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# NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 46 Years  
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## Americanisms



"Biology is the least of what makes someone a mother."  
— Oprah Winfrey

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## NEWS NOTES

### County Begins Providing Second Booster

Harris County Public Health is now administering the 2nd booster dose of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines at all our vaccination sites. If you are over 50 or immunocompromised and received your first booster at least 4 months ago, you can now get a 2nd booster.

Use of Harris County COVID ICU and general hospital beds are at the lowest levels they have been since May 2020, and we are at the second lowest COVID-19 threat level: Yellow. This is great news, but that doesn't necessarily mean the pandemic is over — new cases are plateauing and have stopped decreasing.

We can't let our guard down, and our strongest defense against the virus is vaccination, which is proven to be the best way to prevent serious outcomes from COVID-19. The FDA approved a second COVID-19 vaccine booster for select groups of individuals and those qualified.

Visit [ReadyHarris.org](https://ReadyHarris.org) or call 832-927-8787 to schedule an appointment for your booster shot. We encourage you to make an appointment, if possible, as only limited walk-up opportunities are available.

## Hundreds attend Aldine ISD's Festival de Primavera Families learn about AISD in Spanish language

Aldine ISD hosted its inaugural 'FESTIVAL DE PRIMAVERA' on Saturday, April 30, at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. The three-hour event was an opportunity for Spanish-speaking families to learn all things Aldine without a language barrier. The district staff held the event entirely in Spanish.

Several invited speakers also chatted with families at the festival. Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney welcomed families and shared a little about her story and what she hoped families would take away from the festival. She delivered her speech in Spanish to a crowd of families attending the festival as well as student volunteers and community partners. Families also heard from Dr. José Luis Zelaya, whose message on the power of education has been broadcast worldwide via television, radio, and newspapers,



Families spoke with school representatives and staff members from 15 different departments to learn more about the district, School Choice options, and other programs and services.

and author Jasminne Mendez, an award-winning author, poet, and playwright.

The district targeted the Spanish-speaking community, the largest demographic in Aldine ISD, to ensure key messages and information

were 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 made perfect timing to host the event since it is Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month. Currently, Aldine ISD has over 26,000 students identified as emergent bilinguals, but almost 34,000 families list Span-

ish on their home language survey.

Families spoke with school representatives and staff members from 15 different departments to learn more about the district, School Choice options, and other programs and services. The festival has something for all ages, from a petting zoo to arts and STEM activities to information about college admissions. Families also took home free books.

District partners and sponsors of the event included 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.

A big "thank-you" goes out to everyone who came out to the festival and the volunteers and sponsors who made it happen.

## County votes \$4 million for Youth crime prevention

Funds targeted to groups that help at-risk kids

Harris County announces a Youth Reinvestment Fund to engage at-risk youth to prevent crime before it happens; to Support the work of grassroots organizations to zero in and eliminate root causes of gun violence and crime.

Judge Hidalgo joined Commissioner Rodney Ellis and other local leaders last week to announce another new initiative aimed at reducing crime across Harris County.

Approved by Harris County Commissioners Court in April, the \$4 million Youth Reinvestment Fund will prevent crime, including violent gun crime, before it happens by supporting local organizations who engage at-risk youth and support strate-

gies proven to divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

Research consistently demonstrates that investing in early childhood intervention among at-risk youth effectively decreases the likelihood of young people becoming adult offenders later on in life and saves taxpayer dollars in the long run.

At the announcement were Lina Hidalgo, Harris County Judge Rodney Ellis, Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner, Helen Stagg, Change Happens CEO, Henry Gonzales, Executive Director of Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, Assata Richards, Youth Justice Coalition, Dr. Ana Yáñez Correa, Interim Director Justice Administration Department.

During the press conference, Judge Hidalgo and Commissioner Ellis announced that Change Happens will serve as the administrator and "backbone" of this new fund. Change Happens is a lo-

Continued on Page 2

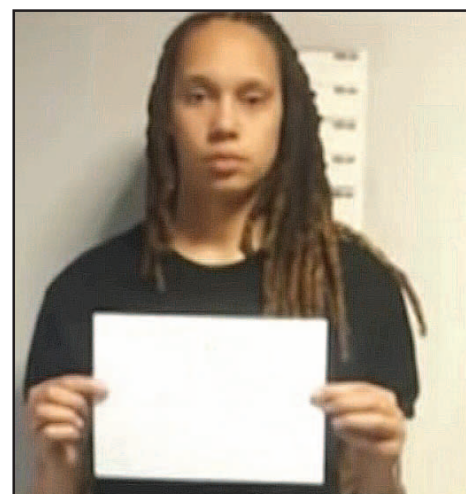
## United States moves Griner status to priority

Nimitz HS star in Russian prison; WNBA teams show support

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration has determined that WNBA star Brittney Griner is being wrongfully detained in Russia, meaning the United States will more aggressively work to secure her release even as the legal case against her plays out, the State Department said.

"The U.S. government will continue to undertake efforts to provide appropriate support to Ms. Griner," the department said.

Griner was detained at an airport in February af-



Griner in Russian Jail in February

ter Russian authorities said a search of her bag revealed vape cartridges containing oil derived from cannabis. Since then, U.S. officials had stopped short of classifying the Phoenix Mercury player as

Continued on Page 2

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**Operations Manager: Veronica Sanches**  
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**JUNE 18**

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## Open for (more) Business?

Be sure to let everyone know you are now open with a small notice in this newspaper.

Thank you.  
**NORTHEAST NEWS**  
713-266-3444

**CONFESSIONS:**  
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AND THURSDAY  
FROM 6 TO 6:50 PM,  
SATURDAYS  
FROM 4 TO 4:50 PM,  
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East Aldine to  
hold MURAL  
FEST2022 on  
May 21  
Mural Contest  
pays \$5000

The East Aldine District has 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. The painting project will be completed over a three day period at the side of the library. Interested artists were asked to submit information to the district arts committee, at [eaac@aldinedistrict.org](mailto:eaac@aldinedistrict.org). A mural artist will be chosen based on experience and a portfolio and a statement of interest.

Keep East Aldine  
COVID Safe




AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

JOB LAB

If you are interested in gaining or improving your resumé skills or need help searching for jobs, we can help! Come join us Fridays from 1-2pm in the computer lab for assistance with your job search!

BILINGUAL STORYTIME

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

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.

LENA

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

be eligible to receive \$100!

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

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](mailto: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

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COMMUNITY  
WATCH

Shooting Incident at 792 West Mount Houston Road

Houston police have learned the identity of an armed suspect fatally shot at 792 West Mount Houston Road about 5:45 p.m. on Saturday (April 9). The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences has identified the male as Richard Nichols, 48. Three HPD officers who discharged weapons in the incident were not injured. The officers are assigned to the North Patrol Division. Officer D. Blackerby was sworn in as an officer in December 2018, Officer J. Pavlica in December 2014 and Officer J. Mayfield in August 2021. HPD Special Investigations Unit Sergeant J. Hekimian and Detectives N. Arellano, W. Elliott, V. Nguyen and D. Escobar reported: Officers received information that a male suspect, known to carry firearms, was trespassing at a business at the above address. Officers obtained the male's description and learned he had a parole violation for organized criminal activity. The officers arrived at the location and found the suspect in a small room inside the business. While officers were giving the suspect verbal commands, he reached for a weapon. At that time, three officers discharged their weapons, striking the suspect several times. The male was transported an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased. As is customary in officer-involved shooting incidents in the city limits, the incident is being investigated by the HPD Special Investigations Unit, the Internal Affairs Division and the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

Adopt a Pet This Spring!

The Harris County Pets Resource Center is among the largest open-admission municipal shelters in the region and, yet, faces daily overpopulation challenges. Sadly, every Spring we see a huge jump in the number of cats and dogs in need. But there is a rewarding way for you to help! By fostering or adopting a dog or cat, you can give a loving pet the home they deserve. All animals adopted are spayed or neutered, are microchipped, receive their vaccinations, and have their pet license for



Harris County. You can find out more about adopting or fostering a pet by visiting the Harris County Pets website here, or call (281) 999-3191 for more information.

County Initiative for Youth,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cal non-profit organization with decades of experience providing comprehensive mentoring, education, prevention, and intervention services to at-risk youth. The organization will partner with other grassroots organizations across the county engaged in evidence-based work to administer funding, provide technical assistance and other support for the community.

Brittney Griner status upgraded by United States,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wrongfully detained and said instead that their focus was on ensuring that she had access in jail to American consular affairs officials. Now, though, U.S. officials have shifted supervision of her case to a State Department section — the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs — that is focused on negotiating for the release of hostages and other Americans classified as being wrongfully detained in other countries. A consular officer did visit in March. “Brittney has been detained for 75 days and our expectation is that the White House do whatever is necessary to bring her home,” said Griner’s agent, Lindsay Kagawa Colas. The president of the WNBA players’ union, Nneka Ogwumike, noted in a separate statement that “it has been 75 days that our friend, teammate, sister, Brittney Griner, has been wrongfully detained in Russia.” “It is time for her to come home,” Ogwumike added. “Having learned that the U.S. government has now determined that BG is being wrongfully detained we are hopeful that their efforts will be significant, swift and successful.” The WNBA released a statement Tuesday night saying: “Today’s news on Brittney Griner is a positive development and a next step to getting her home. The WNBA is in constant communication with the U.S. government on Brittney’s case, working together to get her home safe and as soon as possible.” It was unclear what prompted the shift in approach to Griner’s case, though President Joe Biden’s administration had been under pressure from members of Congress and others to make her release a priority. The U.S. last week secured the release of Marine veteran Trevor Reed as part of



Griner now plays for the WNBA team the Phoenix Sun. Previously she was a star with the Baylor Lady Bears, and the Nimitz High School team.

a prisoner swap that also resulted in a convicted Russian drug trafficker being freed from prison in the U.S. Besides Griner, another American regarded as unjustly detained in Russia is Paul Whelan, a corporate security executive from Michigan who was arrested in December 2018 while visiting for a friend’s wedding and was later sentenced to 16 years in prison on espionage-related charges his family says are bogus. ESPN first reported the classification in Griner’s case. Meanwhile, the WNBA announced Tuesday that it would honor Griner with a floor decal and allow the Mercury to pay her without it counting against the team’s cap. The decal will feature Griner’s initials, BG, as well as her No. 42. All 12 teams will have the decal on their home courts starting with the season opener Friday night. The Mercury open their season at home that night against the Las Vegas Aces.

LSC at NMUN Conference,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

pared statement. “The world needs your energy, courage and commitment.” “The Honors College at Lone Star College is a great place for high-achieving students seeking to improve their college transcripts and transferability with challenging coursework,” said Katharine Caruso, Ph.D., LSC Associate Vice Chancellor Honors and International Education. “This program engages and challenges students inside and outside the classroom through small classes and close interaction with dedicated faculty.” Visit [LoneStar.edu/HonorsCollege](http://LoneStar.edu/HonorsCollege) to learn more about the opportunities to travel, attend off-campus educational and cultural events, perform service-learning opportunities, join conferences and special seminars. The National Model United Nations advances understanding of the U.N. and contemporary international issues and has positively impacted the lives of thousands of student delegates. The Outstanding Delegation award is based on the delegation’s ability to represent the positions of their assigned country, participate actively in committees and follow the proper rules of procedure for diplomatic exchange. Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow’s workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2021 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and ranked 35th in Texas in the Forbes ‘America’s Best Employers By State’ list. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit [LoneStar.edu](http://LoneStar.edu).

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH:

Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with High Meadows. May 14th at 11am is Kendama Day Celebration. Come join the Japan-America Society of Houston and Michael Martin of the Houston Kendama Meet-Up as we celebrate Kendama Day! The beloved Japanese skill toy was patented on this day in 1919. Learn about the history and background of the kendama and master some cool tricks.

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.

BOOK CLUB:

In May, we are reading and discussing “The Turn of the Key” by Ruth Ware for book club. Our next meet up will be Monday, May 23rd at 6pm. Join us for a lively discussion.

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](mailto:jennifer.nandlal@hcpl.net).

SEED LIBRARY:

Every week we will be debuting new seeds for you to stop by and pick up free of charge. Customers

are limited to one packet of seed per person.

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!

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.

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

JENNIFER NANDLAL  
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SPECIALIST  
HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY  
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HOUSTON, TX 77039  
832.927.5540



SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message from the Superintendent, May 3, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

As we kick off May, please take the opportunity to #ThankAnAldineISDTeacher. It is Teacher Appreciation Week. This year's theme is "Teaching is a Work of Heart." Those words could not be more accurate. Teachers are a huge part of each student's success. They change the lives of students every day by helping them learn and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. Please let them know what they mean to your child, your family, or if you are a student or staff member, what they mean to you. I've already started seeing some schools post on social media about how they celebrate their educators. You can even read a story online about childhood friends now teaching together at one of our schools.

There is another group that I encourage you to celebrate later this week with me — our school nutrition professionals. The "lunch ladies," as our students sometimes affectionately refer to them, also impact students' lives. They ensure our students have full bellies with nutritious meals that keep them energized and ready to learn. Give our hard-working cafeteria workers a shout-out and thank them on School Lunch Superhero Day on Friday, May 6. A little birdie told me that students will receive a special treat that day. The lunch ladies will be wearing their hero attire as they serve slushies to students in all grade levels. How much fun!

May also marks Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The third most spoken languages are by our Asian American/Asian students. I have long believed that diversity is a strength, and it is definitely a strength in Aldine. Our identity, traditions, and cultures are important to each of us. They can show us more often than not how similar we all are, like how we value the importance of family. Visit our website to learn how our district leaders will celebrate with activities planned for each week this month.

This past weekend was full of activities. I want to thank all the families, students, staff members, community members, and partners who came to STEMfest and Festival de Primavera. It was great to see so many of you. Students of all ages enjoyed the STEM activities and showed how smart they are by sharing their projects or competing. That day, I also gave a speech in Spanish for the first time in my life. As I practiced, it made me better understand what our English language learners experience and appreciate the diversity of our district and the value of being multilingual.

If you are looking for more stories about the great things happening in the district, visit our website to read about the Aldine, Davis, and MacArthur baseball teams earning playoff berths; the French language student who earned a national award, the students that shined at the Texas State History Day contest and advanced to nationals, and TASCO naming Salvador Fernández Regional Coach of the Year.

Before I close, I want to remind you that families can begin the process of pre-registering their young learners in one of our 12 primary schools. The district will be hosting a primary school enrollment event at each campus on Saturday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to noon, to assist families enrolling eligible students. The deadline to preregister our youngest students for the



2022-2023 school year is the end of May. And don't forget that we are offering summer learning experiences for students in grades PreK to 12. Have a great week ahead. With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May:** Click here for details and dates about STAAR testing.
- May 8:** Priority deadline to apply to be a Summer Student Tutor through the AISD/iEducate partnership. Click here for details.
- May 21:** The 12 primary schools will host an enrollment event with staff assisting eligible families with pre-enrollment. Click here for details.
- 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.
- Summer Learning Experiences Start in June:** Click here to learn more about the different learning opportunities Aldine ISD will offer our students in grades PreK4-12.

OBSERVATIONS

MayAsian-Pacific American Heritage MonthMay 1-7: National Teacher Appreciation Week; May 3: National Teacher Appreciation DayMay 6: School Lunch Hero DayMay 11: National School Nurse Day (NASN)May 13: School Communicators DayMay 15-21: National Police WeekMay 18: National Speech Pathologist Day

REMINDERS

- Aldine's Family and Community Engagement Department launched the Family and Community University. Programming is free and open to all Aldine families. Click here to learn more.
- 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/healthalerts](http://www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts).
- 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.



Eisenhower High's Zacchaeus Henry Leads on and off the Field



Eisenhower High School quarterback Zacchaeus Henry, fourth from left, poses with members of his offensive line and wide receiver Ryan Niblett, left, during a break from spring training. Henry is not only a leader on the field, but off it as well as he recently came to the aide of a homeless man in the Acres Homes community. Pictured are, (l-r): Niblett, Kamarion Ward, Jordan Presley, Henry, Eufimo Jauderdale and Brian Keelen.

Eisenhower High School junior quarterback Zacchaeus Henry is a true leader, both on and off the field.

On the football field, Henry is the Eagles' signal caller who organizes the offense and makes plays with his arm and legs. Off the field, Henry is a compassionate young man who believes it is his responsibility to give back to his community.

He showed his compassion and caring spirit recently when he came to the aid of a homeless man in the Acres Homes Community.

Henry, who also attends the Acres Homes Barber College, spotted a homeless man one Saturday morning and decided to reach out to see if he could help him. He took his new friend to the college, washed his hair and gave him a haircut. It was the first time in 17 months the man had had his hair washed or had a haircut. But Henry didn't stop there.

He also bought him a meal, provided him with a pair of Jordan 1's and White Air Force Ones tennis shoes, two new shirts, underwear, a mask, blanket, toiletries, a backpack and \$22.

When asked why he went out of his way to help a stranger, Henry said it just came naturally.

"It's my duty to help others," Henry said. "I'm always looking out for others."

He also received inspiration from some of the veteran barbers the Acres Homes Barber College.

"Some of the older gentlemen told me how they help others in our community, so I thought I should get involved in the community as well. I believe when somebody is down you help them."

As a junior, Henry threw for 905 yards and 12 touchdowns and added three touchdowns on the ground.

Those who know Henry weren't surprised by his kind gesture.

"Knowing that Zacchaeus took time to care for a member of our community came as no surprise to me," said Eisenhower High School Principal Mandele Davis. "He has a heart for people and demonstrates his concern in ways such as this. He is a leader here at school and leads his classmates and community by being a positive influence. Zacchaeus is intelligent and demonstrates strong character, what we as educators define as the purpose of education. Zacchaeus embodies our mission of enriching the lives of all whom we touch and it's evident he desires to ensure Eisenhower is a better place."

Henry's head coach, Eric Jackson, wasn't surprised of his kind action either.

"He's a leader," Jackson said. "He likes to help people. He wants to get others to come together to do what's best for people. We are proud of him."

Teammate Ryan Niblett, the team's star wide receiver who has verbally committed to the University of Texas after his senior season, said leading and helping others comes naturally to Henry.

"He has a big heart," Niblett said. "And he's a great teammate."

Henry strongly believes that people should help those in need, no matter how young or old they are.

"You can be any age and do good things for others," he said.

On June 25, Henry will hold a pop-up shop at 8302 Colonial Ln., which will have motivational speakers, entertainment, and food.

For just being a junior in high school, Zacchaeus Henry is building an impressive resume, which should take him far in life and benefit others he will come across for years to come.

Houston Astros Foundation Literacy Bus Stops by Gray Elementary

Gray Elementary School students were surprised with a visit from the Houston Astros Foundation Literacy Bus on April 22. Each student was able to select one book to add to their personal home libraries. As summertime approaches Gray Elementary Information Literacy Specialist, Christalyn Stansell wanted to continue encouraging the love of leisure reading.



"This is not a school book or a library book," Houston Astros Foundation Literacy Bus volunteer and former librarian, Marsha Fischer, reiterated. "This is a book just for you to have and add to your personal library."

Each classroom came outside one by one to visit the literacy bus. Fischer highlighted some of the different kinds of books students would be able to choose from and even highlighted some of the new titles available. Students were impressed with the book options and the decked-out Astros-themed bus.

Gray Elementary fifth-grade students and Friends of Gray library volunteers, Nia García and Alberto Cardenas, were excited to get a chance to visit the literacy bus. Both of the students enjoy reading and spend their time outside of the classroom volunteering in the library.

While searching for a book, García described her perfect book. "I look for books that have a good story to tell," she said. "I first look up the books online to see what it is about before I pick them up from the library or go shopping."

Jose Machado, Gray Elementary student, was shocked to know that he was going home with a new book.

"This gives books to people who are in need and maybe don't know how to read," Machado said. "We are lucky the bus came to our school. The Literacy Bus tells students that literacy can help them."

The Astros Foundation, in partnership with Occidental, Houston Independent School District, and the Houston Public Library Foundation host the Astros Foundation Literacy Bus. The bus travels to schools across the Houston area to provide free books to students in grades K-5.

Take Pride in our Community  
Keep it Clean


In Aldine  
everyone  
reads the  
NORTHEAST  
NEWS



★

COUNTY CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



# A Year of accomplishments with the American Rescue Plan Act

We have crossed the one year anniversary of President Joe Biden signing the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help Americans recover from the effects of COVID-19. Over the past year, we have used ARPA funds to make historic investments that touch every aspect of Harris County life — education, housing, health, and jobs. Below are some of the projects that our County has invested in to get our residents back on their feet:

--Worked with the City of Houston and a network of nonprofits (led by BakerRipley and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston) to distribute rental assistance to more than 70,000 families and landlords, a model referred to as an “exemplar.”

--Helped 40,000 families with past-due bills or other emergency expenses via \$159 million in direct assistance.

--Provided safe and stable housing for people experiencing homelessness. We reduced homelessness by 1,000 people at the height of the pandemic, and 20% over two years (more on this below).

--Supported small and micro businesses with \$30 million in small business grants to assist 2,577 small businesses.

--Supplied area hospitals with hundreds of additional nurses during the height of COVID.

--Planned a new state-of-the-art residential complex that will serve as a one-stop support center for youth aging out of foster care in Harris County.

--Secured summer programming and enrichment for an estimated 7,000 Harris County children and youth in Summer 2022.

--Used incentives to encourage 30,000 more residents to get their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine.

--Addressed the pandemic’s impact on mental health by investing in community-based behavioral health services.

We’ve also invested in childcare access, early childhood education, tackling neighborhood blight, lead remediation, digital access, food distribution, and integrating the county’s social services safety net. And we won’t stop — we are always looking for cutting edge, data-driven, and research-based solutions to make the quality of life in Harris County better for every one of our residents. Fortunately, Harris County has a strong network of dedicated nonprofits and community leaders who work side-by-side with local government to improve lives. We’re so proud of everything our community has achieved by working together!

Sincerely,  
Lina Hidalgo



“Before we begin our regular commencement tonight,” said combined elementary/high school principal Jim Albertson, “we have a special award to present. Will Windy Wilson please come up here on the stage with us?”

Windy looked up at the stage in the gymnasium and all he saw were black choir robes and smiles. He looked at his fellow spectators and all he saw were grins and people sitting down.

“Windy?” said Jim. Windy walked up to the stage and shook hands with the principal. “Put this on.”

Windy draped a black robe around himself and put the mortarboard on his head.

Albertson pulled a piece of paper from his shirt pocket. “Alphonse Wilson, it is the judgment of your community and friends that no one has ever worked harder for an honorary doctor’s degree. Am I right on that?”

The young graduates clapped and hooted, and so did the audience. Windy looked at the floor and blushed right through his grey beard.

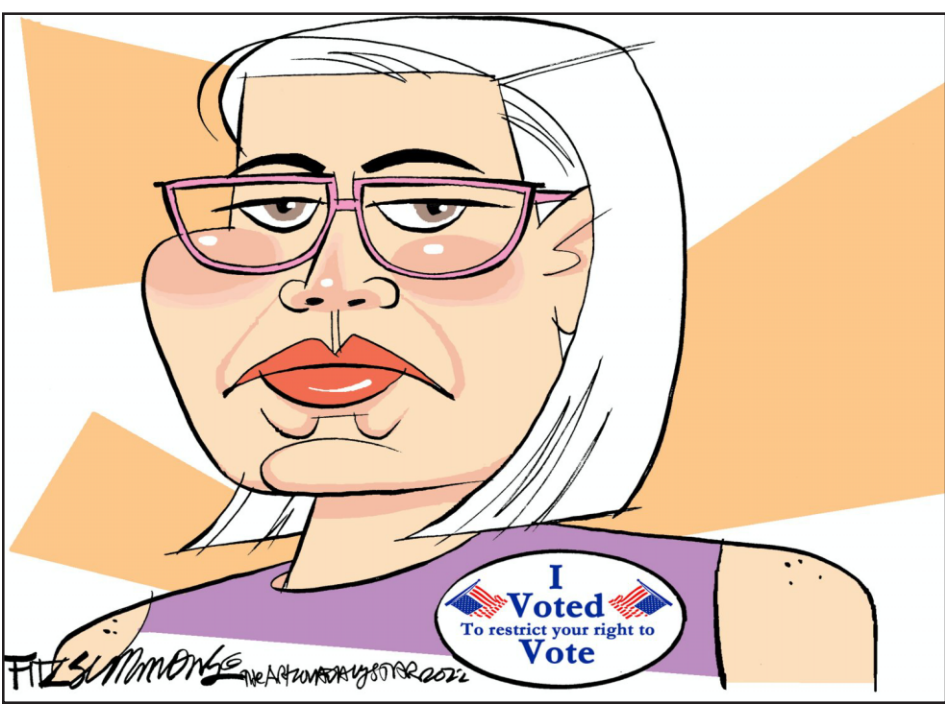
“We can’t give you an honorary doctorate here because we don’t have one. But your neighbors discovered that you only lacked one class to graduate from high school, and we can do something about that.”

“Alphonse Wilson ... known to all as Windy ... this school ... these young graduates ... and all your friends and neighbors are proud to bestow upon you an honorary high school diploma.”

Jim placed a ribbon with a medal hanging from it around Windy’s neck and handed him a rolled-up certificate.

Not too many aging cowboy camp cooks and philosophers receive standing ovations, but then, there’s nothing very ordinary about Windy Wilson and we all know that.

Brought to you by Saddle Up: A Cowboy’s Guide to Writing, by Slim Randles, now available at Amazon.com.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



# Texas challenged by nursing, trucker shortage

Texas has the fourth-lowest nurse-to-population ratio in the country, with only 9.25 nurses per 1,000 residents, according to a recent report by the comptroller’s office.

The state’s aging population, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, has put increased pressure on all categories of nursing. The largest shortage of registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses is occurring in inpatient hospital settings and nursing homes.

“COVID-19 has really increased the shortage,” said Texas Board of Nursing’s executive director, Kathy Thomas. “Nurses are walking out. They’re worn out, they’re burned out and they’re stepping away from their jobs.”

Job shortages are also taking place in the trucking industry, which moves 72% of U.S. domestic freight, according to the American Trucking Associations.

A shortage of commercial truck drivers is contributing to increasing supply chain issues. John Esparza, chief executive officer of the Texas Trucking Association, said it will reach 160,000 drivers by the end of the decade.

“We are losing a generation of drivers, and we aren’t replacing them with a generation of potential drivers that is large enough,” he said.

Texas is home to nearly 200,000 commercial truck drivers, the most in the nation. The median wage in the state for truck drivers is \$47,000.

Turnover is extremely high, according to Ken Tidwell, dean of San Jacinto College’s workforce development program, which offers a commercial driver’s license program that is invariably full.

## TPWD BACKING WILDLIFE RECOVERY ACT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act now being considered in Congress could bring \$50 million to



the state to protect wildlife, restore land and provide the state’s residents more way to enjoy the outdoors.

“The litany of ways natural resources bolster the Texas economy and improve our quality of life is seemingly endless,” said Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

“While it would do much to protect fish and wildlife that need it most, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would also mean a long-term investment in the public health and well-being of all Texans, as well as stewardship of our home ground,” Smith added.

TPWD is urging the public to contact their representatives in Congress to support the legislation.

The bill would provide \$1.4 billion nationwide in dedicated annual funding, according to TPWD. It would come from existing revenues.

The Texas outdoor recreation economy generates 327,000 jobs and \$3.5 billion in state and local tax funds, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

## DON'T LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON IN MAY

It is bird migration season, and Texas is the epicenter of the annual voyage, with one of every three birds migrating through the United States this spring passing through our state.

BirdCast is urging homeowners and businesses

to turn off the lights through its Lights Out Texas initiative. An estimated one billion bird deaths occur annually in the country from collisions with buildings and structures as birds become disoriented by night lighting.

Building owners, businesses and homeowners can protect migrating birds by turning off all non-essential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., according to BirdCast.

## HEALTH INSURER AGREES TO SHUT DOWN

Houston-based Salvasen Health has agreed to stop selling unauthorized health insurance under a consent order issued by the Texas Department of Insurance.

The agency said Salvasen was providing health insurance without a license from TDI, which received “numerous complaints saying the insurance plans sold by Salvasen did not offer the health coverage buyers had been promised.”

Under the terms of the order, Salvasen must keep paying claims until all obligations are met. If any assets remain after that, the company must pay back premiums it collected.

The company marketed health insurance policies across the country, selling roughly 65,000 unauthorized health plans.

## TEXAS AGAIN RANKED #1 FOR BUSINESS

For the 18th year in a row, Texas has been named the best state for business by CEO Magazine, although controversies over pro-life and anti-LGBTQ legislation have caused concerns for some CEO’s, according to the magazine, which polled nearly 7000 chief executives and business owners.

The state of Florida finished second, followed by Tennessee and Arizona. At the bottom were Illinois, New York and California.

“There’s a big spread across the Sun Belt from Raleigh to Charlotte to Tampa and Jacksonville, and the big metro areas of Texas, on to Phoenix that are all in various respects growing fast,” said Cullum Clark, director of the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative. “It’s a distinctive model.”

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

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

# A Great Time to get Old

“It’s a great time to get old!” That’s what my husband, Peter, says.

He’s right. And getting old is—as the saying goes—better than the alternative. I was thinking this while waiting for my father to get a pacemaker.

My father had no idea he needed a pacemaker until two days before he got one. They had been monitoring his heart because he was suddenly so tired that he was getting winded going up a flight of stairs. My dad typically climbs a lot of stairs, so this was not a good development. The monitor revealed that his heart was beating much more slowly than it was supposed to.

“It’s been a cold spring,” I told him. “Maybe you’re just going into hibernation.”

The cardiologist did not seem to think this was the case. She told my dad that he should get a pacemaker.

“Not interested,” my dad said.

My dad has avoided making major purchases since he turned 80 a few years back. He says he won’t live long enough to get enough use out of them.

He has not replaced the come-along that is missing a few teeth. He claims it was entirely user error when the come-along failed to catch and he applied his full strength to it when he was pulling his Bobcat out of the woods. With no resistance on the winch, my dad flew over backward and broke a bone on his ankle.

“You need a new come-along,” I told my dad.

“I’m not going to live long enough to buy a new come-along!” he told me. My sister got him one for Christmas.

So I was not surprised that his initial reaction to the pacemaker was that this was another extravagant acquisition he did not need. The cardiologist disagreed. She told my dad that it was no big deal. They could get him in the next day, and he would spend only a few hours in the hospital.

My dad relented. The procedure went without a hitch, and my dad’s heart is now beating at a more chipper pace.

“It’s a great time to get old!” I told my dad. My dad agreed.

I have noted that conversations with friends are now dominated by discussions of their latest ailments. It used to be—before GPS and when my friends were younger—when there was a lull in conversation, the favorite topic was: “The Best Way to Get There.”

“You came up 35, huh? I always think it’s a little faster to follow the river, and then when you get to...” And so on.

I remember thinking this was the dullest subject ever—comparing routes and trying to determine which one might shave 10 minutes off your driving time.

“You just wasted 15 minutes talking about it!” I wanted to scream.

Now there is little point in discussing navigation since we have relinquished those decisions to our phones. Instead, the most frequent discussions lately are entitled, “My Current Ailment.”

“Yeah, I’ve had that, too. And lately, I’ve been getting pains in my...” And so on.

Thankfully, I don’t have a lot to talk about. And my dad is an excellent role model. He says, “Everyone is going to have something go wrong with them, eventually. It’s just a question of what it will be.”

When my dad left his meeting with the cardiologist, he asked what he should do differently before the procedure.

“Just try to act like an 80-year-old for a few days, would you?” she suggested.

I think she was kidding. My dad said he would try.

Till next time,  
Carrie

For photos from the column and other info visit: [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).



SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje de la Superintendente,  
3 de Mayo de 2022

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

Al comenzar mayo, por favor aprovechen la oportunidad para agradecer a un maestro (#DeleGraciasAUnMaestro). Es la Semana del Maestro. El tema de este año es «La enseñanza es una obra de corazón». Esas palabras no podrían ser más precisas. Los maestros son una gran parte del éxito de cada alumno. Cambian la vida de los niños todos los días, ayudando a los alumnos a aprender e inspirándolos a alcanzar su máximo potencial. Por favor, hágales saber lo que significan para su hijo, su familia o si usted es un alumno o miembro del personal. Ya he comenzado a ver algunas escuelas publicando en las redes sociales sobre cómo celebran a sus educadores. Puede leer un artículo en línea sobre amigos de la infancia que ahora enseñan en una de nuestras escuelas.

Hay otro grupo que les animo a celebrar a finales de esta semana conmigo: nuestros profesionales de nutrición escolar. Las «damas del almuerzo», como a veces las llaman nuestros alumnos, también impactan la vida de los alumnos. Se aseguran de que nuestros alumnos tengan la barriga llena con comidas nutritivas que los mantienen energizados y listos para aprender. Dale



un impulso a nuestros trabajadores de la cafetería y agrédeceles en el Día del Superhéroe del Almuerzo Escolar el viernes 6 de mayo. Un pajarito me dijo que los alumnos recibirían un regalo especial ese día. Las damas del almuerzo usarían su atuendo de héroe mientras sirven granizados a los alumnos en todos los niveles de grado. ¡Qué divertido!

Mayo también marca el Mes de la Herencia Asiático-Americana e Islaña del Pacífico. Los tercetos idiomas más hablados son los de nuestros alumnos asiático-americanos/asiáticos. Durante mucho tiempo he creído que la diversidad es una fortaleza, y definitivamente es una fortaleza en Aldine. Nuestra identidad, tradiciones y culturas son importantes para cada uno de nosotros. Pueden mostrarnos la mayoría de las veces lo similares que somos todos, como tanto valoramos la importancia de la familia. Visite

nuestro sitio web para saber cómo nuestros líderes de distrito celebrarán con actividades planificadas para cada semana de este mes.

Este pasado fin de semana estubo lleno de actividades. Quiero agradecer a todas las familias, alumnos, miembros del personal, miembros de la comunidad y socios que vinieron a STEMfest (STEM son las siglas en inglés de ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas o CTIM en español) y Festival de Primavera. Fue genial ver a tantos de ustedes. Los alumnos de todas las edades disfrutaron de las actividades STEM y demostraron lo inteligentes que son al compartir sus proyectos o competir. Ese día, también di un discurso en español por primera vez en mi vida. A medida que practicaba, me hizo comprender mejor lo que experimentan nuestros alumnos del idioma inglés y apreciar la diversidad de nuestro distrito y el valor de ser multilingüe.

Si están buscando más historias sobre las grandes cosas que suceden en el distrito, visiten nuestro sitio web para leer sobre las nuestro sitio web para leer sobre los equipos de béisbol de Aldine, Davis y MacArthur que ganan puestos en los playoffs; el alumno del idioma

francés que obtuvo un premio nacional, los alumnos que brillaron en el concurso del Día de la Historia del Estado de Texas y avanzaron a nacionales, y TASCO nombrando a

Salvador Fernández Entrenador Regional del Año.

Antes de cerrar, las familias pueden comenzar el proceso para preinscribir a sus jóvenes alumnos en una de nuestras 12 escuelas primarias. El distrito organizará un evento de matriculación al nivel preescolar en cada colegio el sábado 21 de mayo, de 9 a.m. al mediodía, para ayudar a las familias que inscriben a los alumnos elegibles. La fecha límite para preinscribir a nuestros alumnos más jóvenes para el año escolar 2022-2023 es el fin de mayo. Y no olvide que estamos ofreciendo experiencias de aprendizaje de verano para alumnos en prekinder a 12mo grados. Que tengan una semana excelente.

Orgullosa de nuestro distrito,  
Dra. LaTonya M. GoffneySuperintendente

PRÓXIMOS  
EVENTOS

8 de mayo: Fecha límite de prioridad para solicitar ser un tutor de alumnos este verano a través de la asociación AISD/iEducate.

21 de mayo: Las 12 escuelas primarias organizarán un evento de inscripción con personal

que ayudará a las familias elegibles con la preinscripción.

En curso hasta el 31 de mayo: Familias con hijos elegibles para asistir prekinder para niños de tres años y cuatro años para el ciclo escolar 2022-2023 pueden preinscribirlos. Hagan clic aquí para obtener detalles sobre cómo matricular a sus hijos.

Las experiencias de aprendizaje de verano comienzan en junio: Hagan clic aquí para obtener más información sobre las diferentes oportunidades de aprendizaje que Aldine ISD ofrecerá a nuestros alumnos en los grados PreK4-12.

OBSERVACIONES

Mayo Mes de la Herencia de los Asiático-Americanos e Islaños del Pacífico

1-7 de mayo: Semana del Maestro; 3 de mayo: Día del Docent

6 de mayo: Día del Héroe del Almuerzo Escolar

11 de mayo: Día Nacional de las Enfermeras Escolares o Día de la Enfermería Escolar

13 de mayo: Día de los Comunicadores Escolares

15-21 de mayo: Semana Nacional de la Policía

18 de mayo: Día Nacional del Patólogo del Habla-Lenguaje o Día del Terapeuta del Lenguaje

RECORDATORIOS

La Universidad de la Familia y la Comunidad, un programa del Depart-

mento de Relaciones con la Familia y la Comunidad (conocido por las siglas FACE en inglés) ofrece programación gratuita y está abierta a todas las familias de Aldine. Hagan clic aquí para obtener más información.

El estado de Texas requiere que los alumnos del último año de la escuela secundaria (*high school*) soliciten ayuda financiera para graduarse.

El Estado de Texas requiere que todos los estudiantes universitarios entrantes deben tomar la EvaluaciónTSI (TSIA2).

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/healthalerts](http://www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts).

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.

Fundación Houston Astros hace  
parada en la Primaria Gray

Los estudiantes de la Escuela Primaria Gray fueron sorprendidos con una visitdel Autobús de Alfabetización de la Fundación Houston Astros el 22 de abril. Cada estudiante pudo seleccionar un libro para agregar a sus bibliotecas personales en el hogar. A medida que se acerca el verano, la especialista en alfabetización informacional de Gray Elementary, Christalyn Stansell quería continuar alentando el amor por la lectura de ocio.

«Esto no es un libro escolar o un libro de biblioteca», reiteró la voluntaria de Houston Astros Foundation Literacy Bus y ex bibliotecaria, Marsha Fischer. «Este es un libro solo para que lo tengas y lo agregues a tu biblioteca personal».

Cada aula salió una por una para visitar el autobús de alfabetización. Fischer destacó algunos de los diferentes tipos de libros entre los que los estudiantes podrían elegir e incluso destacó algunos de los nuevos títulos disponibles. Los estudiantes quedaron impresionados con las opciones de libros y el autobús con temática de astros.

Los estudiantes de quin-



Auobus de la alfabetizacion de la fundacion Houston Astros

to grado de Gray Elementary y los voluntarios de la biblioteca 'friends of Gray', Nia García y Alberto Cárdenas, estaban emocionados de tener la oportunidad de visitar el autobús de alfabetización. Ambos estudiantes disfrutaban de la lectura y pasan su tiempo fuera del aula como voluntarios en la biblioteca.

Mientras buscaba un libro, García describió su libro perfecto. «Busco libros que tengan una buena historia que contar», dijo. «Primero busco los libros en línea para ver de qué se trata antes de recogerlos de la biblioteca o ir de compras».

José Machado, estudiante de Gray Elementary, se sorprendió al saber que

se iba a casa con un nuevo libro.

«Esto da libros a personas que están en necesidad y tal vez no saben leer», dijo Machado. «Tenemos suerte de que el autobús llegó a nuestra escuela. El Autobús de Alfabetización les dice a los estudiantes que la alfabetización puede ayudarlos».

La Fundación Astros, en asociación con Occidental, el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Houston y la Fundación de la Biblioteca Pública de Houston, organizan el Autobús de Alfabetización de la Fundación Astros. El autobús viaja a las escuelas de toda el área de Houston para proporcionar libros gratuitos a los estudiantes en los grados K-5.



Families spoke with school representatives and staff members from 15 different departments to learn more about the district, School Choice options, and other programs and services.

Cientos de personas asisten  
al Festival inaugural de  
Primavera del distrito

Aldine ISD organizó el 'FESTIVAL DE PRIMAVERA' inaugural el sábado 30 de abril en el Centro Educativo M.O. Campbell. El evento de tres horas fue una oportunidad para que las familias de habla hispana aprendieran todas las cosas de Aldine sin una barrera del idioma. El personal del distrito celebró el evento completamente en español.

Varios oradores invitados también conversaron con las familias en el festival. La Superintendente Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney dio la bienvenida a las familias y compartió un poco sobre su historia y lo que esperaba que las familias se llevaran del festival. Pronunció su discurso en español ante una multitud de familias que asistieron al festival, así como estudiantes voluntarios y socios comunitarios. Las familias también escucharon al Dr. José Luis Zelaya, cuyo mensaje sobre el poder de la educación se ha transmitido en todo el mundo a través de la televisión, la radio

y los periódicos, y a la autora Jasminne Méndez, una galardonada autora, poeta y dramaturga.

El distrito se dirigió a la comunidad de habla hispana, el grupo demográfico más grande de Aldine ISD, para garantizar que los mensajes e información clave llegaran a las familias y los estudiantes. Según Alta-gracia' Grace' Delgado, directora ejecutiva del Departamento Multilingüe, la comunicación en persona es la forma número uno de comunicarse con las familias hispanas. Su departamento está patrocinando el evento.

Abril fue el momento perfecto para organizar el evento, ya que es el Mes de la Defensa del Alumno Multilingüe. Actualmente, Aldine ISD tiene más de 26,000 estudiantes identificados como bilingües emergentes, pero casi 34,000 familias enumeran el español en su encuesta de idioma del hogar.

Las familias hablaron con representantes de la

escuela y miembros del personal de 15 departamentos diferentes para obtener más información sobre el distrito, las opciones de School Choice y otros programas y servicios. El festival tiene algo para todas las edades, desde un zoológico de mascotas hasta actividades artísticas y STEM e información sobre admisiones a la universidad. Las familias también se llevaron a casa libros gratis.

Los socios del distrito y patrocinadores del evento incluyeron Lakeshore®, Xfinity, Harris County Precinct 2, Lone Star College, DePelchin Children's Center, Bonding Against Adversity, BakerRipley, Custom Care Pharmacy, Sea Smiles Dental & Orthodontics, Legacy Community Health Clinic, Houston Food Bank y más.

Un enorme «agradecimiento» a todos los que vinieron al festival y a los voluntarios y patrocinadores que lo hicieron posible.

Estudiante de francés del distrito  
ganador del concurso nacional de  
francés Platinum

Yoisel Rodríguez Toledo de Davis High School ha sido nombrado ganador de Platino en el Concurso Nacional de Francés 2022 en Nivel / División 2A. Su maestro es Boyo Diop.

Un ganador de Platino es el premio más alto en le Grand Concours. Yoisel obtuvo el puntaje más alto en la nación en su nivel / división.

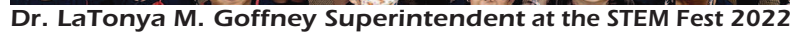
El premio incluye una medalla de platino, una placa para el estudiante y un Le Grand Concours Certificat d'honneur Lauréat National en francés.



Yoisel Rodríguez (centro) posa con la Superintendente Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney (centro) y varios otros en un evento del distrito.



# Several Students Earn Honors at Texas History Day: 3 Advance to National Competition



to learn or be exposed to STEM and for older students to showcase or put their knowledge and skills to the test in the Exhibition Showcase or competed in three different categories: Aldine Creates (digital media), Aldine Codes, and Aldine Engineers.

“STEMfest served as a way to remove any false preconceptions about STEM and encourage them to participate in STEM in school and think of the career possibilities in STEM fields. I thank the families that brought their students

out to participate, and I want to congratulate all the winners! It was truly a fun learning experience for all,” said Dr. Joceyln McDonald, program director of technology applications and STEM.

Event partners and sponsors included Boot-Up, Microsoft TEALS, Osmo, Sam Lab, Sphero, Direct Waste Solutions, and #TechItUp, LLC. Also, actor, comedian, artist, and philanthropist Kalum Johnson will emcee the event. The local celebrity empowers youth through his Big Steppers Foundation.

Texas History  
Day Results  
Second Place —  
Advancing to National  
History DayCategory: Senior Individual PerformanceMarsha P Johnson:  
In the Fight for Life by Tori  
White from Nimitz High  
SchoolTeacher: Ian Harva-  
tine  
Second Place- advanc-  
ing to National History  
DayCategory: Junior Indi-  
vidual ExhibitA Desire  
Sparks Conflict by Sophia  
Villatoro from Lewis Mid-  
dle SchoolTeacher: LaShel  
Jackson  
Second Place—Advanc-  
ing to National History  
DayCategory: Junior Indi-

**Debate & Diplomacy in History**  
SUCCESSSES, FAILURES, CONSEQUENCES

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2022

myTeacher: Jorge Espinoza

1st Place: Elementary Group Poster Contest Nelson Mandela by Maritza Bautista, Melanie Castillo, Vanessa Cedillo Duenez, and Nathalie Oliveros from Escamilla Elementary School Teacher: Monica Loas

2nd Place: Elementary Group Poster Contest Lewis Latimer by Kiara Castillo, Valerie Elzarraras, Jasmine Galvan, and Yarlinne Benito from Escamilla School Teacher: Monica Loas

3rd Place: Elementary Individual Poster Contest John Brown by Caleb Martinez from Escamilla School Teacher: Monica Loas

4th Place: Elementary Individual Poster Contest Sam Houston by Fatima Vazquez from Escamilla School Teacher: Monica Loas

Ruthe Winegarten Texas Women's History Award Category: Junior Individual Documentary The Push for Juneteenth by Aria Lawson from Drew Academy Teacher: Kimberly Clayborne

# ENTERTAINMENT

## by Dave T. Phipps

## by Mike Marland

## by Jeff Pickering

1. United Arab Emirates; 2. Searchlight; 3. 1997; 4. Boulder Dam; for a short time in the 1940s; 5. The cello; 6. James and Lily; 7. In good faith; 8. A fry or fingerling; 9. Bavarian Motor Works; 10. "You Never Can Tell," Chuck Berry

56 Goes angling	11 "Let's leave	33 JFK info
57 Tennessee	— that"	34 VJ's network
county	12 German article	39 Not as good
		41 Alpine air?
<b>DOWN</b>	18 Hit one out of	42 Pre-weekend
1 Lady of Spain	the park	cry
2 Eyebrow	21 Farm pen	43 Malek of
shape	23 Reuben bread	"Bohemian
3 Rib	24 Stanley Cup	Rhapsody"
4 German river	org.	45 Reply to
5 Fresca, e.g.	25 Caviar base	"Shall we?"
6 Hit with a	26 Mounds built	47 Pleasing
stun gun	by insects	48 Western tribe
7 Farewell	28 Final performance	49 Method
8 Hot temper		(Abbr.)
9 Like "Green	30 Romance	51 Reaction to
Acres" humor	31 SSE's opposite	fireworks
10 Employ	site	53 Calo's 502

1. GEOGRAPHY: Dubai is the largest city of which country?
2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was President Richard Nixon's Secret Service code name?
3. TELEVISION: In which year did the first episode of the animated comedy "South Park" air?
4. HISTORY: What was the former name of the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River?
5. MUSIC: Which instrument is Pablo Casals famous for playing?
6. LITERATURE: What are the names of Harry Potter's deceased parents in the book series?
7. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "bona fide" mean?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby fish called?
9. ACRONYMS: What does BMW stand for?
10. MOVIES: What is the song playing in the famous twist scene of "Pulp Fiction"?

[illegible]







FRAME  
YOUR  
FUTURE

Summer  
Open House  
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# Lone Star College students shine at National Model United Nations conference



Lone Star College Honors College students took top honors at the recent National Model United Nations conference.

HOUSTON (April 28, 2022) – Students from The Honors College at Lone Star College received top honors during two separate National Model United Nations (NMUN) conferences held in New York. NMUN, the world’s largest and oldest ongoing university-level Model U.N., annually draws participants from more than 130 U.N. Member States to address current global issues.

“Lone Star College is proud to offer students these types of opportunities to demonstrate academic excellence,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC Chancellor. “Their achievements are a testament to the hard work they and their professors do to achieve this level of success.”

LSC-Kingwood and LSC-Tomball Honors College students participated in Conference A representing Oxfam International and APIMONDIA. LSC-CyFair, LSC-Montgomery,

LSC-North Harris and LSC-University Park Honors College students took part in Conference B representing Gabon. Both teams were named Outstanding Delegation, the highest honor given, and were also recognized for Position Papers, Best in Committee and Outstanding Delegates.

“I could not be prouder of our students,” said Dr. Sean Tiffée, LSC-Tomball Professor of Speech and NMUN advisor. “This is truly an international competition and our students compete against not just other two-year institutions, but students from four-year colleges all around the world.”

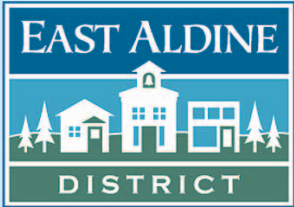
Other colleges represented at the conference included the University of Ottawa, Brigham Young University, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Rutgers University, West Virginia University, Frankfort School of Finance and Management, and Baylor University.

“Being recognized as an Outstanding Delegation, the top award at the conference, is not just about individual preparedness or public speaking,” said Dr. Rebecca Howard, LSC-Montgomery History Professor. “It means that every single member of the delegation remained focused, professional and engaged in their commitments throughout the entire experience.”

The theme for this year’s conference was “Emerging Resilient, Moving Forward Together.” Participants were challenged to incorporate it into their solutions for the future and showcase what they can do.

“Thank you for taking part in the Model United Nations and for believing in the power of global co-operation to solve global problems,” said António Guterres, United Nations Secretary General in a pre-

Continued. See LSC at NMUN conference, page 2



## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

### Building Confidence & Know-How at Girls-Only Public School



Less than a year after opening, the 179 students who attend the public Young Women’s Leadership Academy already lead the other Aldine Independent School District schools in math and reading test scores.

The testing achievement is due partly to the dynamic leadership of the new school for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls where Principal Jericah Jackson and her dedicated staff are committed to the “sisterhood” they provide to the students.

The determined young ladies who attend the academy will stay for their next grade in the fall as the school adds grade levels, eventually serving students in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Jackson, a 1997 graduate of Aldine ISD’s MacArthur High School, is a former pre-med major who “fell into” education by way of a substitute teaching

job she took between graduate-level course work.

She recalls wearing a pastel pink pantsuit to her first day as a substitute — at a middle school. She was immediately met with fashion comments from the students: “Look at the Mary Kay lady, come to sell us make-up!”

“So, even though I never wore that pantsuit again, I loved the quick wit, I loved the humor,” Jackson said. “On the first day of school, I fell in love with it. I decided to get my (teaching) certification, and I fell in love with it. I fell in love with the ‘aha’ moments, those lightbulb moments in class. I fell in love with the students getting excited about learning.”

Tall, attractive and professionally dressed, Jackson admitted: “I still get fashion advice from my students.” Which comes with the territory of being around middle-school-aged girls, as many teachers will attest.

Jackson said she made the decision later to use her background in pre-med to begin forming “science teams” so she could take her students on field trips to meet professionals in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).

Then she decided to “make a broader impact.”

“That’s when I decided to become an administrator and bring about change through teachers, rather than students,” Jackson said.

In addition to her bachelor of science degree from Baylor University, Jackson earned a master’s degree in education from Sam Houston State University and a doctorate in education from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

She was assistant principal at Aldine Middle School and assistant principal of curriculum and instruction at Shotwell Academy before her current assignment.

While she is proud that the students are leading the district in test scores, Jackson said test

scores aren’t always an accurate measure of students’ intelligence.

“So, in addition to seeing their performance in their classes, I want to see what kind of projects they are performing,” Jackson said.

“Once our girls are confident and feel that they can lead, and I believe they are trusting in their teachers. I have a good feeling about our trajectory,” she added.

English Language Arts teacher Barbara Garcia Powell said her 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have already started exhibiting more confidence in the classroom.

“It’s a great environment to be in,” Garcia Powell said. I honestly think my expectations for girls are a little higher, because I’m female. “

“We tend to feed off one another. It expands their accountability. With there being just women in the classroom, we are able to recognize that we can be different, and they are more willing to listen and accept that we’re different,” she said. “That enhances what we are reading. They are making connections and are more willing to share it. But they are also more willing to listen and accept another person’s perspective.”

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are reading their seventh book this year, “Voyage to the Bottom of the Earth,” which will be followed by “I Am Malala,” Garcia Power said.

“We’re working on a unit about courage in crisis,” she explained.

Because they’re in a single-gender class, Garcia Powell said, “I think that helps them take more risks in their writing. It’s also helping them to read a little bit deeper. They’re asking, ‘why do I believe this,’ and then trying to find answers in literature.”

Students expressed their happiness at the all-girls’ aspect of education, although a handful did say they would like to spend more time with boys.

“I like going to an all-girls school because it helps me get a better education, and I can build a sisterhood bond with my peers,” said Katelyn Herrera.

Joelena Danful said she feels “less pressure” at the academy.

“If I go to a co-ed school, I feel pressured to always be the best,” Danful said. “But when I am around other girls, I feel like we are all working hard for the same goal. I don’t feel pressured to be number one.”

One student expressed concern that she feels “awkward” being around boys because they aren’t at her school.

But another young lady was adamant that the students are better off without the male gender on campus.

“When boys are there, they make fun of other people, they like to group up,” said Emmeise Lima.

Physical Education teacher Elizabeth Flores has witnessed a different kind of growth in her P.E. classes. The girls at the Academy have become much more outgoing, and willing to try different sports, the 17-year veteran educator said.

“The growth in the confidence of these young ladies is, by far, greater than what I have seen anywhere else,” Flores said. “In PE classes, I always had all girls, but this has been so different.”

“I used to have to say ‘speak up,’ but not anymore,” Flores said. “Not only are they building confidence in gym, but in the classroom.”

“I’ve seen the same jump in girls from sixth to eighth grade, but never this much growth in one year. I’ve seen them change socially, athletically – just coming out of their comfort zone.”

Because of the academy’s size, girls who want to participate in University Interscholastic League team sports must try out for teams at other Aldine campuses. One of the academy students leads the 7<sup>th</sup> grade track team in her events, Flores said.

“But it’s not just that. Because we don’t have the traditional team sports, I’ve started a Recreation Club. And I’ve seen these young ladies come to understand that to succeed in college, and life, they need to be mentally and physically fit,” Flores said.

As a result, the students have expressed interest in “non-traditional” sports that aren’t usually played at school, like badminton, pickleball, golf and archery.

“I’ve also noticed tremendous growth in the social aspect of sports, like being a leader,” Flores said. “We help each other out. We talk about sisterhood a lot. Encouraging others is a way of empowering them.”



— By Anne Marie Kilday