1st Team
Tompkins	Snigdha Harapanahalli	1st Team
Tompkins	Sriyam Bandi	1st Team
Tompkins	Sanjana Vattikuti	1st Team
Tompkins	Ryan Wang	1st Team
Tompkins	Pradyot Reka	1st Team

VOLLEYBALL

School	Athlete	Rank
Royal	Taylor Hicks	2nd Team
Royal	Amilee Hinojsa	Hon. Mention
Royal	Abygail Robinson	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Reagan Petty	1st Team
Cinco Ranch	Rahima Kone	2nd Team
Cinco Ranch	Alexa Bruinsma	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Ashlyn Edwards	Hon. Mention
Cinco Ranch	Natalie Wolskij	Hon. Mention
James E. Taylor	Eva Kate Simoncic	1st Team
James E. Taylor	Sydney Herleth	Hon. Mention
James E. Taylor	Tomas Ordonez	Hon. Mention
Jordan	Jada Wright Woods	Hon. Mention
Jordan	Scarlett Staples	Hon. Mention
Jordan	Cooper Rolens	Hon. Mention
Katy	Peyton Noto	1st Team
Katy	Samantha Ross	2nd Team
Katy	Miahlina Downing	Hon. Mention
Mayde Creek	Ehirefere Esechie	2nd Team
Morton Ranch	Alaina Myles	2nd Team
Morton Ranch	Faith Graham	Hon. Mention
Paetow	Arayla Scranton	2nd Team
Paetow	Harlow Campus	Hon. Mention
Seven Lakes	Gracie Hobin	2nd Team
Seven Lakes	Kassidy Leggins	2nd Team
Seven Lakes	Willtrace Ngoh	Hon. Mention
Seven Lakes	Francesca Farinez	Hon. Mention
Tompkins	Natalie Kitts	1st Team
Tompkins	Norah Solomon	2nd Team

TIGERS STILL UNBEATEN AFTER BI-DISTRICT WIN



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARRIS

The Tigers maintained their perfect record of 11-0 overall and 8-0 in district play by crushing Fort Bend Travis 59-6 on November 13 in the bi-district round. The Tigers lead in 6A District 22 standings. Katy High School's next varsity football game is on Friday, November 20 at 7 p.m. against Hutto High School, played away at Hutto's stadium.

TGCA releases latest volleyball poll with Tompkins and Fulshear among top teams

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On November 11, the Texas Girls Coaches association (TGCA) announced its choices for the top volleyball teams in the state.

In Class 6A Division 2, the poll results showed Tomkins in a four-way tie for first place while Fulshear was in a four-way tie for fifth place.

Here are the poll results for Class 6A:

CLASS 6A DIVISION 1	CLASS 6A DIVISION 2
FF. Duncanville	FF. Austin Westlake
FF. Allen	FF. Katy Tompkins
FF. Austin Lake Travis	FF. Southlake Carroll
FF. Houston Cypress Ranch	FF. Mansfield
5T. Round Rock	5T. San Antonio Brandeis
5T McKinney Boyd	5T. Fulshear
5T. Clear Springs	5T. Keller
5T. Klein Oak	5T. Magnolia
9T. Leander Rouse	9T. San Antonio O'Connor
9T. Pearland Dawson	9T. Tomball Memorial
9T. Rockwall	9T. Shadow Creek
9T. San Antonio Brennan	9T. Clear Lake
9T. Grand Oaks	9T. Plano
9T. Eaton	9T. North Forney
9T. San Antonio Harlan	9T. Laredo Alexander
9T. Byron Nelson	9T. Walnut Creek

19th Annual
Home for the Holidays
Katy Merrell Center
November 20-22, 2026

Experience "The Way Shopping Should Feel" with Katy's Largest Gift Market!

For 19 years, Home for the Holidays Gift Market has been a beloved annual tradition in Katy, bringing together more than 130 carefully selected merchants under one roof. Discover boutique clothing, handmade gifts, holiday décor, gourmet treats, home accents, and one-of-a-kind finds you won't see anywhere else.

Whether you're starting your Christmas list or finishing it, you'll find everything you need in one festive holiday shopping setting!

Gather your girlfriends, mom, or daughter and enjoy a true Katy holiday tradition while supporting small businesses from across Texas!

Shopping Hours

'First Call Friday' Hours
Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm

General Admission Hours
Friday 12:00 pm-5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am-4:00 pm



Tickets:
'First Call Friday': $10 | General Admission: $7
Tickets valid for re-admission with wristband & email confirmation!

Get tickets at homefortheholidaysgiftmarket.com/tickets

Snap a photo with your friends & family at our PhotoBooth!
Santa will be at the market all weekend long!

Food and beverages will be available at concessions on the 2nd Level to grab lunch or a quick bite to eat.

- Shopping Tickets can be purchased on our website or at the door. *Tickets valid for re-admission with wristband & email confirmation!*
- Parking is free
- Strollers are allowed
- Children 12 and under are free
- Shopping is indoors on TWO floors
- Two elevators and two stairways are available for easy access to 2nd level
- Cash and card are accepted at entrance & booths





Katy Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane, Katy, TX 77494
homefortheholidaysgiftmarket.com

New sheriff in town: Tompkins freshman Bailey Pipes races to UIL 6A state cross country championship

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Tompkins High School freshman Bailey Pipes capped a remarkable debut season by capturing the UIL Class 6A Girls Individual Cross Country State Championship at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock and cemented herself in the record books and as one of Texas' top distance runners for years to come.

Pipes conquered the 5,000-meter course with a time of 17:20.5, crossing the finish line 14.2 seconds ahead of the runner-up to claim the state title. Her performance helped lead the Tompkins girls cross country team to an eighth-place finish with 196 points.

"Winning a state championship as a freshman is something I'll never forget," Pipes said. "I've worked hard all season, but I couldn't have done it without my coaches and teammates pushing me every day. It means so much to bring this championship home to Tompkins."

Pipes burst on the high school cross country scene this fall and quickly established herself as a title contender. She claimed individual titles at the Brenham Hillacious HS Invitational and Seven Lakes Showcase XC Invitational before winning the large-school division at September's Cowboy Jamboree with a time of 17:49.3.

She continued her impressive run at the regional championship, finishing second with a personal-best time of 17:04.8 to secure her spot at the state meet.

"Bailey has shown tremendous determination and maturity throughout her first high school season," Tompkins Head Cross Country Coach Julius Michael said. "She competes with confidence, puts in the work and never backs down from a challenge. Being the first freshman in Texas to win a girls individual state championship is an incredible accomplishment, and we're excited about what lies ahead for her."

With a state championship, multiple invitational victories and a personal-best performance already on her résumé, Pipes has set a high standard for the next three years of her high school career.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

Tompkins Freshman Bailey Pipes won the Class 6A girls individual championship in cross country.

