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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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NEWS NOTES

Superintendent Goffney elected TASA President

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney has been elected President-elect of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). Her election was ratified at TASA's March 23 virtual meeting.

Dr. Goffney becomes the first African American female to ever serve on the TASA Executive Board.



"I am extremely grateful for this amazing honor and look forward to working with my colleagues to further TASA's mission," Dr. Goffney said. "TASA is an amazing organization whose mission is to promote, provide and develop leaders who create and sustain student-centered schools and develop future-ready students."

Dr. Goffney will serve with Los Fresnos CISD Superintendent Gonzalo Salazar, who will serve as TASA President and Tomball ISD Superintendent Martha Salazar-Zamora, who will serve as TASA Vice-President.

All three will assume their duties on June 1, and each will serve a one-year term during the 2022-23 school year.

Dr. Goffney has been a TASA member for 14 years.

Walle says to Concrete Plant: GET OUT OF HERE!

Hundreds of Angry Residents attend TCEQ Hearing Commissioner Garcia offers to buy property

By Gilbert Hoffman
Northeast News

ALDINE – Residents of this community are up in arms over the announcement of another proposed concrete plant within their neighborhood.

A public hearing was held last Thursday evening, at the offices of the East Aldine District, and hundreds of residents, government officials, educators and health professionals turned out to voice their opposition to the proposed plant.

Speaker after speaker told the representatives of TCEQ, the state agency that must approve the application for air quality, that they suffered from asthma and other health conditions caused by eight existing concrete plants within a five mile radius of Aldine.

Many of the speakers pointed out that the site for the concrete plant couldn't have been a worse choice, since it is next to residential homes, a new all-inclusive county parks for immunocompromised children and adults, and within a close distance to an elementary school, with children walking there every day.

The organized protests actually started the day before, when Precinct 2 organized a press conference at Driver Park, next to the site of the proposed concrete plant.

Speaking at the press conference were government representatives, including Pct. 2 commissioner Adrian Garcia, State Representative Armando Walle, State Senator Carol Alvarado, and County Attorney Christian Menefee. They



PROTEST GROUP participants post for a photo after the contentious TCEQ Hearing on the Proposed Concrete Plant in Aldine. The group included EAD's Joyce Wiley, State Rep. Armando Walle, Pct. 2 Selina Valdez, Rocio Witte of BR, Marina Sugg of GFCC, Sergio Hernandez representing State Sen. Carol Alvarado.



PRECINCT 2 COMMISSIONER ADRIAN GARCIA addresses the 200+ attendees about the dangerous affect on health that concrete plants cause. He opposes the location of the plant next to the All-Inclusive James Driver park that he just completed. In a dramatic move in the middle of the meeting, he offered to buy out the plant location from the owner, who responded "It's not for sale."



ABOVE, L to R, Concrete Plant owner Meliton Gomez, State Rep. Armando Walle, and TCEQ's Diane Avalos and Don Nelon.

State Representative Armando Walle talks about living all his life in Aldine, and just when many good enhancements are being realized, the damage this concrete plant would cause to the environment, especially next to residences and the new county park. He angrily told the owners of the plant to go somewhere else. "You're not wanted here."

spoke about what a poor choice this site was for a concrete plant, how many other plants in the area already polluted the air and dirtied or damaged the streets, and how the plant affected the health of residents and park users. This latter fact was reiterated by several health professionals, including Dr. Erica Brown of Harris County Public Health, Dr. Latrice Babin of Harris County Pollution Control, Dr. Adriana Tamez of the Tejano Center, Leticia Gutierrez of Air Alliance, and many others.

As part of his remarks, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia said, "I care about business, and I want to bring better paying jobs into the precinct. However, this community is already overwhelmed. This is about a broader picture. I understand the need for these facilities to exist, but not next to a school and not next to a park – a park designed with all people of all abilities in mind. I urge the company to withdraw their application."

State Representative Armando Walle agreed, saying "folks already live, go to school, and play in the parks next door to this proposed facility," Walle said. "I am tired of these companies coming into our backyards and throwing up a concrete plant just because it is cheap and easy to do it."

"No mas! No more! We cannot afford to have another concrete batch plant adding to already high emissions and putting our children, seniors and others at an increased risk of

Continued. See Aldine Protests Concrete Plant, Page 6

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We're Here For You!

Executive Director: Richard Cantu
713.595.1220 RCantu@AldineDistrict.org

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[AldineDistrict.org](https://www.AldineDistrict.org)

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NEWS
NOTES

East Aldine
Mural Contest
pays \$5000

The East Aldine District has just announced they will hold a Mural Contest to choose an artist to paint a mural on the side of the High Meadows Library during MuralFest22, to be held on Saturday May 21.


Interested artists are asked to submit information to the district arts committee, at eaac@aldinedistrict.org. Deadline for application is April 15, see more details on Page 8.

BakerRipley
Easter
Eggstravaganza

BakerRipley invites the public to a free Easter celebration, the "Eggstravaganza" on Saturday, April 16 from 10am to 1pm at their East Aldine Campus.

Events include an Egg Hunt, Ceramic painting, and food. Also a raffle. If you want to attend, you must pre-register.

2nd COVID Booster
shots available at Harris
County Public Health



President Biden was one of many Senior Citizens that received a 2nd Booster shot for COVID-19 when they became available.

HCPH to Begin Administering
Free COVID-19 2nd Booster
Doses to Residents

HCPH to Revamp Vacstrac System to include
2nd Booster Dose Appointment Scheduling

Houston – Harris County Public Health (HCPH) will begin administering the 2nd booster dose of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines across all vaccination sites to eligible residents effective immediately. On March 29th, the FDA authorized a 2nd booster dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for older people and certain immunosuppressed individuals. Following the FDA's announcement and the CDC's recommendation statement, Harris County Public Health has adopted the following COVID-19 guidelines.

- Residents 50 years of age and older who are **not** moderately or severely immunocompromised may receive a Pfizer or Moderna 2nd booster dose at least 4 months after receipt of their first booster dose.
- A 2nd booster dose of the **Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine** may be administered to certain immunocompromised individuals **12 years of age** and older at least 4 months after receipt of a first booster dose.
- A 2nd booster dose of the **Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** may be administered to certain immunocompromised individuals **18 years of age** and older at least 4 months after the first booster dose.
- Additionally, adults 18-49 years of age who are **not** moderately to severely immunocompromised and received a **Johnson & Johnson COVID-19** primary dose and booster dose at least 4 months ago may now receive a 2nd booster dose using mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. (*Pfizer or Moderna only*)

All COVID-19 vaccines are free to the community and walk-ins are accepted across all county vaccination sites. Residents can register for their COVID-19 vaccine or booster doses by calling **832-927-8787** or visiting HCPH's vaccine registration page.

HCPH urges all residents to do their part during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue COVID-19 best practices. This includes getting a vaccination and getting tested if you experience symptoms to best protect yourself and others.

Opening Day Little League
Baseball at Lyons Park April 2





ABOVE AND BELOW: Aldine Resident and State Representative Armando Valle and his two sons were among the many families registering for the Little League season and enjoying the Opening of the Baseball Season at Squatty Lyons Park.



AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

We will close at 5pm on April 14 and will be closed April 15 and 16. We will re-open April 18 at 11am.

JOB LAB

If you are interested in gaining or improving your resumé skills, we can help! Come join us Apr. 8, 1-2pm, in the computer lab to work on creating your resumé!

CRAFTY CORNER

Join us for Crafty Corner on Sat. April 9 at 2pm! We'll be making birdfeeders & bug houses out of natural and recycled materials to support the wildlife in our yards or on our balconies. A naturalist will be available to talk about the importance of nurturing and protecting pollinators by providing spaces for them.

BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Join us back in the library for storytime in English and Spanish Wednesdays at 10:30am!

LEGO NIGHT

Join us Wednesday, April 13 at 4:30 for fun with Legos! Ages 6 -13 (5 and younger need adult supervision).

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.

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

Registration is still open for the English session of Lena Start at Aldine Branch Library this Spring!

Qualifying participants may be eligible to receive \$100!

To register call (832)927-5410 or email ald@hcpl.net. 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!

TEEN THURSDAYS

New in April! Teen Thursdays are back! Join us on Thursday afternoons starting at 3:30pm. Each week we will have a fun activity for teens ages 12-18.

LEGAL RESEARCH PART 2

Are you curious about the law & legal research? Join us for "Finding Legal Forms and Information" on Tues. April 12 at 6pm. This program It is geared towards people representing themselves in court or trying to find legal information on their own. It is brought to you by @harriscountylawlibrary and the speaker is Heather Holmes, Assistant Law Librarian

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.

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

EARTH DAY EVENT:

Everyone is invited to stop by the library on Friday, April 22nd at 1pm for our Earth Day Event. We will have a giveaway of free trees and seeds while supplies last.

MAGNET CRAFT KIT:

This month's free craft kit is for teens and adults. Grab a free kit today and make your very own magnet! All supplies are included in the kit.

STORY TIME @ THE LIBRARY:

Children of all ages are invited to story time at the library. We have story time on Tuesdays at 11am and Thursdays at 1pm. Enjoy finger plays, stories, songs, and more!

TEEN EVENTS:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 3pm are for teens at High Meadows Library. Teens are welcome to come in for anime/manga club, gaming, crafting, and more. Stop by the library and grab a calendar.

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.

TAX FORMS

If you need 1040 or 4868 Extension Forms, the library has a limited supply of forms and instruction booklets. We also have extension forms.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Register to vote at your local library. We have registration forms available in English & Spanish.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers to help teach our ESL Classes. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the library, please contact us and ask for Jennifer.

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.

FREE WIFI HOTSPOTS AT THE LIBRARY

We have FREE WiFi hotspots available on a first come, first serve basis. If you don't have internet service where you live or if your internet is slow and unreliable, we can check out a WiFi hotspot with unlimited data FREE. All you need is an HCPL library card and if you don't have a library card, we will get you one.

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

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message from the Superintendent, April 4, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

April is here, and most of us are thinking of home and family with spring cleaning, anticipating gatherings for the long holiday weekend (April 15) in a couple of weeks. It is also an excellent time to reset our goals for the year, fine-tune them, and reestablish our motivation toward those goals. I like to think of the school year in quarters. I hope you join me in finishing fourth quarter strong.

You often hear me talk about the importance of leadership. In the leadership of a school, it takes a team of leaders to make the magic in our classrooms happen, for students to develop positive relationships, develop safe spaces, and show what is possible in our schools. In October, we celebrated our school principals. This week, we honor our assistant principals. Most individuals who enter education don't do it for the money or a title. They go into education because they see a need to make a difference in others' lives. They seek to multiply hope for our students. Assistant principals play a crucial role in creating high-quality schools and educational experiences. Often, they are the "voice of the school" in daily operations and work closely with students, parents, and teachers. Join me during National Assistant Principals Week (April 4-8) in taking a moment to thank your campus AP for all that they do for students every day.

This week we also celebrate a special place and group of individuals that have a close place in my heart. It is also National Library Week, and Tuesday, April 5, is Library Workers Day. I credit my joy of reading to my grandparents, as many of you know. They taught me that literacy is the key to getting to wherever I want to go in life. Books can take us to places we may otherwise never see, expose us to experiences we might never have, teach us how to do something new, and so much more. There is also a lot of science behind reading and its importance in learning. Reading has been proven to improve empathy and critical thinking, among other things — skills that are essential to students becoming successful in school, college, and their careers.

I want to encourage each of you to use this month to prioritize reading every day. Now, I'm not talking about reading 300 pages of a thick novel every day. A love of reading can look different from person to person. It could be an exciting graphic novel that piques your interest, or a magazine article that encourages you to look at a world issue from a different perspective, or a how-to book that teaches you a new skill. Personally, I like to read a mix of fiction and nonfiction, including books that help me grow professionally. Right now, I am reading *Leadershift: The 11 Essential Changes Every Leader Must Embrace* by John C. Maxwell with my Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) colleagues across the state.

Related to the topic of reading, I have some exciting news for our young adult readers (and I am sure many adults too). This year, Aldine ISD is hosting the annual TeenBookCon on April 9, with many well-known authors taking part. Additionally, we will celebrate D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) Day on April 12. I can't wait to see what you pick out to read that day! During D.E.A.R. Day, don't forget to share on social media using the hashtag #AldineReads. If you are having a hard time deciding what book to read for D.E.A.R. Day (or any other time), look at the Primary/Elementary level and Secondary level lists and see if you can find something interesting.

Our Multilingual Department continues to provide opportunities for our families to thrive. Registration for the Parent Literacy Program, an initiative in partnership with Lone Star College-East Aldine, opens today, April 5. Adult English literacy classes help beginners to intermediate English speakers develop communication and computer literacy skills. They also gain the tools to become more engaged in their children's education. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Last week, families had an opportunity to learn how they could help their children prepare for STAAR. The state-mandated tests start this week for some students. The testing helps us gauge students' strengths and areas for improvement. It helps us better work to help students succeed and continue to make progress in school. For more information, click here for the district web story. To the students, I wish you all good luck. All we ask is that you try



your very best.

I would be remiss not to mention that April is National Volunteer Month. There are thousands of active volunteers throughout the district working voluntarily. They all give their time and expertise with the sole intention of helping students. Volunteers can regularly be seen acting as chaperones on field trips, booster club leaders, serving as mentors, organizing school festivals, coordinating fundraisers, sharing their experiences on career day, donating prizes, beautifying the schools, and reading tutors, providing opportunities, and other countless activities. Thank you to all our volunteers for making a difference in our students' lives. It really does take a village to raise our children.

And in case you missed it, the MacArthur HS boys' soccer team advanced to the Region 2 Tournament in Austin. Let's show the Aldine ISD team our support on their state journey.

I wish all of you a beautiful week ahead!

With Aldine Pride,
Dr. LaTonya M. GoffneySuperintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 5:** STAAR assessments begin this week. Click here for details and dates.
- **April 5:** Registration for free GED classes for Aldine ISD parents opens. Click here for details.
- **April 9:** TeenBookCon at Davis HS, from 9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Click here for details and learn how to register.
- **April 14:** Deadline to submit the online form to participate in STEMfest 2022. (a K-12 event)
- **April 30:** STEMfest 2022 at the Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center.
- **Ongoing Until May 31:** Preregistration for eligible PreK3, PreK4, and kindergarten students is open for the 2022-2023 school year. Click here for details on how to register.

OBSERVATIONS

- **AprilApril:** National Volunteer
- **Appreciation MonthApril 3-9:** National Library
- **WeekApril4-8:** National Assistant Principals
- **WeekApril 5:** National Library
- **Workers Day April 12:** D.E.A.R. Drop Everything and Read
- **DayApril 29:** Wellness Day (Global Child Nutrition Month)

REMINDERS

Aldine's Family and Community Engagement Department offers the Family and Community University. Programming is free and open to all Aldine families. Register today.

The state requires high school seniors to apply for financial aid to graduate. Click on the FAFSA application or TASFA application links.

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/heathalerts.

Eligible Texas families who lost access to free or reduced-price meals during School Year 2021-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic will receive P-EBT food benefits. Click here for information.

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.



Aldine ISD to Host Inaugural 'FESTIVAL DE PRIMAVERA'



The event centers around literacy and the opportunities the district offers. Aldine ISD will host its inaugural 'FESTIVAL DE PRIMAVERA' in April. While most districtwide events have translators or interpreters available to translate from English to Spanish, this will mark the first time an event will be hosted and delivered in español.

District partners and sponsors of the event include Lakeshore@Xfinity, Harris County Precinct 2, Lone Star College, the DePelchin Children's Center, Bonding Against Adversity, BakerRipley, Custom Care Pharmacy, Sea Smiles Dental & Orthodontics, Legacy Community Health Clinic, the Houston Food Bank, and more.

FESTIVAL DE PRIMAVERA Y LOS LIBROS

- Saturday, April 30, 2022
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
M.O. Campbell Educational Center
1865 Aldine Bender Rd. • Houston, TX 77032
- Activities include children's story read-alouds, STEM activities, a bounce house, and art activities.
 - Informational tables on college, career, technology education (CTE), community resources like financial planning, health clinics, and dental resources
 - Petting zoo, face painting, karaoke, and Zumba
 - Free books for students in the activity areas
 - Student performances mariachi, ballet folklórico, and cheerleaders
 - Student-run food concession stands
 - Summer camp registration
 - School and department staff sharing information about the district's wide range of programs and opportunities for students:
 - Choice School Options
 - Magnet Schools (STEAM Programs for PreK-12)
 - International Baccalaureate Program (Grades K-12)
 - Early College High School
 - Career and Technical Education High School & Pathways in Technology
 - Non-Traditional High School
 - Dual Language Program
 - Early childhood education programs
 - Advanced Academic Programs Like Gifted and Talented & College Preparedness

-ESL and GED Programs for Parents in Partnership With Lone Star College -Family and Community University -And So Much More!

• **Pre-register your child for the 2022-2023 school year**

- Learn about resources available to students and families
- Hear from speakers, including Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney; motivational speaker and family engagement expert Dr. José Luis Zelaya; and Jasminne Mendez, a poet, playwright, and award-winning author of several books for children and adults.

The district is targeting the Spanish-speaking community, the largest demographic in Aldine ISD, to ensure key messages and information are reaching families and students. According to Altagracia' Grace' Delgado, executive director of the Multilingual Department, face-to-face communication is the number one way to communicate with Hispanic families. Her department is sponsoring the event.

April is perfect timing since it is Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month. Currently, Aldine ISD has over 26,000 students identified as emergent bilinguals, but almost 34,000 families that list Spanish on their home language survey.

Centering the theme around literacy, a district strategic priority, Aldine ISD uses the event to celebrate International Day of the Book, typically on April 23. Delgado shared that even though the festival is a week later, the concept is the same — spreading the importance and joy of literacy while sharing information about the district, school options, and programs from more than 15 different AISD departments.

There will be something for the entire family, ranging from face painting and participating in STEM and art activities to enjoying student performances. They will learn about community resources and hear from speakers like motivational speaker Dr. José Luis Zelaya, whose message on the power of education has been broadcast worldwide via television, radio, and newspapers, and author Jasminne Mendez, an award-winning author, poet, playwright, and translator. Families will also hear from Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney.

Aldine ISD families can also sign their children up for summer camps.

MacArthur Tennis Team Wins District 14-6A Title

The MacArthur High School boys and girls tennis team won the District 14-6A title. In addition, 14 players qualified for the Region II Tennis Tournament, slated for April 11-12 at the Waco Regional Tennis Center.

The team is under the direction of head coach Brandon Blake. Héctor de la Cruz finished first in boys' singles in boys' singles, while Arthur Galván finished in second place. Both advanced to the regional tournament.

In girls' doubles, the team of Abigail Pérez and Leslie Ramírez finished in first place, while the team of Briana Valentín and Jasmine de León finished in second place. Both teams advanced to the regional tournament.

In boys' doubles, the team of Juan Torres and Anthony Vargas finished in first place, while the team of Pedro Gutiérrez and Eleazar Lara finished in second place. Both teams advanced to the regional tournament.

In mixed doubles, the Axel Díaz and Kiana Monsiváis team finished in first place, while the team of Nic Galván and Emily Lara finished in second place. Both teams advanced to the regional tournament.

Aldine High School's Mariana Vargas finished in first place in girls' singles and qualified for the regional tournament. Lindsey Eichelman coaches her.

★

OPINION

By BILL KING



Voter Fraud Misinformation

A friend of mine recently forwarded me an email he had received with a link to this webpage, posted by the Texas Nationalist Movement, claiming that there were 33 counties in Texas where more people were registered to vote than the population of citizens over 18 and that this was a “clear sign of election fraud.” The claim is complete and utter nonsense.

The Texas Nationalist Movement is a group that advocates that Texas should succeed from the United States. The movement’s leadership has traveled to Russia for meetings with other “nationalist” groups and the Free Russia Foundation has alleged that it receives financial support from the Russian government.

Its claim, published on March 23, 2022, is based on a “study” conducted by Judicial Watch. The webpage says that the Judicial Watch study was “released this week” but it was actually done in September 2020.

The Judicial Watch (JW) study compared the estimated population of citizens of voting age (VCAP) prepared by the U.S. Census each year to the number of people shown on the Texas Secretary of State as being registered to vote in each county. JW claimed the difference represented “ghost voters.” In Texas, their study says that the number of registered voters exceeds the VCAP in 33 Texas Counties. This is the summary of their finding that TNM published on their website.

You will note that the table only has percentages and does give actual numbers. That is because there were some small counties with a very high discrepancy, thereby making much more of an impact if stated on a percentage basis. For example, the number one example of election fraud was Loving County where, according to Judicial Watch, the number of registered voters was 187% of VCAP! What the table does not reveal is the entire population of Loving County, which is in far west Texas, is 115. There were 116 registered voters against a VCAP of 60, resulting is 66 “ghost voters.”

When the numbers for all 33 counties are aggregated, the JW study shows a difference of just over 37,000 votes (1,944,273 vs. 1,906,900, 1.96%). Just for some context, in 2020 Texas had just over 16 million registered voters, so the alleged “ghost voters” were about .2% of the total.

But even that turned out not to be accurate. As we all know, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census every ten years. However, between censuses the Bureau issues population estimates based on surveys it conducts each year. JW used the Bureau’s survey from 2018, even though by the time of its study in September 2020, the actual numbers for 2020 were available. In other words, JW was comparing estimated population data for 2018 to the 2020 voter rolls.

When you put in the actual Census Bureau numbers for 2020 instead of the 2018 estimate, there are only 20 counties where the number of registered voters exceeds the VCAP. All are small, rural counties with an average VCAP of about 8,700. The number of “ghost voters” drops to 11,385 or .04% (4/100s of one percent) of the States’ registered voters. If you aggregate all 33 counties identified by JW using the 2020 Census numbers, instead of the 2018 estimate, the 2020 registration rate was about 95% for those counties, which is in line with State averages.

But it gets worse. JW included in its total registered voters, those voters whose registrations have been suspended. These are primarily people whose voter registration card was returned by the Post Office to the voter registrar, typically because they had moved. It is possible to vote even if your registration has been suspended but the voter must essentially re-register to do so. Former election officials tell me this happens infrequently.

If you do not count suspended voters, only nine of the counties voter rolls that exceeded the Census Bureau’s estimate for VCAP. Leaving the total number of “ghost voters” at 4,151 or .02% of the States’ registered voters.

Finally, just because someone is registered where they should not be, that does mean they actually voted there. There was only one county, McMullen, where the total votes cast in the 2020 election were higher than the VCAP, and that was by a whopping 41 votes.

McMullen County Courthouse

The total number of votes cast in the 2020 election in all 33 counties identified by JW was about 70% of what the census estimated were eligible voters in those counties which was only slightly higher than the State average at about 65%. And, by the way, Trump won 22 of the 33 counties identified by JW and TNM as being hotbeds for voter fraud. He won 89% of the vote in McMullen County and 94% of the vote in Loving County.


You have all heard the old saying that if something is too good to be true, it probably is. My corollary to that saying is that if something sounds incredible, it probably is.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voters have two constitutional amendments to consider

Eligible Texas voters who have not done so already have until April 7 to register to vote in the May 7 statewide constitutional amendment election, as well as any local elections for city, school districts and other local entities.

“In the upcoming May 7 election, every Texas voter will have the opportunity to vote on two proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution concerning property taxes, and many Texas voters will also be voting on mayoral, city council and school board candidates, as well as local propositions,” John Scott, secretary of state, said.

Both propositions deal with property taxes. The first reduces the total amount of property tax imposed on elderly or disable persons. The second increases the homestead exemption on school taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Early voting begins on April 25 and runs through May 3.

Texans also will have the opportunity to return to the polls on May 24 for the primary runoff election. Early voting begins on May 16 and ends May 20.

Runoffs are slated in the GOP race for attorney general and railroad commission, the Democratic contest for lieutenant governor and land commissioner, and county and district races.

Voters who participated in one party’s primary in March can’t cross over and vote in the other party’s runoff election. However, persons who did not vote in the March 1 primary can vote in either party’s runoff.

Anyone with questions about voting eligibility should contact their county’s election administrator or the secretary of state’s office.



WILDFIRE DANGER CONTINUES IN MUCH OF STATE

The risk of wildfire across the state continues through this week. During the last week of March, state, federal and local firefighters responded to 192 wildfires that burned more than 173,000 acres, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

More than 500 firefighters from the service and through the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System have been deployed across Texas, as well as personnel from 28 states.

We want to ensure that the state has adequate resources to protect Texas’ citizens and natural resources from wildfire,” Wes Moorehead, forest service chief, said. “We are working with other states to mobilize additional fire resources to Texas for assistance.”

The highest risk of fire danger continues to be in West Texas and the Panhandle, according to the forest service.

SCHOOLS SAVED FROM FUNDING CUTS DUE TO ATTENDANCE

Public school districts will not lose funding because of low attendance rates caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Education Agency and Gov. Greg Abbott announced last week. Funding will be made available to school systems in Texas who normally would have had funding cut, since it is based on attendance rates.

“Providing this adjustment to the 2021-22 school year will ensure school systems have the funding they need to retain the best and brightest teachers and provide quality education to all public-school students across Texas,” Abbott said. “We have made tremendous strides to return more of our students back to the classroom and will continue in our efforts to do so.”

Texas public schools are funded based on the number of students enrolled and their daily attendance. Currently, schools get a base allotment of \$6,160 per student annually. The average daily attendance is calculated by total students present divided the required days of instruction. During the pandemic, attendance dipped. The state will once again allow district to toss out low attendance days to increase the average daily attendance and not lose funding.

TEXAS TEACHERS PROTEST UNPAID TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Texas teachers are rebelling against a new law that requires those who teach grades K-3 to complete unpaid a 60- to 120-hour course known as Reading Academies in order to keep their jobs next year.

The law, originally passed in 2019, set a deadline for completing the course by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, according to a report in the Houston Chronicle. Most teachers aren’t compensated for their time taking the course, though some districts offer stipends.

The added pressures of teaching online during the pandemic have exacerbated a teacher shortage that spurred the Texas Education Agency to recently form a task force to address the situation. From 2010 to 2019, the number of certified teachers in the state fell by about 20%, according to a study by the University of Houston.

“I just feel like a lemon just squeezing, squeezing, squeezing,” said Christina Guerra, a special education teacher in La Joya Independent School District. “But there’s no more, there’s nothing that you squeeze out anymore. There’s no more juice.”

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

My Grouchy Friends

I have a weakness for grouchy people.

I have a couple of friends I would describe as perpetually grouchy, and I’m not quite sure why, but I think they are good for me.

To clarify, I’m not fond of being around people who are in the habit of deliberately messing up their lives. I think everyone has known at least one person like this, and it’s hard to watch. I see the train coming down the tracks. I hope my friend will alter course. I try not to be too bossy as I suggest it might be a good idea to get off the tracks. I nervously watch the train barreling straight for them.

“Um, don’t you think it might be a good idea to, maybe, do something a little different? Because a train will come down these tracks sooner or later, and when it does...”

My ideas are always rebuffed: There is no time. There is no energy. There is no need.

Then I have to watch the crash, extend my sympathies, and listen to long explanations about how none of this was preventable and how life is terribly unfair. That is no fun.

But being grouchy is different.

My grouchy friends tell me that I am crazy for always believing things will work out. Grouchy people assure me that there is something within them—their DNA, their upbringing, their carefully cultivated beliefs about how the world works—that justifies their pessimism.

For some reason, this is like catnip to me. I’ve been trying to understand why.

My husband, Peter, tells me I should steer clear of people who are not positive. Peter would like me to be around people who, if they are not quite as upbeat as me, at least have a sunny view of the world. But I keep looking at folks who are surrounded by storm clouds and wanting to keep them company.

Maybe I am some sort of competitive optimist, trying to conquer the most challenging pessimist to earn another notch in my optimist’s belt.

Maybe it gets tiresome always hearing from people who believe as I do: that we are generally as happy as we make up our minds to be. Maybe I like hearing the opposing view to assure myself that, yes, I really do believe this stuff.

Or maybe (and I worry this might be the case) optimism is like one of those religions where, in order to believe, you have to convince others to give it a try.

I think it might be a little off all of the above. It might also be that I am genuinely curious. What would happen if I expected the worst? Would anything change?

Because being optimistic invites injury. Plans fail. People disappoint. Not everything works out as I hope. To be optimistic is to be vulnerable. And I don’t actually think I started out as an optimistic person. I just allowed myself to be hopeful and discovered that things worked out, even when—especially when—it didn’t look as if they would. And so I kept on hoping. Becoming optimistic was like building a muscle. Hope resulted in more things to be hopeful about.

My grouchy friends guard against injury by keeping their hopes low. Their pessimism protects them from disappointment. I try to explain that pessimism is an indiscriminate herbicide—it kills both the crops and the weeds. But, so far, my attempts to convert my grouchy friends to optimism have failed.

It doesn’t matter. I know I’m right. I couldn’t be an optimist and think otherwise.

Till next time, Photos from this week’s column can be found on my blog at CarrieClasson.com.

NORTHEAST★NEWS

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SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje de la Superintendente, 5 de Abril de 2022

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

Abril está aquí, y la mayoría de nosotros estamos pensando en el hogar y la familia con la limpieza de primavera, anticipando reuniones para el fin de semana largo de vacaciones (15 de abril) en un par de semanas. También es un momento excelente para restablecer nuestras metas del año, afinarlas y restablecer nuestra motivación hacia esas metas. Me gusta dividir el ciclo escolar en cuartos. Espero que se unan a mí para terminar fuerte el cuarto trimestre.

A menudo me escuchan hablar de sobre la importancia del liderazgo. En el liderazgo de una escuela, se necesita un equipo de líderes para hacer que la magia en nuestras aulas suceda, para que los alumnos desarrollen relaciones positivas, desarrollen espacios seguros y muestren lo que es posible en nuestras escuelas. En octubre, celebramos a nuestros directores de escuela. Esta semana, honramos a nuestros subdirectores. La mayoría de las personas que ingresan por la educación no lo hacen por el dinero ni un título. Entran en la educación porque ven la necesidad de hacer una diferencia en la vida de los demás. Buscan multiplicar la esperanza para nuestros alumnos. Los subdirectores desempeñan un papel crucial en la creación de escuelas y experiencias educativas de alta calidad. A menudo, son la «voz de la escuela» en las operaciones diarias y trabajan en estrecha colaboración con los alumnos, padres y maestros. Únase a mí durante la Semana Nacional de Subdirectores Escolares (del 4 al 8 de abril) para tomarse un momento para agradecer a su subdirectores escolares por



todo lo que hacen por los alumnos todos los días.

Esta semana también celebramos un lugar especial y un grupo de personas que tienen un lugar cercano en mi corazón. También es la Semana Nacional de las Bibliotecas, y el martes 5 de abril es el Día del Bibliotecario. Doy crédito a mi alegría de leer a mis abuelos, como muchos de ustedes saben. Me enseñaron que la alfabetización es la clave para llegar a donde quiera ir en la vida. Los libros pueden llevarnos a lugares que nunca habríamos imaginado, exponernos a experiencias que nunca tendríamos, enseñarnos cómo hacer algo nuevo y mucho más. También hay mucha ciencia detrás de la lectura y su importancia en el aprendizaje. Se ha demostrado que la lectura desarrolla la empatía y el pensamiento crítico, entre otras cosas, habilidades que son esenciales para que los alumnos tengan éxito en la escuela, la universidad y sus carreras.

Quiero animar a cada uno de ustedes a usar este mes para priorizar la lectura todos los días. Ahora, no estoy hablando de leer 300 páginas de una novela gruesa todos los días. El amor por la lectura puede parecer diferente de una persona a otra. Podría ser una novela gráfica y emocionante que despierte su interés, o un artículo de revista que lo aliente a mirar un tema

mundial desde una perspectiva diferente, o un libro de instrucciones que le enseñe una nueva habilidad. Personalmente, me gusta leer una mezcla de ficción y del género no ficción, incluyendo libros que me ayudan a crecer profesionalmente. En este momento, estoy leyendo Los cambios en liderazgo: Los once cambios esenciales que todo líder debe abrazar por John C. Maxwell con mis colegas de la Asociación de Administradores Escolares de Texas (TASA, por sus siglas en inglés) en todo el estado.

Relacionado con el tema de la lectura, tengo algunas noticias emocionantes para nuestros lectores adultos jóvenes (y estoy seguro de que muchos adultos también). Este año, Aldine ISD está organizando la TeenBookCon anual el 9 de abril, con la participación de muchos autores conocidos por sus libros para jóvenes y adolescentes. Además, celebraremos el Día D.E.A.R. (siglas en inglés de Drop Everything And Read o día de dejar todo y leer en español) el 12 de abril. ¡No puedo esperar ver lo que eligen para leer ese día! Durante el Día D.E.A.R., no olviden compartir en las redes sociales usando el hashtag #AldineReads en inglés o #AldineLee en español. Si tienen dificultades para decidir qué libro leer para el día D.E.A.R. (o cualquier otro momento), pueden mirar en las listas de nivel primario/elemental y nivel secundario y vean si puede encontrar algo interesante.

Nuestro Departamento Multilingüe continúa brindando oportunidades para que nuestras familias prosperen. La inscripción para el Programa de Alfabetización de Padres, una iniciativa en asociación con Lone Star College-East Aldine, se abrirá

mañana, 5 de abril. Las clases de alfabetización en inglés para adultos ayudan a los hablantes de inglés principiantes a intermedios a desarrollar habilidades de comunicación y alfabetización informática. También obtienen las herramientas para involucrarse más en la educación de sus hijos. Por favor, aproveche esta oportunidad.

La semana pasada, las familias tuvieron la oportunidad de aprender cómo podían ayudar a sus hijos a prepararse para STAAR. Las pruebas obligatorias por el estado comienzan esta semana para algunos alumnos. La prueba nos ayuda a medir las fortalezas de los alumnos y las áreas de mejora. Nos ayuda a trabajar mejor para ayudar a los alumnos a tener éxito y continuar progresando en la escuela. Para obtener más información, haga clic aquí para ver la historia web del distrito. A los alumnos, les deseo a todos buena suerte. Todo lo que les pedimos es que hagan todo lo posible.

Sería negligente no mencionar que abril es el Mes Nacional del Voluntariado. Hay miles de voluntarios activos por todo el distrito trabajando voluntariamente. Todos ellos dan su tiempo y experiencia con la única intención de ayudar a los alumnos. Los voluntarios pueden ser vistos regularmente actuando como acompañantes en excursiones, líderes de clubes de refuerzo, sirviendo como mentores, organizando festivales escolares, coordinando recaudaciones de fondos, compartiendo sus experiencias el día de la carrera, donando premios, embelleciendo las escuelas y tutores de lectura, brindando oportunidades y otras innumerables actividades. Gracias a todos nuestros voluntarios por marcar la diferencia en las vidas de nuestros alumnos. Realmente se necesita un pueblo entero para criar bien a cada niño.

Y en caso de que lo hayan perdido, el equipo de fútbol

masculino de la escuela secundaria MacArthur High School avanza al Torneo de la Región 2 en Austin. Mostremos al equipo de Aldine ISD nuestro apoyo en su viaje estatal.

¡Les deseo a todos ustedes una semana hermosa por delante!

Orgullosa de nuestro distrito,

Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney-Superintendente

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS

•5 de abril: Las pruebas STAAR comienzan esta semana. Hagan clic aquí para obtener detalles y fechas.

•5 de abril: Se abre la inscripción para clases gratuitas de GED (significa Desarrollo General de la Educación) para padres de Aldine ISD. Hagan clic aquí for details.

•9 de Abril TeenBookCon se llevará a cabo en Davis High School de 9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Hagan clic aquí para detalles e inscribirse.

•14 de abril: Fecha límite para enviar el formulario en línea para participar en STEMfest 2022. (un evento para alumnos de kinder a 12mo grados)

•30 de abril: STEMfest 2022 (un evento celebrando estudios CTIM) se celebrará en el centro Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center.

En curso hasta el 31 de mayo: Se abre la preinscripción para aquellos elegibles para asistir prekindergarten 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

•Abril: Mes Nacional de Apreciación del Voluntariado 3-9 de abril: Semana Nacional de las Bibliotecas4-8 de abril: Semana Nacional de Subdirectores Escolares

•5 de abril: Día Nacional

del Bibliotecario 12 de abril: D.E.A.R. Drop Everything and Read) Day29 de abril: Día del Bienestar (Mes de la Nutrición Infantil)

RECORDATORIOS

El Departamento de Relaciones con la Familia y la Comunidad (conocido por su acrónimo FACE en inglés) de Aldine ofrece la Universidad de la Familia y la Comunidad. Toda la programación es gratuita y está abierta a todas las familias de Aldine. Obtengan más información e inscribanse hoy.

El estado de Texas requiere que los alumnos del último año de la escuela secundaria (high school) soliciten ayuda financiera para graduarse. Hagan clic en el enlace de la solicitud de FAFSA o solicitud TASFA.

El estado requiere que todos los alumnos universitarios que ingresan tomen la Evaluación de la Iniciativa de Éxito de Texas (TSI). Hagan clic aquí para obtener más información.

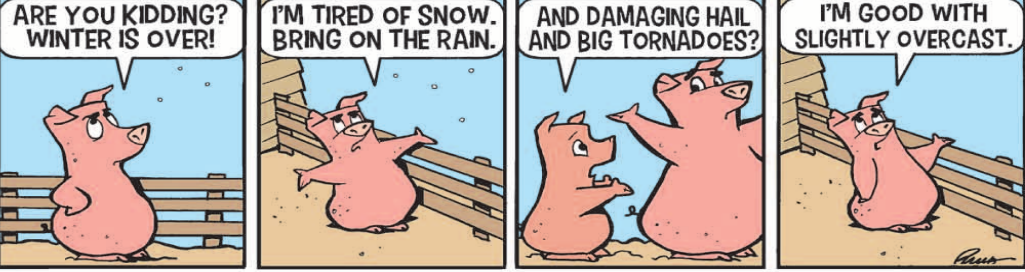
Las principales prioridades de Aldine ISD continúan siendo la seguridad y el éxito académico de todos los alumnos. Publicaremos toda la información relacionada con nuestras operaciones junto con cualquier actualización en www.aldineisd.org/health-alerts.

Las familias elegibles de Texas que perdieron el acceso a comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido durante el año escolar 2021-2022 debido a la pandemia de COVID-19 recibirán beneficios para alimentos conocido como P-EBT. Hagan clic aquí para obtener información.

Manténganse 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.

ENTERTAINMENT

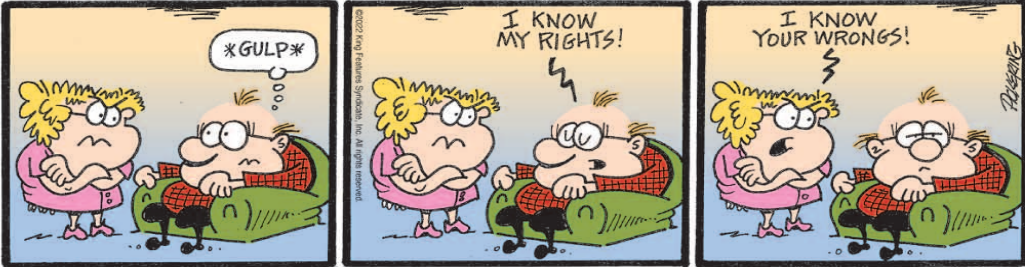
Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

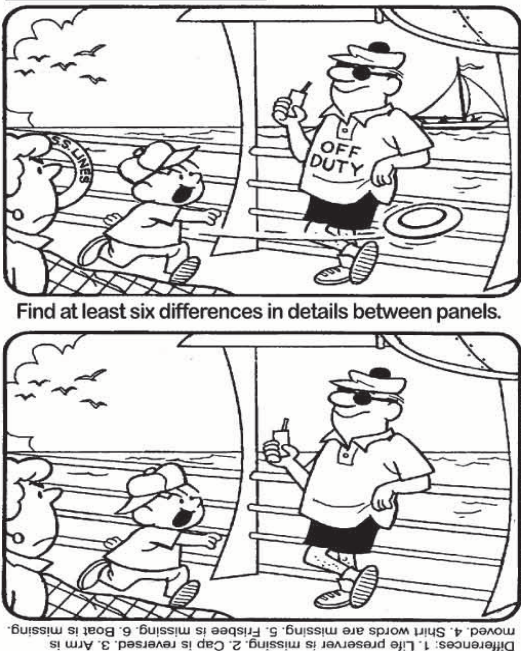
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Life preserver is missing. 2. Cap is reversed. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Shift words are missing. 5. Frisbee is missing. 6. Boat is missing.

ACROSS

- 1 Swiss peaks
- 5 — roll (winning)
- 8 Lily variety
- 12 Not worth debating
- 13 Chest muscle
- 14 Here (Sp.)
- 15 Shop tools
- 17 Void partner
- 18 Chemical suffix
- 19 MGM motto start
- 20 Enlighten
- 21 Elev.
- 22 Petrol
- 23 Prima donnas
- 26 Thornton Wilder drama
- 30 B — boy
- 31 Grass shack
- 32 "Closer" actor
- 33 "Blue Bloods" actress
- 35 El Greco's birthplace
- 36 Sunbather's goal
- 37 Carrier to Amsterdam
- 38 Cabbage choice
- 41 Chairman of China
- 42 Persian, for one
- 45 Recognized

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- 46 Sightseeing stop
- 48 Falco of "The Sopranos"
- 49 Whatever number
- 50 Unruly kid
- 51 Volition
- 52 Zee preceder
- 53 Priestly vestments
- 6 Reporter's quest
- 7 Rm. coolers
- 8 Desert hazard
- 9 Iso-
- 10 Chasm
- 11 Unctuous
- 16 Droops
- 20 Listener
- 21 Small wiper
- 22 Belly
- 23 Apply cream
- 24 Medit. nation
- 25 Half of XIV
- 26 Ump's call
- 27 Have bills
- 28 Drench
- 29 SSW opposite
- 31 Chick's mom
- 34 Carefree
- 35 LummoX
- 37 Rap star West
- 38 Distort
- 39 "The King —"
- 40 Bridal accessory
- 41 Oodles
- 42 Poet
- 43 Basra resident
- 44 B'way booth sign
- 46 Legislation
- 47 CEO's deg.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- HUMAN ANATOMY: How many miles of blood vessels does the average human have?
- GEOGRAPHY: What degree is assigned to the International Date Line?
- MOVIES: Which Looney Tunes character's catchphrase is "You're despicable"?
- ADVERTISING: What was the name of the grocery owner in the Charmin bath tissue ads of the 1960s-80s?
- U.S. STATES: What is the only state to have one syllable in its name?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the only letter that doesn't appear in the periodic table?
- MYTHOLOGY: How many gods and goddesses were said to live on Mount Olympus?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the last to serve without a college degree?
- LITERATURE: Celie is a character in which 1982 novel?
- TELEVISION: Which musical TV drama takes place at William McKinley High School?

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Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

ALDINE RESIDENTS PROTEST CONCRETE PLANT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

heart and lung disease and premature death,” said State Senator Carol Alvarado, “Our arms are wide open for businesses that provide new jobs, economic investment and a higher quality of life. We want more grocery stores, banks, restaurants, and entertainment venues to keep East Aldine money in East Aldine and to attract visitors from around the Houston area. We don’t businesses that are only interested in lining their pockets at the expense of our community.”

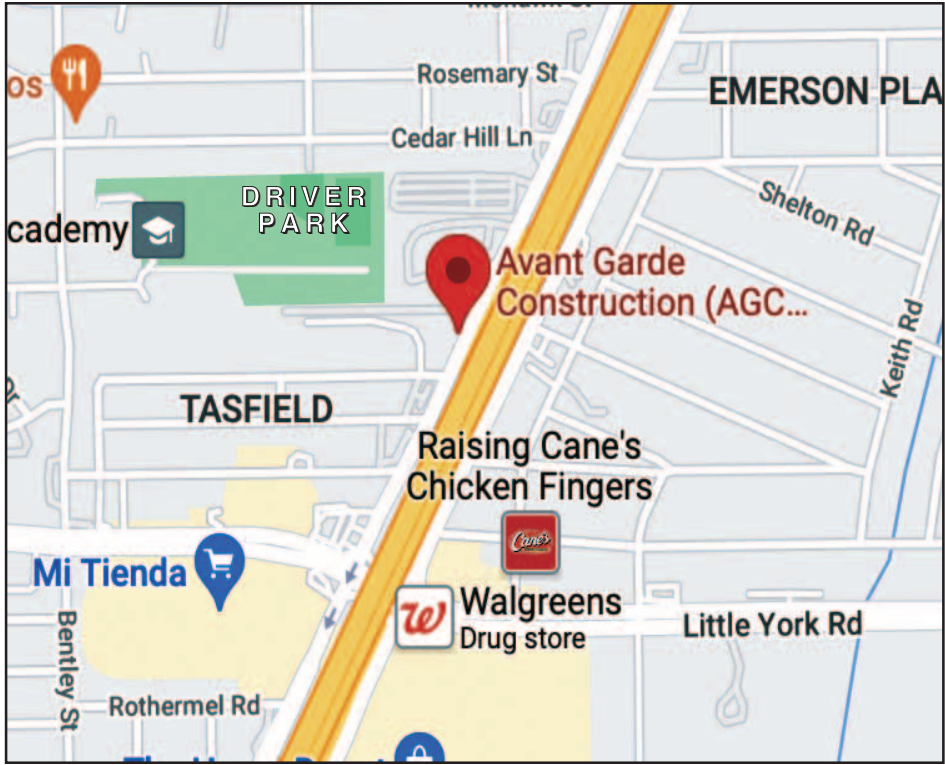
Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee expressed concern about how the permitting process works in the State of Texas, saying, “the TCEQ al-



Concrete Plant Owner Meliton Gomez and son Ivan Gomez answered questions and presented a slide show of Best Practices in managing a concrete plant.



Life-long residents of Aldine Manuel Ronquillo and daughter Shirley Ronquillo hold signs protesting the location of the Concrete Plant near their residential neighborhood. Many attendees yelled angrily during the proceedings.



LOCATION OF CONCRETE PLANT IS NEAR RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND NEW PCT. 2 JAMES DRIVER ALL-INCLUSIVE PARK

lowing yet another plant to overwhelm this neighborhood is proof that the system is broken. Our state laws and state regulators should have rules that protect the health of our communities, children, and seniors. This should be about protecting people, not profits.”

“As a representative of Harris County Public Health, it is our role to inform and provide policy information to leaders in our community,” said Community Health & Wellness Division Director Dr. Erica Brown. “Another batch plant would increase the rates of asthma for our elderly and small children. On behalf of the residents of this community, Harris County Public Health stands with these important voices in opposing a batch plant, specifically because it would adversely affect the health outcomes of our community.”

“Concrete batch plants and the amount of pollution produced by these plants are not a new nuisance issue in Harris County,” said Dr. Latrice Babin of Harris County Pollution Control. “By the same token, these plants are not a new issue in communities disproportionately impacted by numerous environmental nuisances. Communities of color are the location of choice for batch plants and other aggregate facilities. This targeted placement creates environmental justice issues that decision-makers and community leaders should address holistically. Harris County Pollu-

tion Control is committed to doing our part.”

“Particulate Matter 2.5 emissions from these facilities contribute to negative respiratory, cardiovascular and other health outcomes,” said Leticia Gutierrez of Air Alliance. “Air Alliance Houston stands with the community against yet another concrete batch plant in East Aldine.”

Thursday night’s TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) was scheduled for two hours, but because of the large number of persons that wanted to speak, it continued for over three hours.

The hearing opened with statements from Commissioner Garcia, and State Rep. Armando Walle. After that, the Applicant Mr. Meliton Gomez, owner of Avant Garde Construction, showed slides and spoke about how he planned on operating an environmentally clean and friendly plant.

Among the Best Practices that Gomez promised, included:

- A barrier to control dust, noise, and light suppression around the site.
- Concrete paving of the high-traffic areas on the site, along plant-bunkered aggregate, to minimize potential dust.
- Sloping truck loading and truck washing areas to collect water run-off in basins.
- A sprinkler system and wheel truck wash areas to minimize dust and dirt leaving the site.
- Minimal plant lighting to prevent creation of a visual nuisance at night.

During the rest of the night, Gomez and his son listened and said very little about the public comments.

Walle gave an impassioned talk about growing up in Aldine, and seeing it improve. He mentioned that many organizations had recently built facilities and invested over \$100 million, and a plant like this threatened the progress of the area. He said about existing plants, “we have a history with these concrete plants.

Dust, noise, particulate matter, 24 hour operation. He closed by asking, with anger in his voice, that TCEQ reject the application, or the operator withdraw his application.

Commissioner Garcia offered to find another use for the property if the owner kept it, but in the formal portion of the hearing he actually offered to purchase the property for the owner’s \$700,000 investment. Mr. Meliton Gomez, the owner and applicant, stated “It’s not for Sale.”

Walle pleaded with him, saying “you had a very generous offer from Commissioner Garcia. Take the offer and GET OUT OF HERE.”

Several hours of the hearing were devoted to residents and others placing their opinions on the public record, which will become part of the decision making process of TCEQ, according to the representatives that were present.

Some of the many comments that were made follow:

AISD’s Abel Garza asked why AGCC (Avant Garde Construction Co.) built a 12’ high wall around their site, unless they knew dust blew away. Also, if cleaning the frontage road would impact traffic flow regularly.

Mr. Gomez stated that he expected 30 to 40 trucks daily to use the facility. He only controls them on his property, not on roads. He stated he has no experience operating a concrete batch plant.

Sergio Hernandez pointed out that the plant would be within 1500 feet of Scarborough Elementary, where children walk to school daily, affected by air quality good or bad.

Manuel Ronquillo said “you come here to cause problems.”

Maria Ronquillo said “I am 70 years old. I enjoy the park. I walk there every day. I want it to be healthy.”

AISD’s Rose Avalos said the School District works to improve everyone’s health, and “your plant will set us back in healthy environment.”



The day before the TCEQ public hearing, local government leaders met with residents to voice their strong opposition to the location of the plant in Aldine. ABOVE, Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia speaks, joined by County Attorney Christian Menefee, State Senator Carol Alvarado, East Aldine Executive Director Richard Cantu, and State Representative Armando Walle.



State Representative Armando Walle speaks angrily about this plant being the 8th within a five-mile radius, and how he has tried to regulate and stop them in the State Legislature. Beside Walle are many of the residents of the area whose health would be affected, and behind him is the new All-Inclusive James Driver Park, especially designed for those with various types of infirmities.

EAD’s Richard Cantu said that current concrete plants leave cement and gravel on the roads, causing flooding. He said another plant would decrease property values.

Green Forest CC president Ruben Salazar said that the existing plant on Hartwig violates regulations continuously, and enforcement is not effective. He presented a petition against the project, with 400 signatures.

Scarborough Elementary teachers Maria Pellegrini and Sanford Lewis said that students already are present at the school with asthma or sick from polluted water, and they don’t need additional problems.

Pilgrim Place’s Coco Martinez said that her senior citizens use the Driver Park daily, and would be affected by the air quality problems.

GFCC’s Marina Sugg mentioned the seniors and the kids that use the park. She said seniors walk daily in the park, or exercise, and “They are trying to live a few more quality years.”

BakerRipley’s Rocio Witte stated that her job is bringing “healthy life” to Aldine, and she angrily criticized the plant proposal. “Please withdraw your application” she said.

Rosalva Hernandez said she lives 2 blocks from an existing batch plant, and her family now all have asthma after the plant came.

David Hernandez Jr. said that the Aldine community is coming to life, and told the applicant “don’t stop it.” He cited all the rules TCEQ uses to evaluate an application: law, common sense, public participation. His conclusion was the permit should be denied.

Super Neighborhood #46 Lupita Talle said their are too many health hazard associated with the plant proposal.

Randall Macias said that no one cleans up the concrete that spills on local roads.

Courtney Kinder, speaking from her wheelchair, said using the new All-Inclusive Driver Park was crucial to her, and her two special needs children, and would be compromised by the new plant.

Air Alliance’s Leticia Gutierrez said that her group would hold the plant owner accountable for his promises of cleanliness and healthy air. But she said the plant would destroy a beautiful park.

Monica Martinez said she lives next door to the site of the proposed concrete plant, and when Gomez worked on filling low spots in the site, and removing trash, the streets were left dirty and no one cleaned them up.

8 year old Alexander Lopez reached up to the microphone, and said “I have asthma. I don’t want more.”

Gloria Estella said she lives near and regularly passes an existing concrete plant in Aldine, and the street always has potholes from the heavy trucks, and they often fall into the ditches because the street is too narrow.

Sandra Luna, one of the last speakers, asked “Are we going to go backwards?”

The TCEQ hearing adjourned at 10:15pm, about 3 hours after it had started. Most participants felt they had the opportunity to speak, but doubted that the TCEQ was very responsive to public opinion, favoring business interests. They said that they had to work within the state legislative rules, and decide only on this compliance.

This left the audience and legislators wondering why the state doesn’t have stronger environmental rules for this type of plant.



