



Kennedy’s name obscured at performing arts center

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Abilene Reporter-News

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AISD welcomes students for the 2026-2027 school year



Misty Caddell, the assistant principal at Purcell STEM Academy, welcomes back a familiar student on the first day of school Wednesday. This is also the elementary school’s first year as a science, technology, engineering and math campus.
RONALD W. ERDRICH/REPORTER-NEWS

Abilene’s weekly restaurant inspections

Lauren Dossey
Abilene Reporter-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The city of Abilene Environmental Health Division regularly monitors restaurants and food establishments for compliance with state food safety requirements. Frequent inspections are essential in preventing the spread of foodborne illnesses through contamination and improper handling, storage and sanitation. Scores for retail food establishments, food stores, mobile food units and school and daycare establishments inspected the week of Aug. 10-14 are listed below. Disclaimer: On any given day, an establishment may have fewer or more violations than noted in its most recent inspection. An inspection conducted on any given day may not be representative of the overall, long-term conditions at the establishment. A few more recent follow-up inspections may not be included here.

- Perfect scores**
- Dollar General**, 1091 N. Judge Ely Blvd.
 - DK**, 5150 U.S. Highway 277
 - Dollar General**, 2017 Ambler Ave.
 - Residence Inn Abilene**, 1641 Musgrave Blvd.
 - Dollar General**, 5401 S. Seventh St.

- High to moderate scores**
- El Fenix Cafe**, 3241 S. First St., Suite 12: 99
 - Sweet Thyme Kitchen**, 1246 N. Sixth St.: 99
 - Dairy Queen**, 5110 U.S. Highway 277: 98
 - Casa Herrera**, 4109 Ridgemont Drive: 98
 - Coco Palms Tanning and Smoothies**, 1473 S. Danville Drive: 97
 - 5th Street Diner**, 2501 Maple St.: 97
 - Walmart Subway**, 1650 Texas Highway 35: 97

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Amazon picks Austin as the site of new multibillion-dollar robotics plant

Mateo Rosiles
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Amazon has selected Austin, Texas, as the site for a multibillion-dollar robotics manufacturing facility. The Seattle-based company announced through Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s office on Aug. 19 that the new facility is expected to create 300 to 500 manufacturing and engineering jobs. “We congratulate Amazon on their expanded investment in Texas. With the best business climate in the nation, easy access to global markets, and a deep pipeline of skilled talent, Texas offers advanced manufacturers and technology leaders unmatched resources to innovate and expand,” Abbott said in a statement. Since 2010, Amazon says it has invested more than \$100 billion in Texas, including infrastructure and compensation for its 86,000 full- and part-time employees in Texas.

Other Amazon investments in Texas

- Amazon’s Texas footprint includes:
- 50 fulfillment and sortation centers.
 - 28 delivery stations.
 - 13 Rural Super Rural delivery stations.
 - Five Prime Now fulfillment centers.
 - Four Amazon Pharmacy locations.
 - Three Prime Air Drone Delivery



Amazon logo outside an Amazon warehouse in Manchester, Britain, on Oct. 28, 2025. PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS

- centers.
- One Amazon Air Hub.
 - 35 Whole Foods Market locations across the state
 - 43 Texas energy projects — including wind and solar farms.
- Amazon Vice President of Worldwide Economic Development Holly Sullivan said the company chose Austin for its workforce, strong community

partnerships and the city’s several notable universities. “We’re proud to deepen our commitment to this city and the state of Texas,” Sullivan said. *Mateo Rosiles is the Texas Connect reporter for USA TODAY and its regional papers in Texas. Got a news tip for him? Email him at mrosiles@usatoday-co.com.*

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