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NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 45 Years
VOL. 46, NO. 8 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Americanisms



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

NEWS NOTES

Lunch & Learn Mental Health Feb. 25

East Aldine District is holding their regular "Lunch & Learn" series, with a presentation on **MENTAL HEALTH in the Time of COVID**, by Yvonne Hinojosa, LPC Behavioral Health Consultant.

Friday, Feb. 25 from 11am to 1:30pm, at the East Aldine District Office, or by ZOOM. RSVP/Link request by Feb. 22 please.

For more information, see ad on Page 8, or call 832-677-0139 or VSanchex@Haweshill.com.

BAA Zumba @ The Park and #COVID-19 on Sat. March 19

You are invited to a special Zumba Fitness session by Bonding Against Adversity (BAA) on Saturday, March 19 at James Driver Inclusive Park. Located on Bentley Street off Little York.

You can also get a COVID-19 shot on the same day.

Raffles, Speaker, and Service Providers will be present.

Registration starting at 9am. COVID-19 shots all day, from 8am to 5pm. Thanks to our sponsors, see ad below.

HCSO Citizens' Police Academy Sign up now.

The HC Sheriff's office is starting a new class of the Citizens' Police Academy. Learn about law enforcement in person.

Apply at <https://bit.ly/315kxQM>, or call 346-286-3125. Application Deadline March 10, classes every Thursday night Mar. 31 to May 5.



Aldine planning study seeks Community Priorities

Online survey lets Aldine residents, businesses, groups help set priorities for regional improvements

By Felicia Griffin

Harris County is seeking diverse public input for the Aldine Region Comprehensive Study (ARCS), a project that focuses on consolidating several community improvement recommendations and plans that have been developed over the past 20 years to create a prioritized list of infrastructure projects for Harris County to implement.

The project website — <https://htx-arcs.com> — features a survey that lets respondents review and

prioritize the draft goals for the study. Accessible in English and Spanish, the survey will be available on the website through the end of February.

The ARCS project area consists of the Airline Improvement, East Aldine, and North Houston management districts. Although the study is being led by Harris County, recommendations will also be included for parts of the study area that are within the City of Houston.

During the first series of public meetings in late January, which were conducted virtually via Zoom in late January, the team of county engineers and consultants leading the

Participate in the Survey
<https://htx-arcs.com>
Before February 28

study project presented a detailed overview of their analysis of existing conditions in Aldine. Citizens who attended the meetings shared their perspectives on living and working in Aldine and offered several ideas for improving local transportation networks, affordable housing, parks, culture and economic development, safety, public health, and the region's overall quality of life. Instant polls during the meetings also enabled attendees to rank recom-

mended goals for the study in real time.

All public meetings and surveys for the ARCS project are conducted in English and Spanish. The project website — <https://htx-arcs.com> — is accessible in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. In addition to colorful visuals that highlight many iconic Aldine landmarks, the website features detailed information such as schedules and registration links for upcoming public meetings (to be conducted in English and Spanish — dates pending), video recordings of past public meetings, links to the survey, as well as maps, a

timeline of the study's phases, and contact information for key members of the ARCS project team.

With input gathered from the meetings and the survey, the ARCS team is expected to come up with comprehensive recommendations for projects, programs, and policies for citizens to review and weigh in during another round of public meetings this spring.

The final report and implementation plan are targeted for completion this summer, and it will be submitted to the Harris County Commissioners' Court for a possible vote of approval.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY FEB.2

Twenty-six AISD athletes earn scholarships

Twenty-six Aldine ISD student-athletes received the opportunity to continue their academic and athletic careers when they signed with colleges and universities across Texas and the United States when they signed national letters of intent on National Signing Day on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Nimitz High School led the way with 12 signees, all football players. Cougars who signed were: defensive end Christian Booker, who signed with Southern University of Shreveport, defensive tackle Elijah Sims who signed with East Texas Baptist University, offensive lineman Joshua Ramirez who signed with MacAllister College in Oklahoma, linebacker Bryan Singleton who signed with North American University, defensive end Dorset Singleton who signed with Southern University of Shreveport, linebacker Elijah Stewart who signed



Pictured are the five MacArthur High School student athletes who signed national letters of intent on National Signing Day on Wednesday, Feb. 2. SEE MORE SCHOOL PHOTOS ON PAGE 8

with Southern University of Shreveport, offensive lineman Tre'Ivon Pikes who signed with Southern University of Shreveport, wide receiver Brandon Miles who signed

with the University of St. Mary, defensive back Armon Green who signed with Henderson State University, defensive back Joshua Furr who signed with Louisiana College,

wide receiver Quintin Wilson who signed with Louisiana College and running back Eric

Continued. See Signing Day, Page 8

BUS RIDES TO VOTE ARE FREE

Registered voters can hop on board METRO for a free ride to the voting booth on select dates.

METRO is offering free rides to Houston-area polling locations for the 2022 primary elections. Voters can ride at no charge on METRORail, local buses, METROrapid, curb2curb and METROLift paratransit services.

Free transportation will be available: **During Early Voting on Saturday, Feb. 19,**

Continued. See BUS RIDES FREE, Page 2

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NORTHEAST NEWS

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Leticia with a trayfull... of Bolillos

Shiney Hiney Diaper Pantry Donates Diapers to Aldine’s Hall Success Academy

“When Aldine ISD Board Trustee Connie Esparza connected with Tiawana Osborne-Davis, owner of Shiney Hiney Diaper Pantry, she immediately reached out to Dr. Martha Escalante, Executive Director, at Aldine’s Community and Family Engagement (FACE). As a non-profit, the organization partners with local agencies to educate along with providing diapers to low income families meanwhile raising awareness of the basic health needs for diapers. Trustee Esparza knew the students who are parents at Aldine’s Hall Success Academy could use the diapers for their babies. Hall Success Academy is a dedicated campus that gives teen parents an opportunity to continue attending school despite the many challenges they face.

Shiney Hiney Diaper Pantry served more than 40 parents at Hall Success Academy’s recent parent meeting. The campus, under the leadership of Principal Ciera Nickerson, plans to continue fostering this new relationship to provide the much needed support for the students. Because of organizations like this many young families can now have the necessary baby items for their babies. Thank you to Sharon Kennedy, Hall Success Academy pregnancy related-services coordinator and Queahanna Davis, Tiawana’s daughter, for making this event a success. Together we can make a difference.”

Thank you for always being a true Aldine ISD supporter.

Connie

BUS RIDES TO VOTE ARE FREE

CONTINUED FROM P.1

2022
On Election Day,
Tuesday, March 1,
2022
Voters only need to
inform bus operators
and/or fare inspectors



Pictured above from left to right: Sharon Kennedy, Hall Success Academy pregnancy related services coordinator, Tiawona Osborne-Davis, owner of Shiney Hiney Diaper Pantry, Connie Esparza, Aldine ISD Trustee, Dr. Martha Escalante, executive director of family and community engagement, and Cierra Nickerson, principal of Hall Success Academy.



Pictured above from left to right: Sharon Kennedy, Hall Success Academy pregnancy related services coordinator, Tiawona Osborne-Davis, owner of Shiney Hiney Diaper Pantry, Connie Esparza, Aldine ISD

they are going to, or returning from, the polls.

Patrons needing customized directions can map out their trip with the RideMETRO mobile app or on RideMETRO.org. For information on polling locations visit the Harris Votes website.

METRO’s Customer Service team is also available to answer questions and provide trip planning information. Contact 713-635-4000 for more information. Se habla español.



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Blood Drive Feb. 24 at Aldine Library

Take the time to celebrate the lifesaving impact of donating blood! Use the link below to register. Then, on Thursday, February 24th, eat, drink and bring your I.D. Thursday, February 24th, from 10 – 4, at the Aldine Branch Library, located at 11331 Airline Dr, you’ll have an opportunity to donate a pint of blood that will save 3 lives. Thank you.

—Selina Valdez

https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/348694



AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

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.

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 required. 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

Computer Classes

In addition to our online computer classes in both English and Spanish we will now be offering computer classes in person at the library. If you want to participate, call us to **register**: 832-927-5410

Tuesdays: various topics (**Spanish** computer class), **5-7pm, at the library**

Wednesdays: Beyond the Basics with Office 365 plus Google Apps, (English computer class), **5-7pm, online**

Thursdays: Beyond the Basics with Office 365 plus Google Apps (**English** computer class), **5-7pm, at the library**

LECTORES AVIDOS

Lectores avidos este club de lectura para adultos lee y discute libros en español. Nuestra próxima reunión es **el 26 February, 10-11am** en persona en la biblioteca.

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

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

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.

EARLY LITERACY KITS:

We have a 5-week Early Literacy activity kit program specially designed for toddlers and pre-

schoolers. Kits are free and have step-by-step instructions that grow readers through books and play. Space is limited and registration is required. If you’d like to register your child, stop by the library, and ask for an application today.

STORYTIME:

Come join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, and more! We have Bilingual Storytime, All Ages Storytime, and Pajama Storytime. Days and times vary. We have event calendars available to help you plan your next library trip.

TEEN EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY:

Join us weekly at 3pm for teen programming at High Meadows Library. Every Tuesday, we have a new craft to inspire your creative side. On Wednesdays, you’re invited to Otaku Outpost and divulge in your love of Anime and Manga. Learn Origami or Life Skills on Thursdays. Registration is not required, just stop by!

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!

ESL & CITIZENSHIP:

We currently offer online ESL and Citizenship classes. Classes are free! Stop by the library or give us a call to register for one of our free classes.

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

Jennifer Nandlal
Sr Adult Program Specialist
High Meadows Library
4500 Aldine Mail Rt
Houston, TX 77039

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message from the Superintendent, February 14, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

Happy Valentine’s Day! I hope each of you is feeling the love today from family, friends, and/or Aldine team members. Today is also my 24th wedding anniversary! However, Valentine’s Day isn’t just a day to celebrate romantic love, but it is also a day to make an extra effort to show those around you that you care. With that, I’d like to kick this week off by sharing a few of the things I love about our district!

- Our full-day prekindergarten program for all three-year-olds ensures our commitment to student achievement touches all students who walk through Aldine’s doors. And our Jump-Start Program aids some of our youngest students in transitioning from home to school by focusing on the skills they need to thrive.
- We are In Year 2 of the implementation of our new literacy initiative. Launched in 2020-2021, we saw growth in students reading at or above grade level at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. We promised in our strategic plan that students would have access to high-quality schools and learning experiences, and I can’t wait to see the results this year.
- This school year, we launched a new Multilingual Framework. Our work in equity ensures educational opportunities that represent the diversity of our district. It also ensures that we build bi-literate, bilingual, and bicultural students. The focus is on culturally responsive practices to achieve this and ensure that students are learning and progressing.
- Continuing our work in equity, we also developed a Math Vision and Framework for grades PreK-12. The goal is to ensure that all students thrive in higher-level math, including underrepresented minorities and girls. The plan also calls for more pathways in higher-level math that are seen as more practical for many careers.
- The district continues to expand its aspiring leadership pipeline of effective educators who embody the AISD leadership definition. Leaders set a vision and maintain the systems. They also advance equity and the culture required to give students access to high-quality schools and learning experiences. This school year, we added the Aldine Principal Fellow Academy.
- We also expanded the EMERGE College Prep Program to every AISD high school. The Houston-based college-readiness program prepares high-performing high school students in grades 11-12 to attend and graduate from selective colleges and universities across the nation.
- Our Board of Trustees approved a one-time Retention Bonus for all eligible full-time employees in appreciation of the work they do every day.

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. **Did you know that Aldine ISD has 25 choice schools for all grade levels within the district?** From dual language, magnet schools with themes from Montessori, direct instruction, and STEAM, the International Baccalaureate® program, early college, CTE and P-TECH schools, and a non-traditional school, there is something for just about everyone, ensuring choices and opportunities for all of our students. There is still time for Aldine families to apply for Choice Schools as the second lottery is now open. If you are still trying to decide if a Choice School is for you, join the Office of Transformation at the Choice Schools Family Application event from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 26**, at the M.B. Sonny Donaldson Child Nutrition Center. The event will be a time for families to receive personalized support to complete and submit a Choice Schools application before the next lottery. I hope that many of you will take advantage of the amazing opportunities we have available for our students.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I encourage you to view the latest episode of All The Things: The Aldine ISD Podcast. Theater director Roshunda Jones-Koumba talks about the award-winning theatre program at Carver



High School for Applied Technology, Engineering, and the Arts. She is also the 2021 International Thespian Society Inspirational Theatre Educator Award recipient. Joining Ms. Jones-Koumba is junior and Panther Players Troupe #6753 Board Vice-Chair Ryan Randolph. I hope you also join the Panther Players and the rest of the performing arts students at the Black History Show at **6:30 p.m. on February 25, 2022**, in the Carver HS Auditorium. And I am so excited to share the sneak peek of this month’s Black History Month Showcase video. We’d love to know how you are observing this month. Make sure to share photos, thoughts, quotes, and more, with us on social media by using the hashtag #AldineBHM.

Before I close, I want to discuss college access and our latest opportunity for students. One of the greatest hurdles for many wanting to go to college is the cost. It is a barrier for many first-generation students and Dreamers who are high-achieving, low-income students. They are often underrepresented in four-year colleges and universities. College- and career-readiness and increasing access to college for students are priorities in our strategic plan. It gives me great pleasure to share that the district has partnered with Tennessee State University. TSU, like so many HBCUs, has a reputation for racial diversity. For HBCUs, equity means access to all. HBCUs provide access to many students who might not otherwise pursue higher education. TSU is offering qualifying students scholarships, including a full ride for those who meet the criteria. The goal is to build a pipeline to college for students. I hope our high schoolers take advantage of this chance to pursue their college dreams.

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. GoffneySuperintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Jan. 24 – Feb. 17:** Black History Oratory Campus Competition
- **Feb. 1-March 5:** District of Innovation (DOI) Plan Survey — The current Local Innovation Plan will expire this spring. The proposed plan is open for public comment until March 5. Click here to submit your comments on our proposal. Click here for more information.
- **Feb. 16:** The Multilingual Programs Department will host its next Parent Leadership Academy session at the Donaldson Child Nutrition Center, 1802 Aldine Bender Rd., from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Families will learn how to empower their child’s academic and social-emotional achievement. For more information, click here.
- **Feb. 21:** Virtual information session about dual credit courses and opportunities at Lone Star College, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Click here to join the virtual event.
- **Feb. 22:** The Spring 2022 Dual Credit Application Night in-person event is for students who would like to submit their application for Dual Credit. Click here to sign up to attend.
- **Feb. 22:** Preregistration for eligible PreK3, PreK4, and kindergarten students opens for the 2022-2023 school year. Click here for details on how to register.

OBSERVATIONS

February

Black History MonthDigital Citizenship Program for K-12 Students: The focus in February is “Relationships and Communication: We know the power of words and actions.”

- **Feb. 18:** Student Holiday/Staff Development Day
- **Feb. 21:** Presidents Day (Traditional Calendar-Student



Aldine ISD Police Dept. Honors Stephens Elementary Student With Swearing-In Ceremony



Stephens Elementary School fourth-grader, Devarjaye “DJ” Daniel is nothing less than awe-inspiring.

The vibrant 10-year old cancer warrior is inspiring others while bringing awareness to childhood cancer. During his journey he has one goal, and that is to be sworn-in by 100 law enforcement agencies as an honorary officer.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, Aldine ISD Police Department held an extra special swearing-in ceremony for DJ and his younger brothers. Freeport ISD, Humble ISD, Montgomery ISD, and Spring Branch ISD also named DJ as an honorary police officer during the event. Harris County Sheriffs Office SWAT team and bomb squad also attended the event.

During the ceremony, Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney acknowledged DJ’s courage, leadership and infectious personality.

The inspiration came from Abigail Arias, who was diagnosed with cancer

in 2017. Her goal was to become a police officer. Arias became an honorary officer for the Freeport Police Department and Texas Rangers before passing away in 2019 at age seven. Her story continues to inspire others, including DJ.

“DJ brings a lot of joy to the classroom,” Elizabeth Grant, RELA teacher said. “He puts everyone before himself and there is nothing that can get him down. No matter what he goes through he continues to offer support and uplift others every single time.”

DJ has surpassed his goal and has become an honorary police officer for close to 200 agencies. He has several swearing-in ceremonies scheduled over the next few months.

We can all learn a thing or two from DJ.

You can watch the swearing-in ceremony on the Aldine ISD Facebook page.

Eisenhower HS Senior Advances to HLS&R School Art Auction

Jennifer Gonzalez, Eisenhower High School senior, has been selected to advance to the next round of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Auction. Gonzalez and her art teacher Hailey Gross were recently invited to attend the School Art Auction awards ceremony on February 6.



Out of 3,000 finalists her artwork was chosen as the 45th. Her artwork titled, Victory the Pale Horse, will go to auction on March 13, 2022, at NRG stadium

um during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The art is guaranteed to make at least \$1,500 during the auction.

School Art Program

For more than 50 years, the School Art Program has challenged students and schools to think outside the box. The program provides students, Pre-K through 12th grade, the opportunity to compete in district shows, earn scholarships, travel to summer workshops and display artwork in the Hayloft Gallery during the Rodeo. Schools also have a chance to receive a Super Show award for their outstanding participation. Currently, the School Art Program supports approximately 130 different school districts, including private and parochial schools, in the Houston area.



Victory the Pale Horse

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 Texan Day

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.
- The state requires all entering college students to take the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment. Click here for more information.
- 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.

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OPINION PAGE

★

★

OPINION

By BILL KING



Poll Shows Widespread Support For New Texas Voting Law

Last August, the SAM party conducted a survey of its members and other members of the community about their opinions of the major provisions in the Texas voting bill (SB1), which was at the time, grinding its way through the Legislature. Our survey was clearly not a scientific poll but found that at least a plurality of respondents supported all the major provisions of the bill.

In October, after SB1 had passed, the University of Houston and Texas Southern University conducted a poll asking voters their opinions about its provisions. The UH/TSU poll found even stronger support for all the major provisions in the bill than the SAM survey did, with support ranging from 58%-86%.

What is particularly surprising about the poll results are the racial crosstabs.¹ While Democratic officeholders and their media surrogates constantly argued that the bill would adversely affect minority voters, they did not see it that way. While white voters supported each provision at a higher level than did Latinos or African-Americans, Latinos also supported all the propositions and African-Americans supported six of the nine.

Support for voter identification on mail-in ballots was particularly strong across all groups (whites +57, Latinos +30, African-Americans +17). It was also clear that voters really dislike ballot harvesting, with wide majorities in every group supporting severe criminal penalties (whites +66, Latinos +43, African-Americans +38).

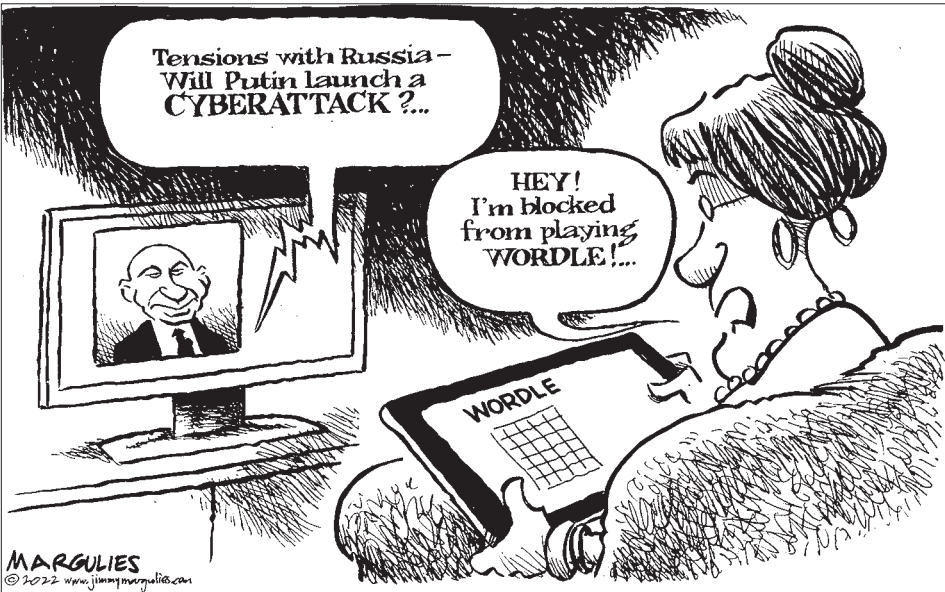
I was surprised that all groups also supported more freedom of movement for poll watchers (whites +28, Latinos +14, African-Americans +14). Most people I talked to did not seem to care much for that idea.

Since the SAM survey and the UH/TSU poll, an issue has arisen regarding a glitch in the process for providing identification on mail-in ballots which has gotten widespread coverage. I intend to write more about this as we see how this issue unfolds during the election. But it appears to me that a relatively small number of voters will be affected and I cannot see how any particular group is disproportionately disadvantaged. Seems likely to me to be a case of Hanlon's Razor.

You certainly would not know the new law had such widespread support from the media coverage on it, like this ABC News story that appeared on Monday. It leaves the impression that voters were upset about the new rules. The only story I saw that reported the actual results of the UH/TSU poll was this story by Jasper Scherer in the Houston Chronicle on October 30.

In all, the poll to me represents the same sort of Texas common sense that we saw in the SAM survey. The vast majority of Texans want everyone to be able to vote and for it to be reasonably convenient to do so. But they also want to ensure that elections are fair and that the rules are followed. And unlike the hyper-partisans on either side, their responses indicate they care more about fair elections than they do about who wins an election.

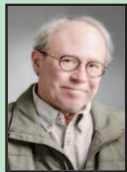
EDITOR'S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Mail-in ballots applications rejected at high rate

MAIL-IN BALLOT APPLICATIONS REJECTED AT HIGH RATE

Mail-in ballot applications for the March 1 primary are being rejected by almost 40% — largely because of a missing ID number, which is now required after a new voting bill passed the Legislature last year.

The Houston Chronicle reported that nearly four in 10 Harris County mail ballot applications had been rejected as of last week. Early voting began Feb. 14, and the deadline for mail ballot requests is Feb. 18.

Other counties across Texas also reported high rejection rates, including Travis, Williamson, Hays and Bastrop counties, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Those seeking to vote by mail must include a driver's license number, a state ID number, or in some cases the last four digits of their Social Security number. If what the applicant provides doesn't match the applicant's individual voter registration information, the application must be rejected.

Texas has one of the strictest vote-by-mail requirements in the country. Registered voters are eligible to vote by mail if they are 65 years or older; sick or disabled; out of the county on election day and during the early voting period; expected to give birth within three weeks before or after election day; or confined in jail but otherwise eligible.

Early voting continues through Feb. 25.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS IMPROVE SLIGHTLY

The latest drought map for the state shows a slight improvement as of Feb. 1, with 84% of the state experiencing some level of drought, down three percentage points from the previous month. Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, said there were some improvements in the last month, mainly in East Texas. Additional rainfall in early February, mainly in East Texas and

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



Central Texas, should improve conditions by the next report in March.

Wide swaths of the Panhandle and the Great Plains are experiencing the worst drought conditions.

TEXAS TOP EXPORTING STATE FOR 20TH YEAR

Data released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau showed Texas as the top exporting state in the nation for the 20th consecutive year. The state exported \$375.3 billion in goods last year, more than California and New York combined. The state also led the nation in tech exports for the ninth year in a row.

"Made in Texas is a powerful global brand, and the Lone Star State continues to dominate the nation in exports, thanks to our unrivaled and productive workforce, robust infrastructure and welcoming business environment," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

An estimated \$13 million in grant funding is available under the Texas Clean School Bus Program to replace or retrofit school buses to reduce exposure to their diesel exhaust. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is accepting applications from school districts statewide.

Grants are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Districts can be reimbursed for all of the costs to retrofit buses, or 80% of the costs to replace older buses with newer, cleaner

models, according to TCEQ.

Only buses used daily are eligible. While the deadline is in October, funding typically runs out when enough applications are received. More information can be found at www.terpgrants.org.

POWER GENERATORS UNDER INCREASED SCRUTINY

During early February's winter storm, the state's electrical grid withstood increased demand, with few outages reported. Regulators are crediting increased inspections by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas during December.

The Dallas Morning News reports ERCOT inspected 324 generators and transmission systems in December; the Public Utility Commission handed down \$7.5 million in fines for companies not filing weatherization plans by the deadline.

"We've been working for the last year to make sure that this grid is more reliable than it ever has been in the past — and it is," interim ERCOT CEO Brad Jones said a few days before snow and sleet hit.

In addition to increased inspections, legislation passed last regular session required power generators to winterize their plants. Additionally, alternate fuel sources are required if natural gas isn't available. While this year's storm wasn't nearly as severe as Winter Storm Uri in 2021, thus far the grid has stood up to increased demand.

The state's largest power generator, Vistra, is spending up to \$80 million to ensure its plants keep generating electricity despite whatever Mother Nature throws at them, The Morning News reported.

COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO DROP SHARPLY

It is beginning to look as if the omicron variant of COVID-19 really has peaked, with new cases in the state during the past week dropping to 109,990, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That's a decrease of 75% in the past month, while new deaths at 1,398 were essentially unchanged.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a total of 8,140 COVID-19 hospitalizations, down 23.6% from the previous week. The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated topped 17 million, or 58.6% of the state's population. Just more than 6 million Texans have also received a booster dose, which has proven effective in preventing more serious symptoms from the omicron variant, researchers say.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Listenin to the Bells"

The bells ring more or less all the time here.

My husband, Peter, and I are in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, a city filled with old churches. Every old church has at least a couple of old bells, and all the bells are rung frequently. Since there is so much I do not understand when I travel to another country, I assumed that the bells rang according to some sort of system that everyone else understood and I did not. (This is an assumption I've made about a lot of things over the course of my life, but that's another story.)

As it turns out, none of the English speakers in town have any idea what is going on with the bells.

"I thought it was military time because it rang more than 12 times," someone said. "But then it rang 34 times!"

"There is no rhyme or reason," someone replied. "They don't ring on the hour and they don't ring any number of times that makes sense!"

"Well, they are all rung by people," someone else added. "It's not automated. Maybe they just ring them when they feel like it?"

So now I'm listening to the bells.

I was right in the center of town, near the largest, oldest church, when the bells started. "One... Two... Three... Four." They stopped. I checked the time on my phone. It was exactly 4 o'clock.

"Well!" Now I'm thinking the bells are just rung to get our attention. Maybe we would pay more attention to them if we knew they were right all the time.

The roosters in town operate on a similar principle. Every town in Mexico I have ever spent a night in has had multiple roosters alerting me to the first hint of sunrise. But at our temporary home here, we have one who has decided to up his game. He lets us know that it is 4 o'clock in the morning and that sunrise is only a couple hours off, in case we were interested.

None of the other roosters are following his lead. I suspect the other roosters think this guy is a showoff, crowing his head off in the dark. But he keeps it up. It gets our attention, and I guess that is the point. He's letting us know that he is keeping track of the time. It's not morning yet, but morning is on the way.

We have lots of ways to keep track of time and, honestly, I'm not sure why it is so important that the bells ring at any particular time. Peter and I are not meeting anyone at a given time. We have no appointments to keep. This idea that we need to keep track of time is a little odd, given the circumstances.

And yet, nearly every day, Peter or I will say, "Can you believe it's 2 o'clock already?" as if 2 o'clock had some special significance. As if we had something special we had to prepare for at 3 o'clock.

I am rather pessimistic that I will ever solve the mystery of the bells. I think they will keep ringing when I least expect, at odd intervals, for an indeterminate amount of time. But every time they ring, I will be reminded of the time—even if it's not the actual time. Even if I have nowhere to go.

They'll remind me that time is passing and will pass. They remind me that sometimes the very best thing I can do with my limited time is to stop whatever I'm doing and listen to the bells.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

top ten

GEN Z SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

1. Instagram
2. YouTube
3. Snapchat
4. Facebook
5. Twitter
6. Facebook Messenger
7. Pinterest
8. TikTok
9. Discord
10. Tumblr

Source: Business Insider/MediaPost

NORTHEAST★NEWS

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Member Texas Press Association

COMMUNITY WATCH

WANTED:
Suspect responsible for thefts at multiple businesses

For Immediate Release: February 18, 2022

Crime Stoppers and the Harris County Sheriff's Office Burglary & Theft Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspect responsible for Multiple Thefts.

From September 2021 through December 2021, an unknown male suspect was involved in the theft of merchandise from different retail businesses in Houston and the Tomball, Aldine and Katy areas of Harris County, Texas. The suspect was captured on video surveillance exiting the businesses with the stolen items, passing all points of sale without making any effort to pay for the merchandise. Dur-



ing other incidents, the suspect disabled security devices attached to merchandise outside of the businesses and loaded it onto a trailer parked nearby.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.



Suspect Charged, Wanted in Fatal Shooting at 301 West Little York Road

Charges have been filed against a suspect wanted in the fatal shooting of a man and woman that occurred at 301 West Little York Road about 4:50 a.m. on January 17.

The suspect, Dondre Williams, 20, is charged with capital murder in the 262nd State District Court. A photo of Dondre Williams, who is not in custody, is attached to this news release.

He is accused in the deaths of Naryssa Wright, 26, and Malakai Williams, 21.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant R. Olive and Detective T. Tyler reported:

Officers responded to a report of a shooting at an apartment at the above address and found Ms. Wright had suffered from a gunshot wound to the head. She was transported to HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest where she was pronounced deceased. Mr. Williams was found in a different area of the apartment and had also suffered a gunshot wound to the head. He was pronounced deceased at the scene. A resident of the apartment



DONDRE WILLIAMS

reported they heard a gunshot and saw an unknown suspect shoot both Wright. The suspect also shot at the resident and then fled the location in an unknown direction.

Further investigation identified Dondre Williams as the suspect in this case and he remains at large.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Dondre Williams or in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.



ENTERTAINMENT

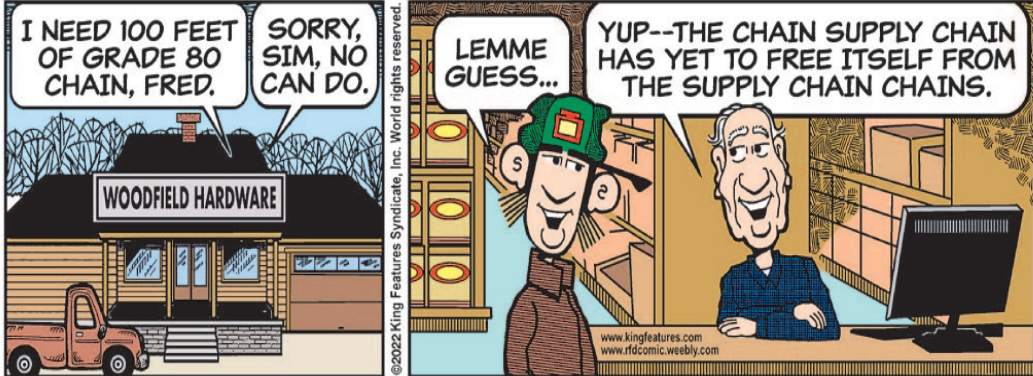
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



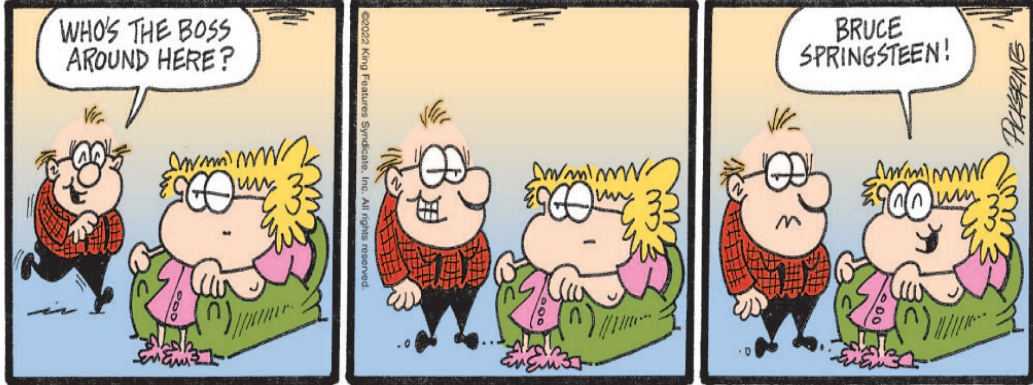
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

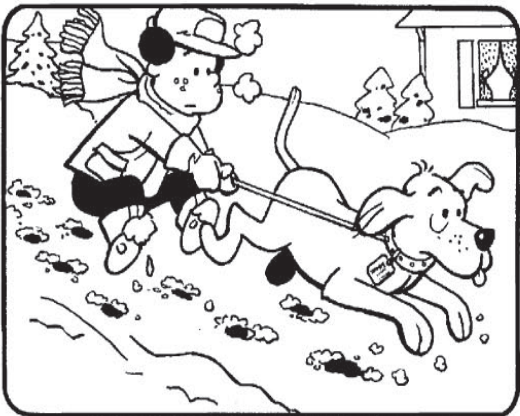
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

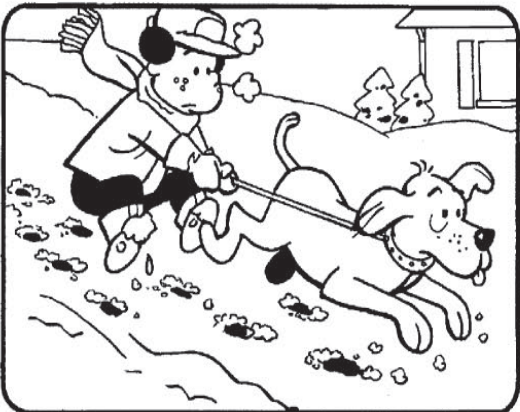
© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tree is missing. 2. Pocket is missing. 3. Scarf end is missing. 4. Tail is different. 5. Tag is missing. 6. Curtains are missing.

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February 21, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Atlas page
- 4 Ivy League University
- 9 Science room
- 12 GPS suggestion
- 13 Haunting
- 14 Docs' org.
- 15 1989 Al Pacino film
- 17 Decks in the ring
- 18 Small battery
- 19 Yard tools
- 21 "Understood"
- 24 Membership
- 25 Tolkien beast
- 26 Civil War soldier
- 28 Pulitzer category

- 31 Abound
- 33 Narc's org.
- 35 Dr. McGraw
- 36 Anticipate
- 38 Chips go-with
- 40 Sugar suffix
- 41 Mark Harmon TV series
- 43 School break
- 45 Shun
- 47 Owned
- 48 Sashimi fish
- 49 New York City's — Park
- 54 Decay
- 55 Ryan or Tatum

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15			16							17		
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21	22	23					24					
25				26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
			41			42		43	44			
45	46						47					
48										51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		

- 56 Gaiety
- 57 Sauce source
- 58 Actions
- 59 Turf
- 8 Required
- 9 Sierra Nevada resort
- 10 Cupid's specialty
- 11 Low range
- 16 Granola grain hero
- 20 John Irving
- 21 Teeny bit
- 22 Got bigger
- 23 Maryland beach town
- 27 Nap site
- 29 Avoid
- 30 Pub orders
- 32 Lansing's st.
- 34 Dunce
- 37 Steering system part
- 39 Gems from oysters
- 42 Pigs
- 44 LPs' successors
- 45 Jug handles
- 46 "Scram!"
- 50 Churchill gesture
- 51 Conditions
- 52 Pair
- 53 Conclusion

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? Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: Which 2000 animated movie's tagline is "Escape or Die Frying"?
- 2. HISTORY: When was the Peace Corps established?
- 3. LANGUAGE: What does it mean in British English to be "knackered"?
- 4. AD SLOGANS: Which company featured this 1985 ad campaign: "It's everywhere you want to be"?
- 5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which animal has the longest tongue in relation to its body size?
- 6. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel begins with the line, "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen"?
- 7. MUSIC: Which country music songwriter, singer and activist once sold Bibles for a living?
- 8. ANATOMY: What is the common name for the coccyx in human anatomy?
- 9. FOOD & DRINK: Which restaurant chain is known for its "Grand Slam" breakfast?
- 10. U.S. STATES: In which U.S. state was the first official World Fair held?

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

O	D		S	S	D	E	D		S	O	Y	
N	N		L	V	A	L	O		N	O		
D	E		S	H	E	R	I		A	H	I	
			H	E	A	D			M	H	O	S
S			C	O	E	S			S	I	S	
S			D	I	P				A	W	A	
L			D	E	A				T	E	M	
A			R	E	B				D	R	A	M
A			I	T					S	E	A	T
E			D	O					A	A		
S			O	K					F	L	A	
A			E	R	I	E			R	T	E	
A			W	N					B	R	O	

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

- 1. "Chicken Run"; 2. 1961; 3. Tired; 4. Visa; 5. Chameleon; 6. "1984"; 7. Willie Nelson; 8. Tailbone; 9. Denny's; 10. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1876)

Trivia Test Answers

Aldine ISD COVID-19 Updates:

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



FREE PRENATAL CLASS

presented by

HCEC

Must be in your third trimester to qualify.
Car seat inspection and gift included!

DATE
24 FEB 2022

TIME
06:00PM - 08:00PM

LOCATION
2800 Aldine Bender Road
Houston, TX 77032

Scan the QR-Code to register
or visit:
<https://form.jotform.com/220314510144135>



SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje de la Superintendente, 14 de febrero de 2022

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

¡Feliz día de San Valentín! Espero que cada uno de ustedes sienta hoy el amor de familiares, amigos y miembros del equipo de Aldine. Hoy también es mi esposo y yo celebramos aniversario de boda¡Llevamos 24 años casados! Sin embargo, el Día de San Valentín no es solo un día para celebrar el amor romántico, sino que también es un día para hacer un esfuerzo adicional para mostrarles a quienes te rodean que te importan. Con eso, me gustaría comenzar esta semana compartiendo algunas de las cosas que me encantan de nuestro distrito.

- Nuestro programa de prekínder de día completo para todos los niños de tres años garantiza que nuestro compromiso con el rendimiento estudiantil afecta a todos los alumnos que cruzan las puertas de Aldine. Y nuestro Programa Jump-Start para nuestros alumnos más jóvenes ayuda a facilitar la transición del hogar a la escuela enfocándose en las habilidades que necesitan para prosperar.
- Estamos en el segundo año de la implementación de nuestra nueva iniciativa de alfabetización. Lanzado en 2020-2021, vimos un crecimiento en la lectura de los alumnos a nivel de grado o superior al final del año escolar 2020-2021. Prometimos en nuestro plan estratégico que los alumnos tendrían acceso a escuelas y experiencias de aprendizaje de alta calidad, y no veo la hora de ver los resultados este año.
- Este año escolar, lanzamos una nueva visión y un nuevo marco para alumnos multilingües. Nuestro trabajo en equidad asegura oportunidades educativas que representan la diversidad de nuestro distrito. También asegura que alumnos salguen de la escuela siendo bialfabetizados, bilingües y biculturales. El enfoque está en prácticas culturalmente receptivas para lograr esto y asegurar de que los alumnos estén aprendiendo y progresando.
- Continuando con nuestro trabajo en equidad, también desarrollamos una Visión y Marco de Matemáticas para los grados PreK-12. El objetivo es garantizar que todos los alumnos prosperen en matemáticas de alto nivel, incluidas las minorías y las niñas subrepresentadas. El plan también exige más caminos en matemáticas de alto nivel que se consideran más prácticos para muchas carreras.
- El distrito continúa expandiendo su canal de liderazgo aspirante de educadores efectivos que encarnan la definición de liderazgo de Aldine ISD. Los líderes establecen una visión y mantienen los sistemas. También



promueven la equidad y la cultura escolar necesarias para dar a los estudiantes acceso a escuelas y experiencias de aprendizaje de alta calidad. Este año escolar, agregamos la academia para directores escolares de Aldine, Principal Fellow Academy.

- También expandimos el programa de preparación universitaria EMERGE a todas las escuelas secundarias del AISD. El programa de preparación para la universidad con sede en Houston prepara a estudiantes de secundaria de alto rendimiento en los grados 11 y 12 para ir y graduarse de universidades selectas de todo el país.
- Nuestro Consejo Escolar aprobó un Bono de Retención único para todos los empleados elegibles de tiempo completo en agradecimiento por el trabajo que realizan todos los días.

Entre el lanzamiento de nuevos programas, la apertura de nuevas escuelas para alumnos recién llegados al país y mujeres jóvenes y el anuncio de nuestra última escuela para hombres jóvenes, este ha sido un año emocionante para nuestras Escuelas de Opción (Choice Schools). **¿Sabían que Aldine ISD tiene 25 Escuelas de Opción para todos los grados dentro del distrito?** Desde aprendizaje en dos idiomas, escuelas magnet (escuelas especializadas) con temas de Montessori, instrucción directa y CTIM, el programa de Bachillerato Internacional®, universidad temprana, escuelas CTE y P-TECH y una escuela no tradicional, hay algo para casi todos, asegurando opciones y oportunidades para todos nuestros alumnos. Todavía hay tiempo para que las familias de Aldine presenten su solicitud para Choice Schools ya que la segunda lotería ya está abierta. Si todavía están tratando de decidir si una Escuela de Opción es para su hijo, únase a la Oficina de Formación en el evento de solicitud familiar de Choice Schools de **9 a.m. a 1 p.m. el sábado 26 de febrero** en el M.B. Sonny Donaldson Child Nutrition Center. Se les brindará apoyo personalizado a las familias para completar y enviar una solicitud de Choice Schools antes de la próxima lotería. Espero que muchos de ustedes aprovechen las increíbles oportu-

trito,

Dra. LaTonya M. GoffneySuperintendente de Aldine ISD

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS

- 24 de enero-17 de febrero:** Concurso escolar de oratorio de historia afroamericana
- 1 de febrero al 5 de marzo:** Encuesta sobre el Plan del Distrito de Innovación (DOI) — El Plan de Innovación Local actual vencerá esta primavera. El plan propuesto está abierto para comentarios públicos hasta el 5 de marzo. Hagan clic aquí para enviar sus comentarios sobre nuestra propuesta. Hagan clic aquí para más información.
- 16 de febrero:** El Departamento de Programas Multilingües llevará a cabo su próxima sesión de la Academia de Liderazgo para Padres en el centro Donaldson Child Nutrition Center, 1802 Aldine Bender Rd., de 9 a. m. a 10:30 a. m. Las familias aprenderán cómo potenciar los logros académicos y socioemocionales de sus hijos. Para obtener más información, hagan clic aquí.
- 22 de febrero:** El evento Noche para alumnos que quieren presentar la solicitud de admisión para tomar cursos de crédito doble de Lone Star College durante el semestre primavera 2022. Hagan clic aquí para inscribirse para asistir.
- 22 de febrero:** Se abre la preinscripción para aquellos elegibles para asistir prekínder para niños de tres años y cuatro años para el ciclo escolar 2022-2023. Hagan clic aquí para obtener detalles sobre cómo matricular a sus hijos.

OBSERVACIONES-FebreroMes de la Herencia Afroamericana (EE. UU.) o Mes de la Herencia Negra-Programa de Ciudadanía Digital para alumnos de kínder hasta 12. ° grado: El enfoque en febrero es «Relaciones y Comunicación: Conocemos el poder de las palabras y las acciones».

- 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 para vestir estilo 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 a d a d 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.
- **P a n e l d e 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.
- **S i t i o s d e 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 Har-

ris (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

- 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. 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.
- El estado requiere que todos los estudiantes universitarios que ingresan tomen la Evaluación de la Iniciativa de Éxito de Texas (TSI). Hagan clic aquí para más información.
- 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.
- **M a n t é n g a n s e conectados** visitando la página de Noticias del Distrito y el Podcast del Distrito para mantenerse actualizados sobre las cosas maravillosas que suceden en nuestro distrito escolar. También pueden conectarse con nosotros en Facebook, Twitter e Instagram.

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

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

2. From 2 Samuel 6, who died after accidentally touching the Ark of the Covenant? Achan, Zedekiah, Naboth, Uzzah

3. In Judges 13, to whose wife did an angel appear, telling her she'd conceive a son? Samson, Manoah, Josiah, Cain

4. What godly son was born to Hannah and Elkanah

in answer to prayer? Ezekiel, Paul, Samuel, Hosea

5. From Judges 14, what animal took Samson by surprise attack? Bear, Fox, Lion, Boar


6. Who burned David's city of Ziklag? Amalekites, Nazarites, Gibeonites, Israelites

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Uzzah; 3) Manoah; 4) Samuel; 5) Lion; 6) Amalekites

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE




...I delivered the poor who cried out, the fatherless and the one who had no helper. The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban.

"Head of an African Man Wearing a Turban" by Peter Paul Rubens (1609)

📖 JOB 29: 12-14 📖


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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY FEB.2

AISD athletes earn scholarships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Milton who signed with Southern University of Shreveport. MacArthur High School had five student-athletes sign national letters of intent. Ryan Dollar signed a baseball scholarship with the University of Houston. Basketball players Precious Jackson-Sanders and Thasilynn Payton both signed with Southwestern Christian College, while football players Xavion Starks signed with Trinity Valley Junior College and Rudy Reyes signed with Panhandle State University.

Davis High School also had five student-athletes sign national letters of intent. Cornelius Bibbs signed a track scholarship with Midland University, linebacker Jabari Davis signed with Ottawa University, offensive lineman D'Lon Moore signed with Tyler College and cornerback Johnny Perry signed with Saint Mary's University and baseball player Jasison Gurrero (first baseman/DH) signed with Kentucky Christian.

Three Eisenhower High School student-athletes signed national letters of intent. Jayia Covington signed a track scholarship with Texas A&M University, Shayla Thomas signed a volleyball scholarship with Southwestern Christian College and Trevon Ridley signed a track scholarship with Texas Southern University.



PICTURED ABOVE are the five Davis High School student-athletes who signed national letters of intent on National Signing Day on Wednesday, Feb. 2.



AT LEFT, Pictured are the three Eisenhower High School student-athletes who signed national letters of intent on National Signing Day on Wednesday, February 2nd.



PICTURED ABOVE are the 12 Nimitz High School football players who signed national letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers at the college level.

Lone Star College awards scholarships at 29th annual Chancellor's Donor Appreciation Lunch



Lone Star College hosted its annual Chancellor's Donor Appreciation Lunch where supporters of LSC Foundation heard personal stories of success from LSC students. Pictured are: (back row left to right) Marrz Lundquist, LSC-CyFair; Destiny Ipina, LSC-Houston North; and Jonathan Amaya, LSC-Houston North. (Middle row, left to right) Shiza Rubab, LSC-North Harris; Tara Yeakey, LSC-Montgomery; Angelina Gamez, LSC-Montgomery; Urooj Rajput, LSC-University Park; Annette Preston, LSC-Tomball; Madison Terry, LSC-Tomball. (Front row, left to right) Elizabeth Guajardo, LSC-North Harris; Demarco Rodriguez, LSC-Kingwood; Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC Chancellor; Elizabeth Preston, LSC-Kingwood and Eric Rivas, LSC-CyFair. (Not pictured: Hien Doan, LSC-University Park)

Houston (Feb. 18, 2022) – Students from across the Lone Star College system shared personal stories of achievement and commitment that helped them succeed in their education during the 29th annual Chancellor's Donor Appreciation Lunch.

"This event helps remind me what an important role Lone Star College plays in the lives of our students," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC Chancellor. "I am proud of their efforts and grateful to them for sharing their personal stories with our donors."

The Chancellor's Donor Appreciation Lunch, sponsored by Entergy Texas, Inc., recognized 14 LSC students, two from each college, for their winning essays. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship made possible by the generosity of LSC Foundation donors and supporters.

Eric Rivas, LSC-CyFair; Jonathan Amaya, LSC-Houston North; Elizabeth Preston, LSC-Kingwood;

Tara Yeakey, LSC-Montgomery; Elizabeth Guajardo, LSC-Houston North; Madison Terry, LSC-Tomball; and Urooj Rajput, LSC-University Park were selected to read their essays to the lunch attendees.

LSC Foundation scholarships were also awarded to Marrz Lundquist, LSC-CyFair; Destiny Ipina, LSC-Houston North; Demarco Rodriguez, LSC-Kingwood; Angelina Gamez, LSC-Montgomery; Shiza Rubab, LSC-North Harris; Annette Preston, LSC-Tomball; and Hien Doan, LSC-University Park.

"Listening to these students share their stories was personally inspiring," said Nicole Robinson Gauthier, CFRE, LSC Foundation executive director. "I am grateful to the many generous individuals, families, businesses and foundations which help Lone Star College students achieve their dreams with these scholarships."

LSC students are invit-

ed to participate in the essay contest to write about "How my Lone Star College experience has influenced my life." Winners are selected by campus committees before the lunch event, which was held Feb. 16 at the Lone Star Community Building in The Woodlands.

About Lone Star College Foundation

Founded in 1991, LSC Foundation has expanded its initial investment of \$20,000 into an extensive portfolio of over \$39 million and has provided over \$16.5 million in scholarships to nearly 18,000 students, as well as more than \$8 million in program support since its inception. The mission of LSC Foundation is to change lives through student scholarships and quality educational programs achieved by excellence in relationship building, fundraising and investment management. Visit LoneStar.edu/Giving for more information.



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