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NORTHEAST NEWS

Americanisms



"I've failed over and over in my life, and that is why I succeeded."
— Michael Jordan

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VOL. 45, NO. 20 TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Scarborough Elementary holds virtual grand opening of new campus

ALDINE – Scarborough Elementary School hosted a virtual grand opening on Friday April 23 to celebrate its new campus. The virtual celebration was live online at HoustonISD.org/LiveTV.

Scarborough was among four HISD elementary schools that had to be rebuilt after receiving significant damage and flooding as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Students and staff were forced to temporarily relocate while the schools were razed and rebuilt.

Though the new school opened to students in the fall of 2020, Scarborough Principal Miriam Medina said having a virtual grand opening marked their official homecoming.

"It's symbolic to us that we survived, and that Scarborough is strong," Medina said.



AERIAL VIEW OF THE NEW SCARBOROUGH ELEMENTARY, AT THE CORNER OF EAST LITTLE YORK AND BENTLEY ROAD.

"The Huskies will keep on going."

The two-story, 91,300 square-foot building features open, brightly colored learning spaces, abundant natural light, and extended learning spaces throughout the building for student collaboration. The \$23 million facility can accommodate about 750 students. The new building was built on the same



SCARBOROUGH PRINCIPAL MIRIAM MEDINA

site as the previous school, but after the demolition of the flood dam-

aged building, the new school was reconstructed several feet higher to mitigate future flood damage.

Present at the Virtual Grand Opening were Scarborough Elementary School Principal Miriam Medina, HISD Board of Education Trustee Kathy Blueford-Daniels, and HISD Interim Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan.

Legislature prepares to end 87th session with many bills still pending



EDITOR'S NOTE: By law the Texas Legislature must finish the regular 87th session by May 31, although the Governor may call them back for additional unfinished business.

The following Report is a summary submitted by the Republican Caucus, to indicate the progress of the most active legislation in the House.

Deadline Night is over and the fate of House Bills is sealed ... or is it?

When the clock struck midnight on Thursday, May 13th, the fate of every House Bill that failed to get a 2nd reading on the House Floor was sealed. While these bills are no longer up for consideration as independent vehicles, the policy ideas contained within still have a chance through Senate bills and the amendment process.

Friday May 14 marks the cleanup period and third reading, where bills may still be amended and face a final record vote before being sent to the Senate. In the past few weeks alone, Texas House Republicans have scored major victories on Pro-Life, 2nd Amendment, Public Safety, and more. To help you catch up with the bills that have passed out of the House, we've put together brief summaries on each issue with a link to a full recap of bills passed so far.

If you want to research any of the bills in these recaps, go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/Search/BillSearch.aspx>. To watch the Deadline Night video, go to <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/chamber/87>.

2ND AMENDMENT
Texas is well-known as a pro-2nd Amendment state. Republicans in the

Texas House made sure the Lone Star State stays that way this session by passing several priority bills to protect gun rights for Texans. Among those are the widely supported House Bill 1972 to establish permitless carry and House Bill 2622 to make Texas a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State. Click here for a recap of those bills and more protecting 2A in Texas. For additional details, see link in paragraph four of this article.

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Texasans have voiced many concerns over the security of our elections and the legislature has responded with several bills to restore integrity to the process. Take a look at the bills that have cleared the House in an effort to restore trust in the process. For additional details, see link in paragraph four of this article.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Both Governor Greg Abbott and House Republicans targeted bail reform as one of the top issues to be tackled by the legislature. The Caucus has also taken up several strong Criminal Justice Reform measures to sharpen the focus of our courts and

Continued. See 87th Legislature report, p.2

Lone Star College, Texas State University team up to address elementary teacher shortage

Houston (April 22) – Lone Star College and Texas State University have signed an agreement establishing a program-to-program partnership for elementary teacher education. This collaboration will help address the shortage of elementary teachers in the greater Houston area.

"This new initiative streamlines the process for future elementary teachers who begin their education at Lone Star College to complete their degree at Texas State University," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "The partnership ensures the coursework Lone Star College students take in their teacher preparation track will seamlessly transfer to Texas State University."



Burning Glass Technologies: Labor Insight™ reports there were more than 25,000 job postings for elementary school teachers in the Houston-Galveston metro area, ranking it 10th in the number of postings in the nation and 30% higher than the national average of demand.

"With a streamlined plan like this, Lone Star

College students should arrive more on-point with the courses they need that we can place into the degree," said Michael O'Malley, Texas State University dean of the College of Education. "That should enhance time to degree completion and keep them on track for graduation at the same rate as the students who started at Tex-

as State University as freshmen."

The cooperation goes beyond course transfer credit. The faculties from the two institutions are working together to align the curriculum, giving TXST faculty insight into how the LSC faculty is preparing future teachers, and vice versa. That improved understanding between the two institutions will result in a vision for teacher preparation that is more shared, aligned and collaborative.

Visit LoneStar.edu/Programs-of-Study/Associate-of-Arts-Teaching to learn more about how LSC can teach you the knowledge and skills to become an elementary teacher.

This partnership was announced at the virtual grand opening of Scarborough Elementary School. *Continued. See LSC and TSU, page 3*

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SCHOOL NEWS

TO OUR READERS:
The current Covid-19 Pandemic, weather and economic conditions have caused us to combine some issues every two weeks, and to change distribution to Pick-up locations. See page 8 for 50 locations where you can get a copy of the Northeast News, and page 7 for email subscriptions. We thank you for your continued support.



| |
|---|
| COVID-19 Cases as of May 15, 2021 |
| HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES |
| 654,078 POSITIVE 7,391 DEATHS 609,571 RECOVERED |
| TEXAS |
| 2,298,650 POSITIVE 50,940 DEATHS 20,981,555 SHOTS |
| UNITED STATES |
| 32,923,177 POSITIVE 585,699 DEATHS 270,341,312 SHOTS |
| WORLDWIDE |
| 162,196,067 POSITIVE 3,364,690 DEATHS 1,436,335,424 SHOTS |

COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES
CITY OF HOUSTON
Registration
HoustonEmergency.org/
covid19
832-393-4920
HARRIS COUNTY
Registration at
readyharris.org OR
https://vacstrac.hctx.net
832-927-8787
RETAIL PHARMACIES
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Aldine ISD Schedule of Graduation Ceremonies May 27-29

Aldine ISD will hold high school graduation ceremonies May 27-29. All of the ceremonies will be held at Thorne Stadium.

The schedule is as follows:
Thursday, May 27 – Hall Success Academy – 8 a.m.
Thursday, May 27 – Blanson CTE High School – 10 a.m.
Thursday, May 27 – MacArthur High School – 7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 28 – Victory Early College High School – 8 a.m.
Friday, May 28 – Eisenhower High School – 10 a.m.
Friday, May 28 – Aldine High School – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 29 – Carver High School – 8 a.m.
Saturday, May 29 – Nimitz High School – 10 a.m.
Saturday, May 29 – Davis High School – 7:30 p.m.
Lane School students will participate in their home school graduation ceremony.

87th Legislature Report,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

public safety to better serve Texans. For a look at the criminal justice and bail reform bills passed in the House so far this session *For additional details, see link in paragraph four of this article.*

PROTECTING LIFE
The Texas House Republican Caucus is leading one of the most-Pro-Life Texas Legislative sessions in state history. From the Texas Heartbeat Act to a pre-ban on abortions, Conservatives have delivered on major victories for two very prominent Pro-Life bills this session.

DISASTER RESPONSE
This session, Texas House Republicans have taken the lead on disaster response policy to prepare for statewide emergencies and strengthen our energy grid against severe weather. *For additional details, see link in paragraph four of this article.*

HEALTHCARE
Texas Republicans are leading on health care as they continue to tackle consumer rights, pricing transparency, and the most important issue: affordability. This session has featured monumental changes in how we approach access to care by expanding telehealth and using existing programs to help reduce the costs of prescription drugs for Texans in need. *For additional details, see link in paragraph four of this article.*

PRO-BUSINESS
Texas has the 9th-largest economy in the world and we are committed to keeping Texas strong on business and jobs. Check out some of the key victories in the Texas House to support businesses and help them navigate the recovery phase post-pandemic. *For additional details, see link in paragraph four of this article.*

PUBLIC SAFETY
Multiple bills addressing public safety have been passed by the Texas House this session. Find more information on these public safety wins. *For additional details, see link in paragraph four of this article.*

RIGHT TO WORSHIP
In the last year, Texans have seen how quickly the right to worship was shut down by elected officials overstepping their constitutional authority. That's why House Republicans have fought to ensure the right to worship is never prohibited in the Lone Star State.

PUBLIC EDUCATION
This session, the Texas House has passed multiple public education bills that will play a pivotal role in providing the most efficient and supportive education to our students possible. To see the specifics on these bills, visit our website. *For additional details, see link in paragraph four of this article.*

Grantham students learn about savings accounts from Houston Texan

Last month Houston Texans Safety Mike Thomas surprised students at Grantham Academy in Aldine with starter savings accounts and a conversation about the importance of financial education as part of a Financial Literacy Month campaign for April with fintech app Goalsetter. The appearance took place via a Zoom bomb with students.

Each account provided students with a \$40 seed investment into savings and up to five years of financial education materials that will be linked to the accounts' use on Goalsetter. Additionally, Thomas spoke to students about important lessons that will help them be better savers, investors and owners while allowing them to build generational wealth.

This event is in partnership with an organization-wide effort between the NFL Player's Association and Goalsetter, led by Mike Thomas.

A study released in 2017 showed that Black and Hispanic communities were on track to have zero net worth by 2053 and 2073, respectively. The impact of the pandemic on these communities has likely accelerated that timeline. By not educating communities about the importance of financial literacy, we will be on the fast track to squandering the massive buying power that these communities have.

Kids who have savings accounts in their names are 6X more likely to go to college and 4X more likely to own stocks by the time they are young adults. We have an opportunity to prepare our children for a lifetime of financial freedom if we reach them early and teach them in a way that they can relate to.

Goalsetter teaches kids savings habits early by letting them save for goals they care about, and also pairs that with engaging financial education. The app includes fun quizzes that are based on popular culture, so kids are excited about learning financial literacy in a way that they have never been drawn to before.

A MESSAGE From Dr. LaTonya Goffney Aldine ISD Superintendent

Message From the Superintendent, April 26, 2021

Dear Aldine Community,

First of all, I want to give a big welcome back to our Aldine students! I hope that all of you have had a wonderful "Last First Day of School" and enjoyed the celebrations at your campuses. Let's Finish Strong and Finish Safe.

Today marks the first day of Teacher Appreciation Week. While I am always for our teachers, this week, we get the opportunity to take a moment and thank them for all they do. Our Aldine ISD teachers are one of the key reasons we were able to have such a smooth transition today. They are closest to our everyday work — educating and supporting our students. Please join me in showing your appreciation for all teachers this week.



Safety Protocols, and Vaccination News

Adjustments to Quarantine Protocols
Following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, Aldine ISD will no longer require fully vaccinated students and staff without symptoms to quarantine if exposed to a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 case.

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated:
Two weeks after their second

STAAR Testing starts back up this week

As a reminder, STAAR testing continues this week. Transportation and meals are available to everyone, and dates will be available for students to make up the exams.

Testing Calendar

| ON-CAMPUS LEARNERS | | AT-HOME LEARNERS* | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Date | Test | Date | Test |
| April 13 | Writing (4, 7) English I EOC | April 20 | Writing (4, 7) English I EOC |
| April 15 | English 2 EOC | April 22 | English 2 EOC |
| May 4 | Algebra I EOC | May 11 | Algebra I EOC |
| May 5 | Biology EOC | May 12 | Biology EOC |
| May 6 | Science (8) U.S. History EOC | May 13 | U.S. History EOC |
| May 7 | Social Studies (8) | May 18** | Math (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) |
| May 11 | Math (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) | May 19** | Reading (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) |
| May 12 | Reading (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) | May 20 | Science (5, 8) |
| May 13 | Science (5) | May 21 | Social Studies (8) |

*All at-home learners must go to their home campus to take tests on their scheduled day(s).
** May 18 and May 19 are Remote Learning Days for students in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade on-campus students.

2020-2021 ALDINE ISD STANDARDIZED TESTING SCHEDULE

*All at-home learners must go to their home campus to take tests on their scheduled day(s).
** May 18 and May 19 are Remote Learning Days for students in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade on-campus students.

It is important for all students — whether learning at home or on campus — to engage with their lessons and complete assignments, quizzes, and projects. If you do not have a Home Access Center (HAC) account, please sign up via the Home Access Center website.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Preregistration for PreK3, PreK4, and Kindergarten is Open — Families can pre-enroll their eligible students for the 2021-2022 school year in three grades — prekindergarten for three-year-olds (PreK3), PreK for four-year-olds (PreK4), and kindergarten. Again, pre-enrollment is for new, eligible students entering AISD for the first time. Families can click here to begin the preregistration process by completing online documents. The deadline to pre-enroll students to PreK and kindergarten is May 31, 2021.

Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

Keep up with the Aldine ISD FACE Department's May newsletter for this month's event dates and family resources.

dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

Students who are fully vaccinated are encouraged to provide a copy of their vaccination card to their campus nurse to enter into their student health immunization records. Staff will only be asked to provide their vaccination records to the Aldine ISD Benefits if they are identified as an exposure to a positive case. Fully vaccinated staff members, who can provide their vaccination card, can then be cleared by the Aldine ISD Benefits department to return to work.

Drive-thru rapid COVID-19 testing continues to be available for all Aldine ISD students and staff.

Online registration is required and can be found here. I encourage everyone to continue doing their part: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.

District updates

We have so many wonderful things happening in our district! Please make sure to check out the District News page of the website to stay up to date on everything happening in our district.

I wish you a wonderful week ahead.

With Aldine Pride,
Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent

Take Pride in our Community Keep it Clean

COMMUNITY PAGE

Lone Star College Honors students receive distinguished award

HOUSTON (March 30) – Lone Star College Honors College students Alissa Boxleitner, Joseph Flores and Joel Reyes received the Dennis Boe Award from The Great Plains Honors Council (GPHC). The GPHC sponsors the annual Dennis Boe Award to highlight and recognize outstanding scholarly work by the honors program/college students of its member institutions.



Lone Star College Honors College students received the Dennis Boe Award from The Great Plains Honors Council which recognizes outstanding scholarly work by the honors college students of its member institutions. Pictured (left to right) are Alissa Boxleitner, Joseph Flores and Joel Reyes.

“Lone Star College Honors College undergraduates were the only students in the region to receive this award this year,” said Dr. Katharine Caruso, LSC associate vice chancellor, Honors and International Education. “The recognition by The Great Plains Honors Council is a testament to the incredible work these students put into their research projects.”

The award honors the late Dr. Dennis Boe, former director of honors at East Central University.

2021 Boe Award winners in the Under-60 credit hours category were:

Alissa Boxleitner, LSC-Montgomery: “Hypersexualization at Middle School Dances: An Analysis of Self-Presentation in Pen15 and Big Mouth.”

Joseph Flores, LSC-CyFair: “Submit to Sin: Contextualizing the Roman Empire in Augustine’s Detailing of Sexuality in Confessions.”

Joel Reyes, LSC-Tomball: “Band-Aids Don’t Fix Bullet Holes: A Pentadic Analysis of Emma Gonzalez’s ‘We Call B.S.’

Speech.”

“The Honors College at Lone Star College is designed to meet the needs of high-achieving students seeking to improve their college transcripts,” said Caruso. “Students are encouraged to develop projects and coursework

based on their own interests and career goals. They develop analytical, communication and leadership skills that help them succeed no matter which future academic or professional career they choose.”

Applications are now being accepted for fall scholarships. Click here to learn more about The Honors College at Lone Star College.

“I was inspired to write this paper when I was watching Pen15 (a television comedy series that depicts middle school life) and was reminded of my own middle school dances’ awkwardness,” said Boxleitner. “It started as a very broad analysis, but with guidance from the Honors

College faculty became much more focused.”

“I learned that the research process and experience is hard work yet fun,” said Flores, a two-time recipient of the Dennis Boe Award. “After learning I was up for the award again, I was out to prove that I could sustain quality work throughout my time at Lone Star College.”

“The biggest takeaway I have garnered through this experience is that no matter how old you are, no matter how many semesters of college you have been in, or what walk of life you come from, anyone has the capacity to participate and engage in meaningful, scholarly research,” said Reyes.

In addition to the three

award recipients, 44 LSC Honors College students were accepted to present their semester-length research projects at the conference which was held virtually earlier this month.

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.

Lone Star College consists of seven colleges, eight centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

Lone Star College & Texas State,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

launched at a celebratory Virtual Signing Ceremony held Thursday, April 22. LSC is the first to join the partnership with Texas State University with more community colleges across the state anticipated to participate in the future.

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 nearly \$3 billion. Lone Star College consists of seven colleges, eight centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

Lone Star College, Texas A&M University-Central Texas agreement will ease transfer process

Houston (April 9) – Lone Star College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas have signed an articulation agreement that will allow the institutions greater access for data sharing to improve the transfer experience for students.

“Having real-time access to individual student information will ensure that transfer and advising services can be efficiently and effectively done, leading to even greater student success,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. “This agreement will help Lone Star College students stay on track and be able to transfer to Texas A&M University-Central Texas by reducing the number of steps they would normally need to take.”

The transfer of credit

between higher education institutions is established by the state of Texas, but articulation agreements like these help open greater pathways for students.

“We are pleased to partner with Lone Star College and look forward to welcoming its students to Texas A&M

University-Central Texas,” said Marc A. Nigliazzo, Ph.D., TAMUCT president. “We are excited that students will have greater access to early advising resources from our university as well as being able to provide scholarship information and other transfer student benefits that may be available to them.”

These agreements set the foundation to map out 4-year curriculum program plans for students

starting at LSC and completing their bachelor’s degree at TAMUCT. The first of these program partnerships will be the seamless transfer from Business and Computing programs as well as the LSC Professional Pilot Program to the TAMUCT Bachelor of Science – Professional Pilot Program. There will also be additional opportunities for graduate studies through this partnership.

LSC also offers bachelor’s degrees in Nursing, Cybersecurity and Energy, Manufacturing and Trades Management providing even more transfer pathways for LSC bachelor graduates into TAMUCT master’s programs.

Learn more about all the TAMUCT programs by visiting TAMUCT.edu/Academics.

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 nearly \$3 billion. Lone Star College consists of seven colleges, eight centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online.


To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.




CONGRATULATIONS

2021 Graduates

Lone Star College is celebrating your accomplishments with a virtual commencement ceremony.





LoneStar.edu/CongratsGrad

LSC-CyFair • LSC-Houston North • LSC-Kingwood • LSC-Montgomery • LSC-North Harris • LSC-Tomball • LSC-University Park

★ OPINION PAGE ★

★
OPINION
By the League of Women Voters

Texas Voters Have Lost Today!

AUSTIN—Today, League of Women Voters of Texas president Grace Chimene issued the following statement in response to the passage of SB 7 in the Texas House of Representatives:

“For democracy to work for all of us, it must include us all. In total disregard for what voters want, the Texas House of Representatives chose to pass a major election bill - SB 7 - that greatly limits voting methods, complicates voter assistance, and adds criminal penalties for election workers. The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) is deeply disappointed in both the outcome of this election bill and the process by which it ultimately passed.

“SB 7 erects deliberate barriers to silence our most vulnerable citizens: voters with disabilities, the elderly, and communities of color.

“Further, the process by which the bill was passed is shameful. Committee hearings lacked safety protocols and civility, discouraging in-person, public testimony. While citizens were allowed to provide written comments online, these comments were not made part of the official record or read at hearings. The final House debate did not begin in earnest until 2:45 am.

“Voting and elections are fundamental to our democracy. We had hoped for a more democratic process and an outcome that would benefit all voters instead of a few legislators.

“The League advocates for an election system where every American can safely and freely cast their ballot. In partnership with other community organizations, we asked legislators to carefully weigh election security with preserving voting rights. The League identified strong legislative opportunities to improve election security, such as bills implementing online voter registration, electronic tracking of mail ballot applications and mail ballots, and more secure election equipment.

“Texans across the state responded to League Action Alerts to contact their legislators to oppose legislation that would institutionalize barriers to voting. Over 80,000 emails regarding voting rights were sent to our Texas legislators.

“SB 7 was wholly substituted in the House Elections Committee with the language of HB 6, the other massive “election integrity” bill. As passed in the House, SB 7 contains a few amendments, such as deleting the requirement that assistants disclose the reason the voter needs assistance and pairing down some of the additional authority given to political poll watchers. As SB 7 continues through the process; however, it will be reworked and revised behind closed doors - in the conference committee.

“When finally passed, this bill will affect how we cast ballots and run elections in Texas for years to come - voters deserve better! Unfortunately, the majority of Texas legislators chose not to listen and to confirm their definition of ‘election integrity’ is restricting voting rights and instilling fear for all involved in the election process.”

The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, LWVTX represents more than 13,000 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older.

League of Women Voters of Texas: lwvtexas.org

★
OPINION
Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo

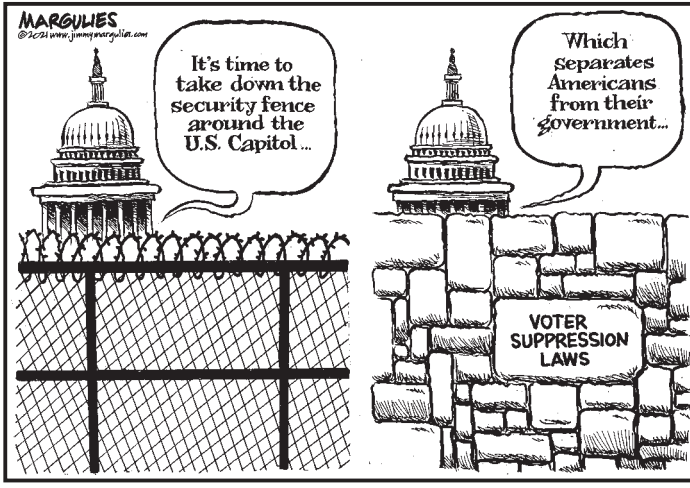


Statement from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on SB7 Texas Voter Suppression Legislation

“The tentatively approved voter suppression law is built on a pernicious lie, a lie that corrodes our American democracy from within by pushing the falsehood that widespread voter fraud exists in Texas. Each time this lie is told, each time policies are passed based on this lie, our democracy is weakened.

I want to acknowledge the lawmakers that fought all night, and made some headway, to temper some of the most dangerous provisions in this bill.

Most importantly, the passage of this bill has once again made it mainstream in Texas for laws to be written that make voting more difficult. This is a dangerous path for Texas to travel.”



★
THE POSTSCRIPT
By
Carrie Classon

The Treat Lady

Tanner and Dakota are waiting for me.

They're standing at the corner of their chain-link fence, watching the sidewalk. They know I'm coming, even if they don't know exactly when, even if they can't see the sidewalk very well and can't hear at all.

Tanner and Dakota are my two oldest dog customers, dogs I give treats to nearly every day. My husband, Peter, has decided against paying the big bucks for high-priced dog treats full of questionable ingredients. He bought himself a dog-bone-shaped cookie cutter, did some research on the internet, and now he bakes healthy dog treats for me to take on my daily hike. As you might imagine, as the Treat Lady, I have a lot of loyal customers.

Some of the dogs have even tracked me to my home. Matilda, a pudgy corgi, knows where I live and pauses every time she walks by with her owners, licking her lips. One day, Snoopy, the giant Bernese mountain dog, who I meet on the trail, was walking by the house. Snoopy is now almost a year and a half old and weighs more than 170 pounds.

I told Peter, “That's Snoopy!” and (probably unadvisedly) called out the front door, “Hey, Snoopy!” Snoopy stopped in his tracks and stared.

Darron and Monica, Snoopy's owners, came and chatted on the stoop and I thought no more about it. Snoopy, however, has a very good memory.

A few days later, we saw Darron and Monica and Snoopy passing (probably intentionally) on the other side of the street. Not wanting to be pests, we didn't holler out the door. But we were watching Snoopy staring at our house and walking more slowly. Finally, he came to a dead stop on the sidewalk, still staring at our front door. We could see Darron tugging on his leash, and that's when Snoopy decided to lie down. Snoopy went on strike.

There isn't much you can do when a 170-pound dog has decided he is going to lie down on the sidewalk. We saw Darron and Monica's growing frustration and that's when Peter yelled from the door, “Hey, Snoopy!”

Snoopy leapt to his feet and bolted straight to our door, dragging Darron down the steep hill in front of our house. Snoopy landed in a happy, panting pile on the stoop.

“You see?” he seemed to be saying to Monica and Darron. “We had to visit!” Snoopy is a very sweet dog.

All the dogs are sweet. Fergus, a cattle dog of some type, leaps into the air whenever he sees me on the trail and gives me a kiss on the face. His owner no longer says, “Stop, Fergus!” because there is no stopping Fergus from kissing me. Fergus loves the Treat Lady. And I really don't mind at all.

As we prepare to leave this place, I think of all the dogs I am going to miss and I wonder if they will miss me. But I know there are dogs in every state, in every country, and every dog needs a treat. I don't think I'll stop being the Treat Lady, living somewhere else.

Tanner and Dakota are still waiting at the fence. I give them each a treat and Tanner barks in excitement. His bark is loud and strange because he is deaf, but I can tell he is happy—even if he can't see me, even if he's not entirely sure where this treat is coming from.

“You're such a good dog,” I tell him, scratching his gray muzzle. “You deserve a treat.”

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

★
STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

‘Constitutional Carry’ bill close to becoming law

It is a near certainty that Texans will be allowed to carry handguns without a license in the near future as House Bill 1927 passed both chambers and heads to a conference committee to hash out amendments added in the Senate version.

Gov. Greg Abbott has said he would sign the bill, which means Texans would no longer be required to obtain a license to carry a handgun either openly or concealed.

Ultimate passage of the bill means Texas would join at least 20 other states with similar laws.

A University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll indicates most Texans oppose unlicensed carry and support criminal and mental background checks before all gun sales.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACROSS STATE

Much-needed rain in April has continued to ease drought conditions, according to the Texas Water Development Board.

Midland, for example, received 2.2 inches last month, more than the previous six months combined. Right now, 65% of the state is experiencing drought conditions, mainly in South and West Texas.

More rainfall in early May should improve the drought situation even more, according to TWDB.

OAK TREES STILL RECOVERING FROM WINTER STORM

Winter Storm Uri didn't just wreak havoc on homeowners and businesses that suffered from broken pipes and the extended power outage. The Texas A&M Forest Service notes that oak trees across the state are slow in leafing out, prompting many property owners to contact hor-



ticulturists, worried their trees have died.

Maybe so, maybe not, says veteran TFS forester Courtney Blevins. He advises property owners to wait before taking down an oak tree that still might come to life. “I think most of the oaks are going to come through okay,” Blevins said. “If your tree is leafing out really late, it's obviously stressed. But most trees die from a combination of stressors, not just one thing.”

Blevins and longtime horticulturist and syndicated columnist Neil Sperry both say there is no hurry to take down an oak tree, even if it is actually dead. The best time to plant is in the fall or early winter, and even dead trees rarely pose an immediate danger.

“If your tree is dead, there's no rush to take it down,” Blevins said. “That's one big mistake people are making. They're in a big hurry to take that thing down, thinking it's dangerous to leave a dead tree standing, and it's not.”

OUTREACH PROGRAMS AIMED TO BOOST VACCINE RATE

As the rate of COVID-19 vaccinations continues to slow, several outreach programs are attempting to reach Texans where they work and live.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Military Department have opened the State Mobile Vaccination Team Call Center. Texas businesses or civic organizations can call 844-90-TEXAS to schedule a visit from a state mobile vaccine team.

To qualify, a business or organization must have 10 or more employees, visitors or members who wish to be vaccinated.

“Vaccines are the most effective tool in Texas' fight against COVID-19, and we are committed to making COVID-19 vaccines even more widely available to Texans across the state,” Abbott said. “The State Vaccine Call Center will help connect businesses and civic organizations with these life-saving shots and ensure that more Texans have an opportunity to get vaccinated.”

The Texas Department of State Health Services is inviting pediatric health care providers to enroll in the COVID-19 vaccine program, in anticipation of the expansion of the Pfizer vaccine emergency use authorization to include adolescents 12 years and older.

DSHS sent a letter to more than 3,000 pediatric providers who already give vaccines to children.

With vaccine supply exceeding demand, DSHS will now fill vaccine orders as they come in and discontinue allocating the vaccine weekly. The vaccine is available more widely than ever at hundreds of Texas locations.

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE DOSE

More than 19.3 million Texans have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine — more than two-thirds of the state's population — while 8.59 million are fully vaccinated, according to DSHS.

The number of new cases continues to drop, with 17,999 reported in the last week, along with 364 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. At its peak in mid-January, nearly 159,000 new cases were reported in a single week along with 2,311 deaths. Lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients who are hospitalized across the state remained steady last week at 2,508, according to DSHS.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

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SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje del Superintendente, 20 de abril de 2021

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

Primero que nada quiero darles una gran bienvenida a nuestros alumnos de Aldine. Espero que todos hayan tenido un maravilloso "Último día de clases" y hayan disfrutado de las celebraciones en sus escuelas. Terminemos fuertes y terminemos seguros.

Hoy marca el primer día de la Semana de Agradecimiento a los Maestros. Aunque siempre estoy a favor de nuestros maestros, esta semana tenemos la oportunidad de tomarnos un momento y agradecerles por todo lo que hacen. Nuestros maestros del Distrito Escolar de Aldine (Aldine ISD) son una de las razones clave por las que pudimos tener una transición tan fluida hoy. Están más cerca de nuestro trabajo diario: educar y apoyar a nuestros alumnos. Por favor, demos especial agradecimiento a todos nuestros maestros esta semana.

Las pruebas STAAR comienzan de nuevo esta semana

Como recordatorio, las pruebas STAAR continúan esta semana. El transporte y las comidas estarán disponibles para todos, y las fechas para que los alumnos recuperen los exámenes.

HORARIO DE PRUEBAS ESTANDARIZADAS 2020-2021 ALDINE ISD

* Todos los alumnos que aprenden en casa deben ir a su escuela de origen para tomar los exámenes en los días programados.

** Mayo 18 y Mayo 19 son Días de Aprendizaje

Testing Calendar

Table with columns for On-Campus Learners and At-Home Learners, listing dates and test subjects like Writing, English, Algebra, Biology, Science, and Social Studies.

*All at-home learners must go to their home campus to take tests on their scheduled days. **May 18 and May 19 are Remote Learning Days for students in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade on-campus students.



Remoto para los estudiantes en 3°, 4°, 5°, 6°, 7°, y 8° grado que estudian en la escuela.

Es importante que todos los alumnos, ya sea que estén aprendiendo en casa o en la escuela, participen en sus lecciones y terminen tareas, cuestionarios y proyectos. Si no tiene una cuenta de Home Access Center (Centro de Acceso Desde el Hogar; conocido por sus siglas HAC en inglés), regístrese a través de la página web Home Access Center.

RECORDATORIOS IMPORTANTES

La preinscripción para PreK3, PreK4, y Kindergarten está abierta — Las familias pueden preinscribir a sus hijos elegibles para el ciclo escolar 2021-2022 en los tres grados — prekínder (PreK o preescolares) para niños de 3 años (PreK3), Pre-K para niños de 4 años (PreK4), y jardín de infancia o kindergarten en inglés (kinder). Nuevamente, la preinscripción es para alumnos nuevos y elegibles que ingresan al AISD por primera vez. Las familias pueden dar clic aquí para comenzar el proceso de preinscripción completando los documentos en línea. La fecha límite para preinscribir a los alumnos en PreK y kinder es el 31 de mayo de 2021.

Relaciones con la familia y la comunidad (FACE)

Manténgase informado con el departamento FACE de Aldine ISD con el boletín del mes de mayo para eventos y recursos para las familias de

este mes.

ACTUALIZACIONES DE COVID-19 – Pruebas, protocolos de seguridad y noticias sobre vacunación

Ajustes a los protocolos de cuarentena

Siguiendo la guía de los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades, Aldine ISD ya no requerirá que los alumnos y el personal completamente vacunados sin síntomas sean puestos en cuarentena si se exponen a un caso positivo de COVID-19 confirmado en laboratorio.

Las personas se consideran completamente vacunadas:

Dos semanas después de su segunda dosis en una serie de dos dosis, como las vacunas Pfizer o Moderna, o

Dos semanas después de una vacuna de dosis única, como la vacuna Janssen de Johnson & Johnson

Se anima a los alumnos que estén completamente vacunados a que proporcionen una copia de su tarjeta de vacunación a la enfermera de la escuela para que la ingresen en sus registros de vacunación. Solo se le pedirá al personal que proporcione sus registros de vacunación a Beneficios de Aldine ISD si se identifica como una exposición a un caso positivo. Los miembros del personal completamente vacunados, que pueden proporcionar su tarjeta de vacunación, pueden ser autorizados por el departamento de Beneficios de Aldine ISD para regresar al trabajo.

Las pruebas rápidas contra COVID-19 continúan disponibles para todos los alumnos y personal de Aldine ISD. Se requiere registrarse en línea y puede accederse aquí. Animo a todos a seguir haciendo su parte: ponerse un cubrebocas, lavarse las manos y cuidar la distancia.

Actualizaciones del distrito

¡Hay tantas cosas maravillosas sucediendo en nuestro distrito! Por favor, asegúrese de leer las noticias del distrito en nuestra página web para estar al día con nuestro diario acontecer.

Les deseo una excelente semana.

Con orgullo Aldine,

Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney

Superintendente

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves comic strip by Dave T. Phipps. Panels show characters talking about boring adults and technology.

R.F.D. comic strip by Mike Marland. Panels show characters discussing being stuck in a house.

The Spats comic strip by Jeff Pickering. Panels show characters talking about a rubber chicken and a loamer.

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate to Challenging.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltzhoff. Two panels showing a character hanging from a beam, with a challenge to find differences.

King Crossword Posting Date May 17, 2021. Includes crossword grid and clues for Across and Down.

Trivia test by Eif Rodriguez. Includes a grid and 10 trivia questions about movies, television, medicine, geography, history, advertising, food, Bible, science, and inventions.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. The first Academy Awards ceremony in 1929 lasted 15 minutes. 2. Vermont. 3. Stiff joint. 4. France. 5. The U.S. opposed further European colonization of the Americas, but wouldn't... interfere with existing colonies or models in the affairs of European countries; 6. Cap'n... Crime; 7. Flat, quick bread of Scottish origin; 8. The first five books of the Bible; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy; 9. Spores; 10. 1933 in Camden, New Jersey.

Special Purpose “La Promesa” high school opens in the fall

High school students newly arrived in the U.S. from non-English speaking countries or with limited English proficiency — will receive intensive English language learning instruction, core academics, and support services at the new, innovative program set to launch in fall 2021.

Aldine ISD continues to develop programs that give all students access to high-quality schools and learning experiences that prepare them for the future. All means all, including those new to America, also known as newcomers. The latest choice school, La Promesa, aligns with the district’s strategic goal that ensures all Aldine ISD students learn in an environment that is safe, welcoming, and supportive.

Newcomers come to the school district with special needs, like learning a new language, adapting to a new culture, and adjusting to a new school system. The school is the latest initiative from Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. She believes this environment will support them so that they can succeed.

La Promesa, which translates to “the promise” in Spanish, will focus exclusively on students who are new to the U.S. and come from non-English speaking countries or with limited English proficiency. The curriculum will address their unique needs and provide a rigorous, academic college-readiness education and a strong support system. La Promesa promises to develop students’ knowledge and skills to lead and thrive anywhere. Staff will also work with students and families to create a strong sense of community with Six Core Outcomes for La Promesa Students — Resilience, Growth Mindset, Social Awareness and Respect, Agency, Biliteracy, and Technological Literacy.

Every course will have English learning instruction embedded in its lessons. The intent will be that students are working to improve their English literacy skills all day, every day. In addition to English as second language services, Aldine ISD will address students’ social-

emotional needs.

A Choice School

Families and their children have choices in Aldine ISD. They can choose from Aldine’s various unique academic programs — known as Choice Schools from throughout the district. Students do not need to be zoned to Choice Schools. Choice Schools are open to Aldine ISD students that meet the criteria, but they must apply.

La Promesa, a Choice School, will be housed within Aldine High School, where it will have an entire wing dedicated to the program. In the 2021-2022 school year, La Promesa will only serve ninth graders. It will add a grade level each year until becoming a 9th-12th grade campus.

During the second year, 2022-2023, La Promesa will implement two Career and Technology Education (CTE) pathways. While a decision has not been announced, Aldine ISD has a tradition of selecting CTE pathways in fields that are in high demand. What does all this mean for La Promesa students? The students at La Promesa will have the opportunity to obtain industry certifications and associate degrees. They will also be earning college credit while in high school as well as completing their degree sooner.

La Promesa is opening in collaboration with the Partnership with Internationals Network.

Why choose a Choice School? — A Best-Fit School for Your Child

All children are unique. Each learns in different ways, has aspirations for different careers, and is interested in different subjects. The more options there are that better suit a student’s interests, the better for the student. The district believes that if all students can attend a high-quality school that matches their interests, they will achieve their academic potential.

Students don’t need to be zoned to a Choice School, but due to their popularity and limited space, they do need to apply.

If La Promesa is the School for You, Enroll TODAY!

The program is avail-

able to Aldine ISD families, but seats are limited. To ensure your child’s spot, apply today!

To enroll <https://enroll.aldineisd.org/login>.

To select another language to fill out the online enrollment form, click on “Select Language” at the top of the page.

Would You Like to Learn More About La Promesa and Meet the Principal?

Leading La Promesa as its principal is Ana Fernanda Flores-Bolívar. Originally from México, Flores-Bolívar has worked in education for more than a decade. She started her teaching career as a bilingual teacher in Aldine ISD in 2006 before taking on leadership roles at the campus level. Her most recent position was serving as the principal at Orange Grove Elementary School. She holds a master’s degree in education from St. Thomas University. Flores-Bolívar has a law degree from Universidad Iberoamericana, one of the most prestigious universities in Mexico City.

Principal Flores-Bolívar will be hosting virtual recruitment tours for Aldine ISD families interested in learning more about La Promesa and the application process. Families can visit the links below to learn about the new Choice School option.

Virtual Information Sessions

If you are interested in joining a virtual meeting, please click here to complete the short four-question form online to select one of the dates.

Thursday, April 29 at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 1 at 9 a.m.

Families that complete the online form to attend one of the sessions will receive more information on virtually joining the sessions. Organizers will provide information in multiple languages.

Do You Have Questions?

If you can’t join the sessions, families can call (281) 448-5237 and send emails to newcomerschool@aldineisd.org. You can visit La Promesa’s website and also follow the school on Twitter @LaPromesa_AISD.

Houston Community College Hosts Two Vaccination Sites May 19-22

HOUSTON (May 14, 2021) Houston Community College’s Acres Homes and Central campuses will be COVID-19 vaccination sites on Wednesday, May 19 through Saturday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The vaccines are administered by the Texas National Guard at no cost to the public, in partnership with the Texas Department of Emergency Management.

The second doses of the vaccine are scheduled for Wednesday, June 9 through Saturday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the same locations.

Walk-ins and drive-ups are encouraged, and no appointment is necessary.

The Texas National Guard is delivering the Pfizer vaccine at the two HCC sites in support of irradiating the pandemic crisis in the greater metropoli-

tan Houston area.

Faculty and staff (full-time, part-time and adjuncts) who receive a vaccination at the locations during scheduled work hours will not be charged leave. More information will be sent by Talent Engagement through a TE News e-mail.

The operation will be extended if demand warrants.

WHAT: Pfizer vaccine

WHEN: Wednesday, May 19 through Saturday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WHERE: Houston Community College’s Acres Homes and Central campuses
Acres Homes
630 W Little York Rd.
Houston, TX 77091

Central College
1300 Holman St.
Houston, TX 77004

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INTRODUCING ALDINE’S NEWEST CHOICE SCHOOL



La Promesa

Newcomer and Dual Language Experience

Aldine ISD is proud to announce the launch of **La Promesa** — the promise. **La Promesa** will provide students new to the country with global and cultural competencies for today’s interconnected world. **La Promesa** promises to give students career and academic skills and competencies to help them achieve their dreams and determine their future path as high school graduates. In addition to college and career readiness, students will learn language skills in an environment that will address their social-emotional needs.

Opening: Fall 2021

La Promesa will serve Grade 9 in 2021-22 and plans to grow to be a 9-12 campus by 2024-2025.

The school targets students newly arrived in the U.S. from non-English speaking countries or with limited English proficiency. Students will receive **intensive English language learning** instruction, core academics, and support services while providing unique CTE pathways and AP course work. La Promesa will work to develop strong parent-school-community partnerships.

Join La Promesa



[Enroll.AldineISD.org](https://enroll.aldineisd.org)

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Scan for steps on how to get started!

- Acres Homes Campus** | 630 W. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77091
- Northline Campus** | 8001 Fulton Street | Houston, TX 77022
- North Forest Campus** | 6010 E. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77016
- Northeast Campus** | 555 Community College Drive | Houston, TX 77013
- Automotive Tech. Training Center** | 4638 Airline Drive | Houston, TX 77022

713.718.8300

hccs.edu



HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and gender expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: David Davis, Director, HR & Title IX Coordinator, 713.718.8311 or hr@hccs.edu.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Fatal Shooting at 925 Greens Road

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man at 925 Greens Road about 9:35 p.m. on Wednesday (May 5).

The victim, Willie James Woods, Jr., 30, was pronounced dead at the scene.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant K. Meek and Detective S. Overstreet reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting in a parking lot at the above address and found Mr. Woods, Jr. with multiple gunshot wounds. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The suspect is described only as a male or female wearing a black hoodie.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Aldine ISD teacher accused of inappropriate relationship

HOUSTON – An Aldine Independent School District teacher was arrested and charged after being accused of an improper relationship with a student in the Houston area.

Helen Page, a business teacher at the Aldine Ninth Grade School, is accused of having a relationship with a former student. Investigators said 49-year-old Page began communicating with the 15-year-old last summer. Investigators with the District Attorney's Office found nude pictures during a forensic investigation of Page's cellphone, which led to the felony charge of "improper relationship with a student" levied against her by prosecutors.



According to court documents, Page told investigators, "This was a huge mistake."

Aldine ISD issued the following statement:

"Aldine ISD has been informed that a former staff member at Aldine Ninth Grade School has been charged with improper relationship with a student. This allegation was investigated by the district in January of 2021. The staff member was immediately removed from the school when the investigation began and resigned from the district on Feb. 5, 2021.

"The district turned over the investigation to the Aldine Police Department and charges were filed. Aldine ISD does not condone nor tolerate any employee who engages in inappropriate behavior. The safety and security of our students will continue to be of paramount importance to Aldine ISD."

Hit & Run Driver left Victim injured

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Vehicular Crimes Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspect responsible for a Hit and Run – Failure to Stop and Render Aid.

On April 4, 2021, at approximately 6:17 pm, the victim was riding a dirt bike northbound on the 4700 block of Hirsch Road. A silver Ford F-150 was also traveling northbound slightly ahead of the complainant. The suspect made an abrupt left turn, which caused the victim to strike the back of the suspect's vehicle. The victim suffered bodily injuries and went unconscious as a result of the collision. The driver of F150 did not stop and render aid to victim and fled the scene.

The suspect's vehicle is a silver colored 2009-2014 Ford F-150 4-door pickup truck, with black after-market rims and tires. It also has an "FX2" sticker on the bed of the truck.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

- 1. Is the book of Damascus in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who did the people of Malta think was a god when he was unaffected by the viper's bite? Job, Paul, Timothy, Stephen
3. To whom did Naaman the Syrian ask forgiveness after worshipping the god Rimmon? Saul, Christ, Elisha, Darius

- 4. From John 3, who was a Pharisee and ruler among the Jews? Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, Judas, Peter
5. Who was known as the "Supplanter"? Aaron, Moses, Jacob, Hosea
6. What was the name of David's first wife? Rachel, Priscilla, Michal, Ruth
ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Paul; 3) Elisha; 4) Nicodemus; 5) Jacob; 6) Michal
"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online. (c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

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