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# NORTHEAST NEWS

## Americanisms



“When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.”  
— Willie Nelson

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## Pct. 2 delivers 1400 Thanksgiving dinners

Harris County Precinct 2 — Commissioner Adrian Garcia hosted “Turkey Thursday” last Thursday, where he distributed turkeys to families at 10 Harris County Precinct 2 Community Centers.

Each location gave out 140 turkeys to registered families. This is the first time in Harris County history a precinct distributes a total of 1,400 turkeys in one day.

“Turkey Thursday” was



Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, at center, poses with workers and volunteers that gave out these food boxes and Turkeys for Thanksgiving to 1400 families that registered their need.

possible thanks to partnership with non-profit Precinct2Gether, HEB Grocery Stores, and Partners in Primary Care.

Commissioner Garcia attended multiple giveaways, His first stop was at North East Community Center (10918 Bentley St. Houston, TX 77093).

Locations of the turkey distribution were at these

See **THANKSGIVING DINNER**, page 2

### Aldine ISD Thanksgiving Events

## Aldine schools help with Food Drive, and Meal Distribution at Stehlik Elem., Teague MS, and others

ALDINE – It was a cloudy morning filled with sunny smiles on Friday, November 20 at Stehlik Elementary in Aldine ISD. Stehlik hosted a food drive to support students, families, and community members. Texas State Representative Armando Walle and Lone Star Trustee Myriam Saldivar surprised the campus with a \$750 donation to support the food drive.

“I am truly speechless,” said Karen Wilkerson,

See **FOOD DRIVE**, page 2



Stehlik teacher helps carry a box of food.

### Varsity football

## Davis Falcons defeat MacArthur 42-13

Last Saturday afternoon, Nov. 21 the MacArthur Generals faced off against the Davis Falcons, who defeated them 42-13.

Coach Wayne Crawford’s Generals took on coach Scott Joseph’s Falcons at Thorne Stadium. The Generals are led by running back Terrance Franklin (290 yards, 4 TDs), while the Falcons are led by running backs Azavion Kegler (113 yards) and Josh Garuba (3 TDs).

The General’s next game against

Continued on Page 8

At right, Mac’s #27 (Maurice Woods) muscles in for a TD, one of only two that the Generals were able to score in this game. (Ruben Saucedo Photo) MORE on page 8.



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# SCHOOL NEWS

## NEWS NOTES

### Two HCPH Locations Offering Free COVID-19 Testing

There are two stationary sites. At the M.O. Campbell Education Center in Aldine, children can also be tested. Hours are 6am-1pm. Register at [www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org) or call **832-927-7575**. For the Pasadena stationary site at San Jacinto Central Campus, people must be 13 or older to be tested and people can register at [www.doineeda.com/covid19test.com](http://www.doineeda.com/covid19test.com) or call **832-927-7575**.

### New ACCESS2Health Services now open

Pct. 2 has installed a Medical Smart Pod office in the parking lot at the Northeast Community Center on Bentley. The public can get Free COVID-19 tests, and many other medical services. According to Dr. Bernice Koko of United Health Partners, all services are free and walk-ins are welcome, no appointment necessary.

### Thanksgiving Dinner,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

10 Pct. 2 facilities:

- Barrett Community Center
- Crosby Community Center
- San Jacinto Community Center, Highlands
- Grayson Community Center, Channelview
- Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook
- May Community Center, Huffman
- J.D. Walker Community Center, Baytown
- Flukinger Community Center, Channelview
- East Harris County Activity Center, Pasadena
- Northeast Community Center, Aldine

Sponsors of the event included Precinct 2, Precinct 2gether, and HEB.

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## Aldine Food Drive,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

principal of Stehlik Elementary. "The donation is needed this year. We know our families and the community has been hit hard financially, due to the economic impact of the pandemic. We are a family and we take care of each other."



### Teague Middle School Provides Families With Food for Thanksgiving

On Friday, November 20, the Teague Middle School F.A.C.E. and C.A.R.E.S. teams hosted a Thanksgiving Food Giveaway. The campus hosted the event at the Biscayne Cityview Apartments in Greenspoint. 23 additional apartment complexes in the community were also invited to pick up food. The food giveaway was right on time for many families, who were preparing for Thanksgiving. The campus gave away canned goods and school supplies. Teague provided 850 canned goods, ham with all of the Thanksgiving trimmings to over 50 families.

## LSC-Houston North helps feed community

HOUSTON (Nov. 17, 2020) – This time of year can be stressful enough for families who are struggling, but during the COVID-19 pandemic the need is even greater. Lone Star College-Houston North is hosting a series of food drives to help families put food and hope on the table this holiday season.

"One of the reasons we began Lone Star College-Houston North was to be a part of an underserved area of Houston," said Quentin Wright, Ed.D., LSC-Houston North president. "This effort to help those struggling is part of that mission."

The food drives will be held Nov. 19, Dec. 3 and Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at LSC-Houston North Greenspoint.

The Houston Food Bank reports more than 1 million people in southeast Texas are food insecure, meaning they cannot afford enough nutritious food to fuel a regularly healthy lifestyle.

"Food insecurity often means having to make a difficult decision between paying for groceries and paying for other essentials such as rent, utilities and education," said Wright. "We want to help people to not just get by, but to prosper."

LSC-Houston North already provided 768 families with meals during a food drive held earlier this month.

This fall, LSC-Houston North welcomed more than 2,400 students including 388 first time in college students. Visit [LoneStar.edu/Spring2021](http://LoneStar.edu/Spring2021) to learn how LSC can help you succeed.

## EverPPE, AOK Tooling Donates 50,000 Masks



Dr. Martha Escalante poses with an Aldine ISD student who lives in the Garden City Apartments as they show off the masks they received from EverPPE and AOK Tooling. The two businesses donated 50,000 masks to the district.

Houston-area businesses EverPPE and AOK Tooling teamed up to donate 50,000 masks to Aldine ISD. The masks will be distributed to AISD students, said Dr. Martha Escalante, the FACE Executive Director (Family and Community Engagement Department).

"We are very thankful to EverPPE and AOK Tooling for their generosity in providing face masks to our Aldine families," Dr. Escalante said. "Their donations help our community stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19."

Recently, Dr. Escalante and the FACE Department members delivered 400 masks to AISD students who live in the Garden City Apartments. Students living in the apartment complex attend Reece Academy, Anderson Academy, Houston Academy, and Carver High School.

Robin Luo, Director of Operations for EverPPE, said, and AOK Tool donated the 50,000 three-ply masks as a service to the Aldine community.

"The story is straightforward," Luo said. "EverPPE is a Texas company. The owner lives in Katy. We have been a solid PPE provider with millions of high-quality masks nationwide. We have a mask manufacturing facility in Brookshire. When we team up with a big player like AOK Tool, we like to have our neighbors benefit first."

## Message from Superintendent Goffney

Message From the Superintendent, Nov. 17, 2020

Dear Aldine Community,

We are just a few days away from Thanksgiving break. As a reminder, district buildings and campuses will be closed between November 23-27. Families can pick up free meal bundles today and Thursday. Classes will resume Monday, Nov. 30, with curbside meal service resuming on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

I'm sure our entire community is ready to take some time away from our routines to rest and reflect with loved ones. However, as COVID-19 numbers continue increasing throughout Texas and in our community, please remember to exercise safe judgment during this time. Check out this advice from a Houston-area infectious disease physician about how to celebrate family gatherings safely during the holidays.

In this week's message, I have some important updates related to the remainder of the fall semester. I ask that you read through them carefully so that you don't miss any crucial actions required.

### Preference for Next 9 Weeks

For students wanting to change their learning model selection, changes must be submitted between Monday, November 16, and Friday, December 4. Changes will go into effect on Wednesday, January 6 — the start of the third nine weeks.

Our goal is to provide choices for our families while being responsive to public health conditions.

We recognize the complexities and barriers that have come with remote learning for some of our students and invite all of our families to carefully evaluate the decision to change the child's instructional setting. For students who are struggling academically or with attendance, please reach out to the teacher or campus administrator to determine available support and help.

### Remote Learning Days

After hearing feedback from teachers, school leaders, staff, and the community, about the new ways teachers are teaching and students are learning, we decided to take immediate action to provide additional planning and preparation time for our classroom teachers. We heard the message loud and clear: teachers and students need additional time.

Remote Learning Days are set aside for all students to learn from home while all campus-based staff will report to school.

Teachers, please accept this gift of time each month as a day for you to plan and collaborate. Students are encouraged to use the time to review assignments and catch up on any missing work.

All students should log in to Schoology and revisit pre-recorded lessons and previously posted assignments. Attendance will be taken through the evidence of completing assign-

## FACE hosts 'Be Inspired' event reaching out to community

On Saturday, Nov. 14, Aldine ISD's FACE (Family And Community Engagement) Department held a virtual "Be Inspired" event. The event provided community members in Aldine to hear personal stories of hope, resilience and inspiration from parents, grandparents, students, school principals and Aldine ISD business partners.

Dr. Martha Escalante, Executive Director of FACE, said she believed the event was uplifting to the close to 100 people who participated in the event virtually.

"Everyone has a story to tell and we can learn and motivate each other by hearing how people have overcome

challenges in their lives," Dr. Escalante said. "The parents who attended this "Be Inspired" event said that all the stories were very powerful. They said that they would love to attend more of these events that encourages them to face adversity with a positive mind set."

There was an English and Spanish session.

Panelists for the English version were:

- Yvonne Lopez-Taylor – Aldine ISD and Region 4's Elementary Teacher of the Year
- Erik Torres – Principal of Ermel Elementary School
- Miguel Chacon – Student at Blanson CTE High School
- Jometra Hawkins – of BakerRipley

• Jennifer Carrington – parent and Aldine ISD business partner

• Dr. Martha Escalante – Executive Director of FACE

Panelists for the Spanish session were:

- Luis Lucio – Dean at Lone Star College
- Mirna Valentin – parent
- Erik Torres – Principal of Ermel Elementary School
- Dr. Martha Escalante – Executive Director of FACE

Dr. Escalante said another "Be Inspired" event would be held in the spring.

FACE advocates for families and seeks ways to increase student achievement and opportunities for members of the Aldine community.



ments and/or logging into Schoology.

Families should note that teachers will not present any live instruction sessions and may not be available for live feedback sessions. Parents may contact the campus directly if there is a need for a student to be on campus during these designated remote learning days.

Please update your calendars to include these Remote Learning Days:

- Friday, December 4
- Friday, January 29
- Friday, February 26
- Friday, March 12
- Friday, April 16
- Monday, May 17

### Rapid Testing for COVID-19

Recognizing that social distancing is less possible for student-athletes, Aldine ISD has decided to participate in a Texas Education Agency (TEA) program being offered to districts. The fast-acting test kits allow individuals to take their own nasal samples and provide results in just 15 minutes. Participating in testing is optional and will be made available to Nimitz High School student-athletes (along with coaches, band, and cheer) starting the first week in December. To learn more about this program and see some frequently asked questions, please visit our district website. We will monitor the program before expanding to other schools and groups.

As a reminder, free testing is also available through the county. One of the free testing sites is the M.O. Campbell Educational Center (MOC). Please visit this link to learn more.

November is a month to reflect on what we are grateful for in our lives. I am genuinely filled with gratitude for the energy, commitment, and dedication of staff, families, and students. Please use this time off to remember what you are grateful for while finding time to rest.

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney  
Superintendent

## Aldine ISD Announces Launch of Young Women's Leadership Academy

Aldine ISD is proud to announce the launch of the Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA), targeted to launch in the Fall of 2021. The campus will open with girls in grades 6-7. The YWLA is opening in partnership with the nonprofit organization, *Young Women's Leadership Preparatory Network*, whose mission is to support single-gender, college-preparatory public education, giving young women the academic and leadership skills to achieve success in college and in life. Our district's newest campus will join sister schools in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, Midland, San Antonio, and Ysleta independent school districts.

Leading this important initiative is Dr. Jericah Jackson, who brings to the role more than a decade of work teaching and leading in schools. After beginning her career leading math and science classrooms at the mid-



DR. JERICA H JACKSON

dle school level, Dr. Jackson most recently has served as the assistant principal at Aldine Middle School and the assistant principal of curriculum and instruction at the Shotwell Academy. She holds a doctorate in education from Texas A&M University-Commerce, a master's degree in education from Sam Houston State University, and a bachelor of science degree from Baylor University.

Aldine ISD's five-year strategic plan, *A New Way For-*

ward, was developed to ensure each student in the district has access to high-quality schools and learning experiences that prepare them for the future.

"Launching the YWLA directly connects to our goal of expanding options for college and career access along with that of implementing rigorous curriculum and instruction," shares superintendent, Dr. LaTonya Goffney. "It is our collective aim to ensure that every child performs at the highest level possible. A leadership academy focused on building critical skills among our female students is one path to achieving this vision."

The YWLA will focus on college preparatory academics for girls in Grades 6-12, with an emphasis on college preparedness, leadership development, and STEM. The site location will be announced in January of 2021 along with details related to student enrollment and staff hiring.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lone Star College to host virtual Career Fairs Dec. 1, Dec. 3

HOUSTON (Nov. 24, 2020) - Lone Star College will host two virtual career fairs to help those looking for work or wanting to find a better job. "Employers are looking to hire even during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Linda Leto Head, LSC senior associate vice chancellor, Office of External and Employer Relations. "These are good paying jobs that will lead to rewarding careers." The Healthcare, Professional Careers and Administrative Service Career Fair takes place Tues., Dec. 1 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Participants can speak with employers about nursing, emergency medical technician, certified nursing assistant and pharmacy technician careers.

The Technical Career, Skilled Trades and Customer Service Career Fair takes place Thursday, Dec. 3 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Representatives will be available to speak about automotive technologies, CDL truck driving, construction supervision, welding and more. You must register to participate and there is a VIP Veteran-Only admission from 1 - 1:30 p.m. Visit LoneStar.edu/Career-Fairs to sign up and find a complete list of opportunities available. Looking to upgrade your skills? LSC is accepting registration for spring 2021 classes. Discover all the great programs LSC

has to offer to make 2021 your best year yet. Lone Star College offers high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education to 93,000+ 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 almost \$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

HC Sheriff cracks down on Package Thieves



The Harris County Sheriff's Office is ramping up efforts ahead of the holidays to combat package thefts across the county. Black Friday and Cyber Monday kick off the holiday shopping season, a gold mine for porch pirates - or thieves who steal packages outside resident's homes. This year, retailers are anticipating an uptick in home deliveries due to the ongoing pandemic. As Harris County residents start receiving more mail and packages, the Sheriff's Office's Burglary and Theft Unit investigators are leading several porch pirate sting operations in Harris County with support from the agency's patrol units and U.S. Postal Inspectors. "Beyond catching porch pirates who come into our neighborhoods to snatch our holiday packages, our goal is to also deter this activity from taking place by letting would-be package thieves know that we're out here," said Bur-

target the most at-risk areas in Harris County identified from theft reports and tips from shipping companies. Last week, Investigator Ureña led an initiative in the Westlake community in the Katy area. Although no porch pirates took the bait, it allowed investigators to test their new equipment. Harris County residents are urged to take steps that will help avoid packages being stolen from their doorstep, such as signing up for tracking notifications, retrieving packages as soon as they arrive, or requiring a signature for delivery. Instead of having a package delivered to your home, investigators are asking residents to consider other delivery locations to pick up and return packages, including Amazon Hub Locker locations and postal boxes. Mail theft is a federal offense punishable with up to five years in prison and fines. Call the Sheriff's Office at 713-221-6000 to report stolen packages. The sting operations

Two new Trustees on Lone Star College Board

HOUSTON - The Lone Star College Board of Trustees will have two new members following November's election. The newly elected members will each serve six year terms and begin their service at the Dec. 10, 2020, Board of Trustees meeting. Representing District 3 will be Iesheia Ayers-Wilson and District 9 Jim Cain. "I look forward to working with the newly elected members of the Lone Star College System Board of Trustees," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "I also want to express my appreciation to the

returning board members for their commitment to our students helping provide the resources necessary to receive the highest quality of education possible." Trustees are elected by voters who live in the LSC district for which the single-member district election is being held. LSC trustees serve staggered terms - three of nine trustees come up for election every two years - so that there are always experienced members sitting on the board. The LSCS Board of Trustees adopted an order declaring unopposed candidate Art Murillo

elected as Trustee for District 4 on the Board of Trustees and canceling the November 2020 election for District 4 only during a special meeting held Sept. 4. "I would personally like to thank Alton Smith and Ken E Lloyd for their years of service," said Head. "Their work and impact will be felt for years to come." In addition to the newly elected Trustees, Michael Stoma, Ernestine M. Pierce, Art Murillo, David Vogt, Myriam Saldivar, Linda Good and Mike Sullivan will continue to serve on the board.

New support program at Aldine ISD for Special Ed families

In October, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced the establishment of the Supplementary Special Education Services (SSES) program. SSES are on-line accounts that will be made available to eligible parents of students with disabilities that have been impacted by COVID-19 school closures. Families of students with eligible disabilities can use the on-line accounts to obtain goods and services up to a specific dollar amount that supplement what otherwise happens in school to help their child make more educational progress. Tracy Bailey, Aldine ISD's Executive Director of Special Education, said this is a win-win for Aldine ISD Special Education students and their families. "This is a great opportunity for students with disabilities," Bailey said. "This

program will supplement the services our Aldine special educators provide and help mitigate some of the educational gaps that were caused due to COVID-19 school closures. Highlights of the SSES program include: •Up to 20,000 accounts will be available for families across Texas whose children have eligible disabilities. •\$1,500 per eligible student for reimbursement of qualified services, which will be increased in the event there are fewer applications than available accounts or proportionally reduced for non low-income families in the event there are more applicants than available accounts. •Families and students who are enrolled in a Texas public school this year (2020-21), were enrolled during the initial COVID-19 school closures during the 2019-20 school year and

were identified as having low incidence disability (e.g., an intellectual disability, a developmental disability, a hearing loss, a significant physical disability, multiple disabilities, or are on the autistic spectrum). •Only students with an Individual Education Program (IEP) will be eligible, and the students' IEP must indicate eligibility for IDEA stemming from a low incidence disability. •The family application will be made available in late 2020. The application window will remain open for 4 months, with two 2-month windows to facilitate batched application approval. For more information, go to the link https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/supplementary-special-education-services

Advertisement for 'Hang your Christmas Card on our Tree'. It features a large Christmas tree graphic filled with various local business advertisements. At the bottom, it says: 'We will publish your Card Ad in our Christmas Editions Dec. 15 and 22 For Details call 713-266-3444'. The tree contains ads for SOLUTIONS, Cheers! 3J's, Lou's Grocery, J&A Garage, Bay Area Taxi, Kuntry Kar Kare, Inc. Auto Sales, and others.

Advertisement for 'Letter to Santa'. It features a large, stylized letterhead 'Letter to Santa' and a form for writing a letter. The form includes fields for 'Dear Santa,' followed by several lines for text, and fields for 'Name:', 'Age:', and 'School:'. At the bottom, it says: 'Letters can be mailed to Santa, 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX. 77057 or e-mailed to newroom@aol.com. Letters must be received by Dec. 11 for publication in our Special Christmas Editions'.

OPINION PAGE



Old Jasper – hunting deer

Old Jasper Blankenship went out to hunt deer the other day, the same way he's done for decades now. Deer season has changed a lot for Jasper over the many years he's been at it. As a kid, he couldn't wait until he was old enough to get a license, because he wanted to bring a buck home to show his family. Not just any buck, either, but a big one.

As a young man, he wanted to see how many hunting seasons he could have in one year: duck, goose, quail, pheasant, deer, about anything that moved. As a middle-aged man, he turned to the technology of hunting and wanted to learn about the newest gizmo that would make you quiet, make you invisible, make you irresistible to deer.

But things are different these days. Oh, Jasper still enjoys going through all the outdoor magazines and orders catalogs, and each year he buys some new gizmo that guarantees to bring home the meat. But he just chuckles at them, even as he orders them. Hunting, to him, means a reattachment to nature, a return to his roots. It is a time to see if his personal skills are still adequate.

It is also a time to sit on a ridge and look around and appreciate what is there. And if what isn't there happens to be a deer, well, that's all right, too. Venison isn't getting any easier to pack back to camp after all these many seasons, either. But there is something in the hunt, something in being allowed to silently stalk the nameless essence of fall, something in moving in near invisibility. There is something.

Sometimes it's just nice to go out there and see what happens.

Brought to you by *The Backpack Guide to Hunting Elk*, by Slim Randles. Practical advice from a registered guide, at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

-30-

The Strand – Our local Movie Theater

Mickey Baker has owned The Strand – our local movie theater – since the new releases starred Virginia Mayo. The Strand, naturally, is an icon here. More than a few of our long-lasting marriages in the area began with a first date there. Most of us have consumed more than our share of Raisinettes and Jujubes while watching Duke Wayne whip the bad guys. We know every inch of The Strand. We know where the rips are in the used-to-be blood-red carpet, which of the seats don't fold all the way down, which seats are most secluded in case it's a smooching date.

It was ol' Dud, back when he was about four feet tall, who discovered how to combine chewing gum and the lock on the back door to provide five-finger discounts for friends wanting to watch Victor Mature run around in a loincloth.

The Strand, in other words, is a vital part of our past, if not of our lives today. We seem to just go rent those tapes and disks now and stay home and watch the newer films when we feel like it, and that might be because we now appreciate being able to stop the action for an occasional bathroom break now and then.

Attendance at The Strand dropped dramatically when home entertainment really hit a lick. But Mickey fought back. He tried the free popcorn route for a while. All he charged for was the butter. Attendance didn't really pick up, and the popcorn bill was ... well, appreciable if not staggering.

Mickey now thinks he has the answer. He bought a disk player thingie that works on a big screen. Then he bought some old movies and lowered the price. The first night he did this was a triple header, and we all turned out to see our old heroes vanquish Nazis, solve the bank robbery in Cactus Gulch, and find out who really killed the big-city mayor. We paid too much for popcorn, but who cares?

The Strand lives on, even if there is more gray hair there than at a Percheron horse show. Besides, when was the last time you saw The Duke standing 15-feet tall?

Brought to you by *A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right*, from [www.rigrandebbooks.com](http://www.rigrandebbooks.com).

-30-

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Chris Cobler

Readers share many tales of Internet woe

Rural Texans have a lot to say about the lack of broadband service in their communities. Since we covered the topic earlier this month, many readers have emailed to share their stories and pleas for help.

An example is the email from reader Kathryn Steuart of Freestone County, who reads the column in the Fairfield Recorder. In her east central Texas county of 20,000, she reports that cell phones don't even work well. She and her husband pay for internet via a high-priced satellite service, which isn't sufficient to allow her to work from home. An IBM AIX and Linux system administrator, Steuart said she has explored a variety of solutions, but found nothing.

We were willing/ desperate to pay to have wire strung and present ourselves as a business to get decent speed internet," she wrote. "The rural phone companies are not incentivized to provide this service and quit answering calls. They go broke too often, as well."

She said she has some hope for Elon Musk's Starlink company, which is launching thousands of satellites promising accessible and affordable high-speed internet. Initial pricing is \$99 a month with an upfront hardware purchase of \$500. However, this project is in a testing phase dubbed "Better Than Nothing Beta," and the company warns customers of varying connectivity speeds and occasional outages during the startup period.

Most employers won't hire remote workers with only satellite connections, Steuart said. For more on the subject, watch a replay of the panel discussion "Broadband is a Lifeline" at [TexasTribune.org](http://TexasTribune.org). "Capital Highlights" will monitor how state lawmakers address the



issue when they convene in January. For resources on advocating for solutions, contact Connected Nation Texas.

COVID battle rages on

Gov. Greg Abbott touted some good news in Texas' fight against COVID-19. "Medicines are delivered this week – and every week going forward – to heal those who get COVID," the governor tweeted. "Vaccines to prevent COVID are expected soon. Medical teams are being surged to areas that need it most."

Earlier in the day, Abbott visited Lubbock, which is confronting a surge in cases. There, he provided an update on the distribution of bamlanivimab, an antibody therapy for COVID-19. The state is sending first shipments of the drug to hospitals in regions with the highest number of new case counts, new COVID-19 hospital admissions and total COVID-19 hospital patients.

Abbott emphasized he would not be ordering any new statewide business restrictions and encouraged people to follow the same health practices, including wearing a mask and socially distancing, that helped during the state's spike in cases in July. Texas has reported over 20,000 COVID deaths since the pandemic began, the Texas

Tribune reported, based on data from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

A Thanksgiving gift

Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp is encouraging all students to get a COVID-19 test before leaving campus for the Thanksgiving break. Sharp has asked the Texas Division of Emergency Management, which is part of the Texas A&M System, to help the system get testing vans and tents to all campuses before the holiday.

The greatest gift a student can give his or her family – including parents and grandparents – during this holiday season is the gift of a negative COVID test," Chancellor Sharp said. "Let's do all we can to stop this pandemic and get back to life as we knew it. Thanks to everyone who chooses to take a test before heading home."

Thankful and careful

The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is with only those already living in your household, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services advises. If you're planning to celebrate with others, the agency suggests that you take steps to make your celebration safer by following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They include:

Wear a mask that fits securely over your mouth and nose and around your face.

Stay at least 6 feet away from those who don't live in your household.

If inviting others over, have a small outdoor gathering rather than an inside meal.

The CDC also encourages people to consider other activities rather than a traditional meal with people outside their household. The agency's suggestions include:

- Safely prepare traditional dishes and deliver them to family and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others. For example, leave them on the porch.

- Participate in a gratitude activity, like writing down things you are grateful for and sharing with your friends and family.

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at [ccobler@texaspress.com](mailto:ccobler@texaspress.com).

THE POSTSCRIPT  
By Carrie Classon

"Working at Gratitude"

I have always loved Thanksgiving. I love that it is a holiday built around a full table and homemade treats. I love the recipes handed down on index cards that only get made once a year and traditions that bring back childhood memories and the chance to use linen napkins and the idea that sitting around a table—just sitting around a table—is reason enough to celebrate.

I think it might be my favorite holiday. I like that expectations are reasonably low and yet the holiday provides an opportunity for people who care about one another to get together.

Of course, things are different this year.

I'm told my extended family will have a "Zoom Thanksgiving," and I'm trying to be more excited about that than I am. Thanksgiving will be, by necessity, a significantly pared-down affair this year. But I am still looking forward to it. My husband, Peter, and I will celebrate with his sister, Lori, and her husband, Robert. Lori has been fighting cancer all this year and last. We'll be even more careful than usual so we can share this meal at opposite sides of a room with her. And, yes, we will be grateful.

Because we didn't know if Lori would be alive to celebrate this holiday. But she will be there, eating turkey and breaking her dietary restrictions to have a piece of pie and a glass of wine and I know there will be laughter and someone (probably Lori) will tell at least one rude joke and all of us, at our little gathering of four, will be more than usually grateful.

Cancer has been held at bay for another year. Yes, there have been deaths and losses, but there has also been a lot of laughter and some learning in this difficult year and (while it sounds cliché) a new appreciation for how important our relationships are.

My friend Marisa recently had a dream so powerful she felt compelled to share it on Facebook. She dreamed she had died and come back to life and was trying to tell everyone how special and amazing this was, how amazing life was, and no one would listen.

"Maybe you'll listen," she wrote.

"Times are really rough, I know," she continued, "and more so for some of us than for others. But this life is a gift full of little gifts. I hope you find some of them in your day today."

Another friend told me he was suspicious of people like Marisa who were always looking for something to be happy about. If you had to "work to be happy," it wasn't "natural," he said. He may be right.

But just as we're able to extend Lori's life or replace a broken hip or clean our teeth—working at gratitude makes life a lot more pleasant, a lot more bearable, a lot more fun. If that's unnatural, I'm in favor.

This Thanksgiving, Peter will make the stuffing his grandmother always made. I will make at least two kinds of pie, rolling pastry the way my mother taught me. Lori will get out her family china and silver—although we won't be using many place settings this year. Robert will set the table because he's gotten good at that in these months of Lori's illness, and Lori will probably ask us, as she has at Thanksgiving gatherings in the past, to share something we are thankful for.

And, in spite of everything, I don't think any of us will have to work too hard to come up with something to say.

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

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SPORTS PAGE

Aggies look for big road win at Auburn: Texans look to slow down Colts in AFC South

This strange and crazy college football season is winding down, while the NFL heads for the stretch drive as 2020 gets closer and closer to going away (thank goodness).

Jimbo Fisher's Texas A&M Aggies were supposed to play LSU last Saturday and if the game was held, it was A&M's first game since they dominated South Carolina on Nov. 7. Games against Tennessee and Mississippi had to be postponed due to players and football staffers testing positive for COVID-19.

This Saturday, the Aggies have a tough road test at Auburn with hopes of closing fast and impressing members of the College Football Playoff (CFP) panel. If A&M can win out and finish with just one loss to No. 1-ranked Alabama, the CFP Selection Committee should consider the Aggies for one of the four CFP berths.

Tom Herman's Texas Longhorns would also like to finish strong and perhaps land a Jan. 1 bowl game. UT will visit a Kansas State team that was blown out by Iowa State, 45-0, two weeks ago.

In the NFL, the Texans will be out to throw a monkey wrench in the Colts' AFC South title hopes. Two weeks ago, Houston played perhaps its most complete game of the season when the Texans beat New England 27-20 in NRG Stadium.

The Cowboys travel to Baltimore for a second straight Thursday game (they hosted Washington on Thanksgiving Day) and showed signs of life two weeks ago with a 31-28 win at Minnesota. While the Cowboys were winning on the road, the Ravens dropped a 30-24 overtime decision at home to the Titans to fall to 6-4 on the season.



Before we take a look at the above mentioned games and a handful of others, let's review last week's record. A 7-3 week (two AISD varsity games were postponed) upped the season record to 75-36 (68%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Indiana at Wisconsin: This one is a battle for survival in the Big 10 as both teams enter this game with one loss. Two weeks ago, Indiana lost a hard-fought, 42-35 decision at Ohio State. The Hoosiers were down by double digits in the second half and could have given up, but quarterback Michael Penix, Jr. (1,561 yards, 14 TDs) and wide receiver Ty Fryfogole (31 receptions, 642 yards, 7 TDs) made big-play after big-play to bring IU back.

Texas A&M at Auburn: No. 5-ranked Texas A&M heads to the plains of Alabama to take on an Auburn team that struggles on offense, but has playmakers on defense. A&M QB Kellen Mond (1,468 yards, 16 TDs) needs to continue to be his consistent self and let running back Isaiah Spiller (643 yards, 5 TDs) do his thing on the ground and fellow running back Ainiias Smith (26 receptions, 312 yards, 5 TDs) help out in the passing game.

Texas at Kansas State: Texas is another team that has had its schedule upended due to COVID-19 and they face a KSU team that was humiliated two weeks ago when they were wiped out 45-0 at Iowa State. Texas will go as far as quarterback Sam Ehlinger (1,874 yards, 22 TDs/323 rushing yards, 7 TDs) will take them and he should have a big day against a weak Wildcat defense.

Oklahoma State at TCU: Mike Gundy's Cowboys had it all in front of them until they visited Norman, OK two weeks ago to take on arch rival Oklahoma. The Cowboys got behind big early, rallied to make it close but watched as OU pulled away in the fourth quarter en route to a 41-13 win and might have put a huge dent in OSU's Big 12 title chances.

NFL

Dallas at Baltimore: The Cowboys visit Baltimore for Thursday Night Football as the Ravens look to right the ship and make a run down the stretch. Two weeks ago, Dallas played as well as it has on offense since starting quarterback Dak Prescott

went down with an ankle injury. Backup QB Andy Dalton (655 yards, 4 TDs) passed for two touchdowns and running back Ezekiel Elliott (675 yards, 5 TDs) had his first 100-yard game of the season (103 yards). Rookie wide receiver CeeDee Lamb had an amazing over-the-shoulder touchdown catch as was making plays all over the field in the Minnesota win.

and Nick Chubb (575 yards, 5 TDs) and an opportunistic defense to defeat Philadelphia 22-17 in rainy Cleveland. While the Browns were winning at home, the Titans overcame a second-half deficit at Baltimore and rode Derrick Henry's (1,079 yards, 9 TDs) 29-yard touchdown run in OT to pull off the upset against the Ravens.

Philadelphia at Green Bay: The Eagles have issues all over the place, but especially at quarterback. Carson Wentz has turned into a turnover machine, as evidenced by the 14 interceptions he has thrown thus far this season.

New Orleans at Atlanta: Who needs Drew Brees when you have Taysom Hill? Just joking. Hill (233 passing yards, two rushing touchdowns) filled in admirably for Brees who is on injured reserve with a number of fractured ribs.

Indianapolis at Houston: The Colts come calling on Sunday afternoon at NRG Stadium to take on a Texans team that appears to have found new life after its 27-20 win over New England two weeks ago. In that game, quarterback Deshaun Watson (2,893 yards, 20 TDs) played perhaps his best game of the season passing for 344 yards, tossing two TD passes and running for another score.

Los Angeles Rams at Arizona: A big one for both teams in the NFC West race as the Rams visit the Cardinals in Arizona. Two weeks ago, Kyler Murray's (2,644 yards, 19 TDs) team dropped a tough 28-21 decision at Seattle, while the Rams played at Tampa Bay last Monday Night.

Denver at Kansas City: Patrick Mahomes (3,035 yards, 27 TDs, just 2 interceptions) is sure fun to watch, isn't he? Two weeks ago he rallied the Chiefs from a 31-28 deficit with less than two minutes to go as he marched his team down the field and provided the winning touchdown strike to tight end Travis Kelce (66 receptions, 896 yards, 7 TDs).

Buffalo at San Francisco: The Bills travel across country to take on a 49ers team that has been decimated by injuries and is simply playing out the string in 2020. The Bills are led by quarterback Josh Allen (2,871 yards, 21 TDs/5 rushing TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (73 receptions, 906 yards, 4 TDs).

Cleveland at Tennessee: If you like smash-mouth football, then this is just the game for you. This game pits two teams that focus on the run first, and play tough defense. Two weeks ago, the Browns used the legs of running back Kareem Hunt (644 yards, 4 TDs)

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CONGRATULATIONS To Abigail Ramirez of Tomball, who won Free Tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival. Lucky winners received three free tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival, which is ending Nov. 29. The drawing has concluded.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Man Falls from Van at 10000 Aldine Westfield Road, run over and dies

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 10000 Aldine Westfield Road about 8:45 a.m. today (November 20).

The male victim, 50, was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant M. Warhol and Officer A. Hart reported:

The driver of a white Chevrolet 3500 Van was turning northbound onto Aldine Westfield Road from Wellington Street when the passenger (victim) fell out of the back of the van. The van then struck the victim, who died at the scene.

There are no charges in this incident at this time, pending further investigation.

MS-13 members charged with murder by U.S. Attorney

HOUSTON – Five local members of the violent Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) international street gang are set to appear in court following charges of conspiracy and murder in aid of racketeering, announced U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick.

Wilson Jose Ventura-Mejia, 24, Jimmy Villalobos-Gomez, 23, Angel Miguel Aguilar-Ochoa, 35, Walter Antonio Chicas-Garcia, 23, and Marlon Miranda-Moran, 21, will appear for their arraignments and detention hearings via video before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sam S. Sheldon at 10 a.m. All are El Salvadorian nationals who illegally resided in Houston. Also charged is Franklin Trejo-Chavarria, 23, who is currently in custody in El Salvador.

A federal grand jury returned the indictment Nov. 12. All are charged with conspiracy and murder in aid of racketeering.

The indictment alleges they committed a 2018 murder in furtherance of the MS-13 enterprise. The victim was allegedly beaten to death with machetes in order for the defendants to further their positions in the enterprise.

If convicted, they face a potential death sentence.

Train hits SUV that ran around crossing gates; Driver charged with Manslaughter

CHANNELVIEW – The Harris County Sheriff's Office reports a crash involving an SUV and a train.

A woman has been charged after a deadly crash involving an SUV and an Amtrak train in northeast Harris County on Wednesday afternoon.

Brittanie Green is charged with manslaughter, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

The crash occurred around 5 p.m. Wednesday in the 10500 block of Sheldon Road near Beaumont Highway.

Deputies say Green was driving a BMW X3 with a passenger, Rhonda Clay, in the front seat.

The sheriff's office says Green drove northbound in the southbound lane of Sheldon Road, went around two vehicles that were stopped for the railroad crossing arms and then drove around the railroad arm.

Deputies say the BMW then crossed over the railroad tracks and was struck by a westbound Amtrak train.

Clay was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene, authorities say. Green was taken to the hospital by Life Flight. No injuries were reported among those on the Amtrak train.

The sheriff's office say the Harris County District Attorney's Office accepted the charge of manslaughter on Green. This case remains under investigation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office Vehicular Crimes Division.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Obadiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Matthew 9, after Jesus healed a paralyzed man, what did the man pick up and carry home? Brother, Bed, Mother, Cart
3. What is the largest number

phrase specifically mentioned (described) in the Bible? Scores upon scores, One hundred thousand, Thousand thousand, Thousands of millions

4. Which book begins, "And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai"? Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
5. From Psalms 5:9, on referring to enemies, their throat is an open ...?

Wound, Door, Sepulchre, Cave

6. In Exodus 7 what river was turned into blood? Red, Galilee, Marah, Nile

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Bed; 3) Thousands of millions (Genesis 24:60); 4) Numbers; 5) Sepulchre; 6) Nile  
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).

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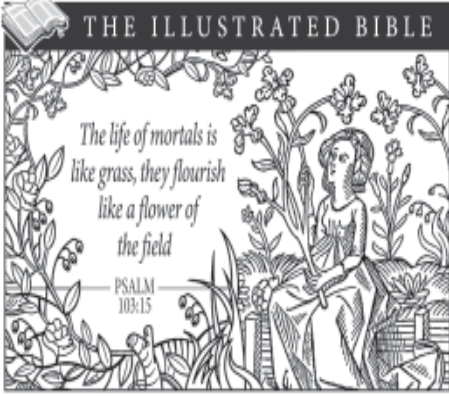
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## Meet First Year Aldine ISD Teacher Acela Gonzalez

Acela Gonzalez is a proud University of Houston-Downtown graduate with a passion for family, bilingual education, and her first-grade students. This first-year teacher hails from a small town called Arcelia in Guerrero, Mexico. Moving to the states, her freshman year of high school was not easy, but she did not let that stop her from succeeding. Her struggle to quickly master a new language would only motivate her to inspire and teach other young English learners years later. In this edition of Looking Forward, we will get to know how this novice bilingual educator is making the most of an unprecedented first year on the job.

Who are You?

How Did You Find Your Way to Aldine ISD?

I completed my student teaching experience in Aldine ISD at Bussey Elementary School. I immediately felt very comfortable with the direction the district was heading. All of the teachers, principals, and staff members I came in contact with were amazing, and that is how I knew Aldine ISD was for me!



What have you learned in your first few months of teaching?

One of the most prominent things I've learned is being flexible and the importance of keeping up with technology. I am currently teaching in a classroom, but I might also need to teach from home, so I have learned to do both. Teaching during the pandemic has made me realize that I can adjust and adapt better than I thought I could.

Was teaching always your dream?

Teaching was not my dream job until I got to high school. That is when my aspirations of becoming an educator began. I was fortunate to have an amazing high school algebra teacher named Ms. Walker. She was very supportive of me, taking me under her wing. I realized that I wanted to become a teacher to one day inspire and support students, as Ms. Walker did for me. It meant a lot that she took the time to help me. Teaching is my way of paying it forward.

Teaching During Covid

What is it like to be a first-year teacher during a pandemic?

It is definitely an experience I will never forget! Sometimes it is not easy because I don't get to interact with my students the way I imagined I was going to. My students miss being able to play and interact as they did before the pandemic. Overall, I'm hopeful that this pandemic will make me a better teacher and prepare me for future crises.

During the pandemic, I have learned new ways to teach and interact with my students. Technology has been an enormous help, especially when we are apart. It has been an excellent opportunity to utilize more technology to teach or enhance learning. Although this year has been challenging at times, I appreciate all the extra measures to keep both students and staff safe.

How have you felt supported during this time?

Unfortunately, my entire family is in Mexico. However, they always give me words of encouragement. They will always be my biggest motivation to be the best at whatever I do. Several of my family members are teachers or work in education, so they were very excited and supportive when I told them I wanted to be a teacher.

Looking Forward

What have your student's taught you this year?

My students are amazing! They are resilient and brilliant. They have really surprised me with their knowledge of the pandemic and with what is going on in the world at the moment. They are very aware of the measures they need to take to stay safe and have been great at social distancing and wear their masks as they should.

Why should others pursue a career in education and teaching?

Kids are the future. It really does take a village to raise each one. The more teachers, parents, and community members we have involved, the better.

What is your favorite thing about being a teacher?

My favorite thing is the feeling I get when my students understand what I am teaching and their excitement from different learning activities.

What do you want people to know about bilingual education?

## Varsity football Davis Falcons defeat MacArthur 42-13

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Spring on Thanksgiving Day was cancelled. This will mark the final weekend of play of the District 14-6A season for AISD's five varsity squads, and it appears Eisenhower, Nimitz and MacArthur remain alive for the league's fourth and final playoff spot.



Mac's QB#12 (RaShaun Jackson) hands off to RB #11 (Armando Desilios)

ALL PHOTOS By Ruben Saucedo for the Northeast News



Davis's #34 (Nathaniel Dorceus) get 1st down as Mac's #2 (Justin Williams) holds on to him

Being a bilingual student myself, I understand the importance of mastering your first language and then learning a second language, in this case, English. It helps students successfully master both languages. It also opens many opportunities in the future. Most importantly, it keeps the students rooted in their culture and language.

How do you get your first graders excited about learning?

At the beginning of the year, I gave my students a big incentive. I promised them that if they did well on their tests and assignments, we could have a pizza party at the end of the nine weeks. It encouraged them to work harder, complete all of their assignments, and be more present each day in class. They have done well with all of the changes this year, so I'm proud to say we will be having a Nine Week Pizza Party!

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