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Buildings under construction at Oracle's Project Jupiter data center complex are seen in this drone image on Aug. 27 in Santa Teresa, N.M. PHOTOS BY OMAR ORNELAS/EL PASO TIMES

Oracle data center work continues amid court fight

Justices review challenges to well, permits for Santa Teresa project

Vic Kolenc

El Paso Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Construction of the Oracle data center complex in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, an El Paso suburb, is forging ahead amid challenges that will be reviewed by the New Mexico Supreme Court.

The high court set a Sept. 2 deadline for New Mexico officials to respond to two environmental groups' requests to stop use of a water well for the site and slow the air-permit process for the project's planned power plant.

Water was still being used for dirt work on Aug. 27 when an *El Paso Times* reporter was viewing ongoing construction at the site. An Oracle spokesperson did not respond to an emailed question about the site's water source while the use of the water well is temporarily halted.

The Supreme Court Aug. 23 paused use of the well and also paused air-permit proceedings until it reviews the state officials' responses and makes a decision on requests from the Center for Biological Diversity and the New Energy Economy group.

The New Mexico Environment Department had set a Sept. 14 public hearing to receive evidence for Project Jupiter's required air permit. That hearing may be postponed.

In a statement, Oracle officials said the Austin company and its project partners remain committed to developing Project Jupiter responsibly and "abiding by every applicable regulatory process."

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A water truck sprays water at the construction site of Oracle's Project Jupiter data center complex on Aug. 27 in Santa Teresa, N.M.

Cat in the Hat trend raises Texas school security fears

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In these times of war, economic struggle and uncertainty, social media has given rise to something new to potentially fear — "The Cat in the Hat" viral hoax threat.

The El Paso Police Department has not seen any known credible threats related to the "Cat in the Hat" trend, which in recent days has spread across the United States, police spokeswoman Detective Judy Oviedo said on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

The Canutillo Independent School District in El Paso said in a statement that it was aware of the "Cat in the Hat" trend and there had been no credible threats toward any Canutillo school. Other El Paso school districts had not publicly reported any problems.

What is the Cat in the Hat trend?

The TikTok phenomenon — which has spread into Texas — features potentially menacing messages along with images of a live-action version of the beloved Dr. Seuss character from the 1957 children's book "The Cat in the Hat."

In the classic book, The Cat in the Hat is not evil, but is a mischievous troublemaker who cleans up the mess at the end. "I know it is wet and the sun is not sunny, but we can have lots of good fun that is funny," the Cat says.

In the trend, a person dressed as "The Cat in the Hat" is shown lurking outside windows, visiting local landmarks and standing or walking around at night in videos that apparently first emerged in the United Kingdom and Ireland, according to a CNN report on Aug. 25. Some of the videos were AI generated and appear to be in jest, while others were described as "creepy."

'The Cat in the Hat' trend arrives in Texas

The hoax resulted in the additional police presence at schools in the George West Independent School District as a precaution on Monday, Aug. 31, in the small Texas town of George West, located between San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

A "Cat in the Hat" video circulating on social media included a reference to "coming to George West next." The video was later determined to be a hoax and there was no threat to students, staff or schools, George West

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Historic GOP convention takes center stage in Dallas

Mateo Rosiles

USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Texas is only days away from hosting the first-ever Republican National Committee Midterm Convention in Dallas.

Despite the buzz, information has been sparse as Republicans and President Donald Trump look to use the event to shore up the party's voters in 35 key races across the nation, including the Texas Senate race.

Recent polling over July and August

has put Democratic state Rep. James Talarico statistically tied with Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in the state's U.S. Senate race.

Here's what we know about the historic convention happening in Dallas.

When is the Republican midterm convention?

The convention will be a two-day event, rather than the four-day convention held during presidential election

cycles.

It will be on Sept. 9 and 10 at the American Airlines Center in downtown Dallas.

Will President Trump speak at the midterm convention?

Yes, according to the RNC.

Vice President JD Vance is set to speak at 9 p.m. CT on the first night of the convention, Sept. 9.

President Trump will speak at 9 p.m

CT. on the second night, Sept. 10, for an hour, but will be there for both nights.

Are tickets still available for the midterm convention?

It wasn't immediately clear whether tickets were still available, but those interested can go to gopconvention.com to fill out a form to register for tickets.

Attendees may register for up to six

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