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NORTHEAST NEWS

Americanisms



“Daddies don’t just love their children every now and then, it’s a love without end.”
— George Strait

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 44 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 24 TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

SUNDAY



Aldine ISD to Hold Summer Athletic Camps

Summer sports strength and conditioning camps will take place at Aldine High School, Davis HS, Eisenhower HS, MacArthur HS, and Nimitz HS.

Dates: June 1-July 30, Monday-Friday
Hours: 8 - 11:30 a.m.
Evening Workout: 5-7 p.m.
Mustang Football Camp: July 26-29, 8-11 a.m.
Cost: \$20
Deadline to Register: No deadline
Contact: Coach Hank Semler, chsemler@aldineisd.org or 281 878-0658

Davis HS

Davis' summer program will focus on developing three areas:

- **Character:** Belief in self, pride, resolve, discipline, courage, efforts, perseverance, unity, honesty, leadership, trustworthiness and work ethic.
 - **Conditioning:** Weight lifting, cardiac conditioning, running, stretching, nutrition, rest and endurance.
 - **Athletic Ability:** Speed, quickness, power, explosiveness, agility, and strength. Participants will complete 1 hour of weight training, including 1 hour of speed, agility, quickness and cardiovascular training each session.
- Dates:**
- **Summer Athletic Camp:** June 7-August 6, Monday-Friday, 10-11 a.m.
 - **Sport Specific Skills:** June 7-August 6, Monday-Friday, 10-11 a.m.
 - **Volleyball Freshman Camp:** July 20-23, from 9-11 a.m.
 - **SAC Ends for Incoming Freshmen:** July 23
 - **Volleyball Camp for Ages:** July 26-29, from 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m.
 - **Freshmen Football Camp:** July 26-29 from 10 a.m.-noon

Continued. See Page 2

Pct. 2 programs win 4 national awards

WASHINGTON, DC – Harris County Precinct 2 has been recognized with FOUR Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents. According to a NACo database, no Harris County entity has ever won multiple NACo awards in the same calendar year.

NACo recognized Precinct 2 for the following programs:

- Health Services for the innovative SmartPods Access2Health, a partnership with Baylor

— Veterans Services for the work with Operation Yellowbird alternative PTSD treatment

— Partnership with the American Chemistry Council for a grant to fund air monitors

— Parks Dept. for the innovation and design of James Driver All-Inclusive Park

“I am incredibly honored and proud of my team for their work on these projects that have been identified by NACo as being worthy of national distinction,” Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia said, “NACo Achievement Awards are very prestigious, and we are so grateful for the recognition. While each of



HARRIS COUNTY PCT. 2 COMMISSIONER GARCIA

these programs deserves acknowledgment on their own, our work is not done for awards; our only goal is to serve the Precinct 2 Community the way they should have been treated in years' past but unfortu-

nately had been looked over. These awards confirm that these communities are not being forgotten. I want to thank our partners in these efforts for their support – we share these awards with them. Finally, I would also like to thank my staff for all they are doing to make Precinct 2 the best place to live, work, play and raise a family.”

NACo President Gary Moore said, “Over the past year, county officials and frontline employees have demonstrated bold, inspirational leadership. This year's Achievement Award winning programs illustrate the innovative ways

counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America.”

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more. Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

Lone Star College reopens campuses for fall semester

HOUSTON (June 8, 2021) – Lone Star College will enter the fall semester with expanded offerings of face-to-face classes while continuing to provide hybrid and online courses to meet student needs.

“We know the last year put a serious strain on our students, faculty and staff,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. “Lone Star College has worked hard to ensure we provide a safe and friendly environment as we welcome everyone back to our campuses.”

LSC students will have three class options this fall: in-person classes that take place entirely on campus; hybrid classes which are a combination of online and face-to-face learning; and online classes which provide a flexible and convenient choice for busy schedules and freedom to self-direct.

“In addition to expanding in-person course offerings, Lone Star College will also provide face-to-face tutoring and advising to help students prepare for the fall semester,” said Head. You can learn more by visiting LoneStar.edu.



Lone Star College is expanding its face-to-face classes while continuing to offer hybrid and online courses to meet student needs.

LSC is working with students impacted by COVID-19 by providing special financial aid grants which may be used for any part of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health and mental health care or child care.

LSC has also purchased laptop computers to assist students taking online classes this fall. LSC students will be able to check out the computers, much like a library book.

“While Lone Star College no longer requires

that masks be worn while on campus, we will respect those still wishing to wear masks and strongly encourage everyone to adhere to social distancing and be vaccinated,” said Head.

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.

Continued. See LONE STAR OPENS, page 2

Sheriff hosts virtual Safety Forum

Harris County Sheriff's deputies, from District II, held a virtual Safety Forum last Tuesday night,

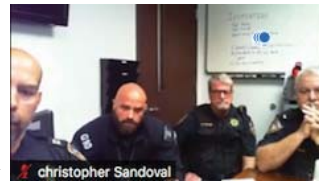
June 8 for a presentation to the public of crime prevention measures. There were about 40 participants, some from the community and some from various HCSO departments. The Forum did not, however, take public comments or open the event for public discussion. Instead, contact phone numbers and email addresses were posted for the public.

After a brief introduction by Capt. Chris Sandoval, who is in charge of the Patrol Division of District II, and HCSO Chief Mike Lee, the meeting was turned over to deputies to speak about their particular department activities.

Major Susan Cotter commented on the new technology known as “Shot Spotter” which listens for gunfire and pinpoints the source for deputies to respond. She said that the program was “paying dividends” and very effective,

citing a large number of responses that HCSO has investigated.

Deputy Mike Griffin



christopher Sandoval

spoke at length about Neighborhood Crime Prevention, the theme for the evening. He coached citizens to be observant, look for suspicious activities such as parked occupied vehicles or slow moving cars, and report them to the sheriff's office. In other words, the adage “See Something, Say Something” is an effective crime fighting tool. He said it helps to know your neighbors, through group or individual social events, and to get to know their habits.

Griffin said if a situation is Life Threatening or a Crime in Progress, dial 911. If it is a non-emergency, reports or questions

Continued on Page 2

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SCHOOL NEWS

Sheriff's Safety Forum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

should be made to 713-221-6000.

Griffin also spoke about precautions for safety around the house, in particular about firearm safety and control. He said to trim shrubs for good sight lines, and don't leave items outside that could be tempting to steal. He also talked about the Dog Walker Watch, and Hurricane season and the need to make a "Go Bag" with essentials to take with you if you need to evacuate.

Deputy Teresito Castro spoke about her Human Trafficking Unit, and the difference between smuggling aliens and trafficking them. She outlined ways of recruiting and controlling victims. She also mentioned a number of ways you can tell if a person is a victim, by their appearance or habits.

Deputy K. Upton spoke about his experiences with the Gang Unit. He said in East Aldine there are 19 gangs with about 68 gang members, and throughout Harris County about 300 known gangs with 1,619 gang members. The HCSO keeps track of these gangs, and their members, through local and state-wide data bases. In Aldine, gangs are known to be operating in Pine Village and Northwood Manor. They often mark their territory with graffiti, and this can lead to territorial fights with other gangs. Members join gangs for reasons such as knowing other gang members, or a known life style, or to gain protection from other gangs. Well known gangs in the Houston area are the Crips and the Bloods, and in Aldine Wolfpack, LTMB, and B*East.

Sgt. Donnie Williams and Deputy Lakisha Cheatham spoke about a new type of policing, called CPOP or Community Problem-Oriented Policing. This Pro-Active unit, formed this year, intends to be more involved with the community and to build personal relationships.

Deputy Scholen Charles spoke about Nuisance Abatement, Illegal Dumping, Pet Abandonment, and partnership with community groups such as Baker-Ripley, HCC, Pct. 2 and others to help with housing, food distribution, rent problems and more. The CPOP deputies invited contact from the community and left their phone numbers and email addresses. Deputy Lakisha Cheatham, 281-923-7702, lakisha.cheatham@sheriff.tctx.net, and Deputy Scholen Charles, 281-961-8208, scholen.charles@sheriff.tctx.net.

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Applications Open for Eligible Families June 2

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Applications Open for Eligible Families June 2

The following information is for families with:

Children who are certified for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Children who attend a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 (P2) school that offers free meals to all students.*

Children born after Aug. 1, 2014, in families who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between October 2020 and June 2021.

Click to Enlarge

If you do not meet at least one of the requirements listed above, your child is not eligible for the P-EBT benefits described below.

Enrolled students (up to 21 years of age) in families that temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals for the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible to receive Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT). P-EBT benefits can be used to buy food from any retailer that accepts the Lone Star Card.

Aldine Summer Camps,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(equipment issued at this time)

- Volleyball and Freshmen Football Practices begin Aug. 2
- Football Parents Meeting – Aug. 5
- Football Picture Day (all parents are welcomed on the field to take pictures): Aug. 7
- SAC Ends: Aug. 6
- Football practice for sophomores, juniors and seniors: Aug. 9

Note: Weight Room will be closed July 5 and July 19. Sport specific skills will be 1-hour sessions each day of Strength Camp. Sites: Davis High School weight room, track, gyms and football field

- Deadline to register: No deadline. School athletics will be open all summer.
- Contact: Coach Scott Joseph, sajoseph@aldineisd.org

Eisenhower High School

Eisenhower's summer FAST camp is designed to help athletes reach their maximum potential. It will help them become stronger, faster and more flexible. These gains will maximize an athlete's potential and performance in their selected sport.

- Dates: June 7-July 29, Monday-Thursday
- Hours:
- Football camp for Grades 10-12: 7-8:45 a.m.
- Camp for all other sports and incoming ninth graders: 9-10:45 a.m.
- Camp open to all other sports and incoming ninth graders: 11 a.m.-noon
- Note: Camp will not be held July 2-11. The weight room will be open to all interested

The application for P-EBT will open June 2, 2021.

Visit yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT to apply. The application link is case-sensitive. The deadline to apply is Aug. 13, 2021.

Who Needs to Apply?

A parent/guardian must apply if eligible child is:

- Enrolled in K-12 and NOT part of a family who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between August 2020 and June 2021.

- Born on or before Aug. 1, 2014, and is part of a family who received SNAP benefits for the first time during the 2020-2021 school year in May or June 2021.

A parent/guardian does not have to apply if eligible child is:

- Born on or before Aug. 1, 2014, and is part of a family who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between August 2020 and April 2021.

- Born after Aug. 1, 2014, and is part of a family who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between October 2020 and June 2021.

For more information about eligibility, applying and getting your P-EBT benefits, visit hhs.texas.gov/pebt, or call the P-EBT Call Center at 833-442-1255, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

athletes from 1:30-4:30 p.m. on dates the camps are open

- Cost: \$20 (cash or money order)
- Deadline to register: June 16
- Contact: Coach Eric Jackson, EDJackson@aldineisd.org or call 409 351-2380

MacArthur High School

Students in grades 6-12 can take part. Strength and conditioning summer sessions will run from June 7-July 29, Monday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. – noon.

Summer school attendees session will run from 4-6 p.m.

- Cost: \$20
- Deadline to register: June 14
- Contact: Coach Wayne Crawford, 281 985-6337 or wecrawford@aldineisd.org

Nimitz High School

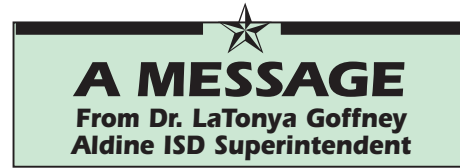
The school will offer two strength and conditioning summer sessions. Athletes may only attend one session.

- Session 1: June 1-July 30, Monday-Friday, from 7:30-9:30 a.m.
- Session 2: June 1-July 20, Monday-Friday from noon-2 p.m.
- Note: Football skills and drill will be from 10-11 a.m. daily
- Cost: \$20
- Deadline to register: No deadline
- Contact: Coach Richard Slater, 281 638-3900 or RJSlater@aldineisd.org

Lone Star Opens,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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.



Message From the Superintendent, June 2, 2021

Dear Aldine Community,

Our goal for spring 2021 was to Finish Strong, and I am proud to say we certainly did! Two of the most joyful days of the school year are the first day of school and graduation. The first day sets the tone for the year and lets students know the promises we as educators are making to them. Graduation is the fulfillment of these promises. This year, I presided over nine graduation ceremonies where more than 3,200 students received their diplomas. Many of these graduates are headed off to college, trade schools, and the workforce. All are prepared to meet their new challenges successfully.

This week marks the start of the summer break. Once again, I want to thank staff, parents, students, and the entire community for a successful school year under challenging circumstances. The 2020-2021 school year was full of memorable achievements and events that could not have happened without your support.

June marks LGBTQ+ Pride Month. I am committed to creating affirming and safe learning and work environments for students, families, and staff. All means all in Aldine. We want every student to thrive in our schools. Together, let's help create spaces that are safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all. We are stronger and #BetterTogether. Click here for resources.

One of the new ways we've communicated about our programs and initiatives this year is the All the Things: The Aldine Podcast. Last week, we released the 10th episode of All the Things: The Aldine ISD Podcast. The season finale features 2020-2021 student Kingston Alexander-Punch who stopped by to talk about kindergarten. The podcast's youngest guest helped us explain why families should take advantage of our primary programs, why kindergarten is cool, and he even told us how much he LOVES chocolate milk. Don't miss out on Kindergarten Talk. All the Things will be back later this year, but in the meantime, subscribe to our newsblog and share with a friend. You can listen to full episodes here.

We are looking forward to our Start Strong 2021-2022 school year! Our leadership teams and principals will be meeting over the summer and teachers will be attending sessions to hone their craft. When the 2021-2022 school year begins on August 16, Aldine ISD will be ready to hit the ground running for in-person learning and to continue to provide our students numerous educational opportunities. Please use our Let's Talk platform for any questions or concerns. Click on the office or department link, and the appropriate staff member will get back to you.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Free Breakfast and Lunch Meals — Tuesday, May 25, was the last day the district's Child Nutrition Services Department offered curbside meals 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 students 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). For more information, click here.

Aldine ISD to Hold Summer Athletic Camps — All summer sports strength and conditioning camps will be held at Aldine High School, Davis High School, Eisenhower High School, MacArthur High School, and Nimitz High School. Click here for details about dates, hours, and costs.

Registration for PreK3, PreK4, and Kindergarten — The new student registration for the 2021-2022 school year will open on June 21. Families will be able to enroll their eligible students for the 2021-2022 school year in three grades — prekindergarten for three-year-olds (PreK3), Pre-K for four-year-olds (PreK4), and kindergarten. The PreK3 program will be a full-day program starting in fall 2021.

La Promesa: Aldine ISD's Newest Choice School — La Promesa ("the promise"). La Promesa will open in fall 2021 to provide students who are new to the U.S. with global and cultural competencies for today's interconnected world, giving them the promise of choices and opportunities after graduation. The school will focus on students who have lived three or fewer years in the U.S. and are from non-English speaking countries or have limited English proficiency. The school will host in-person enrollment events to help families enroll their incoming ninth-graders for the 2021-2022 school year. Click here for detail on the next upcoming event.

Saturday, June 5, from 9 a.m.-noon
Aldine High School
11101 Airline Drive • Houston, TX 77037



Coming August 2, 2021: Students' Families Must Complete Required Annual Update — Previously, once a student enrolled in Aldine ISD, the student's information remained the same unless a parent provided new information. The annual update will increase customer service and ensure individual student information is updated annually. Starting August 2021, AISD will ask families to complete a yearly update before starting each new school year. Families will access the Annual Update form through HAC. At least one legal guardian — a student's parent or legal guardian — will need to have a Home Access Center (HAC) account.

Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

Keep up with the Aldine ISD FACE Department by clicking here for upcoming events and family resources. The FACE team would appreciate your feedback with suggestions on what information you would like to see in their monthly newsletter. Please complete this survey to share your thoughts and how you would like to get involved.

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

After May 28, the district will no longer conduct the visitor COVID-19 screening process, and employees will not need to complete the daily screening via Qualtrics. In addition, masks will be optional at all Aldine ISD campuses and administrative buildings starting June 5, 2021.

Vaccinations

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.

P-EBT Applications Opens June 2

The state will open the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) application process for eligible families. Families can use P-EBT benefits to buy food from any retailer that accepts the Lone Star Card. The application for P-EBT will open on June 2, 2021. Visit yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT to apply. The application link is case-sensitive. The deadline to apply is August 13, 2021. For more eligibility information, applying, and getting your P-EBT benefits, visit hhs.texas.gov/pebt. Families can also call the P-EBT Call Center at 833-442-1255, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Quarantine Protocols

Following the Centers for Disease Control guidance, 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 as recommended by the CDC.

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.

The weekly message has been a powerful tool to keep everyone informed of important news and initiatives. This letter is the last Weekly Message until later this summer. However, families and staff will be notified if there are any emergencies.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent

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Lone Star College recognized as having the largest Hispanic population in the nation

HOUSTON (June 9, 2021) – Lone Star College has been named as the #1 two-year college in the nation for having the largest number of undergraduate Hispanic students by Hispanic Outlook on Education.

“Lone Star College is proud to welcome all students looking to enhance their education,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. “We are grateful for this recognition and look forward to seeing students return to campus this fall.”

Hispanic Outlook on Education noted that LSC welcomed more than 39,000 Hispanic students in fall of 2018 and spring of 2019, representing 36% percent of the total LSC student population. The rankings were determined by the national Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, a method of surveys conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics.

“Lone Star College faculty and staff have done an extraordinary job this past year helping our students continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Head. “I thank them for their efforts and look forward to a brighter future.”

LSC was also recognized by Hispanic Outlook on Education for being second in the nation in awarding associate degrees to Hispanics. More than 2,800 degrees were conferred, representing 36% of the total number of degrees LSC awarded in 2019.

The monthly publication, which provides education news while maintaining a unique Hispanic perspective, publishes this ranking each year. Data used in the ranking was the latest available.

Lone Star College is expanding face-to-face classes while continuing to provide hybrid and online courses to meet student needs this fall. Learn more at LoneStar.edu.

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 instituc more, visit LoneStar.edu.



Lone Star College was ranked #1 in the nation for the number of Hispanic students enrolled in two-year colleges by Hispanic Outlook on Education.

La Promesa Unveils Logo and Branding

The district’s newest school reveals logo and brand identity, capturing opportunities for students.

Principal Ana Fernández Flores-Bolívar recently announced the launch of La Promesa’s brand identity and logo. The

choice communicates the promise the high school will offer students. The school, which opens fall of 2021, will focus on newcomers — students who have lived three or fewer years in the U.S. and are from non-English speaking countries or have limited English proficiency.

La Promesa builds on Aldine ISD’s strategic plan, A New Way Forward, to give all district students access to high-quality schools and educational experiences that prepare them for school, college, career, and life.

“Our team has worked tirelessly to create a brand that represents what La Promesa stands for,” said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. “All means all in Aldine, including newcomers. The logo and brand is a way of telling the school’s story, capturing opportunities and hope for a brighter future for our students and families.”

The brand identity underscores what La Promesa aspires to be — a beacon in the community it serves. The school will provide students who are new to the U.S. with global and cultural competencies for today’s interconnected world, giving them the promise of having choices after graduation.

“My goal is to empower our students to live with pride in their native language and heritage, alongside learning and finding commonalities in their new culture and language. I promise that everyone at La Promesa will build a solid foundation that prepares them for their future,” said Flores-Bolívar. “We are excited that the brand reflects our school’s emphasis on the promise we make to ensure our students will thrive.”

Students aren’t the only ones that will benefit from the programs and resources at La Promesa. Parents will also have educational opportunities like English as a second language (ESL) classes and GED classes, including connecting families to social services based on need (e.g., health screenings, counseling services, housing assistance), with the intent to “uplift the entire family,” added Flores-Bolívar.

The sun represents the promise and the possibilities of a new day. At the same time, the bold serif typeface symbolizes the resilience and growth mindset of the students while working in harmony with the simple lines of the sun. The primary colors are navy blue and deep yellow, with secondary colors being bright orange, steel gray, light gray, and white.

These elements lend the logo and branding a distinctive, modern boldness.

To learn more about the brand or view the logo, please visit La Promesa’s branding page.



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★ OPINION PAGE ★

COUNTY CONNECTION
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Get Vaccinated; let's move the Threat Level to Green

Since the COVID-19 virus was first detected in Harris County, we have been working non-stop to beat it. We stayed home, wore our masks, maintained social distance, and sacrificed many, many moments with friends and family. When safe, effective vaccines became available, Harris County Public Health rushed to acquire and distribute them equitably, establishing over 100 vaccination sites, including a mega distribution site at NRG stadium that has become a model for the nation. Many of our residents are getting vaccinated, moving us closer to a place where COVID-19 is no longer a major threat to vulnerable populations and our hospital capacity. Thanks to all of this hard work, we have made substantial progress in turning a corner against this virus.

Last week, based on this progress and the meeting of the relevant thresholds, I moved the county's COVID-19 Threat Level from Level 2: Orange to Level 3: Yellow, the system's second-lowest threat level. We should all be proud of reaching this significant milestone. Under the Yellow threat level, unvaccinated individuals should continue to mask and social distance. Fully vaccinated individuals, however, may resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where otherwise required.

We are making considerable strides, but our success is fragile. From the beginning of this crisis, data and public health expertise have driven our policies and the guidance we provide the community on how to stay safe. And the data tells us our numbers are still high, that people are still getting sick and dying. While we have come a long way, this is not a mission accomplished moment. But we should feel encouraged that vaccinations are safe, effective, and are preventing deaths, hospitalizations, and the spread of the virus.

So don't wait. Go get vaccinated. And if you've already gotten your shots, help us by getting anyone you know who hasn't to NRG Park. Come by Tuesday thru Sunday between noon and 7 p.m. — there's no need for an appointment. You can find more information at ReadyHarris.org or contact us at 832-927-8787. Let's continue to pull together to persuade friends, family members, and others to do their part and get vaccinated. Let's make it to Green and beat COVID-19 once and for all.



Home Country
with Slim Randles

Papaya? Ha! There's glory in that.

Like a doctor removing something important, Herb Collins gently peeled the wrapper back from the root ball and tenderly placed the baby tree in the hole. Then he stood and walked around it to see which way he should align it. Actually, looks pretty good just the way it is.

So he took his bucket of mixed sand and compost and began sprinkling it down onto the roots and then packing it in gently with his fist.

Every few minutes he'd stop and read the directions again. When he ordered the tree, the nurseryman had written back "Are you sure?" Well, that made ol' Herb laugh. Yes, he was sure. He's always sure this time of year.

He was still chuckling to himself when Janice Thomas walked along the sidewalk.

"Hi Herb," said the high school art teacher. "What is this year?"

"Papaya, Janice. Nice healthy one, don't you think?" Janice took a close look at the little dark green tree. Papaya.

"Isn't that a tropical tree?"

"Sure is," he said, tucking more dirt around the roots. "I have to read the instructions carefully to get this right."

Janice thought carefully before speaking. "Papayas sure taste good, Herb."

"Sure do. Wouldn't it be nice if this lives long enough to produce fruit?"

"But you're not expecting ..."

"Of course not. The first nippy day in autumn will turn this little guy belly up."

He looked up and smiled at Janice's consternation.

"You know that banana tree almost made it to Christmas last year. That was my best so far. We'll see how this little guy makes out."

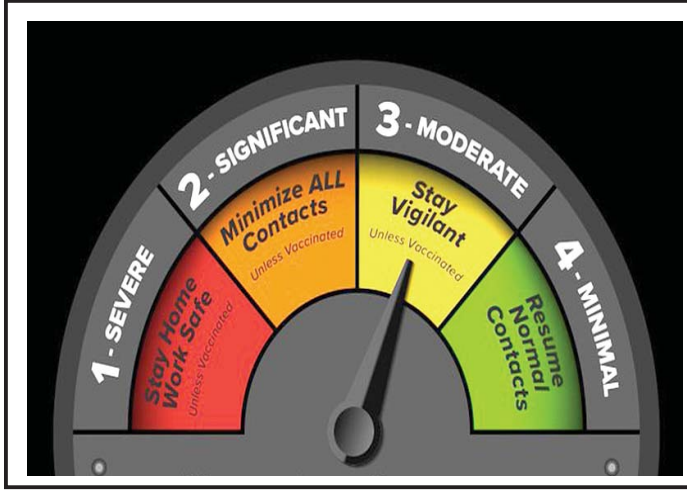
Each year Herb plants something in the front yard that has no chance at all of being there the following spring. He's done it for years. It gives the neighborhood something to look at and talk about, and it's fun.

"You know, Herb, if you're looking for fruit, a cherry tree will produce ..."


"I'm not looking for fruit, Janice," he said, gently. "I'm looking for glory. Glory!"

He laughed. "Where's the glory in planting something that will grow here? Anyone can do that. But a papaya? Ha! There's glory in that."

Brought to you by yourself ... and me, as we take off our hats to the brave men and women of our medical and emergency services. Thank you.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Population gains and losses in Texas announced

The U.S. Census Bureau has released its sub-county population estimates from April 2010 to July 2020. That includes population estimates for the 1,200 incorporated places in Texas. Nine additional Texas towns were incorporated in the past decade, while 13 additional cities surpassed a population of 50,000.

The Texas Demographic Center reported that of the 71 Texas cities with populations of more than 50,000, only two lost population — continuing the trend of smaller towns and areas in the state losing population to larger cities. More than 55% of the state's population growth has been in cities with more than 50,000 residents.

Small and mid-sized cities surrounding major metropolitan areas, such as Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin and Houston, saw the fastest growth rates, while many of the cities in West Texas and the Panhandle were among the 372 Texas cities that lost population, according to TDC.

EMERGENCY FOOD BENEFITS EXTENDED

Benefits for families under a federal nutrition plan have been increased through September, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced last week.

Under the American Rescue Plan signed by President Biden in March, states can provide eligible families up to \$35 per month to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Clients of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program are eligible.

"Texas WIC provides foods that have great nutritional value — providing key nutrients at key stages of development," Texas WIC Director Edgar Curtis said. "This nutritional support early in life builds stronger, smarter, healthier and happier children and Texans. Fresh fruits and vegetables, which are loaded with vitamins and

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

other plant-based nutrients, are at the forefront of that strategy."

The HHSC also announced it is providing roughly \$208 million in emergency food benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, extending the maximum SNAP benefits allowable through June. All SNAP recipients will get a minimum of \$95 in emergency allotment, in addition to the 15% increase that continues through September.

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by HHSC.

STATE TO RELEASE \$5 BILLION IN SCHOOL FEDERAL AID

Months after congressional action on a coronavirus relief package, the Texas Education Agency announced Friday that school districts may begin applying for their portion of \$5 billion in aid.

According to the Austin American-Statesman, how much each district will receive varies. Districts that saw large enrollment declines because of the pandemic will likely not receive as much money, because TEA will divert some of the funds to make up for funding provided at pre-pandemic levels.

Much of public-school funding in Texas is based on average daily attendance. However, during the 2020-2021 school year, dis-

tricts were not penalized when students stayed home.

EXPERTS: WEATHERIZATION BILL FALLS SHORT

The Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 3 in response to February's deadly storm and widespread failure of power plants. The package addresses the problems that threaten electric reliability, but public radio's Texas Standard reports that many electric grid experts and policy analysts say not enough has been done to prevent another blackout disaster.

One section of SB3 allows regulators to determine what portions of the natural gas supply must be weatherized. Since it only applies to equipment that directly connects to power plants, experts say it might not be enough.

Dan Cohan, civil engineering professor at Rice University, told the Standard that "whoever has those direct lines into the power plants and winterizes those is going to point upstream and say 'well those upstream people couldn't get us enough gas.' So yeah, it's hard to see how this is going to provide us full coverage."

In addition, critics say the penalties of \$5,000 a day for not doing the required weatherization amount to little more than a rounding error for non-complying oil and gas companies.

GOP CHAIRMAN RESIGNATION SPARKS SPECULATION

Texas Republican Party chairman Allen West resigned Friday, sparking speculation he is considering a statewide race.

The Republican party issued a statement that West "will take this opportunity to prayerfully reflect on a new chapter in his already distinguished career." West has not ruled out challenging Gov. Greg Abbott, who last week touted a re-election endorsement from former President Trump.

COVID-19 CASES DROPPING; 36% FULLY VACCINATED

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas continues to drop, with 9,534 reported as of Sunday for the previous week — a small fraction of mid-January's record high of nearly 159,000.

In the past week, 210 deaths from COVID-19 in Texas were reported, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center. That is also a decrease.

The number of Texans fully vaccinated stands at 10.5 million, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, or about 36% of the state's population. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients who are hospitalized dropped nearly a fifth from the previous week, to 1,504, according to DSHS.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

The Homes of Dead People

A cousin of mine reportedly said, "I can't imagine living in a house where other people have lived!"

I don't know if she really said this, as I heard the story secondhand. But it stuck in my mind because every home I've owned has been lived in by other people, and a few people have died in them as well. So far, this has not bothered me in the least.

I'm used to living in the homes of dead people.

The first house I bought was owned by a woman named Ruby. She was still living when I bought it, but she wasn't doing very well. She had outlived two husbands in the house, so I suppose there's a better-than-even chance at least one of them died there.

Ruby finally had to move to a nursing home after she showed up at the neighbor's door a few times without clothes. As she had no children, the responsibility for finding her more suitable accommodations fell to her niece. I have no children, so I expect my niece, Isabelle, might be performing this duty for me sometime in the future. (She recently turned 18 and has that to look forward to.)

My only other real home is the one I've been living in with my husband, Peter. The neighbors say "three witches" lived in the house before the man we bought it from. I don't know if this is true, and no one seems to know much about them. But now we are moving into a new condo, and I know much more about it because it had only had one other resident. Her name was Elizabeth and, like Ruby, she lived there alone, although unlike Ruby, there is no record of any husbands, dead or alive.

Elizabeth bought the condo when it was built, more than 40 years ago, and she died in it. I know this because I looked up her obituary, and it said she "died at home," so I have to suppose she died in the home we now own.

Elizabeth seems like a lovely person, judging from her obituary. Of course, most people sound nice in their obituaries. I'm going to have to ask Isabelle to say something nice about me when she gets around to writing mine. (A person doesn't turn 18 without acquiring some responsibilities.)

I've been thinking about Ruby and Elizabeth as Peter and I work to renovate this new condo. The walls had been painted and some new flooring put in, but pretty much everything else was as Elizabeth left it. The appliances are old. We've already replaced the countertop and had the cabinets repainted and put in shiny new sinks. I don't think Elizabeth would recognize the place. But I hope she'd be pleased.

Because, unlike my cousin, I very much like the idea of Elizabeth living in my home before me. I like that she was so happy here that she never chose to leave. I'm glad she didn't show up at the neighbor's naked and have to find another home. (Although I don't know this for sure. It's possible she just didn't have a dutiful niece like Ruby did and I do.)

And even without the yellowing 1980s bath fixtures and the chipped countertop, I would like to think there is a little of Elizabeth around. It makes me feel as if I have an invisible friend, looking at the same sun shining in the same windows, seeing the same view, living our overlapping lives without ever getting the chance to meet.

Till next time,
Carrie
Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

Take Pride in our Community Keep it Clean



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Founded in 1977 by Vic & Donna Mauldin
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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com

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SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje de la Superintendente, 2 de junio de 2021

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

Nuestro objetivo para la primavera de 2021 era Terminar fuertes, y me enorgullece decir que ciertamente lo hicimos! Dos de los días más felices del año escolar son el primer día de clases y la graduación. El primer día marca el tono del año y les permite a los alumnos conocer las promesas que les hacemos como educadores. La graduación es el cumplimiento de estas promesas. Este año, presidí nueve ceremonias de graduación donde más de 3,200 alumnos de último año recibieron sus diplomas. Muchos de estos graduados se dirigen a la universidad, las escuelas de oficios y la fuerza laboral. Todos están preparados para afrontar con éxito sus nuevos retos.

Esta semana marca el inicio de las vacaciones de verano. Una vez más, quiero agradecer al personal, los padres, los alumnos y toda la comunidad por un año escolar exitoso en circunstancias desafiantes. El año escolar 2020-2021 estuvo lleno de logros y eventos memorables que no podrían haber sucedido sin su apoyo.

Junio marca el Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+. Estoy comprometida a crear entornos de trabajo y aprendizaje seguros y afirmativos para los alumnos, las familias y el personal. «Todos» significa «todos» en Aldine. Queremos que todos los alumnos prosperen en nuestras escuelas. Juntos, ayudemos a crear espacios seguros, inclusivos y acogedores para todos. Somos más fuertes y #MejorJuntos. Haga clic aquí para obtener recursos.

Una de las nuevas formas en que nos hemos comunicado sobre nuestros programas e iniciativas este año es All the Things: The Aldine Podcast. La semana pasada, lanzamos el décimo episodio de All The Things: The Aldine ISD Podcast. El final de temporada presenta a Kingston Alexander-Punch, un alumno de 2020-2021, que se acercó para hablar sobre el jardín de infantes (kinder). El invitado más joven del podcast nos ayudó a explicar por qué las familias deberían aprovechar los programas primarios de Aldine ISD, por qué el kinder es genial e incluso nos dijo cuánto le ENCANTA la leche chocolatada. No se pierda la charla del kinder. All the Things volverá más tarde este verano, pero mientras tanto, suscríbese a nuestro blog de noticias y compártalo con un amigo. Puede escuchar episodios completos aquí.

¡Esperamos tener un Fuerte Comienzo para el año escolar 2021-2022! Nuestros equipos de liderazgo y directores se reunirán durante el verano y los maestros asistirán a sesiones para perfeccionar su trabajo. Cuando el año escolar 2021-2022 comience el 16 de agosto, Aldine ISD estará listo para comenzar a trabajar para el aprendizaje presencial y continuar brindando a nuestros alumnos numerosas oportunidades educativas. Utilice nuestra plataforma Let's Talk si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud. Haga clic en el enlace de la oficina o el departamento, y el miembro del personal correspondiente se comunicará con usted.

RECORDATORIOS IMPORTANTES

Desayuno y almuerzo gratis — El martes 25 de mayo es el último día que el Departamento de Servicios de Alimentación Escolar del distrito ofrecerá comidas en la acera en todos los sitios para recoger.

A partir del 1 de junio, el programa de comidas de verano volverá a Aldine ISD. Los Servicios de Alimentación Escolar

de Aldine proporcionarán comidas de verano saludables y sin costo a los alumnos de menos de 18 años y a los alumnos con discapacidades de menos de 21 años ya matriculados. Seamless Summer Program (la opción de verano sin interrupción) es un programa de nutrición del Departamento de Agricultura de los EE. UU. administrado en el estado de Texas por el Departamento de Agricultura de Texas (TDA). Para obtener más información, haga clic aquí.

Aldine ISD organizará los campamentos deportivos de verano — Todos los campamentos deportivos de verano de fuerza y entrenamiento se llevarán a cabo en la Escuela Secundaria Aldine, Escuela Secundaria Davis, Escuela Secundaria Eisenhower, Escuela Secundaria MacArthur y Escuela Secundaria Nimitz. Haga clic aquí para obtener detalles sobre fechas, horarios y costos.

La inscripción para prekinder y kinder — La inscripción de alumnos nuevos para el año escolar 2021-2022 se abrirá el 21 de junio. Las familias podrán inscribir a los alumnos elegibles para el año escolar 2021-2022 en tres grados: prekinder para niños de tres años, prekinder para niños de cuatro años y kinder. El programa de prekinder para niños de 3 años será un programa de día completo a partir del otoño de 2021.

La Promesa: La escuela más nueva del Aldine ISD — La Promesa abrirá en el otoño de 2021 para brindarles a los alumnos que son nuevos en los EE. UU. competencias globales y culturales para el mundo interconectado de hoy, brindándoles «la promesa» de opciones y oportunidades después de la graduación. La escuela se enfocará en alumnos que han vivido tres años o menos en los EE. UU. y son de países que no hablan inglés o tienen un dominio limitado del inglés. La escuela organizará eventos de inscripción presenciales para ayudar a las familias a inscribir a sus alumnos que empiezan noveno grado el año escolar 2021-2022. Haga clic aquí para conocer detalles sobre el próximo evento próximo.

Sábado 5 de junio, de 9 a. m. al mediodía Escuela Secundaria Aldine 11101 Airline Drive • Houston, TX 77037

A partir del 2 de agosto de 2021: las familias de los alumnos deben completar la actualización anual obligatoria. Anteriormente, una vez que un alumno se inscribía en Aldine ISD, la información del alumno seguía siendo la misma a menos que uno de los padres o apoderado (tutor) proporcionara información nueva. La actualización anual aumentará el servicio al cliente y garantizará que la información individual de los alumnos se actualice anualmente. A partir de agosto de 2021, AISD pedirá a las familias que completen una actualización anual antes de comenzar cada nuevo año escolar. Las familias accederán al formulario de Actualización Anual a través de su cuenta HAC. Al menos un apoderado (padre o tutor legal del alumno) necesitará tener una cuenta de Home Access Center (Acceso Desde el Hogar o HAC).

Participación de la familia y la comunidad (FACE) Manténgase actualizado con el Departamento de FACE de Aldine ISD haciendo clic aquí para conocer los próximos eventos y recursos familiares. El equipo de FACE agradece sus comentarios con sugerencias sobre qué información le gustaría ver en su boletín mensual. Completen esta encuesta para compartir sus pensamientos y la manera en que le gustaría participar.

RECORDATORIOS DE LA COVID-19: Pruebas, protocolos de seguridad y noticias de vacunación

Después del 28 de mayo, el distrito ya no llevará a cabo el proceso de detección de COVID-19 para los visitantes, y los empleados no necesitarán completar la evaluación diaria a través de Qualtrics. Además, las mascarillas serán opcionales en todos los campus y edificios administrativos de Aldine ISD a partir del 5 de junio de 2021.

Vacunas

A partir del 10 de mayo de 2021, la Administración de Drogas y Alimentos de los EE. UU. ha ampliado el uso de emergencia de la vacuna contra la COVID-19 de Pfizer-BioNTech para todas las personas mayores de 12 años.

Las solicitudes de P-EBT abren el 2 de junio

El estado abrirá el proceso de solicitud de Transferencia Electrónica de Beneficios Pandémicos (P-EBT) para las familias elegibles. Las familias pueden usar los beneficios de P-EBT para comprar alimentos en cualquier minorista que acepte la tarjeta Lone Star. La solicitud para P-EBT se abrirá el 2 de junio de 2021. Visite yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT para presentar la solicitud. El enlace de la aplicación distingue entre mayúsculas y minúsculas. La fecha límite para presentar la solicitud es el 13 de agosto de 2021. Para obtener más información sobre elegibilidad, solicitar y obtener sus beneficios de P-EBT, visite hhs.texas.gov/pebt. Las familias también pueden llamar al Centro de llamadas de P-EBT al 833-442-1255, de lunes a viernes, de 8 a. m. a 6 p. m.

Protocolos de cuarentena

De acuerdo con 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 hagan cuarentena si se exponen a un caso de COVID-19 positivo confirmado en laboratorio. Se anima a los alumnos que estén completamente vacunados a que proporcionen una copia de su tarjeta de vacunación al enfermero de la escuela para que la ingrese en sus registros de vacunación de salud del alumno. Solo se le pedirá al personal que proporcione sus registros de vacunación al supervisor del evento si se identifica como una exposición a un caso positivo.

Animo a todos a que sigan haciendo su parte: usen una mascarilla, lávense las manos y vigilen su distancia como lo recomienda los CDC.

Actualizaciones del distrito

¡Están pasando tantas cosas maravillosas en nuestro distrito! Asegúrese de visitar la página de Noticias del Distrito para mantenerse actualizado sobre todo lo que sucede en nuestro distrito.

El mensaje semanal ha sido una herramienta poderosa para mantener a todos informados sobre noticias e iniciativas importantes. Esta carta es el último mensaje semanal hasta finales de este verano. Sin embargo, se notificará a las familias y al personal si hay alguna emergencia.

¡Que tengan un verano agradable y seguro!

Con orgullo Aldine, Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendente

ENTERTAINMENT

Posting Date June 14, 2021

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with numbers 3, 2, 4, 7, 9, 5, 2, 6, 8, 1, 5, 6, 4, 7, 3, 2, 1, 7, 3, 5, 4, 8, 3, 4, 6, 9. Includes difficulty level 'Moderate' and 'Challenging'.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a cartoon character with a dog. Text: 'Find at least six differences in details between panels.' Includes a list of differences: 1. Collar is different, 2. Spot is missing, 3. Tail is shorter, 4. Glove is removed, 5. Chip is missing, 6. Shirt is different, 7. Banker, 8. Ralph Waldo Emerson, 9. 1619, 10. Sedimentary.

King Crossword

King Crossword grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 Egyptian deity, 5 Piercing tool, 8 Probability, 12 Lion's share, 13 Hot tub, 14 Stench, 15 Unoriginal one, 16 Home to the Buccaneers, 18 Pizza topping, 20 Wine container, 21 Off-white, 23 Dict. info, 24 Spoofs, 28 Pharmaceutical, 31 Playwright Levin, 32 Leg bone, 34 Mentalist's gift, 35 Rhett's last word, 37 Mildew cause, 39 Scratch, 41 Valentine flower, 42 Molds, 45 Foliage, 49 Marshmallow toaster, 51 Carousel, for one, 52 'I cannot tell', 53 Pair, 54 Aspiring atty.'s exam, 55 Fork setting, 56 Still, in verse, 57 Orange veggies, 8 Gave a speech, 9 Owing nothing, 10 Transaction, 11 Terrier type, 17 Group of seals, 19 Highlander, 22 Release a deadbolt, 24 Cover, 25 Altar constellation, 26 Abba-inspired hit musical, 27 Buck, 29 Constitution letters, 30 Family docs, 33 Church section, 36 Caught some z's, 38 Almost, 40 Ump, 42 "Lion King" villain, 43 Saintry ring, 44 Faction, 46 Travel permit, 47 Dutch cheese, 48 Collections, 50 Regret.

Weekly SUDOKU grid with numbers 7, 2, 6, 9, 8, 1, 3, 4, 5, 1, 3, 2, 2, 4, 7, 6, 9, 8, 9, 8, 5, 6, 3, 2, 7, 1, 7, 2, 4, 9, 8, 1, 5, 6, 1, 6, 5, 7, 3, 2, 8, 9, 9, 2, 3, 7, 1, 5, 2, 2, 6, 6, 6, 6, 4, 4, 2, 2, 3, 1, 1, 7, 8, 6.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to sign into law a declaration of war? 2. TELEVISION: What was the name of the federal agent in the 1990s drama "Twin Peaks"? 3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the smallest country in South America? 4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the color maroon? 5. INVENTIONS: When was the can opener invented? 6. MOVIES: What was Andy Dufresne's profession before he was sent to prison in 1994's "The Shawshank Redemption"? 7. U.S. STATES: Which state was the last one to be admitted to the union? 8. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who wrote this about summer, "Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air"? 9. HISTORY: In what year were the first slaves from Africa brought on a ship to the American colonies? 10. GEOLOGY: What kind of rock is coal?

King Crossword

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Five North Forest siblings benefit from participation in HCC's Honors College

Houston, TX (June 10, 2021) – As the Houston Community College Northline Campus adds participation in HCC's Honors College program this semester, high school graduates and returning adult students can reap the benefits just like five siblings from North Forest.



The siblings from the Webb family can attest to how being a part of the program makes a difference. The latest to take part in Honors College, Diamon Webb, describes her experience as “an opportunity to build close relationships with teachers and students while doing the same workload and rigor offered at a university,” she said.

Diamon will graduate from HCC in December 2021. She is expected to transfer to a university in Texas to complete a bachelor's degree in business administration. She was quick to take advantage of the Honors College program after seeing how it challenged and prepared her siblings Amber, Chelbe, Casteadel, and Breanna.

Her sister, Amber Jones-Webb, participated and later graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with both bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. Brenea Webb attended Texas Southern University and earned a bachelor's degree in health administration before earning a doctorate to become a pharmacist. Chelbe Webb attended Stephen F. Austin and became a registered nurse. Diamon's brother Casteadel Webb excelled in the program, too, and later graduated from Sam Houston State with a bachelor's degree in human resources management.

“The pandemic changed my world and made me look at life differently,” Diamon said, especially after losing her 100-year-old great grandmother who was a huge part of her life.

Attending school online was challenging at times, the North Forest High School graduate indicated. “Not interacting with people in a classroom setting was different. But I was motivated by my mother (Christale Jones-Webb) who pursued a master's degree after raising five children and hearing about my great-grandmother who had wanted to be a teacher but didn't have the chance,” she explained. “So, I persevered. It has truly made me stronger.”

The Honors College program has been in place at HCC since 2007, and the program at Northline is the fifth campus to institute the program in the HCC system. The program offers scholarships, textbooks at no cost, leadership and mentoring opportunities, cultural awareness and academic excellence.

“We are proud of the Honors College and excited to expand it to HCC Northeast,” said Dr. Cheryl Peters, Honors College director. “Some of HCC's most successful students have used the program as a launching pad to spectacular successes at universities around the nation. It opens doors.”

The program's comprehensive curriculum provides a larger view of the world for its students, says HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E., who has worked closely with Dr. Peters to expand the program across the HCC system.

“Through its requisite courses in art history, literature and humanities, Honors College students can see these far-away destinations through different eyes. They are the eyes of wonder in discovery and of the joy of lifelong learning,” the chancellor said.

Diamon is proud to be at the end of her journey as an Honor College student and believes that others from her community should give the program a try. “I would say, ‘You can do it. Don't doubt yourself, and don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone. Don't compare yourself to others because your story is your story,’” she said.

The HCC Honors College program is accepting applications for the fall 2021 semester. For more information, call (713) 718-5203 or visit hccs.edu/honors.

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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

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TESTC 8900124 (15849) \$25

COMMUNITY WATCH

Suspect Arrested, Charged in Stabbing at 13502 Northborough Drive

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the stabbing of a man at 13502 Northborough Drive about 9:25 a.m. on Wednesday (June 9).

The suspect, Edgar Ismael Gomez-Lara (H/m, 27), is charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the 174th State District Court. A booking photo of Gomez-Lara is attached to this news release.



The victim, 24, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division Detectives S. Hall and Johnson reported:

Officers responded to a stabbing call at the above address and found the victim with multiple stab wounds. Paramedics transported the victim to an area hospital.

A witness reported seeing a Hispanic male suspect flee the scene before officers arrived. As other officers responded to look for the suspect, the male (Gomez-Lara) was spotted by a patrol officer entering a vehicle just a

few blocks away. Officers conducted a traffic stop and detained the suspect without incident. After speaking with witnesses and the suspect, it was determined a verbal argument led to the suspect stabbing the victim with a knife multiple times. Gomez-Lara was subsequently arrested and charged in the incident.

Two "Saint of Death" worshipping MS-13 gang members each sentenced to 40 years

The two MS-13 gang members who killed a 15-year-old girl as a sacrifice to the Saint of Death in 2017, have been convicted of murder and each sentenced to 40 years in prison, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced Wednesday.

"This is a tragic case of a runaway girl falling into the clutches of a dangerous and violent gang," Ogg said. "We will not stop in our pursuit of violent criminals who band together to terrorize communities and murder innocents."

On Monday, just before jury selection was set to begin in his trial, Diego Hernandez-Rivera, 22, pleaded guilty to murder in the death of Genesis Cornejo-Alvarado in exchange for 40 years in prison. Hernandez-Rivera, who went by "Scary,"

also pleaded guilty to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in exchange for 12 years in prison. Those sentences will run concurrently.

His partner in crime, Miguel Alvarez-Flores, 26, who went by "Diabólico," pleaded guilty to murder in February and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Prosecutors expected to show in court that Cornejo-Alvarado, whose Houston-area family had reported her missing, was dating a gang member and was chosen as a sacrifice and shot to death, likely because she disrespected their shrine to the Santa Muerte, the Saint of Death.

MS-13 or Mara Salvatrucha, is a transnational gang that began in Los Angeles in the 1980s with members being deported to Central America.

Today, law enforcement arrests the gang's members across the United States.

The case was prosecuted by the Gangs Division of the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

The case was investigated by the Houston Police Dept., the FBI, Texas Dept. of Public Safety, Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice Office of Inspector General and the Digital Forensics Unit of the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

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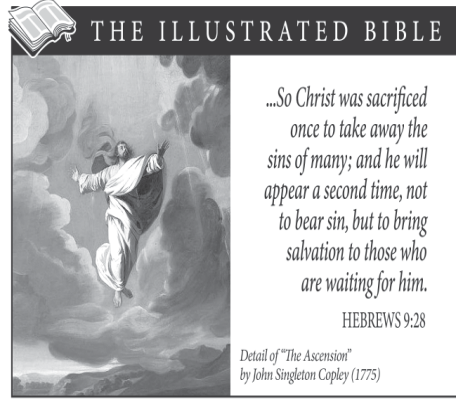
CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —
 1. Is the book of Habakkuk in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. From 2 Samuel, who asked, "How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished?" Saul, Simeon, David, Peter
 3. Who said, "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are ye all"? Samson, Goliath, Devil, Job

4. From the Beatitudes, who shall be called the sons of God? Hungry, Peacemakers, Merciful, Lonely
 5. What Jewish lady became queen of Persia? Abigail, Sarah, Esther, Ruth
 6. Whose biblical name means "God is judge"? Titus, Festus, David, Daniel

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) David; 3) Job; 4) Peacemakers; 5) Esther; 6) Daniel
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.
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