

ROYAL ISD NAMES NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
SPORTS | PG 10

Katy Times



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THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

★ ELECTION 2025 ★



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Incumbent Mayor Dusty Thiele (left) celebrates election results with constituent Diane Robichaux Walker (right) at the election results watch party at Brett's BBQ, 25220 Kingsland in Katy, on May 3.

Landslide victory assures Thiele of second term, propositions fail by wide margins

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

City of Katy voters awarded current mayor William H. "Dusty" Thiele another term in office, in an overwhelming victory on May 3. Incumbent Thiele received 86.89 per cent (1902) of the vote, with challenger Michael A. Payne garnering 13.11 per cent (287).

Payne congratulated Thiele in a con-

cession statement posted to his Facebook page late on May 3, which read in part: "The fight isn't over yet. I'll continue to stay involved wherever I can and with current councilmembers terming out in 2026, only when we work together can [we] ensure better representation is voted in." He added, "We've been on a slippery slope that only strong leadership can straighten out."

In a statement to the Katy Times on

May 6, Thiele said: "There is still important work ahead, and I remain fully committed to serving the City of Katy with the same dedication and purpose that has guided my leadership from the beginning."

"Looking ahead, the vision for Katy remains clear. From enhancing public safety

See **THIELE**, page 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Challenger Robert Richards rolled to victory over Brookshire incumbent mayor Darrell Branch and challenger Tony McAnelly in the May 3 city elections, winning 65 per cent of the vote. Richards is shown on his float at the March 29 Royal FFA parade in downtown Brookshire.

Richards defeats Branch, water proposition passes

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Brookshire Mayor Pro Tem Robert Chris Richards won a decisive victory in the Brookshire mayoral race, beating out incumbent Darrell Branch and former Alderman Position 2 Tony McAnelly. Richards earned 65.92 per cent (294) of the vote while McAnelly received 20.85 per cent (93) of the ballots.

Alderman Monique Taylor, facing Maria Ugartechea, retained her place representing

Position 1, with 72.62 percent (313) of the vote. Alderperson for Position 2 Lyndon Stamps, who ran unopposed, received 100 percent of the 376 votes cast in that race.

The Brookshire municipal water district proposition A passed with 64.27 per cent (227) of the votes. The proposed bond issue will fund purchasing, constructing, operating and improving water, sanitary sewer and drainage facilities within the district.

Redmon re-elected KISD trustee, Cross defeats board president Perez

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

A long, hard-fought battle on all sides finally came to a close on May 3 as votes were tallied in Katy ISD's school board election. Recently retired Katy ISD educator James Cross won Position 1 with 58 per cent of the vote, displacing current board president Victor Perez. Trustee Lance Redmon, the incumbent in Position 2, defeated two newcomers to retain his position, capturing 75 per cent of ballots cast.

Unofficial voting results for the May 2025 Katy ISD Board of Trust-

See **ELECTION**, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA FOX

KISD board of trustees incumbent Lance Redmon (center) shares the early vote totals with supporters at an election watch party at Katy Beer Garden, 5345 E. Third in Katy on May 3.

Royal ISD voters approve attendance credit election with overwhelming support

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In a May 3 post on its Facebook page, Royal ISD announced that the unofficial election results from Waller County show overwhelming support for the Attendance Credit Election. According to the unofficial returns, 83.45% of voters (580) cast ballots in favor of allowing

Royal ISD to permanently retain its existing commercial tax base, with 16.55% (115) voting against the measure.

The election presented two options for voters:

- A vote FOR the measure allows RISD to fulfill its recapture obligation by purchasing Attendance Credit, ensuring local control of its tax base, and

a stable or potentially lower tax rate.

- A vote AGAINST the measure would have resulted in the permanent detachment of commercial properties from the district, leading to a potential tax rate increase, reduced funding for school operations,

See **ROYAL**, page 3

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May 8, 2025
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KISD board hears requests to increase staff, purchase fleet vehicles

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Katy ISD's board of trustees met on Monday, May 5 for a brief work-study meeting. It was the first meeting since the May 3 school board election in which board president Victor Perez lost his position, while long-time trustee Lance Redmon retained Position 2.

One of the discussion items on the board agenda was the district's request to add 35 new non-teaching

See **KISD**, page 3

MAY DAY RALLY DRAWS PROTESTORS TO KATY'S CITY HALL



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

About 75 local protestors converged on the Avenue D side of the City of Katy's City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy, at noon on May 1 to protest against policies enacted by President Donald Trump and Elon Musk. One of many May Day rallies taking place across the nation that day, the local effort was organized by Indivisible Katy Huddle and Katy Area Democrats. Many of the protestors were local retirees concerned about the future of the Social Security program.



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Don't miss this chance to showcase your business as one of the Best in Katy! Questions or need more information? Contact bestofkaty@katychamber.com



ECHO to perform spring concert 'Rhapsody in Blue' on May 16

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On April 15, ECHOchestra announced its upcoming spring concert, an enthusiastic expression of two beloved rhapsodies and new compositions, promising an unforgettable musical journey for audiences of all ages.



ANDREW STAUPÉ

The program features Andrew Staupé, piano soloist, in a lively performance of "Rhapsody in Blue," one of George Gershwin's most famous works. The concert will take place at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, on Friday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m.

"This exciting program will capture the true rhapsody of spring and showcase the exceptional talent and versatility of ECHOchestra's musical community," said Kelli Soika, ECHO's Interim Executive Director.

The program also features the World Premier of a new work by Mark Buller, ECHO's Composer-in-Residence. This piece is a musical retelling of the final moments in Ulysses by James Joyce when the protagonist's love resolves. The orchestra also will perform P i Hungarian Rhapsody by Franz Liszt to conclude this exploration of musical rhapsodies.

The youth concerto competition winner, Vanae Schunk will perform the 1st movement of the Barber Violin Concerto and the orchestra will perform a World Premiere composed by the winner of ECHO's Young Composer Competition, Caleb Mayberry.

"We are ecstatic to bring the magic of music to our community this May," says Michael Fahey, Artistic Director of ECHOchestra. "This concert is a celebration of our shared love for music and our commitment to making art accessible to everyone. We invite everyone to join us and experience the joy of live performance."

Tickets may be purchased online at www.echorchestra.org/tickets. General admission is \$25, seniors 65+ and first responders \$15, student tickets are \$10 with ID, and children 12 and under are free.

ECHO Summer Camp

As ECHO continues its commitment to youth education throughout the year, the organization will host its third Summer Strings Camp for Middle School Students at Lanier Middle School, 2600 Woodhead in Houston, from June 16 to 20. The faculty includes ECHO musicians as well as Houston-area educators.

Spaces are still available and more information about the camp and registration is available at www.echorchestra.org/summercamp.

Book Peddler set to host Texas author

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Story Peddler bookstore at 538 W. Main St. in Bellville is hosting Dallas author Liese Sherwood-Fabre on Thursday, May 22 at 6 p.m. Sherwood has written many books including Sherlock Holmes mysteries, thrillers, young adult/teen books, clean romances, short stories, and non-fiction books. The event will focus on the first fiction book in a four-book series that Sherwood

wrote on The Early Case Files of Sherlock Holmes which is "Case 1: The Adventure of the Murdered Midwife."

Sherwood will also briefly discuss her book of Sherlock Holmes short stories called "Master of the Art of Detection." For more information on the author and her books, visit her website at liesesherwoodfabre.com.

The Story Peddler will carry both books for sale, and Sherwood will bring other books in her collection

for attendees to peruse. She will be available after her book discussion to sign purchased books. However, a purchase is not necessary to attend the event. All author events at The Book Peddler are free and open to the public.

There is a local group of Sherlock Holmes aficionados called the John Openshaw Society who meet regularly in Houston to discuss all things Sherlockian. To learn more, visit johnopenshaw.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Recycle your electronics at Frost Ban on May 9

Dispose of those unwanted small appliances, printers, computers,



laptops, VCR's (if you even remember what that is...), cell phones, miscellaneous wires, metal items and anything with a plug from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 9 at Frost Bank's Cinco Ranch Financial Center 23701 Cinco Ranch Blvd. Suite 100 in Katy. CRTs and old-style televisions will not be accepted. Free.

Celebrate Mother's Day with baby goat and cow snuggles at Turquoise Acres Ranch on May 9

Looking for a different activity to enjoy with Mom for Mother's Day? Treat her to baby goat and cow snuggles at Turquoise Acres Ranch on May 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's the latest trend in animal-assisted therapy. Book your sessions at turquoiseacresranch.com. Turquoise Acres is located at 3550 Schlipf Road in Katy.

Cheer up your vehicle at Jordan Cheer's car wash on May 10

Treat your car to a little spring cleaning, cheerfully performed by the Jordan High School Cheer team on May 10 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Shafer Elementary School, 5150 Ranch Point Drive, Katy. Tickets may be purchased at jhscheershop.square.site. Can't make it? Donations are accepted on the website too.

Dance the night away at City of Katy's 'Street Dance on the Square' on May 10

Put on your dancin' shoes and come to Katy's historic downtown square at Second Street and Avenue C in Katy on May 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. The City of Katy's Parks & Recreation Department's newest event will feature live music from Eddy Morgan & The Brazos County Line Band, line dancing, food, drinks from Twin Tavern and No Label Brewing -- and more. There will be a cake walk, a pie baking contest and a friendly cornhole competition. Free to attend.

Marine Corp League Detachment to meet May 13

Calling all Marines/FMF Navy Corpsmen! Marine Corps League Detachment #1295 will hold its monthly meeting on May 13 at American Legion Post #164, 22125 Kingsland Blvd., Katy. The evening starts with food and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. featuring guest speaker SGT

David Burton, recruiter. For more information, call 713-614-3324.

Watch cricket at inaugural Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage month festival May 17

Mark your calendars for May 17 for Harris County Precinct 4's inaugural Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month Celebration. This year, Commissioner Lesley Briones and the Precinct 4 team will spotlight one of the most popular sports in the world: cricket. Bring your family and friends for a free field day to celebrate the competition, culture, and community of the sport, all while sharing in one of the many rich traditions of the AAPI community. Free activities for the whole family will include:

- Live cricket matches featuring the Triggers Cricket Club
- A youth cricket clinic (ages 6-15) hosted by Triggers Cricket Club - no experience required
- Complimentary chai and samosas
- A live DJ
- Carnival games, balloon art, and airbrush artists
- A foam party for all ages

The event takes place Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John Paul Landing Cricket Grounds, 24502 West Road, Cypress.

Join the Fussell Senior Citizen Center for 'Connections Fair' on May 17

Come to the Fussell Senior Citizen Center at 5370 E. Fifth Street in Katy to explore all of the programs, activities and opportunities available through the center's multi-faceted programs. Whether you are looking to stay active, learn something new or to make new friends, there's something for everyone. The Connections Fair will be held May 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will also offer a trolley stop at the Katy Exchange event scheduled in Katy's downtown square that day. Free to attend. For more information, call 281-391-4827.

Support the fifth annual golf tournament for Katy Responds on May 19

Help local nonprofit Katy Responds raise money to help local clients in need of home repair and renovation through your participation in the organization's fifth annual golf tournament on May 19 at Weston Lakes Country Club, 5646 Weston Drive, Fulshear. Registration starts at 9 a.m. followed by a putting contest at 9:30 a.m. and a shot-gun start/scramble at 11:30 a.m. A dinner, auction and awards will be held at 4 p.m. The

organization says that it has 80 clients in queue who are in desperate need of help in restoring their homes, and the funds raised through this tournament are essential to bringing those projects to fruition. Visit katyresponds.org to sign up. Contact info@katyresponds.org for more information.

Fort Bend County to host Senior Health, Safety & Awareness Day on May 21

Fort Bend County invites all senior-aged adults to attend the annual Senior Health, Safety & Awareness Day on Wednesday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Building C, 4310 TX-36 S, Rosenberg. This free community event will feature educational presentations, health screenings, interactive vendor booths, food, and a Big Bingo Game with prizes. Seniors will have the opportunity to connect with health and wellness resources, enjoy social engagement, and receive valuable information to support healthy, safe, and independent living. Free and open to all senior-aged adults.

Presentation topics and speakers will address fraud prevention in "Learn how to protect yourself from scams and financial exploitation," while a session on memory and brain health with practical tips for healthy aging and maintaining cognitive health will be sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. Other highlights include free health screenings, Vendor exhibits with local resources, refreshments and snacks, door prizes and a Bingo Bonanza game with exciting giveaways.

For more information, to register a vendor booth, or to volunteer, please contact Victoria Zwahr or Leticia Hardy at 281-342-3034 by phone or email at Victoria.zwahr@ag.tamu.edu.

'Wise Up to Rise Up' Foundation seeking vendors for August event

The Wise Up to Rise Up Foundation is preparing for one of its most impactful events yet—and is seeking community and vendor support. Winner's Circle 2025 will take place Saturday, August 2 at Powerhouse Church 1818 Katyland Dr, Katy. This half-day experience will welcome 200 at-risk and underserved students from Katy ISD and connect them with dynamic speakers, interactive learning, and actionable mentorship. One of the featured headliners and Legacy Award recipients is Marquis Hill, also known as @Realmjhill—a 20-year-old motivational speaker, author, and entrepreneur with a combined audience of over 200,000 followers. After a heart condition ended his basketball dreams, Marquis discovered his gift for speaking. For more information, please contact KFields@WiseUpToRiseUp.Education or visit www.WiseUpToRiseUp.Education.

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CROSSWORD THEME: MOTHER'S DAY

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. T. Rockwell's "How to Eat Fried"
 6. Pro football org.
 9. Tea servings
 13. Relating to axis
 14. Gershwin or Levin
 15. Break of day
 16. Repeat, in music
 17. Red Cross bed
 18. Arm bones
 19. *Mother ____, personification of physical world
 21. *Mother ____, fictional dog owner
 23. Opposite of hence
 24. Sleeveless garment
 25. Money source
 28. Golfer's destination
 30. Pass, as time
 35. "Metamorphoses" poet
 37. *The Beatles: "Mother ____, comes to me"
 39. "The Goldbergs" sibling
 40. Unacceptable, to a baby
 41. Alpine singing
 43. Resembling wings
 44. Fill with optimism
 46. Fill with satisfaction
 47. Orion's ____
 48. Like funeral atmosphere
 50. Lice eggs
 52. Morse code dash
 53. Remainder of a cigarette
 55. Before skip and a jump
 57. *Mother of ____, a.k.a. Daenerys Targaryen
 61. *Mother ____, Missionaries of Charity founder
 64. PassÉ
 65. Stir or fuss
 67. Add together
 69. Anomie, alt. sp.
 70. Decompose
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Took place
 2. Yoked team
 3. Capital of Latvia
 4. Kind of ray
 5. Cast-off skin
 6. French Riviera city
 7. "To" follower
 8. Wood turning device
 9. Tulip starter
 10. Leo's Karenina
 11. ____ gum, food additive
 12. Put metal to the pedal, p.t.
 15. Difficult to detect
 20. With ample space
 22. Employ
 24. Green and lush, as in trees
 25. *Mother ____, investigative journalism nonprofit
 26. Convex molding
 27. Twofold
 29. Cambodia's neighbor
 31. A in UAE
 32. Heaped
 33. Famous Teatro alla ____
 34. *Mother ____, personification of planet
 36. Shower with affection
 38. Abominable snowman
 42. River in Hades
 45. Personify
 49. *Mother Superior is the head one at the convent
 51. Foray
 54. Former Russian leaders
 56. *Mother of ____, a.k.a. nacre
 57. June 6, 1944
 58. Raja's wife
 59. On the surface

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61. Carrying bag
62. Hunk of something

63. Lowest female singing voice
66. Female forest ruminant
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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.

ELECTION

from page 1

ees Election were released by the district as follows:

Position 1 Candidates

- Victor Perez: Unofficial Total - 7,561 votes (41.94%)
- James Cross: Unofficial Total - 10,465 votes (58.06%)

Position 2 Candidates

- Tammy Reed: Unofficial Total - 3,541 votes (21.20%)
- Lance Redmon: Unofficial Total - 12,589 votes (75.37%)
- Kris Fields (write-in candidate): Unofficial Total - 572 votes (3.42%)

In an email to the Katy Times, Perez said: "I am very grateful for my family, supporters and volunteers who sacrificed and gave so much of their time and treasure. Over the past three years I have met and gotten to know many parents and dedicated, wonderful teachers. We have a good school district. However, I did not come out of retirement to just take up a seat on the board and 'go along to get along,' but to be a change agent to improve Katy ISD -- improve the job satisfaction of teachers, protect our children, and be a voice for parents. I intend to stay engaged and hold this new board accountable."

Other candidates released statements on Facebook.

On his own Facebook page, Position 2 winner Lance Redmon said in part: "I'm incredibly honored and thrilled to have been elected to a third term on the Katy ISD School Board! This wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering prayers, support, encouragement, and love from this amazing community. I'm



Supporter Patti Lacy congratulates James Cross on winning Position 1 on the Katy ISD board of trustees at the May 3 election watch party at Katy Beer Garden, 5345 E. Third in Katy.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

truly thankful." Redmon also thanked his opponents Reed and Fields for carrying themselves "with integrity, respect, and a shared love for our schools." Redmon also thanked Perez for his time and service to the community and wished him the best in "whatever comes next."

Posting on the Katy Education Advocates page, Position 1 winner James Cross thanked the KEA for their support of his campaign. "I learned very quickly that it takes a village to have any chance of success. I'm most proud that our village included people from all walks of life," the statement read in part. "I will do my best to work hard for our kiddos and their families."

Write-in candidate Khris Fields expressed his appreciation for the outcome in a post on the "Stand Up for Katy ISD"

page. In part, Fields said, "I celebrate these incredible men," he said. "This is a great outcome for Katy ISD and I am honored to have shared the stage with such strong principled leaders."

Also thanking voters on the same Facebook page was Position 2 candidate Tammy Reed, who said: "Congratulations to James and Lance. It was a victory for Katy ISD's children. I appreciate the support and encouragement I received from everyone and am thankful to have gained the trust of so many. Now we can move ahead and focus on educating all of our students and remove political rhetoric and outside PAC influence from our elections."

Cross and Redmon will be sworn in at the May 12 meeting of the school board.

THIELE

from page 1

and infrastructure to promoting economic development, the City Council and I will continue to work to complete vital initiatives already underway," the statement continued. "We will also keep investing in our Historic Town Square, supporting local businesses, and providing high-quality parks and recreational spaces—preserving the small-town charm and values that make Katy unique."

"In many ways, our post-election goals mirror those that brought us to this point," Thiele said. "The commitment to serving the people of Katy with professionalism, respect, and a shared focus on what's best for our community remains unchanged. I look forward to continuing to work alongside the City Council and our dedicated City staff to meet the challenges ahead and build a bright future for all who call Katy home."

All of the propositions -- proposing amendments to the city's charter -- which were sent to voters failed by wide margins. The propositions were initiated by Councilmember Dan Smith and supported by Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris and Councilmember Rory Robertson. A unanimous vote of council sent the measures to voters for approval.

- Proposition A, which was designed to ensure that when the mayor is absent the mayor pro tem is allowed to count toward a quorum and vote, failed, garnering only 40.02 per cent (892) of ballots, with 59.98 per cent (1337) opposed.

- Proposition B -- removing the automatic resignation of the mayor should the mayor file to run for another office if the unexpired term of the office does not exceed one year and 30 days --- also failed, gaining only 36.29 per cent (803) of the vote, with 63.71 per cent (1410) opposed.

- Proposition C -- similar to Proposition A but relating to council members -- did not pass, getting only 36.62 per cent (805) of the vote, with 63.38 per cent (1393) opposed to the measure.

- Proposition D, giving appointed department heads the right to appeal city council in the event of a termination, was not approved, with only 41.42 per cent (912) of the vote favoring the measure, and 58.58 per cent (1290) opposed to the measure.

- Proposition E, which would have extended term limits for city council members from two three-year terms to four three-year terms, failed by the widest margin, with only 28.97 per cent (640) in favor, and 71.03 per cent (1569) opposed.

Three council members' terms will expire in 2026 -- Mayor Pro Tem and At Large member Chris Harris, Ward B councilmember Rory Robertson and Ward B councilmember Gina Hicks.

ROYAL

from page 1

and reduced bonding capacity. With the decrease in bonding capacity comes a diminished ability to address the enrollment growth Royal ISD is experiencing. Additionally, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has not yet released which, if any, taxing entities would be detached had the election failed, adding uncertainty about the potential financial impact on the district.

With major local taxpayers—including

the Ross Dress for Less distribution center (\$349.6 million in taxable value), Empire West Industrial Park (\$167.2 million in taxable value), and Jordan Ranch development (\$103.5 million in taxable value)—playing a key role in district funding, the election's outcome will significantly impact RISKD's financial future,

"This decision ensures that Royal ISD can continue to access and utilize all of its current commercial tax revenue—resour-

es that are critical to funding the district's educational programs, supporting staff, and meeting the needs of a fast-growing student population," said the post.

"We are incredibly grateful for the community's strong support," said Superintendent Rick Kershner. "This vote demonstrates trust in our vision and commitment to providing high-quality educational opportunities for every Falcon student. Your voice truly made a difference."

KISD

from page 1

staff positions for the 2025-2026 school year, of which 16 are associated with the new transportation center opening next year, at an estimated cost of \$800,000 to staff the new center. The remaining 19 jobs have been requested by various department heads, at a cost of approximately \$1 million. A \$2 million "placeholder" for these positions was plugged into the preliminary budget which has already been presented, said Brian Schuss, chief human resources officer for KISD. Board secretary Mary Ellen Cuzela questioned the need for 35 more non-teaching positions in light of the district's projections of flattening student enrollment, calling the situation "concerning." The jobs include support for the two new campuses opening next year, Schuss said, and are needed due to growth in the district. Some of the positions were needed last year, but the district has been running "lean," Schuss said.

Another discussion focused on the need to purchase white fleet vehicles and police fleet vehicles for the district.

"This has been a long time coming," said KISD CFO Chris Smith.

Prior to COVID, Smith said the district

would budget for the vehicles. The freezing of the state per-pupil allotment "squeezed" the district, which then was forced to use savings from "underspending" each year to fund vehicle purchases in the spring. However, post-COVID supply chain issues meant long delays in receiving vehicles. The proposed purchase would be made using funds earned through interest on capital projects and would replace some of the current fleet, focusing on vehicles averaging 14.6 years old and with more than 111,000 miles.

The new vehicles would run more efficiently and require fewer repairs, saving time and resources for the district's maintenance staff as well as providing more reliable vehicles for the KISD police department, Smith said. The proposed \$1.8 million purchase includes ten Interceptor vehicles for KISD police.

Both matters are expected to come up for a vote at the May 12 board meeting. There were no speakers during the public comments period.

The next meeting of the board will be on May 12, and new Position 1 board member James Cross will be sworn in along with Redmon.



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in observance of
Memorial Day

Deadline for advertising and editorial copy for May 29, 2025 publication is Thursday, May 22, Noon.

**Honoring Their Sacrifice.
Remembering Their Lives. Celebrating Their Memory.**

MAYOR DISHES UP BBQ AT BRETT'S TO RAISE FUNDS FOR HERWELL



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

City of Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele is all smiles as he serves up barbecue while acting as the celebrity chef at Brett's BBQ, 25220 Kingsland, on May 1. A portion of the proceeds from restaurant sales during Thiele's time behind the counter will be donated to HerWell, a Brookshire-based nonprofit which guides survivors of unhealthy sexual relationships and family violence to break free from the fear of their past and step into healing—mentally, physically, and spiritually -- through personalized 12-month programs.

Katy community organizations receive funds from Ochoa Energy Storage Giving Program

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Ochoa Energy Storage announced April 30 that Stay Tuned for Vets, a Houston-based nonprofit dedicated to empowering Veterans through the arts, has been awarded a \$2,500 grant to expand its innovative Mental Health Program in Katy and beyond. This contribution will directly support a wide range of artistic and therapeutic activities designed to promote healing, resilience, and community among veterans and their families.

The Rotary Club of Katy's Wild West Brewfest also received a donation from the company, but further details were not available as of press time for the Katy Times.

The Stay Tuned for Vets Mental Health Program blends traditional therapeutic techniques with creative expression, offering participants opportunities to explore painting, acting, voice-over training, and equine-assisted therapy. These programs aim to improve emotional well-being, reduce isolation, and help veterans navigate the transition to civilian life.

"Our activities are vital to helping veterans process their experiences, reduce isolation, and develop new skills that may open career paths in the arts and media sectors," said Tim Stroud, Co-Founder and CEO of Stay Tuned for Vets. "This grant will support programs that benefit Texas veterans as they navigate their journey toward healing and success."

Ochoa Energy Storage awards grants to non-profit organizations or groups whose work benefits the people or institutions of Katy. According to its press release, Ochoa Energy Storage invites applications for its second-quarter 2025 Community Giving Program, a quarterly award given to non-profit and community organizations based in Katy or serving its people.

"We are committed to investing in the communities we serve, and our Community Giving Program allows us to support organizations that make a tangible difference," said Lander Karath, Director of Community Affairs at Ochoa Energy Storage. "Whether it's empowering veterans through creative healing programs or help-

ing local nonprofits give back, we're proud to contribute to initiatives that strengthen and uplift the Katy community."

Ochoa Energy Storage is a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project that will bring sustainable, reliable energy to support the Texas grid. The Ochoa Energy Storage Community Giving Program is open to organizations working to positively impact Katy and the surrounding areas. The next round of applications can be submitted by going to www.ochoaenergystorage.com/community-giving-application. The deadline is May 15, 2025.

Vesper Energy

Headquartered in Irving, Texas, Vesper Energy has collectively delivered more than 10 GW of renewable energy projects globally. Working with their customers, communities, and business partners, Vesper Energy develops, owns, and operates renewable energy projects across the United States with the goal to build a better energy infrastructure. www.vesperenergy.com/about

Juicy Joint expands with second location, offers chance to win free products for a year

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Juicy Joint is bringing its bold Halal Wagyu burgers and gourmet hot dogs to a second site, to be located at 1050 Katy Fort Bend Rd. The new food truck will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, May 10 from 12 p.m. to 5 a.m., and Sunday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 a.m., with a DJ, free food for the first two hours and the chance to win free Juicy Joint for a year.

To kick off the festivities on Saturday, May 10, there will be a ribbon cutting, DJ and for the first two hours of service from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., guests will receive a complimentary meal. Throughout the weekend, guests can enjoy 50% off the entire menu and enter to win free Juicy Joint for a year. To enter the raffle, attendees must RSVP on Eventbrite at www.eventbrite.com/e/juicy-joint-katy-grand-opening-tickets-1276234956109?aff=oddtcreator and make a purchase during the event. Winners will be announced on Instagram.

Known for introducing Houston's first Halal Wagyu burger concept, Juicy Joint has earned a loyal following with its unique flavors and playful menu. The vibrant purple and orange truck is impossible to miss, adorned with hot dog and burger decals that match its bold personality.

"Our goal is to redefine the street food scene with wagyu options that provide unforgettable flavors," said Ahmad Kilani, founder of Juicy Joint and Clutch City Cluckers. "We can't wait to share our wagyu smash burgers and gourmet hot dogs with even more food lovers in Katy."

The menu includes crowd favorites like the Mushroom Groove Deluxe burger, fea-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUICY JOINT

Juicy Joint will bring its distinctive purple and orange food truck to 1050 Fort Bend Road in Katy beginning May 10. Open from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 5 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays, the food truck will offer gourmet Halal Wagyu burgers and hot dogs.

turing Wagyu beef, Swiss cheese, crispy beef bacon, truffle mayo, sautéed mushrooms, and caramelized onions on a soft potato bun. For spice lovers, the Jalapeno Groove Sizzler offers two buttery Wagyu smash patties, melted American cheese, signature sauce, jalapenos, and shredded lettuce.

Hot dog fans can dive into the Eastside Sachi Dog, a 4oz Wagyu beef hot dog topped with crispy fried onions, gochujang sauce, chives, smoky beef bacon, and sesame. For dessert, guests can indulge in milkshake options like Buttery Caramel Bliss with Lotus Biscoff cookies or Cookies n Cream Haven with blended Oreos and Hershey's chocolate syrup.

HUMBLE GROUNDS OPENS THIRD LOCATION



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Local coffeehouse Humble Grounds has opened its third location at 2100 Cane Island Parkway in Katy, nestled behind The Oaks Restaurant. The shop, which is open 6:30 - 11 a.m. with summer hours of 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning May 26, offers "grab and go" breakfast and lunch items. Owner Becca Ryan Speed said that the additional store provides a promotion for an existing staff member and will add five to ten jobs across the company. "The community has been beyond welcoming," Speed said.

Chewy Vet Care opens in LaCenterra

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Chewy Vet Care is now open at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch in Katy, the company announced on April 22. Located in a 3,002-square-foot location at 2717 Commercial Center Blvd Suite D110 next to Trader Joe's, Chewy Vet Care Cinco Ranch is the second of several locations to open in Texas.

"Chewy Vet Care is now open for business! We celebrated the veterinary practice's grand opening at their Open House 'Pawty,' welcoming nearly 150 local pet parents for tours, treats and personalized giveaways," said Imani Webster, marketing manager at LaCenterra. "LaCenterra is proud to be a pet-friendly shopping center, offering amenities like drinking fountains and waste stations for our guests' furry friends. With the addition of Chewy Vet Care, LaCenterra has strengthened its position as a one-stop shop for all of our shoppers' pet needs."

Chewy Vet Care offers a full range of services, from routine check-ups to urgent care

and surgery. Pet parents can expect:

- Seamless access to care: Through an online pet portal, pet parents can access their pet's medical records, personalized care plans, vet visit reports, prescriptions, and schedule appointments 24/7.

- Care your pet will love: Chewy Vet Care's team of experienced, passionate veterinary professionals is dedicated to addressing each pet's needs and guiding pet parents through every step of their care.

- A thoughtfully designed space: With curved lines instead of harsh corners, separate waiting areas for dogs and cats, refreshments for pets and their humans, and dedicated comfort rooms for sensitive moments, the practice is intentionally designed to feel calm, inviting and stress-free.

Chewy Vet Care is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information or an appointment, visit the Chewy Vet Care Cinco Ranch website at www.chewy.com/vet-care/vet-near-me/tx/katy/2717-commercial-center-blvd-suite-d110.



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KATYTIMES.COM

Katy Christian Chamber becomes Texas Christian Chamber

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

After five years and four months of operation, the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce is expanding its operations across Texas – with a new name to match its new mission.

Chamber president Erica Scardino made the official announcement to members attending the organization's monthly networking breakfast on April 25 at Grace Fellowship Church, 2655 S. Mason in Katy. "It's graduation day," said Scardino of the group's last gathering as the Katy Christian Chamber, before revealing the organization's new logo.

Effective May 1, the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce will officially transition to become the Texas Christian Chamber of Commerce, Scardino said. The move, which started earlier this year, follows weeks of consultation with an advisory group composed of local members. A letter to current members notifying them of the change went out on May 1, and letting them know

that they are "grandfathered in" to the new statewide chamber.

Scardino said that the Texas Chamber would concentrate on the "greater commerce triangle" area of Texas, to include Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth, serving members with state-level partnerships.

The expansion will allow the chamber to serve more people, Scardino said. A major statewide launch will take place in January 2026, but the new chamber is doing a "soft opening" for local members this month. An invitation-only ticketed reception will be held at Katy Gardens at 1040 Schlipf Road in Katy on May 8 from 5 to 7 p.m., where more details will be revealed about the plans for the Texas Christian Chamber, Scardino said.

As part of its expansion plans, the new Texas Chamber of Commerce will now have its own offices, to be located in its own wing with its own entrance at the Katy Gardens office complex. Scardino said that the new space, which is being donat-



Erica Scardino, president of the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce, announces the organization's transition to its new identity as the Texas Christian Chamber of Commerce at the group's networking breakfast at Grace Fellowship Church, 2655 S. Mason in Katy on April 25. The logo for the expanded organization, which will primarily serve the Houston, San Antonio-Austin and Dallas-Fort Worth areas, is shown at right.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

ed to the chamber, will have offices, a conference room, an outdoor event space and an indoor ballroom. It is expected to be ready for occupancy by mid-summer, she said.

The chamber is also partnering with KSBJ Radio KSBJ and the chamber will

co-produce the upcoming Fajita Fest on May 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Clark Henry Park, 16327 Lakeview Drive in Jersey Village, where the Texas Christian Chamber of Commerce will make its official debut for the community.

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Katy ISD, PIE and VIPS give salute to volunteers

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Hundreds of Katy ISD campus volunteers, along with district officials and community leaders, crowded the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy on May 2 for the district's annual salute to its volunteers. Visitors were greeted by the Katy High School Drumline and welcomed by mascots from many of the schools.

The breakfast event - themed "Rise" -- was hosted by the Volunteers in Public Schools executive board and the Katy ISD Partners in Education Department and honored "Volunteers of the Year" from each Katy ISD campus. Volunteers also provided custom decorations supporting the "Rise" theme, from hot air balloons in the entry way to unique centerpieces at each table.

Following a welcome from Superintendent Ken Gregorski, Sarah McLeod, chair of the Volunteers in Public Schools executive board, said that district volunteers contributed over 900,000 hours of volunteer time to the district, at an estimated value of \$13.5 million.

The keynote address was delivered by local Fox 26 news anchor Rashi Vats, a Houston native who is also a Katy ISD parent and community



Sarah McLeod, chair of the Volunteers in Public Schools executive board, and Jamie Banowitz (right), incoming VIPS Executive Chair for 2025-2026, thank local volunteers who contributed over 900,000 hours of volunteer time to the Katy Independent School District, at an estimated value of \$13.5 million. The annual salute to district volunteers was held May 2 at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

The keynote speaker for Katy ISD's Volunteers in Public Schools celebration, held May 2 at the Merrell Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane in Katy, was Rashi Vats, a prime-time Fox 26 news anchor and community advocate who is also a KISD parent. The Houston native spoke on "Learning to Rise through Service."

advocate. Vats spoke on "Learning to Rise through Service," urging volunteers to find their passion; she also related details of her favorite news story, which involved the Katy community coming together in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

The celebration also included performances

from the Tompkins High School SoundFX, who sang "Defying Gravity," and from the Memorial Parkway Junior High School Mixed Choir, with their moving rendition of "Rise Up." Katy ISD cheerleaders and mascots also performed to "Shake It Off."

Taylor HS student competes in National Quiz Bowl

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The top single player competition for quiz bowl, National Academic Quiz Tournaments' Individual Player National Championship Tournament was held April 6, in Rosemont, Illinois, with Jake Giem, a student from Katy ISD's James E. Taylor High School competing in a 260-player field. Thirty-two states, the District of Columbia, and Guatemala were represented in the seventh championship of its kind.

"Jake has been invited to attend the National Championship Tournament in Rosemont, Illinois as an individual participant," a spokesperson for Katy ISD said in an April 4 statement. "Players are invited to attend the National Championship Tournament based on their individual scores at local tournaments."

This quiz bowl event is extraordinary in that it is an individual competition, without the support of teammates. Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for teams of students. Quiz bowl teams use buzzers and answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports, and popular culture. Quiz bowl matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Participation in quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests.

The competition day began with seeding rounds to determine position for qualification. After five seeding rounds, the top players competed in an elimination round to determine the overall winner. In addition, players who performed well in specific academic categories were honored for their performance.

Tournament results posted at <http://www.naqt.com/go/stats/16005> showed that Giem placed 207th in the competition.

The Individual Player National Championship Tournament was first held in 1918, and the 2020 championships were not held due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This year's tournament will be contested after Saturday's Intercollegiate Championship Tournament, where top college teams from the US and Canada will compete for the title.

About NAQT

National Academic Quiz Tournaments, founded in 1996, organizes the premier middle school, high school, and college quiz bowl championships in North America. In addition to its national championships, NAQT provides questions to invitational tournaments, league championships, and TV shows throughout the year. NAQT operates out of the Twin Cities and Kansas City, but its members mentor coaches, host tournaments and share their expertise across the U.S.

OUT OF THE OFFICE



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY ISD

WoodCreek Elementary Principal Ronnie Mosher spent Monday, April 28, working from the roof of his school during the day's spring party, sponsored by the school's PTA. The school community raised \$81,000, exceeding its goal of \$70,000, for the school year. WoodCreek Elementary is located at 1155 Woodcreek Bend Lane in Katy.

7 KISD students among first National Merit Scholarship winners announced

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On April 22, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) released the names of the first group of winners in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 830 distinguished high school seniors have won corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarship awards financed by about 124 corporations, company foundations, and other business organizations. Also included in this category are awards supported by several foundations and individual donors who have established endowments with NMSC.

Here are the winners from the greater Katy area:

- Anna Zamastyanina, Jordan High School, Fulshear, winner of the Occidental Petroleum Scholarship. Probable career field: biochemical engineering.
- Grace Wu, James E. Taylor High School, Katy, winner of the Chevron Scholarship. Probable career field: law.
- Brian Y. Chen, Seven Lakes High School, Katy, winner of the Aspen Technology Inc. Scholarship. Probable career field: electrical engineering.
- Jaden T. Cherian, Jordan High School, Fulshear, winner of the Apache Corporation Scholarship. Probable career field: pharmacy.
- Eesha K. Kodavatikanti, Obra D. Tompkins High School, Katy, winner of the

Insperty Scholarship. Probable career field: medicine.

- David S. Lu, Seven Lakes High School, Katy, winner of the Chevron Scholarship. Probable career field: computer science.
- Krish P. Shah, Seven Lakes High School, Katy, winner of the Chevron Scholarship. Probable career field: ecology.

Scholars were selected from students who advanced to the Finalist level in the National Merit Scholarship competition and met criteria of their scholarship sponsors. Corporate sponsors provide National Merit Scholarships for Finalists who are children of their employees, who are residents of communities the company serves, or who plan to pursue college majors or careers the sponsor wishes to encourage.

Most of these awards are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide annual stipends that range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per year. Some provide a single payment between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Recipients can use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university of their choice.

Funding for these National Merit Scholarships is provided by corporate organizations that represent nearly all sectors of American industry. Sponsors from the business community have underwritten awards offered in all 70 competitions, expending or committing nearly \$882 million to support the intellectual development of the nation's scholastically talented youth.

WGU announces scholarship for educators during National Teachers Week

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

In honor of National Teachers Week, accredited, online Western Governors University (WGU) is celebrating the invaluable contributions of educators across the nation by announcing on May 1 the WGU Loves Teachers Scholarship, valued at up to \$4,000. This scholarship supports both aspiring educators and current teachers who are looking to advance their careers and make a greater impact in classrooms across the state, the organization said in their press release.

WGU, the largest conferrer of education degrees in the United States, is committed to removing barriers to higher education and expanding access to affordable, flexible degree programs, the release said. The WGU Loves Teachers Scholarship is open to new students and returning graduates enrolling in any of WGU's 30 plus bachelor's and master's degree programs through the School of Education.

"Teachers play an essential role in helping students and communities thrive," said Dr. Linda Battles, Regional Vice President, WGU South. "At WGU, we believe in the power of education to change lives—and that begins with investing in those who dedicate their careers to shaping the future. This scholarship is one way we're supporting educators as they work toward their professional goals."

The need for qualified educators is particularly critical in Texas, where approximately 50% of newly hired teachers lack certification and classroom experience, highlighting a significant shortage of qualified educators. WGU's competency-based, online programs offer a flexible and affordable pathway for individuals seeking to enter or advance in the teaching profession. By providing scholarships and support, WGU aims to address teacher shortages and enhance the quality of education across the nation.

The scholarship awards \$1,000 per six-month term, renewable for up to four terms and is designed to make licensure and advanced education more accessible for teachers in all 50 states.

To learn more or to apply, visit wgu.edu/wgulovesteachers.

About WGU

Western Governors University, the nation's leading nonprofit, online university, is transforming higher education to be more student-centric, affordable, accessible to all and relevant to the workforce. Established in 1997 by 19 U.S. governors, WGU creates life-changing pathways to opportunity for those underserved by traditional institutions — working adults, historically underrepresented communities and a diverse, growing number of learners looking for a flexible, online model that better suits their life circumstances. WGU's competency-based education model allows students to demonstrate mastery as they progress through programs at their own pace.

Accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, WGU operates in all 50 states and offers more than 80 programs in health, education, technology and business. WGU serves more than 185,000 students nationwide, with more than 377,000 alumni, and has awarded more than 415,000 degrees. Learn more at wgu.edu.

ROYAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION HOLDS ANNUAL 'DENIM AND DIAMONDS' FUNDRAISER



Royal Education Foundation's "Denim and Diamonds Casino Night" was held May 2 at Hemi Hideout, 1172 Wilpitz Road in Brookshire. The event, which featured a variety of casino games, live entertainment, food and drinks, and live and silent auctions, funds annual grant awards to Royal ISD. Since organizing in 2016, the foundation has provided grants for unfunded and underfunded educational opportunities, providing over \$80,000 in grants for projects this academic year, including robotics, math and literacy promotion, athletic equipment, interactive labs, laser engraving, theater supplies, and symphony field trips.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERREL ROGERS

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT ANALYST in Katy, TX. Req. Bach's in Ind. Eng., Constr. Mngt., or Proj. Mngt., or foreign equiv. Mail resumes to: RJ Contractors and Roof, Corp. dba Bros Roofing Supply. 25807 Westheimer Pkwy. Ste. 427. Katy TX 77494.

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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, Wednesday, June 11, 2025**, 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 West Recreation Center – Public Package"** for Harris County Municipal Utility District 165, Harris County, Texas"

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: parking lot and utilities, concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, drainage, playground, furnishings, lighting and electrical, 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: 965 3505 1642 and use Passcode: 054520 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/96535051642?pwd=AMfBS6l4tXzh5alMEYHrDrDXQF3m4.1>

Bids received after the closing time will not be considered. A **NON-MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held by teleconference on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** Local Time. To join call Telephone Number 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 956 4528 2864 and use Passcode: 816510 or <https://swagroup.zoom.us/j/95645282864?pwd=6wAiGQLGAYgWamsyUjUN8VAulF8L1>

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.

KATY ISD Invites Private Non-Profit Schools

Private non-profit schools serving students who reside in Katy ISD attendance zones have the option to participate in federal grant programs. If the non-profit school wishes to participate, a consultation meeting can be scheduled to provide an overview of current federal programs (Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV) and other services. Non-profit schools interested in participating in these federal grant programs for the 2025-2026 school year should contact Colleen Wronski at 281-396-2243 to schedule a consultation meeting to discuss programs and eligibility requirements.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING "CITY PARKS AND ENTRANCE FEATURES"

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND MOWING OF **"CITY PARKS AND ENTRANCE FEATURES"** IN THE CITY OF KATY. CLEARLY-MARKED, SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493, UNTIL **2:00 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. A BID MAY BE AWARDED AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025. **EACH PROPOSAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED CHECK DRAWN UPON A NATIONAL OR STATE BANK IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID AMOUNT PAYABLE TO CITY OF KATY, OR A BID BOND IN THE SAME AMOUNT FROM A SURETY COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN TEXAS AS A GUARANTEE THAT THE BIDDER WILL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AND EXECUTE BONDS WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER NOTICE OF AWARD.**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PACKETS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM. THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew
City Secretary
City of Katy, Texas

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Katy Development Authority, Attention Mr. Jonas W. Conner, President, Board of Directors, will be received at City of Katy City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas 77493, until **3:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, May 29, 2025**, and then publicly opened and read for **"Katy Hockley Road Widening Project"** for Katy Development Authority, of Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes the reconstruction and widening of Katy Hockley Road from Morton Road to Clay Road. The distance of the street reconnection is approximately 5,100 linear feet. The roadway reconstruction involves improvements to widen the existing two-lane asphalt roadway to a four-lane undivided reinforced concrete roadway with concrete sidewalks along one side of the road. The project also involves street signage and pavement markings, installation of underground storm sewer boxes, drainage swales and inlets, and replacement of existing water lines with a new 16-inch and 12-inch diameter water line.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON-MANDATORY VIRTUAL** pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. local time via Microsoft Teams**. Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **NOT MANDATORY**.

Information for joining the Microsoft Teams meeting is given below:

Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 216 367 804 136 0
Passcode: LV6dd6p8

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

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

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.

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 Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Thursday, May 29, 2025, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 for "Cinco Ranch Boulevard Trail Crossing 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: 791 632 025#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Construct approximately 900LF of 6" thick sidewalk (10-12' width), 252LF of 1'-1.5' tall cast in place concrete type C-1 curb edge and 614LF of safety handrailing, 2,007 SY of 5" reinforced concrete slope paving and relocation of 153SY of 18" RIPRAP in existing Willow Fork Drainage Ditch.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time at the office of the Engineer, LJA Engineering, 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: 662 165 250#.

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 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 twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the bid opening.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, Suite 120, Katy, Texas 77449 or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers at <https://www.civcastusa.com>.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids 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 <https://bids.lja.com>. Bidders must register and obtain bidding documents on this website for the required payment amount (if any) to submit an electronic bid.

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.

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 **Air Piping Improvements at Treatment Unit 3** project, until **3:00 pm Thursday, May 29, 2025**. Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud in the City of Katy Council Chambers. Any bids received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project involves the installation of new air piping at the City's wastewater treatment plant located at 25839 Katy Freeway in the City of Katy. The project also includes all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals required for the project.

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**.
- 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 acceptable to the Owner. Owner reserves the right to award the contract at any time within ninety (90) days after bid opening.

A **Virtual Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** will be held to review the scope of work. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 2:00 pm**.

Information for joining the virtual meeting is given below:

Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 933 918 651 460 28
Passcode: Nv9Z66

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. 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.

First Publication: 5-8-2025
Second Publication: 5-15-2025

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Katy ISD Provides Evaluations for Students with Suspected Disabilities

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

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

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

Katy Independent School District
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 Katy, TX 77494

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

NOTICE TO BIDDERS WET DIGESTER SOLIDS HAUL AND DISPOSAL

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR REMOVING, TRANSPORTING, AND LEGALLY DISPOSING OF WET DIGESTER SOLIDS FOR THEIR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027. SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL **2:15 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM.

THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT BIDS THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew
 City Secretary
 City of Katy, Texas

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SLUDGE CAKE HAUL AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL

THE CITY OF KATY, TEXAS, IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR SLUDGE CAKE HAUL AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL FOR THEIR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027. SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, KATY CITY HALL, 901 AVENUE C, KATY, TEXAS 77493 UNTIL **2:00 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025**, AT WHICH TIME BIDS WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ. SPECIFICATIONS AND THE BID PROPOSAL FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL REQUEST AT BIDS@CITYOFKATY.COM.

THE CITY OF KATY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL TECHNICALITIES, AND TO ACCEPT BIDS THAT IT DEEMS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO IT.

Becky L. McGrew
 City Secretary
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Doug Foster (left) will become the new Athletic Director for Royal ISD, the district announced on May 2. Foster and his wife Dawn moved to the Pattison area from Corpus Christi. PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ISD

Royal ISD welcomes Doug Foster as district's new athletic director

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Royal ISD has hired Doug Foster as the district's new Athletic Director. "With a passion for serving students and a proven track record in athletic leadership across multiple Texas districts, Coach Foster brings a student-first mindset and strong vision to Royal's growing athletic programs," a district spokesperson said in the May 2 press release.

"Coach Foster's 'student-first' mindset, deep experience, and commitment to building strong teams make him a perfect fit for Royal ISD," said Superintendent Rick Kershner. "We are thrilled to welcome him to Falcon Nation and look forward to the positive impact

he'll have on our students, programs, and community."

When asked about his "why," Foster answered with one simple, powerful word: "family." His guiding principle is ensuring that everything within the athletic department serves one purpose — serving children. His favorite quote — "The strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack" — reflects his belief in the power of teamwork and community.

Coach Foster plans to contribute to the district's mission of "Investing in Our Tomorrow" by focusing on the holistic development of student athletes—building character, instilling discipline, and preparing

them for success beyond the field. His goals for the upcoming year include moving the athletic program forward in every way possible, ensuring excellence both on and off the field.

When he's not leading the charge for Royal Athletics, Coach Foster can be found doing what he loves most—fishing (or as he likes to call it, catching). Foster brings experience from multiple Texas school districts, including Corpus Christi ISD, Lamar Consolidated ISD, Poteet ISD, Rockport ISD, and Bellville ISD.

"His hands-on leadership style and deep roots in athletics make him a strong addition to the Royal ISD team," said a district spokesperson.

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