

# NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 46 Years  
VOL. 46, NO. 21 TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## In Our Prayers



See Pages 1 and 4

## NEWS NOTES

### East Aldine TC Building wins Landmark Award

New, multi-use office building was named among the Houston area's three top commercial real estate structures. See Details on Page 8

### Aldine ISD statement on School Security

In the wake of the mass school shooting in Uvalde, Texas last week, the Aldine ISD District has issued the following statement about their security protocols:

The safety and security of Aldine ISD's students and staff will always be the district's top priority. To that end, the district is fortunate to have its own full-time Police Department that includes officers who are assigned to all high schools and middle schools, and patrol the other campuses and district facilities. Aldine PD officers are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Because of this, Aldine ISD does not implement the school marshal program. The only authorized firearms on our campuses are carried by fully-licensed police officers.

All 82 campuses have metal detectors that are used everyday during the school year. All high schools and middle schools have police officers assigned to their campuses.

### METRO offers Free Bus Rides to students this summer

Students Ride FREE this summer on METRO buses and Light Rail, with a Discounted METRO Q Fare Card.

Free Rides are from June 1 to August 31, 2022.

Learn more about this Free Ride at RideMETRO.org/Free or scan the QR code on page 6 of this issue.

# MuralFest22 brings Art to Aldine

By Julieta Paita

EAST ALDINE – Mural Festival took place last Saturday at High Meadows Library in Aldine. The main artist, Martin Barrera, was on site painting a mural at the library's wall facing Aldine Mail Route which can be seen from the street if you are passing by.

Martin Barrera has painted murals locally, nationally and internationally in Aldine, Houston, California, Puerto Rico and México. One of those murals is at Hambrick Middle School's library. Barrera is a graduate from MacArthur High School and currently is an arts teacher at Davis High School in Aldine ISD. "I always liked arts and draw-



East Aldine District Arts Committee, sponsor of MuralFest22, pose with the Artist in front of the nearly complete Mural on the side of the High Meadows Branch Library. L to R, Connie Esparza, Patti Acosta, chairman Carlos Silva, Brooke Silva and their children, Mural Artist Martin Barrera, and Selina Valdez. MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 8

ing and I studied at Lone Star College, drawing murals is my job too and I love it," he stated.

At the event, there were art activities for the kids and families to enjoy including the Harris County Public Library Curiosity Cruiser giving out free books, the HTX Art Bus where the kids could do painting and other art activities inside the bus. A grand opening for Art in the Heart (HTX Art Bus) is scheduled for this Saturday, May 28 from 11 am - 3 pm at 8321 Jensen in Houston, the public is invited.

Families also got to taste some ice shaves with natural fruit and tacos sponsored by East Aldine District.

## Uvalde mass shooting stirs up Gun Control debate

PROTESTS MOUNT AT NRA CONVENTION

HOUSTON – Protesters outside the NRA (National Rifle Association) national convention at GRB Convention Center this weekend, blamed the proliferation of guns and lack of regulations in Texas and nationwide with the increase in mass shootings, as evidenced recently in Texas with mass murders in Uvalde, Sante Fe, Sutherland Springs, El Paso, and Midland.

Last week's school shooting of 19 victims at Robb Elementary in Uvalde has focused the public's attention on the need for government leaders to increase restrictions on gun ownership, rather than loosen rules as has happened recently in Texas.

Speakers at the NRA convention talked of the increased safety by arming the public, but most **Continued. See Mass Shootings, Page 2**



At a Press Conference in Uvalde after the shooting, Beto O'Rourke interrupts to shout at Governor Abbott "It's On You."



Speakers at the NRA Convention in Houston last weekend included Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, but Governor Abbott withdrew and sent a recorded message.

## Aldine store sells Mega Million winning ticket



CIRCLE M#2 STORE, AT 13203 ALDINE WESTFIELD

ALDINE – A local resident claimed a second-tier Mega Millions prize worth \$1,000,510 for the drawing on May 13.

The ticket was purchased at Circle M #2, located at 13203 Aldine Westfield Road (Suite A), in Houston. The claimant elected to remain anonymous.

The winning ticket matched all five of the white ball numbers drawn (11-41-43-44-65), but not the Mega Ball number (13). The claimant had an

additional win of \$510 on the same ticket.

Mega Millions is played by choosing five numbers from a field of 70 and one Mega Ball number from the second field of 25 numbers. To win the Mega Millions jackpot, players must match all six numbers drawn including the Mega Ball. Players matching fewer numbers may not win the jackpot, but still walk away winners. Mega

**Continued. See Mega Millionaire, Page 2**

**MARKETPLACE – Please Mention the NORTHEAST NEWS when you visit our Advertisers.**

**We're Here For You!**

**Executive Director: Richard Cantu**  
713.595.1220 RCantu@AldineDistrict.org

**Operations Manager: Veronica Sanches**  
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AldineDistrict.org

**FREE EVENT - EVENTO GRATIS**  
**SEGUROS JUNTOS**  
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**SAFER TOGETHER CELEBRATION**  
**JOIN US FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A TV!**  
**UNASE A NOSOTRAS PARA TENER LA OPORTUNIDAD DE GANAR UN TELEVISOR!**  
**COVID 19 VACCINES/VACUNAS**

**JUNE 18 SATURDAY 10-2PM**  
PRIZES | FACE PAINTING | ZUMBA | FUN

**EAST ALDINE AMPHITHEATRE**  
2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr  
BRING A BLANKET / CHAIR

**18 de JUNIO SÁBADO 10AM-2PM**  
Los invitamos a nuestra Feria de Verano gratuita, Seguros Juntos. Con Covid 19 vacunas, Zumba, tarjetas de regalo, pinta caritas, juegos inflables, regalos y mas!

**Estacionamiento / Parking:**  
Lone Star College - East Aldine Campus

subscribe / sign-up for news and events at AldineDistrict.org/Subscribe

## Advertise local

**Your marketing Ad in this newspaper generates income for your business and the community.**

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

**CONFESSIONS:**  
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY  
AND THURSDAY  
FROM 6 TO 6:50 PM,  
SATURDAYS  
FROM 4 TO 4:50 PM,  
FROM 6:30 PM TO 6:50 PM

**ST CHARLES BORROMEO CHURCH**  
501 TIDWELL RD, HOUSTON, TX  
BETWEEN I-45N & HARDY TOLL RD  
**713-692-6303**

¡Ya esta aquí, el mejor premio para su buen gusto!

**Pan Riko BAKERY**

*Damaris fills her tray with good eats from Pan Riko...*

LAUDER RD.  
ALDINE MAIL RT.  
E. MT. HOUSTON

**5216 Aldine Mail Rte.  
281-442-1991**

**Wednesday  
3 Bolillos for \$1**



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Efficiency/  
One Bedroom  
Housing for  
the Elderly  
and Disabled

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APPLIANCES FURNISHED

ELIGIBILITY:  
• Age 62 or older  
• Disabled  
• Very Low Income

To schedule an  
appointment

CALL  
713-692-8541


APPLY TO:  
W. Leo Daniels Tower  
8826 Harrell  
Off Jensen between  
Berry Road & Aldine  
Westfield



NEWS  
NOTES

“Safer  
Together”  
Summer Fair  
June 18

The East Aldine  
community is invited  
to a SAFER TOGETH-  
ER Summer Fair, June  
18 from 10am to 2pm  
at the East Aldine  
District Amphitheater,  
2800 Aldine Mail  
Route.  
The event will  
include COVID-19  
Vaccine shots,  
Zumba, Gift Cards,  
Face Painting,  
Moonwalk, and  
Giveaways including  
a chance to Win a TV.  
Sponsors include  
Bonding Against  
Adversity, VAX HOU,  
Hope Clinic, East  
Aldine District, and  
Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia.

Keep East Aldine  
Clean & Green!  


Mega Million  
winner,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Millions currently offers a \$20 million starting jack-  
pot and a second-tier  
(Match 5+0) prize of \$1  
million. By choosing the  
Megaplier™ for \$1 more per  
Play, players can multiply  
their non-jackpot winnings  
by two, three, four or five  
times, winning as much as  
\$5 million. Drawings are  
broadcast each Tuesday  
and Friday at 10:12 p.m.

About the Texas Lottery  
Beginning with the first  
ticket sold in 1992, the  
Texas Lottery has generat-  
ed \$34.8 billion in revenue  
for the state and distribut-  
ed \$75 billion in prizes to  
lottery players. Since 1997,  
the Texas Lottery has con-  
tributed \$28.9 billion to  
the Foundation School  
Fund, which supports pub-  
lic education in Texas. As

authorized by the Texas  
Legislature, certain Texas  
Lottery revenues benefit  
state programs including  
the Fund for Veterans’ As-  
sistance. Since the first  
veterans’ themed scratch  
ticket game was launched  
in 2009, the Texas Lottery  
has contributed more than  
\$181 million for programs  
supporting Texas veter-  
ans.  
The Texas Lottery pro-  
vides several entertaining  
games for lottery players  
including Powerball™,  
Mega Millions™, Lotto Tex-  
as™, All or Nothing™, Tex-  
as Two Step™, Pick 3™,  
Daily 4™, Cash Five™ and  
scratch ticket games. For  
more information visit us  
on Facebook, Twitter, Ins-  
tagram, LinkedIn, You-  
Tube or at  
texaslottery.com.

COMMUNITY  
WATCH

Fire destroys vacant Restaurant  
in the Greenspoint area;  
HFD calls Aldine Fire  
Department for water tanker



Houston Fire Department reports that on May 14, 2022 at 4:45am a fire in a vacant restaurant at 12320 North Freeway destroyed the building.

There were no reported injuries, but damage is estimated at \$750,000. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Firefighters arrived on scene within four minutes to find smoke coming from the roof of a vacant 1-story restaurant. They made an offensive attack and forced entry. A primary search was completed, the utilities were secured, and the roof was assessed.

Conditions deteriorated with fire coming through the roof and all crews exited the structure to conduct a defensive attack.

Additional HFD units were requested as well as a tanker from the Aldine Fire Department. HPD was requested for traffic control. Aerial truck operations were used, and the fire was controlled within two hours. Firefighters extinguished additional hot spots and HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin of the fire. Crews from Stations 84, 3, 15, 31, 64, 58, 74, Rehab 17 and the Aldine Fire Department responded to this incident.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

KIDS CLUB - LEGO NIGHT  
For children 6+. Chil-  
dren under 6 must have  
adult supervision. **June  
1, 4:30pm.**

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES  
Are you ready for your  
citizenship interview?  
We can help you study  
with materials we pro-  
vide. Registration is now  
open. The next session  
begins **May 26th and  
runs through August  
25th, 10 - 11am in the  
Meeting  
Room.** Requirements  
are: Must be able to read,  
write, and speak basic  
English, eligible to apply  
for citizenship, age 18  
and older.  
Come join us!  
Register at [https://  
tinyurl.com/  
aldcitizenship](https://tinyurl.com/aldcitizenship) or at the  
class the first day.

BILINGUAL STORYTIME  
Join us back in the li-  
brary for storytime in  
English and  
Spanish **Wednesdays  
at 10:30am!**

TEEN THURSDAYS  
New in April! Teen  
Thursdays are back! Join  
us on **Thursday after-  
noons 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  
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 differ-  
ence in their future success  
through early talk and in-  
teractions!

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 Aldi-  
ne 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 on-  
line computer classes in  
both English and Span-  
ish we will now be offer-  
ing computer classes in  
person at the library. If  
you want to  
participate, **call us  
to register: 832-927-  
5410.**  
**Tuesdays:** various top-  
ics (Spanish computer  
class), 5-7pm, at the li-  
brary  
**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 li-  
brary

SUMMER READING  
PROGRAM STARTS  
MONDAY, JUNE 6!!!!

MICHELLE PICHON  
LIBRARY PROGRAM  
SPECIALIST  
HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
ALDINE BRANCH LIBRARY  
11331 AIRLINE DR.  
HOUSTON, TX 77037  
832-927-5410

Uvalde mass shooting stirs  
up Gun Control debate

PROTESTS MOUNT AT NRA CONVENTION

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BETO O'ROURKE AND SHEILA JACKSON LEE AT THE NRA PROTEST AT DISCOVERY GREEN LAST FRIDAY. SEE STORY FOR BETO'S REMARKS.  
(Photo Courtesy Courthouse News/Karen Yip)

public opinion rejected that theory, and called for action from govern-  
ment to bring a reduction  
in shootings. Proponents  
of restrictions in gun  
sales and military style  
weapons, point to expe-  
rience in other countries,  
such as Australia and  
New Zealand, where to-  
tal bans on guns has  
brought a sharp reduc-  
tion in killings, both  
mass shootings and in-  
dividual deaths.

Even in Texas, they  
point out that a ban on  
assault weapons was ef-  
fective, but when it ex-  
pired the number of  
deaths from mass shoot-  
ings increased sharply.

The NRA convention  
drew a crowd of about  
55,000 over 3 days, ac-  
cording to the city. Dem-  
onstrators called for a  
cancellation of the con-  
vention, but the City of  
Houston claimed that  
contractually they were  
unable.

Speakers at the con-  
vention included Donald  
Trump and Ted Cruz,  
but others including  
John Cornyn, Governor  
Greg Abbott, and Dan  
Patrick cancelled their  
appearances due to the  
proximity to the Uvalde  
massacre.

Trump in his speech  
called for a series of mea-  
sures that largely mir-  
rored what other  
Republicans had pro-  
posed throughout the  
day: Schools with a sin-  
gle entryway, with  
armed guards stationed  
there, and exit-only fire  
escapes. He also said

some teachers should be  
allowed to carry fire-  
arms.

Texas Gov. Greg Ab-  
bott canceled his planned  
appearance at the NRA  
convention and instead  
pre-recorded a video in  
which he was dismissive  
of calls for gun reforms.

“Remember this:  
There are thousands of  
laws on the books across  
the country that limit the  
owning or using of fire-  
arms, laws that have not  
stopped madmen from  
carrying out evil acts on  
innocent people in peace-  
ful communities,” he  
said.

In his remarks, Ted  
Cruz said “The only way  
to stop a bad guy with a  
gun is a good guy with a  
gun.”

Cruz, meanwhile,  
blamed a “cultural sick-  
ness,” including father-  
less children and video  
games, for mass shoot-  
ings. He said schools  
should have a single en-  
try point defended by  
multiple armed guards.

In celebration of its  
150th anniversary, the  
NRA went big for its Tex-  
as meeting, with a sign  
outside the convention  
center promising “14  
acres of guns and gear.”

Guns of all shapes and  
sizes were on display,  
from antique pistols to  
automatic weapons, with  
some decorated in cam-  
ouflage and others in  
American flags. Hun-  
dreds of vendors set up  
booths for the weekend,  
selling ammunition and  
a variety of gun para-  
phernalia.

Outside the conven-  
tion center, thousands  
gathered for a protest or-  
ganized by gun control  
advocacy groups includ-  
ing the Harris County  
Democratic Party.

Many there said they  
were furious that the  
NRA would go on with its  
convention after a school  
shooting in the state just  
days earlier.

The focus of those pro-  
testing in Houston on  
Friday, in speeches and  
interviews, was on guns.  
Many argued for a ban  
on the sale of assault ri-  
fles.

Among the demon-  
strators was Beto  
O'Rourke, the Democrat-  
ic challenger to Governor  
Greg Abbott in Novem-  
ber's general election.  
Beto has called for “red  
flag” laws and a ban on  
the sale of AR-15s,  
sought to extend an olive  
branch to NRA members.

“To those who are at-  
tending the NRA conven-  
tion across the street:  
You are not our enemies.  
We are not yours. We ex-  
tend our hand, open and  
unarmed, in a gesture of  
peace and fellowship, to  
welcome you to join us to  
make sure this no longer  
happens in this country,”  
O'Rourke said during a  
speech at the protest.

“But the time for you  
to respond and join us is  
now. We cannot wait any  
longer for you,” he said.  
“Those who will be the  
victims of the next mass  
shooting unless we act  
are counting on us at this  
moment. So please join  
us now or be left behind.”

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK CLUB:  
You're invited to our  
June book club on June  
27th at 6pm. We will be  
reading L.A. Weather  
by Maria Amparo Escan-  
dón. We have copies avail-  
able for checkout if you'd  
like to join.

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.

FREE CRAFT KITS:  
We still have some pa-  
per lantern craft kits  
available. Stop by and  
grab a kit today!

SUMMER READING  
PROGRAM:  
Our Summer Reading  
Program will begin in  
June. Join us for a sum-  
mer filled with FREE  
programs like storytimes,  
crafts, and so much more.  
Stay tuned for our full  
calendar of events.

SUMMER READING KICK  
OFF:  
Everyone is invited on  
Friday, June 3rd at 1pm

for our Summer Reading  
Kickoff! Sign up for Sum-  
mer Reading, play games,  
and take home some free-  
bies!

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 commu-  
nity! If you have what it  
takes, please contact Jen-  
nifer at  
[jennifer.nandlal@hcpl.net](mailto:jennifer.nandlal@hcpl.net).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:  
Want to make a differ-  
ence or give back to your  
community? The High  
Meadows Library needs  
volunteers to help us with  
our Summer Reading Pro-  
gram and to teach classes.  
If you are interested in  
helping with Summer  
Reading Program or with  
our Literacy classes, stop  
by the library and ask for  
Jennifer.

GRADCAFÉ:  
Every Tuesday we will  
have representatives from  
GRADcafé at the High  
Meadows Library. GRAD-

café is a one-stop-shop of-  
fering free services to  
help you decide on a ca-  
reer, explore education  
and training options, ap-  
ply to college, and find  
the financial aid you  
need. Whether you want  
to attend college to get a  
degree or work on a cer-  
tificate in a professional  
trade, we are here to  
guide you through every  
step. You're never too  
young or old to get start-  
ed. 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  
SR ADULT PROGRAM  
SPECIALIST  
HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY  
4500 ALDINE MAIL RT I  
HOUSTON, TX 77039  
832.927.5540  
“ALONE WE CAN DO SO  
LITTLE. TOGETHER WE  
CAN DO SO MUCH.” -  
HELEN KELLER  
PASTEDGRAPHIC.PNG



SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message from the Superintendent,  
May 23, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

It's hard to believe, but the end of the school year is finally here! With it comes mixed emotions for many of our team and students. I hope you know just how proud I am of each and every one of you.

To our seniors: I wish you all of the choices and opportunities that life can offer you. I pray you choose with discernment and never stop learning.

To our incoming prekindergarten-ers and kindergartners: We look forward to having you on campus next year. We cannot wait to cultivate a spirit of lifelong learning and curiosity.

And to everyone else in between: I hope you have a fun, relaxing summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

I hope all of you take a moment to look through the links below to see the many things we achieved throughout the school year. We continue to make great strides in our strategic plan, and this is a small sampling of all of the good things happening throughout our district.

Here's to ending the year on a high note!

With Aldine Pride,  
Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney  
Superintendent

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

*Choice Schools*

Launch of Young Women's Leadership Academy at Parker

Launch of newcomer high school, La Promesa

Announcement of young men's school, Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson

Two new programs at Carver High School: mechatronics and interior design

*Aldine's youngest students*

Expansion of the prekindergarten program from a half-day to a full day for all three-year-olds

Launched the Jump-Start Program for prekindergarten and kindergarten students

ACE Model

ACE model extended for another two years at Goodman Elementary and Worsham Elementary

*Computer Science for High School Students*

District partnered with Microsoft TEALS to offer courses in computer science to high school students

SCHOOL CULTURE

*Leadership Support*

District added an aspiring principal cohort, the Aldine Principal Fellow Academy

AISD conducted an equity audit to identify opportunities to fully support all students, families, and staff

*Student Support*

Expanded AISD's partnership with Communities In Schools of Houston (CIS) to increase student support

District moved into its second year of the plan to raise reading achievement

Launched a new framework for our multilingual learners

Expanded the EMERGE College Prep Program to all Aldine ISD high schools

Partnered with Tennessee State University on a new initiative to increase access to college

Expansion of additional days school year (ADSY) to two additional elementary schools

Aldine ISD pushes forward with efforts to increase community educators of color in schools

*Team Member Support*

Board of Trustees approved a one-time COVID vaccination incentive for fully-vaccinated employees

Board approved a pay raise for all employees and retention bonuses;



raised starting teacher salary

MISSION-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

*The Holdsworth Center Leadership Program*

Aldine ISD leaders completed the two-year District Leadership Program through The Holdsworth Center

*School Meals*

AISD's Child Nutrition Services (CNS) ranked second in the Houston Area in two rankings

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY

*Technology*

AISD hired a Chief Information Officer to oversee the district's technology to support strategic priorities

*Efficiency and Transparency*

District earned the state's highest fiscal accountability rating for the 18th straight year

Purchasing Department earned TASBO's Award of Merit

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

*All The Things: The Aldine ISD Podcast*

The podcast celebrated its first anniversary in January; 16th episode airs later this week

*Parent Education*

Launched Family and Community University

Launched Parent Leadership

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 24-26: Click here to view the early release days for middle and high school campuses and the schedule on the last day of school, May 26, which applies to all 83 campuses.

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.

June 16: Results of the STAAR EOC assessments will be available on the Family Portal.

June 24: Results of the STAAR Grades 3-8 assessments will be available on the Family Portal.

OBSERVATIONS

May: Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

June: LGBTQ+ Month

June 19: Juneteenth

REMINDERS

Families can click here to check out Summer Learning Experience Options and Choices for Students in Grades PreK4-12; Sessions Start in June

Click here to view the 2022-2023 School Calendars (traditional & ADSY)

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.

FBI Houston Accepting Applications for Teen Academy

Houston-area youngsters wanting to taste how the FBI operates will have the chance to do so this summer.

The FBI's Houston office announced that online applications are open for its 2022 Teen Academy. The program opportunity gives high school students a comprehensive look into today's FBI.

**2022 Teen Academy**  
**Thursday, July 21****FBI Houston**  
Field OfficeView and Download Applications or view a video at [fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/houston/community-outreach](https://fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/houston/community-outreach)Deadline to Email Applications: The online applications must be emailed to [outreach.houston@fbi.gov](mailto:outreach.houston@fbi.gov) by 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 21.

Note: Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.

Applications are open to rising

high school juniors and seniors and recent high school graduates who have yet to start college. According to the FBI website, the program offers an eight-hour block of instruction and demonstrations at its Houston Field Office.

The program provides students with several presentations on topics including terrorism, cybercrime, public corruption, polygraph exams, evidence response, SWAT, and the day-to-day operations of a typical FBI office. Students also learn from special agents, intelligence analysts, language specialists, and professional staff about investigative tactics, including gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and assisting with cases.

Direct any questions to [outreach.houston@fbi.gov](mailto:outreach.houston@fbi.gov).



District Teams Up With Microsoft, TEALS, and Volunteer Technology Professionals to Offer Intro to Computer Science

The Aldine Independent School District has an exciting opportunity to prepare students to enter a workforce where technological skills will provide a leg-up to landing life-long careers. Aldine ISD has teamed up with Microsoft Philanthropies' partner, Technology Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS), to offer courses in computer science (CS) to high school students.

Next year, AISD will offer Intro to Computer Science (CS) and Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles. The district is also considering offering AP CS-A, which is equivalent to a first-semester course in computer science.

District Seeks Technology Professionals to VolunteerThe partnership with Microsoft TEALS develops computer science teachers. It also brings industry professionals into the classrooms to co-teach with teachers.

As a TEALS partner district, AISD needs volunteer technology professionals to team-teach the courses with teachers. MacArthur High School, Davis Ninth Grade School, Davis HS, Blanson Career and Technical Education HS, Eisenhower HS, Avalos P-TECH School, Nimitz Ninth Grade School, and others will hold their computer science course during the students' first period. This period will allow volunteers to go to work after volunteering.

The district will focus our program on good teachers teaching good strategies and structuring students' learning successfully. Building self-belief and self-confidence will also be two powerful tools in guiding students to succeed and pursue STEM careers.

**How to Volunteer**

For community members interested in volunteering, contact McDonald via email at [jemcdonald2@aldineisd.org](mailto:jemcdonald2@aldineisd.org) or call the high school of interest. For more information about the Technology Education and Literacy in Schools nonprofit organization, visit their website at [Microsoft.com/TEALS](https://Microsoft.com/TEALS).

**CS History in Aldine ISD**

Currently, Aldine ISD offers multiple courses in middle school:

- Introduction to Computer Science
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and App Design
- Fundamentals of Computer Science, a high school credit course offered to eighth graders.

Career and technology education (CTE) courses typically have a Program of Study, which is a pathway that leads to an endorsement when a student graduates. The only campus with a Computer Science Program of Study is Blanson CTE HS, a Choice School — students must apply for admission to any Choice School in the district. The district provides access to computer science to students attending comprehensive high schools.

The work in computer science builds the district's strategic plan, A New Way Forward. AISD continues to build a school culture of equity and inclusivity. Giving students access and cultivating interest in CS early and through high school also ensures students have the tools and skills for success in college, career, and life.

Demand in CS

There is strong computer science job demand for computer science experts in government and public sectors, corporations of all sizes, nonprofit organizations, and colleges and universities nationwide.

"Few careers offer as many opportunities as computer science to solve the global economy's challenging issues. It's vitally important that we continue to advocate for strong computer science education programs to ensure that the nation has the skilled workforce it desperately needs," said John White, CEO of the ACM.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the computer science field is projected to grow 22 percent from 2020 to 2030. This is much faster than the average for all occupations. It will also add about 557,100 new jobs.

Take Pride in our  
Community  
Keep it Clean

Equip all students for the future with CS

**Become a TEALS  
Program Volunteer.**  
Share your skills. Teach computer science.

Sign Up Today at  
[Microsoft.com/TEALS](https://Microsoft.com/TEALS)

TEALS is a Microsoft Philanthropies program that builds sustainable CS programs in high schools.



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COUNTY TALK

Harris County Judge  
Lina Hidalgo



EDITOR'S NOTE: This column was written before the Uvalde school shooting, and emphasizes the need for gun control reform.

### Judge Hidalgo voices concern over increase in gun violence; criticizes NRA

HOUSTON – Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioner Adrian Garcia held a news conference Tuesday to release new data showing an increase in guns being used in homicides in Harris County.

This comes ahead of the National Rifle Association's annual meeting in Houston.

According to data from the county's Institute for Forensic Sciences, the percentage of homicides involving a gun increased from 76% in 2018 to 84% in 2021. Preliminary data from 2022 shows that guns have been involved in 87% of homicides.

Additionally, Hidalgo's office said 2021 data showed that Black residents were disproportionately victims of gun homicides, comprising 55% of all gun homicides in the county.

"Over the past couple of weeks, our nation has had to endure yet another spate of mass shootings and tragedies driven by gun violence," Hidalgo said, mentioning the recent deadly shootings in Buffalo, Milwaukee, and the shooting at a flea market in northwest Harris County. "We cannot talk about addressing violent crime without also addressing the role guns play in violent crime."

Hidalgo's office said research shows states with "weaker" gun laws suffer from higher rates of gun deaths, including homicides, suicides, and accidental killings. Between 2011 and 2020, data suggested that the rate of gun homicides in Texas increased by 90%, the judge said.



Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioner Adrian Garcia held a news conference Tuesday to release new data showing an increase in guns being used in homicides in Harris County.

"The reason is simple — there is a very powerful gun lobby that cares more about their own special interests than the safety of that community, and that very powerful gun lobby feels so emboldened as to have a major conference right here in Harris County," Hidalgo said.

Hidalgo announced her intent to introduce a resolution dedicating the month of June "Gun Violence Prevention Month" to honor the lives of the thousands of victims who have lost their lives to gun violence in Harris County.

"This is about ensuring that people understand the responsibility that goes with gun ownership," Garcia said. "It speaks to the reality that a gun left unlocked, left within the reach of a child, left unsecured in a vehicle can ultimately cause harm in a home, in a family, but also be at the reach of an evildoer who will use that weapon against one of our law enforcement officers or another member of the community."

According to data released by the CDC this month, firearm deaths have surpassed car accidents as the number one killer of young people in the United States.

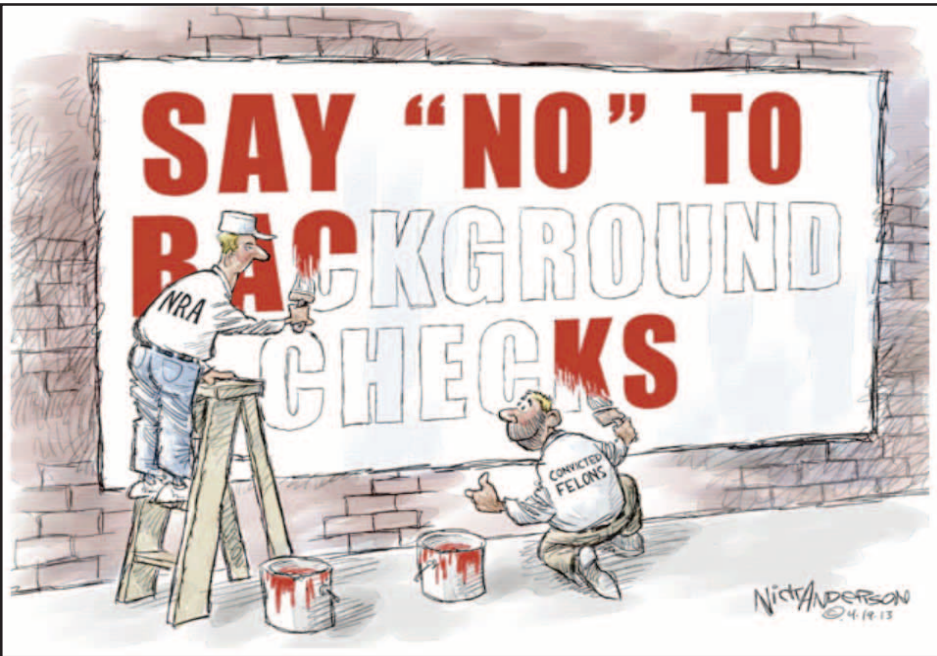
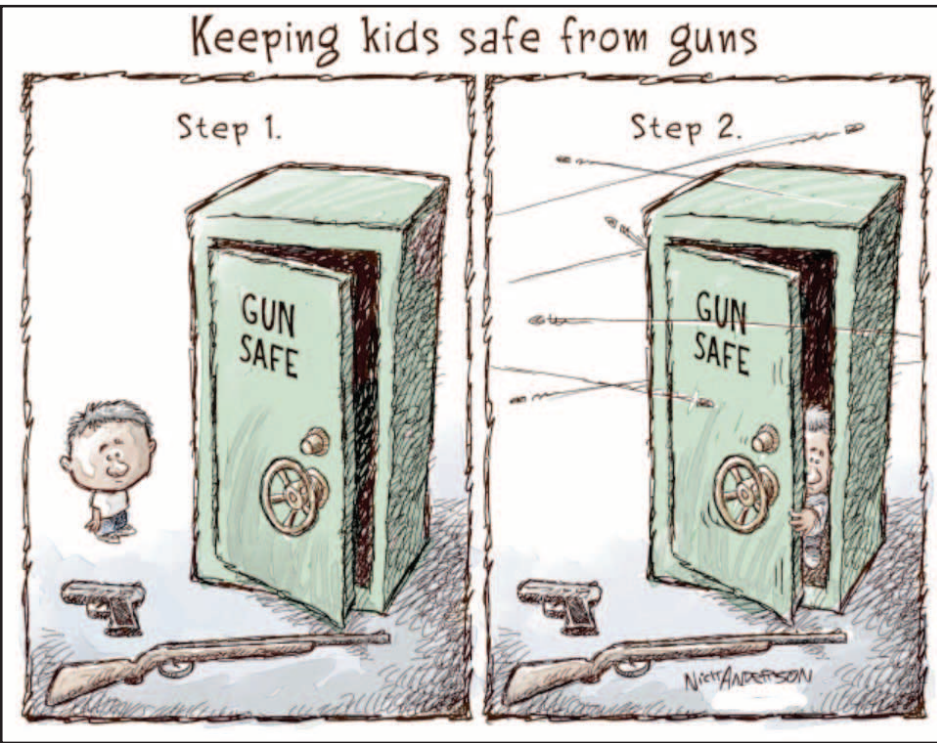
"If you want to be for guns, encourage common-sense regulations, common-sense safety measures, and fund law enforcement to go after those who will use those gun switchers, those Glock switchers that we have seen that cause incredible harm," Garcia said.

The National Rifle Association issued a statement in response saying, "Politicians like Judge Hidalgo embrace policies that release violent criminals onto streets without a hint of justice while the NRA champions the right of law-abiding gun owners to defend themselves, their loved ones, and their homes. While Hidalgo continues to side with criminals, the NRA makes no apologies for standing with law-abiding citizens."



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## Cartoonist Nick Anderson says he has drawn too many gun violence toons over the years:



NORTHEAST★NEWS

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Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental)  
Member Texas Press Association

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COVID Safe



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LETTERS  
TO THE  
EDITOR

### Sen. Carol Alvarado on Gun Safety Reform

Austin, TX — The Texas Senate Democratic Caucus sent the following letter to Governor Abbott:

Dear Governor Abbott:

The members of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus urge you to immediately call an emergency special session to address gun violence in Texas in the wake of this latest gut-wrenching tragedy. We demand that this special session include passage of legislation that would:

- Raise the minimum age to purchase a firearm to 21;
- Require universal background checks for all firearm sales;
- Implement "red flag" laws to allow the temporary removal of firearms from those who are an imminent danger to themselves or others;
- Require a "cooling off" period for the purchase of a firearm; and
- Regulate civilian ownership of high capacity magazines.

Texas has suffered more mass shootings over the past decade than any other state. In Sutherland Springs, 26 people died. At Santa Fe High School, 10 people died. In El Paso, 23 people died at a Walmart. Seven people died in Midland-Odessa. After each of these mass killings, you have held press conferences and roundtables promising things would change. After the slaughter of 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, those broken promises have never rung more hollow. The time to take real action is now.

"Thoughts and prayers" are not enough. Lamenting the fact that "evil" walks among us is not enough. Laying the blame at the feet of a broken mental health care system—that you and other state leaders continue to underfund severely—is not enough. We need evidence-based, common sense gun safety laws. Without a doubt, if at least some of the measures noted above had been passed since 2018, then many lives could have been saved.

We must address the physical and mental health of our nation, and confront the public health issue at hand—gun violence. Guns should not be easier to access than health insurance, baby formula, voting, books and enlisting in the military. We are not trying to take away Second Amendment rights. Instead, we are asking for reasonable laws or restrictions that will create a safer Texas for all of us. Taking action requires bravery. The proposed solutions are not new. We cannot wait for another tragedy to occur. Texas has the power to protect its people; it is time we do so.

We ask you, Lieutenant Governor Patrick and Speaker Phelan to step up and join us in passing common sense gun safety measures that are supported by a vast majority of Texans and could help keep a gun out of the hands of the next would-be mass shooter.

The Texas Senate Democratic Caucus represents urban and rural communities across the state, serving more than 12 million Texans. The 13 current members are Chair Carol Alvarado (Houston), Vice Chair Nathan Johnson (Dallas), John Whitmire (Houston), Judith Zaffirini (Laredo), Eddie Lucio, Jr. (Brownsville), Royce West (Dallas), Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (McAllen), José Menéndez (San Antonio), Borris Miles (Houston), Beverly Powell (Fort Worth), Sarah Eckhardt (Austin), Roland Gutierrez (San Antonio) and César Blanco (El Paso).



SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje de la Superintendente, 23 de Mayo de 2022

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

Es difícil de creer, ¡pero el final del año escolar finalmente está aquí! Con ello, puedo asegurarles que hay una gran mezcla de emociones para muchos de nuestro equipo y alumnos. Espero que sepan lo orgullosa que estoy de todos y cada uno de ustedes.

A nuestros alumnos de último grado: Les deseo todas las opciones y oportunidades que la vida puede ofrecerles. Les pido que elijan con discernimiento y nunca dejen de aprender.

A nuestros alumnos entrantes al prekínder y kínder: Esperamos verlos en nuestras escuelas el próximo año. Esperamos con ansia cultivar un espíritu de aprendizaje permanente y curiosidad.

Y a todos los demás en el medio: Espero que tengan un verano divertido y relajante, y espero verlos a todos en el otoño.

Espero que todos ustedes se tomen un momento para mirar a través de los enlaces a continuación para ver las muchas cosas que logramos a lo largo del año escolar. Continuamos haciendo grandes avances en nuestro plan estratégico,



co, y esta es una pequeña muestra de todas las cosas buenas que suceden en todo nuestro distrito.

¡Terminamos el año con una nota alta!

Orgullosa de nuestro distrito,

Dra. LaTonya M. GoffneySuperintendente

LO MÁS DESTACADO DEL 2021-2022

Logro estudiantil de escuelas de OpciónLanzamiento de la Academia de Liderazgo de Mujeres Jóvenes (YWLA)Lanzamiento de la escuela secundaria para recién llegados, La PromesaAnuncio de la escuela para varones, Impact Leadership Academy en Wilson2 nuevos programas en Carver High School:

mecatrónica y diseño de interiores

Los alumnos más pequeños de AldineExpansión del programa de PreK a día completo para todos los niños de 3 añosLanzamiento del programa Jump-Start para alumnos de prekínder y kínder para un buen comienzo

Modelo ACE extendido por otros dos años en Goodman y Worsham

Informática para alumnos de secundaria (high school)Asociación con Microsoft TEALS para ofrecer cursos de informática a alumnos

CULTURA ESCOLAR

Desarrollo de Liderazgo El distrito agregó una cohorte de aspirantes a director, la Academia Aldine Principal FellowAISD realizó una auditoría de equidad

Apoyo Estudiantil Se amplió la asociación de AISD con CIS para aumentar el apoyo estudiantilEl distrito pasó a su segundo año del plan para aumentar el rendimiento en lecturaLanzamos un nuevo marco para nuestros alumnos multilingüesSe expandió el programa de

preparación universitaria EMERGE a todas las high schoolsSe asoció con la Universidad Estatal de Tennessee para incrementar acceso a la universidadAmpliación del año escolar de días adicionales (ADSY) a dos escuelas primarias másEsfuerzos para aumentar los educadores comunitarios de color en las escuelas

Apoyo a miembros del equipoConsejo Escolar aprobó un incentivo de vacunación COVID por única vez para empleados completamente vacunadosConsejo Escolar aprobó un aumento salarial para todos los empleados y bonos de retención; aumento del salario inicial de los maestros

LIDERAZGO IMPULSADO POR LA MISIÓN

El Programa de Liderazgo del Centro Holdsworth Los líderes completaron el Programa de Liderazgo Distrital de dos años a través del Centro Holdsworth

Comidas escolaresLos Servicios de Alimentación Escolar ocuparon el 2º lugar en 2 clasificaciones

EFICIENCIA DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN

Tecnología AISD contrató a un jefe

de tecnologías de información para supervisar la tecnología del distrito para apoyar las prioridades estratégicas

Eficacia y transparencia

El distrito obtuvo la calificación de responsabilidad fiscal más alta del estado por decimotercer año consecutivoEl Departamento de Compras obtuvo el Premio al Mérito de TASBO

PARTICIPACIÓN Y ALCANCE COMUNITARIO

El podcast de Aldine ISD celebró su primer aniversario en enero; el episodio 16 se transmitirá a finales de esta semana

Educación para padres Se inauguró la Universidad de la Familia y la ComunidadSe lanzó el liderazgo de padres de familia

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS

24-26 de mayo: Hagan clic aquí para ver los días de salida temprana para los colegios de nivel intermedia (middle school) y las escuelas secundarias (high school). Los enlaces incluyen información sobre los exámenes finales y la programación de salida temprana para todas las escuelas.En curso hasta el 31 de mayo: La prein-

scripción para los alumnos elegibles de PreK3, PreK4 y kindergarten está abierta para el año escolar 2022-2023. Hagan clic aquí para detalles de cómo inscribirse.16 de junio: Los resultados de las pruebas STAAR EOC (final de curso) estarán disponibles en el Portal de la Familia.24 de junio: Los resultados de las pruebas STAAR Grados 3-8 estarán disponibles en el Portal de la Familia.

OBSERVACIONES

Mayo: Mes de la Herencia Asiática y del Isleño del Pacífico

June: LGBTQ+ Month June 19: Juneteenth

RECORDATORIOS

Opciones de experiencia de aprendizaje de verano para alumnos en los grados PreK4-12; las sesiones comienzan en junio

Hagan clic aquí para ver los calendarios escolares 2022-2023 (tradicionales y ADSY)

Por favor manténganse informados leyendo las noticias del distrito y el Podcast del Distrito para estar al día de todas las increíbles cosas que pasan en nuestro distrito. También pueden conectarse con nosotros por Facebook, Twitter e Instagram.

SCHOOL NEWS

Becarios de Ávalos P-TECH EMERGE seleccionados para programas de verano altamente competitivos

Los becarios emerge de Avalos P-TECH School han sido seleccionados para programas de verano altamente competitivos.

El programa de preparación para la universidad con sede en Houston prepara a los estudiantes de secundaria de alto rendimiento, en los grados 11-12, para asistir y graduarse de colegios y universidades selectivas de todo el país. Los estudiantes que participan en el programa reciben preparación para el SAT, asisten a talleres de admisión a la universidad y ayuda financiera, reciben asistencia con las solicitudes universitarias y visitan colegios y

universidades durante las giras de verano.

Todos los estudiantes de tercer año de emerge de la escuela secundaria Aldine ISD asistirán a uno de los cinco viajes universitarios de verano de EMERGE en el sur de California, Ohio, Filadelfia, la ciudad de Nueva York, Connecticut o Boston. Esta experiencia introducirá a los estudiantes a nuevas regiones del país y les permitirá conectarse con al menos cinco colegios / universidades selectivas.

En el otoño, los estudiantes de último año actuales de EMERGE asistirán a universidades como Rice University, William College, Harvard University,

Barnard College, Amherst College, University of Virginia y Carleton College. Dos estudiantes de último año fueron nombrados Gates Millennium Foundation Scholars, uno es un beneficiario de la beca de la Fundación Terry y otro es un beneficiario de la beca Amazon Future Engineer.

Los estudiantes de EMERGE están yendo a lugares y su viaje educativo continuará más allá de Aldine ISD.

Los siguientes becarios emerge de Avalos P-TECH School han sido seleccionados para programas de verano altamente competitivos en todo el país.

adémico.

Como Thrive Scholar, Cristian pasará seis semanas en Amherst College para la Academia de Verano en Tecnología e Ingeniería de Thrive. Esta experiencia está totalmente financiada por Thrive. También recibirá una computadora portátil y \$500 para completar el programa. Además de esto, recibirá \$1,000 cada año que esté en la universidad.

MÓNICA FLORES BECARIO DE LA FAMILIA NEUBAUER ADELANTE

Mónica tomará un curso virtual de 3 semanas organizado por la Universidad de Chicago. Al completar el curso, obtendrá créditos universitarios.

En julio, volará a la Universidad de Chicago para la Semana de Phoenix, donde experimentará el campus, conocerá a los otros académicos y aprenderá más sobre el proceso de admisión selectiva. Esta oportunidad está totalmente financiada por la Universidad de Chicago.

JESÚS PUENTE ACADEMIA PARA TODOS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE TEXAS EN AUSTIN

Jesús participará en un programa organizado por el departamento de ciencias de la computación en UT-Austin. Codificarán, profundizarán en nuevas tecnologías, se conectarán con profesores y estudiantes de UT y explorarán Austin. Esta oportunidad está totalmente financiada por UT-Austin.

Inmersión de verano en arquitectura de la Universidad de Rice

Jesús también participará en un programa organizado por el departamento de arquitectura de la Universidad de Rice. Se le presentarán los principios de la arquitectura y el diseño, producirá obras creativas que se pueden integrar en un portafolio de diseño y se conectará con estudiantes y profesores de Rice. Jesús también tendrá la oportunidad de vivir en los dormitorios de Rice durante una semana. Esta aplicación está totalmente financiada por la Universidad de Rice.

nanciada por la Universidad de Rice.

JOCELYNE SUERTE ACADEMIA PARA TODOS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE TEXAS EN AUSTIN

Jocelyne participará en un programa organizado por el departamento de ciencias de la computación en UT-Austin. Codificarán, profundizarán en las nuevas tecnologías y se conectarán con profesores y estudiantes de UT-Austin. Esta oportunidad está totalmente financiada por UT.

MARLYN CALDERÓN MCCOMBS FUTURE EXECUTIVE ACADEMY EN LA UNIVERSIDAD DE TEXAS EN AUSTIN

Marlyn participará en un programa para aprender sobre múltiples carreras en los negocios y establecer contactos con profesionales de la industria. También tendrá la oportunidad de conectarse con estudiantes de profesores en UT-Austin, vivir en el campus, explorar Austin y más. Esta oportunidad está totalmente financiada por UT-Austin.



ALUMNOS BECARIOS DE AVALOS P-TECH

JASON COREAS BECARIO LEDA

Jason Leda fue seleccionado como uno de los 100 becarios leda en todo el país; es el primer estudiante de EMERGE-Aldine ISD seleccionado como LEDA Scholar.

Jason pasará cinco semanas en la Universidad de Princeton. Mientras esté en el campus, se sumergirá en capacitación en liderazgo, cursos de escritura,

preparación para SAT / ACT y participará en excursiones a colegios / universidades en el noreste. Esta programación está financiada en su totalidad por LEDA.

Próxima Generación R2L del Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI)

Jason también pasará una semana en Washington, DC este verano. En DC, Jason visitará el Con-

greso, se conectará con líderes latinos y explorará monumentos en todo el Capitolio. Esta experiencia está financiada íntegramente por el CHCI.

CRISTIAN FLORES ZAVALA THRIVE ACADÉMICO

Cristian fue seleccionado como uno de los 300 Thrive Scholars en todo el país; fue el único estudiante de EMERGE-Aldine ISD seleccionado para el programa este año ac-

Toni Johnson, estudiante de último año de Blanson CTE High School, recibió recientemente una agradable sorpresa para ayudarla con su educación universitaria.

Representantes de Channel 2 y America Furniture Warehouse sorprendieron al futuro graduado con una beca KPRC 2 Senior de \$ 2,500, que American Furniture Warehouse patrocinó.

Para presentar a Toni con su beca estuvieron el meteorólogo de Channel 2 Justin Stapleton y Jacob Colby con American Furniture Warehouse.

Toni dijo que la beca la ayudaría a asistir a la Universidad de Lamar, donde se especializará en psicología.



Toni Johnson, estudiante de último año de Blanson CTE High School, cuarta desde la izquierda, posa con la beca channel 2 /American Furniture Warehouse de \$ 2,500 que le fue presentada el lunes 23 de mayo. En la foto están (de izquierda a derecha): la maestra asistente dental de Toni, Alicia Lovatos, el director de blanson CTE High School, Ben Ibarra, el meteorólogo de Channel 2 Justin Stapleton, el subdirector de Blanson CTE High School, Stephen Heady, y Jacob Colby con American Furniture Warehouse

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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT



The winning team from Eisenhower competed against six Blanson CTE High School teams and one team from Nimitz High School in the METRO bus shelter challenge.



1. TELEVISION: Luke's Diner is a prominent feature in which 2000s TV show?
2. MUSIC: When did The Archies' "Sugar Sugar" hit the No. 1 spot?
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What does the Greek translation of rhinoceros mean?
4. MOVIES: Which movie features the song "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head"?
5. LANGUAGE: What is the American English equivalent of the British English phrase "drawing pin"?
6. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is the Yellowhammer State?
7. HISTORY: Who is believed to be the first to draw a world map, in 6th century BC?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which company advertised its product with the one-word description "Fahrvergnügen"?
9. GEOGRAPHY: How many states are in Australia?
10. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel starts with the line, "They're out there"?







# MuralFest22 brings Art to Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Mural Artist Martin Barrera at work painting his mural on the High Meadows Library last Saturday at MuralFest22.



The TX Art Bus was on hand at MuralFest22, with lots of art projects for kids and families to participate in.



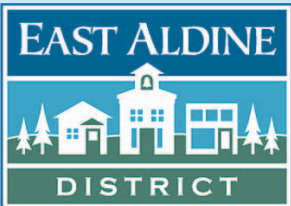
These two kids attended the MuralFest22, but they built Pinwheels at the TX Art Bus and now they are playing with the shadows they create.



Harris County Public Library has a "Curiosity Cruiser" with plenty of free information about library programs, and books and other items for loan to families.



Selina Valdez was at the MuralFest, giving out important information about Harris County Precinct 2 programs, to one of the families attending.



## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

### East Aldine Town Center reaps double honors in real estate contest

On behalf of the people it serves, the East Aldine Management District is proud and humbled at the same time now that the Town Center's new, multi-use office building was named among the Houston area's three top commercial real estate structures in two categories in the Houston Business Journal's annual Landmark Awards.

The office building, which anchors the dynamic Town Center campus that was built by the District, was named a finalist in the Special Project and Community Impact categories. The campus also includes BakerRipley and Hope Clinic social service locations, a Lone Star College branch, an amphitheater and audience lawn, playground equipment, the Harris County Sheriff's Office emergency call center and water features such as a pond and fountains. The next phase of the development is for retail stores and other forms of commercial activity on now-vacant land.

But commercial development across the street and eastward on Aldine Mail Route has already begun in apparent anticipation of increased consumer traffic in and out of the Town Center.

PGAL Inc. designed the office building interior and exterior and the general construction contractor was



East Aldine Office Building, Front Facade

Brookstone LLP; TLC Trucking and Contracting constructed the roadways and infrastructure. Engineers were PGAL Inc. and Garza + McClain Structural Engineers Inc. Collaborative Engineering Group oversaw mechanical, engineering and plumbing.

With an event and banquet space on the first floor along with a mural tracing the history of East Aldine and a Sheriff's Office storefront, a sleek patio on the second floor and staff offices throughout the building, the central structure has already hosted community meetings and celebrations, District board meetings, and a business networking luncheon. Just outside the building, free, live concerts have started taking place at the amphitheater for the second year in a row.

"The Town Center is already having a 'community impact' and is certainly a 'special project' as East Aldine continues to grow and mature, thanks largely to the family oriented, hard-working nature of its residents and businesses," District Executive Director Richard Cantú said. "So we are especially grateful to receive honors in those categories."

Contest judges were Acho Azuike, CEO and managing director of DC Partners; Steve Radom, managing principal of Radom Capital; Matt Damborsky, Skanska executive VP; and Giselle Greenwood, Houston Business Journal editor in chief.



East Aldine District Office Building with Terrace overlooking Amphitheater Park and landscaping features.



East Aldine District Office Building with Lobby Mural, depicting the History of the Aldine community.