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# NORTHEAST NEWS

## Garcia inspects Potholes



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia with the new Pothole Repair truck that will speed up the repair of dangerous Potholes.

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VOL. 45, NO. 28 TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



Town Center amphitheater is at center, stage at left, kids water playground at right, and offices for the East Aldine District at rear of this aerial photo.

## Free July 17 concert will initiate new amphitheater

Program includes Ray Vega, and Diaz' Caliente

Grammy-winning Latin jazz trumpeter Ray Vega will lead the first live, free performance at the East Aldine Town Center amphitheater Sat., July 17

HOUSTON — Live, free, sizzling jazz for people of all ages, led by an international music star, in East Aldine has been announced. Grammy-winning Latin jazz trumpeter Ray Vega will lead the first live, free performance at the East Aldine Town Center amphitheater Saturday, July 17th.

Latin Jazz trumpet player Ray Vega, winner of multiple GRAMMY awards, will lead Caliente, a local ensemble of about 30 young musicians from the Diaz Music Institute, which is supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office and the East Aldine Management District.

The public show starts at 7 p.m. Saturday at the new amphitheater at the recently expanded East Aldine Town Center, 2800 Aldine Mail Route Rd.

Organizers are planning to offer light refreshments for sale.

The free performance will be the first of many at the Town Center, which includes District offices, a play area, outdoor water features, storefront operations of BakerRipley and the HOPE Clinic, the Lone Star College East Aldine Center and the Harris County Sheriff's Office dispatch center.

Jazz bassist Oskar Catarya, a GRAMMY nominee, will perform at the amphitheater Saturday, July 31, in a format similar to Vega's.

The Town Center was created by the District to spur economic development and enhance several public services to East Aldine.

"The East Aldine Management District is honored and excited to welcome Ray Vega and Caliente to 'christen' the amphitheater with an unforgettable performance," District Executive Director David Hawes said. "The start of free live entertainment at the Town Center for people of all ages shows how East Aldine and the District are moving ahead with the

Continued. See CONCERT, Page 6

## Precinct 2 initiates Pothole Repair program

EAST ALDINE — One of Commissioner Garcia's top missions has been to develop new strategies in making sure Precinct 2 roadways are well maintained and safe for constituents.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia says that "Summer is here, one of the busiest times of the year for Precinct 2: from park renovations to ribbon cuttings, road repair, and bridge maintenance, we do a lot of everything!"

With all those initiatives ongoing, today, Commissioner Garcia announces the



Marina Sugg of the Green Forest CCivic club inspects a Pct. 2 Pothole Repair in the East Aldine area.

newest way Precinct 2 is getting the job done! Specially-equipped trucks are being used to repair potholes in our Precinct.

If you see a pothole that needs to be addressed, all you have to do is call the Pct 2 Call Center at 713-274-2222 or visit www.hcp2.com to file a report.

See a video of Commissioner Garcia walking you through the intricate pothole repair process on www.hcp2.com.

Adrian Garcia, Harris Co. Precinct 2 Commissioner says he is "Working for you."

## Governor Abbott Announces Special Session Agenda

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation that identifies eleven agenda items for the Special Session that begins at 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 8.

"The 87th Legislative Session was a monumental success for the people of Texas, but we have unfinished business to ensure that Texas remains the most exceptional state in America," said Governor Abbott. "Two of my emergency items, along with other important legislation, did not make it to my desk during the regular session, and we have a responsibility to finish the job on behalf of all Texans. These Special Session priority items put the people of Texas first and will keep the Lone Star State on a path to prosperity. I look forward to working with my partners in the Legislature to pass this legislation as we build a brighter future for all who call Texas home."

Special Session agenda



items will include:  
BAIL REFORM: Legislation reforming the bail system in Texas to protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail.

ELECTION INTEGRITY: Legislation strengthening the integrity of elections in Texas.

BORDER SECURITY: Legislation providing funding to support law-enforcement agencies, counties, and other strategies as part of Texas' comprehensive border security plan.

SOCIAL MEDIA CENSORSHIP: Legislation safeguarding the free-

dom of speech by protecting social-media users from being censored by social-media companies based on the user's expressed viewpoints, including by providing a legal remedy for those wrongfully excluded from a platform.

ARTICLE X FUNDING: Legislation providing appropriations to the Legislature and legislative agencies in Article X of the General Appropriations Act.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Legislation similar to Senate Bill 1109 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, requiring schools to provide appropriate education to middle- and high-school students about dating violence, domestic violence, and child abuse, but that recognizes the right of parents to opt their children out of the instruction.

YOUTH SPORTS: Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed by the Texas Senate in the

87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competitions designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth.

ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS: Legislation similar to Senate Bill 394 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, which prohibits people from providing abortion-inducing drugs by mail or delivery service, strengthens the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications, and ensures that no abortion-inducing drugs are provided unless there is voluntary and informed consent.

THIRTEENTH CHECK: Legislation similar to House Bill 3507 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to a "thirteenth check" or one-time supplemental pay-

Continued. See AGENDA, page 6

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COMMUNITY PAGE

## Aldine ISD Elementary Summer Camps End in Olympic-Themed Closing Ceremony

Aldine ISD elementary students celebrate going for the G.O.L.D., during the summer opportunity to learn.

Elementary students from across the district piled into the M.O. Campbell Educational Center, toting flags from a variety of countries, banners, and Olympic torches to celebrate the end of their summer learning camp experience. The four-week summer program was offered to Aldine ISD students in Grades 1-5.

Students sang their summer campsite cheers, heard from a special guest speaker, School Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools, Dr. Crystal Watson-Barrow, and watched a special performance by the University of Houston Cougar Cheer Squad.



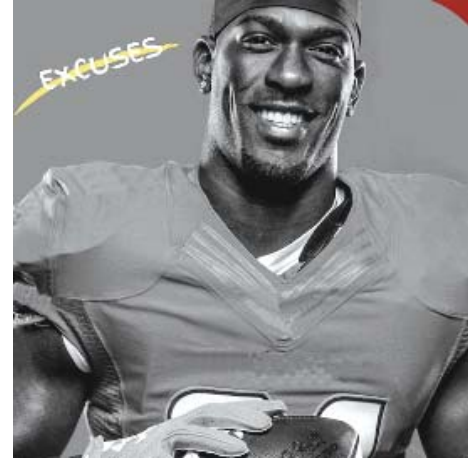
## NFL Player Michael Thomas Brings Back His Camp Mike T for Youth Athletes; Starts July 14

Register Today! The sixth annual free camp is open to all area middle and high school players.

Michael Thomas is among the NFL players that make an impact off the field in local communities. Thomas, an Aldine ISD graduate from Nimitz High School's Class of 2008, has been giving back. He developed and hosts a free football camp, now in its sixth year, for youth across the area. Each year, camps like Thomas' reach upwards of 200+ kids per camp.

His camp, held at Thorne Stadium in Aldine, teaches football skills and helps the participants develop a better sense of confidence in their daily lives. One of the Thomas tells students is to have grit. When he first got into football, Thomas was initially told that he was too small or too short for football. Thomas could have given up on football, but instead, he worked hard because he believed in himself.

The free two-day camp, which is open to kids across the Houston area, works with middle and high school student-



athletes. Thomas usually has other players at his camp assisting with drills and activities.

The young athletes learn to fine-tune their football skills on the field, but Thomas' camp is about much more than making the right moves on the field. He wants kids to make the right moves in life too. Thomas encouraged the athletes to have a fall-back plan encouraging everyone to focus on earning a college degree and setting financial goals.

Recruited to play football for Stanford University, Thomas took

advantage and earned his bachelor's degree in sociology. He went on to earn his MBA.

Few may also be aware that he was a political intern. He encourages today's youth to be active in their communities.

Camp Mike T Information

July 14 and July 15  
Middle School: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

High School: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

W.W. Thorne Stadium, 1865 Aldine Bender Rd, Houston, TX 77032

Register: <https://bit.ly/3hdiaMu>

## We lose Lewis Spearman

CROSBY – We are sad to report that our friend and colleague, Lewis Spearman, passed away on Friday June 25 peacefully at home. Lewis had been recovering from a cardiac procedure the previous week. Lewis has been an important part of the newspaper team since our start in 1994, and his contribution will be sorely missed. He had many friends in the Crosby



LEWIS SPEARMAN

and East Harris County area, and was active with the Crosby/Huffman Chamber and

the Crosby Fair & Rodeo, and others.

Memorial arrangements will be announced later, but a service is planned at Crosby Church for friends in the community to pay their respects. Time and date will be announced in the near future. A go-fund-me account for expenses has been established at <http://gofund.me/7ac91f54>. See also Page 2 inside.

## ELECTION INTEGRITY

IN THE 87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

### DEDICATED FUNDS FOR SECURE VOTING MACHINES, ELECTIONS TRAINING

The state budget provides \$34 million for reimbursements to counties for the retrofitting or purchase of new auditable voting machines and an increase of \$1.4 million for the training of county election officials.

### POLL-WATCHER STATUS

HB 1128 clarifies who may lawfully be present at a polling place, early voting ballot board, and central counting stations.

Individuals who may lawfully be present at a polling place:

- + an election judge or clerk;
- + a watcher;
- + a state inspector;
- + a person admitted to vote;
- + a child under age 18 accompanying a parent who had been admitted to vote;
- + a person providing authorized assistance to a voter;
- + a special peace officer appointed by the presiding judge;
- + the county chair of a political party conducting a primary election;
- + a voting system technician;
- + county election officers, as necessary to perform election tasks; or
- + a person authorized by the presiding judge in accordance with the Election Code.

### ZUCKERBUCKS

### BAN ON PRIVATE DONATIONS

HB 2283 prohibits election administrators from accepting large donations from private individuals (like Mark Zuckerberg) and organizations for the purposes of administering elections.

### EFFICIENCY IN UPDATING STATE VOTER ROLLS

HB 1264 makes the process of removing deceased persons from voter rolls more efficient.

### STRONGER PENALTIES FOR ELECTION FRAUD

HB 574 increases the penalties for conducting fraudulent activity in elections. The bill would make statute consistent by elevating some current election-related offenses from misdemeanors to felonies and would appropriately punish individuals who committed election fraud. The law takes effect on Sept. 1, 2021.

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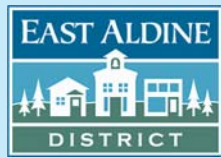
Each week this Summer, families can pick up 7 boxed breakfast & lunch meals for each child under the age of 18 at their local library branch.





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## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

### Free Summer Fun for Kids

A morning of outdoor fun featuring music, crafts and water activities will cap off the summer for children in the East Aldine community, who gladly gathered in classrooms – of all places – for learning new skills from cardio boxing to watercolor painting.

BakerRipley is holding its **FUN IN THE SUN SUMMER FESTIVAL** on Saturday, July 10, from 10 a.m. to noon. The outdoor party will include music, food, crafts, face painting, and outdoor water activities.

After a year of remote, at-home schooling, children and parents in the East Aldine area were eager to participate in the **SUMMER CLASSES** offered at the BakerRipley community center in the Town Center at 3000 Aldine Mail Route Rd. Classes were in such great demand that staff had to add a few classes to the more popular offerings, including guitar lessons. And there were plenty of kids who got a kick out of Taekwondo classes.

"I do think that the kids were happy to be in classrooms with each other, after a school year where they weren't together," said Rocio Witte, program director for the BakerRipley East Aldine Center.

Parents may have been even more eager to get kids out of the house. Some parents, however, participated in classes with their kids, since several dads signed up for cardio-boxing to combat post-pandemic pounds.

The **GUITAR CLASSES** offered by area musician George Mendez were an especially popular draw for children, with two age groups filling every available space, Witte said.

The classes were offered for



children from 5 to 9 years old, and for pre-teens 10 to 14.

**WATERCOLOR INSTRUCTION** was another popular class, as children learned techniques for creating frame-worthy images in an encouraging environment.

BakerRipley, which also offers classes and activities for seniors and adults, will announce its fall schedule of classes at a community **HEALTH FAIR AND OPEN HOUSE ON AUGUST 21**. The center will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and people can register for classes that day.

In the meantime, BakerRipley is offering **FREE WIFI SERVICES** through a partnership sponsored by Comcast, every Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Comcast Lift Zone also offers free access to computers during those hours. People who want to use the free service can visit the Youth Lounge or Café, Witte said.

Dozens of other East Aldine area children participated in the **HIGH MEADOWS BRANCH LIBRARY'S** summer reading program. Because of the advanced planning required for the program, the Harris County Public Library's branches offered a remote, on-line **SUMMER READING PROGRAM** to keep children occupied and engaged in reading during the summer months.

The library building is still a hub of activity, even though it's only operating at 75 percent capacity.

The "Tails and Tales" online summer reading program has included family-friendly videos on Facebook, which range from magic shows to pajama story time featuring librarian Ms. Krystle in her PJs, reading *The Three Little Pigs* as she curled up next to a stuffed version of Clifford the Big Red Dog.

The Houston Food Bank also is offering **FREE FOOD BOXES** for kids, each Monday at 11 a.m., when readers may visit to retrieve their "prizes" for completing books. Children can get "a little toy" or a free book for a certain amount of reading.

Librarian Jane Holt said some avid readers have already completed the reading program.

"We have some really fast readers," Holt said. Holt said the staff is "still being very careful" because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

"We really want to take care of the patrons," Holt said.

There is still plenty of time for children to sign up for the reading program, which concludes Aug. 16.

For information about the summer reading program, visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/high-meadows-branch-library>. The library branch is located at 4500 Aldine Mail Route Road.

— by Anne Marie Kilday







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**COUNTY NEWS**  
Harris County Judge  
Lina Hidalgo



**Commitment to Houston Food Bank to Fight Food Insecurity**

Harris County Commissioner's Court has approved extending a contract with the Houston Food Bank to provide county workers and funding to purchase and distribute food for Harris County families in need. The contract was originally meant to last until July and will now be extended until September and provide an additional \$2.6 million in funding. Funds provided are reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). From March 2020 to March of 2021 the Houston Food Bank has provided food to an average of 131,683 households each week which is an increase of 85% from the year prior.

**Tracking Catalytic Converter Serial Numbers to Prevent Thefts**

Harris County will be tracking essential pieces of your car that have become a target for thieves during the past year. Local catalytic converter thefts are up more than 400 percent and have mainly targeted Toyota Sequoias, Tundras, and Priuses because these vehicles have two catalytic converters. Catalytic converters contain precious metals, including platinum and rhodium, and local thieves have been able to get between \$50 and \$875 for converters and converter parts at recycling centers. Last month, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and the Commissioner's Court took action to stop this crime wave in our region by passing new regulations requiring metal recyclers to verify the origin of the converter and upload serial numbers to a law enforcement database, making it much more difficult for thieves to profit from their thefts by selling the stolen converters to metal recyclers in the unincorporated areas of Harris County.

**Harris County Honors George Floyd Day on June 9th**

As a nation, we have collectively grieved for the loss of George Floyd and were outraged at the injustices committed against him. Though nothing can change the tragic circumstances of his murder, Harris County Commissioners Court last month passed a resolution supporting his posthumous pardon for a 2004 drug conviction concerning the alleged sale of \$10 of crack cocaine. The primary evidence in the conviction of this drug case solely relied on singular testimony by former Houston Police Detective Gerald Goines. The Harris County District Attorney's Office has since reviewed and dropped hundreds of cases linked to former officer Goines' involvement and testimonies, and court investigation of cases involving former officer Goines' testimony have already resulted in vacated convictions. Due to his death, Floyd is unable to advocate for himself in this case and file a post-conviction writ of habeas corpus issuing a false evidence claim, and, therefore, the Harris Public Defender's Office submitted an application for a full pardon on behalf of Mr. Floyd and his family. The County District Attorney agrees that these circumstances warrant a posthumous pardon. We will continue to fight for justice and fair treatment by our legal system for every Harris County resident.

This month in Harris County we honor the memory of Mr. Floyd and the movement against racial discrimination and police brutality sparked by his tragic death. Last year, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo declared June 9th George Floyd Day. The date marks the one year anniversary of Mr. Floyd's memorial service.

**Resolution in Support of Transgender Youth**

Despite pressing concerns like Texas' faltering energy grid and a global pandemic,

Texas lawmakers have recently focused their efforts on limiting the rights of transgender children. More than two dozen discriminatory bills were considered in the Texas Legislature this past session targeting young transgender people, part of a wave of anti-transgender bills across the country. Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo last month presented Commissioners Court with a resolution opposing any such anti-trans bills, and will continue to support inclusivity for all people in Harris County.

**Resolution to Urge Medicaid Expansion in Texas**

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioner's Court last month approved a resolution encouraging the State of Texas to expand access to Medicaid to individuals who don't qualify for either Medicaid or Obamacare. While Obamacare expanded access to Medicaid for people who have incomes above their state's eligibility threshold but still below the poverty line, the Supreme Court ruled that states could choose to not expand Medicaid. Medicaid eligibility for adults in states that did not expand their programs is very limited—the median income threshold for parents in these states is the equivalent of an annual income of \$8,905 for a family of three in 2020. Nearly all childless adults remain ineligible. About 1.4 million more Texans would become eligible for Medicaid coverage if the state were to expand its program, and about 75% of them would be people of color, according to a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Almost 20% of Texans lack health insurance.



**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By  
Carrie Classon

**Good Memories**

My husband, Peter, is looking around our empty living room.

"I'll always have good memories of this place."

"I will too," I assure him.

We are packing up the last of our possessions and heading across the country in a few days. We won't be coming back.

This is the home Peter bought as a single person, when he retired a bit early. He wasn't sure how much he could afford, but he bought this condo in the town where his sister, Lori, lived, sight unseen.

Lori drove by the house and sent him a text. "Buy it!" she told him. Lori was his bossy older sister, and so he did. He never regretted it.

But now Lori is gone, and we have decided to move closer to my parents and Peter's family. All our furniture has been sent ahead of us, and we have been more or less camping in our home. It has not been as hard as I feared, sleeping on a futon and eating off a few leftover plates, as Peter painstakingly prepares the house for sale. Peter ran a summer camp as a young man, and this home is like his campsite; he wants to leave it better than he found it.

And Peter is sad. He has not even seen our new place yet, so he is moving into a foggy, unknown future, and I know that is hard for him. I took some pictures when I was there, with our furniture in place.

I told him how quiet it was, how there were church bells ringing in every direction, how friendly everyone was, and how nice the grocery store was. Peter believes me, but it's not quite real. This place is real, and so is his sadness in leaving.

Change brings a combination of sadness and excitement. Peter and I are both a little sad but both—in our way—looking forward to the move.

"I will enjoy it once I get there," Peter assures me. He knows himself, and he knows what he likes. Most of all, he knows we enjoy our life together and we will be together.

And, while I am excited, I wonder how many more new homes, if any, I will have in my life.

I was there when my grandmother moved into her final home. She was 99, and her health had finally begun to slip. She moved into a place that, while it was not called a nursing home, certainly was. There was a bed and a dresser, a handful of personal items, a couple of chairs for visitors, and little else in her room. She had to know (as we all did) that this was the last place she would live.

I felt the sadness and the finality of it, but that feeling did not have long to settle because, as my grandmother was wheeled into the room, she looked out the window at a brilliant red maple tree.

"Oh!" my grandmother said, "Would you look at that tree!"

Our eyes left the drab little room, and we looked out at the tree, caught in the afternoon light, a brilliant blaze of red outside her window.

I think that is how she got to be 100 years old.

My grandma always looked for the good in change, even at the end, even when the change could not be a harbinger of anything but the end. Because even at the end, there was a brilliant red maple tree to look forward to. There was something beautiful. There were still good memories to be made.

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

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



**Democrats sue over defunding of legislative branch**

House Democrats filed a petition with the Texas Supreme Court on Friday, seeking to overturn Gov. Greg Abbott's veto of funding for the legislative branch.

As the Austin American-Statesman and other media outlets reported, House Democrats were joined by the AFL-CIO and caucuses representing Black and Latino lawmakers in asking the court to determine the governor's actions were unconstitutional.

Abbott used his line-item veto power to abolish funding for the legislative branch in the next biennial budget, which takes effect Sept. 1. He was angered by the last-minute walkout of House Democrats to stop consideration of various voting law changes pushed by the governor and Republican legislators.

"Abbott's veto is an abuse of power, an act of legislative coercion and a threat to democracy, the result of which is clear and immediate harm to the people of Texas," said Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, chair of the Texas House Democratic Caucus.

"The Legislature is a co-equal branch of government and the separation of powers is enshrined in our state constitution," Turner said. "The governor doesn't get to simply cancel another branch of government when he doesn't get his way."

Abbott's veto struck \$410.2 million allocated for the Legislature and numerous agencies that provide support to lawmakers.

Besides state lawmakers, who make \$600 a month, Turner said the veto could affect up to 2,000 employees of the Texas Senate and House and those agencies.

**SPECIAL SESSION SET FOR JULY 8**  
Abbott has called for a



special session beginning July 8, his office announced last week. He said in a press release that the items to be addressed "will be announced prior to the convening of the special session."

Abbott had said previously that he would ask legislators to work on two priority election bills that died when the Democrats walked out, as well as a bail bill that also failed.

On Friday, Abbott urged county judges across Texas to submit their two-year projected budget for expenses related to what he terms the "ongoing border crisis." The projections, submitted online, will be used by the state to request additional border security funding during the upcoming special session.

On Friday, the governor also urged jailers statewide to assist border sheriffs with operating detention facilities and providing jail beds for people arrested on state charges related to crossing the border illegally.

**PUC OUTLINES DISCONNECTION PROCEDURES AS MORATORIUM ENDS**

The Texas Public Utility Commission met Thursday with its newest member, Lori Cobos, being sworn in by Chairman Peter Lake.

As previously reported, the PUC has ended the moratorium on disconnections in effect since February. The first day for potential disconnections is June 29. Customers have specific rights under PUC rules when it comes to potential disconnections for nonpayment.

The PUC publishes a "Know Your Rights" page on its website, which can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/6byxdy97>.

The PUC also said the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which it oversees, will have to release information about power outages more quickly.

Right now, the state's main power grid operation has 60 days to release information about power plant outages, such as occurred recently during a June heat wave. That has been reduced to three days.

However, as the Texas Tribune reported, ERCOT could include which power plants were down and for how long, but not much more detail about why the outage occurred.

**NUMBER OF VACCINATED TEXANS EDGES UPWARD**

The number of Texans fully vaccinated has reached 11.7 million or 40 percent of the state's total population, according to Texas Health and Human Services.

Meanwhile, hospitalizations in the past week of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas stayed roughly the same as the previous week at 1,481. New cases of COVID-19 in the state in the past week totaled 8,825 with 167 deaths recorded, little changed from the previous week.

**SUPREME COURT: ACADEMY CAN'T BE SUED OVER SHOOTINGS**

The Texas Supreme Court threw out four lawsuits filed against Academy Sports and Outdoors by survivors and family of the victims of the mass shooting at a Sutherland Springs church in 2017.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the court ruled Friday that the suits were prohibited by a federal law protecting retailers from legal action stemming from crimes committed by third parties.

The shooting, at a church in a small community about 30 miles east of San Antonio, left 26 people dead. The gunman was killed after leaving the scene.

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

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# SPANISH PAGE

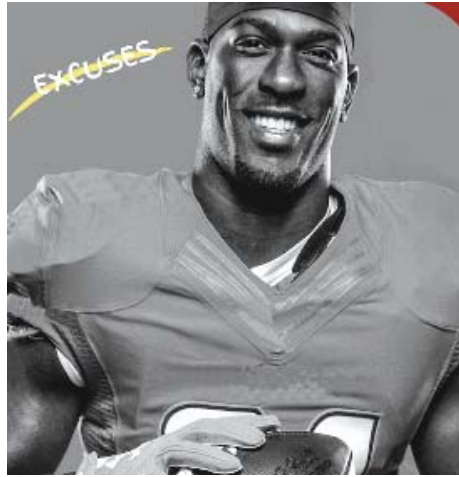
## Jugador de la NFL Michael Thomas trae de vuelta su campamento 'Mike T' para todos los atletas juveniles este 14 de julio

¡Inscríbese hoy! El sexto campamento gratuito anual está abierto a todos los jugadores de escuela media y secundaria del área.

Michael Thomas es uno de los jugadores de la NFL que fuera de la cancha tiene un impacto en las comunidades locales. Thomas, graduado de Aldine ISD de la generación 2008 de Nimitz High School respalda y retribuye a su comunidad. Desarrolló y organiza un campamento de fútbol gratuito, ahora en su sexto año, para jóvenes de toda la zona. Cada año, campamentos como el de Thomas llegan a más de 200 niños por campamento.

Su campamento, celebrado en el Thorne Stadium en Aldine, enseña habilidades de fútbol y ayuda a los participantes a desarrollar un mejor sentido de confianza en su vida diaria. Thomas dice a los estudiantes que tengan determinación Cuando comenzó a practicar por primera vez en el fútbol, a Thomas inicialmente le dijeron que era demasiado pequeño o demasiado bajo para el fútbol. Thomas pudo renunciar al fútbol, pero en cambio, trabajó duro porque creía en sí mismo.

El campamento gratuito de dos días abierto



a niños en toda el área de Houston, trabaja con estudiantes atletas de escuela media y secundaria. Thomas generalmente tiene otros jugadores en su campamento ayudando con ejercicios y actividades.

Los jóvenes atletas aprenden a afinar sus destrezas de fútbol en el campo, pero el campamento de Thomas es mucho más que hacer los movimientos correctos en el campo. Él quiere que los niños hagan los movimientos correctos en la vida también. Thomas animó a los atletas a tener un plan de reserva que aliente a todos a centrarse en obtener un título universitario y establecer metas financieras.

Reclutado para jugar al fútbol americano para la Universidad de Stanford, Thomas aprovechó y obtuvo su licenciatura en sociología. Llegó a obtener una maestría en administración de empresas o (MBA).

Pocos pueden saber también que era un pasante político. Él anima a los jóvenes de hoy a ser activos en sus comunidades.

Camp Mike T Información

14 y 15 de julio  
Escuela Intermedia: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Escuela Secundaria: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Estadio W.W. Thorne, 1865 Aldine Bender Rd, Houston, TX 77032  
Registro: <https://bit.ly/3hdiaMu>

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**EVENTO GRATIS**

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2. Complete la información  
3. Revise su correo electrónico para la confirmación del registro

**JULIO**  
Viernes, 23 de julio

**TEA**  
Texas Education Agency

# ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### The Spats



**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**HOCUS-FOCUS**  
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Birds are moved. 2. Cloud is smaller. 3. Trunks are different. 4. Hair support is removed. 5. Ice cream is different. 6. Umbrella is missing.

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Posting Date July 5, 2021

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- Pack cargo
- Billboards
- On — with
- Vagrant
- Old Oldsmobile
- TV's "Warrior Princess"
- Actress Falco
- Rep.'s rival
- Apple product
- Criminal's "why"
- Latin love
- Whiskey variety
- Dishonor
- Succor
- Blue
- Runner's tempo
- Greek H
- "Three Sisters" sister
- Last (Abbr.)
- Vegas game
- Nay undoer
- Void
- Outing for two couples
- Bedouin
- Boston athlete
- Wrinkly fruit
- Dhabi predecessor
- "— la Douce"
- Thaw
- Allow
- Pants part

**DOWN**

- Son of Noah
- Commotion
- Life story
- "Alas ..."
- "As You Like It" setting
- Actor Billy — Williams
- Neighbor of Kenya
- Self-evident truth
- Pre-game morale booster
- Year in Spain
- "Awesome!"
- Compete
- Club —
- Like some exclusive communities
- Cabin components
- "— the night before ..."
- Tater
- Head light?
- In reality
- Size up
- Washington Monument, e.g.
- Carte lead-in
- Chowed down
- Londoners, e.g.
- Keen
- Nest setting
- One-named supermodel
- Roman censor
- Actress Thurman
- Tiara sparkler
- Spell-off

**Trivia test**  
by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** How many states are in Australia?
- LITERATURE:** The character of Miss Havisham appears in which 19th-century novel?
- ASTRONOMY:** What is the name of the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What creature was a hood ornament on the 1933 Hudson Essex Terraplane car?
- TELEVISION:** What were the names of the boys on the 1990s sitcom "Home Improvement"?
- MUSIC:** The Jug saloon was the setting in which Lynyrd Skynyrd song?
- MOVIES:** What was Charlie Sheen's nickname in the 1989 movie "Major League"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What are the offspring of echidnas (Australia) called?
- U.S. STATES:** What is the state flower of West Virginia?
- FOOD & DRINK:** Which country produces Gouda cheese?

**Answer**

1. 6 2. David Copperfield 3. Karman line 4. A griffin 5. Brad Pitt 6. "Gimme Three Steps" 7. Wild Thing 8. Pugles 9. Rhododendron 10. The Netherlands

**King Crossword**  
Solution time: 25 mins.  
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## Town Center Concert,

Continued from page 1

kind of amenities that the community wants and deserves.”

José Antonio Diaz will continue to lead the Diaz Music Institute (DMI) while retiring after more than 30 years as a music educator at MacArthur High School in the Aldine Independent School District.

DMI welcomes students ages 4 to 18 and says it “creates opportunities through (extracurricular) music education for all children, especially at-risk Latinx and children of color of any income level, with the potential of de-

veloping a professional career in the music industry.” DMI also runs a summer dance camp.

Recent DMI alumni who have made a mark in the music industry include tenor saxophonist and singer Jordan Donald, who has accompanied Stevie Wonder, Anita Baker and Kanye West on stage; guitarist and singer Jabari Johnson, who had a recent hit with the gospel/hip-hop song “Fixed Fight;” award-winning opera singer Latonia Moore, who starred in a Metropolitan Opera pro-

duction of “Porgy and Bess,” and percussionist Marcia Chapa, who toured with Beyoncé’s band and has performed with the Oakland Symphony.

Diaz said Vega’s July 17 performance is not only a milestone for East Aldine, but also a signal of DMI’s emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic, when it had to switch from in-person classes to online instruction.

“Just giving folks access to this kind of thing improves the quality of life,” Diaz said of the upcoming performance. “Your community starts becoming energized and you have a lot more positive stuff happening.” CON

## Agenda Announced,

Continued from page 1

ment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

**CRITICAL RACE THEORY:** Legislation similar to House Bill 3979 concerning critical race theory as originally passed

by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session.

**APPROPRIATIONS:** Legislation providing appropriations from additional available general revenue for the following

purposes:

- property-tax relief;
- enhanced protection for the safety of children in Texas’ foster-care system by attracting and retaining private providers for the system; and
- to better safeguard the state from potential cybersecurity threats.

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## Diaz Music Institute

### Latin Jazz Concert Series



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special guest Andre Hayward

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Family Event Admission: Free




Andre Hayward José Antonio Diaz








County Connections is funded in part by Harris County, and administered by Harris County Department of Education via CASE for Kids.



## 2021 English Learner Family Engagement Virtual Event





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JULY

Friday

July 23rd

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## COMMUNITY WATCH

### Shooting at 10400 Eastex Freeway

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man at 10400 Eastex Freeway (North U.S. Highway 59) about 11:40 p.m. on Wednesday (June 30).

The victim, Shannon Brantley, 22, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division Officers J. Windham and C. Brown reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting at the above address and learned Mr. Brantley had been shot while driving southbound on the Eastex Freeway. Brantley then struck another vehicle, causing his vehicle to become disabled. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and transported Brantley to the hospital with gunshot wounds to the leg, arm and torso.

At this time, there is no known motive or suspect(s).

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

### Suspect Arrested, Charged in Fatal Shooting at 9797 North Freeway

Houston police have arrested a suspect charged in the fatal shooting of a man at 9797 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) service road that occurred about 3 p.m. on Tuesday (June 29).

Derrick Thompson (b/m, 41) is charged with murder in the 232nd State District Court. A booking photo of Thompson is attached to this news release.

He is accused in the death of Eric Wayne Curtis, 37.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant R. Montalvo and Detective E. Martinez reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a request for assistance from Houston Fire Department emergency personnel at a gas station at 9351 North Freeway. Officer arrived and learned Mr. Curtis had been shot at a motel at 9797 North Freeway and



then driven a few blocks south to the gas station. Paramedics pronounced Curtis deceased at the scene.

Further investigation identified Thompson as a suspect in this case and, on July 2, he was taken into custody.

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

### Shooting at 6767 Bennington

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a juvenile male at 6767 Bennington Street about 11:35 a.m. on Sunday (July 4).

The victim, 15, was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division Detective D. Garner reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting at an apartment complex at the above address and learned the victim had been shot in the upper right leg.

A preliminary investigation indicated the victim was accidentally shot by a known friend while playing with a firearm. The investigation is continuing.

Anyone with additional information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800.

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —  
 1. Is the book of Haggai in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
 2. What young man went to sleep and fell out of a window while listening to Paul speak? Eutychus, Goliath, Peter, Stephen  
 3. From Daniel 6, why was he (Daniel) thrown into the lions' den by King Darius? War spy, Caught praying to God, Deep in debt, Affair with king's daughter

4. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is/was translated as? Ruth, Dorcas, Sarah, Esther  
 5. What did Samuel's mother bring him when she visited year after year? Sweet cake, Letters from friends, Flute, Little coat  
 6. From John 12, which disciple stole from the treasury? Thomas, Judas, James, John

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Eutychus; 3) Caught praying to God; 4) Dorcas; 5) Little coat (robe); 6) Judas  
 Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com)  
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

LUKE 24: 30, 31

"Emmaus" by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff (1918)

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