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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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Movies at Town Center



Movies every Friday Night in July, at Town Center Amphitheatre. See Page 8 for list of Movie Titles.

NEWS NOTES

Imprisoned Brittney Griner draws national attention

A Russian court last week extended the pretrial detention of the W.N.B.A. basketball star and former AISD Nimitz HS athlete Brittney Griner on drug smuggling charges until July 2, pushing her jail stint past the four month mark, according to the official state news agency TASS.

Although her contact with the public has been limited, reportedly her Russian attorney is able to pass notes back and forth, and Griner has been using this method to communicate with family and supporters in the U.S. A rally in support of her was held last month in Houston, in front of the Toyota Arena where the NBA plays their games. The rally included the presence of American Trevor Reed, recently released from Russian custody in a trade.

It has been suggested in Russian media that Griner is being held by the Russians as a potential swap for a convicted criminal, Viktor Bout, held in the U.S. The State Department has listed the release of Griner as a priority, classifying her as "wrongfully detained," but not commenting on a possible swap.

To keep attention on her plight, the WNBA this week named Griner as an honorary starter in the upcoming All Star Game to be played in Chicago on July 10th.

Newspaper Holiday for 4th of July - no paper next week

The Northeast News will take its annual Fourth of July holiday next week, and there will not be a newspaper dated July 5.

The next issue of the newspaper will be published on July 12th.

We wish everyone a Safe and Joyous 4th of July, with Family and Friends.

Public participates in 3 Aldine planning surveys

Study will choose 20 priority projects for County to implement

ALDINE – The planning study being conducted by the Harris County Engineering department concluded three public meetings last week, to hear and record the interests of local residents, and let them voice their needs and concerns for improvements to the area.

Meetings were held last Tuesday at the Aldine High School, Thursday at the East Aldine Management District offices, and Saturday at the James Drive Park pavilion.

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



The third meeting of the ARCS study was held last Saturday at the James Drive Park pavilion. Participants were asked to place tiles, representing the projects that they felt were of most interest to them and highest priority for action.

The project website — <https://htx-arcs.com> — features a survey that lets respondents review and prioritize the draft goals for the study. Accessible in English and Spanish, the survey is still available on the website.

The ARCS project area consists of the Airline Improvement, East Aldine, and North Houston man-

Participate in the Survey
<https://htx-arcs.com>
on the Internet

agement districts. Although the study is being led by Harris County, recommendations will also be included for parts of the study area that are within the City of Houston.

During the first series of

public meetings in late January, which were conducted virtually via Zoom in late January, the team of county engineers and consultants leading the study project presented a detailed overview of their analysis of existing conditions in Aldine. Citizens who attended the meetings shared their perspectives on living and working in

Aldine and offered several ideas for improving local transportation networks, affordable housing, parks, culture and economic development, safety, public health, and the region's overall quality of life. Instant polls during the meetings also enabled attendees to rank recommended goals for the study in real time.

The study group has reviewed and incorporated eleven past studies into their current work. They have identified 29 projects and 11 programs, across these six categories:
--Transportation
--Housing
--Parks & Public Spaces
--Culture & Quality of Life
--Economic Development
--Community Safety, Public Health, Flooding

40 projects have been identified within these categories, and the public is asked at the meetings to refine the study and choose the 20 projects with the highest priority.

All public meetings and surveys for the ARCS

Continued. See Aldine Regional Study, Page 2

Father's Day at East Aldine Town Center Climbin', Throwin', n Fishin' - Family Fun

Families and individuals in East Aldine celebrated a late Father's Day last Saturday, with a Fun Day sponsored by the East Aldine District, and taking place at the Town Center Amphitheater from 3 to 7pm, and then continuing at 7pm at the Fishing Pier in Keith Wiess Park.

The dual event was organized by East Aldine's new Event Coordinator, Alma DeAlejandro, Veronica Sanches of EAD, and Selina Valdez of Pct. 2.

During the Father's Day event at the East Aldine District, dads enjoyed with their kids an inflatable rock climbing game, and shooting basketball at an-

Continued. See Father's Day, Page 8



An inflatable Climbing rock challenged Fathers and their kids to reach the top.

Photos by Julieta Paita and Veronica Sanches. MORE PHOTOS on Page 8.



Keith Wiess Park was busy in the evening, with walkers as well as the families who were fishing in the Father's Day event.

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NEWS
NOTES

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.

COMMUNITY
WATCH

Fatal Shooting at 3201 Laura Koppe Road

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man found at 3201 Laura Koppe Road about 9 a.m. on Thursday (June 23).

The identity of the victim is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant M. Miller and Detective D. Stark reported:

Some residents of the apartment complex at the above address heard gunshots and yelling about 11:20 p.m. on Wednesday (June 22). The following morning, they found the victim deceased in his apartment and called police.

Witnesses told investigators an unknown black male was seen entering the apartment before the gunshots were heard and then leaving with a duffel bag after the gunfire.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Texas “Click It or Ticket”
campaign in 20th year

HOUSTON—“Since its launch in 2002, the Texas Click It or Ticket campaign has saved nearly 7,000 lives,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “We’re proud of the work we’ve done over the decades and the countless hours put in by our law enforcement partners. But there are still far too many preventable deaths on Texas roads.

From May 23 through June 5, Texas officers and deputies will step up enforcement of the state’s seat belt and child car seat laws. Texas law requires everyone in a vehicle to be properly secured in the front or back seat or face fines and fees up to \$200. Children younger than 8 years old must be restrained in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches. If a child isn’t secured, the driver faces fines of up to \$250.

Unfortunately, an average of 1 in 10 Texans is still not buckling up, and 1,226 people died in 2021 in unrestrained crashes, a 14% increase from the previous year. Putting on a seat belt takes only a few seconds, and doing so reduces the risk of dying by up to 45% for people in the front seat of passenger cars and up to 60% for people in pickup trucks. Even so, pickup truck drivers and passengers continue to lag in seat belt use, and

the number of unbelted pickup truck drivers killed in Texas traffic crashes increased 20% last year. That’s why TxDOT is reminding everyone—whether traveling during the day or at night, a short or long distance, or as a driver or a passenger—that wearing a seat belt remains the single most effective way to protect themselves from serious injury or death in a crash and it’s the law.

From 2002 to 2021, the Click It or Ticket initiative in Texas is estimated to have saved 6,972 lives, prevented 120,000 serious injuries, and resulted in \$26.3 billion in economic savings, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Click It or Ticket campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

Aldine Regional Plan
Study,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Aldine residents study the areas where they are asked to identify projects with the highest priority, to be included in the new ARCS study.

project are conducted in English and Spanish. The project website — <https://htx-arcs.com> — is accessible in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. In addition to colorful visuals that highlight many iconic Aldine landmarks, the website features detailed information such as schedules and registration links for upcoming public meetings, video recordings

of past public meetings, links to the survey, as well as maps, a timeline of the study’s phases, and contact information for key members of the ARCS project team.

With input gathered from the meetings and the survey, the ARCS team is expected to come up with comprehensive recommendations for projects, programs, and policies for

citizens to review and weigh in during another round of public meetings this spring.

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

--Felicia Griffin of HillDay contributed to this story.

MAP OF STUDY AREA FOR THE ALDINE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

SUMMER READING PROGRAM:

Sign up for Summer Reading today! All throughout the summer, the library is celebrating literacy through our Oceans of Possibilities Summer Reading Program. Track books read, activities, and attend library programs for some fun prizes. You can register online by visiting hcpl.beanstack.org or come into the library. When you register, come to the library and pick up your free pass to the Children’s Museum.

JULY 4TH HOLIDAY HOURS:

The library will be closing at 5pm on July 1st and will remain closed through Monday, July 4th. We will reopen on Tuesday, July 5th at 10am.

BOOK CLUB:

You’re invited to our June book club on June 27th at 6pm. We will be reading L.A. Weather by María Amparo Escandón. We have copies available 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.

MAKE & PLAY MONDAYS:

Teens are welcome to a weekly program with a different challenge, craft, games or other fun activ-

ities each week! Every Monday at 3pm.

MAKING WAVES CRAFT CLUB:

If you’re looking for fun projects for the kids – than the Library is the place for you! Join us every Wednesday at 3pm for a fun ocean themed craft.

UNDER THE SEA STORYTIME:

Our storytime has been revamped for the summer. Join us every Thursday at 11:15am for Under the Sea Storytime!

MANGA CLUB:

School is out but Manga Club is still in session! Stop by every Thursday at 3pm for Manga Club!

MAD SCIENCE: LIFE IN THE SEA:

Kids ages 6-12 are invited to Mad Science on Tuesday, June 28th at 11am. Explore the many mysteries and deep-sea creatures that seem more than earthly. Children learn about the vast range of life found in the sea and how plants and animals adapt to their habitats and what humans can do to protect ocean life. Registration is required.

HOW FOODS FIGHT DIABETES:

Join us Wednesday at 1pm to learn all about foods that help fight Diabetes. Space is limited and registration is required.

YOGA & MEDITATION:

Join Beth Reese, PhD, E-RYT, founder of Hous-

ton-based Yoginos: Yoga for Youth, and others for mindfulness, movement, strengthening, breathing, and relaxing! Bring a yoga mat, towel, and other props if you like. None will be provided.

JOB OPENINGS AT THE LIBRARY:

The High Meadows Library is currently hiring! We have two job openings available: Assistant Branch Manager - Youth Services, and Library Service Specialist. To view or apply for these jobs, please visit our website at www.hcpl.net/about/careers.

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.

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Trustees Approve 2022-2023 Budget, Tax Rate

Aldine ISD Trustees approved the general operating budget for the 2022-23 school year and set the proposed tax rate during their June 14 meeting.

The general operating budget for the upcoming school year will be \$638,656,978, a 1.78 percent decrease from the 2021-22 budget. The budget recommendation was made by Alexia Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance and was unanimously approved by AISD Trustees.

Mrs. Rogers said the said the 2022-23 budget provides funding for all district operations, instructional programs and student activities.

“Prior to this presentation, each Board member was able to provide feedback regarding the proposed budget and given multiple options for consideration,” Mrs. Rogers said. “Additionally, each Board member was provided the proposed general fund budget by function as seen in this presentation. Also included in the 2022-23 proposed budget are the debt service and Child Nutrition budgets for the 2022-23 school year.”

Also, during the June 14 board meeting, Trustees approved the proposed tax rate for the 2022-23 school year. Mrs. Rogers recommended the tax rate be set at \$1.2669 per \$100 valuation (\$.3025 cents for the Interest and Sinking fund and \$.09644 cents for the Maintenance and Operation fund). The 2022-23 proposed tax rate is the same as the 2021-22 tax rate. Trustees unanimously approved the proposed tax rate. The Board will not officially be able to approve the proposed tax rate until the district receives the certified roll from the Harris County Appraisal District in late August. At that time, the district will be able to set the tax rate.

Trustees Receive Service Pins

During the June 14 Board meeting, three Aldine ISD Trustees received service pins for their years of service to Aldine ISD. Each year, Aldine ISD employees receive service pins in increments of five years of service. During the June 14 Board meeting, Trustee Dr. Viola M. Garcia received her 30-year pin, while Vice President Dr. Kimberley Booker and Trustee Connie Esparza each received their five-year pins. Board President Randy Bates presented Dr. Garcia and Dr. Booker with their pins at the Board meeting, while Mrs. Espinoza will receive her pin at the July Board meeting. Mrs. Espinoza was at a conference in San Antonio and participated in the meeting via Zoom.



Staff Assignments Announced

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced five staff assignments during the June 14 Board meeting.

***Christopher Walker** was named Middle School Director of Learning Recovery after serving as Principal of Drew Academy.

***Phoebe Pruitt** was named Principal of Garcia Middle School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Hambrick Middle School.

***Dr. Lindsey Wise** was named High School Director of Learning Recovery, Tutoring and Student Initiatives after serving as an Assistant Principal at Aldine High School.

***Divina Browne** was named Program Director of High School Mathematics after serving as the Mathematics Instructional Specialist at Blanson CTE High School.

***Scott Murphy** was named Senior Data Integration Specialist after serving as the Lead Assessment and Data Specialist at Teague Middle School.

Carver High Theater Director Roshunda Jones-Koumba recognized

During the June 14 Board meeting, Carver High School Theater Director Roshunda Jones-Koumba was recognized for being awarded the 2022 Excellence in Theater Education Award at the Tony Awards, which were held in New York on June 12 and televised live by CBS. Chief of Staff Sheleah D. Reed shared a clip of Jones-Koumba receiving her award and her acceptance speech. A number of her Carver High theater students were featured in a video praising her for her dedication and support of their theater endeavors.

Board Approves Action Items

During the June 14 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:

- *Approved the minutes from previous meetings
- *Approved the Lone Star College Dual Credit Partnership Agreement for 2022-2025
- *Approved the Houston Community College Dual Credit/HB5 College Prep Math and English Courses/Early College High School/Middle College High School for 2022-23 at Blanson CTE High School
- *Approved an Interlocal Agreement between the University of Texas at Austin and Aldine ISD for the 2022-23 On-Ramps Program
- *Approved a Memorandum of Understanding: Texas Dual Language Project for the 2022-23 school year
- *Approved the Student Code of Conduct for the 2022-23 school year
- *Approved an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Fortis Academy for the 2021-22 school year
- *Approved a Memorandum of Understanding for Preventive Dental Services between the Department of State Health Services and Aldine ISD from Sept. 1, 2022 through Aug. 31, 2026
- *Approved an Interlocal Agreement between Harris County and Aldine ISD for the Community Youth Services Program from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023
- *Approved a Service Contract between Aldine ISD and Communities in Schools, Inc. for Dropout Prevention from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023
- *Approved an Agreement of Collaboration between Prairie View A&M University and Aldine ISD regarding the Teacher Education Residency Model from 2022 through 2025
- *Approved a Cooperative Agreement between Iowa State University and Aldine ISD regarding Clinical Placement Sites for 2022 through 2024
- *Approved an agreement between the University of Houston-Downtown and Aldine ISD regarding the Grow Your Own Teacher Program for the 2022-23 school year
- *Approved the following bids: instructional supplies, materials and equipment, professional and consulting services, photography services, restaurant, food and catering vendors, student and district activities and venues, baseball supplies and equipment, softball supplies and equipment, tennis supplies and equipment, chain link fence services, locks, hardware and key services, contract renewals, contract renewals for awards, incentives and spirit apparel, contract bid renewals for instructional supplies, materials and equipment, contract renewals for professional and consulting services, contract renewals for restaurant, food and catering vendors, contract renewals for retail stores and contract renewals for travel and tour services
- *Approved contracts and purchases of more than \$50,000
- *Approved renewals for purchasing cooperatives and Interlocal Agreements
- *Approved the General Fund Budget Amendment for Period 12 of the 2021-22 school year
- *Approved the monthly Tax Office Refunds

The July Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19. It will be held in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building and will begin at 7 p.m.

Aldine ISD Names Washington Chief Operations Officer

Fred E. Washington, a veteran in organization operations, strategic leadership, and oversight, has been named chief operations officer of the Aldine Independent School District.

The cabinet-level position oversees the non-instructional functions that support the school district, such as capital programs, operational planning, central receiving, buildings and properties, facilities planning and construction, school nutrition, and transportation.

“Fred is an exceptional addition to our leadership team,” said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. “In addition to relevant experience with operations, he brings a depth of leadership experience as a former vice president and director of athletics at Prairie View A&M University. I am excited to work with Fred as we maximize efficiency and move forward with strategic priorities and goals. With his experience, he can execute core strategies with the entire leadership.”

Washington served the university for 27 years before being named vice president and director of athletics in 2018, where he served as a member of the President’s Cabinet. Washington was responsible for providing strategic leadership and oversight for an 18-sport NCAA Division 1 FCS intercollegiate athletics program. He oversaw the planning, fiscal affairs, staffing, fundraising and promotions, athletics facilities, and regulatory compliance for intercollegiate athletics. Washington retired in 2019 from PVAMU.

Additionally, he worked closely with multiple internal and external constituencies to advance the university’s objectives and goals. In this position, Washington supervised a diverse group of 60 and managed an annual operating budget of \$16 million. He managed the university’s physical plant, including construction and planning, facilities maintenance, grounds maintenance, custodial services, locksmith, wastewater treatment plant, telephone office, campus mail, transportation, fleet man-



Fred E. Washington

agement, parking, and the police department. Washington also created budgets, implemented strategic planning strategies, and developed fundraising initiatives generating over \$400,000 in new yearly gift funds from new and recurring partners.

Washington began his career at the university in 1994 as a senior director of auxiliary services/assistant vice president for finance and administration, a position he held for 11 years before serving as vice president of administration and auxiliary services for three years. Between 2008 and 2018, he was vice president of administration and auxiliary services and director of athletics.

His tenure as athletic director was highlighted by PVAMU football returning to its tradition of winning. The Panthers won 14 SWAC regular season or tournament titles. PVAM had season-ending awards for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 in baseball, men’s tennis, women’s basketball, and women’s bowling teams. PVAMU Athletics won back-to-back Commissioner’s Cup crowns as the top overall sports program in the SWAC in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

The Panthers captured the C.D. Henry Award and the James Frank Award. In 2009-2010, the athletic program earned the Barbara Jacket/Sadie Magee Award as the top overall wom-

en’s sports program in the SWAC for only the second time in school history.

In 2010, Washington introduced the first-ever Athletic Director’s Challenge at PVAMU. The financial challenge helped generate support for the sports complex, which opened in 2016. The Panther Stadium represented the first time in the university’s 140-year history that it had a state-of-the-art facility to house its championship-level Panther football team. The stadium boasts a seating capacity of 15,000 and amenities that include: a covered concourse including concessions and merchandising space, premium seating, and a press box level. The Athletic Field House, adjacent to the stadium, houses a strength and conditioning area, sports medicine suite, team meeting rooms, academic support space, and locker rooms.

Washington’s role in Aldine will include identifying key issues, aligning department goals with the district’s goals, investing in the talent base, leading district planning efforts, and implementing effective improvements.

He holds a master of arts in community development degree, an MBA, and a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Prairie View A&M University. The military veteran served 23 years in the United States Army Reserve and retired with a Major rank.

“I am very excited to join the Aldine Independent School District team. This will be a great opportunity to continue the great work the district is doing to support our students and teachers,” Washington said. “Having been part of the post-secondary level of education, I deeply understand the important work we do in operations. There are always challenges ahead, but I look forward to collaborating with the Aldine team to meet those challenges. Together we will work to provide the best learning environment possible for all students in Aldine ISD schools.”

Washington begins his new role on June 27.

Families of Primary School ESL, Dual Language Invited to ReadyRosie Virtual Workshops in June

The district is hosting a virtual Parent Information Workshop. The session will introduce the ReadyRosie materials for families of primary school students in ESL (English as a Second Language) and dual language education programs and how ReadyRosie works.

Using researched-based learning strategies, ReadyRosie is an educational resource to share powerful games and videos that support families and their children in their learning. Join us and discover how to make learning fun at home.

Morning, afternoon, and evening sessions are available in English and Spanish. Every session will cover the same information. Families need only attend one meeting.

Wednesday, June 29
Topic:Relationships Matter!
English
9:00-10:00
a.m.3:00-4:00 p.m.
Link: <https://bit.ly/3axhFgA>
Meeting ID: 940 6040 8183
Password: 4fd78c

We look forward to seeing you virtually on June 29 and at our future ReadyRosie workshops!





OPINION

By Rep. Armando Walle



Walle condemns Supreme Court Decision

Dobbs decision means Texas’ new “Trigger Law,” outlawing abortion and levying criminal penalties for performing abortion in Texas, will take effect 30 days after judgment

HOUSTON – On Friday, in deciding in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in a 5-4 decision, upending nearly 50 years of precedent recognizing a women’s right to choose to have an abortion. State Representative Armando Walle (D-Houston) released the following statement regarding the *Dobbs* opinion:

I am devastated about today’s Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson—not only a massive setback for the civil rights of women but for all Americans. In setting aside nearly 50 years of precedent, the decision not only means loss of access to abortion, but reverses decades of progress in women’s rights to self-determination and autonomy.


Knowing Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured people in the country and has a history of poor maternal health outcomes for pregnant women, we know the impact of this decision will be felt hardest by people of color and those with lesser means. More than ever, it is imperative that Texas take steps to repair its public health safety net and protect the health of women before, during, and after pregnancy.

The court majority’s contortions made to overturn Roe required rolling back established principles of substantive due process. Despite the majority attempt to dispel concerns, I fear the opinion’s line of reasoning severely threatens past Supreme Court decisions affirming the rights to contraception, same-sex intimacy, and same-sex marriage. I know my fears are not unfounded when Justice Thomas specifically suggests the court “reject substantive due process entirely” and specifically suggests reconsidering “Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell,” the three cases which secured those rights.

It is a dark day in our nation’s history. But I will work hard in Austin to mitigate the negative impacts of this decision (and the corresponding Texas abortion ban) on my constituents and all affected Texans.


###

Rep. Armando Walle is serving his seventh term in the Texas House of Representatives and is as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, serving as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Articles VI, VII, VIII. Walle also serves as a member of the House Committees on House Administration and Natural Resources. He represents House District 140, which includes northern portions of unincorporated Harris County and the City of Houston.



OPINION

By U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN



Cornyn commends Supreme Court Ruling to Overturn Roe V. Wade

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) released the following statement after the Supreme Court issued the decision on the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*:

“Today, the Court has restored one of the core principles of our Constitution with this landmark ruling. This decision correctly returns the authority of states to decide the limits on abortion and will save countless innocent lives. I commend the Justices for not bowing to the vicious intimidation campaign waged by the radical Left. I join Texans in celebrating this historic victory for life and the rule of law.”

###

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.

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





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Comptroller releases Broadband Expansion Plan

Comptroller releases broadband plan

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar last week released his agency’s plan to support the expansion of broadband internet access to areas with limited or no access. Hegar and his agency’s Broadband Development Office received feedback through a series of town halls, virtual discussions and more than 16,000 responses to a survey.

“An important, recurring theme has been the reminder that though high-speed internet may once have been a luxury, it is now a necessity,” Hegar wrote in a letter to Texas legislators. “Texans need reliable, high-speed connectivity for a wide range of potential applications including public health, safety, education and modern agriculture.”

Census data collected in 2020 indicates as many as 7 million Texans — nearly one-fourth of the state’s population — do not have broadband access. The issue disproportionately affects rural communities, low-income families and communities of color, the report said.

The report notes the statewide plan will require additional funding. The Legislature provided \$5 million to jump-start the Broadband Development Office, and the federal American Rescue Act allocated \$500.5 million for broadband expansion. In addition, the recently passed infrastructure bill allocates at least \$100 million.

By early next year, the BDO will:

- Establish a broadband-focused, federally compliant grant program.
- Publish a broadband availability map.
- Manage recurring coordination and communication opportunities across stakeholder groups.

“Texas faces a huge challenge: Connecting over 1 million households to high-speed broadband, improving connectivity for over 5.6 million households, improving affordability of broadband for 3.6 million households and assisting 3.8 million Texans with digital literacy challenges,” Hegar said.



Test scores rise slightly in three subjects

Test results released last week by the Texas Education Agency showed modest improvement in three subject areas over last year. However, they still are lower than they were before the pandemic.

High school students took the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness in four subjects required to graduate: algebra, English I and II, biology and U.S. history. Compared to last year, scores rose in all but English I and II, which were largely unchanged.

Test score results are still short of the pre-pandemic results from 2019. In algebra, for example, scores are 16 points lower than spring 2019.

“We have made some progress to date, but there is still work to be done to fully recover from the academic effects of the COVID slide,” TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said.

Results for STAAR tests taken by students in grades 3-8 will be made public this week.

Texas again leads nation in jobs created

May employment numbers released by the Texas Workforce Commission show the state has added 762,400 nonagricultural jobs since May 2021. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in May was essentially unchanged at 4.2%.

“Texas continues to set records for employment growth with more than 250,000 jobs added from the beginning of this year through May,” said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel.

“Training and upskilling are crucial to maintain this level of employment growth, and TWC remains committed to offering innovative training programs.”

The job increase is the highest in the nation, with a record 13.357 million Texans employed, according to TWC.

Ex-boy band member wrangling litter

Wearing a cowboy hat, spurs and a fringed vest, singer and actor Joe Jonas is lassoing litter in the latest “Don’t mess with Texas” campaign.

The former member of the Jonas Brothers Band, whose hometown is Dallas, filmed a video in which he goes around the Don’t mess with Texas office, dragging a barrel and gathering trash, according to the Austin American Statesman.

“Joe understands the pride that we have in our state and in keeping it clean for everyone to enjoy its beauty, now and in the future,” said Becky Ozuna, coordinator for the Don’t mess with Texas campaign. “We are thrilled to have Joe join us in bringing attention to our litter-free message through his comedic talent and timing.”

The humorous video with a serious message can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/vp4hfb4x>.

State launches nation’s first Driving with Disability program

A collaborative effort between state agencies has led to a first-in-the-nation program that gives Texans the option to identify communication impairments, such as being hearing-impaired, on both the driver’s licenses and vehicle registrations.

In addition, all Texas law enforcement agencies have access to video training modules to gain a better understanding of people with a communication impediment, which also includes autism, cerebral palsy, Parkinson’s disease and other disorders drivers might have and still legally be able to drive.

“This simple addition to a driver’s license or vehicle registration removes a potential barrier and can give officers the knowledge they need to help make sure everyone feels comfortable and safe,” Steve McCraw, Texas Department of Public Safety director, said.

COVID-19 cases in state stay steady

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in the past week in Texas stayed fairly steady at 48,073, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. However, new deaths rose sharply to 454, compared to 77 reported the previous week. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,747 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, up for the second straight week.



THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Lucky Squirrel”

My husband, Peter, and I went to our first concert in the park last night.

We brought our folding chairs and ate food from the food trucks. The weather was perfect, and the music was good. But upstaging the band were a pair of juvenile squirrels in the trees overhead, challenging one another to feats of greater and greater daring. I half expected to have an adolescent squirrel land in my lap.

It had been a long day. We had just come from the funeral for one of Peter’s cousins, who died of ALS. It was a somber occasion, as he was an otherwise healthy man who, until recently, ran marathons and taught classes and painted brilliant Western landscapes. Now the world—and his family in particular—was poorer for his loss, and I was feeling a little down.

Before going to the concert, I went on my usual walk and called my old friend, Andrew. He was in a bad mood also. Andrew has been working on a fantasy novel for years and just heard about someone who sold a similar novel for an astonishing sum. When he read the description of the book, he thought it sounded terrible.

“I wouldn’t touch that book!” Andrew told me as I walked. “It sounds just awful!”

“Aren’t you glad a fantasy author is doing so well?” I asked. He grumbled. I told him how I had attended two funerals in the space of a week, and it was wearing on me. This is what you do with old friends—he brings me around when I am grumpy, and I do the same for him.

Then Andrew told me about an interview he’d recently heard with the former bass player for the Rolling Stones, Bill Wyman. Wyman is now 85 years old and, when talking about his most cherished memories, he said, “These moments are there to be caught but you’re bloody lucky to catch them.” Andrew liked the quote so much he wrote it down, so I did the same.

“The moments are meant to be caught,” Andrew said, “but we have to do the catching.”

Just then, I noticed that some of the lilacs in the shade were still blooming, their unmistakable fragrance thick in the humid air. I admired the golden retriever passing on the other side of the street, his tail swishing cheerfully back and forth. I realized how something as simple as catching the scent of the last lilacs of the season or the sight of a happy golden retriever’s tail took the act of noticing.

“We have to reach out and catch the moment,” Andrew continued. I noticed that I was feeling less sad. I could tell Andrew was less grumpy.

Sitting under the trees at the concert, I thought again of how quickly the moments pass—how fast the spring has gone, how the summer will be over before I know it, and how the years fly by. Reaching into the stream of time and catching a moment is not easy. I am, indeed, “bloody lucky” to catch them.

At that moment, one of the daredevil squirrels overhead took an outrageous chance and leaped to a slim branch in a nearby tree—really no more than a twig—that was clearly dead and had broken off from the larger branch.

“He’s going to fall for sure!” I said as the squirrel clung to the branch, which swung once like a pendulum before he leaped a second time to safety. And he was gone.

“Bloody lucky squirrel,” I thought, filled with admiration.

Till next time,
Carrie
Follow me on Facebook at: CarrieClassonAuthor.

NORTHEAST NEWS

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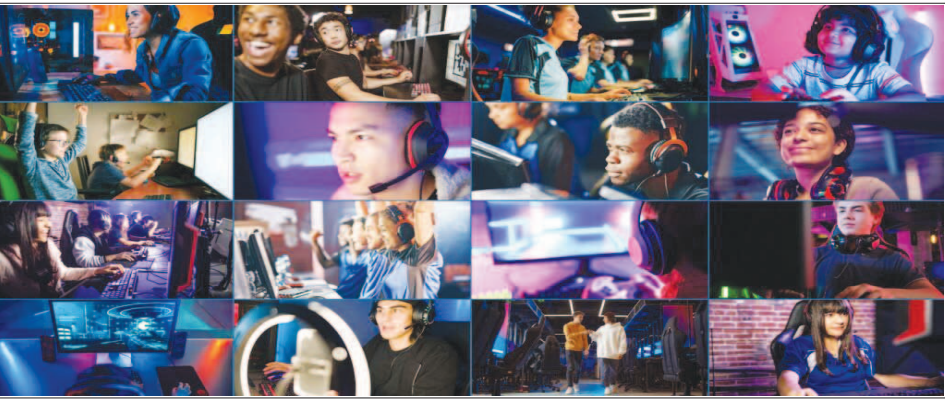
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SPANISH PAGE

Aldine ISD Celebro Conferencia Inaugural de Esports del Area Metropolitana de Houston



En asociación con Dell y Advanced Learning Partners, el distrito organizará la Conferencia Inaugural de Esports del Área metropolitana de Houston el 20 de julio en Davis High School.

Detalles de la Conferencia de Esports del Área Metropolitana de Houston Davis High School, 12525 Ella Blvd, Houston, TX 77067Miércoles 20 de julio, de 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.Orador principal: Danny Martin, cofundador y CEO de EspoEl evento está abierto a administradores, maestros, estudiantes y padres.Enlace para registrarse: bit.ly/ghaec2022

El rápido aumento de la popularidad de los deportes electrónicos no es una sorpresa ya que, entre los adolescentes, el 90% juega videojuegos. A menos que tenga un ávido jugador en la familia, es posible que no esté al tanto de los deportes electrónicos o los juegos competitivos. Recientemente se convirtió en una escuela secundaria oficialmente sancionada y deporte universitario. Hace unos pocos años, la Federación Nacional de Asociaciones Estatales de Escuelas Secundarias (NFHS) reconoció por primera vez los deportes electrónicos como un deporte oficial. Desde entonces, más de 8,600 escuelas secundarias han comenzado equipos de esports.

«Sabía sobre juegos, pero los deportes electrónicos están en otro nivel», dijo Joshua Hicks, coordinador de eventos multimedia de Aldine ISD. «Es un videojuego en línea organizado y competitivo. Hay ligas, rankings, formatos y entrenadores. Se ha convertido en un asunto serio. Los deportes electrónicos son muy populares y están creciendo rápidamente en el área de Houston».

Los torneos de esports ofrecen conexiones entre pares, universidad y oportunidades de becas. Varias compañías en todo el país están ayudando a las escuelas a explorar la tecnología de los deportes electrónicos y educar a todos sobre por qué los deportes electrónicos están en auge.

Hicks espera cientos de entusiastas, de todos los niveles de edad, de toda el área de Houston. La conferencia mostrará el talento de los juegos y los últimos modelos de juegos de Dell. Si bien habrá juegos, el Aldine Club y otros participantes verán cómo los clubes de deportes electrónicos fomentan el liderazgo, la erudición y las oportunidades de carrera en un campo en crecimiento (es decir, shoutcasting, diseño gráfico, marketing y negocios). Presentadores, paneles y talleres completarán el evento para aquellos que buscan comenzar clubes de esports del distrito, la escuela y los locales. Las personas interesadas también pueden visitar el sitio web de Aldine Esports.

Los participantes también tendrán la oportunidad de trabajar con los miembros del equipo del Departamento de Aprendizaje Digital de AISD para aprender sobre reclutamiento, prácticas de inclusión, conducta y más. Los estudiantes y sus padres tendrán sesiones para preguntas frecuentes, juego competitivo y discusión sobre las carreras que se ofrecen en la comunidad de juegos.

Un gran atractivo es el empresario de deportes electrónicos y nativo de Texas Danny Martin. Mientras estaba en la universidad, desarrolló su primer negocio, la aplicación Geekletes. Es una plataforma web donde los jugadores se conectan para encontrar un torneo u organizar uno, también tiene un espacio físico para reunirse. Martin, cofundador y CEO de Espo, ha organizado más de 35 eventos de esports. También le gusta hablar con los estudiantes sobre la industria del juego y las oportunidades de campo de STEM.

El Distrito Nombra Nueva Directora para la Escuela Intermeda Garcia



Principal Phoebe Pruitt

Aldine ISD se complace en anunciar que Phoebe Danelle Pruitt ha sido seleccionada como la nueva directora de García Middle School.

Toda la carrera educativa de Pruitt ha estado en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Aldine, donde ha servido durante 24 años. Comenzó como maestra de tercer grado en Carmichael Elementary School en 1998 antes de unirse a Aldine Middle School en 2001. Pruitt quería compartir su amor por la lectura y sabía que algunos estudiantes tenían dificultades para leer a nivel de escuela intermedia. Comenzó a centrarse en esta necesidad y continuó persiguiendo su pasión por el desarrollo de lectores jóvenes. Mientras estaba en Aldine Middle School, Pruitt se convirtió rápidamente en líder de equipo y luego en jefe de departamento. Como maestra de artes del lenguaje inglés (ELA), demostró ser efectiva para ayudar a sus estudiantes de inglés (EL) y a las poblaciones de educación especial a crecer y prosperar.

En el otoño de 2006, fue invitada a ayudar a abrir Plummer Middle School. Mientras estuvo en Plummer MS, se desempeñó como especialista en habilidades de ELA y se centró en el desarrollo de los maestros y el éxito de los estudiantes. Esta oportunidad la llevó a una posición de liderazgo en el campus en Hambrick Middle School, sirviendo como subdirector. Ella ayudó a los estudiantes de Hambrick MS a tener éxito y ayudó a guiar a los maestros en su crecimiento profesional.

Pruitt es de Dallas, donde asistió a la primera escuela acreditada y de propiedad negra en el estado de Texas, Lobias Murray Christian Academy. Obtuvo una licenciatura en Estudios Interdisciplinarios, una maestría en Educación de Lectura y una maestría en Liderazgo Educativo de Prairie View A&M University.

Es miembro de Kappa Delta Pi y Delta Sigma Theta; Pruitt se desempeñó como presidente de Kappa Delta Pi.

Pruitt y su esposo, Marcus Pruitt, son los orgullosos padres de Micah Pruitt. El Sr. Pruitt es el director de Jones Middle School.

Phoebe se inclina hacia adelante para impulsar iniciativas que conectarán, inspirarán e impactarán a todas las partes interesadas.

«Estoy ansioso por el nuevo desafío y mi nueva familia en García Middle School», dijo Pruitt. «Tomaré mis habilidades en liderazgo fuerte, enseñanza efectiva y altas expectativas para construir sobre el éxito en García Middle. Planeo continuar construyendo relaciones positivas, entrenar al personal a su máximo potencial e impactar el crecimiento de los estudiantes».

Pruitt reportará directamente a la Dra. LaTonia Amerson, superintendente asistente escolar de escuelas intermedias. La jefa de escuelas Katy Roede, quien proporciona liderazgo sobre la administración escolar, espera trabajar con Pruitt en su nuevo puesto. Elogió la experiencia de Pruitt en el bienestar holístico y el rendimiento académico de los estudiantes como crucial para el trabajo en García Middle School.

«Phoebe es una defensora de la equidad educativa», dijo Roede. «Ella tiene experiencia brindando desarrollo profesional y apoyo para construir sistemas educativos equitativos. Sé que ella y todos los líderes y educadores están comprometidos a ayudar y guiar a los estudiantes para que tengan éxito y prosperen. Sus valores se alinean con el plan estratégico del distrito para garantizar que cada estudiante tenga acceso a oportunidades de aprendizaje educativo de alta calidad».

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Aldine ISD Trustee Connie Esparza Serving on MASBA Board of Directors

Aldine ISD Trustee Connie Esparza is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Mexican American School Boards Association (MASBA).

In April, Mrs. Esparza was appointed to the Board of Directors by Immediate Past President Cinto Ramos.

She represents Region 4.

Since joining the Board of Directors, Mrs. Esparza has served on the Search Committee to fill the MASBA's Executive Director position, which resulted in the hiring of Dr. Mary Gonzalez.

This past spring, Mrs. Esparza was asked to serve as co-chair as MASBA launched its Strategic Planning Committee. Also, in the spring of 2022, Mrs. Esparza was appointed Parliamentarian of MASBA's Executive Committee.

Mrs. Esparza said that while serving as an Aldine ISD Trustee is her priority, she is embracing her tenure with MASBA. "I serve with some great people," she said. "We want to put MASBA on the map nationally."

Mrs. Esparza was appointed to the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees in February 2017 to fill the un-



Connie Esparza Board of Directors of the Mexican American School Boards Association (MASBA).

expired term of Rick Ogden. She has served on the Board for five years.

Before becoming a Trustee, Mrs. Esparza served as the Program Manager of Dual Credit with Houston Community College (HCC) Northeast. She also worked with Gulf Oil and Chevron for many years in Human Resources.

Mrs. Esparza has also volunteered in Aldine ISD's VISA (Volunteers in the Schools of Aldine), serves on the Aldine Education Foundation

(AEF), serves as the Castlewood Civic Club's president, and she is a member of the East Aldine Arts Council.

MASBA is a voluntary non-profit, statewide education association that has served local school boards in Texas since 1970. MASBA is focused on closing achievement gaps in Texas public schools, particularly for the Latino students who comprise a majority of Texas public schools.

Mrs. Esparza's term will expire in August 2023.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

HEY GRANDPA, MOM AND DAD ALWAYS SAY "I WILL UNDERSTAND WHEN I'M OLDER."

SURE, THAT'S BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG YOU STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.

WELL, YOU ARE SUPER OLD, SO YOU MUST UNDERSTAND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING!

ACTUALLY, AT MY AGE THE WORLD JUST BAFLES ME.

by Dave T. Phipps

YOU'VE GOT THE WORDING ON YOUR SIGN MIXED UP!

NOPE.

I'M SET UP HERE IN THE FRONT YARD, MY IN-LAWS ARE IN THE BACK YARD AND I'VE GOT NEIGHBORS SET UP ON BOTH SIDE YARDS.

by Mike Marland

I WAS ONCE KIDNAPPED BY A BUNCH OF MIMES.

HOW'D THEY TREAT YOU?

THEY DID UNSPEAKABLE THINGS TO ME.

by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Trash can is missing. 2. Sailboat is missing. 3. Shovel is missing. 4. Sailboat is missing. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Whistle is missing. 7. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. 8. Theodore Roosevelt. 9. "The Shining". 10. "Bonnie and Clyde".

June 27, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Chantilly, e.g.
5 Chicken —
9 Leg, in slang
12 Mr. Stravinsky
13 Sparkling Italian wine
14 Have bills
15 Bouncing toy
17 Retrieve
18 Ruby and Sandra
19 Apple products
21 Buy more Time?
24 Handle
25 New Mexico resort
26 Monotonous
30 Work unit
31 Chair designer Charles
32 Odometer start
33 Winter road clearer
35 Remain
36 Church area
37 Buckwheat porridge
38 Physicist Enrico
40 Slightly
42 White House nickname
43 Company emblems
48 Grazing land
49 Scott Turow

DOWN

1 Back talk
2 In the past
3 Gear tooth
4 Wears away
5 Winslet of "Titanic"
6 Egyptian deity
7 List-ending abbr.
8 Minnesota
9 '60s footwear
10 Dumbstruck
11 Citi Field team
16 Stitch
20 Not neg.
21 Numbered rds.
22 Deserve
23 Restricted zones
24 Recognized
26 Shopper's delight
27 "As I see it," to a texter
28 Ancient mariner
29 Maja painter
31 Delta follower
34 Typing speed stat
35 Nymph pursuers
37 Tool set
38 Dossier
39 Stretches (out)
40 Baseball's Tommie
41 Weevil's target
44 Music's Yoko
45 "Ulalume" writer
46 Computer key
47 Filming site

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Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Sweden?

2. HISTORY: What was the whole name of the nation once called U.S.S.R.?

3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When did July 4 become a federal holiday?

4. FOOD & DRINK: Which fruit is used to make the cocktail mixer grenadine?

5. U.S. STATES: In which state is Niagara Falls located?

6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which is the only mammal that can fly?

7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which two presidents died within hours of each other on July 4 — the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence?

8. TELEVISION: What was Beaver's real first name on the "Leave It to Beaver" sitcom?

9. LITERATURE: Which 1977 horror novel features a hotel called The Overlook?

10. MOVIES: Which 1967 movie tagline is, "They're young ... they're in love ... and they kill people"?

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

- 1. Is the book of Amos in the Old Testament, New Testament or neither?
- 2. What does the shortest verse in the Bible (KJV) say Jesus did? Walked, Prayed, Preached, Wept
- 3. Which false prophet wore a yoke which Jeremiah broke? Bar-Jesus, Jezebel, Hananiah, Zedekiah
- 4. What was Bartimaeus healed of in Mark 10? Demons, Leprosy, Blindness, Deafness

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



"Self-Portrait with Straw Hat" by Vincent van Gogh (1887-88)

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere,
keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Proverbs 15:3

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- 5. From Psalms 135, who was king of Bashan? Ur, Og, Tu, Za
- 6. Who was exiled to the land of Nod? Cain, Abel, Abraham, Aaron

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Wept (John 11:35); 3) Hananiah; 4) Blindness; 5) Og (135:11); 6) Cain
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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HCC Foundation Gala Celebrates College’s 50th Anniversary; Raises More Than \$790,000

HOUSTON (June 2, 2022) — The Houston Community College Foundation 50th Anniversary Gala at the Hilton Americas hotel raised more than \$790,000 on behalf of HCC students on May 14th, and Houston icon Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale received the coveted Crystal Eagle Award for his outstanding support of HCC’s programs and students.

The furniture entrepreneur and philanthropist was celebrated for his ties to HCC, including the “Mattress Mack School of Selling” and the Work Texas training program he founded.

“No Houstonian has done more to support HCC than Jim McIngvale,” said Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E. “We could not be more grateful to Jim and his family for their continuing devotion to HCC and its students.”

Also recognized at the gala were past year Eagle Award recipients, including long-time donors and 2020 honorees Renee and Alan Helfman and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. McIngvale gave an impassioned speech about HCC’s importance to the future of the Houston community before surprising the crowd of 500 by making an impromptu \$50,000 donation to the Foundation. He was so moved he joined auctioneer Vince Montalbano on stage to offer up the use of his Astros suites for donations as well.

“Houston Community College does such a great job for our city; they are an integral part of our community. They educate the young people and help them get great jobs, and help Houston develop into an even better world-class city,” Jim McIngvale said.

“This event truly shows the commitment of many wonderful people in the community who support our students and HCC,” Dr. Maldonado said. “The \$790,000 raised will target areas of greatest need for HCC students as they navigate the difficult financial decisions many face when it comes to work, family and education.”

The HCC Foundation gave more than \$5 million in grants and scholarship to support student success and scholarships last year alone.

“Support raised at this event goes directly to the areas of greatest need for our students,”



2022 Gala Chairs Jessica and Ryan McCauley with HCC Crystal Eagle Honoree, Jim McIngvale [center].

Gala co-chair Ryan McCauley told guests. “The pandemic has been extremely hard on all our students—most of whom are working full-time, raising a family and trying to provide a better life for their loved ones.”

Public Safety graduate Omny Yanes shared on screen her story as a homeless student while at HCC; and how scholarship support from the HCC Foundation put her back on her feet and now, she is an EMS technician and living independently. “To this day, I’m a proud HCC Eagle and I will be forever grateful for all that was done for me,” said Yanes.

Supporters included: Presenting sponsor Barnes & Noble College; Platinum sponsor Linda and Jim McIngvale; Silver sponsors Julie and David Itz and Glenda and David Regenbaum.

Gala chairs Jessica and Ryan McCauley capped the program by announcing a campaign called Invest in Houston’s Future that has raised more than \$13 million during a silent phase over the last two years toward a goal of \$20 million. Money raised will provide additional scholarships, program investments, named endowments and building spaces for HCC and its students.

“I am so grateful to our generous donors and sponsors who help make a difference in our students’ lives,” said Karen L. Schmidt, HCC Foundation President. “I would also like to acknowledge our dedicated staff and volunteers whose efforts made the HCC Foundation 2022 Gala Celebration such a success.”

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Father’s Day at East Aldine Town Center Climbin’, Throwin’, n Fishin’ - Family Fun

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other inflatable.

Local organizations such as Baker Ripley, Harris County Pct. 2, Mean Green training and bootcamp and others where on site providing information about programs offered.

Other activities at the event included boat making, boat racing at the retention lake, a boxing demonstration, a tent building contest, music, food trucks, and more.

Hot weather this week limited the crowd, but the openness of the amphitheatre, the splash pad, lake racing, and fishing at Hall’s Bayou in Keith Wiess Park helped keep everyone cool and have an enjoyable time.

East Aldine has planned a series of events during the year, to keep activities lively at the Town Center. During the month of July, a Hollywood movie will be shown on a giant screen every Friday night at 8:30, with popcorn, snowcones and drinks available just like in a theater.

The first movie showing will be July 1st, and the movie is National Treasure 2, Book of Secrets starring Nicholas Cage. The other four movies scheduled for July at shown in the advertisement on this page. They include family favorites, such as Clifford’s Really Big Movie, Jumanji The Next Level, Raya & The Last Dragon, and In the Heights.

The East Aldine District welcomes your suggestions on other activities you would like at Town Center.



PHOTOS, from top:
1. Basketball inflatable shooting lanes;
2. Sponsor’s Booth
3. Fishing at the Keith Wiess Park Hall’s Bayou pier
4. One of the fishing participants

Photos by Julieta Paita and Veronica Sanches

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