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NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 45 Years
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Christmas celebrations in schools and community

ALDINE ISD - FACE 'SHARE THE JOY' EVENT



FACE Share the Joy Event Makes Holidays Brighter for AISD Families A FACE (Family And Community Engagement Department) volunteer, left, assists, and Aldine ISD parent as she decides on what toys to choose at the first annual FACE Share the Joy event, held Thursday, Dec. 16 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

The first annual FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Department's Share the Joy event made the holidays brighter for 250 Aldine families by providing coats and toys. On Thursday, Dec. 16, the event was held at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

The FACE Department

created the event to give Aldine families the opportunity to have a warm and happy holiday season.

"It is so rewarding to have been able to help hundreds of Aldine families and know that our students will have presents on Christmas Day, thanks to the community's generosity and our district staff," said FACE Executive Director Dr. Martha Escalante. "I can proudly say that our first Share the Joy event was a great success. We are looking forward to keeping this event an annual Aldine ISD tradition."

Parents who participated in the event were

CONTINUED. See Christmas in Aldine, Page 2

ALDINE ISD - VARDEMAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT



The Vardeman Holiday Christmas Concert was a huge success. Mrs. Cooper did an amazing job and her students performed Holiday songs! The Playlist Este Es La Navidad, Snowflake, Celebremos Juntos, North

Pole-Rock and Roll The decorations and sounds were spectacular. We are so proud of our students and staff for this Holiday Concert! Mrs. Cooper worked so hard and her performance was Splendid.

CHRISTMAS IN CASTLEWOOD



"In the spirit of giving at Christmas, the Castlewood Civic Club Board raffled 8 gift cards of \$25 each to its residents. SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 2. In observance of the CDC guidelines, residents were asked to text or call President Connie Esparza and submit their name, address and phone number. Residents were asked to share the social media posting on Nextdoor with their neighbor who might not be on Nextdoor.

Drawing took place the morning of December 21st with the help of our very own Selina Valdez, Community Relations Liaison for Precinct 2. Winners were notified and arrangements were made for delivery of their gift card. The Castlewood Civic Club Board would like to thank all who participated and commits to this being an annual event. Congratulations to the Winners!"

—By Connie Esparza



EAST ALDINE'S CHRISTMAS TREE

AT LEFT, the East Aldine District decorated this Christmas Tree in the lobby of their new Office Building in Town Center.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

NORTHEAST NEWS NAMES COACH OF THE YEAR:

Richard Slater takes Nimitz back to the playoffs

By Mike Keeney
Contributing Writer

Nimitz High School head football coach Richard Slater and his staff tknew they had a young team on their hands when the 2021 season began. Nimitz suffered some early losses, but came alive in District 14-6A, where they won four games and qualified for the playoffs for the first time in six years.

By rebounding in league play and leading his team to the playoffs, Slater was named the Northeast News' Coach of the Year.

Slater arrived at Nimitz in 2015 after spending nine years on Gary Joseph's staff at Katy High School, where he was part of a coaching staff that played in six state title games, and winning three state titles.

In his first year at Nimitz, Slater led the Cougars to the post season and six



Nimitz High School head football coach Richard Slater has been named the Northeast News' Coach of the Year

years later he did it again.

He's excited about the future because he has a solid nucleus of players who will be back for the 2022 season, including running back Joseph Sanders, quarterback Brayden Whitehead and safety Cory Huff.

"We definitely can," Slater said, when asked if next year's team could make a return to the playoffs and improve on the four wins Nimitz had in 2021. "I believe we'll be much better next year because we have a lot of kids back on offense and some key players returning on defense."

Slater said he and his staff will use the offseason to get their players stronger and faster and he hopes to remind them that they are stronger as a team than they are as individuals.

Continued. See Coach of the Year, Page 5

NFL regular season comes to an end and that's a good thing for the Texans

The longest season in the history of the NFL concludes this weekend when the league wraps up its first ever 18 game schedule.

Texan fans are probably happy another disappointing year on Kirby is about to conclude, although the team did show some life late in the season with an upset win over the Los Angeles Chargers (more on those underachievers later in this column). With a top 5 draft choice in place, and the possibility of more first-round picks in the offing is General Manager Nick Caserio successfully trades disgruntled QB

Deshaun Watson in the off-season, the Texans' rebuild could be accelerated with a haul of young, talented players.

Caserio and his staff have a lot of work to do just to make the Texans a competitive team in 2022, I wouldn't think they will go from one of the bottom three teams in the league to a playoff contender in just a year's time. But if the right players are drafted, and free agents are brought in, the rebuild should begin and Houston fans might have something

Continued. See Keeney's Korner, page 5

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Christmas celebrations in schools and community

LOW RIDER CLUB GIVES GIFTS ON CHRISTMAS MORN



ABOVE: MEMBERS OF THE LOW RIDER CAR CLUB POSE AT THE EAST ALDINE OFFICE BUILDING. Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Terry Garza reported this Merry Christmas Story:

How did I spent my Christmas morning? Helping out the Latin Fantasy Low Rider Car Club pass out toys in the East Aldine Community. We went to several areas and handed out toys and snacks. It was so much fun!!

SANTA CAME TO ALDINE IN THE WESTFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT PARADE



HOLIDAY GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST AT HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY



CHRISTMAS IN CASTLEWOOD RAFFLE WINNERS

"In the spirit of giving at Christmas, the Castlewood Civic Club Board raffled 8 gift cards of \$25 each to its residents. SOME OF THE WINNERS ARE PICTURED HERE.



HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

By Jennifer Nandlal
Sr Adult Program
Specialist

Library Hours Expanding:

The High Meadows Library will be expanding our opening hours. Beginning in January, we will our new hours will be:

- Mondays: 11am to 8pm
- Tuesdays: 10am to 6pm
- Wednesdays: 10am to 8pm
- Thursdays: 10am to 6pm
- Fridays: 1pm to 6pm
- Saturdays: 10am to 5pm
- Sunday: Closed

IN PERSON PROGRAMMING:

We will soon begin our in person programming to include computer classes, storytimes, teen programming and more. For more information on any of these upcoming events, please stop by the library for our program calendar.

GRADCAFÉ:

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

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY:

We need YOU to become a friend of the library. We are currently looking for individuals who would like to help us form a group to be the voice of the community! If you have what it takes, please contact Jennifer at jennifer.nandlal@hcpl.net.

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.

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

High Meadows Branch Library

Thank you to everyone that voted on their favorite gingerbread house. We had 118 votes, Whoo-hoo!

- Results
1st Place: Merry Manor
2nd: Cozy Christmas
3rd: Grinch House

Happy Holidays East Aldine Community!



ALDINE ISD - FACE 'SHARE THE JOY' EVENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thankful that FACE and the district thought of them during the holiday season.

"Everything is beautiful. My kids are going to willifts," said Odom Elementary parent Anabel Hernández.

"This is a nice event. It helps families that cannot afford to buy gifts," said Dunn Elementary parent Lakand Leger.

"It's really good! I got a jacket for my daughter,"

said Keeble Primary parent Anastasia Santiago.

Throughout November, the FACE team collected coats and toys for children of all ages from district employees and community partners. FACE collected 1,200 items (toys and coats).

"We are beyond thankful for the incredible support of our teachers, staff, and community partners," Dr. Escalante said. "Receiving so many donations ensured that we could reach even more families than we originally planned to reach."

Celebrate the New Year and Make Your Health a Priority

Include COVID-19 vaccine/booster in your resolution list. ☐☐☐

Houston – New Year celebrations typically include fireworks, getting together with friends and family, and making resolutions to include new projects or restructuring old ones. COVID-19 cases have been rising, and the Omicron variant threatens to continue spreading.

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) urges residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and get a booster if they qualify.

Below are some recommendations to safely celebrate the New Year:

- Wear a mask to help protect yourself and others – especially indoors.
- Continue to social distance by staying 6 feet apart from others who do not live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

- Consider using a rapid test before attending a gathering.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.

Adults and children can be infected with COVID-19 without having symptoms but are still contagious. Get tested if you are experiencing symptoms or have been in contact with someone that has tested positive. Testing is free at all HCPH sites. Appointments are not required but are recommended. [Click here](#) to find a site near you or call **832-927-7575**.

Vaccinations are free at all HCPH designated locations, and appointments are not required, although recommended. Go to vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787 to schedule your appointment. HCPH wishes you and your loved ones a happy and healthy New Year!

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Take Pride in our Community Keep it Clean

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message from the Superintendent,
December 15, 2021

Dear Aldine Community,

It is hard to believe the time has already come for me to write my last letter of the calendar year. As I reflect on the past semester, I can't help but swell with pride as I think about how we all showed up on the first day back in August, ready to **Start Strong**. The excitement of being back on campus to begin a new year was evident, and all of you have kept joy going throughout the semester.

As we look back on this year, here are a few moments that fill me with pride. I could list many more examples, but it would take all week. With that, here are some of the highlights:

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Choice Schools

Between the launch of new programs, new school openings for students new to the country and young women, and the announcement of our latest school for young men, this has been an exciting year for our choice schools.

Aldine's youngest students To ensure our commitment to student achievement touches all students who walk through Aldine's doors, we expanded the prekindergarten program from a half-day to full-day for all three-year-olds. In addition, we began offering a prekindergarten and kindergarten Jump-Start Program to aid in the transition from home to school, focusing on intensive social-emotional learning skills and helping students understand school expectations.

SCHOOL CULTURE

Building Equitable Access to High-Quality Schools and Learning Experiences

The district also continues to expand its aspiring leadership pipeline of effective individuals who embody the AISD leadership definition's three components: Connect, Inspire, and Impact. Leaders set a vision and maintain the systems and culture required to ensure excellence and give students access to high-quality schools and learning experiences. This year, we added an aspiring principal cohort, the Aldine Principal Fellow Academy. Earlier this year, we also launched the Association of Latinx Leaders.

Ensuring that our schools are designed to be places where students and team members can thrive academically and socially, we conducted an equity audit using a third-party research partner. The audit will identify opportunities to improve equitable systems, policies, and practices



es that fully support all students, families, and staff.

Student Support As part of its commitment to student wellness in and out of the classroom, Aldine ISD expanded its partnership with Communities In Schools of Houston (CIS). The nonprofit is bringing student support specialists onto more campuses for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, we have officially moved into the third year of our plan to raise reading achievement, launched a new framework for our multilingual learners, and expanded the EMERGE College Prep Program to all Aldine ISD high schools.

Team Member Support To support our hardworking educators and team members, we issued one-time checks to all employees to thank them for their services during the pandemic. The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees also approved a one-time COVID vaccination incentive for fully-vaccinated employees.

MISSION-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

The Holdsworth Center Leadership Program

Aldine ISD leaders completed the two-year District Leadership Program through The Holdsworth Center. In 2019, Aldine ISD was selected to participate in The district's five-year partnership with The Holdsworth Center, whose focus is helping public school districts grow their pipeline of inspiring leaders. The learning journey includes sessions with some of the nation's top leadership experts and site visits to study high-performing organizations in the U.S. and abroad.

School Meals The AISD Child Nutrition Services (CNS) ranked second in the Houston Area in the Kroger and Children

at Risk's School Food Rankings, which evaluated how school districts across Texas provide meals to low-income area school children. The focus is on meal participation rates and after-school meal programs offered in each district. We are proud that Aldine's CNS Department went the extra mile to address food insecurity needs in their communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Technology

The pandemic revealed the disparity of children who lack internet access and computers at home. Every student needs access to information and technology. One-to-one (1:1) technology in schools is critical to creating more equitable learning environments, ensuring that every student has the resources. The pandemic accelerated our district's 1:1 technology focus — all 67,000 students that needed a device had one — accomplishing the feat within a year versus five to seven years.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

All The Things: The Aldine ISD Podcast

It's hard to believe, but the very first episode of our Aldine ISD podcast aired on January 8 of this year. Hosted by now Chief of Staff Sheleah Reed, the podcast has become a go-to in our community. It features everyone from Aldine team members to students to local community members.

Parent Education Aldine's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department launched a new program, Family and Community University. The free program is dedicated to empowering families to support students academically, socially, and emotionally. In addition, Aldine ISD partnered with Lone-Star Community College to provide English language literacy and GED opportunities for Aldine's parents. We are deeply invested in helping families in our community thrive.

Before closing, I want to remind everyone that the final day for Aldine ISD team members and students is **Friday, December 17. Team members will return on Monday, January 3, and students will return on Wednesday, January 5.** After the midwinter break, Aldine ISD plans to lift the mask mandate. We strongly encourage wearing face masks, especially for unvaccinated individuals, to minimize the spread of the virus. We also strongly encourage all eligible individuals to get vaccinated. The district will continue to monitor and work with community partners to help ensure our community is aware and has access to testing and vaccines.

I hope each of you feels pride in our district as you go into the midwinter break because I know I do. I want to thank each team member for their work this year.

During the break, I hope everyone — families and team members — takes time to recharge, read, rest, enjoy time with loved ones, and reflect on how far we have all come as a community.

With Aldine Pride and Joy,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **December 15-17:** Final/semester exams and early release for middle and high school students. High schools will dismiss at 11:10 a.m., and middle schools will begin dismissal at 12:00 p.m. For more information, click here.

• **Dec. 20-31:** Midwinter Break; Staff return to work on Jan. 3; Students will return to class on Jan. 5

OBSERVATIONS

Board Recognition Month

• **Jan. 13:** In-person ceremony for district winners of HLS&R School Art Contest.

• King Jr. Holiday

• **Jan. 24-28:** Holocaust Remembrance Week

February Black History Month

• School Counseling Week

• **Feb. 18:** Student Holiday; Staff Development/Work Day

• Day (Student Holiday; Staff Development/Work Day)

• **Feb. 22:** School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day

• Day — Theme is Love Your Heart Month

REMINDERS

• new cell phone guidelines for students. To learn more, click here.

• Aldine's Family and Community Engagement Department launched the Family and Community University. It 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.

• school seniors to apply for financial aid to graduate. The FAFSA application opened on October 1.

• Aldine ISD's top priorities continue to be all students' safety and academic success. The district will post all information related to 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 great things happening in our district. You can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Now Scheduling
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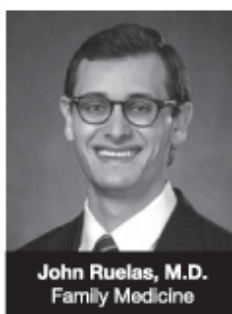
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Adam Mitchell, M.D.
Internal Medicine



John Ruelas, M.D.
Family Medicine



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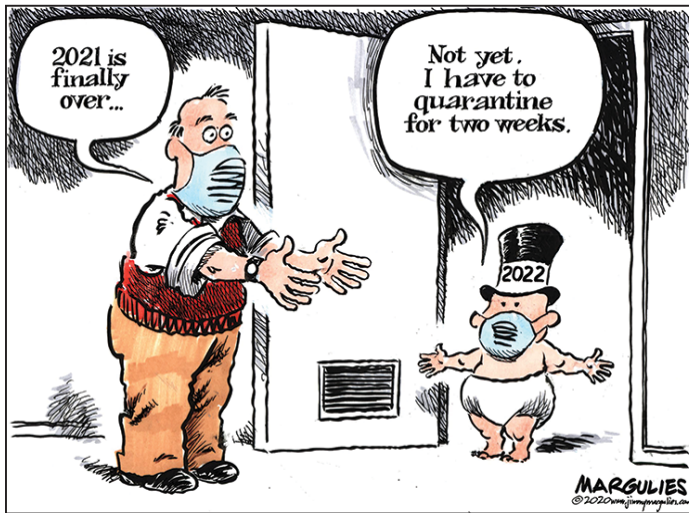
★ OPINION PAGE ★

Americanisms



“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.”
— Vern McLellan

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★ THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Bad Jokes

My Uncle Andy recently turned 90, and it was hard to imagine what a guy would like for his 90th birthday.

At 90, getting a lot of new stuff doesn't sound very appealing. Andy is in the process of getting rid of stuff, a job made more challenging by the fact that neither he nor his wife, Bea, have any children to fob the stuff off on. Andy and Bea live in the farmhouse where my mom was raised, and we were stumped when the subject of a 90th birthday present came up.

“What does Andy like?” I asked my mom.

“Bad jokes,” my mom answered.

“How about a book of bad jokes? We could make one as a family.”

So I put out the call for bad jokes on the family Facebook page. At first, I heard nothing. I don't know many jokes, and I was worried I'd have to make a joke book by myself in time for the party in the small country church near the old farmhouse.

Then I got an email from my cousin Sarah.

What do you call a deer with one eye?

A one-eyed deer.

What do you call a deer with no eyes?

No eye deer!

And the floodgates were opened.

Q: What's brown and sticky?

A: A stick.

Who's bigger? Mr. Bigger or Mr. Bigger's Baby?

Mr. Bigger's Baby! He's just a little bigger.

I was flooded with jokes. I got shaggy dog jokes, knock-knock jokes, and Ole and Lena jokes. I got lots of jokes about farms since Andy is a retired farmer.

What did the cow say to the calf? “It's pasture bedtime.”

Before it was over, I had a book filled with terrible jokes sent in by Andy's family. I was glad we had done it, glad my family had come through, glad they'd all chipped in to give Andy something to laugh about on the occasion of his 90th.

The New Year is upon us, and I don't think I'm the only one who needs a little more to laugh about. I usually have no trouble finding the upside, but lately there seems to be more bad news than I can process in any given day.

It's easy to believe, looking out on the gray weather and reading the dire news, that this year might not bring all the good things I hope for, that this year might let me down, that there might not be as much to look forward to as there has been in past years.

And I guess that's where bad jokes come in.

Andy broke his leg not too long ago and is still using a walker to get around. We wonder how long he and Bea will be able to stay at the old farmhouse, outside of town on a lonely country road. But as I sat there watching Bea and Andy laughing at terrible jokes and eating birthday cake, I realized they understood all of this.

Because most of what makes a good year good, and a bad year bad, has nothing to do with the big picture. Most of it has to do with how I feel and behave in any given day, at any given moment. And sometimes, all that is needed to change that moment is a reason to laugh. Sometimes all that is needed is to laugh for no reason at all.

People say they pick their nose, but I feel I was born with mine.

For no reason at all, that made my day.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

top ten

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. Exercise more
2. Save money
3. Eat healthier
4. Lose weight
5. Reduce stress
6. Get more sleep
7. Stick to budget
8. Grow spiritually
9. Travel more
10. Learn new skill

Source: yougov.com

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with Slim Randles

Changing that dang year...

“And that's another thing,” Herb said, with finality, “Changing that dang year on everything we write, every January. Goes against human nature.”

“Well I might just have an answer to your problem, Herb,” said Doc, sipping and dunking and stirring. “Why don't we, here at the philosophy counter, pick out a year we like and stick with it? Date everything we do with that year. It might start a movement, you never know.”

Steve looked up from his coffee and twitched his voluminous mustache then twitched it again to make sure he got it right the first time.

“So Doc,” he said, “you're saying we should just pick a year and live with it? Okay, so which year would you pick?”

“I think it would have more of an effect if it would be the same year for all of us here. My choice of year might not agree with yours, you know.”

“I was thinking of 19 and 87, myself,” said Steve. “Won the team roping that year. Got it on my belt buckle.”

“There you go. You got the right idea, Pard. Herb, how about you?”

“Dog died. In '87, I mean. Just woke up one morning and there she was, dead. I couldn't do '87.”

“Sorry, Herb. Dud?”

“Haven't got to that year yet, Doc,” Dud said. “It'll be the year I finish that darn book.”

We all nodded.

“If that there favor-ite year comes in the bowels of the chicken yard, like it says in the Farmer's Almanac, that'd be good, doncha think?”

Doc nodded. “And which year would that be, Windy?”

“Ain't sure. Don't have no Farmer's Almanac at the moment.”

“Let's get some more coffee and give it some thought,” said Herb.

“I'll second that,” said Steve.

“Can't,” said Windy. “Ain't been firsted yet.”

Brought to you by the genuine cowboy music and musings of Steve Cormier up in New Mexico's Sandia Mountains. Check him out at stevecormier.net.

★ STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



State steps up DUI enforcement during holidays

The Texas Department of Transportation has kicked off its statewide “Drive Sober. No Regrets” drunk driving prevention program for the holidays. Throughout the month, TxDOT has released videos of people who deal with the daily consequences of driving while impaired, either as an offender or survivor.

The stories and facts about drunk driving can be found at SoberRides.org.

“It is our hope that these moving, first-hand accounts will encourage all of us to make the right choice and not ever drive after drinking or doing anything that can alter our judgment,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “We don't want to turn a happy time of year into one that could be marked by tragic loss caused by someone's poor decision to drink and drive.”

During the December holiday season last year, there were 2,462 DUI-alcohol related traffic accidents, killing 93 people and seriously injuring 215.

TEXAS TO DISTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL \$123.3 MILLION IN ED FUNDING

The state will invest an additional \$123.3 million in federal funds provided through pandemic relief legislation.

“The state of Texas remains committed to students and their success in our education systems — that includes ensuring parents have an option to send their kids to a high-quality charter school and providing direct support to families with children who have special needs,” Gov. Greg Abbott said.

This final round of funding includes money for students with severe cognitive disabilities; charter school grants; financial aid for nursing students; short-term credential training for front-line health care

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

workers; initiatives to improve student enrollment and retention; financial aid programs for higher education; cybersecurity enhancement; and aid for those seeking commercial driver license training.

“For some of our most at-risk students, this significant new round of funding will prioritize getting families across Texas direct access to special education and other targeted supplemental services to support their children's varied educational needs,” said Mike Morath, Texas education commissioner.

USED VEHICLE PRICES AT RECORD HIGHS

The average listing price for a used vehicle topped \$27,000 for the first time, according to a report from Cox Automotive. A primary reason, according to a story in the San Antonio Express-News, is the relative scarcity of new vehicles because of supply-chain disruptions and an initial drop in demand when the pandemic struck.

For example, Toyota stopped production at all its plants across North America and in Southeast Asia, except for its San Antonio factory. The company had hoped to return to full production in December but has again suspended work at some plants as a shortage of computer chips has stymied vehicle production.

The spike in used vehi-

cle prices has benefitted car owners looking to sell.

“With the way the market is right now, I've seen people make money on their vehicles, especially with diesel. It's crazy,” Zachary Gilman, a salesman at the Jordan Ford dealership in Live Oak, told the Express-News.

MORE FUNDING FOR OPERATION LONE STAR

The state's Public Safety Office has awarded an additional \$38.4 million in funding to cities and counties along the Texas-Mexico border for law enforcement efforts. That amount doubles the funding provided for those counties since last March.

The funding is for specialized law enforcement equipment, labor costs including overtime, construction of additional communication towers and increased jail capacity and travel costs for law enforcement personnel from non-border counties that provide assistance.

“This additional funding will strengthen our response to the border crisis and ensure our law enforcement and local partners have the resources they need to keep our communities safe in the federal government's absence,” Abbott said.

COVID-19 CASES SPIKE; OMICRON VARIANT SPREADS

As Texans continue to navigate life during a nearly two-year pandemic, the number of new cases of COVID-19 rose during the past week to 51,479, an increase of 41% from the previous week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The number of new deaths dropped to 266, a decrease of 44%, however. Researchers have said that while the omicron variant is more contagious than the delta variant that sparked the last wave, its symptoms thus far are not as severe.

The number of lab-confirmed hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients stayed at about the same level as the previous week, with 3,376 reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated stood at 16.36 million as of Sunday, which is 56.1% of the state's population. In addition, 4.35 million of the state's residents have received an additional dose, according to DSHS.

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

top ten

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

1. Christmas movies
2. Christmas tree
3. Holiday decorating
4. Hang mistletoe, stockings
5. Christmas dinner
6. Bake cookies
7. Exchange gifts
8. Christmas cards
9. Elf on the Shelf
10. Christmas music

Source: minted.com
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COACH OF THE YEAR: Richard Slater takes Nimitz back to the playoffs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This year was a confidence booster and we'll stress that during the off-season and spring training," he said. "When we play together as a team, good things happen for us. I'm very optimistic going into next year."

Slater has more than 30 years of experience as a coach and says he has no plans of slowing down. He said he loves coaching.

"No, I never get tired of it (coaching) because I like working with kids," Slater said.

Slater said working for Joseph, perhaps the best high school coach in Texas, was a dream come true for a high school football coach. He said he learned so much from Joseph during his nine years at Katy.

"Those nine years were an excellent experience," Slater said. "Gary was a great mentor. I think he's the best coach at any level

in Texas and I mean that. From his organizational skills to the way he coaches and teaches is just amazing. I learned how to run the 3-4 defense from Gary and how he runs a program."

While he enjoyed his time in Katy, he's very happy to be coaching in Aldine, where he said he appreciates all the support he receives from the Aldine ISD administration and the athletic department.

"There are so many good people in Aldine," Slater said. "Dr (Superintendent LaTonya M.) Goffney is such a strong proponent of athletics and I appreciate her support. Our athletic department does a great job of supporting all of us coaches and I can't thank them enough for what they've done for our program."

It sounds like Slater wants to stick around for a good while, and that should be just fine with Nimitz High football fans.

Aldine ISD Mask Requirement to Remain in Effect Until Further Notice

Due to an upward trend in local COVID cases, Aldine ISD has determined that its mask requirement will remain in effect until further notice. Upon return from the holiday, the district will continue to require students, staff, and visitors to wear face masks at all district facilities and events.

Superintendent LaTonya M. Goffney said that all pandemic-related decisions are based on the data and facts available to Aldine ISD, and the district will continue to prioritize safety while never sacrificing learning.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, every decision we have made has been for the safety and well-being of our Aldine ISD community," she said. "We will continue to adjust our protocols as appropriate and are confident that we will get through this pandemic together. Please continue to protect yourself and others by taking precautionary measures to



prevent infection of all viruses, including COVID-19: wash your hands often, cover your coughs and sneezes and keep a safe distance from others."

While the COVID-19 vaccine is not required, the district encourages all eligible students and staff to get vaccinated. AISD will continue to work with community partners to help ensure the community is educated and has access to testing and vaccines.

The district will continue to monitor local and school cases to further adjust health and safety pro-

ocols as appropriate. Aldine ISD's COVID-19 dashboard will also continue to be updated daily with active lab-confirmed cases of Aldine staff and students who have been in district schools and facilities. District health and safety protocols can be found on the Health Alerts page. Harris County provides COVID-19 Testing Centers to meet the needs of the community.

Aldine ISD will resume testing for COVID-19 at select campuses on January 5

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SPORTS PAGE

NFL regular season comes to an end and that's a good thing for the Texans

to crow about in the next three to four years.

The Texans will close out the 2021 season on Sunday at NRG Stadium when they host the Tennessee Titans. Don't expect the Titans to look past the Texans like the Chargers did two weeks ago when they slept-walked through a 41-29 loss in a game they needed to win. If you look up the word underachievers in the dictionary, you'll probably find the Chargers picture next to it! How does a team that is in the hunt for a AFC Wild Card slot play as poorly as the Chargers did against the Texans?

Don't expect Mike Vrabel's Titans to fall into that trap on Sunday. The Titans have the Colts breathing down their necks in the AFC South, and they will probably need to win this game to win the division for a second straight season.

There are a number of other key games on this final weekend. New England travels to Miami to face a hot Dolphins team that won its seventh straight game two weeks ago on Monday Night Football with a dominant defensive performance against the Saints. While the Dolphins kept their playoff hopes alive, Bill Belichick's Patriots suffered a 33-21 home loss to Buffalo to fall into second place in the AFC East. Assuming they took care of Jacksonville last week at home, the winner of the Pats will look to wrap up a playoff spot for the first time since a guy named Brady was playing QB for them.

Pittsburgh visit Baltimore and both could be on the outside looking in for the playoffs. Cincinnati appears to be the cream of the crop in the AFC North this year and the Steelers and Ravens have struggled down the stretch. If Baltimore is once again without star quarterback Lamar Jackson, the Ravens could be thinking about 2022 instead of prepping for the playoffs this year. This could very well be Ben Roethlisberger's swan song with the Steelers and in the NFL. He has not played well down the stretch and his age is showing. Big Ben has hinted that this may be it for him, but going out with a win over their hated rivals would send him into retirement on a high. Speaking of the Bengals, they will visit Cleveland on Sunday with a chance to go from



worst to first in the AFC North if they can defeat the Browns. Cincinnati is an up and coming team, and it will be interesting to see how this young and talented team will handle a tough road game that has huge implications.

The Cowboys, who wrapped up the NFC East two weeks ago before they even took the field in their 56-14 demolishing of the Washington Football Team, travels to Philadelphia to take on an Eagles team that is still alive in the NFC Wild Card race. Don't expect Dallas to sit its starters in this one because they are still in the hunt for one of the top two seeds in the NFC playoffs, plus Jerry Jones' team would like nothing more than to stick it to Philly, considering there is no love loss between these two rivals.

Before we take a look at those games and a handful of others, let's review the record. A 6-4 record from our last meeting brought the season record to 103-58 (64%). This will be my last picks column of the year, but I will be back later this month with a preview of this year's Super Bowl.

Now, onto this weekend's games.

□NFL

Cincinnati at Cleveland: The Bengals have been one of the surprise teams of the NFL, while the Browns have been somewhat of a disappointment this year. After making the playoffs last year, the Browns were supposed to take the next step and become serious Super Bowl contenders. But injuries to key players, and a COVID 19 outbreak has the Browns limping into this game. They will need to win this game and get some help if they hope for a second straight playoff berth. The Bengals have one of the best young QBs in the league in Joe Burrow (4,165 yards, 30 TDs), a productive runner in Joe Mixon (1,159 yards, 13 TDs) and two big-play wide

receivers in rookie Ja'Marr Chase (68 receptions, 1,113 yards, 10 TDs) and vet Tee Higgins (71 receptions, 1,029 yards, 6 TDs). Two weeks ago in their 41-21 route of Baltimore, Burrow threw for 525 yards and four touchdowns. The second-year QB became one of only four QBs in the history of the NFL to throw for more than 500 yards in a single game (the other three are Warren Moon, Norm Van Brocklin and Matt Schaub). While the Bengals were winning at home two weeks ago, the Browns dropped a hard-fought 24-22 decision at Green Bay. QB Baker Mayfield (2,825 yards, 15 TDs/11 interceptions) threw four picks in the game and he will need a big day from running back Nick Chubb (1,143 yards, 8 TDs) if the Browns are going to spoil Cincinnati's day. It says here the Bengals continue to grow up with a big road win come Sunday. My pick, Cincinnati 26, Cleveland 23

Dallas at Philadelphia: The Cowboys are piquing at just the right time. The defense is forcing turnovers and the offense appears to be back on track after their 56-point explosion two weeks ago against the Washington Football Team. In the 42-point win, QB Dak Prescott (3,928 yards, 29 TDs) tossed four passes, one to left tackle Terrence Steele, while defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence returned an interception for a TD and the special teams blocked a punt that resulted in six points. Look for the Cowboys to give the Eagles a steady dose of Ezekiel Elliott (899 yards, 12 total TDs), and once the run is established Prescott will look to make plays in the passing game to CeeDee Lamb (70 receptions, 1,006 yards, 6 TDs) and Amari Cooper (60 receptions, 768 yards, 7 TDs). The Dallas defense will have its hands full trying to contain Philly QB Jalen Hurts (2,930 yards, 16 TDs/740 rushing yards, 10 TDs), who is a dual threat. Look for the Dallas defense to once again answer the call as the Cowboys go streaking into the playoffs. My pick, Dallas 31, Phila-

delphia 20

New England at Miami: Midway through the season, the Patriots ran off seven straight wins, but then suffered back-to-back losses to the Colts and Bills, while the Dolphins won seven straight after a 1-7 start. Belichick knows his team needs to win this one to carry some momentum into the playoffs. That might be asking a lot of rookie QB Mac Jones (3,313 yards, 18 TDs), who has struggled as of late. Look for Belichick to feature the funning game against a Miami defense that recorded eight sacks two weeks ago in their win over the Saints. Running back Damien Harris (857 yards, 12 TDs) scored three times in the Buffalo loss. The Dolphins will once again rely on QB Tua Tagovailoa (2,339 yards, 15 TDs) and spectacular rookie wide receiver Jalen Waddle (96 receptions, 941 yards, 5 TDs). This game will feature one of the league's best defenses, so expect a hard-fought, defensive battle. The Dolphins are the hotter team and they will continue to roll come Sunday. My pick, Miami 20, New England 17

New Orleans at Atlanta: Two teams that are still mathematically alive in the NFC playoff hunt, but barely. NO has issues at QB, so look for running back Alvin Kamara (720 rushing yards, 4 TDs/40 receptions, 355 yards, 4 TDs) to get a lot of work on Sunday in Atlanta. The Falcons will look for a big game from veteran QB Matt Ryan (2,370 yards, 19 TD) rookie tight end Kyle Pitts (64 receptions, 947 yards, 1 TD) and the versatile Cordarrelle Patterson (579 rushing yards, 11 total TDs). The Saints looked like a beaten down team two weeks ago in their loss at home to Miami. My pick, Atlanta 26, New Orleans 22

New York Jets at Buffalo: This should be a coronation for the Bills because if they win this game, they wrap up the AFC East title for a second straight year. QB Josh Allen (4,048 yards, 34 TDs) should have another big day like he did in Buffalo's 33-21 win at New England two weeks ago. Look for another big day from wide receiver Stefon Diggs (89 receptions, 1,092 yards, 9 TDs), while the Bills defense will make it a long day for Jets rookie QB Zach Wilson. My pick, Buffalo 34, New York Jets 10

Pittsburgh at Balti-

more: These two teams were supposed to battle it out for the AFC North when the season began, but now it appears they will be simply playing out the season when they meet in Baltimore on Sunday afternoon. Two weeks ago, the Steelers were embarrassed in Kansas City, 36-10, as Roethlisberger (3,373 yards, 20 TDs) had a rough day. Pittsburgh will need a big day from rookie running back Najee Harris (984 rushing yards, 6 TDs/67 receptions, 422 yards, 1 TD) if they hope to win their finale. The Ravens have been decimated by injuries, most notably to quarterback Lamar Jackson (2,882 passing yards, 16 TDs/767 rushing yards, 2 TDs). Jackson has missed his team's last two games and who knows if his ankle will be healed to give it a go this week. Even if Jackson doesn't play, look for the Ravens defense to be the difference maker in this one as they get after Big Ben and a suspect Pitt offensive line. My pick, Baltimore 27, Pittsburgh 23

Tennessee at Houston: The Texans upset the Titans in Tennessee in October and even upset the Chargers at home two weeks ago, but I don't see David Culley's team making it two in a row over Tennessee come Sunday. The Titans must win this game to hold off the Colts to win the AFC South, so expect Vrabel to treat this game like a playoff game. He will need quarterback Ryan Tannehill (3,327 yards, 15 TDs) to make plays down field to wide receiver A.J. Brown (57 receptions, 760 yards, 4 TDs), while the defense will look to harass Texans rookie QB Davis Mills (2,200 yards, 12 TDs) all afternoon. My pick, Tennessee 31, Houston 13

Kansas City at Denver: The Chiefs will look to continue their hot roll when they close out the regular season at Denver. Two weeks ago, the Chief won their eighth straight game with a convincing 36-10 win at home against the Steelers. After a slow start to the season, quarterback Patrick Mahomes (4,310 yards, 33 TDs) looks like one of the top two signal callers in the league. He should have another big day making plays down field to speedy WR Tyreek Hill (104 receptions, 1,197 yards, 9 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (83 receptions, 1,066 yards, 7 TDs). Kelce missed the Pitts-

burgh game after testing positive for COVID 19, but he should be back for this one. The Chiefs will look to secure the top seed in the AFC, so expect head coach Andy Reid to play his starters until they put this one out of reach, which should be midway through the third quarter. My pick, Kansas City 34, Denver 17

Los Angeles Chargers at Las Vegas: Let's see if the Chargers show up for this game, because they sure as heck didn't two weeks ago when they were blown out by the Texans, 41-29. Both teams are still alive in the AFC playoff hunt, and the Chargers will need a big day from QB Justin Herbert (4,394 yards, 33 TDs), running back Austin Ekeler (789 rushing yards, 10 TDs/62 receptions, 558 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Keenan Allen (96 receptions, 1,042 yards, 5 TDs). The Raiders will rely on QB Derrick Carr (4,363 yards, 20 TDs) and productive wide receiver Hunter Renfro (92 receptions, 949 yards, 6 TDs). I think the loss to the Texans will serve as a wake up call for the Chargers as they respond with a solid effort in Vegas come Sunday. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 31, Las Vegas 26

San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams: The Rams are as hot as any team in the NFC and would like nothing more than to keep the 49ers from earning a playoff spot. Quarterback Matthew Stafford (4,339 yards, 36 TDs) will once again make plays to spectacular wide receiver Cooper Kupp (132 receptions, 1,734 yards, 14 TDs), but he will be facing a tough 49ers defense. Look for Stafford to give running back Sony Michel (725 yards, 3 TDs) plenty of totes early to take keep the 49ers from unleashing its solid pass rush. Michel has played well down the stretch and give an explosive Rams offense one more weapon for defenses to deal with. The 49ers hope QB Jimmy Garoppolo's (3,494 yards, 19 TDs) injured thumb is fully healed heading into this game. Jimmy G will look to make plays to Deebo Samuel (301 rushing yards, 7 TDs/70 receptions, 1,247 yards, 5 TDs) and dependable tight end George Kittle (65 receptions, 871 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the Rams to continue their late season roll as they go streaking into the playoffs. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 33, San Francisco 26

Aldine ISD Announces the 2022 Campus Teachers of the Year

During the Fall semester, each Aldine ISD school chooses a Campus Teacher of the Year. In February, a committee names six as District Finalists based upon their written applications. The six finalists are invited to interview with the district coordinating committee and are honored at the Aldine ISD Educators of the Year Breakfast in March.

During the breakfast, one of the finalists is announced as Elementary Teacher of the Year and one is announced as Secondary Teacher of the Year. The Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year will both represent Aldine ISD in the Region 4 Teacher of the Year Contest that occurs during the summer.



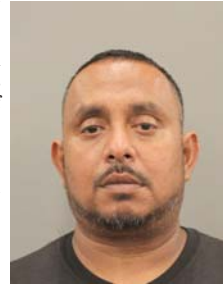
Breanna Jagodzinski, center, was named Aldine ISD's Elementary Teacher of the Year during the Aldine ISD Educator of the Year Breakfast, held Friday, March 12 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Pictured with Breanna are, (l-r): Pastor David L. Smith, Past President of the Aldine Education Foundation (AEF), Elementary School Assistant Superintendent Dr. Crystal Watson, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Aldine ISD Board President Paul Shanklin and Paul Griffin with Amplify.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Suspect Arrested, Charged in Shooting at 3701 Parker Road

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the shooting of a man at 3701 Parker Road about 7:30 p.m. on Thursday (Dec. 16).

The suspect, Reuben Ramdeo (H/m, 44), is charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the 339th State District Court. A booking photo of Ramdeo is attached to this news release.



Reuben Ramdeo

The victim, 28, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division Officers A. Barker and A. Velazquez reported:

Officers were dispatched to a shooting call at a business at the above address and were advised the victim got into an argument with a suspect who pulled a gun and shot the victim in the chest. The suspect, identified as Ramdeo, was detained by patrol officers and taken into custody. Paramedics transported the victim to the hospital.

Ramdeo was booked into jail and subsequently charged for his role in the incident.

Congratulations to the 2022 Campus Teachers of the Year!

EC/PK/K SCHOOLS

- de Santiago Primary Cecilia Losoya
- Garcia-Leza Primary Silvana Rendon
- Griggs Primary Sonia Cedillo
- Hinojosa Primary Elizabeth Mendez
- Jones Primary Joan Justin-George
- Keeble Primary Edna Trejo
- Kujawa Primary Lucila Alcarese
- Magrill Primary Janet Marroquin
- Reece Academy Lakrisha Dixon-Abdalla
- Stovall Primary Gina Mann
- Vardeman Primary Linda Nigro
- Vines Primary Yanelli Lopez

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Anderson Academy DeVon Thomas
- Black Elementary Valeria Landaverde
- Bussey Elementary Mariel Nieto
- Calvert Elementary Cristina Ramirez
- Caraway Elementary Shawn Singleton
- Carmichael Elementary Maria Gomez Rodriguez
- Carroll Elementary Martha Cuvillier
- Carter Academy Nohemi Deleon
- Conley Elementary Maria Alvarado
- Cypresswood Elementary Tanya Ashford
- Dunn Elementary Sonja Payne
- Eckert Elementary Damion Allen
- Ermel Elementary Elizabeth Cardozo
- Escamilla Elementary Morgan Delaney

- Francis Elementary Tiffani Gaston
- Goodman Elementary Carolina Hernandez
- Gray Elementary Derriere Williams
- Greenspoint Elementary Emily Young-Clohesy
- Harris Elementary Kindell Reynolds
- Hill Elementary Wilhemina McCraw
- Houston Academy Brenda Villarreal
- Johnson Elementary Shaina Shaw
- Jones Elementary Glennora Benjamin
- Kujawa Elementary Chantil Gill
- Marcella Elementary Magdalena Ruiz
- Odom Elementary Sara Dewitt
- Ogden Elementary Allester Taylor
- Oleson Elementary Jordy Rios
- Orange Grove Elementary Reyna Villarreal
- Raymond Elementary Jacoby Bobb
- Reed Academy Virginia Menchaca
- Sammons Elementary Pamela Golden
- Smith Elementary Cassandra Monson
- Spence Elementary Charlotta Floyd
- Stehlik Elementary Maricela Garcia
- Stephens Elementary Hayla Fobbs
- Thompson Elementary Likitia Johnson
- Wilson Elementary Brian Worrell
- Worsham Elementary Irma Patton

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Aldine Middle Christopher Robinson
- Drew Academy Carissa Clohesy
- Garcia Middle Tim Bradberry
- Grantham Academy Diana Sususco

- Hambrick Middle Kirrah Washington
- Hoffman Middle Bethany Leadon
- Jones Middle Mikalah Brashear
- Lewis Middle Michael Arratia
- Mead Middle Samuel Rogers
- Plummer Middle Latrice Sumuel
- Shotwell Middle Naticka Seymour
- Stovall Middle Adrian Thronburg
- Teague Middle Bryan Moore
- Young Women's Leadership Academy Barbara Garcia-Powell

NINTH GRADE SCHOOLS

- Aldine Ninth Grade Fredric Navarre
- Davis Ninth Grade Rachel James
- Eisenhower Ninth Grade Shanique Kelly
- MacArthur Ninth Grade Sadie Henderson (Crampton)
- Nimitz Ninth Grade Isis Gardner

HIGH SCHOOLS

- Knippel Education Center Lenora Jones-Smith
- Aldine Senior High School Monica Merchant
- Avalos P-TECH School Jonathan Duncan
- Blanson CTE High School Marvin Alexander Jr.
- Carver High School Jessica Collier
- Davis Senior High School Daryle Freeman
- Eisenhower Senior High School Chukuyem Mokobia
- Lane School Sonja Stapleton
- MacArthur Senior High School Mackenzie Cho
- Nimitz Senior High School Siobhan Burns
- Victory Early College High School Ronshon Jeffery
- Hall Success Academy Kenton Barnett
- La Promesa Efrain Zavala

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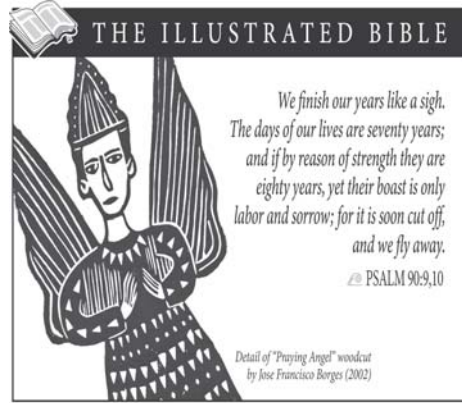
BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Psalms in the Old testament or New Testament or neither?
2. From 2 Chronicles 26, at what age did Uzziah become king of Jerusalem? 16, 30, 65, 99
3. In Genesis 4, who did God ask, "Why is thy countenance fallen?" Eve, Ahaz, Cain, Esau
4. Which prophet saw the Lord's angel riding on a red horse? Hosea, Nathan, Zechariah, Isaiah

5. Who was the first person to build an altar unto the Lord? Abraham, Noah, Artaxerxes, Levi
6. From Exodus 33 who/what saw the back of God? Adam, The serpent, Abraham, Moses

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 16; 3) Cain; 4) Zechariah; 5) Noah; 6) Moses
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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Detail of "Praying Angel" woodcut by Jose Francisco Borges (2002)
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NORTHEAST NEWS

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Find out how it can affect you.

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- Medicare benefits many retirees may not be aware of

We are not connected with, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare Program. Plans to enhance Medicare are subject to the approval of the U.S. Social Security Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services. ©2021

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Office Assistant training offered at HCC North Forest Campus

HOUSTON (Dec. 14, 2021) - Recognizing the shortage of skilled workers and the availability of numerous office jobs, Houston Community College (HCC) has added an opportunity for the community to obtain basic office and administrative skills at the North Forest Campus, 6010 E. Little York Road, Houston, Texas 77016. Area residents can enroll in the business technology program that begins January 18. Courses that can be applied to a certificate or degree are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays

in the hybrid format, which is a combination of online and in-person classes. The business technology menu of courses is designed to prepare students to read, speak, and write proficiently as well as use appropriate tools and processes such as records management, accounting fundamentals, and software applications in word processing, spreadsheet, database, and presentations to manage information. Students will also apply keyboarding and document processing skills to specific office applications. Upon completion of the program, students will be prepared for work as administrative assistants or in other office positions across Houston. For residents living near the North Forest Campus needing to retool, upgrade their office skills, or enter a new field, business technology training can serve as the pathway to the workforce or a higher degree in business administration. For more information, call 713-718-5868 or visit hccs.edu/northforestcampus.

HCC receives \$750,000 grant for women-owned business success program

HOUSTON (December 8, 2021) —Houston Community College has received a \$750,000 grant from Wells Fargo to fund an Open for Business program aimed at empowering women-owned businesses in the Houston region. The grant is part of a \$420-million small business recovery effort undertaken by Wells Fargo to assist nonprofit and educational organizations to assist women of color in overcoming longstanding obstacles to entrepreneurship. “We are delighted to broaden our programs to help women succeed in owning and operating businesses,” said Maya Durnovo, HCC’s chief entrepreneurial officer, noting the program has a particular focus on African American, Indo-American, Hispanic, Asian and Na-

tive American women. The program offers vital help with business plan preparation, financial and credit counseling, marketing knowledge, as well as business advising and coaching that can help to level the playing field for traditionally underrepresented groups. Indeed, while Houston enjoys a generally business-friendly environment for entrepreneurship, studies have shown that women and underrepresented women in particular face hurdles in starting and running businesses. A recent study showed that minority-owned businesses are denied loans at three times the rate of non-minority firms, for instance. “We can only imagine what kinds of businesses might have taken off, what products consumers might have enjoyed and what re-

turns might have been realized had women and people of color enjoyed equal access to capital and opportunity,” Durnovo said. Already, the Open for Business Program — led by Director Tamala Austin — is staffed and seminars are underway throughout the community. More than 165 women have registered in the program. A recent event was held in conjunction with the Consulate of Mexico in Houston and included more than three dozen Hispanic women seeking business advice. The latest grant from Wells Fargo comes on top of other donations provided to HCC by the bank over the past 15 years for various entrepreneurship programs. To learn more about the program, visit Open For Business or 713-718-8871.

Lone Star College connects students with technology



Lone Star College is providing students with loaner laptops and iPads to help them start close and go far.

Houston (Dec. 16, 2021) – Having the proper technology is more important than ever for students looking to better their lives. The Lone Star College TechConnect program offers digital resources such as HP laptops and Apple iPads for students enrolled in the spring semester. “This equipment is loaned to any Lone Star College student who does not have the resources or means to own it themselves,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC Chancellor. “These devices are provided like a library book and are available to registered LSC students.” Access to this kind of technology is vital for students in higher education. The U.S. Dept. of Education reports that online learning opportunities and the use of open education-

al resources and other technologies can increase educational productivity by accelerating the rate of learning. LSC is also providing free use of Office 365 on compatible personal devices. With Office 365, students have access to the latest version of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and more. “The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed higher education and the tools needed for students to be successful,” said Head. “We remain committed to ensuring we provide the necessary means for students to complete their studies.” Visit LoneStar.edu/TechConnect to learn more on how to check out a device, access Office 365, apply for FASFA and register for spring semester classes.

Lone Star College offers high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education to 93,000+ students each semester. LSC is training tomorrow’s workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2021 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and ranked 35th in Texas in the Forbes ‘America’s Best Employers By State’ list. LSC consists of seven colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

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