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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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New Initiatives to fight Crime

Houston Mayor announces \$44 million "One Safe Houston"

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner has announced "One Safe Houston: the Mayor's Public Safety Initiative to Combat Violent Crime," which focuses on four key areas:

- Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention
- Crisis Intervention, Response and Recovery
- Youth Outreach Opportunities
- Key Community Partnerships.

The plan outlines a commitment to put more officers on the streets through overtime and cadet classes and creates a \$1 million gun buyback program. It also provides \$1.5 million in additional funding to the Houston Forensic Science Center to address backlogs and funds domestic violence programs with an additional \$3 million to provide more services for survivors and prevention efforts.

"This plan represents a holistic approach to combating violent crime on the streets while being responsive to the needs of victims and building healthier communities in



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announces "One Safe Houston" at a news conference last week.

the process," said Mayor Turner. "Law enforcement efforts alone will not sufficiently address the symptoms of crime. We are faced with a public health crisis, and it will require all of us, working together to overcome it."

Mayor Turner also announced:

- \$2.5 million for the implementation of the CURE Violence program in targeted communities. The Cure Violence model trains and deploys outreach workers and violence interrupters to mitigate conflict on the street before it turns violent. T
- Increased support for the Community Re-Entry

Network Program. The program helps formerly incarcerated individuals with successful community reintegration including workforce development, mental and behavioral health resources and housing and other basic needs referrals and resources. Reducing recidivism is critical for increasing long-term public health and safety and lowering corrections costs. The proposed \$1 million dollar increase will allow a 50% increase in participants to grow from 500 to 750 annually.

--A proposed ordinance

Continued. See Mayor's Crime Initiative, P. 8

Harris County allocates \$50mil for "Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods"

HARRIS COUNTY - County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia announced a Major Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Safety Initiative.

The Proposed \$50 million smart on crime program is to target areas with high rates of violent crime driven by gun violence.

Judge Lina Hidalgo revealed details of the new \$50 million proposal to prevent violent crime and improve neighborhood safety across Harris County. The new initiative will target distressed county neighborhoods where blight and neglect are driving violent crime. The program will improve street lighting, sidewalks, and visibility in residential areas, address longstanding blighted and abandoned structures, restore vacant lots, and implement other improvements shown to enhance public safety.

During Judge Hidalgo's tenure, commissioners court has increased the law enforcement budgets for every law enforcement



Judge Lina Hidalgo with Sheriff's deputies to announce the new "Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods" program.

agency, including the district attorney's office, by 13% since 2019. This brings the total funding for law enforcement in fiscal year 2022 alone to \$966 million.

CLEAN STREETS, SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

By Judge Lina Hidalgo

Harris County has passed a new \$50 million Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods program: a crime prevention and neighborhood safety program that uses data to target county neighborhoods where de-

cay and abandonment are driving violent crime. The program will improve street lighting, sidewalks, and visibility in residential areas, address longstanding blighted and abandoned structures, restore vacant lots, and implement other improvements shown to enhance public safety. We know this approach works due to studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Man-

Continued. See County Crime Program, page 8



Surprising Bengals take on Rams on LA's home turf in Super Bowl LVI

*By Mike Keeney
NEN Sports Writer*

If someone had told you the Cincinnati Bengals would be playing in Super Bowl 56, you might have questioned or wondered what substance they were on.

Well, the unimaginable has happened and the Bengals indeed are one game away from hoisting the Lombardi Trophy and taking it back to the Queen City.

Talk about a real-life Cinderella story!

No one in his or her right mind could have predicted that the Bengals, better known for decades as the Bungals for their poor play, would be facing the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl 56

on Sunday in SoFi Stadium in LA.

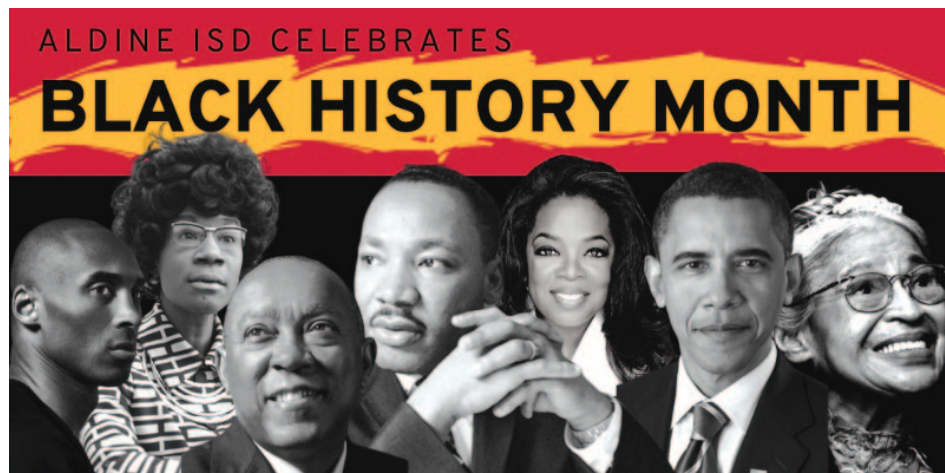
Cinci was 4-11-1 in 2020 and their best player, second-year quarterback Joe Burrow, was coming off a serious knee injury.

The Rams, on the other hand, have been one of the better teams in the NFC since head coach Sean McVay arrived in 2017. The Rams won the NFC in 2018 and lost to New England in SB 53, 13-3. After the 2020 season, when the Rams were eliminated by Green Bay in the division round of the NFC playoffs, McVay knew a change had to be made at quarterback and that's when he and the front office traded for former Detroit Lions QB Matthew Stafford.

Stafford became the final piece in the puzzle that lifted the Rams as a serious Super Bowl contender. The Rams have been loaded on offense but lacked a quarterback who could throw the long ball and Stafford can do just that.

In his first year with the Rams, Stafford threw for 4,886 yards and 41 touchdowns. In the playoffs, he's passed for 945 yards and six TDs in three games (the first three playoff games Stafford has ever won as a starting QB. He was 0-3 as a Lion). It has helped to have this year's best wide receiver in Cooper Kupp, who has had an

Continued. See Super Bowl LVI, Page 8



Aldine ISD Celebrates Black History Month

Schools across the district will celebrate the culture, traditions, and contributions of African Americans.

Aldine ISD will be celebrating Black History Month throughout the month of February.

Black History Month celebrates the achievements of African Americans and recognizes the prominent role of African Americans in U.S. history. Black History Month, created by American Historian Carter G. Woodson, originally began as Negro History Week. Since 1976, every U.S. President has

officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Black History Month is also celebrated in Canada and the United Kingdom.

Notable figures highlighted during Black History Month are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who fought for equal rights in the 50s and 60s; Mae Jemison, the first female African American astronaut to travel to space; John Lewis, an American politician and civil rights activist who served on the House of Representatives; and Kamala Harris, the first female vice president

of the United States, as well as the first African American and Asian American vice president.

This year, the national Black History Month theme focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.). Additionally, it focuses on the im-

Continued. See Black History Month, Page 2

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Aldine ISD Celebrates Black History Month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

portance of taking care of oneself — both physically and mentally. Initiatives to help decrease disparities have provided several outcomes, including having more diverse practitioners and representation in all segments of the medical and health fields.

Last year we focused on the legacy of prominent African Americans in our own community. We sat down with Aldine ISD Board President Randy Bates, Jr., Ms. Cathy Griggs, wife of the late Merlin D. Griggs, Sr., former Aldine ISD Trustee and Griggs EC/PK/K School Namesake and Ms. Marine Jones former Aldine ISD Trustee, employee, and Jones Middle School Namesake, to discuss legacy, service, and creating change on All The Things: The Aldine ISD Podcast.

These Aldine ISD history makers and legacy builders shared their stories and it is our hope that you take time to pause and celebrate the legacy builders and history makers here in Aldine ISD. Use their stories for inspiration, and look for ways to build your own legacy and make real change.

Listen to [All The Things: The Aldine ISD Podcast](#) on Apple Podcasts, Anchor, and Spotify.

You can listen to these podcast episodes:

Season 1 Episode 3: Legacy + Service with Board President Randy Bates, Jr.

Season 1 Episode 4: Legacy Builders & History Makers with Cathy Griggs and Marine Jones

Oratory Competition

The second annual Aldine ISD Black History Oratory Competition kicked off on January 24, 2022.

The competition will coincide with Black History Month in February and serve as a districtwide celebration. The competition is open to all Aldine ISD stu-

dents in grades 3-12. Each campus will host individual campus competitions before selecting the top winner at each campus.

Participating students will individually create a spoken presentation that relates to the theme, ChangeMakers.

In 3 to 5 minutes, students will describe how an African American leader has demonstrated leadership by inspiring others, connecting people of different cultures, and impacting change. [Learn More](#)

Ways to Celebrate

This year, District leaders will celebrate Black History Month with special events and activities held at the Donaldson Administration Building (DAB) and the Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center (BAM). This will include a book study, Black Heritage Day, a virtual panel on the importance of Black Health and Wellness, a celebration of HBCUs and Greek Letter organizations, student performances, soul food, music, dance, and much more.

Join us throughout the month by using hashtag #AldineBHM to share your Black History Month celebrations.

Below are ways you can celebrate and learn more about Black people, arts, culture, and food.

-- Celebrate World Read Aloud Day with author Tami Charles

-- Join bestselling author and former teacher Tami Charles to discuss the impact of bringing people together through story with the heartfelt picture book *All Because You Matter*, illustrated by Bryan Collier.

-- Delve into the fallacy that soul food was solely for eating. Instead, it was also for the soul, justice, community efforts, and so much more.

-- PBS: Black Culture Connection

HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES: Celebrating Black History Month

Jazz Concerts, Magic Shows, Poetic Performances, and more!

Tommy Terrific Presents a family friendly magic show that brings history to life. The Jalen Baker Trio performs live jazz music with tones from the vibraphone, bass, and drums. And The Apollo Chamber Players continue their Library Voyage with special guests including vocalist Kenneth Gayle, Houston Poet Laureate Outspoken Bean, and PVAM Music Professor Dr. John Cornelius.

LIVE JAZZ CONCERT - THE JALEN BAKER TRIO

Immerse yourself into the soothing sounds of jazz with three shows from The Jalen Baker Trio - DACAMERA Young Artist Jazz Ensemble-in-Residence. Featuring Jalen Baker, on the vibraphone, Nils Aardahl on bass, and Gavin Moolchan on drums. The members of the trio are the first emerging Houston-based jazz musicians to join DACAMERA's Young Artist Program, which seeks to encourage musicians to develop the skills necessary to become passionate, forward-thinking and community-focused "citizen artists."

CONCERT DATES:

High Meadows: Wednesday, February 16, 6:00 p.m.

Katy: Thursday, February 17, 6:00 p.m.

Spring Branch: Friday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.

LEARN ABOUT THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN WITH A MAGIC SHOW:

Join us as Tommy Terrific performs an in library magic show in celebration of The Tuskegee Airmen for African American History Month. This family-friendly, entertaining, and educational show will engage kids with magic themed around things that fly; from balloons, to planes, to rocket ships! Throughout the show, Tommy Terrific will explore the legacy and accomplishments of the



Tuskegee Airman, who defended our country during World War II as the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces.

MAGIC SHOW DATES:

Atascocita: Monday, February 7, 4:00 p.m.

Katy: Tuesday, February 8, 4:30 p.m.

High Meadows: Wednesday, February 9, 11:00 a.m.

North Channel: Wednesday, February 9, 4:00 p.m.

Cy Fair: Thursday, February 10, 10:30 a.m.

Aldine: February 10, 4:00 p.m.

APOLLO CHAMBER PLAYERS - LIVE CLASSICAL JAZZ MUSIC:

Apollo Chamber Players continues their Library Voyage series with HCPL and celebrates Black History Month with a multidisciplinary program of new music and poetry featuring Houston Poet Laureate Outspoken Bean, Professor of Music at Prairie-View A&M Dr. John Cornelius, and opera vocalist Kenneth Gayle.

Classical Music Concert Dates:
Freeman: Thurs, February 3, 6:00 p.m.
Tomball: Friday, February 18, 3:00 p.m.

Can't Attend? Join via Social Media!

Lone Star College celebrates Black History Month

Houston (Feb. 2, 2022) – The month of February has been designated as Black History Month to honor and celebrate the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. The observance began in 1926 when Carter G. Woodson specified a time to educate people about black history.

"Black History Month began as a way to remember the incredible contributions African Americans have made throughout the history of this country," said Carlecia Wright, Lone Star College Chief Diversity Officer. "This commemoration helps provide a deeper understanding by not only African Americans, but all people."

LSC joins the celebration with a series of Black History Month events at each of our campuses during the month, including a Fireside Chat with Dr.

Melanye Price, an Endowed Professor of Political Science at Prairie View A&M University and principle investigator for their African American Studies Initiative.

"Dr. Price is a dynamic speaker who was the 2017 Black History Month lecturer for the U.S. Embassy in Germany where she lectured at universities and community organizations across the country," said Wright.

Other events taking place in February include art shows, workshops, movies, fashion shows, food tastings, comedian performances and more. Visit [LoneStar.edu/BlackHistory](https://lonestar.edu/BlackHistory) for a complete list of activities highlighting the important role of African Americans in U.S. history and be sure follow LSC on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram for even more Black History highlights.

Black History Month celebrations at Lone Star College-North Harris

NORTHEAST HOUSTON – A calendar full of events is scheduled for February, highlighting Black History Month at Lone Star College-North Harris. The college is hosting in-person and virtual events to celebrate the history and achievements of Black history with the community, along with highlighting college staff through feature profiles.

The following events are hosted by LSC-North Harris and Lone Star College and are open and free to the public:

Tuesday, Feb. 1 – Monday, Feb. 28
Black History Month Displays
Library, First and Second Floor Display Cases

Thursday, Feb. 10
Black History Month Speaker with Dr. Melanye Price
2 – 3 p.m., Webex

Thursday, Feb. 10
Movie Night: Disney's Soul
6:30 p.m., Performing Arts Theater

Tuesday, Feb. 15
Febteenth: Juneteenth discussion with Professor Jon Wilson
2 – 3 p.m., CMED-101 or Webex

Thursday, Feb. 17
Conversations with the Past: Virtual Spoken Word Workshop
6 p.m., Webex

Thursday, Feb. 24
Mind Over Matter: Check Your Mental Health
2 p.m., Webex

Events hosted on LSC-North Harris' main campus are located at 2700 W. W. Thorne Drive in Houston. For more information and links to attend the virtual events, please visit [LoneStar.edu/BlackHistoryMonth](https://lonestar.edu/BlackHistoryMonth).

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

By Jennifer Nandlal Sr Adult Program Specialist

TOMMY TERRIFIC:

Tommy Terrific will be at High Meadows Library on February 9th at 11am to present a magical show about the Tuskegee Airmen. The show will feature magic tricks of things that fly, from balloons to planes to rocket ships in a very fun and engaging way. Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces.

DACAMERA PRESENTS THE JALEN BAKER TRIO:

DACAMERA and HCPL present a live performance by The Jalen Baker Trio at the High Meadows Library on Tuesday, February 15th at 6pm. Featuring Jalen Baker, vibraphone; with Nils Aardahl on bass and Gavin Moolchan on drums. The members of the trio are the first emerging Houston-based jazz musicians to join DACAMERA's Young Artist Program, which seeks to encourage musicians to develop the skills necessary to become passionate, forward-thinking, and community-focused citizen artists. This event is presented in celebration of African American History Month.

CELEBRATE MAE JEMISON WITH STEM ROCKET KITS

In honor of African American History Month, HCPL is celebrating Mae Jemison, the first African American woman astronaut! Stop by the library today to pick up a STEM Rocket kit while supplies last.

CELEBRATE ARTIST KEHINDE WILEY

Celebrate the work of artist Kehinde Wiley for African American History Month and pick up a paper craft inspired by Wiley's famous portraits.

UNO, DOS, TRES, BILINGUAL STORYTIME:

Come join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, and other fun! Presented in English and Spanish. No need to register, all ages are welcome. Bilingual Storytimes for February are scheduled for the following days and times:

February 15th at 11am.
February 17th at 1pm.

ART CLUB:

Introducing Art Club, a monthly art program for kids and tweens. Let your creative side shine as we explore different art styles. For kids of all ages.

STORYTIME:

Come join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, and more! Presented in English. No need to register, all ages are welcome. Storytimes for February are scheduled for the following days and times:

February 8th at 11am.
February 10th at 1pm.

February 22nd at 11am.

February 24th at 1pm.

TEEN EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY:

Thursdays at High Meadows we have some special teen programming. Join us for Origami paper crafting on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 3:30pm or stop by for Life Skills on the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 3:30pm.

CAREER CONNECTIONS:

Are you looking for a job or need help building your resume? High Meadows is launching an 8-week program to help you through the job search process. Classes begin in February and space is limited. Registration is required. Call the library today and register!

COMPUTER CLASSES:

Beginning in February, we will be offering computer classes with limited seating. Classes will cover computer basics and keyboarding skills. Stop by the library or call us to register today.

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

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

HCPL CONNECTED LAUNCH EVENT

The Harris County Public Library, in partnership with T-Mobile, is planning a Connected Launch Event to begin distributing FREE high-speed internet hotspots to eligible Harris County residents beginning Wednesday, February 9 at 3:30pm. Stop by the Aldine Branch Library (11331 Airline Drive) to learn more about this partnership and check out a device.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH MOVIE MATINEES

We are celebrating African American History Month by celebrating African American actors, directors, and characters! All ages are welcome to join us every Saturday in February at 2pm for Movie Matinees!
Feb. 5 - Black Panther
Feb. 12 - Little
Feb. 19 - Spiderman Into the Spiderverse
Feb. 26 - Home
Open to all ages.

MEDICARE & YOU -

Tuesday, February 15th 11 am.
Join us for an informational session on Medicare.

COMMUNITY YOGA -

Feb. 19, 10am
Instructor Kevia Jones will lead a community yoga class open to all ages and abilities on Feb.

19 at 10 a.m. Bring a yoga mat or borrow one of ours. Join us! Breathe. Release. Chill. Sign up online to let us know you're coming <https://forms.office.com/r/JNsduMNHVq>; or give us a call at 832-927-5410.

GROWING READERS

HCPL has created our new Growing Readers Program to help parents with developing their child's early literacy skills. Ranging from prenatal up to preschool, Growing Readers has created a variety of activities to help bring literacy easily into daily life. Growing Readers focus on the 5 key aspects of early literacy: Reading, Talking, Singing, Playing, and Writing.

With our Little Bud (toddler) and Little Reader (preschool) take home kits, parents can play and create with their children while focusing on improving those 5 concepts. Kits include free board books to help jumpstart your home library!

With our age targeted Flashcard sets, these cards give parents/caregivers quick tips and activities to try at home or on the go!

Our 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program on Beanstack will help make sure your child is reading ready come school time. Sign up on Beanstack.org to receive free board book prizes as you reach your 1,000 book goal! Sign up early to receive an interactive sticker book to help

your track your journey.

LENA

LENA Start is coming to Aldine Branch Library this spring! LENA Start is a 10-week program that teaches parents and caregivers of children 0-3 years how to "build babies' brains" and make a difference in their future success through early talk and interactions! Orientation is Tuesday, February 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Aldine Branch Library Meeting Room. For more information on how to participate call (832) 927-5410 or email ald@hcpl.net.

CALL FOR LITERACY TUTORS

Would you like to be a part of making an impact on people's lives? If you are interested in becoming a literacy tutor at the Aldine Branch Library, we want to talk to you! We are looking for volunteers to teach English language classes in person and virtually. Call 832-927-5410 or email for info: ald@hcpl.net

Michelle Pichon
Library Program Specialist
Harris County Public Library
Aldine Branch Library
11331 Airline Dr.
Houston, TX 77037
832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message from the Superintendent,
February 1, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

Today marks the beginning of Black History Month, and our theme in Aldine will be “Black Health and Wellness.” The theme acknowledges the legacy of Black scholars and medical practitioners as well as the legacy of Black people who have countered the economic and health disparities and discrimination in our communities, the state, and world-wide. The 2022 theme also considers activities, rituals, and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well. I encourage you to embark on a personal or community journey to improve health and wellbeing.

Black History Month also offers an opportunity to highlight leaders in our community like our Board of Trustees, Randy Bates Jr., Dr. Kimberley Booker, and Paul Shanklin. These individuals are a few examples of Aldine leaders making a positive difference in students’ lives. They advocate for students and are actively involved in the Aldine community. Their experience, expertise, and leadership make them invaluable assets to Aldine ISD and phenomenal champions for all children.

Be sure to share how you are celebrating Black History Month on social media. Include the hashtags #AldineBHM, #AldineForward, or #AldineAdelante.

On the subject of making a difference and moving forward, I am excited to announce that we are taking another step to ensure a continued focus on improved student outcomes. During the 2019-2020 school year, we implemented the Accelerating Campus Excellence model at Goodman and Worsham. ACE is a school model intended to support a positive trajectory for each student’s educational journey based on five pillars that can dramatically improve student outcomes:

- Effective principals and teachers
- Instructional excellence
- Extended school day
- Social and emotional support
- Parent and community partnerships

We will extend the ACE program at Goodman and Worsham through the 2023-2024 school year. The ACE model elements that families are familiar with will remain the same. I believe this is the most effective path toward increased student achievement, and I am excited that we will continue this endeavor together.

To continue our work in creating innovative programs for students, I encourage you to submit your public comment by taking a short survey on our District of Innovation (DOI) Plan. The current Local Innovation Plan has been in place since May 2017 and, if not renewed, will expire this spring. The Local Innovation Plan must be renewed every five years to maintain our DOI designation. The proposed plan is open for public comment until March 5. Your comments on our proposal will be invaluable for the committee working on the DOI renewal.

February is the busiest month for spring recruitment. Every one of you — no matter your position — impacts our students daily. Today, you received an email about the Retention Bonus. The one-time Retention Bonus for eligible full-time employees, approved last June by our Board of Trustees, will be paid on February 25.

We continue to meet the challenges throughout the pandemic because many of you go above and beyond the call of duty. Without you, education doesn’t happen. All the money in the world could not adequately express our gratitude. Still, we hope this bonus sends employees the message that we do see and appreciate their hard work.

With Aldine Pride,
Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 24 – Feb. 17: Black History Oratory Campus Competition

OBSERVATIONS

February

Black History Month

Feb. 4: Student Holiday

Feb. 7-11: National School Counseling Week

Feb. 11: Student Holiday

Feb. 18: Student Holiday/Staff

Development Day

Feb. 21: Presidents Day (Traditional Calendar — Student Holiday)

Feb. 21: ADSY Schools — Ermel and Vines — Regular Day for Students

Feb. 22: School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day

Feb. 25: Wellness Day — Theme is Love Your Heart Month

Feb. 25: Go Texas Day

Aldine ISD COVID-19 UPDATES

The district leadership team is committed to doing all we can to increase the safety and health of our students, staff, and families while implementing measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We want all our students healthy, learning, and thriving in our classrooms. I ask for your continued support as we prioritize safety without sacrificing learning.

Face Masks: As we have done throughout the pandemic, we continue implementing COVID mitigation protocols. While we had hoped to lift the mask requirement after the midwinter break, we decided to maintain the mask requirement until further notice with rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the Houston area. The district requires students, staff, and visitors to wear face masks at all district facilities — schools, buildings, facilities, school buses — and events.

Symptoms: We strongly encourage you to please keep your child home if they have COVID or any other communicable disease (.e.g., flu, whooping cough, measles, chickenpox) symptoms. Have your child tested if you suspect it is COVID-19. Here is a link to our Health Alerts web page regarding keeping your student/child home.

Reduce Spread of Any Communicable Disease: 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.

Protocols: Our district administrative leadership team remains in constant communication. Based on CDC recommendations, we updated our protocols and guidelines. Our COVID reporting procedures have not changed. We will continue to monitor local and school cases to further adjust health and safety protocols as appropriate.

District Dashboard: Families can always check the COVID-19 dashboard for an overview of the active cases by school.

Testing Sites: Please get tested if you exhibit symptoms, have been exposed to someone with the virus, have been with groups of people, or travel. Click here for a list of testing sites and to register online. Additionally, each campus has a testing opportunity weekly or biweekly. A parent/guardian must consent for testing.

Vaccinations: The district continues to work with local officials, including Harris County Public Health (HCPH), to communicate the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is available to individuals five and older. On January 3, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the emergency use authorization for Pfizer’s COVID-19 booster vaccine in adolescents from 12 to 15 years. Booster doses are now available to everyone over the age of 12. The FDA also shortened the time to receive the booster after completing the two-dose schedule. It went from six months to five months. The FDA also authorized the third dose as part of the primary series for certain immunosuppressed children between 5 and 11. The CDC



Local Businessman Sidney Brewer Cherishes Giving Back to Aldine ISD

Sidney Brewer was educated in Aldine, his children were educated in Aldine, and now his grandchildren are educated in Aldine ISD.

That’s why the likable Brewer believes it’s important that he gives back to the school district that has meant so much to him over the last six decades.

Sidney Brewer, center, poses with his team members during the 8th annual M.B. “Sonny” Donaldson Golf Tournament last December.

After a 20-year career as a mechanical engineer with Occidental Petroleum, Brewer decided to run his own business and, in 1988, opened Tiger Rock Martial Arts of Houston, located at 7303 Antoine Drive.

Brewer is an eighth degree black belt and a Grandmaster. He became interested in martial arts at the age of 12 when his father, a member of the U.S. Army who taught at Ranger School at Fort Benning, GA, began teaching him martial arts.

Brewer developed a passion for it, and when he enrolled at Prairie View A&M in 1976, he began training with two other students. “I’ve been training ever since,” Brewer said.

Brewer graduated from Eisenhower High School in 1976, the first graduating class in the history of Eisenhower.

He said his clients range from four years of age to folks in their 60s.

“People want to learn effective self-defense, and that’s what we teach them.”

In 1996, he started volunteering at Anderson Academy, and he has continued to give of his time and resources throughout Aldine ISD.

He is a founding board member of the Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) and has served as the M.B. “Sonny” Donaldson Golf Tournament chairman for eight consecutive years. The tournament is one of the major fundraisers for AEF.

When asked why he devotes so much time to Aldine, he had a simple answer.

“Plain and simple, to make a difference,” Brewer said.

In addition to volunteering with AEF, Brewer has served as a speaker at many career days CHICKEN Club events and mentors students of various ages.

“When Dad got out of the service, we moved to Houston and Acres Homes, and there was a minister in our neighborhood who would check on our grades and how we were doing in school. If you were struggling in a subject, he’d say, “Can’t we do better?” That was good motivation.”

Brewer does the same with Aldine students today.

Principals and assistant principals at several AISD schools have Brewer’s cell phone number and use it when a student may need an outside voice to motivate them.

“It’s fun to change attitudes,” he said.

He keeps a list of students he mentored who have gone on to college or have joined the military on his cell phone and relishes it when he adds a name to it.

Brewer’s three children are all Aldine ISD graduates. Two of his children graduated from Eisenhower High, and one graduated from Carver High. He has three grandchildren who attend Houston Academy, Anderson Elementary, and Reece Academy.

As a member of AEF, Brewer said he takes great delight when AISD seniors receive their AEF scholarships each May.

“It’s a great pleasure to see the eyes of those kids when they are getting their scholarships,” Brewer said. “It makes all the work worthwhile.”

Brewer, whose wife Brenda was a teacher and is now a counselor at Aldine High School, said he would continue giving his time to Aldine.

“It’s (volunteering) a way of life for me, helping kids,” Brewer said. “It’s a live hood that I get a lot of pleasure out of.”

Aldine ISD is undoubtedly lucky to have Sidney Brewer.



Sidney Brewer, center, at a recent Golf Tournament raising money for the Aldine Education Foundation.

LaTonia Amerson recipient of TASA’s Veselka Scholarship

Aldine ISD’s School Assistant Superintendent (SAS) of Middle School LaTonia Amerson was one of two school administrators in Texas who was awarded the Johnny L. Veselka Scholarship, presented by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA).

The Veselka Scholarship, which has been awarded annually since 2014, is awarded to outstanding doctoral students pursuing careers in educational leadership, with particular emphasis on the superintendentcy.

Amerson and Sharon McKinney, superintendent of Port Aransas ISD, were selected from among a pool of applicants by the TASA Johnny L. Veselka Scholarship Committee, a group of Texas school superintendents and other public school district administrators.

Amerson and McKinney will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship and both will be recognized during the 2022 TASA Midwinter Conference, which will be held in Austin Jan. 30-Feb. 2.

Amerson is working toward her doctorate in educational leadership at Sam Houston State University.

“School leaders must be relentless in the pursuit of what is best for all students, be willing to work in the trenches with the team, build relationships with everyone, lead and treat others respectfully, and be driven by improved student outcomes, not by a title,” Amerson said in her application.

announced on January 10 that at-risk Americans (immunocompromised) are eligible for the fourth COVID dose.

REMINDERS

Aldine’s Family and Community Engagement Department launched the Family and Community University. It provides education and resources to empower families to support students academically, socially, and emotionally. Programming is free and open to all Aldine families. Register today.

The state requires high school seniors to apply for financial aid to graduate. The FAFSA application opened on October 1, 2021.


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.



COUNTY CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Dealing with COVID-19 in a New Year

A new year is a time for new beginnings, and I know we are all ready to start fresh. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 epidemic has not slowed down over the holidays. With the emergence of the Omicron strain fueling the fire, a new wave of infections are once again raising our numbers. Hospitalizations are slowly rising and approaching problematic levels, infections are spreading rapidly across our County, and this week our numbers have pushed our threat level back to red. The possible exposures from travel, holiday celebrations, and gatherings on top of the return of children to school this week could trigger a very difficult month ahead in terms of hospitalizations and the strain on our medical system. It is clear that we will be living with this virus indefinitely.

But here in Harris County we are not giving in – we have more tools available and more knowledge on this virus than at any previous point during this pandemic. And we know that vaccinations are the best protection for you and your family against this virus. If there has ever been a wake up call to get vaccinated and get your booster, that time is now. You can find all the information you need on how and where to get vaccinated and your booster at readyharris.org.

Another powerful tool we have to combat this latest wave is testing. Our public health sites continue to have plenty of PCR test capacity across the county and I want to encourage anyone who needs to get tested to visit one of these sites. Rapid tests that are available over the counter for home use are also helpful, particularly when it comes to giving parents and schools peace of mind on whether or not students and staff are clear to be teaching and learning. Last week, Commissioners Court approved additional funding for 55,000 test kits which we will be distributing to schools and health clinics that serve the low income communities that need them most.

Also this week, a state court ruled that our local health officials do have the authority to put reasonable measures such as mask requirements in place to protect our community from COVID-19, something we have been fighting for the entirety of the pandemic. While this ruling will likely be appealed to the Texas Supreme Court, wearing a mask right now is simply the right thing to do. Schools and businesses are in the right to enforce mask requirements and policies. So please, put the masks back on when you are in public, regardless of your vaccination status.

In this new year, our fight is still not over. But we have more reasons than ever to be hopeful that the end of COVID-19 as a major threat to our community is near. Here's wishing everyone a safe and healthy 2022.

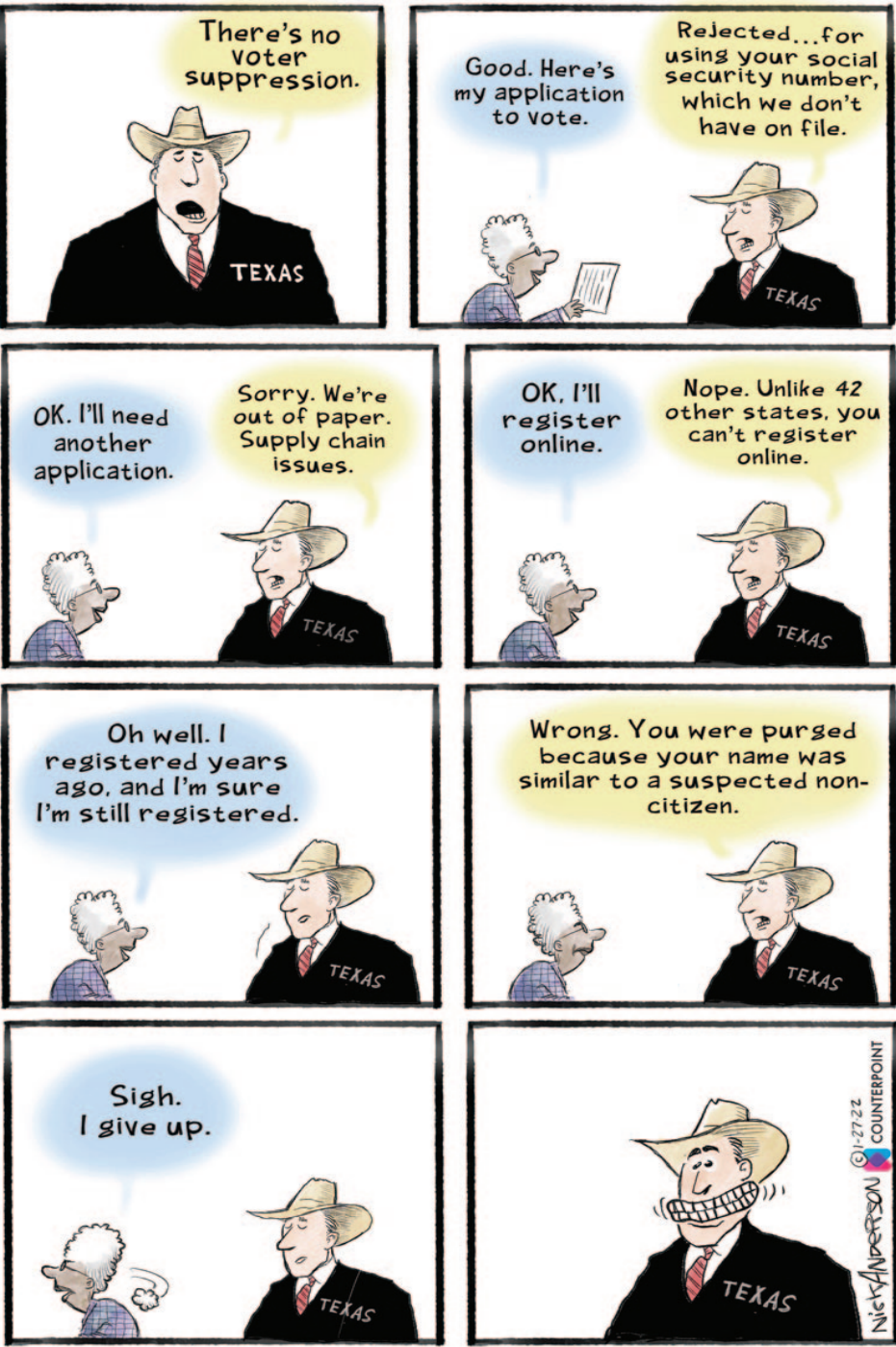
Sincerely,
Lina Hidalgo

George Floyd Sculpture Donated to Tom Bass Regional Park

George Floyd's tragic death sparked a worldwide movement against police violence in communities of color. In Harris County, we know that the Houston native is not only a symbol, he was a son, father, neighbor, and friend.


Last month, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioners Court accepted a donation from the Kay Davis In the Community (KDITC) Foundation of a life-size, bronze sculpture of George Floyd to be placed at Tom Bass Regional Park. The sculpture is being designed and created by Texas-based Sculptress Adrienne Rison-Isom and is entitled "A Conversation with George."

We look forward to visiting the statue in his remembrance.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Two Proposed Amendments on the May primary ballot

TWO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ON MAY BALLOT

Voters who go to the polls for municipal and school board elections on May 7 will also be asked to decide on two proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution.

Deputy Secretary of State Joe Esparza drew the ballot order last week for the two proposed amendments, both dealing with property taxes. The first proposition on May's ballot would authorize the Legislature to cut the property tax limit for the homesteads of elderly or disabled residents "to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year."

According to Ballotpedia.org, the measure would result in a reduction in revenue of \$467.5 million in the first two years it is implemented. The measure passed unanimously in both chambers during the second special session.

The second proposed amendment would increase the homestead exemption for school district property taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000. That measure, approved by the Legislature in October in another special session, also passed unanimously.

State Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, the author of the amendment, said, "People see the need for property tax relief, and Texans are going to cry out for that continuously. This is a great way to bring that home to all of the taxpayers of Texas."

STATE SIGNS DEAL WITH TOKYO

The state hopes to see expanded growth from Tokyo-based small and medium-sized businesses after signing a cooperative agreement with the Tokyo metropolitan government. The governor's office of Economic Development and Tourism organized 18 local economic development partners across the state to provide resources to Tokyo businesses interested in expanding in Texas.



ment and Tourism organized 18 local economic development partners across the state to provide resources to Tokyo businesses interested in expanding in Texas.

"Tokyo and Texas may be half a world apart, but we are closing that gap by facilitating more investment and economic development between our two regions," Gov. Greg Abbott said. "I look forward to our continued work together as we create a more robust partnership and a more prosperous economic future."

The Texas community partners include cities and economic development corporations from throughout the state. More than 400 Japanese companies have operations in Texas. Japan was the state's sixth-largest export destination in 2020, with more than \$9.8 billion in exported goods, including organic chemicals, industrial machinery, aircraft and spacecraft, fuel and oil.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR URI REIMBURSEMENT FOR SCHOOLS

The deadline for public school districts and charter schools to seek reimbursement from the state for damages caused last year by Winter Storm Uri has been extended to Feb. 24, the Texas Education Agency announced. Any district located in an area declared a disaster after last February's storm can apply for assistance for

costs not covered by insurance or federal disaster relief.

Schools can receive reimbursement for uninsured damages to facilities, vehicles and computers.

TEA has posted two webinars explaining the program on YouTube, which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y76tev3j>

COVID-19 CASES DOWN; ICU BEDS NEARLY FULL

While the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week dropped to 295,501 — a decrease of more than 130,000 — the state's intensive care unit beds are approaching capacity once again. The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University also reported 1,212 deaths, up nearly 25% from the previous week.

The drop in new cases has health officials hopeful the omicron variant has peaked. Hospitalizations in Texas of lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 dropped slightly to 12,760, with only 317 available ICU beds in the entire state, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"The vast majority of the people who are critically ill are either unvaccinated or have significant comorbidities," Dr. James McCarthy, chief physician executive at Memorial Hermann, told the Houston Chronicle. "We are not seeing middle-aged, healthy, vaccinated individuals in the ICU like we did in the previous wave."

A total of 16.896 million Texans are fully vaccinated, according to DSHS, which is 58% of the state's population. An additional 5.85 million Texans have received a booster dose.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Out of the Jungle

In my dream, the jungle was thick and dark.

There was a river running through it and I was on a small raft, careening down it. The current was flowing fast in the center and I wanted to steer closer to the banks, but the jungle was filled with monsters—prehistoric creatures that roared when they saw my little raft tumbling in the water. I never saw them clearly, but could sense their large presence. They reared their giant heads as I went by. The branches of the trees thrashed as they moved just out of sight.

Then, up ahead, I saw huge stones in the center of the river. I feared I would smash my makeshift raft to bits. I steered closer to the bank until my raft was very close to the river's edge.

Suddenly, a huge arm reached out of the jungle. It was gray and covered in scales with long claws and I was easily within reach.

I woke with a start. Peter was sleeping. I grabbed him.

"What's the matter?" he asked groggily.

I tried to explain about the monsters that were like dinosaurs and the river that was flowing too fast for me to navigate the rickety raft and the rocks ahead.

"Wasn't I there?" he asked. "No!"

He wasn't there. But as he fell back to sleep, I knew he thought he should have been. If he had been there, we would have evaded those monsters. Next time, he would make a point of being on the raft.

Being married comes with a lot of responsibilities they don't tell you about.

We are now in Mexico and, after weeks of feeling good, Peter's back went out again last night. He felt worse than he'd ever felt before. I didn't know what we should do. Stay where we were? Continue to our destination? Return home?

"I can't think clearly enough to decide. Let's do what you think is best," Peter said.

"Let's go!" I said. We packed up in minutes, caught a shuttle, and headed to our final stop, an hour and a half away.

I explained to our driver, Ricardo, in my childlike Spanish that my husband had "terrible pain of the spine" and he looked on sympathetically.

We had almost made it to our destination when Ricardo asked if we would like to stop at a pharmacy. The only thing that had helped Peter before was a short course of steroids. I figured it couldn't hurt to ask. So I launched into my small-child Spanish again, asking the pharmacist if it was "possible to buy prednisone."

"What strength?" she wanted to know. "And how much?" This was beyond my abilities to communicate, so she just brought out the boxes and laid them on the counter.

By nightfall Peter was feeling a bit better, and today he is up and cooking beans. He will see another doctor when we get home, because he cannot live like this—always in fear of monsters jumping out of the jungle. But I am so glad he is better today.

"I am not very good at taking care of you," I said, because I'm not.

I have no experience caring for people who are ill or in pain. I don't know what to say or do. I feel helpless and useless and frustrated—none of which makes me much of a Florence Nightingale.

But I was able to speak enough Spanish to get some help. I got our raft a little closer to the center of the river and now we are picking up speed.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

NORTHEAST NEWS

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SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje de la Superintendente,
1 de febrero de 2022

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

Hoy marca el comienzo del Mes de la Historia Negra, y nuestro tema en Aldine será «Salud y bienestar de las comunidades afroamericanas». El tema reconoce el legado de los académicos negros y los médicos en medicina y las personas negras que han contrarrestado las disparidades económicas y de salud y la discriminación en nuestras comunidades, el estado y en todo el mundo. El tema de 2022 también considera actividades, rituales e iniciativas que las comunidades afrodescendientes han realizado para estar bien y sanos. Lo animo a embarcarse en un viaje personal o comunitario para mejorar la salud y el bienestar.

El Mes de la Historia Negra también ofrece la oportunidad de destacar a los líderes de nuestra comunidad, como Randy Bates Jr., la Dra. Kimberley Booker y Paul Shanklin, quienes son miembros de nuestro Consejo Escolar. Estos individuos son algunos ejemplos de líderes de Aldine que marcan la diferencia e impactan la vida de los alumnos. Son defensores de los alumnos y participan activamente en la comunidad de Aldine. Por su experiencia, pericia y liderazgo, ellos son una riqueza para Aldine ISD y campeones fenomenales para todos los niños.

Asegúrense de compartir cómo están celebrando el Mes de la Historia Negra en las redes sociales. Incluyen los hashtags #AldineBHM, #AldineForward o #AldineAdelante.

Sobre el tema de marcar la diferencia y seguir adelante, me complace anunciar que estamos dando otro paso para cumplir con nuestra prioridad de Logro Estudiantil dentro del plan estratégico. Durante el año escolar 2019-2020, implementamos el modelo escolar

Accelerating Campus Excellence (Escuelas de Ex-



celencia Acelerada o ACE por sus siglas en inglés) en Goodman y Worsham. ACE es un modelo escolar destinado a respaldar la trayectoria del educativo viaje positivo de cada alumno basado en cinco pilares que pueden mejorar drásticamente los resultados de los alumnos:

- Directores y maestros eficientes
- Excelencia en la enseñanza
- Jornada escolar extendida
- Apoyo socioemocional
- Padres de familia y asociaciones la comunidad

Extenderemos el programa ACE en Goodman y Worsham hasta el año escolar 2023-2024. Los elementos del modelo ACE con los que las familias están familiarizadas seguirán siendo los mismos. Creo que este es el camino más efectivo hacia un mayor rendimiento estudiantil y estoy emocionado de que continuaremos este esfuerzo juntos.

Para continuar nuestro trabajo en la creación de programas innovadores para los alumnos, los animo a enviar sus comentarios públicos respondiendo una breve encuesta sobre nuestro Plan del Distrito de Innovación (DOI por sus siglas en inglés). El actual Plan Local de Innovación está en vigor desde mayo de 2017 y si no se renueva expirará el fin de esta primavera. El Plan de Innovación Local debe renovarse cada cinco años para mantener nuestra designación de DOI. El plan propuesto está abierto a co-

mentarios públicos hasta el 5 de marzo. Sus comentarios sobre nuestra propuesta serán sumamente importantes para el comité que trabaja en renovar la designación de DOI.

Febrero es el mes más ocupado para el reclutamiento de personal durante la primavera. Cada uno de ustedes, sin importar su posición, impacta a nuestros alumnos diariamente. Hoy, recibieron un correo electrónico sobre el **Bono de Retención** único. El Bono de Retención único para los empleados elegibles de tiempo completo, cual fue aprobado en junio pasado por nuestro Consejo Escolar, se pagará el 25 de febrero.

Continuamos enfrentando los desafíos durante la pandemia porque muchos de ustedes van más allá del deber. Sin ustedes, no hay educación. Todo el dinero del mundo no podría expresar adecuadamente nuestra gratitud. Aún así, esperamos que este bono envíe a los empleados el mensaje de que vemos y apreciamos su arduo trabajo.

Orgullosa de nuestro distrito,

Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendente de Aldine ISD

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS 24 de enero-17 de febrero: Concurso escolar de oratorio de historia afroamericana

OBSERVACIONES-FebreroMes de la Herencia Afroamericana (EE. UU.) o Mes de la Herencia Negra

- **4 de febr.:** No hay clases para alumnos
- **7-11 de febr.:** Semana nacional de consejeros escolares
- **11 de febr.:** No hay clases para alumnos
- **18 de febr.:** No hay clases/ Día de desarrollo del personal
- **21 de febr.:** Día de los Presidentes de EE.UU. (No hay clases)

• **21 de Febr.:** Escuelas en el calendario ADSY — Ermel y Vines — Día de asistencia estudiantil

• **22 de febr.:** Día de agradecimiento a los conductores de autobuses escolares

• **25 de febr.:** Día de bienestar — El tema es mes del corazón — la salud cardiovascular

• **25 de febr.:** Día tejano
ACTUALIZACIONES DE ALDINE ISD ACERCA DE COVID-19El equipo de liderazgo del distrito está comprometido a hacer todo lo posible para aumentar la seguridad y salud de nuestros alumnos, personal y familias mientras implementan medidas para mitigar la propagación de COVID-19 en nuestra comunidad. Queremos que todos nuestros alumnos estén sanos, aprendiendo y prosperando en nuestras aulas. Espero contar con su apoyo mientras priorizamos la seguridad sin sacrificar el aprendizaje.

• **Mascarillas:**

Como lo hemos hecho durante la pandemia, continuaremos implementando protocolos de mitigación de COVID. Si bien esperábamos levantar el mandato de la mascarilla después de las vacaciones de invierno, decidimos mantener el requisito de la mascarilla hasta nuevo aviso con un número creciente de casos de COVID-19 en el área de Houston. El distrito requiere que los alumnos, el personal y los visitantes usen mascarillas en todas las instalaciones del distrito (escuelas, edificios, instalaciones y autobuses escolares) y eventos.

• **Síntomas:**

Les recomendamos que mantengan a su hijo en casa si tiene síntomas de COVID o cualquier otra enfermedad contagiosa (por ejemplo, gripe, tos ferina, sarampión, varicela). Hagan que le hagan una prueba a su hijo si sospechan que es COVID. Aquí hay un enlace a nuestra página web de Alertas de salud con respecto a cuándo mantener a su hijo en casa si se encuentra enfermo.

• **Reduzcan la propagación de cualquier enfermedad transmisible:**

Continúen protegiéndose a sí mismos y a los demás tomando medidas de precaución para prevenir la infección de todos los virus, incluido el COVID-19: lávense las manos con frecuencia, cúbranse al toser y estornudar y mantengan una distancia segura de los demás.

• **Protocolos:** Nuestro equipo de liderazgo administrativo de distrito ha estado, y está, en comunicación constante.

Según las recomendaciones de los CDC, actualizamos nuestros protocolos y pautas. Nuestros procedimientos de notificación de COVID no han cambiado. Continuaremos monitoreando los casos locales y escolares para ajustar aún más los protocolos de salud y seguridad según corresponda.

• **Panel de información:** Las familias siempre pueden consultar el panel de información sobre el COVID-19 para obtener una descripción general de los casos activos por escuela.

• **Sitios de prueba:**

Háganse la prueba si presenta síntomas, han estado expuestos a alguien con el virus, han estado con grupos de personas o viajan. Hagan clic aquí para obtener una lista de los sitios de prueba e inscribanse en línea. Además, cada campus tiene una oportunidad de evaluación semanal o quincenal. Un padre/tutor/apoderado debe dar su consentimiento para la prueba.

• **Vacunas:**

El distrito continúa trabajando con los funcionarios locales, incluido el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Harris (HCPH), para comunicar la disponibilidad de la vacuna contra el COVID-19. La vacuna contra el COVID está disponible para personas mayores de cinco años. El 3 de enero de 2022, la Administración de Alimentos y Medicamentos de EE.UU. (FDA, por sus siglas en inglés) amplió la autorización de uso de emergencia para el refuerzo de la vacuna de Pfizer contra el COVID-19 en adolescentes de 12 a 15 años. Las dosis de refuerzo

ahora están disponibles para todas las personas mayores de 12 años en el país después de completar el esquema de dos dosis. La FDA también redujo el tiempo para recibir el refuerzo después de completar el esquema de dos dosis. Pasó de seis meses a cinco meses, momento en el que todas las personas mayores de 12 años son elegibles para una vacuna de refuerzo. La FDA también autorizó una tercera dosis como parte de la serie primaria para ciertos niños inmunosuprimidos entre 5 y 11 años. Los CDC anunciaron el 10 de enero que los estadounidenses en riesgo (inmunocomprometidos) son elegibles para la cuarta dosis de COVID.

RECORDATORIOS

• Hagan clic aquí para ver las pautas de teléfonos celulares del distrito (actualizado en noviembre de 2021).

• El Departamento de Relaciones con la Familia y la Comunidad (conocido por su acrónimo FACE en inglés) de Aldine lanzó un nuevo programa este año escolar, Universidad de la familia y la comunidad es proporcionar el conocimiento y los recursos necesarios para generar confianza y empoderar a las familias para que apoyen a los alumnos académicamente y fomentar el desarrollo de habilidades socioemocionales. Toda la programación es gratuita, se ofrece de forma virtual y en persona, y está abierta a todas las familias de Aldine. Obtengan más información e inscribirse hoy.

• El estado de Texas requiere que los alumnos del último año de la escuela secundaria (*high school*) soliciten ayuda financiera para graduarse. La solicitud de FAFSA se abrió el 1 de octubre.

• Las principales prioridades de Aldine ISD continúan siendo la seguridad y el éxito académico de todos los alumnos. Publicaremos toda la información relacionada con nuestras operaciones junto con cualquier actualización en www.aldineisd.org/health-alerts.

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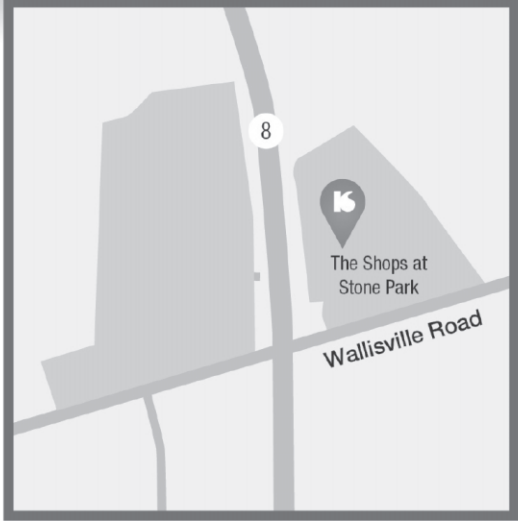
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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Ishbosheth in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Genesis 8, what was the mountain upon which Noah's Ark rested? Sinai, Zion, Ararat, Ebal

3. Laban, who tried to swindle Jacob, was what relationship to him? Brother, Father-in-law, Friend, Father

4. In Matthew 10, Jesus instructed the apostles to go

among the ... ? Heathen, Gentiles, Blind, Israelites

5. What happened to Moses' rod when he cast it on the ground? Broke in two, Spoke to him, Became a serpent, Blazed up

6. From Job 20, what sort of men suck the poison of asps? Wicked, Aged, Tribal, Leper

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Ararat; 3) Father-in-law; 4) Israelites; 5) Became a serpent; 6) Wicked


Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE


And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

EXODUS 2:6



"A Sleeping Cupid" by Bartolomeo Coriolano (1630-45)

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
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Take Notice (MANUEL DE JESUS ENAMORADO PAZ) that a summons and Complaint for sole custody and findings that you have abandoned the minor child, that reunification with you and the minor child is not possible and that it is not in the best interests of the minor child to return to the child's home country has been filed to which you are a named Defendant (Case Number-2021-DR-26-2412) at the Horry County Courthouse, Conway, South Carolina. You have thirty days to answer the Complaint by sending an answer to The Devine and Beard Law Firm, 720 St. Andrews Blvd, Charleston, SC 29407 or notify the Horry County Courthouse, Conway, SC.


LEGAL NOTICE


Take Notice (MANUEL DE JESUS ENAMORADO PAZ) that a final hearing has been scheduled on **MARCH 4, 2022 at 10:15 am** to which you are a named Defendant (Case Number-2021-DR-26-2412) at the Horry County Courthouse, Conway, South Carolina.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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County Crime program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hattan Institute for Policy Research, and others that show that investments like these not only reduce crime, but save taxpayer dollars. We also issued a resolution in support of the addition of two courts to our justice system to help us get through the court backlog that has slowed justice in our county to a crawl.

All across America, violent crime has increased — and sadly Harris County has not been immune to this national trend. It's no secret what is driving crime both here and across the nation — the economic consequences of the pandemic and the widespread availability and use of guns on our streets. COVID-19 has left more than just a body count in its wake. A secondary conse-

quence has been victims of crime and a criminal court backlog that continues to delay justice for too many. The very same neighborhoods that have long been ignored by the county, by private investment, and by so many other institutions are the same ones that have been victimized the most by rising crime and gun violence. Blighted buildings, dark streets, and unsafe and abandoned structures serve as incubators of crime and gun violence.

The good news is that we are not powerless against this challenge. Over the past three years we've made historic anti-crime and neighborhood safety investments. Each year, we've increased the budgets for every law enforcement agency in the county, including the District Attorney. We've freed up law enforcement to focus on the most violent criminals by reinforcing them with public health experts who can cover

them for non-violent, routine calls. We've launched crime interruption programs designed to break the cycle of gun violence through community policing and outreach. We've allocated millions to tackle the unacceptable backlog in criminal court cases in our county, hiring more judges, expanding jury operations, and allocating more than \$17 million for overtime and equipment to speed court cases along. We've invested millions to support our law enforcement as they focus on the most violent crimes.

We owe it to the law enforcement officers and communities we serve to put skin in the game — to have tools at the ready to help them and our courts prevent and fight violent crime from all sides. There is no silver bullet, but by working smart and investing in solutions that fight the root causes of crime in our community, we can make a difference now and for years to come.

Mayor's Crime Initiative,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for council approval requiring security cameras on certain classes of businesses where the increase in crime is concentrated.

--A proposed ordinance for city council approval requiring that a bail bond company charge a premium which is equal to at least ten percent of the amount of the bail bond set by the court.

"This is a comprehensive approach to lowering the crime rate that focuses on police initiatives and touches on the true causes of violent crime such as social issues. I am grateful that Mayor Turner is committing not just to HPD but also to social service agencies in our city."

This is a public health



VALENTINE'S DAY - HISTORY

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from?

THE LEGEND OF ST. VALENTINE
Saint Valentine, who according to some sources is actually two distinct historical characters who were said to have healed a child while imprisoned and executed by decapitation.

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

WHO WAS THE REAL ST. VALENTINE?
The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

ORIGINS OF VALENTINE'S DAY: A PAGAN FESTIVAL
While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the Ides of February, or

February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

WHO IS CUPID?
Cupid is often portrayed on Valentine's Day cards as a naked cherub launching arrows of love at unsuspecting lovers. But the Roman God Cupid has his roots in Greek mythology as the Greek god of love, Eros.

According to the Greek Archaic poets, Eros was a handsome immortal played with the emotions of Gods and men, using golden arrows to incite love and leaden ones to sow aversion. It wasn't until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child he'd become on Valentine's Day cards.

TYPICAL VALENTINE'S DAY GREETINGS
In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (more cards are sent at Christmas).



Surprising Bengals take on Rams on LA's home turf in Super Bowl LVI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

amazing year with 145 receptions for 1,947 yards and 16 touchdowns. Kupp has continued his amazing season in the playoffs with 25 receptions for 357 yards and four TDs.

The Rams front office shored up the passing game when it signed former Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham prior to Week 10 after Beckham wore out his welcome in Cleveland and was released by the Browns. Beckham has found new life in LA, catching 27 passes for 305 yards and five TDs. In the playoffs, Beckham has 19 receptions for 236 yards and a score.

While Stafford has had a solid 12-year career, Burrow entered the 2021 season with a lot of question marks. Would his knee hold up, would his offensive line give him the protection he needed to make plays down field and would 2021 first-round pick (fifth overall) Ja'Marr Chase prove to the doubters that he can play at the pro level. The answers to those questions are, yes, somewhat and yes.

Burrow came back from the injury with 4,611 passing yards and 34 touchdowns and in his first three playoff games, he's thrown for another 842 yards and 4 TDs. Chase had a remarkable rookie season, hauling in 81 catches for 1,455 yards and 13 TDs. Chase has been solid in the playoffs with 20 receptions for 279 yards and one score, but don't be surprised if he has a big night on the game's biggest stage on



Sunday.

Burrow has also benefited from a solid run game led by Joe Mixon, who had a breakout season with 1,205 yards and 16 total touchdowns. Mixon could be a key player in the Super Bowl on both the ground and in the passing game.

Chase isn't a one-man receiving corps. Fellow wide out Tee Higgins (74 receptions, 1,091 yards, 6 TDs) had a big day in the Cinci's 27-24 upset of Kansas City in the AFC title game with six catches for 103 yards. Look for Higgins to have another big game against a solid Rams secondary.

The Bengals also have a big advantage in the kicking game thanks to rookie kicker Evan McPherson. The rookie out of Florida has made 12 field goals in post-season play, which is an NFL playoff record. He's hit three field goals from more than 50 yards, and kicked the Bengals into the Super Bowl with a last-second game-winning field goal to upset the top seeded Tennessee Titans in the division round and his 31-yarder in overtime

sent the Bengals to the Super Bowl, where they will face a Rams team that badly wants to win its second Lombardi.

The Rams will be playing in their fourth Super Bowl, while the Bengals will be playing in their third. Cinci hasn't been to the Big Game since it lost 20-16 in the waning seconds in the 1989 game when Joe Montana connected with wide receiver John Taylor to deny the Bengals a chance at the franchises biggest ever victory.

While the Rams appear to be the better team on paper, that won't phase the Bengals. They overcame a 10-point deficit in the second half at Tennessee to upset the Titans, and were down 18 points (21-3) at Kansas City before rallying for the OT win. Cinci closed the gap to 21-10 late in the second quarter and the Chiefs could have made it 24-10 at the half, but QB Patrick Mahomes foolishly tried for one more TD with five seconds left and no timeouts. His pass to Tyreek Hill was stopped short of the

goal line and the Bengals snatched momentum heading into the second half.

When they came out for the second half, the Burrow led them to 21 straight points and a 24-21 lead before KC tied it at the end of regulation.

In OT, the Bengals picked off Mahomes and Burrow and Mixon drove them into position for McPherson to kick the game winner.

The Rams also had to rally in the second half to earn a trip to the Big Game. LA trailed San Francisco 17-7 in the fourth quarter, but Stafford, Kupp and Beckham rallied the Rams to a 13-point fourth quarter and a trip to the Super Bowl.

While the Rams will be the second straight team to host the SB in their home stadium (Tampa Bay hosted at their place last year), ironically they will be the visiting team and the Bengals will be the home team.

I'm sure the Rams and their fans could care less about that. They are just happy to be playing for a shot at their second Lom-

bardi Trophy.

Should the Rams win, McVay would become the youngest head coach to ever win a Super Bowl (Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin currently holds that distinction).

This game will also match two former overall No. 1 picks, as Stafford was taken No. 1 out of Georgia in 2009, while Burrow was take first overall out of LSU in 2020.

Should Burrow and the Bengals win, Burrow would become the first-ever quarterback to win the Heisman Trophy, a national championship in college and a Super Bowl and he would have completed the trifecta in just two years. Pretty amazing.

This should be a competitive game, but the key could be how well the Cinci offensive line holds up against a Rams front seven that features two very good pass rushers in defensive tackle Aaron Donald (a three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year) and edge rusher Von Miller, who was acquired from the Broncos by the Rams at the trade deadline. In the Bengals win at Tennessee, Burrow was sacked nine times, but the OL held up better against the Chiefs, allowing just one sack. The Bengals coaching staff will have an extra week to come up with a scheme to show down the Rams pass rush because if they don't Burrow could be in for a long and bruising day.

While the Rams have

been more of a passing team than a running team, look for second-year running back Cam Akers to play a big role in this game. Akers suffered an Achilles injury in July, but amazingly worked his way back to play in the final game of the season and the first three playoff games. Akers can be a difference maker with his speed, but has turnover issues. He fumbled twice in the Rams win over Tampa Bay, but McVay hasn't given up on the talented second-year man out of Florida State.

If this game is close late, and the Bengals have the ball, McPherson could certainly win it for the Bengals. The big stage does not seem to faze the confident kicker.

Nor is the stage to big for Burrow. They don't call him Cool Joe for nothing. I don't see this as too big of a stage for him and he just might come out slinging it all over the field to keep the Rams defense on its heels.

While I love the Bengals story, I think Stafford will be the difference maker in this game. He's waited 13 years for this day and at the end of it, he will be called a Super Bowl winning quarterback.

Look for Stafford and Kupp to have a big day against a Cinci secondary that can be thrown on as the Rams celebrate by lifting the Lombardi Trophy on their home field. **My pick, Los Angeles Rams 33, Cincinnati Bengals 30**