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# NORTHEAST NEWS



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VOL. 44, NO. 29 TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

See Page 8 for complete information

## NEWS NOTES

### HCDH to open COVID-19 testing center at Garcia Middle School

The Harris County Department of Health will open a COVID-19 testing center at Garcia Middle School beginning Monday, July 27. Testing will take place from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Garcia Middle School is located at 11000 Roslyn Rd. Testing will be done on a drive-through basis, however, individuals must register ahead of time to be tested. Register at the Harris County Health dept website: <https://covcheck.hctx.net>

### Greater Pure Light Testing Site

Pastor Darryl W. Broussard and Greater Pure Light Church have partnered with Harris County Public Health to offer FREE COVID-19 TESTING. Monday-Wednesday July 27 - July 29 from 8 am - 3 pm, 12330 Vickery Street, Houston, TX 77039. Registration is preferred. For more information please call 281-987-1980 ext 2.

## Special COVID-19 funding for Lone Star College students

HOUSTON (July 21, 2020) – Lone Star College students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can find financial help this fall thanks to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. “This special funding is specifically intended for students who have been impacted by the coronavirus,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. Students must be enrolled in an approved degree program and meet Satisfactory Academic

Progress standards to be eligible for the CARES Act emergency funding. “These funds can assist with food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care,” said Head. Visit [LoneStar.edu/CARESAct](http://LoneStar.edu/CARESAct) to learn more and apply for fall semester CARES Act assistance. In addition to CARES Act funding, LSC students can also apply for a variety of financial assistance packages including grants, scholarships and work-



Lone Star College students can apply for CARES Act assistance to help with food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.

study programs aid. LSC Financial Aid representatives are available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist via email and live chat. “Lone Star College is taking student safety seriously and is working hard to ensure students have access to education that will make a real difference in their lives,” said Head. Registration for fall classes is now open. See COVID Funding, Page 2

## Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo: Delay ‘In-Person Instruction in Schools’ until October or later

Harris County, Texas - July 20, 2020, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Executive Director of Harris County Public Health Dr. Umair Shah today sent a letter to school district superintendents across the County outlining a series of recommendations schools should take to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, staff, and the community as a whole, including delayed opening

for in-person instruction. In the letter, Judge Hidalgo and Dr. Shah strongly urged schools to follow new Texas Education Agency provisions allowing an 8-week online instruction waiver, halting in-person instruction until at least October. The letter also requests school districts make accommodations for remote learning, cancel all extracurricular activities

until in-person instruction resumes, and for written plans to be developed and shared with parents and community members regarding steps that will be taken to protect health and safety on campus. “Today, our community remains in the midst of a severe and uncontrolled spread of COVID-19. The fastest way to reopen our schools over the long haul

## Aldine ISD to Distribute Computers to Students

The Aldine Independent School District is providing Chromebooks to students that need one just in time for the first day of school, August 17. The district’s re-entry plan, Return to Learn, has all students learning virtually from home for at least the first three weeks of the 2020-21 school year. Currently, Aldine’s plan allows a return to physical classrooms on Tuesday, September 8, if their parents or legal guardians have chosen the on-campus learning model. Students on the learning at home model will continue to receive virtual instruction.

Students who have chosen the on-campus instruction model will need to use a computer for in-class support, projects, assignments, and resources. “We recognize that many of our families do not have a computer at home. We will provide support, projects, assignments, and resources. See AISD computers, p. 3



See In-person Schools, Page 3

## Houston Community College announces plans for Fall 2020

Offering Four Safe Flexible Learning Options  
HOUSTON, TX (June 16, 2020) – Houston Community College (HCC) announces the launch of nextLearning, a new approach to education that provides various in person and online formats that allow for safe, flexible learning options for the Fall 2020 semester. Students have the opportunity to choose from the following four different options: Online Anytime, Online on a Schedule, Flex Campus, and Lab-Based Courses. The Online Anytime option gives students the

flexibility to take classes online at any time. These are traditional online classes that do not have in-person meeting requirements. The Online on a Schedule option gives students the ability to take classes online at the scheduled class time that they select when enrolling. Students never come to campus, but log into their class on the scheduled dates and times using a video conferencing platform. The Flex Campus option allows students to enroll in classes which they have the choice to attend either online or in person at the scheduled dates and

times. Faculty will teach at the scheduled time and students electing to participate online will use video conferencing to attend class. There will be a limited number of students allowed to participate in class face-to-face, which will be based on social distancing requirements. Lab-Based Courses, which are the skills-based, hands-on labs previously offered, will still be held in person but with smaller section sizes to allow for social distancing. Additional sections have been added. See HCC Fall Plans, Page 2

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### Community colleges play an important role in the Texas economy

HOUSTON (July 23, 2020) – The Texas Comptroller's office released a study on the economic impact community colleges have on the state's economy. The study found a community college education delivers good returns on students' commitments of time and tuition.

"Community colleges are a great value, any way you look at it," said Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar in a statement. "They're a low-cost way for students to experience higher education, usually in a setting close to home. That's a winning combination." Hegar began his own higher education at a community college.

A study conducted by Emsi revealed Lone Star College adds nearly \$3 billion annually to the Houston economy with higher student incomes and increased business productivity. LSC also expands the Texas tax base by about \$2.1 billion in future tax revenue and government savings. Emsi is a leading provider of economic impact studies.

The Texas Comptroller report noted community colleges offer students accessibility to higher education at an affordable price. Community colleges also serve as a springboard to a bachelor's degree – 34% of four-year college graduates had transferred at least 30 credit hours from a community college.

"We are the first choice for tens of thousands of college students in our com-



The Texas Comptroller's office released a study that found education at a community college like Lone Star College delivers good returns on students' commitments of time and tuition.

munity," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "Today, more Texas students attend community colleges than a four-year university."

The Emsi study noted LSC transfer students will save \$16,058 in tuition and fees by attending LSC for the first two years of their postsecondary education. LSC saw 16,309 students transfer to a four-year university in 2018 – 2019, the most recent data available.

In all, Texas community colleges reported revenues of more than \$5.3 billion in fiscal 2018, which produced \$4.5 billion in additional economic activity by businesses and households for a total output of more than \$9.8 billion annually.

The Texas Comptroller study concluded community colleges contribute billions of dollars to the state's economic output

and provide Texas students with a low-cost opportunity to learn in-demand skills while preparing others for further education at a four-year university.

Lone Star College offers high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education to 99,000 students each semester. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area with an annual economic impact of nearly \$3 billion. LSC consists of seven colleges, 10 centers, two university centers, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit [LoneStar.edu](http://LoneStar.edu).

### Aldine ISD Trustees re-name AEC in honor of former Assistant Superintendent of Administration Ken Knippel

During his 39 years in Aldine, Ken Knippel worked diligently to have the district build a new alternative education facility. That dream became a reality in 2015 when Aldine voters overwhelmingly passed a \$798 million bond referendum.

Part of the bond package included building the Aldine Education Center, a facility Mr. Knippel advocated for during his tenure as Assistant Superintendent of Administration. Mr. Knippel saw his dream become a reality when ACE opened in August of 2018.

Unfortunately, Mr. Knippel passed away in February of 2020, but Aldine ISD Trustees honored his legacy during their July 21 Board meeting when Trustees unanimously voted to re-name the Aldine Education Center (AEC) after Mr. Knippel. The school will now be known as the Kenneth R. Knippel Education Center.

Dr. Viola M. Garcia, chairperson of the Schools Names Committee, made the recommendation to re-name AEC after the long-time Aldine ISD employee. Joining Dr. Garcia on the Schools Name Committee were Board Vice-President Rose Avalos and Board Member Steve Mead.

Mr. Knippel devoted 39 years to Aldine ISD and was a respected educator and leader across the district. Mr. Knippel served as a teacher, coach and as an assistant principal at Aldine Middle School and MacArthur High School. He served as principal of Dunn Elementary School, Parker Intermediate School (which he opened), Nimitz Ninth Grade School (which he also opened) and Nimitz High School. He completed his Aldine career as the Assistant Superintendent of Administration, a position he held for 13 years.

Mr. Knippel was instrumental in seeing AEC become a reality and it was one of the many major accomplishments he achieved during his 39-year career.

Mr. Knippel is survived by his wife Susan and daughters Katherine (Katie), son-in-law Andres Gomez and granddaughter Alexandra, daughter Emily and son-in-law Stephen Lopez and daughter Amanda.

Mrs. Knippel thanked the Board for re-naming AEC in her husband's honor, something he would have been extremely proud of, she said.

"The AEC was a very special place to Ken," Mrs. Knippel said. "He always



Former Aldine ISD Assistant Superintendent of Administration Ken Knippel poses with his wife Susan and Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney at his retirement reception in May 2019.

wanted students and the teachers, administrators, and staff who serve them to have the best environment and resources available to help students be successful. Ken would be overjoyed to be considered for such a great honor. We are very grateful and deeply touched that the board recommended Ken for this prestigious recognition. Please accept our sincere appreciation. Thank You!"

Although they worked together for a short time, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney said she knew Mr. Knippel was a special person.

"I cherished the time I spent with your husband," Dr. Goffney said to Mrs. Knippel. "His legacy extends beyond the leadership here. He impacted thousands of lives."

Board President Paul Shanklin said Mr. Knippel's absence has left a void in Aldine.

"Ken, you are truly, truly missed," Mr. Shanklin said. "Ken was a straight shooter."

Dr. Garcia, the longest tenured Trustee, said Mr. Knippel impacted so many students' and Aldine employees' lives over his 39 years in the district.

"There are so many employees who Ken mentored. Ken had a huge impact on the district," she said.

Ms. Avalos, who worked with Ken at MacArthur High School when both served as assistant principals, became a bit emotional when she spoke of her long-time friend.

"I think you all know how much Ken meant to me," she said, fighting back tears. "We grew up together and he made me laugh. We sure could use him now. He has left an amazing legacy."

Mr. Mead agreed with Ms. Avalos concerning the legacy Mr. Knippel left behind in Aldine.

"Ken was a great man and a great leader," Mr. Mead said. "We sure do miss him."

ACE Principal Gerald Schattle, whose family was influenced by Mr. Knippel, was elated with the news of the name change.

"Getting this news was awesome. I'm excited about the renaming of AEC to the Kenneth R. Knippel Education Center," Schattle said. "The Schattle Family has been connected with Mr. Knippel since he was principal at Dunn Elementary. He was my brother Jamie's principal from elementary through high school. For me and my dad, he was our principal when we were teachers at Nimitz High School."

"Mr. Knippel gave me my first teaching job in 2005 and then called me when I earned my position as principal at AEC. Mr. Knippel was more than a boss he was a mentor and pushed me and everyone to the highest standard. Being the first principal of KEC is a highlight in my career as an educator," he said.

Tom Cowell, who serves as Aldine ID's Director of Safe and Secure Schools and another long-time friend and colleague of Mr. Knippel's, was also happy to hear about the name change.

"I was thrilled when I learned AEC was renamed the Kenneth R. Knippel Education Center," Colwell said. "It is a truly deserving honor for a former district leader who made such an impact in Aldine. Ken had such a positive influence on so many people in the district – employees, students, parents, and community members – for so many years. It's tremendous that his name will now adorn the building that he was instrumental in having built."

A date for a formal dedication ceremony will be announced at a later date.

### Patricia Rodríguez and Crystal Watson named new school assistant Superintendents

Patricia Rodríguez and Dr. Crystal Watson hold the positions of School Assistant Superintendent of Primary/Accelerated Campus Excellence (ACE) Schools, and Elementary Schools, respectively.

Rodríguez joined the Aldine Independent School District in July of 2019 to serve in the role of executive director of leadership development. Her responsibilities included supporting the development and implementation of AISD's leadership pipelines for aspiring assistant principals and principals. Rodríguez also led the work of the district's leadership academies to support first-year principals and assistant principals.

With more than 20 years of educational experience, Rodríguez brings a strong focus on instructional practices and school transformation. She began her career in education as a teacher in Houston ISD. Over the years, Rodríguez has held several positions, including serving as a principal, director of gifted and talented, and school support officer. Rodríguez was named assistant superintendent in May of 2020.

"Pati is committed to ensuring all primary and ACE schools have a highly effective leader who promotes positive change and impacts all students' growth," Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney said. "Her experience and track record will be an asset to the Executive Leadership Team and our students."



Crystal Watson

Patricia Rodríguez

Watson, who was named assistant superintendent of elementary schools in June of 2020, has 24 years in education, with 21 of those years in Aldine ISD. Over the years in Aldine ISD, Watson has served as an English teacher, skills specialist, and assistant principal before taking the helm of two schools. She served as principal at Nimitz Ninth Grade School (2008-2014) before taking the helm of Nimitz High School (2015-2020), a position she held until being named assistant superintendent. Watson is a two-time Aldine ISD Secondary Principal of the Year, having earned the title in 2013-2014 and 2017-2018.

During her time as a campus leader, Watson has proven to be adept at turning around schools, maintaining high expectations for student achievement, and cultivating rich campus

cultures. She continues to invest in developing and empowering campus leaders.

"Crystal truly believes that leaders can create conditions where education is indeed the great equalizer," Goffney said. "Leaders do make a difference. Her understanding and insight will ensure Aldine continues to bring excellence and equity in teaching and learning. These values and beliefs are how we will continue to do right for all students."

Both Rodríguez and Watson will work to ensure Aldine makes every goal of the strategic plan, A New Way Forward, such as high-quality schools and learning experiences, increases in student achievement, and programs that prepare students for success in school and their future, a reality.

### COVID Funding,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

With funds received from the CARES Act, Lone Star College will make 5,000 laptop computers available to students for fall 2020. This is part of Lone Star College's ongoing effort to help close the digital divide.

Lone Star College offers high-quality, low-cost aca-

dem transfer and career training education to 99,000 students each semester. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institu-

tion of higher education in the Houston area with an annual economic impact of nearly \$3 billion. LSC consists of seven colleges, 10 centers, two university centers, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit [LoneStar.edu](http://LoneStar.edu).

### HCC Fall Plans,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ed to make up for the smaller lab sizes.

HCC created a helpful video to explain the four nextLearning options so students can make the best course selections for their individual needs. The video can be accessed here. "As we work to continue to fulfill our important mission, our primary goal is to protect the safety and wellbeing of our students, faculty and staff. These modifications to our fall

schedule will provide the most flexible and safest ways for our students to learn and our faculty to teach. We are ready to overcome any obstacle and achieve our strategic priority of student success," states HCC Chancellor Dr. Cesar Maldonado.

HCC students will still have access to the support they need for success, including tutoring, student life, basic needs support, career and employment

services, and counseling ability services, in addition to many financial aid options being provided.

Following CDC guidelines, new safety protocols will also be implemented for anyone arriving at an HCC location in the upcoming semester. HCC has designed signage and communication plans across all campuses to reinforce safety measures, including training for all students, faculty and staff.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## HOUSTON &amp; HARRIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPTS.

## Health order requires suspension of in-person instruction for all public and non-religious private schools until at least September 8

Harris County, Texas - July 24, 2020, Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health (HCPH) and Local Health Authority for Harris County, and David Persse, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, Local Health Authority for the Houston Health Department, today signed a joint public health order requiring all public and non-religious private schools in Harris County to remain closed to in-person instruction until at least September 8. The start of on-campus instruction and activity may be delayed further based on ongoing monitoring and assessment of public health mitigation conditions.

The order follows the release of a provision from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) permitting schools to delay in-person instruction and a letter sent to local school districts from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Dr. Shah on July 20 strongly urging schools to delay in-person instruction given the ongoing public health crisis. Over the past several weeks, Harris County authorities have consulted with local school officials, parents, teachers, and other public health and safety experts on reopening plans and the most responsible path forward regarding school operations.

"In order for students to be able to learn and grow, they must also be healthy and safe," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Right now, we continue to see a severe and

uncontrolled spread of this virus and it would be self-defeating to reopen schools as usual for in-person instruction. We are all desperate to move on from this crisis and get life back to normal. September 8 is still likely too soon, but the truth is, the fastest way we can all work together to bring this virus under control, the sooner we will be in a position to reopen again for the long term."

"We cannot talk about sending our children, teachers, and staff back to school when the virus is spreading uncontrollably in our community," Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said. "We are at a critical moment in the fight against COVID-19, and we must take a step back and work to lower the positivity rate and hospitalizations. It is important to keep encouraging people to social distance, wear face coverings, and get tested. In a few weeks, we can look again at the data, see where things are, and gradually move forward again."

"Opening schools safely is a public health priority," said Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, local health authority for HCPH. Harris County schools must reopen in a manner that prioritizes the health and safety of children, staff, families and the community. Considering how widespread this virus is in the community, we feel it is not safe at this time."

"We're in a critical time in our mission of working together as a community to get COVID-19 under con-

trol," said Dr. David Persse, local health authority for the Houston Health Department. "Sending students, teachers and staff into classrooms while this virus is still spreading uncontrollably is not only unsafe for the people in the schools, it's dangerous for their families, friends and the entire community."

In addition to the suspension of in person instruction, the order includes the following:

- Virtual instruction is allowed consistent with individual district or school academic plans. Instructors may use classrooms for video streaming if they are alone in the classroom and building occupancy does not exceed 10%.

- All school sponsored events and activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, extra-curricular activities, fairs, exhibitions, academic and/or athletic competitions, must not take place in-person, on or off campus, until school systems resume on-campus instruction.
- By no later than Friday, August 21, 2020, each School System shall develop and submit a written plan with safety and health protocols for resuming in-person instruction and extracurricular activities to the Local Health Authority with jurisdiction over the school. School systems must make the plan available to parents and the general public.

Additional information regarding the joint order will be available on ReadyHarris.org.

## Texas Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 7-9

(AUSTIN) — With the Texas economy slowly awakening from effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 7-9.

The law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The date of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

"Even though significant uncertainty remains for our public and private schools as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sales tax holiday is a perfect opportunity to save money on school supplies and other tax-free items at

a time when many Texans are carefully monitoring their family finances," Hegar said. "Online shopping is covered, so I encourage all Texans to shop online or practice social distancing when making in-store purchases. We want folks to stay safe while saving money."

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's website at [TexasTaxHoliday.org](https://www.texas.gov/tx-tax-holiday).

To promote social distancing, the Comptroller's office wants all taxpayers to know that during the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased online or by telephone, mail, custom order or any other means (including in-store purchases) tax free, when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the

customer during the exemption period; or

- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Texas' sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999, allowing Texans to save millions of dollars in state and local sales taxes each year. Uncertainty surrounding consumer activity in the retail sector coupled with a lack of clarity regarding the timing and nature of schools reopening prevents the agency from producing an estimate for dollars saved by taxpayers during this year's holiday. Last year's holiday generated an estimated \$102.2 million in savings for Texas taxpayers.

## Aldine ISD Computers,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have a device at home for their students to engage in learning virtually," said Chief Business and Operations Officer Dr. Tamika Alford-Stephens. "Whether students learn at home or on campus this school year, we want to help them get the necessary tools and opportunities to learn and grow."

Alford-Stephens noted that Aldine and other school districts are adapting to a "new" normal due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that AISD would continually monitor local health conditions and reassess as needed throughout the school year. "I believe that providing

students access to a device before the start of the school year will help them make a smooth transition to our online learning platform," Alford-Stephens said.

AISD will contact families that indicated a need for an electronic device on their Student Commitment Forms. They will be asked to confirm their need by midnight, Tuesday, July 28. Families can request a device here.

The district will begin distributing devices the week of August 3.

There are a limited number of Chromebooks and hotspots available for students in time for the

start of the 2020-2021 school year. At this time, Aldine ISD is limiting devices to one per family. As more devices become available, additional distributions will take place.

Families are encouraged to reach out to their cell phone and internet providers. Several cell phone service and internet providers are offering access to free internet for those who live in our community. The district has also compiled a list of known resources for Aldine ISD.

For more information about the district's device distribution plan, please visit our Aldine ISD District Devices FAQs.

## Technology Assistance for Online Classes

Lone Star College is providing students with laptops and other resources to help them start close and go far.

Our internal technology survey has repeatedly exposed the digital divide that exists within the LSC-Houston North communities. While many students may want (or be forced to)

take classes online, they do not quite have the technology to be able to do so.

Therefore, our Chancellor, Dr. Stephen C. Head, has purchased several thousand computers that will be loaned to incoming students that may need them. More information will be released soon, and

applications to apply for laptops will begin July 27. All applicants must be a registered student to be eligible.

In addition, LSC-Houston North will continue its partnership with Comcast to provide Internet Assistance to students at their homes in qualifying zip codes.

## Message from Aldine ISD Superintendent

Dear Aldine Community,

Earlier this month, we shared our current plans for re-entering schools this fall—Return to Learn.

We are excited to share further details with you this week as you prepare to make the best choices for your students when our commitment window opens on July 13. Full details and Commitment Form details are available at [aldineisd.org/return-to-learn](https://aldineisd.org/return-to-learn).

While we have done our due diligence while creating this plan, the health of our community will remain a top priority. Unfortunately, we continue to see increases in cases of COVID-19 every week. This means that plans may change as we aim to serve students in the most responsible way possible. We will continue following state and local authorities' requirements and recommendations for safety protocols and update you if these plans need to change.

We will continue to seek input from families, teachers, and staff as we finalize plans. Ultimately, we look forward to supporting you in helping your students learn this fall!

### RETURN TO LEARN: FALL 2020

Families have the option of selecting one of two learning models: on campus or at home.

Learning On Campus: This option consists of in-person instruction, which includes face-to-face, in-classroom learning using safety protocols to protect students and staff. The in-person instruction will be held Monday through Friday. Students will also complete projects and assignments online, making it easy to transition to virtual learning should there be a need to cancel school or limit access to a campus building. The district will follow local, state, and federal guidelines to offer the safest learning environ-

ment possible. Anyone entering an Aldine ISD facility will be requested to wear a mask or facial covering.

Learning At Home: This option is entirely virtual and requires students to have a consistent online presence to complete their assignments. Students who enroll in the Learning At-Home option will be required to log in to Schoology daily and complete assignments online. Some courses may not be available virtually. Students who select this option should have access to a device such as a laptop or a tablet and internet.

### COMMITMENT FORMS

To ensure the district is able to plan appropriately, a commitment window will stay open Monday, July 13 through Sunday, July 19. Parents should select an option for each student, both new and returning, that is best for them. Families should also select the need for transportation and identify if there is a need for a device to assist with virtual learning. As a reminder, the first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 17.

### TEACHERS AND STAFF

All Aldine ISD teachers should plan to support traditional on-campus learning this fall, and assignments for virtual teaching will be based on need and assignment. Our Teaching and Learning team continues to improve our online learning processes and will work to ensure teachers are prepared to teach in both settings. They are also working to meet all of TEA's requirements for funding so that we can continue to offer all students the best educational experiences, choices, and opportunities.

### MEAL SERVICE

As we begin to prepare for the upcoming school year, we are reducing the number of sites operating summer meal distribution. Meal sites across the dis-



trict will be available for food distribution until Thursday, July 23. The available meal sites will be open for families on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. A full list of sites is available online.

### GRADUATION

Last week, we also announced that, unfortunately, our in-person graduation celebrations have been canceled. While this was not at all our hope, we believe this is the best decision for the safety of our community. We are planning to celebrate the Class of 2020 with virtual celebrations airing on our website.

To ensure you have the most recent updates related to the district's plans, preparations, and up-to-date health information impacting our community, please visit our new school re-entry page: [aldineisd.org/return-to-learn](https://aldineisd.org/return-to-learn).

Thank you for your understanding and support as we navigate the unique conditions related to our Return to Learn. This fall presents us with a new set of challenges, and also a new outlook and opportunities to create meaningful learning experiences for students—our number one priority, always. Let's continue moving forward!

With Aldine Pride,  
Dr. LaTonya M.  
Goffney  
Superintendent

## In Person-Schools,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is to flatten and -- just as importantly -- substantially bring down our hospitalization curve.

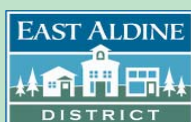
"We commend local school districts who have made the hard decision to defer in-person instruction. We know that this has been a very challenging time for everyone in our community -- and particularly so for students, teachers and parents. In-person instruction is vital for the educational devel-

opment and social wellbeing of children and young adults. In addition to their key roles in learning, schools promote the development of social and emotional skills and offer opportunities for physical activities. For low-income families, schools also provide much needed food assistance by offering students healthy meals and access to resources they may not otherwise

have.

"We must come to grips with the fact that in order to learn and grow, students must be healthy and safe. That means not setting arbitrary dates for reopening schools that provide false hope, dates this virus does not recognize or respect. Instead, our focus should be on thresholds and on developing measured reopening plans."

Take Pride in our  
Community  
Keep it Clean



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OPINION PAGE

**NEWSPAPERS**  
By Texas Press Association

*Need a great job? Buy a weekly newspaper*

By Gary Sosniecki

It wasn't my idea to buy a weekly newspaper.

I was content having transitioned from political reporter to sports editor of a 30,000-circulation daily newspaper. The pay was good. I had become part of the management team. I had been allowed to hire some bright young reporters. We were making a name for ourselves journalistically in traditional sports coverage and in-depth pieces. And the sports-department ethics policy I had written was being recognized as one of the first in the country.

My wife was not so content. She was managing editor of a smaller, competing daily, a position she won after refusing to train the man her boss wanted to hire for it. The 1970s were not an easy time for young women breaking into the newspaper business. This was her second job out of college, and Helen had fought sexual discrimination in both of them. In this job, her boss even had told her she didn't need a raise because her "husband made good money."

It had been Helen's lifelong dream to buy a weekly newspaper. So she quit her job and started contacting newspaper brokers. We visited weekly newspapers in Wisconsin and Illinois before she learned of a weekly for sale only an hour from her hometown in Missouri.

Humansville, Missouri, had a population of only 907, but it had a solid business district — as in potential advertisers — that included two lumber yards, two hardware stores, a furniture store, two clothing stores, a pharmacy, four cafes, three insurance agencies, a physician, two dentists, a funeral home and, most importantly, a modern supermarket that bought a full-page ad every week and a bank that bought a quarter page. Several of the business owners were young like us.

The Humansville Star-Leader circulated to 1,500 homes in the corners of three rural counties. Newspaper revenue was supplemented by a print shop that, among other jobs, printed election ballots for its home county.

We bought the Star-Leader on Aug. 1, 1980, using our savings from seven years of employment as a down payment. We bought our first newspaper before we bought our first house.

Not surprisingly, Helen fell in love with owning a small-town newspaper. Surprisingly, so did this city kid. So much so that over a 27-year period, we bought and sold three weeklies, each in a town a little bigger than the one before.

We never were bored. We covered city councils whose members at times were on the verge of slugging each other or members of the audience. We forced school boards to hold open meetings. We covered train wrecks and murders. (One murder victim was a small-town mayor who supported an ordinance banning pigs from the city limits.) We reported on presidential visits and a sheriff who liked to pose with a machine gun. We wrote features, and we wrote investigative pieces. We covered a state-championship basketball team and a winless basketball team, the former more fun than the latter.

We helped one of our readers appear on David Letterman's show. We campaigned to build a new library and to improve safety at railroad and highway crossings. We attended school plays and concerts and helped organize local festivals. We ate at fund-raising pancake breakfasts, pork-steak lunches and fish-fry suppers.

Through our editorials, we were the town disciplinarians and the town cheerleaders. We weren't always popular, but we still made lifetime friends in each of our newspaper towns.

We also learned to sell advertising. Pretty well, in fact. Every one of our newspapers made enough money for us to live comfortably in small towns where the cost of living was low.

We worked harder than we ever had worked — sometimes seven days and six nights a week — but the rewards were enormous. If we were 10 years younger, we would buy another newspaper and do it all again.

In fact, it's a buyer's market right now for weekly newspapers. (You can buy one in our state right now, in a town of more than 2,000 residents, for only \$40,000. That's less than what we paid in 1980.) Unfortunately, some newspaper groups are shuttering small-town and suburban weeklies that don't meet their revenue goals. Even sadder, many owners of our generation waited too long to sell and — unable to find buyers — are shutting down their papers. In both instances, the community becomes a so-called "news desert."

According to 2018 study by North Carolina's School of Media and Journalism, 171 counties in the United States have no newspaper at all. One of them is the county adjacent to ours.

It's a conundrum that independently owned weekly newspapers are closing for lack of buyers at the same time that journalists who would make good weekly-newspaper owners are being laid off in record numbers by metro newspapers and national newspaper groups.

The challenge for our industry is to convince these unemployed journalists to explore the joys and rewards of owning a small-town newspaper.

Not every market that supported a newspaper in the past can support one now. But unlike many of their big-city brethren, weekly newspapers in healthy markets still can be good investments. If the population is stable, if most storefronts on Main Street are filled, if the town has its own school and the all-important sense of community, the prospects for a weekly newspaper succeeding long-term are good.

It's encouraging to hear of a partnership between West Virginia University's Reed College of Media and the West Virginia Press Association "to recruit, develop and train the next generation of independent newspaper owners." Hopefully, we'll see other journalism schools and state press associations partner in similar programs.

But you don't have to wait if you're unemployed now and uncertain how to stay in the newspaper business. Check out the press association website in your state and see if any newspapers are for sale. Call the press association manager and ask the same question. Do a Google search for newspaper brokers, and find one who handles papers within your budget.

Because owning your own newspaper can be the most satisfying job you've ever had.

**This article is one of a series distributed by the Texas Press Association for its members. If you wish more information, call 713-266-3444 or email grafkstar@aol.com**



**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

*"Birthday Blow-Out"*

It's my birthday this week. This is not normally cause for a big celebration and this year it is less than usual. Still, unlike my husband, Peter, I actually do celebrate my birthday. I don't expect anyone else to celebrate—although it's nice to know my parents remember I was born and still seem to think it was a good thing.

But I'm puzzled by reports of people my age who have huge celebrations or put it they don't get a party. My grandmother had a big party on her 100th birthday and I think that's an appropriate time for a "blow-out" (as she called it). Otherwise, I think the only person who has any reason to celebrate my birthday is me. It's good to have been given another year.

This year, Peter asked, as he always does, what I wanted on my birthday. The choices were more limited than in the past, but that really didn't matter. It's fun to receive one unusual thing that makes me happy. One year, I asked Peter for a new toilet seat. Peter saw nothing wrong with the existing one (he wouldn't!) but cheerfully replaced it on my birthday.

"Just don't go telling everyone I got you a toilet seat for your birthday!" he said.

But now I have. This year, my plans are less grandiose. I was thinking about cheese, specifically, a big pot of melted cheese. I know, the weather has been warm but the idea of fresh fruit dunked in a vat of nice cheese sounded irresistible.

"Fondue," I told Peter. "I'd like fondue for my birthday." "Hot oil or cheese?" "Cheese—good cheese!" We ordered long forks and are all set. Peter is making cheese fondue.

I celebrate my birthday for the same reason I journal—to keep track of where I am in life. Peter says it would be better just to forget about that, especially as we get older, but I disagree. I like to know where I am and where I've been. I think that might be more important this year than ever.

I probably get this from my mom. She's kept a journal every day of her life since she was in college. She claims it is a profoundly dull document. She famously described it as, "an uninterrupted record of every dental appointment I've ever had."

But I know this is not strictly true because she does look things up to see what she was doing a year ago or five years ago on that date. She tells me, from time to time, about something she wrote a few years back.

"Oh! We were worried about you," she'll tell me. I had no idea my parents were worried, but her journal knew.

My daily journal rarely records anything as exciting as my dental appointments. Usually, I am just trying to figure stuff out, seeing where I am, where I'm going, noting what I've done and what I'd still like to do—both in the near term and before I run out of time for good. Journaling reminds me of how much I have to be grateful for. Birthdays do the same thing.

As an afterthought, I ordered a dozen cupcakes. I didn't figure a cake made much sense since there was no one to share it with, but I thought it might be fun to distribute cupcakes to friends and neighbors. I'm getting one dozen red velvet cupcakes with buttercream frosting. I'm having mine with a scoop of peppermint ice cream.

If that isn't a blow-out, I don't know what is. Till next time, Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

*Department of Defense sends teams to assist hospitals in COVID crisis*

AUSTIN — COVID-19 turned aggressive to the point last week that the Department of Defense activated U.S. Army and U.S. Navy medical task force teams and assigned them to Texas at Gov. Greg Abbott's request.

Teams were deployed to support Houston and San Antonio hospitals and medical facilities in hard-hit Rio Grande Valley. The Texas Division of Emergency Management was on the job, too, working with local officials to line up additional hospital capacity in Cameron and Hidalgo counties and to identify other sites to house patients who are recovering from COVID-19.

Some \$41 million in federal funds are being put toward assisting cities and counties in the COVID-19 response, Abbott said. Those funds will be used by local government for first responder overtime and hazard pay, equipment and supplies for teleworking technologies, social distancing and personal protective gear, county jail costs associated with medical needs of inmates and as reimbursement for holding inmates awaiting transfer to the state prison system.

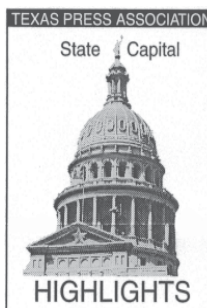
Cumulative figures posted July 19 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed some 325,030 people in Texas diagnosed with the deadly virus, and 3,958 confirmed deaths resulting from the disease.

**TEA: Schools to open**

Texas schools will open next month, but school systems will be allowed to limit access to on-campus instruction for the first four weeks of school, the Texas Education Agency announced July 17.

A school system may limit access to on-campus instruction for an additional four weeks with a board-approved waiver request to the TEA. Health and safety procedures will be in place to support student and teacher safety, Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said.

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling



In the only runoff for a state agency office, Texas Railroad Commission, Democrats chose Dallas lawyer Chrysta Castañeda over Robert Alonzo of Dallas, a former longtime member of the Texas House of Representatives. Castañeda received 575,460 votes to 353,399 for Alonzo. Complete election results are posted at [sos.texas.gov](http://sos.texas.gov).

**It's hot, so be careful**

With summer air temperatures reaching 100 degrees and higher, the Texas Department of Public Safety on July 14 reminded the public to take extra heat-related safety precautions.

Children, the sick, elders and pets should not be left alone in vehicles. Drivers should always check all passenger and cargo areas before walking away from their vehicle, the DPS said.

**Jobless rate improves**

Texas added 243,900 private sector positions in June, resulting in an unemployment rate of 8.6%, the Texas Workforce Commission reported July 17. The state's unemployment rate in May was 13.0%.

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded the lowest non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in June among Texas MSAs with 6%, followed by Abilene at 6.4% and College Station-Bryan at 6.5%.

The national unemployment rate stood at 11.1% in June.

**Agency releases data**

More information about oil and gas field cleanup programs are publicly available now, the Texas Railroad Commission announced July 15.

Data posted at [rrc.texas.gov/data-visualization/](http://rrc.texas.gov/data-visualization/) includes bar graphs, an interactive Texas map, a list of counties and other search options.

"These latest additions will help the public and energy industry operators easily see key aspects of the important work we do in protecting the safety of Texans and the environment," said Texas Railroad Commission Executive Director Wei Wang.

**NORTHEAST NEWS**  
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Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental)  
Member Texas Press Association

*Toss it into the can. It's a neat idea.*



SPANISH PAGE

3 centros de pruebas COVID-19 dentro de Aldine ISD

Aldine ISD tiene tres centros de pruebas COVID-19 disponibles para satisfacer las necesidades de pruebas de la comunidad de Aldine.

En mayo, se abrió un centro de evaluación en la Escuela Preescolar Griggs (Parque Regional 801) gracias a una asociación entre Aldine ISD y la congresista estadounidense Shelia Jackson Lee. Las pruebas se realizan de forma gratuita y comienzan a las 8 a.m. Lunes-Viernes.

Otro centro de pruebas está ubicado en el M.O. Campbell Educational Center (MOC) y es una asociación entre Aldine ISD, Pet. Comisionado del Condado 2 Adrián García, y el Departamento de Salud del Condado Harris. Las pruebas son gratuitas y se llevan a cabo de lunes a sábado, y no se ofrecen pruebas los miércoles. El centro de pruebas MOC estará en funcionamiento hasta el 25 de julio. Testing begins at 8 a.m. and is limited to 200 pre-registered individuals per day.

Las pruebas se realizarán en el M.O. Campbell Educational Center, en la marquesina.

Las pruebas se realizarán en forma automática, sin embargo, las personas deben registrarse antes de la prueba. Regístrese en el sitio web del Departamento de Salud del Condado Harris simplemente haga clic en este enlace: <https://covcheck.hctx.net>

El tercer centro de pruebas COVID-19 está ubicado en la Escuela Primaria Bussey (11555 Airline Blvd.) y está a cargo del Departamento de Salud de la Ciudad de Houston. Esta es otra ubicación de prueba gratuita. Las pruebas comienzan a las 10 a.m. De lunes a viernes.

Funcionarios del distrito dijeron que aproximadamente 700 personas se someten a pruebas por día en los tres lugares (250 por día en Griggs, 250 por día en Bussey y 200 por día en el Centro Educativo M.O. Campbell).

Dr. Javier Villarreal seleccionado para la Academia de Liderazgo Superintendente ALAS

El Dr. Javier Villarreal, Oficial Jefe de Recursos Humanos de Aldine ISD, ha sido seleccionado para la Academia de Liderazgo de Superintendentes de la Asociación de Administradores Latinos y Superintendentes (ALAS).

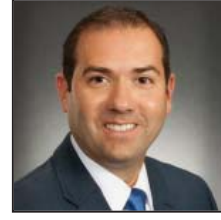
El Dr. Villarreal es uno de solo 16 individuos en todo el país, y uno de dos en el estado de Texas, que fueron seleccionados para participar en esta cohorte.

ALAS es reconocida a nivel nacional por su Academia de Liderazgo Superintendente como un programa de primer nivel, debido a su selección competitiva y equilibrada de candidatos. ALAS busca superintendentes latinos dedicados y apasionados por el desarrollo del conocimiento y las destrezas necesarias para dirigir un distrito escolar.

El proceso de selección es altamente competitivo debido al número limitado de par-

ticipantes según lo diseñado por el modelo de cohorte. Lo ideal es que los candidatos estén sirviendo en un puesto de administración central a nivel de gabinete. Se consideran los candidatos sobresalientes en un puesto de director o de oficina central. Además, un candidato debe poseer las siguientes características:

- \* Compromiso con la equidad, la excelencia y el cierre de brechas de rendimiento para todos los estudiantes.
- \* Compromiso con la misión y la visión de ALAS.
- \* Pasión por mejorar la educación pública y un compromiso a largo plazo con la educación PK-12.
- \* Capacidad para trabajar y tener éxito como líder del sistema escolar en un distrito que sirve a todos los niños con énfasis en estudiantes marginados.
- \* Alto nivel de en-



El Dr. Javier Villarreal fue seleccionado para la Academia de Liderazgo Superintendente ALAS.

analíticas y de resolución de problemas.

\*Excelentes habilidades de comunicación oral y escrita.

\* Servir en una posición de liderazgo por un mínimo de tres años.

ALAS es una organización nacional sin fines de lucro con la misión de proporcionar liderazgo a nivel nacional que garantice que cada escuela en los Estados Unidos atienda de manera efectiva las necesidades educativas de todos los estudiantes con énfasis en la juventud latina mediante el desarrollo de capacidades, la promoción de mejores prácticas y la transformación de las instituciones educativas. ALAS se compromete a identificar, reclutar, desarrollar y fomentar el progreso de los administradores escolares latinos para mejorar los logros educativos de los jóvenes latinos.

ergía, determinación y perseverancia para actuar como agente de cambio en una organización exigente.

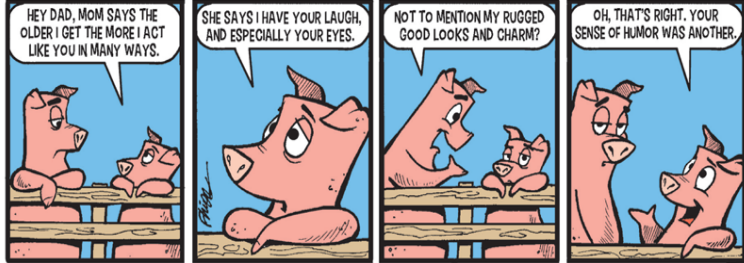
\* Capacidad para comprender, dirigir y gestionar en una organización política compleja y funcionar bien en un entorno diverso.

\* Un historial comprobado de liderazgo y o gestión en una organización educativa.

\* Capacidad para aprender rápidamente, poseer habilidades

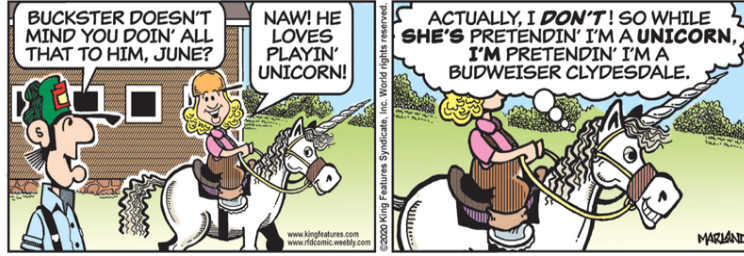
ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



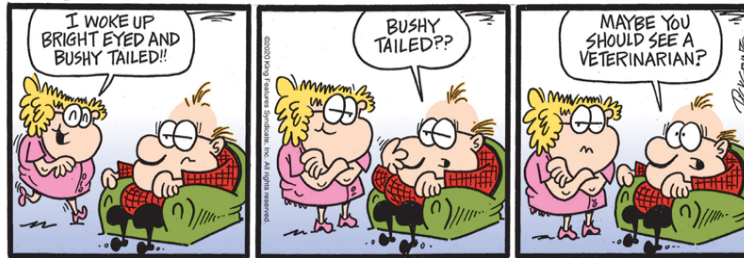
by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**HOCUS-FOCUS**  
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bushes are missing. 2. Apron is different. 3. Earring is missing. 4. Window is smaller. 5. Man's nose is different. 6. Briefcase is larger.

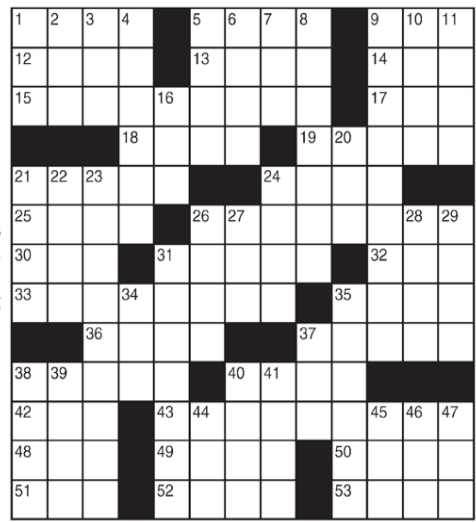
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Posting Date July 27, 2020

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Oil cartel
- 5 Largest continent
- 9 Crime scene evidence
- 12 Lounge around
- 13 Charged bits
- 14 A billion years
- 15 Perry Mason's client
- 17 Entertainment
- 18 Smell bad
- 19 Geneva's river
- 21 Skiers' 7-Down
- 24 String instrument
- 25 Do as you're told
- 26 Old cars for new ones
- 30 "Help!"
- 31 Repeat verb
- 32 Arctic bird
- 33 Confiscations
- 35 Sans siblings
- 36 Diner staffer
- 37 Name
- 38 BLT meat
- 40 Swimming venue
- 42 Alias abbr.
- 43 Secret or Sure
- 48 Crib



DOWN

- 1 Antiquated
- 2 "The Raven" writer
- 3 Sprite
- 4 Group of priests
- 5 Helper
- 6 Drench
- 7 Hostel
- 8 On both
- 9 Leaves-dropper?
- 10 Proper subject, maybe
- 11 Heche or Hathaway
- 16 Born
- 20 Weeding implement
- 21 Privation
- 22 Reed instrument
- 23 Drying agent
- 24 Cisterns
- 26 Ankara resident
- 27 Fish eggs
- 28 — and void
- 29 Terrier variety
- 31 Former
- 34 Menagerie
- 35 Drilling apparatus
- 37 Also
- 38 Ali —
- 39 Related
- 40 Verse
- 41 Probability
- 44 Id counterpart
- 45 Exist
- 46 Negative prefix
- 47 Explosive stick

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

N	E	N	E	S	W	O	W	I	N	I	N	I
N	O	I	R	E	D	E	D	N	I	B	A	B
A	K	A	D	O	O	D	O	A	N	I	L	I
L	O	P	O	N	O	C	O	O	O	C	O	O
A	L	N	O	S	E	S	E	Z	I	S	E	S
A	L	N	O	S	E	S	E	Z	I	S	E	S
A	L	N	O	S	E	S	E	Z	I	S	E	S
L	O	D	G	E	V	I	O	L	L	O	D	E
R	E	E	K	R	H	O	N	E				
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
D	E	F	E	N	D	E	F	E	N	D	E	F
O	P	E	C	A	S	I	A	D	N	A	D	N

Solution time: 21 mins.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the birthstone traditionally associated with the month of July?
- MOVIES: What was the name of the artificial intelligence system in "The Terminator" movie series?
- CHEMISTRY: Which element has the chemical symbol Pt?
- HISTORY: Which two boxers were matched in 1974's "The Rumble in the Jungle" contest in Zaire?
- ANATOMY: What is the common name for the hallux?
- AD SLOGANS: Which product is featured in the advertising slogan "Obey your thirst"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which four U.S. states start with the letter "I"?
- TELEVISION: What city was the setting for the 1990s sitcom "Home Improvement"?
- MUSIC: Which female singer had a No. 1 hit in the 1970s with the song "You're No Good"?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many tablespoons are in 1/4 cup?

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Trivia Test Answers  
1. Ruby; 2. Skynet; 3. Platinum; 4. Muhammad Ali (winner) and George Forman; 5. Big toe; 6. Sprite; 7. Idaho, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa; 8. Detroit; 9. Linda Ronstadt; 10. Four





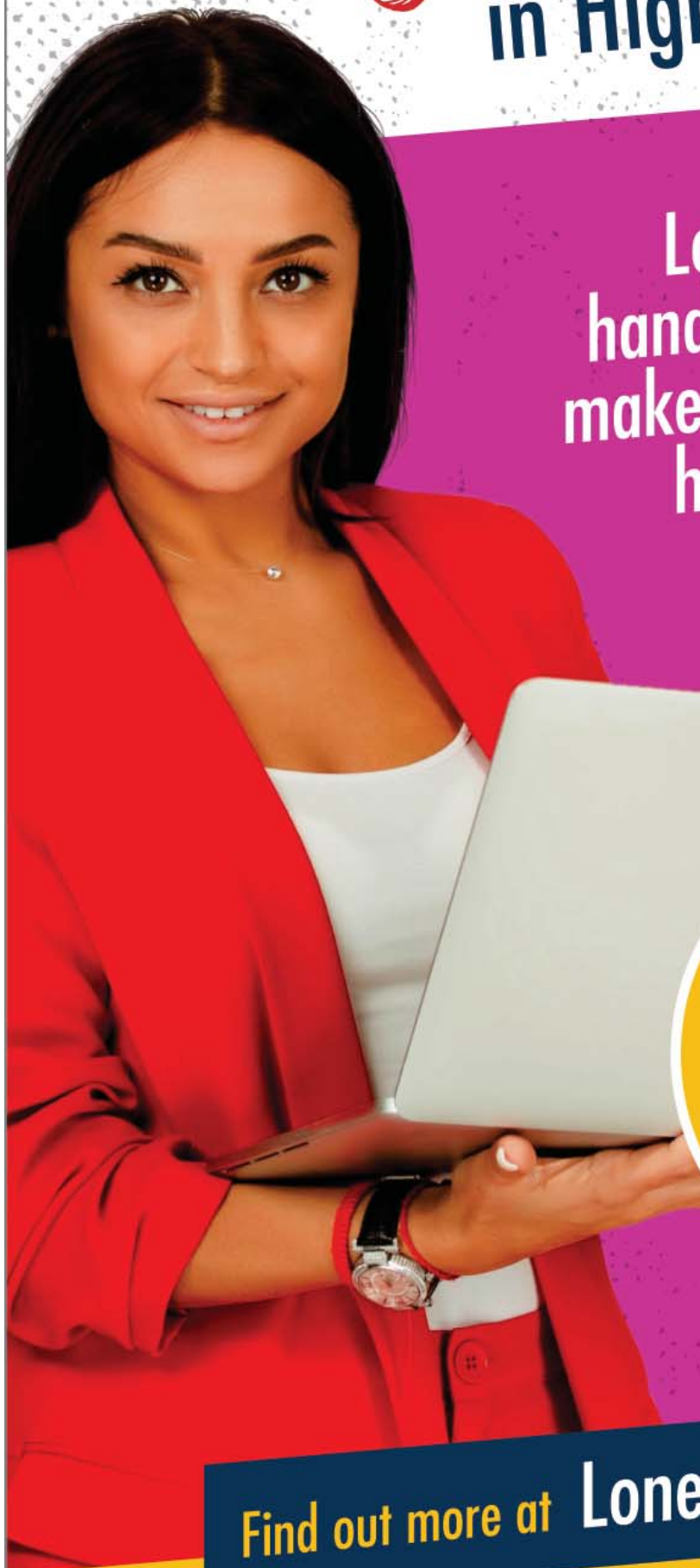








# Bridging the Digital Divide in Higher Education.



Lone Star College is handing out laptops to make sure our students have the tools they need to succeed.

Fall Classes  
Begin  
Aug. 24

Find out more at [LoneStar.edu/Laptops](https://LoneStar.edu/Laptops)