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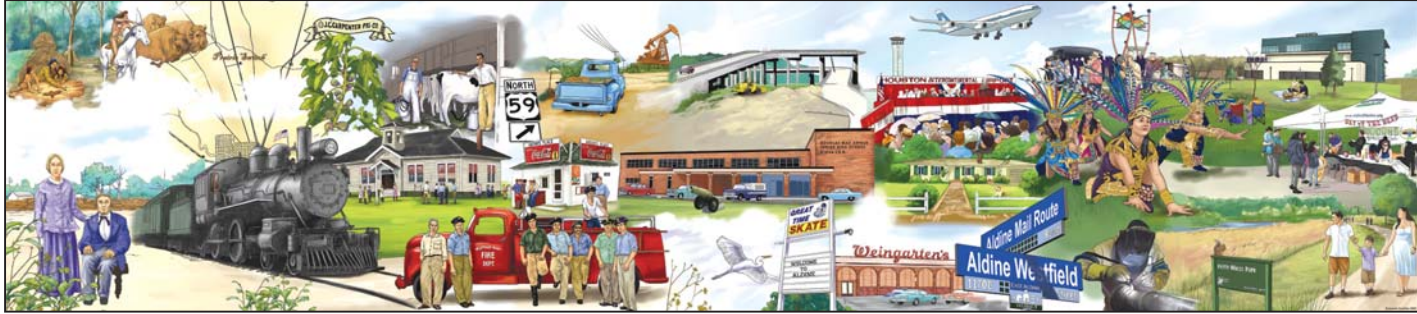
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NORTHEAST NEWS

In Honor of those we have lost this week.

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 45 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 44 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Mural depicting history of Aldine Unveiled at Town Center



This History Mural, 10 x 50 feet in size, is mounted in the lobby of the new East Aldine District Office Building in the new Town Center. From left to right, it depicts the start of Indian civilization in Aldine, progresses through settlers, notes major milestones such as the railroad, fire department, and founding of the Aldine school district, and ends on the right side with a celebration of the diverse cultures of the district, and the improvements signaled by the new EAMD building.

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT BUILDING

Ribbon Cutting signals new era in Aldine

East Aldine unveils dynamic improvements

By Alan Bernstein

HOUSTON — Making it harder to maintain its status as “the best kept secret in Houston,” more than 125 members of the rapidly strengthening East Aldine community today celebrated the grand opening of dynamic public amenities at its Town Center.

Proud residents, elected officials, East Aldine Management District staff and other partners cut a ceremonial ribbon at a three-story office building, a commissioned lobby mural called “Building Community: The Story of Aldine;” an amphitheater and audience lawn; and outdoor recreational features next to the giant Keith-Wiess Park.

The project anticipates

Continued. See Ribbon Cutting, Page 4



A Ribbon Cutting signaling the Completion of the new East Aldine District Office Building, and the Town Center development, was held last Thursday, Oct. 28. The public joined with all those who had worked to realize the building and the 61 acre center, including EAMD Board Members, Hawes Hill staff, architects and contractors, Harris County Sheriff's Office, public officials from Harris County and the city, BakerRipley, Lone Star College, Aldine ISD, and a number of local civic and social organizations in East Aldine.

EA District loses leader Gerald Overturff

The East Aldine Management District and its friends and supporters are mourning the death of Gerald Overturff, 82, a life-long Aldine resident and community leader who chaired the District board of directors from November 2011 to July 2021.

When he died at a local hospital Thursday night, he had served on the board for 17 years.

Before joining the board, Overturff worked for 31 years for the road and bridge department of Harris County Precinct 4. Two years after retirement he led the creation of the Sunbelt Freshwater Supply District, which serves parts of the Aldine area.

Overturff dedicated himself to the history and culture



GERALD OVERTURFF

of the Aldine area, with his encyclopedic and humorous knowledge of the unincorporated area of the county just north of the Houston city limits.

During plans to upgrade Keith-Wiess and other area

Continued. See Overturff, Page 2

Local Aldine trustee embroiled in national school board controversy

Controversy has arisen from the National media and some conservative parents regarding a letter that the NSBA, the National School Board Association, sent to President Biden asking for “Federal Assistance to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence” against school board officials, school children, and

other school officials and educators. The letter was issued over the signature of NSBA Exec. Director Chip Slaven, and Viola Garcia, president of the NSBA and an Aldine ISD trustee.

Criticism has been vocal

Continued. See NSBA controversy, page 2

Cantu daughter is shooting victim

Reports from the Houston PD indicate that a shooting that took place early Sunday morning in North Houston took the life of 18 year old Aleksis Cantu, the daughter of East Aldine District Deputy Director Richard Cantu. She was apparently an innocent victim at a Halloween party, where shooting occurred after an argument among other participants. Several others were wounded. HPD is continuing to investigate, and look for the shooter.

Voting Nov. 2 for TX Amendments

HARRIS COUNTY – Voting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 2 for a ballot that has attracted little interest among early voters.

The ballot contains 8 propositions to amend the state constitution, but most feel these are minor issues, and voter turnout is low.

The amendments deal with the following issues: taxes, gambling, bond issues, religious services, healthcare, constitutional rights, and veterans services.

Voting hours are 7am to 7pm on election day. Voting locations include Bak-

erRipley EA campus, Hardy St. Senior Center, Anclamars Reception Hall, Lone Star College Victory Center, and the Harris County Administration Building on Preston Avenue in downtown.

To date, 90,000 persons have voted early, 45,000 in person and 45,000 by mail-in ballots.

For more information on the 8 Texas Constitutional Amendments, see Bill King's column on Page 2 of this paper.

MARKETPLACE - Please Mention the NORTHEAST NEWS when you visit our Advertisers.

CONFESSIONS:
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FROM 6:30 PM TO 6:50 PM

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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

We're Here For You!

Executive Director: David Hawes
713.595.1209 » DHawes@AldineDistrict.org

Operations Manager: Veronica Sanches
713.595.1226 » VSanches@AldineDistrict.org

Assistant Operations Manager: Nataly Perez
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AldineDistrict.org

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Discussion on the Proposed Texas Constitutional Amendments

At the November 2 election, Texans will be asked to consider eight proposed amendments to the State Constitution. If history is any indicator, few voters will be interested, and turnout will be very low. However, amendments to the State Constitution are important, if for no other reason, they are rarely changed once they are adopted.

SAM Texas' state executive committee decided that our party should disseminate our recommendations on each one of the amendments. But a funny thing happened when we set out to do so. We didn't agree on a position on most of the amendments. But instead of yelling and calling each other names, we agreed to respectfully disagree and present both sides and let our fellow Texans draw their own conclusions. What a refreshing, novel approach, huh?

But wherever you come out on each of these proposed amendments, the SAM Party encourages you to exercise your right to be heard on these issues. You can early vote now through October 29 and election day is November 2. You can find your early voting and election day polling places on your local county website.

Proposition 1

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association to conduct charitable raffles at rodeo venues."

Pro

Raffles are a common fundraising tool for charities and frequently conducted at sporting events. This would also allow them at rodeos.

Con

The State should not be encouraging gambling in any form.

Proposition 2

"The constitutional amendment authorizing a county to finance the development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted areas in the county."

Pro

This is a common financing tool available for cities in Texas. However, some counties, such as Harris County, have large unincorporated areas which are in need of infrastructure improvements which require financing. This amendment would give counties in this situation the same tool.

Con

Local governments in Texas are already drowning in debt and should not be enabled to incur more.

Proposition 3

"The constitutional amendment to prohibit this state or a political subdivision of this state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations."

Pro

During the pandemic, some local government officials issued executive orders banning any gathering, including religious services. Many believe that these orders violated their fundamental right to practice their religion and could set a precedent for officials banning other religious observances in the name of public health.

Con

Public gathering during a pandemic presented a risk to public health and officials should have the discretion to limit or ban any gathering in an epidemic.

Proposition 4

"The constitutional amendment changing the eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge."

Pro

Texas is among a minority of states that elect judges in partisan elections. In large counties, there are so many judicial offices on the ballot that it is impossible for average citizens to know the qualifications of each candidate. Therefore, the state should set certain minimum standards.

Con

The people of Texas are capable of making their own determination on whether a candidate has sufficient qualifications to serve as a judge.

Proposition 5

"The constitutional amendment providing additional powers to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct with respect to candidates for judicial office."

Pro

Candidates for judicial office should comply with the same rules as incumbent judges. Proponents of the amendment argue that not applying the same rules to candidates as incumbents is unfair to incumbents. This amendment provides a means to enforce such rules.

Con

This amendment runs the risk of politicizing the Commission by getting it involved in elections.

Proposition 6

"The constitutional amendment establishing a right for residents of certain facilities to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation."

Pro

During the pandemic, visitors were prohibited in senior care facilities by either executive orders or facility rules. It is crucial that seniors have, at least, one person be able to visit them on a regular basis to maintain family connection and ensure that the senior is receiving proper care.

Con

During an epidemic any visitor to a senior care facility poses a potential risk to all the residents of a facility. Public health officials and facility managers would have the discretion to implement rules to minimize that risk.

Proposition 7

"The constitutional amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a person who is disabled to receive a limitation on the school district ad valorem taxes on the spouse's residence homestead if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the person's death."

The SAM party recommends the passage of this amendment but recognizes that some believe that such exemptions should be set by the Texas Legislature and not included in the State Constitution.

Proposition 8

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty."

The SAM party recommends the passage of this amendment but recognizes that some believe that such exemptions should be set by the Texas Legislature and not included in the State Constitution.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Gas prices topping \$3/gallon across state

The price of a gallon of gasoline tops \$3 across much of the state, which is up more than \$1.20 from a year ago, according to AAA. The average price for regular gas in Texas stood at \$3.03 per gallon on Sunday as crude oil prices continue to creep up, closing above \$80 per barrel. Crude oil price is one of a quartet of factors that influence the cost of gasoline, reported The Dallas Morning News. The cost of refining, distribution expenses and taxes also affect the price at the pump.

"Things have really picked up steam in terms of national gas prices in the last two-and-a-half to three weeks," Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum at fuel savings app GasBuddy, told the newspaper. "The national average had been stable for a long period of time, but suddenly the price of oil surged, and the price of gasoline followed along with it."

Cheaper prices can be found, although it takes some searching. Gasbuddy.com reported prices hovering around \$2.45 per gallon at locations in Dallas, Houston and Round Rock, but these appear to be exceptions to the prevailing price increases.

SCOTT APPOINTED TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

John Scott has been appointed Texas Secretary of State, in which he serves as the state's chief election officer. The veteran Fort Worth attorney served previously as a deputy attorney general for civil litigation when Abbott was attorney general. He subsequently served as the chief operating officer of the state Health and Human Services Commission, with a \$50 billion biennial budget and 56,000 employees.

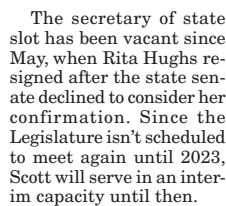
Scott briefly represented former President Donald Trump in a lawsuit challenging the 2020 election results in Pennsylvania, along with state Sen. Bryan Hughes. Both withdrew from the case a few days later, reported the Texas Tribune.

National School Board controversy embroils Aldine Trustee Garcia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and widespread throughout the country, with conservative politicians, media, and the public saying that the letter indicates the NSBA wants to curb constitutionally guaranteed free speech, and labels parents and those who speak out on their opinions at school board meetings as "domestic terrorists."

The NSBA letter notes that critics are against COVID mask mandates, and extend that fear to the subject of Critical Race Theory, which she says is mistakenly thought to be



DSHS LAUNCHES COVID-19 VACCINATION PUSH

The Texas Department of State Health Services has launched a new statewide COVID-19 media campaign to encourage Texans aged 12 and over to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The campaign features Texans describing in their own words why they were initially hesitant to get the vaccine and later changed their minds.

"Any Texan who has not been vaccinated against COVID-19 because of safety or other concerns can be assured that the authorized vaccines are safe and effective," said Dr. John Hellerstedt, DSHS commissioner. "The data gathered shows the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks of rare side effects. Most importantly, vaccination is proven to greatly increase our protection against severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and even death."

One ad features a woman who contracted a moderate to severe case of COVID-19. That experience led her to change her mind and get vaccinated following her illness to try and prevent a reinfection that could make her sick again or threaten those around her, according to a DSHS press release.

Another ad features a man who resisted vaccination because of his distrust in the safety of the vaccines and of those who encouraged their use. But as millions across the state, nation and globe have become fully vaccinated and adverse events remain very rare, he reviewed the data and has since been vaccinated.

Meanwhile, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas continues to drop, with 30,276 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in the past week. That is down nearly 75% from about a month ago. New deaths also dropped to 1,267 in the past week, reflecting national trends as the delta variant wave appears to be finally waning. State hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients dropped to 4,382 as of Sunday, down two-thirds from a month ago.

Texans who are fully vaccinated topped 15.3 million, according to DSHS, with more than a million having also received an additional dose.

TPWD PREDICTS A PRODUCTIVE HUNTING SEASON

It could be a fruitful season for Texas waterfowl hunters with millions of ducks in the Central Flyway.

"Duck production in prairie potholes of North Dakota, South Dakota, Saskatchewan and Alberta were reported to be below average due to extensive drought this summer," said Kevin Kraai, TPWD Waterfowl Program Leader. "With that said, there are still millions of ducks in the Central Flyway, and we are on the heels of multiple excellent breeding seasons for ducks over the last few years."

The general season runs from Nov. 6 through Jan. 2, 2022, in the North Zone and Jan. 16, 2022, in the South Zone. A special youth-only gun deer season is set for Oct. 30-31 and Jan. 3-16, 2022. Go to tpwd.gov for more information.

OVERTURFF OBITUARY,

Continued from Page 1

parks, Overturff joked that they would be a vast improvement over the "pig trails" left by feral hogs that used to roam the area.

He and his wife, Marilyn, lived near the farm on Little York Road where he grew up, said daughter Carol Mayfield.

His life-long love of the Aldine area never wavered, she said.

"Little York was a dirt road when my grandpa had a place out there. And Dad just loved it out there. He loved Aldine and he tried to make it better for everybody," she said. "He would see somebody in need and would literally give them the shirt off his back."

As district board chairman, Overturff was responsible for overseeing the development of the Town Center on Aldine Mail Route Road, the new 911 call center for the Harris County Sheriff's Office; extensive water and sewer improvement projects; and the district's business development efforts.

The grand opening of Phase 2 of the Town Center, including an office building with a Sheriff's Office storefront, a splash pad play area, an amphitheater and decorative water features, is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 28.

"Not having Gerald at the ribbon-cutting will make a bittersweet occasion," said District Executive Director David Hawes. "We will miss his guidance that was so firmly rooted in the community, and our hearts are with his family."

"Gerald's presence on the board of EAMD will be missed as will his service for the East Aldine community," his successor as board chair, Joyce Wiley, said. "Because he was steeped in the knowledge of infrastructure, if I had a question pertaining to public utilities or county services, he was always willing to give me an answer. I appreciate the support he gave me when I became board chair for EAMD. Rest well my friend."

Artists working on a mural to reflect the history of the Aldine community only had to seek guidance from Overturff, who recalled the paint color on a one-room school building used many decades ago.

Bob Beasley, a district board member who served for many years with Overturff, said East Aldine was the former chairman's passion.

"He was retired, so he had the time to really devote himself to the district," Beasley said. "He was a character. He and I had a lot of fun. He was a hoot."

"But he also was really very concerned about the district, and making proper use of the taxpayers' dollars. Gerald didn't mind saying what he really thought, and that's a good thing. You always knew where he stood."

Overturff was initially doubtful about the creation of East Aldine Management District. He was quoted in a 2001 Houston Chronicle report: "If we're going to impose a 1-cent sales tax on people out here, let's don't waste it. Let's put it to use."

Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia praised Overturff's long service to the community.

"On behalf of Harris County Precinct 2 and the over 1 million residents who call this community home, we would like to thank Mr. Overturff for his many years of service to the Aldine and Harris County Community," Garcia said. "It is because of people like him that our county is one of the best places to live, work and raise a family. We would like to also extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends."

Overturff is survived by his wife, Marilyn, his daughters, Carol Mayfield, and Susan Overturff, two granddaughters and a grandson, as well as twin great-granddaughters and a great grandson.

Services are pending at Darst Funeral Home in Kingwood.

— by Anne Marie Kilday

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message from the Superintendent, October 26, 2021

Dear Aldine Community,

We are almost halfway through the semester, and so many great things have already taken place. Speaking of great things, I want to take a moment to highlight the Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA). The all-girls school is one of our newest Choice School options. YWLA officially opened its doors to sixth- and seventh-grade students in August 2021, with plans to grow the campus by one grade level each year, eventually serving young women in grades 6-12. YWLA is built on the foundation of STEM, focusing on college readiness and responsible leadership. Students are given opportunities to explore STEM fields embedded within the college preparatory coursework, allowing them to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Our expanding options of Choice Schools is a direct result of this commitment, and we are excited to showcase all of the available options at this year's Choice Schools Festival on November 6.

Speaking of choices and increasing options, last week, we held a virtual media event to announce our newest Choice School — a leadership academy focused on the development of young male students, slated to open during the 2022-2023 school year. The academy is geared towards male students in first through eighth grade and is part of a collaborative partnership with Prairie View A&M University. Click here to read more about the Young Men's Leadership Academy.

Giving students access to high-quality schools involves having great teachers. Our students deserve the best teachers who are prepared to offer meaningful learning experiences every day. We will be looking for great teachers who can make a difference in our students' lives at our Teacher Job Fair on Saturday, November 13, from 9-11 a.m. at Davis High School.

Updated school year calendars

As we continue to address the needs of both our students and staff in the wake of the pandemic, the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees has approved an amendment to both the instructional calendar and additional days school year (ADSY) calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Please note: the changes do not impact the required instructional minutes or contract requirements for teachers or instructional staff.

Instructional Calendar

Friday, November 5, 2021, has been converted to a staff development/teacher workday and a student holiday. The change will provide additional time for teachers and campus staff to collaborate and plan.

ADSY Calendar

The ADSY Calendar affects Vines Primary School and Ermel Elementary School. Monday, February 21, 2022, has been converted to a student attendance day rather than a student holiday. The change was made to make up for the missed instructional time due to the district closure on September 14, 2021, in anticipation of Hurricane Nicholas.

As the mom of a high school senior, I know firsthand a date that is important to all parents: Graduation Day. I completely understand families making plans early to celebrate their students' big day. Last week, the Board Trustees approved the high school graduation ceremony schedule, which will run from May 26 through May 28. Click here for details.

As always, I encourage you to visit our district website for the latest news like Aldine ISD, for a third consecutive year since the inception of the award, receiving the Texas Art Education Association's (TAEA) District of Distinction Award. Only the top 4 percent of districts in the state earn the honor each year. You can also read about our more than 25 students who earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

I can't end without saying congratulations to our hometown team, the Houston Astros, on advancing to the World Series! Yesterday, we sent out an email to staff about showing our support by wearing Astros t-shirts, polos, or jerseys, along with jeans for Games 1 and 2 of the World Series. The Astros will face off against the Atlanta Braves for Game 1 on Tuesday, October 26, at 7:09 p.m. Game 2 will take place on Wednesday, October 27, at 7:09 p.m.

Please remember that Election Day is Tuesday, November 2. If you have not had a chance to exercise your civic right through early or mail-in voting, I encourage each of you to make your voice heard by casting your vote on Tuesday.



I hope you all have a fantastic week, and if you learn something new, I would love to hear about it! Share it on social media using the hashtag #AldineForward.

With Aldine Pride,
Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 30: Aldine ISD is hosting the 2021 Technology & Curriculum Conference of Aldine (TCCA). Click here for more details.

October-November: Early Head Start Program — The district is holding open enrollment for its Early Head Start program at the Child Development Center. AISD's Early Head Start program serves children from six weeks to three years of age and focuses on building their school-ready skills. There is no deadline to apply, but seats are limited. Click here for details.

October-November: The district is undergoing an audit focused on equity as it continues to evaluate how best to serve each and every student. Click here to learn more about the five-minute phone interview.

November 3: Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney will speak at the Kids in Need Foundation's Champions for Education panel event on November 3 at 12:30 p.m. Click here to join.

November 6: Choice Schools Festival — Saturday, November 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students who live outside of Aldine ISD can also enroll. Click here for details.

November 13: Teacher Job Fair will take place at Davis High School (12525 Ella Blvd. • Houston, TX 77067), from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Click here for more information.

OBSERVATIONS

October
October: National Principals Month; Share your Principal Impact Story with us and take a moment to #ThankAnAISDPrincipal this month.

November
Picture Book Month
National Scholarship Month
GenTX Month

November 2: Election Day
November 8-12: School Psychology Awareness Week; theme "Let's Get in Gear"

November 8-14: Children's Book Week
November 11: Veterans' Day
November 12: Wellness Day — Theme is Fuel Up With Dairy
November 15-19: American Education Week

November 17: National Education Support Professionals Day
November 18: National Parental Involvement Day

REMINDERS

Aldine's Family and Community Engagement Department has launched the Family and Community University. Their goal is to provide the knowledge and resources to empower families to support students academically, socially, and emotionally. All programming is free and open to all Aldine families. Learn more and register today.

The state requires high school seniors to apply for financial aid to graduate. The FAFSA application was opened on October 1.

Aldine ISD's top priorities continue to be the safety and academic success of all students. We will post all information related to our operations along with any updates at www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts.

Please stay connected by visiting the District News and District Podcast pages to stay up to date on all the wonderful things happening in our district. You can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy is Developing the Next Engineers

Students at Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy are getting a head start on future STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) pathways.

Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA) is developing future leaders in the STEM field.

Yvonne Davis, YWLA STEM Lab teacher, is creating a love of engineering in her STEM Lab. Davis has been teaching for 25 years and enjoys being in the classroom. When offered the opportunity to work at the new school, the MacArthur Senior High School alumna was ecstatic to play a part in motivating and inspiring young ladies to be leaders in STEM.

YWLA is built on the foundation of STEM with a focus on college readiness, responsible leadership, and health and wellness. Students are given opportunities to explore STEM fields, which are embedded within the college preparatory coursework and projects, allowing students to develop critical thinking and innovative problem-solving skills.

Beginning in sixth-grade, students will take STEM electives through technical applications and Project Lead The Way (PLTW). This required coursework through the Gateway to Technology curricula will help guide students to select their STEM pathway for high school.

"I am amazed by my students' creativity and desire



Amari White (on left) and Lylia Reyna (on right) with STEM Lab teacher Yvonne Davis.

to discover solutions," Davis explained. "I can see their determination to figure out how things work and make change. It is our goal at YWLA to create future leaders who are creative and collaborative problem solvers."

In high school, the students will select one sequence of three STEM pathways of four-year-long courses — Engineering, Computer Science, or Biomedical Science. Junior students will have an opportunity to participate in internships with Houston area business partners to gain real-world experiences in STEM fields. Senior students will take on a Capstone project, where they are required to start and organize a business to solve a complex social problem.

"YWLA is special because it gives girls the space to grow academically, creatively, and confidently in all academic areas," Davis said. "I have already seen many of the girls developed a sisterhood and confidence. When they graduate from YWLA

to go to college, each of them will know that they can be a leader in any path they choose."

Sariah Garcia, YWLA sixth-grader, is using the LEGO Spike Prime kit to build and program a robotic arm to determine which robot arms are efficient for picking up big and small objects or heavy and light objects.

Throughout the school year, students will have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers and participate in field trips that are focused on STEM.

Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy is Aldine ISD's newest Choice School. The all-girls school officially opened its doors to sixth and seventh-grade students in August 2021. Each year the campus will grow by one grade level and will eventually serve students in grades 6-12.

To learn more about YWLA and the application process you can visit their table at the Aldine ISD Choice School Festival on November 6. For more information please visit womensacad.aldineisd.org.

Aldine ISD Teacher Job Fair Saturday, Nov. 13

The Aldine ISD school district is hosting a job fair on Saturday, November 13, for potential teachers.

The fair will be at Davis High School (12525 Ella Blvd. • Houston, TX 77067), from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The district is hiring teachers certified in all areas, including high need areas like bilingual education, special education, math, science, and more. Candidates can meet school principals and other leaders at the job fair and get an interview on the spot. To view all current professional, administrative, paraprofessional, sub-

stitute, and support staff positions, click here or visit AldineISD.org.

Teachers' salary starts at \$58,000. In addition, all qualified AISD teachers are eligible for critical needs supplement pay.

Why Aldine ISD?
--Competitive pay!

--The current first-year teacher salary is \$58,000.

--Critical Needs Supplement Pay

--Loan Forgiveness for Teachers

--401(a) Matching Plan for Retirement Savings

--457 / 403(b) Retirement Plans

--Onsite Educational Advancement Opportunities

--New Teacher Induction Academy & Mentor Program

--Teacher Retirement System of Texas

--No State Income Tax

Those who are interested in applying are encouraged to file their application online. If you plan to attend the job fair, bring with you a resume, proof of certificate to teach, and a statement of eligibility (SOE).

For more information contact the Human Resources Department at (281) 449-1011 or visit AldineISD.org.

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

By Jennifer Nandal
Sr Adult Program
Specialist

GRADCAFÉ:
Every Tuesday we will have representatives from GRADcafé at the High Meadows Library.

WHAT IS GRADCAFÉ?
GRADcafé is a one-stop-shop offering free services to help you decide on a career, explore education and training options, apply to college, and find the financial aid you need.

Whether you want to attend college to get a degree or work on a certificate in a professional trade, we are here to guide you through every step. You're never too young or old to get started. Services are available in English or Spanish.

BACKPACK BUDDY PROGRAM:

We are looking for school age children and teens who are interested

in receiving food during the school year. We are partnering with the Houston Food Bank to provide Backpack Buddies: a weekly food distribution. Registration is required.

HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION:

We've been celebrating our 100-year birthday and we have free commemorative postcards and stickers at the library for customers to stop by and pick up. Our celebration will continue throughout the remainder of 2021 with free craft kits for babies, kids, teens, and adults. If you'd like a kit, please stop by the library.

FREE TAKE AND MAKE KITS:

While our programming is still mostly online, we do offer free craft kits to customers. The kits come with most or all the supplies needed and an instruction guide. Customers can watch our online videos

(Facebook & Instagram: @highmeadowslibrary) for the instructional as well. Kits are free and offered on a first come first serve basis.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

We would love reaching out to the community! If you'd like to have us come out to an event and talk about all the library has to offer, please give us a call.

For information on any of the above events or programs, please call us at 832-927-5540 or stop by the library.

**HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY
4500 ALDINE MAIL RTE
HOUSTON, TX 77039**

**Library Hours:
Mondays-Thursdays:
10am to 6pm
Fridays: 1pm to 6pm
Saturdays: 10am to 5pm
Sundays: Closed**

East Aldine ribbon cutting signals new era for community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the needs of the long-overlooked area, just south of Bush Intercontinental Airport, that increased its hard-working, family-rooted population by 63,000 in the last decade, twice the prior number.

The community's growth, demographics and location make it ripe for further commercial, industrial and retail development, especially as distribution centers and other enterprises take advantage of the area's availability of land and proximity to the airport and highways.

New segments of the Town Center join a Lone Star College branch, BakerRipley and HOPE Clinic non-profit centers and the Harris County Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatch Center as neighbors. Phase Three is for commercial development and is expected to include a supermarket; private commercial property across Aldine Mail Route has already been developed in response.

The growing Town Cen-



David Hawes, East Aldine District Executive Director, welcomes guests to the Ribbon Cutting. Other speakers included Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, State Rep. Armando Walle, BakerRipley's Rocio Witte, East Aldine Board Chair Joyce Wiley, Lone Star College NH President Archie Blanson, Aldine ISD Superintendent LaTonya Goffney, and State Senator Carol Alvarado. (Photos by evl pro)

ter is the product of a \$100 million investment by private and public entities, David Hawes, executive director of the management district, explained to the audience, referring to the area as "the best kept secret in Houston." "The people in this community have wanted a better life for so many years," said management district Board Chair Joyce

Wiley. "It's been full speed ahead, and the people are enjoying it."

"All this area is really transforming," Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said. "So I look forward to seeing what's happening here."

"This is one of the best examples of a true partnership," State Sen. Carol Alvarado said. "We have the private sector, you have multiple layers of en-

titities of the public sector, and we ought to celebrate these types of partnerships."

State Rep. Armando Walle, who grew up in the area, added, "For us it's so important that the investment stays in the community. Those efforts will pay dividends with the human capital we are trying to create."

Davis, MacArthur and Nimitz Qualify for Class 6A State Volleyball Playoffs

Aldine ISD will be well represented in the Class 6A State Volleyball Playoffs as three teams qualified for post-season play.

The MacArthur High Lady Generals finished first in District 14-6A and will face Oak Ridge on Tuesday, Nov. 2, at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center in bi-district. The game will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The Davis High Lady Falcons will take on College Park on Monday, Nov. 1, at Davis High School in bi-district. The game will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The Nimitz High Lady Cougars will face The Woodlands on Monday, Nov. 1, at Nimitz High School. The game will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets for each game are \$3 for adults and \$3 for students.

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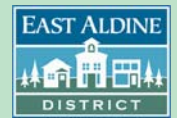
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SPORTS PAGE

Could Texans be facing Watson when they visit Miami Sunday? Aggies look to continue mid-season roll when they host Auburn

The Texans visit South Beach on Sunday and might be facing another former teammate. In the last couple of weeks, there has been widespread speculation that Houston will trade disgruntled quarterback Deshaun Watson to the Dolphins, the Texans opponent on Sunday. If the trade does go through, do not be surprised if the former first-round draft choice plays against his former team.

Would that be ironic or what?

Both teams are suffering through pathetic seasons (both had but one win after their first seven games) and acquiring Watson just might be the jolt Miami needs to make a late-season run. As for the Texans, they could very well be on the way to another disastrous season. David Culley's team struggles on the road. Two weeks ago, they jumped out to a 5-0 lead at Arizona only to watch as the Cardinals scored the game's next 31 points to ease to a 26-point win. In their last three road games, the Texans have been outscored 102-8. Ouch!

As stated earlier, this is all speculation, but wouldn't it be fitting if the Texans granted Watson his wish and sent him to Miami. That would start the rebuild for Houston, which should get multiple first and second-round draft picks from Miami.

While the Texans and Dolphins do battle, Cleveland travels to Cincinnati to take on one of the league's best surprises, the Bengals. Two weeks ago, the Bengals went into Baltimore and routed the Ravens, 41-17 to join John Harbaugh's team atop the AFC North standings. Cincinnati is no fluke. They have a young stud at quarterback in Joe Burrow, a big-play wide receiver in rookie Ja'Marr Chase, a solid running game led by Joe Mixon and a capable defense. The Browns entered the season as the team to beat in the AFC North, but injuries to quarterback Baker Mayfield, and running backs Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt have taken their toll on the team.

The Cowboys return home to host Denver, while the Green Bay Packers visit a struggling and beat up Kansas City team on Sunday. Sunday Night Football has a good one as the Tennessee Titans visit the Los Angeles Rams.

In college action, Texas A&M hosts Auburn in a meeting of top 20 ranked teams. Jimbo Fisher's team hopes to continue its roll and looks to remain in the SEC West race.



Texas will be looking to pull an upset when it visits Iowa State on Saturday, while Alabama will host LSU looking to extend the misery for the Tigers and head coach Ed Ogeron, who is parting ways with the Tigers at the end of the season.

In high school action, the District 14-6A season comes to an end for Aldine ISD's five varsity programs. Nimitz High can clinch a playoff spot with a win over Aldine High on Friday night in Thorne Stadium.

Before we take a look at these games, let's review last week's record. An 11-1 week upped the season record to 66-37 (68%). That's the best week of the season.

Now, onto this weekend's game.

HIGH SCHOOL

Davis at DeKaney: Scott Joseph's Falcons completed their season on Thursday night with a trip to Spring's Planet Ford Stadium to face playoff qualifier DeKaney. Two weeks ago, Davis wide receiver Keily Chavis caught four passes for 135 yards and a touchdown in his team's loss to Nimitz. My pick, DeKaney 33, Davis 25

Eisenhower vs. Westfield: Eric Jackson's Eagles host District 14-6A leader Westfield on Thursday evening in Thorne Stadium. The Eagles will be looking for another big game from wide receiver Ryan Niblett (379 rushing yards, 7 TDs/20 receptions, 297 yards, 5 TD) when they face the formidable Mustangs. Two weeks ago in the Eagles' 42-7 win over MacArthur, Niblett caught a touchdown pass and rushed for another two scores. Westfield is led by quarterback Cardell Williams (1,172 passing yards, 15 TDs). My pick, Westfield 41, Eisenhower 27

MacArthur at Spring: Wayne Crawford's Generals visit Spring on Friday night to take on 14-6A second-place team, the Spring Lions. MacArthur got a 22-yard scoring reception from Jason Crampton in its loss to Eisenhower two weeks ago. The Lions are

led by dual-threat QB Bishop Davenport (1,256 passing yards, 14 TDs/281 rushing yards, 5 TDs). My pick, Spring 33, MacArthur 16

Nimitz vs. Aldine: Richard Slater's Cougars take on Hank Semler's Mustangs on Friday night in Thorne Stadium with a playoff spot in the Coogs' grasp. Two weeks ago, Nimitz defeated Davis 35-13 for its third district victory of the season and a win over the Mustangs would give them their fourth league win and the league's final playoff berth. In the win over Davis, running back Joseph Sanders rushed for more than 200 yards (211 in all) for the second straight games and scored on runs of 4, 49 and 11 yards. Quarterback Brandon Whitehead (381 passing yards for the season) chipped in with two scoring passes. My pick, Nimitz 38, Aldine 14

NCAA

Texas at Iowa State: Steve Sarkisian's team needs a signature win in his first year as UT's head coach and a road win against a ranked Iowa State team would certainly do that. Texas QB Casey Thompson (1,274 yards, 15 TDs) and running back Bijan Robinson (924 yards, 10 TDs) both need big days against a solid LSU defense. Thompson will look to make plays downfield to wide receiver Xavier Worthy (30 receptions, 559 yards, 6 TDs). The Cyclones are led by veteran QB Brock Purdy (1,648 yards, 11 TDs) and running back Breece Hall (818 yards, 11 TDs). ISU is tough to beat at home, but something tells me UT steps up this weekend and pulls off the upset. My pick, Texas 31, Iowa State 28

Auburn at Texas A&M: The Aggies host the Tigers on Saturday at Kyle Field looking to continue the momentum they've gained after their upset of then No. 1-ranked Alabama on Oct. 9. Fisher's team had two weeks to prepare for this game as they had a bye last week. The Aggies should be rested and healed when they host Bo Nix (1,458 yards, 8 TDs) and running back Tank Bigsby (526 yards, 6 TDs). Look for A&M run-

ning backs Isaiah Spiller (761 yards, 5 TDs) and Devon Achane (607 yards, 5 TDs) to soften up the Auburn defense, which should allow quarterback Zach Calzada (1,364 yards, 12 TDs) to make plays downfield to tight end Jalen Wydermyer (25 receptions, 353 yards, 4 TDs) and speedy wide receiver Ainas Smith (31 receptions, 317 yards, 6 TDs, plus a 95-yard punt return for a score). Look for the Aggies to win a close one. My pick, Texas A&M 32, Auburn 26

LSU at Alabama: A season that began with such promise has turned into a nightmare for LSU Tiger fans. Optimism was running high before the season with 20 starters back from last year's 5-5 team, but an opening season loss at UCLA started a downhill dive that has resulted in the school announcing that Ogeron would be removed as head coach at the end of the season. The Tigers' poor play, but Ogeron's off field issues, led to his demise. Do not expect Alabama head coach Nick Saban to have any pity for the Tigers when they visit Tusculoosa on Saturday. The Crimson Tide are now ranked No. 3 in the country and are in a fight just to win the SEC West. Saban is too good of a coach to allow his team to stumble at this point of the season. There is just too much still at stake for the Tide. Look for quarterback Bryce Young (2,453 yards, 26 TDs) to attack a suspect LSU secondary with strikes to speedy Jameson Williams (35 receptions, 710 yards, 6 TDs) and John Metchie, III (52 receptions, 601 yards, 5 TDs) and then let burly running back Brian Robinson Jr., (706 yards, 11 TDs) to take care of things in the ground game. The 'Bama defense has some issues, so look for LSU QB Max Johnson (2,009 yards, 20 TDs) and talented wide receiver Keyshawn Boutte (35 receptions, 509 yards, 9 TDs) to have some success in the passing game. Alabama has too much offense for the Tigers to handle and that will be apparent early and often come Saturday. My pick, Alabama 43, LSU 20

NFL

Cleveland at Cincinnati: In case you haven't noticed, the Cincinnati Bengals are suddenly a force in the AFC. Two weeks ago they took the Baltimore Ravens to the woodshed in Baltimore on the way to a 41-17 victory and left tied for first place in the division. This week, they face a Cleve-

land Browns team that has decimated by injuries. The Bengals are doing it with an explosive offense led by second-year quarterback Joe Burrow (1,956 yards, 17 TDs) and an electrifying rookie wide receiver Ja'Mar Chase (35 receptions, 754 yards, 6 TDs) who is averaging an eye-opening 21 yards per catch. Cincinnati can also run the football with Joe Mixon (539 yards, 4 TDs) and has a decent defense. The Browns hope to have QB Baker Mayfield (1,474 yards, 6 TDs) back, but he may be out with a left shoulder injury. Running back Nick Chubb (523 yards, 4 TDs) is also dealing with an ankle injury. Look for the Bengals to attack the Browns early as the good times continue in the Queen City. My pick, Cincinnati 31, Cleveland 20

Denver at Dallas: The Cowboys return home to host a Denver team that is also dealing with injuries, but the Broncos continue to play hard. The Dallas offense, led by QB Dak Prescott (1,813 yards, 16 TDs), wide receivers CeeDee Lamb (33 receptions, 497 yards, 4 TDs), Amari Cooper (30 receptions, 373 yards, 4 TDs) and running backs Ezekiel Elliott (521 yards, 5 TDs) and Tony Pollard (366 yards, 1 TD) should be too much for the Broncos on Sunday. Denver QB Terry Bridgewater (1,701 yards, 12 TDs) is also banged up, so look for the Dallas defense to blitz him early and often as the winning continues in Big D. My pick, Dallas 33, Denver 16

Houston at Miami: The Texans hit the road once again and the road has not been kind to the Texans. In their last three road games, Houston has been outscored 102-8. The good news is the Dolphins aren't nearly the offensive powerhouse that the Bills, Colts and Cardinals have been. It might be time for rookie QB Davis Mills (1,047 yards, 5 TDs) to take a seat and let veteran Tyrod Taylor take over at quarterback. As mentioned earlier, it would be crazy if Watson faces his former team if he is indeed traded before the Nov. 2 trade deadline. If not, the Texans will face Tua Tagovailoa (837 yards, 7 TDs) and a solid tight end in Mike Geiski (37 receptions, 427 yards, 2 TDs). No matter who QBs the Dolphins, it will probably be another rough road outing for Houston's pro football team. My pick, Miami 26, Houston 13

Green Bay at Kansas City: When the NFL schedule came out in the spring, many fans circled this one as a possible Game of the Year in the

league. Not so much now. Sure, there should be plenty of offensive fireworks when Aaron Rodgers (1,710 yards, 15 TDs) and Patrick Mahomes (2,093 yards, 18 TDs/9 interceptions) go at it on Sunday in Arrowhead Stadium, but the Chiefs are a desperate football team, playing for their post-season lives. Andy Reid's team lost four of its first seven games and was in last place in the AFC West heading into last Monday night's game against the Giants. While the Chiefs have been struggling, the Packers have been rolling. After losing their first game of the season, GB has won six straight. Rodgers should have wide receiver Davante Adams (52 receptions, 744 yards, 3 TDs) back after he missed the Arizona game after testing positive for COVID 19. Look for running back Aaron Jones (404 yards, 2 TDs) to attack a suspect KC front seven, which should open up the passing game for Rodgers. Mahomes need to do a better job of protecting the football and get back to making big plays in the passing game to speedy wide receiver Tyreek Hill (52 receptions, 641 yards, 5 TDs) and dependable tight end Travis Kelce (45 receptions, 533 yards, 4 TDs). It's desperation time for the Chiefs. It says here they pull this one out and go on a run. My pick, Kansas City 34, Green Bay 31

Tennessee at Los Angeles Rams: A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew pits the Titans against the Rams. This game will feature the hard running of Derrick Henry (869 yards, 10 TDs/1 TD pass) against the pass-happy, big-play Rams led by quarterback Matthew Stafford (2,172 yards, 19 TDs) and wide receivers Cooper Kupp (56 receptions, 809 yards, 9 TDs) and Robert Woods (35 receptions, 423 yards, 3 TDs). The Titans will need something out of quarterback Ryan Tannehill (1,737 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver A.J. Brown (25 receptions, 354 yards, 2 TDs). The two had a nice game two weeks ago in their 27-3 pasting of the Chiefs. But the Titans must play better in the secondary, or Stafford and his big-play wide outs will light them up on Sunday night in LA. Tennessee head coach Mike Vrabel may run Henry early and often to control the clock and keep Stafford and the Rams offense off of the field. I don't think it will matter. The LA offense can strike from anywhere on the field so look for a big night from the Rams new QB in front of a national television audience. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 30, Tennessee 23

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

- 1. Is the book of Bethany in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. Which woman was chosen to be queen through a beauty pageant, destined to reign for the rest of her life? Bathsheba, Tahpenes, Jezebel, Esther
3. From Romans 16, Paul described what devout woman as "our sister"? Rachel, Deborah, Martha, Phoebe
4. Where was the longest epistle of Paul sent? Rome,

Joppa, Gibeon, Nazareth
5. In Genesis 3:4, who/what told the first lie? Adam, Eve, Serpent, Cain
6. From Acts 8, Candace was Queen of the ...? Israelites, Ethiopians, Gadites, Ephesians

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Esther (2:2-18); 3) Phoebe; 4) Rome; 5) Serpent; 6) Ethiopians
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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MATTHEW 14: 25-27

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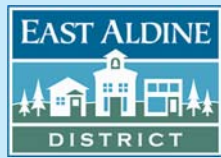
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East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

Heritage Celebration shows diversity of Hispanic cultures in East Aldine

The sights, sounds and smells of Hispanic culture wafted across the courtyard of BakerRipley on the evening of Sept. 17 as families from the East Aldine area gathered at the Town Center for a fiesta celebrating the start of Hispanic Heritage Month.

They were reminders that Hispanic culture means much more than one kind of food, clothing or way of speaking Spanish in this dynamic part of the Houston area.

Sticky fingers from Elmer's glue challenged the children who participated in craft-making activities from several Latin American countries. The piñata booth was very popular, as kids and parents struggled to wrap trimmed yellow paper around and around taco-shaped shells to be filled later with candy.



A brightly colored balloon archway festooned the entrance to a patio filled with families listening to the mariachi band Oro y Plato as they stood in line for dinner at a taco truck or wove through a display of vendors or craft-making opportunities celebrating the variety of Hispanic cultures.

The clothing and jewelry worn to the festival also reflected the different cultures and styles of different regions of Mexico and other Latin American countries. Turquoise necklaces and earrings were popular, as women displayed traditional embroidered tops and skirts, or woven designs. Many men wore the cool Mexican guayaberas, although t-shirts also were a popular option.



Children carefully colored decorations for Dia de Los Muertos (Day of The Dead) at tables next to the Art Bus, which owner Ronni Cabrera

Moreno had carefully decorated with papeles picadas, Mexico's colorful cut papers.

East Aldine civic activists expressed delight that the children in the community were being exposed in such fun and challenging ways to learn about other Hispanic cultures.

"I believe that all children should know about their roots. Whether you are from Mexico or Honduras or Guatemala, you need to know your roots," said Connie Esparza, secretary of the Aldine Independent School District Board of Trustees.



"I believe that we are relying too much on technology to keep us informed," she added, "It's in coming to these events, it's in talking to the people, different people, that's how you really learn."

"It's a misunderstanding that because we all speak the Spanish language, we are all alike. We share the same language, but really the language can be very different. We share similar customs, but we have many different customs."

The Harris County Sheriff's Office hosted a booth, next to a book giveaway sponsored by the Harris County Public Library. Children even put away their cell phones (!) to browse bookshelves lined with Spanish-language Young Adult fiction. A variety of children's favorites in Spanish. La Luna Buenos Noches (Goodnight Moon) and La Oruga Muy Hambrienta (The Very Hungry Caterpillar) were extremely popular.



Another popular craft table involved making bright paper flowers, a Mexican craft. Little fingers struggled to wrap pipe cleaners around sheet after sheet of delicate tissue papers.

Emmanuel Guerrero, 25, is a first-generation Texan from a family that has its roots in Mexico. He attended Aldine public schools, recently graduated from the University of Houston Bauer College of Business and is running for a seat on the Aldine school board.

At the University of Houston, "the most culturally diverse university in this country," Guerrero said he learned that Houston really is "a melting pot of different cultures."

Guerrero said that many older politicians and community leaders tend to lump all Hispanics into one category because of their shared language.

"People laugh when I say it, but because of the subculture in Hispanic communities, I say 'Nobody really speaks Spanish, unless they're from Spain.' We speak different dialects of Spanish," Guerrero said.

Esparza said that Houston's Hispanic culture has changed over the years, as the city has grown.

"The nice thing for us, as Hispanics, we respect each other and appreciate each other's ethnicities, customs and music," Esparza said. "And we want to know more about them."

Guerrero said that the community is welcoming to all cultures. "Houston is such a melting pot that we can live together and understand each other's differences," he said.

— by Anne Marie Kilday



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