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NORTHEAST NEWS



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Mural Fest brings art scene to East Aldine

New Mural at High Meadows Library is start of Art Committee events

EAST ALDINE – The Aldine community held its first annual “ART FEST” last Saturday, May 22nd. The event took place at the Harris County High Meadows Branch Library, who were one of the co-sponsors the fest.

The idea behind the Art Fest was to involve the community, both children and adults, in participating art projects. The Art Committee of the East Aldine District plans to have many additional types of art and art projects throughout the community in the future, and on an on-going basis.

Art Activities included the unveiling of a new Wall Mural on the side of the High Meadows library

Continued. See ART FEST, Page 6



Artist Jesse De Leon works on the East Aldine community painting on the wall of the High Meadows Branch Library. Citywide, the project is known as BIG WALLS, BIG DREAMS. The district is promoting the inclusion of art of various types in the visual fabric of the community, and this mural is one of many efforts to introduce public art to the East Aldine District.
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF EAST ALDINE DISTRICT & VERONICA SANCHES)



The ART BUS was part of the Festivities last Saturday during the Mural Fest. East Aldine Art Committee chairman Carlos Silva, left, joins volunteers in setting up the bus for a day of participatory art projects for the community.

HCDE elects Cantu as VP

HARRIS COUNTY – The Harris County Department of Education held their annual election of officers of the board last week, and East Aldine’s deputy executive director Richard Cantu was elected as first vice-president. As a board member and officer, Cantu has championed education matters for the underserved of the district and the county. He also serves on the board of the Aldine Education Foundation, and several advisory boards for HCC and LSC.

Position 6, Precinct 1 trustee Danyahel (Danny) Norris, an intellectual property attorney, was unanimously elected president.

Norris, who began his term in January 2019, is a principal partner of Norris & Norris LLP and is a past president of the Houston Lawyer’s Association. A native Chicagoan, Norris



RICHARD CANTU

holds a chemical engineering degree from the University of Houston and a law degree from Texas Southern University’s Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Other new officers for 2021-2022 are Richard Cantu, first vice president; and Andrea Duhon, second vice president.

Cantu is the deputy executive director of the East

Continued on 2. See CANTU elected VP

GLO responds to criticism, sends \$750 mil to Harris County

HARRIS COUNTY – After last week’s announcement from the state GLO, local leaders in Harris County and the City of Houston were vocal in their unhappiness about the fact that almost no flood mitigation funds had been allocated for these two areas, in spite of the fact that Hurricane Harvey had devastated more homes and businesses than anywhere else in the state. Judge Hidalgo petitioned HUD, the federal department providing the flood funds to the state, to reconsider the criteria and allocate money to the local needs.

As a result, George P. Bush director of the GLO, changed his original statement and promised the county that they would receive a block grant of \$750 million without waiting for the second round of allocations. However, as told to this newspaper by a representative of the GLO, this money will come from the \$2.144 billion sent to Texas for flood mitigation from Hurricane Harvey, rather than additional funding.

Here is the statement as issued by the Texas GLO office:

BUSH REQUESTS DIRECT FUNDING ALLOCATION TO HARRIS COUNTY FOR MITIGATION

AUSTIN – Today, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced his request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Harris County to receive a direct allocation of \$750 million for mitigation efforts.

“I have heard the overwhelming concerns of Harris County regarding the mitigation funding competition,” said Commissioner Bush. “The federal government’s red tape requirements and complex regulations are a hallmark of President Biden’s administration. I am no stranger to standing with the people of Texas as we fight against the federal government. As such, I have directed the GLO to work around the federal government’s regulations and allocate \$750 million for mitigation efforts in Harris

Continued. See ADDITION FLOOD FUNDS, Page 2



JUDGE LINA HIDALGO
HARRIS COUNTY

Hidalgo says “Not Enough”

Statement from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Flood Control Funds

“This week, our community stood united in outrage over the loss of vital Harvey mitigation funds intended to protect us from future storms. Republicans, Democrats, business leaders, and residents from every corner of our county came together to call for these desperately needed resources.

I’m encouraged state officials have recognized the flaws in their process and Harris County’s desperate need for

Continued on 2. See HIDALGO

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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 29, 2021 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES |
| 661,488 POSITIVE 7,638 DEATHS 620,238 RECOVERED |
| TEXAS |
| 2,952,861 POSITIVE 51,491 DEATHS 22,847,875 SHOTS |
| UNITED STATES |
| 33,251,717 POSITIVE 594,304 DEATHS 293,258,812 SHOTS |
| WORLDWIDE |
| 169,773,989 POSITIVE 3,529,577 DEATHS 1,837,001,323 SHOTS |

COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES
CITY OF HOUSTON
Registration
HoustonEmergency.org/covid19
832-393-4220
HARRIS COUNTY
Registration at
readyharris.org OR
https://vacstrac.hctx.net
832-927-8787
RETAIL PHARMACIES
Registration at Websites
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Hidalgo on Flood Funds,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

certainty in receiving Harvey mitigation funds. I support and continue to call for certainty in funding, but \$750 million for Harris County is still a mere fraction of the \$4.3 billion that the state received for flood mitigation after Hurricane Harvey and not enough to meet our needs. Harris County is the epicenter of our nation's

energy infrastructure, home to nearly 5 million people, suffered over half of the damages and deaths from Hurricane Harvey, and continues to be too vulnerable to future flooding. That's why we need more funding and why we will continue working with leaders from around our county, GLO, and HUD to secure a fair allocation."

Additional \$750m Flood Funds,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

County." An amendment to the state action plan regarding the administration of Community Development Block Grants for Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) in the State of Texas will be submitted to HUD by the General Land Office to implement these changes. A final mitigation competition will be held for the other 48 eligible counties at a later date.

Although Hurricane Harvey made landfall in August 2017 and Congress appropriated these mitiga-

tion funds several months thereafter, the GLO's hands were tied waiting for HUD to publish the rules regulating the use of these funds until they were published in a Federal Register notice, which did not happen until August 30, 2019 – two years after the storm and 19 months after the appropriation. The scoring criterion required by HUD to be included in the state action plan for distribution of the funds was approved by HUD on March 27, 2020.

Cantu elected VP of HCDE board,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Aldine Management District and has held various nonprofit and municipal leadership positions. Duhon is a territory manager and marketing strategist for Plant Sight 3D.

Superintendent James Colbert Jr. thanked 2020-2021 Board President Eric Dick for his leadership.

"All the staff has talked about how the spirit, culture, and climate has changed on this board," Colbert said during the meeting. "Certainly, that's a byproduct of a lot of the new board members that we have, but it's also a byproduct of your leadership."

At the Wednesday meeting, the board also approved a resolution to increase the over 65 exemption for the tax year

2021 from \$160,000 to \$229,000. This means that all individuals aged 65 or older will have their property taxes frozen for the 2021 tax year if their property is valued at \$229,000 or less.

Approval of this item aligns HCDE's over 65 exemption with Harris County, which increased its exemption last year. The move will save taxpayers \$3.45 per year on property taxes. Under the change, HCDE would see a loss of approximately \$270,000 in property tax revenues.

The increased exemption is on top of the optional homestead exemption Harris County already offers to all homeowners of \$5,000 or 20%, whichever is greater.

Aldine District to offer Free In-person Summer School

Families can now register their children for one of the district's free, in-person summer school programs. Aldine ISD is offering summer learning experiences for all students. They can use the opportunity to catch up, but also to get ahead. Each program is designed to remind students of a summer camp setting — learning while exploring.

There are programs for all campers — primary, elementary, middle, and high school levels. All activities and meals — breakfast and lunch — during the camp are free. AISD will provide transportation for eligible students.

Summer sessions offer an opportunity to close any gaps in learning and reinforce what students learned during the school year, thereby avoiding the "summer slide." Programs range from literacy and STEM to visual and performing arts and career and technology education (CTE) certifications. There are also programs for students to get ahead on their high school credits to graduate. There is an array of choices and opportunities for students to take advantage of this summer.

Families can also visit the summer school webpage, by clicking here.

AISD will follow state and CDC guidelines. Students and staff will wear

masks, maintain social distance, and use hand sanitizer.

PRIMARY SCHOOL & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Registration Opens: May 17

Registration Closes: May 24

Summer School Session: June 7- July 1

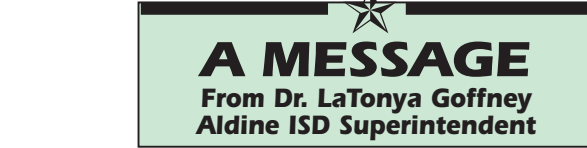
Primary (PreK, Kinder & Special Language Summer School) — Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Elementary (Grades 1-5) — Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sites: Griggs, Varde-man, Jones, Hinojosa & Kujawa

Selected campers will have many opportunities to learn while having fun. They will take part in enriching activities and recover any learning gaps while having fun. The summer program for primary students will focus on literacy and social-emotional learning. The young campers will also have the opportunity to engage in an Hour of Opportunity to engage in art, dance, Book Club, music, and more. To help students strive to meet their learning goals, they will have the opportunity to win medals in Olympic-style fun and yard signs for their success.

All English as a second language (ESL) and bilin-



Message From the Superintendent, May 17, 2021

Dear Aldine Community,

As we Finish Strong, Aldine ISD is excited to offer a summer learning experience for all students who wish to use this opportunity to not just catch up but also to get ahead. Programs have been designed to remind participants of a camp setting — learning while exploring and interacting with others. There will be options for primary, elementary, middle, and high school, with each having its own application process. You can learn more about this year's summer school experience here.

La Promesa

We are excited to announce the opening of our newest Choice School, La Promesa ("the promise"). La Promesa will open in fall 2021 with a goal of providing students new to the country with global and cultural competencies for today's interconnected world, giving them the promise of choices and opportunities after graduation. You can learn more about this exciting new school and apply here.

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 — pre-kindergarten for three-year-olds (PreK3), Pre-K 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 by clicking here for upcoming events and family resources. Happening this week:

Wednesday, May 19

Topic: Human Trafficking/Tráfico Humano

English Presentation at 9:00 a.m.

Spanish Presentation at 11:00 a.m.

Free Breakfast and Lunch Meals

This Friday, May 21, is the last day for students learning on campus to receive weekend meal bundles. Tuesday, May 25, is the last day curbside meals will be offered at all meal sites.

Beginning June 1, Aldine ISD will bring back the summer meals program. Aldine Child Nutrition Services will provide students 18 and younger and enrolled stu-



dents with disabilities up to 21 years old with healthy, no-cost summer meals. The Seamless Summer Program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition program administered in the Lone Star State by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Find more information.

COVID-19 REMINDERS – Testing, Safety Protocols, and Vaccination News

As of May 10, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has expanded the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for everyone ages 12 years and older.

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. 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 their supervisor in the event they are identified as an exposure to a positive case.

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 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

Students will receive a fun-filled backpack from ReadyRosie to help children thrive at home. The ReadyRosie materials will help families build their capacity to support their children's learning and development while strengthening their family bond.

The primary and elementary schools have targeted specific priority students who will get the initial invite sent to the parent/legal guardian's email. The schools will fill any remaining spots with students on the waiting list of general students.

The campers need to attend summer school every day to benefit from the summer program fully. As part of the summer school application process, the district asks that all parents and legal guardians agree to this commitment as part of the application process.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Registration: The middle school summer school registration has closed (April 26-May 9).

Summer School Session: June 7- July 2, Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sites: All Middle School Campuses (Grades 6-8)

All middle students are encouraged to attend the in-person summer school program. However, if a stu-

dent has a medical issue that would not allow them to return to campus, they can attend virtually. There are two summer programs:

•Enrichment Program — This is a voluntary program for students to enhance learning or participate in interest areas such as dance or STEM. This year, students produce music using coding.

•Promotional Program — Students must attend and pass summer school as a condition for promotion.

NINTH GRADE & HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-12)

Registration Opens: May 17

Registration Deadline: June 7

Summer School Session: June 7- July 2, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sites: All Ninth Grade and High School Campuses (9-12)

The ninth grade and high school summer BRIDGES (Building Resilient, Intellectually, Determined Generations of Educated Scholars) program is available to all current Aldine ISD high school Scholars in Grades 9-12. They can choose from a wide range of opportunities from Initial Credit, Credit Recovery, Dual Credit, BRIDGES Camp Experiences, IB® Program, Voyage Camp, the

Arts, CTE, peer-to-peer support, and many more. Scholars will experience "Wow Factor Fridays" geared toward helping them build their BRIDGES toward success in school, college, and career. #AISDBRIDGES2021: https://bit.ly/3fg75cm

Visit the #AISDBRIDGES2021 link to see the options each school offers and read full details about all the choices and opportunities AISD Scholars have, such as field trips, college tours, and more. Also, obtain information about meals, transportation, and more.

Other opportunities include gallery art walks and virtual speech events for Scholars to showcase their initial credit outcomes. They can also earn certifications for selected CTE courses. All the campuses will offer a social-emotional curriculum, and Scholar enrichment will be specific to campus offerings.

Ninth-graders and high school students will receive an email on Monday, May 17, from their school. It will provide the BRIDGES commitment link. Student Scholars should follow the steps and choose their summer experience. To complete the registration, Scholars need to sign and submit the Commit Form.

HCC plans “Big Saturday” on June 5; Job Fair, 50th Anniversary, and more

HOUSTON (May 20) – Individuals seeking jobs, college admissions assistance and free gifts as part of the celebration of Houston Community College’s 50 years of educating Houstonians are invited to “Big Saturday at HCC Central,” a one-day smorgasbord of job opportunities, college preparedness and on-campus fun in a festival-like atmosphere.

The event, which takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HCC Central in Midtown, is free and open to all.

“We are offering three excellent activities concurrently to bring the community back to the campus and to let them know HCC is open for business,” says Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi, president of HCC Central. “Big Saturday at HCC Central” is about returning to college life as we once experienced and enjoyed it, and about offering the community the opportunity to resume their quest for higher education, a new career and to connect with the college again.”

WHO: HCC Central

WHAT: “Big Saturday at HCC Central”

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, June 5

WHERE: Learning Hub Science Building and San Jacinto Memorial Green - 1300 Holman St., Houston, TX 77004

Featured employers for the Job + Career Fair include Omni Hotel, Four Seasons Hotel, Therman Corp. | Nailor Industries, 84 Lumber Company, Iron Access and Skanska. HCC Central’s Career and Job Placement Services also will be on hand to help current HCC students refine their interviewing and job-prospecting skills.

Attendees can explore develop-

ing careers in such fields as: Construction, drafting, HVAC, industrial electricity, interior design, culinary and pastry arts, cosmetology, fashion design, fashion merchandising and hospitality.

Admissions and registration assistance will be available to new and returning HCC students. Other student-service resources, such as financial aid and library services, also can answer student questions.

As part of HCC’s celebration of its 50th anniversary, HCC Central is offering free gourmet cupcakes, commemorative 50th anniversary T-shirts and flying discs to toss across San Jacinto Memorial Green, the large expanse in front of the historic San Jacinto Memorial Building where HCC began in 1971. Visitors are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and water to watch Frisbee-throwing contests as a DJ plays music from the 1970s and beyond.

Free parking for “Big Saturday at HCC Central” is available in the HCC Central’s five-story parking garage at the corner of Austin and Winbern Streets.

About Houston Community College

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country’s largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit hccs.edu.

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★ OPINION PAGE ★

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Clearance Rates for Crimes Continue to be Abysmal

The Texas Department of Safety has finally released its annual crime report by jurisdiction for 2019. This is the only place I have been able to find data on the number of reported crimes that are “cleared” by individual law enforcement agencies. The clearance rates across the state continue to be abysmal, but Houston and Harris County are particularly pathetic.

Overall

Harris County tied with Dallas County for last place among major Texas counties in solving the crimes reported to their law enforcement agencies at just 11%, compared to the statewide average of 15%. The Harris County Sheriff’s Office (HCSO) and the Houston Police Department (HPD) dragged down the countywide average, coming in at 8% and 10%, respectively. These rates are among the lowest clearance rates for larger law enforcement agencies in the State.

Murder

The Houston Police Department (HPD) only solved 40% of the murder in 2019. This was one of the worst murder clearance rates in the state. Its rate was well below the statewide average and other metropolitan areas.

This was just the latest leg down for HPD’s murder clearance rate. The 2019 rate was the lowest since I started tracking it in 2000.

Rape

For many years I have been writing about the embarrassingly low rates at which rapes are solved across the board. 2019 was no different. Statewide, only 23% of rape cases were solved. It is very difficult for sexual assault victims to come forward and report these crimes. For less than one in four of them to receive justice from our legal system is shameful. Every agency is pretty much equally awful on this one.

HPD is now solving rape cases at about half the rate it was a decade ago (28% vs 53%).

Robbery & Burglary

Most people are stunned at how few robberies and burglaries are solved. The results for 2019 were pretty similar to what we have seen in other years. The statewide clearance rates for robberies and burglaries were 18% and 9%, respectively. HCSO apparently makes no attempt to solve burglaries, as it cleared only 2% of its cases. I would have thought that more burglars than that would have shown up and turned themselves in. HPD was only slightly better at 5%. I am just guessing that having a 95-98% chance of getting away with a burglary does not provide much of a deterrent to criminals.

Conclusion

To put these percentages in some numerical context, in Harris County there were over 200 unsolved murders in 2019, nearly 2,000 unsolved rapes, over 10,000 unsolved robberies and nearly 25,000 unsolved burglaries. In all, Harris County citizens reported almost 175,000 crimes that were not solved. Lord only knows how many they did not even bother to report.

Law enforcement agency managers and their surrogates, such as the police unions, always have a litany of reasons for how shockingly few crimes are actually solved. They complain about staffing levels, that they are discouraged by prosecutors and judges not prosecuting the criminals they do catch, lack of public cooperation, etc. And there is some merit to their points.

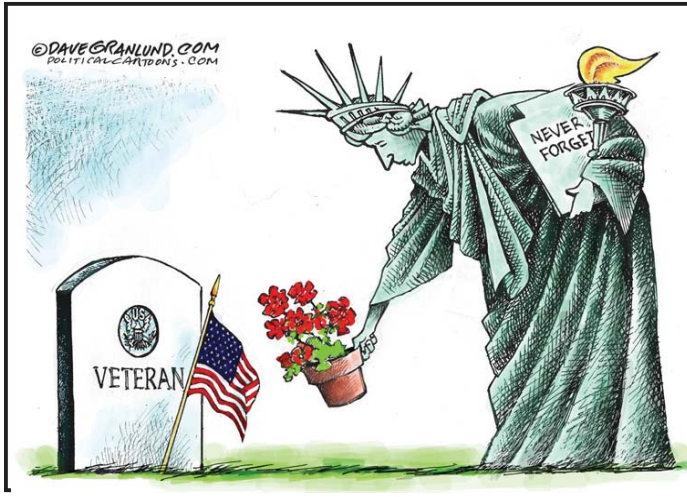
But the fact remains that, as a society, we are failing miserably to provide justice to the victims of crimes and we have been failing to do so for a long time. And as time goes by it is only getting worse.

There are many negative ramifications from our inability to solve a reasonable percentage of crimes beyond the obvious. For one, when the public does not have any confidence that law enforcement can do their job, they begin to take matters into their own hands – as I suspect is evidenced by the meteoric rise in gun sales.

Instead of everyone trotting out the same tired arguments about why we are not doing better, we need a deep dive into why we are doing such a terrible job. We need the governing bodies which supervise law enforcement agencies to start doing their job. Have you ever heard any member of the Houston City Council ask why HPD only solved 40% of murders or 23% of rapes last year? My guess is that not a single one of them even knows what the rates were.

A good start would be to require every law enforcement agency in the state to publish its clearance rates monthly. One of the basic rules I learned in my business career was that “if you cannot/do not measure it, you cannot manage it.” The clearance rate should be a regular agenda item for every governing body that supervises a law enforcement agency, and the media should cover how well crimes are being solved on a regular basis.

Of course, none of that is happening now, which is probably why the numbers are so abysmal. Where there is no accountability, poor performance almost always follows.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

A Change of Scenery

The old wooden folding table belonged to my grandma. I don’t remember her ever using it.

After she moved out of her house and into a retirement home, my sister inherited the table, but she didn’t use it much either. The table has four wooden folding chairs that tuck beneath it and the whole thing rolls on casters. My husband, Peter, and I are moving to be closer to family and we don’t have a serviceable table for our new place.

“Bring the folding table when you come,” I told my sister. “We’ll use it until we find a new table!”

Peter and I were ready to move our furniture when we learned the moving truck had broken down on the way to our house, delaying the move. So Peter stayed behind to help load the truck when it finally arrived, and I flew ahead to meet the movers. I spent four nights in a sleeping bag on the floor, but when my parents and my sister came to visit, they brought the table.

Peter and I did not spend Christmas of 2019 with my family, but rushed home to see his sister, Lori, who was very ill. We thought it might be her last Christmas. We were wrong. We celebrated the next Christmas with her before she died. And I did not see my family again until this past week, 17 months later, when they arrived with my grandma’s old table.

“It’s been so long!” everyone kept saying.

I got lost leading them out of the parking garage and we ended up taking the heavy wooden folding table on a tour of the neighborhood. The table rattled along on its 75-year-old casters and made a heck of a racket as we rolled by the Church of Scientology.

My dad was laughing. “Do we even know where we’re going?”

“Do you think someone is catching this on a security camera?” my sister asked.

I felt as if I had not been away for 17 months—or even a day.

On Saturday, our furniture finally arrived, and on Sunday morning, still surrounded by boxes, I discovered we were within earshot of three churches with bell towers. I sat out on our little balcony in the sunshine and called Peter.

“All the bells are ringing!” I told him.

My parents and sister came to visit one more time before I left, and this time they brought along my brother-in-law, niece, and nephew. My niece is now completely grown up and my nephew went from being a child to a teenager while I was away.

I had tied brightly colored seat cushions onto the old wooden folding chairs and my mother didn’t recognize them.

“Those aren’t the same chairs!” she said, amazed.

“They are!” I told her. “They just perked up when they got a change of scenery!”


Peter still hasn’t seen this new place we bought during the pandemic, and I know he still has some trepidation. But I am feeling so much better. It is good to be closer to family. We will be able to see more of our old friends and both Peter’s relatives and mine. We’re looking forward to trying new restaurants and riding our bikes and doing a lot of things we haven’t done in a long time.

Of course, there will be things we will miss. But right now, I’m feeling like one of my grandma’s old wooden folding chairs, all decked out in a fancy new seat cushion.

I’m thinking a change of scenery will do us both a world of good.

Till next time,
Carrie
Carrie Classon’s memoir is called “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By **Gary Borders**



A Special session of the Legislature coming this fall

Texas lawmakers will adjourn the regular session on Monday — Memorial Day — but Gov. Greg Abbott has already indicated he will call a special session in the fall to grapple with redistricting after detailed census results are finally released.

Last week, Abbott told lawmakers he would put them in charge of deciding how to spend nearly \$16 billion in federal money the state received for COVID-19 recovery efforts. During the first two rounds of stimulus funding, Abbott decided how the money would be spent, which angered some legislators.

The special session comes just months before the 2022 primaries, with Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Attorney General Ken Paxton and Comptroller Glenn Hegar all planning to seek re-election.

That raises the possibility of other topics being added the special session that could appeal to the governor’s base, according to the San Antonio Express-News. Abbott has drawn one primary opponent, former state Sen. Don Huffines.

MASK MANDATES LARGELY A THING OF THE PAST IN TEXAS

Abbott last week issued an executive order banning all government and public entities from mandating the wearing of masks. The order went into effect May 21, except for public schools, which can require masks until June 4.

Local governments or officials can be fined up to \$1,000 for requiring the wearing of masks, although businesses can still require them. Most large retailers, such as Walmart, Costco and Target, announced they were ending mask requirements.

However, state-supported living centers, government owned or operated hospitals, state prison juvenile justice facilities and county and municipal jails



are exempt from Abbott’s order and can still require masks be worn.

A DAY IN TEXAS WITH NO COVID-19 DEATHS

For the first time since March 21, 2020, the state’s Department of State Health Services on Sunday, May 16, said no deaths related to COVID-19 were reported.

The milestone was noted by Abbott and others, though celebrations were tempered at least among some, the Houston Chronicle reported. The hiatus was short-lived, however, as DSHS reported 23 new deaths the following day.

The number of Texans hospitalized who are COVID-19 patients is at its lowest level since last June, according to DSHS, with 2,070 cases that were lab confirmed as of Sunday.

The number of new cases in the past week in Texas, as reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, stood at 12,290, down 17.5 percent from the previous week and continuing the steady decline statewide. A total of 269 deaths were recorded statewide for the same time frame.

Meanwhile, the number of Texans who are fully vaccinated reached nearly 9.8 million.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS EASING UNDER WIDESPREAD STORMS

Much of the state has

experienced a soggy May thus far, with widespread precipitation blanketing much of the eastern and central regions. As a result, drought conditions have eased except in the Panhandle and West Texas and the counties around Laredo on the border.

The Texas Water Development Board reports a total of 44% of the state’s area is now under moderate or worse drought conditions. By comparison, we reported on April 4 that drought conditions existed in more than two-thirds of the state.

TEXAS OPTS OUT OF FEDERAL JOBLESS ASSISTANCE PLAN

Abbott last week announced the state will no longer accept federal jobless assistance funds after June 26, including the extra \$300-per-week approved earlier this year by Congress.

The state is also leaving a federal assistance program that provides aid to self-employed and gig workers not normally covered by unemployment insurance. The move is intended to encourage people to return to work, as restaurants and other businesses say it is difficult to attract workers.

“The Texas economy is booming, and employers are hiring in communities throughout the state,” Abbott said. “According to the Texas Workforce Commission, the number of job openings in Texas is almost identical to the number of Texans who are receiving unemployment benefits. That assessment does not include the voluminous jobs that typically are not listed, like construction and restaurant jobs.”

The state’s jobless rate was 6.7% in April, according to the Texas Workforce Commission, down from the record high of 12.9% in April 2020.

SECRETARY OF STATE HUGHS TO STEP DOWN

Texas Secretary of State Ruth Ruggiero Hughs will step down at the end of May, she announced last week. Hughs was appointed by Abbott in August 2019. However, the Texas Senate never formally confirmed her nomination. Abbott will now be free to appoint a new secretary of state, who could be confirmed during the upcoming special session.

LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS OFFERED BY STATE

The state of Texas offers three tax-advantaged plans for higher education — the Texas College Savings Plan, the Lone Star 529 plan and the Texas Tuition Promise Fund. Parents can learn more about the plans by watching a webinar at 1 p.m. on May 26 and four additional dates in June and July. Register for the webinar here: <https://www.texascollegefund.com/events/>.

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SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje del Superintendente, 17 de mayo de 2021

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

A la vez que Terminamos fuertes, Aldine ISD se complace en ofrecer una experiencia de aprendizaje de verano para todos los estudiantes que deseen aprovechar esta oportunidad no solo para ponerse al día sino también para salir adelante. Los programas se diseñaron para recordar a los participantes el entorno de un campamento de verano: aprender mientras exploran e interactúan con otros. Habrá opciones para la escuela preescolar, primaria, intermedia y secundaria, y cada una tendrá su propio proceso de solicitud. Puede obtener más información sobre la experiencia de la escuela de verano de este año aquí.

La Promesa

Estamos muy contentos de anunciar la apertura de 'La promesa' nuestra escuela de elección más nueva. Este plantel abrirá en el otoño de 2021 con el objetivo de darles a los estudiantes nuevos en el país competencias globales y culturales para el mundo interconectado de hoy, brindándoles la promesa de opciones y oportunidades después de graduarse. Usted puede obtener más información sobre esta nueva y emocionante escuela y solicitarla aquí.

Es importante que todos los estudiantes, 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 (HAC), regístrese a través del portal 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 tres grados de — pre-kindergarten para niños de tres años (PreK3), Pre-K para niños de cuatro años (PreK4) y Kindergarten. Nuevamente, la preinscripción es para estudiantes nuevos y elegibles que ingresan a AISD por primera vez. Las familias pueden hacer clic aquí para comenzar el proceso de preinscripción completando los documentos en línea. La fecha límite para preinscribir a los estudiantes a PreK y Kindergarten es Mayo 31, 2021.

Departamento de Relaciones con la Familia y la Comunidad (FACE)

Manténgase al día de lo que pasa en el Departamento FACE de Aldine ISD dando clic aquí para los próximos eventos y recursos familiares. Esta semana tendremos:



Miércoles 19 de mayo
Tema: Human Trafficking/Tráfico Humano
Presentación en inglés a las 9:00 a.m.
Presentación en español a las 11:00 a.m.
Desayuno y almuerzo sin costo

Este viernes 21 de mayo es el último día para que los estudiantes que están aprendiendo en la escuela reciban paquetes de comidas de fin de semana. El martes 25 de mayo es el último día en que se ofrecerán comidas en la acera en todos los sitios de comidas.

A partir del 1 de junio, Aldine ISD traerá de regreso el programa de comidas de verano. Los Servicios de Nutrición Infantil de Aldine proporcionarán a los estudiantes de 18 años o menos y a los estudiantes matriculados con discapacidades de hasta 21 años de edad, comidas de verano saludables y sin costo. El programa 'Seamless Summer' es un programa de nutrición del Departamento de Agricultura de los EE. UU. Administrado en el estado de Lone Star por el Departamento de Agricultura de Texas (TDA) para mayores informes de clic aquí.

RECORDATORIOS DE COVID-19 —

Pruebas, protocolos de seguridad y noticias sobre vacunación

A partir del 10 de mayo de 2021, la Administración de Alimentos y Medicamentos de EE. UU. Amplió el uso de emergencia de la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 para todas las personas de 12 años en adelante.

Protocolos de cuarentena

Siguiendo la guía de los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades, Aldine ISD ya no requerirá que los estudiantes y el personal completamente vacunados sin síntomas sean puestos en cuarentena si se exponen a un caso positivo de COVID-19 confirmado en laboratorio. Se anima a los estudiantes que estén completamente vacunados a que proporcionen una copia de su tarjeta de vacunación a la enfermera de su escuela para que la ingresen en sus registros de vacunación de salud del estudiante. Solo se le pedirá al personal que proporcione sus registros de vacunación a su supervisor en caso de que se identifique como una exposición a un caso positivo.

Animo a todos a seguir haciendo su parte: ponerse un cubrebocas, lavarse las manos y cuidar la distancia.

Actualizaciones del distrito

¡Tenemos tantas cosas maravillosas sucediendo en nuestro distrito! Por favor, asegúrese de leer las noticias del distrito para estar al día en todo lo que acontece en nuestro distrito.

Les deseo una gran semana.
Con orgullo Aldine,
Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendente

Aldine ISD is Bringing Summer Meals Back

Aldine Child Nutrition Services will provide students 18 and younger and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old with healthy, no-cost summer meals. The Summer Food Service Program (SFS) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition program administered in the Lone Star State by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). For the children who rely on school meals during the academic year, these meals offer a source of good nutrition when school is out for the long summer vacation.

"Children need good nutrition year-round so they can learn, grow and succeed in life," Dani Sheffield, executive director of child nutrition services, said. "With nearly 2 million food-insecure children living in Texas, these healthy meals are vital to nourishing our students during summer vacation."

Aldine ISD Child Nutrition Services will operate 46 school sites offering breakfast and lunch daily. Specific locations will be posted on the district and Child Nutrition websites. Meal service times may be obtained by contacting a campus site.

Aldine is one of the nonprofit organizations partnering with TDA to serve meals across Texas.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

HEY DAD, MOM IS LOOKING FOR YOU AND BOY DOES SHE NOT LOOK VERY HAPPY.
WHEN YOU TALK TO HER'D BRING SOME NICE FLOWERS.
DEPENDING ON WHAT YOU DID MAYBE SOME CHOCOLATES.
OK, TAKING A WHITE FLAG IS CERTAINLY ANOTHER OPTION.

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

INTERESTING DISPLAY. YUP.
I'M THINKIN' WE SHOULD PUT JUNE IN CHARGE OF MARKETING

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

GULP
MY WIFE MAKES JUDGE JUDY LOOK LIKE MOTHER TERESA.

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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| 4 | | | 9 | | | | | 8 |
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| | | 6 | | 4 | | | | 1 |
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Posting Date May 31, 2021
King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Billboards
4 Competent
8 Pretzel topper
12 Fib
13 Work hard
14 Spiced tea
15 In toto
17 Frees (of)
18 Bug barrier
19 "Gosh!"
21 Reply (Abbr.)
22 Also
26 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
29 French article
30 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)
31 "Hi, sailor!"
32 Follower (Suff.)
33 Nota —
34 Airline to Sweden
35 "Today" rival, briefly
36 Fragrant wood
37 Typically
39 X-ray's cousin
40 — -de-France
41 Oregon city
45 Apple computer
48 Prescription phrase
50 Opulent
51 Attic buildup
52 Historic time

DOWN
1 "Sad to say ..."
2 Platter
3 Char
4 Goddess of wisdom
5 Benefits
6 Dogpatch adjective
7 Graceful
8 Threaded hardware
9 Sashimi fish
10 Young bloke
11 Frank
12 McCourt memoir
16 Tired
20 Language suffix
23 Kept tabs on
24 Sultry Horne
25 Oglor's look
26 Juan's home
27 Cries of discovery
28 Stance
29 G8 member
32 "Let's do this!"
33 Ecru
35 Solidify
36 Vinegar bottles
38 French spa town
39 High-IQ group
42 Idyllic place
43 Sleuth Wolfe
44 Dutch cheese
45 Lyricist
46 Karaoke prop, for short
47 Koeln cry
49 Take to court

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What were the names of the six children on "The Brady Bunch"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which of the Earth's oceans is the smallest?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the lowest rank in the U.S. Air Force?
- LANGUAGE: What is the American version of the British plimolls?
- LITERATURE: Which one of Shakespeare's plays is the longest?
- MEASUREMENTS: What time period is a decennial?
- MOVIES: Which actor played himself in the movie "Zombieland"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many eyes does a bee have?
- ANATOMY: What are rasceta?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which 20th-century president's Secret Service code name was Timberwolf?

Answers
1. Greg, Marcia, Peter, Jan, Bobby and Cindy; 2. Archer; 3. Airman basic; 4. Sneakers; 5. "Hamlet"; 6. 10 years; 7. Bill Murray; 8. Five; 9. Deep creases at your wrists; 10. George Herbert Walker Bush

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answers
Solution time: 26 mins.

Mural Fest 2021 held in East Aldine at High Meadows Library,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

building, the Art Bus where children and adults could create different types of paintings, crafts and sculptures, and tent booths from Precinct 2, East Aldine District, and the Harris County Library system, who also had the "Curiosity Cruiser" present. This van brings reading projects and books and visual material to various community groups and events.

Planning for the event was a volunteer committee, including East Aldine District's Carlos Silva, Natalie Perez, Veronica Sanches, and Precinct 2's Selina Valdez, and representatives of the Up Art Studio, and the Art Bus.



THANKS to the Art Bus people, who bring their wonderful bus full of projects and ideas for the benefit of the community.

ALL PHOTOS BY VERONICA SANCHES EAST ALDINE DISTRICT



The ART BUS comes with lots of ideas and materials for making art projects, as demonstrated by these busy families having fun.



Artist Jesse De Leon spent the day completing the Wall Mural he painted on the side of the High Meadows Library. It depicts library resources and more.



Harris County Library system had their Curiosity Cruiser with plenty of reading materials, and a tent.



Inside the Art Bus there were materials for making paintings and paper sculptures. And no rain.



Need an Art book? Magazines? Videos? High Meadows Library will deliver it to you curbside, and had a booth to show you what is available.



EAST ALDINE DISTRICT, and HARRIS COUNTY PCT. 2 had information and art project booths. Natalie Perez and Selina Valdez, above, were two of the organizers.

HCC and Arizona State University partner for advanced degrees

HOUSTON (May 27, 2021) – Houston Community College is announcing a new alliance with Arizona State University to provide students a seamless transfer experience with the MyPath2ASU program. MyPath2ASU™ allows students to take the steps needed, at the start of their college experience, to successfully plan their transfer to ASU, ensuring a smooth transition process and student success.

MyPath2ASU™ is a set of customized tools available to transfer students from accredited, U.S. regional institutions. These tools ensure a seamless transfer experience to ASU after earning credits or an associate degree from a U.S. community college or university and shortening the time to degree completion.

"This is another exceptional opportunity for our students to seamlessly advance academically with a leading research university," said HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E. "We are thrilled to enter this partnership to enable our student to explore advanced educational opportunities as they achieve their unique academic goals."

Through this partnership, students using MyPath2ASU™ will find their transfer experience simplified. They will have access to personalized benefits to help

them navigate the transfer experience, to include:

- End-to-end learner navigation through course-by-course guided pathways
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- Self-service, degree progress tracking through My Transfer Guide to minimize loss of credit
- Connected experience through personalized ASU communications to prepare academically and build a connection to ASU

Houston Community College and ASU will work collaboratively to promote educational degree pathways containing ground and online course offerings. These pathways will ensure their courses are applicable toward their degree in their chosen major and minimize credit loss.

MacArthur HS Students Sweep Top Awards in Law Day Art Contest

MacArthur Senior High School art students take top awards in the Special Needs Individual poster contest for the Houston Bar Association.

Each year, people across America celebrate Law Day on May 1 to honor the rule of law. It underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that we all share and recognizes the role of courts in this democracy.

Law Day is a national celebration of the rule of law in our society. It has been sponsored and promoted by the American Bar Association since 1961 when President Dwight Eisenhower designated it a national holiday.

Bar associations, courts, schools, and community organizations hold Law Day programs. The events



Alicia Pineda received first place for her Law Day poster.

help people understand how the law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice.

This year's theme is: "Laws Help Us." The rule of law is the bedrock of American rights and liberties – in times of calm and unrest alike. The 2021 Law Day theme reminds everyone that we, the people

share the responsibility to promote the rule of law, defend liberty, and pursue justice.

Alicia Pineda, 10th grade, took first place

Manny Medina, 12th grade, took 2nd place

In the category of Special Needs, Team Poster Contest MacArthur High School took

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

The following students tied for first place, Reily Teran, Hose Suarez, Juan Carizales, Juan Vasquez, Matthew Moreno. Second place students, Angel Olivera, Sabrina Tittle, Leslie Valadez, Alyssa Celis. Third Place students, Jesus Robeseno, Israel Salazar, and Abraham Banda.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Pedestrian struck and killed on 8700 Eastex Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 8700 Eastex Freeway (North U.S. Highway 59) about 11 p.m. on Monday (May 24).
 The male victim, 54, was transported to Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. His identity is pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.
 HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant J. Uribe and Officer Z. Radcliffe reported:
 The victim was walking across the freeway at the above address when he was struck by a black Jeep Wrangler traveling southbound on the freeway. The driver of the Jeep had observed the vehicle in front of her suddenly brake and swerved onto the right shoulder to avoid hitting the other vehicle. When she did so, her vehicle struck the victim.
 The Jeep's driver remained at the scene, showed no signs of intoxication, and was questioned and released. The investigation is continuing.

Sheriff's Deputies locate stolen automobiles in an Aldine repair garage



District 2 Patrol Deputies Located Multiple Stolen Vehicles at a Garage in the Aldine Area Community, Where Our Auto Theft and Vice/Narcotics Units Are Now Investigating

16-year-old shot in drive-by shooting while walking home from school

HOUSTON — According to investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's office, a 16-year-old boy who was walking home from school was shot during a drive-by shooting in north Harris County.
 It happened on Monday, May 24 in the 5300 block of Aldine Bender around 4:25 p.m.
 According to a tweet posted by Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, he was walking down the street when someone shot at him.
 The sheriff's office told Eyewitness News they believe someone rolled down the window and shot him while driving by.
 The teen was rushed to the hospital and is described as stable.

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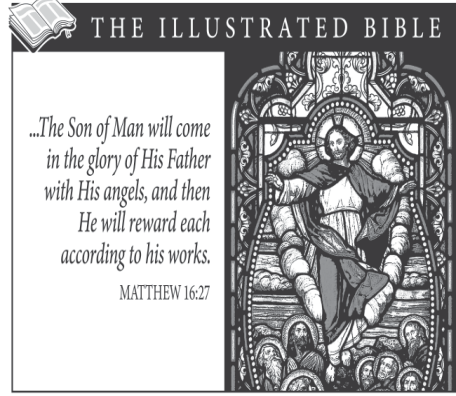
BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Lot in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. How many beasts rising out of the sea did Daniel have a dream about? 4, 7, 13, 20
3. From Judges 3, who was the left-handed Benjamite that killed Eglon? Geshem, Agag, Ehud, Joram
4. In 2 Kings 4, who purified a pot of deadly stew with flour? Josiah, Elisha, Jehu, Hilkiah

5. From Judges 1:6, what king had his thumbs and toes cut off? David, Adoni-Bezek, Josiah, Herod
6. Whose biblical name means "messenger"? Aaron, Moses, Samuel, Malachi

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) 4; 3) Ehud; 4) Elisha; 5) Adoni-Bezek; 6) Malachi
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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