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NORTHEAST NEWS

THURSDAY
November 25
HAPPY THANKS GIVING

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 45 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 47 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Caraway Elementary opens Spark Park



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, center, poses with Caraway Elementary Principal Dr. Andrenetta Marshall, and special guests at the dedication ceremony for the new Spark Park at Caraway Elementary School on Monday, Nov. 15.

On Monday, Nov. 15, Caraway Elementary School held a dedication ceremony for its new Spark Park.

The event was hosted by Caraway Elementary Principal Dr. Andrenetta Marshall and her staff and was attended by Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, members of her Executive Leadership Team (ELT), elected officials and their representatives and members of the community.

Dr. Goffney said having a Spark Park at Caraway Elementary School was a wonderful thing for the community.

"Parks are the hearts of our communities and a place where all are welcome," she said. "This park promotes community wellness and provides places for community members to get outside and be active, encouraging a healthier lifestyle. Parks give individuals a space for meeting their neighbors in person; a space for kids and adults to gather and meet new people who enjoy similar activities."

She thanked all of the organizations who worked together to make Caraway's Spark Park a reality.

"These are the people most responsible for the creation of this park and the dreamers to whom we can all be grateful for the good work they have done. I want to thank the playground construction crew, the school and district staff, the congregation of Grace Church and our Caraway families and their supporters. On behalf of Al-

Continued. See Spark Park, Page 3



Time to feast on food and football as key games on tap in college, NFL this Thanksgiving weekend

It's Thanksgiving Week and that means it's time to feast on food and football.

What a country!

While we devour turkey, ham and all the sides, there will be plenty of key football games to sit back and watch in the NCAA and the NFL this weekend.

The biggest game on the college landscape occurs in the Big 10 when long-time and bitter rivals Ohio State and Michigan play for not only the Eastern Division title, but the winner has a very good shot at landing one of the four College Football Playoff (CFP) berths if they go

on to win the Big 10 title game against either Wisconsin or Iowa.

There's also a big one in the Big 12 as Oklahoma and Oklahoma State meet in Bedlam in Stillwater. The winner of this game is pretty much assured a spot in the Big 12 title game. There is also the real possibility that these two teams meet a week later in the Big 12 title game, depending on how Baylor finishes out its season. Both teams could enter this game with one league loss.

The Texas A&M Aggies

Continued. See Keeney's Korner, page 4

Flood Control hosts Greens Bayou virtual public meeting Dec. 1

Detention area at Lauder and JFK

ALDINE – The Harris County Flood Control District will hold a Community Engagement Meeting for the Tributaries P138-01-00 & P138-01-01 Flood Risk Reduction Project in the Greens Bayou watershed. The purpose of this meeting is to inform residents about the status of the project and share project information.

The Tributaries P138-01-00 & P138-01-01 Flood Risk Reduction Project involves the investigation, examination and evaluation of flood risk reduction solutions in the area near JFK Boulevard and south of Lauder Road. This study was paid for with funds from the 2018 Bond Program with funds from the 2018 Bond Program which were approved by Harris County voters on August 25, 2018. Community engagement is an important component of the Bond Program, and we invite your participation as the program is implemented.

The Virtual Community Engagement Meeting will be held on:

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Join online at: PublicInput.com/P138trib Or by phone* at 855-925-2801 with Meeting Code: 9574

The meeting will begin with a brief presentation to share project updates, fol-



Harris County Flood Control District

October 21 at 11:57 AM ·

Construction is nearing completion for Phase I of the Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin in the mid-reach of Greens Bayou. This phase is designed to be a wet-bottom stormwater detention basin with a permanent pool, and features designed to improve stormwater quality. Once complete, Phase I will hold almost 192 million gallons of stormwater that might otherwise flood homes and businesses.

The basin is part of the comprehensive flood risk reduction plan for the mid-reach stretch of Greens Bayou. Learn more at hcfcd.org/C-34

lowed by a moderated Q&A session with Flood Control District team members. Residents will be able to submit questions and comments before, during and after the meeting and throughout the public comment period. Any comments not addressed during the Q&A session will receive a response at the conclusion of the public comment period.

Even if you are unable to attend the live meeting, residents are encouraged to register for the meeting to receive future project updates. A recorded version of the meeting will be available on the Flood Control District's website and YouTube channel after the event. Meeting accommodations can be made for those with disabilities. If needed, please contact

346-286-4000 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For questions, please contact the Flood Control District at 346-286-4000, or fill out the comment form online at hcfcd.org/C43.

*If you attend by phone only, maps and other exhibits will not be visible. However, information will be available after the meeting on the project webpage at hcfcd.org/C43.

Aldine Education Foundation Raises \$95,000 for the Students of Aldine ISD

The 8th annual M. B. "Sonny" Donaldson Golf Tournament on Friday, October 29 raised more than \$95,000, once again making it one of the most productive fundraisers for the Aldine Education Foundation (AEF). The tournament is named after beloved former superintendent M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson who worked at the District for 34 years. He was present to say hello to the golfers.

Many Aldine ISD alumni showed up this year to support the perfect-weather day. They helped plan and execute the event, and assisted



Former Aldine ISD Superintendent M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson, center with hat on, poses with volunteers at the 8th annual M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson Golf Tournament on Friday, Oct. 29. The tournament benefits the Aldine Education Foundation.

with registration. The awards were unique, handcrafted pieces of art from Aldine ISD alum-

na Ms. Yvonne Lopez-Taylor's students at Carter Academy, which made for a very special

memento for the winners. In addition, Jose

Continued. See AEF Golf, Page 4

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★ OPINION PAGE ★

top ten

THANKSGIVING DESSERTS

1. Pumpkin pie
2. Sweet potato pie
3. Pecan pie
4. Apple pie
5. Hummingbird cake
6. Pumpkin cheesecake
7. Carrot cake
8. Cranberry pie
9. Pumpkin roll
10. Egg custard pie

Source: Cox Media Group

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COUNTY CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Essential to get our Children vaccinated

So many Harris County residents who have gotten vaccinated still have feelings of anxiety about COVID, and it's understandable. Children under the age of 12 have been ineligible to receive the vaccine and remained unprotected from this pandemic that has taken so many lives. This week finally marks the end of the wait — the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have approved the vaccine for kids ages 5 to 11, an essential piece of our response to COVID-19 that is long overdue.

And, though many parents are eager to get their children vaccinated, others may still be hesitant. Parents should know that the vaccine is safe — the side effects adults have experienced, like a short-lived fever and cold-like symptoms, are less likely to affect kids. It's also effective — it has a 90% effectiveness rate in preventing children ages 5 through 11 from contracting COVID-19. Although younger children are less likely to be hospitalized or lose their lives from the virus, they can still suffer from various long-term effects of COVID-19. If you want to protect your kids from getting sick from COVID-19, there is no reason to delay signing up for this vaccine.

So, let's celebrate all of our hard work to get Harris County vaccinated and last week's downgrade in Harris County's threat level to Level 2: Orange by getting all eligible Harris County children vaccinated. To sign up, check first if your pediatrician is offering appointments. If not, you can check with your local pharmacy or sign up for an appointment through Harris County Public Health by calling 832-927-8787 or registering at ReadyHarris.org.

This is a huge leap in our fight to return to normalcy — let's give our children the protection they deserve and the chance for a childhood where they can go to school without masks, hug their friends, share their toys, and see their teachers and friends' smiling faces, without worries about the virus.

Sincerely,
Lina Hidalgo

County funds Summer study programs for 3,480 youths

Children should never stop learning, even over the summer and during a pandemic. In March 2021, Commissioners Court approved \$712,250 from the COVID Response and Recovery Fund to fund the County Connections Youth Summer Initiative under the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE).

County Connections used this funding to support nonprofit organizations that provide comprehensive summer programs, short term projects, and summer camps hosted in-person or virtually from a variety of locations including schools, community centers, apartment complexes and churches.

In total, 43 organizations received funding to serve 3,480 students at 99 sites across the County. Grants were awarded to several local nonprofits, including FORGE for Families, SHAPE Community Center, the Art League of Houston, and the Houston Tennis Association, and were used to provide program content and materials to youth as well as 54 full or partial scholarships to help families pay for summer services.

For more information visit the Harris County Department of Education's Center for After-school, Summer, and Enrichment here.

MODERN-DAY THANKSGIVING



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Filing period for the 2022 Primary opens

The filing period for the 2022 Texas primary elections opened on Nov. 13, allowing candidates to file with their respective party chairs for spots on the March 1, 2022, primary ballot. For primary elections, candidates must file their applications with their state party chairs. If a district is solely contained within a single county, a candidate would file with the county chair.

The filing period for county, district and statewide offices ends at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13. Early voting for the March 1 primary begins on Feb. 14. Among the statewide offices on the ballot are governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, agriculture commissioner, land commissioner, railroad commissioner and seven states on the state board of education.

To find out who has filed to date, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/4s89j6be>

TASK FORCE ON CONCERT SAFETY FORMED

Gov. Greg Abbott last week announced the formation of a task force on concert safety after at least nine people were killed and hundreds injured at the Astroworld Festival in Houston on Nov. 5. Members include safety experts, law enforcement officials, firefighters and leaders from the Texas Music Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and a half-dozen other state entities.

The task force is led by Brendon Anthony, director of the Texas Music Office.

"Live music is a source of joy, entertainment and community for so many Texans — and the last thing concertgoers should have to worry about is their safety and security," Abbott said.

Lawsuits have been filed on behalf of more than 200 victims. Defendants include rapper Travis Scott and concert promotion giant Live Nation, according to a report in the Houston

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

Chronicle. The deaths and injuries occurred when a crowd rushed the stage as Scott performed.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS SPREAD IN OCTOBER

Blame it on La Niña. Drought conditions throughout much of the state continued to expand in October, thanks in large part to the weather conditions caused by the atmospheric phenomenon, which pushes warmer and drier conditions in the southern United States while causing cooler, wetter weather in Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Nelun Fernando of the Texas Water Development Board wrote recently that this winter is likely to be drier and warmer than average. The U.S. Drought Monitor released last week indicates 61.4% of the state is considered abnormally dry, while nearly 38% of the state is in moderate or severe drought.

Most of the drought areas are in East Texas, the Panhandle and Far West Texas.

ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE GOING ON ENDANGERED LIST

The alligator snapping turtle, which is North America's largest freshwater turtle species, is slated to be listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pending public comment due by Jan. 10. The turtle, a popular target of poachers in Texas and other

states, can weigh more than 200 pounds.

In recent months, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other agencies and institutions teamed up to repatriate a couple dozen confiscated alligator snapping turtles to their native Texas rivers. While all states ban commercial harvest of the turtle, recreational harvest is allowed on a limited basis in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The Texas comptroller's office has contracted with the Environmental Institute at the University of Houston-Clear Lake to develop long-term monitoring procedures in an effort to develop more effective conservation measures.

VAST MAJORITY OF COVID-19 DEATHS AMONG UNVACCINATED

A study by the Texas Department of State Health Services during the Delta variant outbreak of COVID-19 indicates unvaccinated Texans were 20 times more likely to die from the virus than those who had received one of the vaccines. From the report: All authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the United States are highly effective at protecting people from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19, including those infected with Delta and other known variants. Real world data from Texas clearly shows these benefits.

Meanwhile, the total number of new cases of COVID-19 in Texas in the past week rose slightly to 23,350, as did new deaths at 846, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Since the pandemic began, 4.28 million Texans have been diagnosed with the virus — 14.6% of the state's entire population. COVID-19 has taken the lives of 72,760 Texans, roughly equivalent to the entire population of Harlingen.

The good news is that at least for now, the number of hospitalized, lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients continues to drop, with 2,736 reported by DSHS as of Sunday. That is down 75% from mid-August levels.

DSHS also reports the number of Texans who are fully vaccinated continues to inch upward, with 15.67 million reported, a number that now includes children ages 5-11 who are now eligible for the vaccine.

★ THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Angel's Front Door

I used to have a friend who lived in Paris.

Paris is expensive. Angel bought the largest apartment she could afford, and it was tiny. But, because it was in Paris, she had a lot of visitors. Friends and family came to see her and, in order to get to her place and back, they would take the subway.

In the subway are photo booths; they have been there for many years. Angel loved the photo booths, and she would drag every person who visited into one to have their photo taken with her. Then she would tape the photos onto the inside of her front door. Soon, the inside of her door was covered with smiling people who had visited her and, in most cases, slept on the couch in her cramped apartment.

Angel died a little more than five years ago.

I was with her shortly before she died. I stayed with her in her apartment when she was very ill and confined to her bed. Then I came one last time when she was in hospice. During this last visit, I stopped by her apartment and saw her door was still covered with photos from all her visitors. There were two recent ones of us.

In both photos, we were wearing oversized sunglasses and oversized smiles for the camera. In one, Angel was wearing a white hat with a jazzy hatband and in the second, she was wearing a bright blue wig because, in both cases, she was on chemo and didn't have any hair.

I took the two photos home with me and framed them. They used to hang in my office before we moved and now, several months after I packed everything up, I found the framed photos and got thinking about Angel's front door.

Part of the reason my husband, Peter, and I decided to buy this apartment was so we could be closer to family and friends and easier to visit. The apartment is now more or less remodeled, and two nights ago Peter's niece, Annie, and her boyfriend, Aaron, came over as our first official guests. Peter made eggrolls and we went out to eat at a restaurant a block away. Annie and Aaron are both in college. We heard about their challenging classes and their hopes for the future and, before they left, I asked if I could take their picture.

I don't have a photo booth, but I bought an instant-print camera. It's like the old Polaroid cameras except it's digital and the photos are sticky on the back.

"You will be the first people on our door!" I announced as I took their picture with my new camera.

We waited impatiently as the camera made little grinding noises and a photo popped out the other end. Aaron peeled the backing off.

"Now what?" he said. "Stick it on the door!" I commanded. And he did.

The next morning, my parents came over for brunch and we repeated the ritual. Last night my sister came over and we did it a third time.

Now I have three little photos, side by side, stuck to the inside of my door.

No, it's not Paris. But I can already imagine our front door, in time, covered with the smiling faces of people who cared enough to come and visit. It will be a reminder of fun times and good conversations and the chance we had to get a little closer.

And it will be my reminder of Angel. Every smile on the door will remind me of hers.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message from the Superintendent, November 15, 2021

Dear Aldine Community,
 With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, I find myself reflecting on all of the things for which I am incredibly grateful. At the top of that list is our Aldine community. This morning, I was honored to take part in a SPARK Park Dedication at Caraway Elementary. To see so many community members come out to support our students and campus staff – and to see the smiles on the faces of our proud and excited students – reminds me of how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated staff and engaged community.

As you know, the district is closed next week, November 22-26, for Thanksgiving break and I hope you all enjoy quality time with your friends and family. As you begin holiday shopping and are gathering with groups of loved ones, I encourage you all to remain diligent in taking precautions to keep you and your loved ones healthy during the holiday season. One of those precautions is getting vaccinated. We will continue to work with community partners to make vaccines more available and will share those opportunities on social media and our website. The district also continues to monitor and evaluate current local and district cases and will adjust our own health and safety protocols as appropriate.

Before I close, I'd like to take a moment to address some recent events that hit close to home. Mrs. Nadine Kujawa, Aldine ISD's first female superintendent, passed away last Monday. An Aldine graduate and a district legend, she will be missed. To learn more about Ms. Kujawa's incredible life, take a look at the district story here.

Our hearts also go out to those ten young lives lost at a music festival at NRG a week ago. Two were students from our neighboring school districts, Spring Branch ISD and Houston ISD. Our hearts go out to all the families involved. This tragedy reminds us to cherish the time we have with those we hold dear.

With Aldine Pride,
 Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **November:** Aldine ISD will partner with Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) to provide COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer) for Aldine ISD students, staff, and members of the community ages 5 and up from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center (1865 Aldine Bender)**. Families can register for the event here. Walk-ins are welcome.

• **November:** Early Head Start Program — Open enrollment for the Early Head Start program is at the Child Development Center. The program serves children from six weeks to three years of age and focuses on building their school-ready skills. No deadline to apply, but seats are limited. Click here for details.



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

• **November:** Choice School Showcase Events

OBSERVATIONS

November

- Picture Book Month
- National Scholarship Month
- GenTX Month

• **November 15-19:** American Education Week & Generation Texas Week

• **November 17:** National Education Support Professionals Day

• **November 18:** National Parental Involvement Day

• **November 22-26:** Thanksgiving week, Aldine ISD closed

December

• **December 2:** Special Education Day

• **December 6-12:** Computer Science Education Week

• **December 15:** Early Signing Day (Student-Athletes)

REMINDERS

• Aldine ISD has released new cell phone guidelines for students. To learn more, click here.

• Aldine's Family and Community Engagement Department has launched the Family and Community University and aims to provide 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 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.



Three Aldine ISD Trustees sworn in at Nov. 16 Board of Education meeting



During the Nov. 16 Aldine ISD Board of Education meeting, three Trustees were sworn in to serve four-year terms after being re-elected to their respective seats on Nov. 2 School Board election. ABOVE: Trustees Rose Avalos (Position 3 seat), Conception Connie Esparza (Position 4 seat) and Steve Mead (Position 5 seat) were all sworn in by General Counsel Kaye DeWalt.

Trustees approve contract extension for Superintendent Goffney

During the Nov. 16 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees unanimously approved a contract extension for Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. The contract extension is for one year and will run through 2026. Dr. Goffney was hired in May of 2018 and the Board approved a five-year contract. She has previously

served as Superintendent of Cold Spring-Oakhurst CISD and Lufkin ISD. She began her tenure as Aldine ISD's Superintendent on July 2, 2018.

Superintendent Goffney serves on Kinds In Need Foundation's panel

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney was a guest panelist on the second Kids in Need Foundation (KINF) Champions for Education panel, held Wednesday, Nov. 3.

Joining Dr. Goffney on the panel were Eric Gordon, Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Jessica Mendoza, ESPN Major League Baseball Analyst and an Olympic Gold and Silver Medalist, Michael Oher, former member of the Baltimore Ravens, a Super Bowl champion and author, Justice Alan Page, Former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, a Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee and Founder of the Page Education Foundation and moderator Aditi Kinkhabwala, NFL Network and CBS Sports Reporter.

At the Champions For Education event, the panel of educational experts and champions will provide insights and solutions to support teachers and students in underserved schools.

In its inaugural event, Champions For Education focused on a trio of topics,



including the Opportunity Gap. As the global pandemic continues to impact all industries, the country's education system remains committed to ensuring students are learning. With the various structures of classes over the last two years, the Opportunity Gap – which refers to the circumstances in which people are born – such as race, ethnicity, ZIP code and socioeconomic status – and how it impacts access to opportunity – also affects their education.

The Kids in Need Foundation is a nonprofit organization that believes every child in America deserves equal opportunity and access to a quality education, provides the sup-

port and tools needed for teachers to teach and learners to learn. By providing essential school supplies, distance learning resources, and other classroom items in high demand, KINF partners with teachers in underserved schools to ensure students are prepared to learn in the classroom. In 2020, through its program and National Network of Resource Centers, comprised of more than 40 mission-driven organizations nationwide, KINF served an estimated 5 million students, 205,000 teachers and provided more than \$70 million in product at no cost to schools or teachers.

Spark Park Opens,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dine ISD, thank you all for your support and efforts to construct the Spark Park," Dr. Goffney said.

Dr. Marshall delivered welcoming remarks and Grace Church Pastor Brandon Barber delivered the invocation. A group of Caraway students led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

A representative from U.S. Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee's office presented Dr. Marshall with a United States flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol on Nov. 11, and a represen-

tative from State Representative Jarvis Johnson's office presented the school with a Texas flag that flew over the Texas Capitol.

A group of Caraway scholars recited the poem, "I'm Determined To Be Somebody Someday."

Amy Peck, Houston City Councilmember District A also delivered remarks, which were followed by remarks from a representative from Houston City Councilmember Tarsha Jackson's office. Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth also delivered remarks.

The Groove 44 then delivered a dance performance, which was followed by the Caraway Elementary Orff Ensemble, which performed "Balafon" by Walt Hampton.

Kathleen Ownby, Executive Director of Spark Park, then presented certificates to a number of individuals who worked on Caraway's Spark Park project.

Dr. Marshall then delivered the closing remarks. "This is a place where we will have hope for all," Dr. Marshall said.

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

By Jennifer Nandlal Sr Adult Program Specialist

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY HOURS:

During the Thanksgiving holiday, the High Meadows Library will open from 10am to 5pm on November 24th and will remain closed throughout the weekend. We will reopen on Monday, November 29th at 10am.

VOX BOOKS & WONDERBOOKS:

Print Book, Meet Audio Book. VOX Books and Wonderbooks are audio books that live in print books. Children simply push a button to listen and read. We have a wide variety of titles in English and Spanish. Stop by the library or call us to reserve one for checkout.

ADAPTIVE RESOURCES:

The High Meadows Branch Library has just received comfort kits. These sensory kits are for autistic youth and anyone who might feel overstimulated at the library or just in need of a calming resource. They include headphones, sunglasses, a fidget spinner, and a liquid sensory viewer. In addition to our Comfort Kits, we also have accessibility equipment available like magnifying glasses, highlight strips, and oversized keyboards to use. If you'd like to utilize one, please ask us at the library.

HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY APP:

Did you know the library has an app? Available on Apple and Android devices, the Harris County Public Library app gives you access to your library account

USING OUR LIBRARY VOICES PODCAST:

Did you know the library has its own podcast? Featuring a variety of voices and topics, the Using Our Library Voices podcast has something for everyone. Listen now wherever you stream podcasts or by going to: <https://www.hcpl.net/podcast>.

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

SPORTS PAGE

AEF Golf,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marquez, owner of Alma Latina, another alumnae of Aldine ISD, lovingly cooked delicious fajitas on the lawn.

The tournament has raised more than \$475,205 over the past 8 years, and this year represents the highest annual amount since the tournament first teed-off.

More than 135 golfers participated in the fundraiser held at Oakhurst Golf Club and 41 organizations sponsored the event.

"We were grateful for our sponsors who made this event possible and generously contributed to break another record. It is an honor to provide the funds to outstanding students who will graduate from Aldine ISD and seek post-secondary education all over the world," said Lynette Sealy, member of the golf leadership team.

For more information visit AldineEducationFoundation.org or call 281-924-6088.

Aldine Schools participate in 37th annual Turkey Trot at LSC

Vardeman wins Turkey Trot Trophy

The 37th Annual Turkey Trot was held at Lonestar College North on November 6th.

Students from various schools attended the event in Aldine ISD.

Thank you all for a great Turkey Trot Event!

Students ran the course at Lonestar College! 1 mile run, 2 mile and 3 miles courses.

Vardeman EC/PK/K finished first place for the turkey trot!

Vardeman EC/PK/K brought the Turkey Trot Trophy back to Vardeman!

Congratulations to all our staff, parents and students!

We are so delighted to have such a great turnout by staff and parents and students!

We even had the first place runner cross the finish line!

Coach Nigro was very happy with all the Pandas and their performances!



Teachers and Staff at Vardeman.



Vardeman Runners proudly displaying their medals from the Turkey Trot.



Assistant Athletic Director and Coach Nigro with Trophy.



Coach Nigro holds the Turkey Trot Trophy that is now at Vardeman.



Vardeman won the Turkey Trot Trophy for the most participation! Pictured are the Vardeman Pandas students with Coach Nigro.

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Keep East Aldine
COVID Safe



Time to feast on food and football as key games on tap in college, NFL this Thanksgiving weekend

close out their regular season at LSU, in what will be Ed Ogeron's last game as the Tigers head coach. The 2021 season started with much optimism for Jimbo Fisher's Aggies, but three losses in SEC play spoiled their hopes of playing in the CFP.

The biggest game in the SEC this holiday weekend pits No. 2-ranked Alabama against archrival Auburn on Saturday. A win by Nick Saban's team will earn them a trip to the SEC title game, where they will face No. 1-ranked Georgia. Auburn has had an up and down season, but they always play the Tide tough, especially at home. This will be no gimmie for Saban's team.

In the NFL, the Texans have a real shot at a win this week (been a long time since we've been able to say that) when they host the lowly Jets. On Thanksgiving Day, Detroit hosts Chicago, the Cowboys host Las Vegas and the night-cap has the Bills visiting the Big Easy to take on the Saints.

On Sunday, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati meet in a key AFC North tilt, while the suddenly struggling Tampa Bay Buccaneers visit an improving Indianapolis team. The Tennessee Titans, the team with the best record in the AFC, hit the road to face Bill Belichick's Patriots team, while the Rams and Packers meet in Lambeau Field in what could be an offensive shootout between QBs Matthew Stafford and Aaron Rodgers.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, I want to wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy family, friends, food and football.

We also need to review last week's record. An 8-4 week brought the season record to 82-45 (65%).

Now, onto the games.

NCAA

Ole Miss at Mississippi State: These two in-state rivals meet on Thanksgiving night in what should be an entertaining game. Both teams have offenses that can light up the scoreboard, so expect plenty of big plays in this one. This is a very underrated and intense rivalry. Neither school has much use for

the other. The Rebels, who upset Texas A&M 29-19 two weeks ago, are led by quarterback Matt Corral (2,774 yards, 17 TDs) and wide receiver Dontario Drummond (46 receptions, 707 yards, 7 TDs), while Mike Leach's team is led by QB Will Rogers (3,722 yards, 34 TDs) and wide receivers Makai Polk (79 receptions, 781 yards, 8 TDs) and Jaden Walley (44 receptions, 523 yards, 5 TDs). Two weeks ago, the Bulldogs overcame a 28-3 deficit at Auburn and rallied for a 43-34 win. Leach might have his team peaking at just the right time. My pick, Mississippi State 36, Mississippi 33

Ohio State at Michigan: The No. 4-ranked Buckeyes face the No. 6 Wolverines in the Big House in Ann Arbor on Saturday. Ohio State is rolling on offense led by quarterback C.J. Stroud (3,036 yards, 30 TDs), running back TreVeyon Henderson (1,035 yards, 14 TDs) and wide receivers Jaxon Smith-Njigba (59 receptions, 1,027 yards, 5 TDs), Garrett Wilson (53 receptions, 813 yards, 9 TDs) and Chris Olave (51 receptions, 708 yards, 11 TDs). The Buckeyes will face a stern test from one of the best defenses in the nation as the Wolverines are allowing just 14 points per game. The key for a Michigan win will be its offense ability to control the clock. Look for running back Hassan Haskins (985 yards, 11 TDs) to get plenty of carries in this one, which could open up the passing game for QB Cade McNamara (1,883 yards, 12 TDs). I think this is a close one, but OSU's offensive power will win it late. My pick, Ohio State 27, Michigan 24

Alabama at Auburn: No. 2-ranked Alabama visits long-time rival Auburn with a trip to the SEC title game on the line. The Crimson Tide is solid on offense led by QB Bryce Young (3,025 yards, 33 TDs), running back Brian Robinson (823 yards, 16 total TDs) and productive wide receivers Jameson Williams (51 receptions, 1,028 yards, 10 TDs)

and John Metchie Jr. (67 receptions, 722 yards, 6 TDs). The 'Bama defense hasn't been its usual dominate self this year, but Auburn will be without starting QB Bo Nix (2,294 yards, 11 TDs), who suffered a season-ending ankle injury in the Mississippi State loss. Running back Tank Bigsby (776 yards, 9 TDs) will be called on to have a big day against the Tide. Good luck with that, Auburn. The problem Auburn will have is dealing with Saban, who is a master at having his team ready to play when it needs a big win and this is a big, big game for the Crimson Tide. The mastermind will have them ready come Saturday. My pick, Alabama 33, Auburn 20

Oklahoma at Oklahoma State: The Sooners head to Stillwater to face an underrated Oklahoma State team that has the best defense in the Big 12. Two weeks ago, the Sooners struggled on offense in their 27-14 loss at Baylor. QB Caleb Williams (1,334 yards, 10 TDs) struggled most of the game and threw two interceptions. He was replaced in the second half by Spencer Rattler, who wasn't much better. If the Sooners hope to win this game, they will need improved play at the quarterback position and a big day on the ground from running back Kennedy Brooks (853 yards, 10 TDs). OSU is led by QB Spencer Sanders (1,758 yards, 14 TDs), running back Jaylen Warren (1,041 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Tay Martin (47 receptions, 635 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the Cowboys defense to be the difference maker in this one as Mike Gundy's team punches its ticket to the Big 12 title game. My pick, Oklahoma State 31, Oklahoma 23

Texas A&M at LSU: Fisher and the Aggies want to finish the season on a high note heading into bowl season, while the Tigers will be out to win one for Coach "O" in his final game in Death Valley. The Aggies will once again rely on the running of backs

Isaiah Spiller (914 yards, 5 TDs) and Devon Achane (815 yards, 7 TDs) to take pressure off of inconsistent QB Zach Calzada (1793 yards, 12 TDs). The Aggie defense will look to harass Tiger QB Max Johnson (2,190, 22 TDs) early and often. I expect LSU to play hard for their out-going head coach, but the A&M defense will be the difference maker in this one as Fisher's team picks up its ninth win of the season and will go for No. 10 in a bowl game. My pick, Texas A&M 34, LSU 26

NFL

Las Vegas at Dallas: The Cowboys host the Raiders in their annual Thanksgiving afternoon game. Two weeks ago, Dallas looked like the best team in the NFC after its 43-3 romp over Atlanta. The Cowboys were solid in all three phases of the game. The offense, led by QB Dak Prescott (2,341 yards, 20 TDs), running back Ezekiel Elliott (663 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receivers CeeDee Lamb (47 receptions, 583 yards, 6 TDs) and Amari Cooper (44 receptions, 583 yards, 5 TDs) rolled up 431 yards. The defense allowed just 214 yards, forced three turnovers and the special teams blocked a punt that was recovered for a touchdown. If Dallas continues to play this way, they will be tough to beat. Dallas learned after its home loss to Denver on Nov. 7 that they can't take any team lightly. Look for another solid effort on Thanksgiving Day when the Raiders come calling. My pick, Dallas 34, Las Vegas 17

Buffalo at New Orleans: Our Thanksgiving football feast concludes on Thursday night when the Bills face the Saints in New Orleans. Two weeks ago, Josh Allen (2,602 yards, 19 TDs) and the offense finally got things going in a 45-17 win over the Jets. Again, it was the Jets, but that game might be the spark that keeps the Bills going heading into the stretch run. Allen is starting to get wide receiver Stefon Diggs (56 receptions, 750 yards, 4 TDs) more involved in the offense and that's good news for Buffalo fans. The Saints lost a tough one at Tennessee two weeks ago and should have versatile running back Alvin Kamara (530 rushing yards, 3 TDs/32 receptions, 310 yards, 4 TDs) back for this

one. My pick, Buffalo 26, New Orleans 23

New York Jets at Houston: The ugly game of the week pits the two-win Jets against the one-win Texans. How exciting! The Jets do own wins over Tennessee and Cincinnati, so they have that going for them. If the Texans don't win this game, there's the real possibility they might not win another game this season and could realistically finish with a 1-16 record. Yikes! The defense did play better during its 17-9 loss at Miami on Nov. 7, but the offense is still dreadful. Something tells me the Texans will be a bit less suckey than the Jets on Sunday as they pick up win No. 2 on the season. My pick, Houston 16, New York Jets 13

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati: This is a key AFC North game for both teams who are both squarely in the AFC playoff hunt. Two weeks ago, the Steelers tied Detroit at home as quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (1,986 yards, 10 TDs) missed the game after testing positive for COVID-19. Big Ben should be back for this game and he will once again rely on rookie running back Najee Harris (646 rushing yards, 4 TDs/44 receptions, 317 yards, 2 TDs) to make plays on the ground and through the air. The Bengals beat the Steelers in Pittsburgh 24-10 on Sept. 26. Quarterback Joe Burrow (2,497 yards, 20 TDs) will need another big day from running back Joe Mixon (636 yards, 7 TDs) and rookie wide receiver Ja'Mar Chase (44 receptions, 835 yards, 7 TDs) if they hope to make it two straight over their AFC North rivals. It says here, they do just that. My pick, Cincinnati 26, Pittsburgh 23

Tampa Bay at Indianapolis: The defending Super Bowl champs dropped two straight games heading into last Monday night's game against the Giants. Tom Brady (2870 yards, 27 TDs) and the Bucs will be looking to get back on track when they face Carson Wentz (2,378 yards, 17 TDs) and running back Jonathan Taylor (937 yards, 9 TDs) on Sunday. Look for Brady and wide outs Chris Godwin (57 receptions, 714 yards, 4 TDs) and Mike Evans (41 receptions, 606 yards, 9 TDs) to attack a suspect Indy secondary. The Bucs are a veteran team and know it's time to get on a streak as they head

into the latter part of the season. My pick, Tampa Bay 31, Indianapolis 20

Tennessee at New England: The master takes on the pupil when the Titans visit New England on Sunday. Tennessee head coach Mike Vrabel played for Belichick for a number of years and you know he learned a thing or two from the best coach in the history of the game. Vrabel is a pretty good coach as well. The Titans have not missed a beat since star running back Derrick Henry was lost for the season with a broken foot. Vrabel and his team have adjusted. QB Ryan Tannehill (2,358 yards, 12 TDs) and wide receiver A.J. Brown (41 receptions, 567 yards, 3 TDs) and a host of running backs are getting it done on offense and the defense has improved immensely over the last few weeks. The Patriots are also rolling. They carried a four-game winning streak into last Thursday night's game at Atlanta. Rookie QB Mac Jones (2,333 yards, 13 TDs) is making plays when asked to and the defense is forcing turnovers on a regular basis. I think Belichick will have something up his sleeve for his old linebacker as the Patriots continue to put heat on the Bills in the AFC East race. My pick, New England 24, Tennessee 20

Los Angeles Rams at Green Bay: This should be a fun one to watch as both teams have explosive offenses. Each can also play a little defense as well. Two weeks ago, the Packers rode their defense to a 17-0 win over Seattle. QB Aaron Rodgers (2,186 yards, 17 TDs) didn't throw a TD pass in the game, but reserve running back A.J. Dillon (421 yards, 2 TDs) picked up the slack with two scoring runs as he replaced starting running back Aaron Jones after Jones suffered a knee sprain in the second half. Look for Rodgers to make more plays in the passing game with wide receiver Davante Adams (65 receptions, 864 yards, 3 TDs) against the Rams. Two weeks ago, the Rams suffered a 31-10 loss at San Francisco. QB Matthew Stafford (3,014 yards, 24 TDs) and wide receiver Copper Kupp (85 receptions, 1,141 yards, 10 TDs) had a quiet night against the 49ers. I expect both to rebound this week. My pick, Green Bay 31, Los Angeles Rams 29

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Habakkuk in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. Which book's chapter 3, verse 14 (KJV) mentions "the beginning of the creation of God"? No book does, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Revelation
3. From Mark 9, Hell is a place where "what" dieth not, and the fire is not quenched? Worm, Body, Soul, Greed

- 4. Who's the only woman in the Bible with her age mentioned (at death)? Eve, Ruth, Leah, Sarah
5. On what day of creation did God divide land and water? 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th
6. What did Methuselah become at 187 years old? Saved, Invalid, Father, Martyr
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Revelation; 3) Worm; 4) Sarah (Genesis 23:1-2); 5) 3rd; 6) Father
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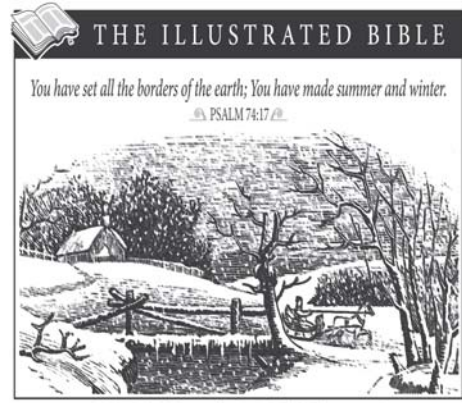
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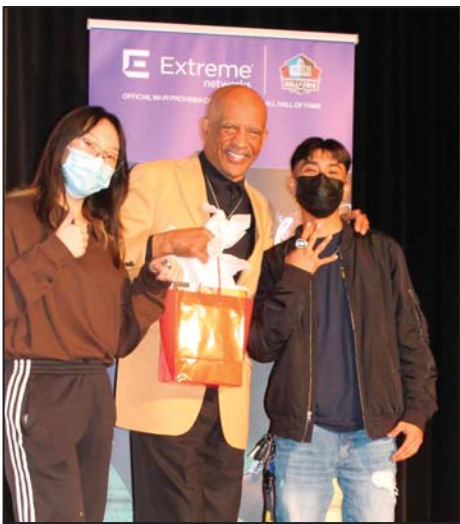
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Pro Football Hall of Famer Drew Pearson addresses AISD student-athletes and Esports athletes



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney poses with Pro Football Hall of Famer Drew Pearson. Pearson, a star wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys for 11 years, spoke to Aldine ISD student-athletes and Esports athletes at an event sponsored by the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Extreme Sports on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Dr. Goffney is pictured with Pearson's Super Bowl 12 ring and his Hall of Fame ring.



Two Aldine ISD Esports athletes present Pro Football Hall of Famer Drew Pearson with a gift bag following his address to Aldine ISD student-athletes and Esports athletes at Eisenhower High School on Wednesday, Oct. 27.

Pro Football Hall of Famer wide receiver Drew Pearson addressed Aldine ISD student-athletes and Esports athletes at Eisenhower High School on Wednesday, Oct. 27.

Pearson's visit to Aldine ISD was part of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Heart of a Hall of Famer program and was sponsored by Extreme Sports.

Pearson, one of the most successful and productive wide receivers in the history of the Dallas Cowboys, shared his story of how he went from an undrafted free agent to a future Hall of Famer.

Through hard work, determination and drive, Pearson made the Cowboys as a rookie in 1973 and spent 11 years with Dallas. When he retired in 1983, he left as the team's all-time leading receiver (he's currently ranked 7th all-time) with 489 receptions for 7,822 yards and 48 touchdown catches. He also threw three TD passes during his career with the Cowboys.

Pearson shared with the audience how he used his intelligence and drive to catch the attention of head coach Tom Landry in training camp during his rookie season.

"Coach Landry looked for guys with character and guys who were smart," Pearson said. "I worked hard every day to catch his attention and all that hard work paid off when I made the team as a rookie."

The University of Tulsa graduate stressed to the students that they need to take their education seriously.

"You need your education," he said. "Intelligence is so important to your success." Pearson challenged the student-athletes to find something they love doing and excel at that endeavor.

"You gotta be passionate. I loved to play football. Football was my passion," he said. "If you don't love it, you won't succeed at it."

A student asked him if he remembered his 'ah-ha' moment.

"When I made the Dallas Cowboys," Pearson said. "It meant I did the right things to make the Cowboys. Not being drafted motivated me to prove I belonged in the NFL."

Pearson added that no matter how many times life may knock you down, you must always get up, dust yourself off and carry on with life.

"Let me tell you, you all are going to face adversity," he said. "You have to learn from challenges and learn from your adversity. Each time I got tackled, I got up, dusted myself off and got back in the huddle ready for the next play."

Pearson shared with the audience a story about how he struggled in high school in a Shakespearean literature class. His teacher, Gracie Dunn, told him he would never pass her class, graduate from high school or go to college.

When Pearson graduated from the University of Tulsa, he returned to his high school in New Jersey to show his college diploma to Miss Dunn.

"I showed her my college diploma and said, 'how do you like me now? Find your Miss Gracie Dunn and show people you can do what they said you can't.'"

Pearson played with some of the greatest leaders in the history of the NFL in quarterback Roger Staubach, running back Tony Dorsett, defensive stalwarts Randy White (all three are in the Hall of Fame as well) and Ed "Too Tall" Jones. He said while they were all great players, they were also great leaders.

Kelsey-Seybold Joins Dynamic Community, Opens Doors to New North Channel Clinic

On Aug. 23, Kelsey-Seybold celebrated the much-anticipated opening of its North Channel Clinic. Patients living nearby and residents in and around the North Channel area now have a convenient location close to home and work. The new 7,500-square-foot clinic is located at 5820 E. Sam Houston Parkway North in The Shops at Stone Park. Ample parking is available in front of the clinic.



Clinic Administrators Jackie Baker and Alvin Payne welcomed patients to the bright, modern clinic.



Ambulatory Services Representatives Daniella Jackson (left) and Amanda Stringer checked patients in for their appointments on opening day.



New Kelsey-Seybold Physician John Ruelas, M.D., Family Medicine, saw patients on opening day and said they all were excited to have a new clinic so close to home.



Adam Mitchell, M.D., Managing Physician at North Channel clinic, has been with Kelsey-Seybold for 13 years and is delighted to welcome new and current patients to the newly opened clinic.



Clinic staff and providers commemorated opening day at North Channel Clinic with a group photo. Left to right: Jackie Baker, Clinic Administrator, Amanda Stringer, Ambulatory Services Representative, Febe Campuzano, C.M.A. I, Blanca Joseph, Nursing Supervisor I, Daniella Jackson, Ambulatory Services Representative, Fallon Wiggins, Nurse Supervisor II, Emma Escamilla, R.M.A. II, Terri Harwell, L.V.N., Adam Mitchell, M.D., Managing Physician, John Ruelas, M.D., Family Medicine, Cecilia Fowler, Senior Director, Ambulatory Clinics, Blanca Gutierrez, Director, Radiographic and Mammographic Imaging, Alvin Payne, Clinic Administrator, Summer Creek, Denice Gomez, Radiology Technician, Reeshemah White, Patient Service Technician II, Christopher Newton, Supervisor, Patient Service Center, and Nancy Muldowney, Radiology Supervisor.

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"You gotta have good leadership to be successful," Pearson said. "Coach Landry was a great leader. He earned our respect. He knew what a leader was. Coach Landry selected me as a team captain five times during my career with the Cowboys. That was important to me."

He also cherished his relationship with Staubach. The two of them teamed up for one of the most historic

plays in NFL history, the Hail Mary throw and catch to beat the Minnesota Vikings in a playoff game. With just 22 seconds left in the game, Staubach and Pearson teamed up for a 50-yard touchdown pass that won the game for the Cowboys and propelled them to Super Bowl 10.

"Roger was a tremendous leader," Pearson said. "I learned a lot from him. He taught me how to be a professional, how to talk to

the media. I have a ton of respect for Roger."

Although he had to wait 38 years to reach the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Pearson said he never doubted he would one day wear a Gold jacket and have his bust in the Hall of Fame in Canton, OH. That dream came true last August when Pearson was named to the Hall of Fame Class of 2021. His is now one of 354 Hall of Famers.

"I never gave up because of my faith," he said. "The Good Lord has a plan for all of us. I waited 38 years to get into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. I kept the faith and it paid off."

Following Pearson's remarks, Linda Flores-Olson, Director of the Aldine Education Foundation (AEF), announced that the Hall of Fame and Extreme Sports made a \$2,500 donation to AEF.



A group of Aldine ISD varsity football players pose with Pro Football Hall of Famer wide receiver Drew Pearson following Pearson's address to AISD student-athletes and Esports athletes at Eisenhower High School on Wednesday, Oct. 27.



A group of Aldine ISD female student-athletes pose with Pro Football Hall of Famer wide receiver Drew Pearson after Pearson's address to AISD student-athletes and Esports athletes at Eisenhower High School on Wednesday, Oct. 27.