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# NORTHEAST NEWS

## Beat the Heat...



The **SPLASH PAD FOUNTAIN** at East Aldine Town Center is a good place to cool off.

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VOL. 46, NO. 28 TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

### NEWS NOTES

#### Friday Night Movie at Town Center July 29

East Aldine's Friday Night "MOVIES ON THE GREEN" continues this Friday, July 29th starting at 8:30pm.

The movie will be "IN THE HEIGHTS" a musical drama with music by Lin-Manuel Miranda (Of Hamilton fame). About a community in Washington Heights, NY and a likable and magnetic bodega owner who hopes and sings about a better life. Starring Anthony Ramos, Corey Hawkins, Leslie Grace and Melissa Barrera.

Bring a chair and blanket for the grass lawn. Popcorn and Snowcones available.

#### Business Networking Luncheon 7/28

East Aldine District is hosting a Business Networking Luncheon at their District Office, on Thursday July 28 starting at 12 noon.

Brokers, Real Estate Agents, Property owners, Shopping Center Developers and all Small Businesses are welcome. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Sponsored by East Aldine District, US Small Business Administration, BakerRipley, and Lone Star College-East Aldine.

Register by July 25, at AldineDistrict.org/networking. More info or phone registration 713-595-1232.

#### Sheriff's Storefront Office has Reopened

The Harris County Sheriff's Office Storefront at the East Aldine Town Center Building has reopened to the public. The office is located in the East Aldine District Building, on East Aldine Amphitheater Drive, off Aldine Mail Route.

La Oficina del Harris County Sheriff en East Aldine Town Center Ya está ABIERTA.

# 100°+ Heat Wave setting records

**HARRIS COUNTY** – For at least 18 days since the beginning of the year, Southeast Texas has experienced record setting temperatures of 100°+. In the month of July, we are on track to set the hottest month on record, checking records all the way back to 1889. Little to no rain is forecast to alleviate this problem for the next week or more.

Authorities are advising about Heat Stroke, and other measures to deal with the excessive heat.

**Heat Safety & Heat Stroke: What You Need to Know During a Heat Wave**

When you live in Southeast Texas where the summers are always hot, a heat warning or advisory may not seem like a big deal. But, right now, it's excessively hot, and it's a good time to brush up on heat safety.

Heat stroke, also referred to as sun stroke, is when a person's body overheats as a result of exposure to hot weather. When it's particularly hot outside, your body temperature can rise faster than your body's cooling mechanisms (such as sweating) are able to lower it. In addition, heat that's accompanied by high humidity



at their respective campuses, we are looking forward to implementing the initiative here at Smith," Smith Principal Ida Carter said. "We are thrilled to bring the opportunity of carrying the momentum of each school year through to the next for our students while also applying innovative learning practices that will equip our students with the tools, they need to be successful in life."

(above 75%) can reduce the effect sweat has on lowering your body temperature.

"In most cases, heat stroke results from exercising outside in the heat without proper hydration. But, when it's really hot outside, a person doesn't have to be exercising to develop heat stroke," said

Dr. Gregory Terry, a primary care physician with Houston Methodist Baytown.

Here's what you need to know about heat stroke and staying safe in the heat during a heat wave.

#### The signs and symptoms of heat stroke:

The most common symptoms of heat stroke

include:

—A body temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, as measured by a rectal thermometer

—Sudden confusion or hallucinations

—Difficulty walking

—Seizures

—Fainting

"People suffering from heat stroke may also experience racing heart rate, rapid breathing, overly warm skin or skin redness, vomiting or diarrhea, muscle cramps and weakness, and throbbing headaches," said Dr. Terry.

Heat stroke is an emergency requiring immediate medical attention

The high body temperature associated with heat stroke can damage your brain, heart, kidneys, muscles and other organs. "The

*Continued. See HEAT WAVE SETTING RECORDS, Page 2*

## BACK TO SCHOOL School started July 18 at four Aldine campuses

### Additional Days School Year program

**HOUSTON** – Aldine ISD has expanded its Additional Days School Year (ADSY) program to two more campuses as Harris Elementary and Smith Elementary will welcome students on the first day of instruction on Monday.

Students at Harris and Smith will attend school for 210 days during the 2022-2023 school year, while staff will attend eight days of professional development for 216 days, a news release from the district said.

After its pilot launch of ADSY at Vines Primary and Ermel Elementary in the 2021-2022 school year, the district moved to expand the program.

"Based on the amazing year both Ermel and Vines had implementing ADSY



Producing the Nation's Best

According to Aldine ISD, the program offers a number of benefits for students, staff and families, including:

Increased achievement and growth opportunities for Hispanic and African American learners.

*Continued. See Additional Days, Page 3*

## IMPERIAL VALLEY 2 Dead, 3 injured in Carjacking crash

**NORTH HOUSTON** – A carjacking by six youths that started at a car wash on Bammel North Houston, ended in a chase by HCSO deputies, and a crash into a tree on Imperial Valley Drive that killed two youths and injured three.

Deputies said they responded to the reports of a carjacking at a carwash near Bammel North Houston around 10 p.m. last Wednesday evening. According to investigators, a 17-year-old was washing his

Jeep Wrangler when six men carjacked him. A deputy later located five of the suspects with the teen's vehicle near Imperial Valley Drive and Greens Road, investigators said.

The deputy attempted

*Continued. See FATAL CARJACKING, Page 2*



The overturned Jeep struck a tree on Imperial Valley. The tree had to be cut away from the wreckage to extricate the passengers, 2 of whom were declared dead at the scene, and 3 injured.

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Me gustó cómo nadie me hizo sentir mal por endeudarme. Eran muy comprensivos. Todo me fue explicado y estoy trabajando hacia un lugar mejor financieramente. — María en Florida

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## METRO HOV Lanes open Weekends for Summer

The Express Lanes that help you avoid traffic on weekdays will soon be open seven days a week as part of a regional pilot mobility program approved by METRO's Board of Directors today. HOV/HOT (Express) Lanes managed by METRO will be open on weekends beginning Saturday, July 2 through Monday, Sept. 5. This includes the Fourth of July and Labor Day holidays. Weekend and holiday operations will follow the same schedule, occupancy requirements and tolls as weekdays.

Lanes included in the pilot program run down the middle of Interstate 45, U.S. Highway 59 and U.S. Highway 290.

The lanes run in one direction, but are reversible depending on the time of day. In the mornings, vehicles travel toward downtown Houston. In the afternoons, they travel away from downtown Houston.

Toll requirements depend on the freeway, time of day and total number of people in your vehicle.

Laws of the Lanes  
 \* Carpools, vanpools and motorcyclists ride for free.  
 \* Solo drivers have the option of paying a toll to use the lanes.

\* Trailer towing is prohibited.  
 \* No trucks with more than two axles or a gross weight capacity of one ton or greater.  
 \* No bicycles (motorcycles permitted).  
 \* No pedestrians.

## COMMUNITY WATCH

### Fatal Carjacking,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to make a traffic stop but the suspects in the stolen vehicle failed to yield and a pursuit ensued, HCSO said. Deputies said that the suspected getaway driver lost control of the vehicle when they passed Fairview Park Drive heading northbound on Imperial Valley Drive, which caused the Jeep to strike a tree.



Debris from a fence, the Jeep, and a tree that had to be cut down, mark the scene of the fatal accident on Imperial Valley after the carjacking chase and crash.

According to Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, four of the suspects were thrown from the vehicle. A fifth suspect was entrapped in the Jeep and pieces of the vehicle and the tree needed to be cut away to remove him, Gonzalez said.

Of the four suspects that were ejected from the vehicle, two of them were pronounced dead at the scene, investigators said. Three other suspects were reportedly transported to the hospital by ambulance. According to HCSO, one of the suspects that survived the crash is in critical condition, and two others sustained serious injuries.

Investigators said a weapon that also matched the description of the one used during the carjacking was found at the scene. "There was a weapon with an extended magazine that is protruding out of a backpack that came out of the vehicle," Maj. Susan Cotter said.

It is unknown which suspect was driving the vehicle at the time of the crash, but Major Cotter said that if that person did survive, he may face murder charges.

Investigators are still searching for the sixth suspect that got away in the vehicle that was used to drive to the carwash at the time of the carjacking.

An ongoing investigation is underway.

## Heat Wave Setting Records,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

longer heat stroke is left untreated, the more damage can be done to these vital organs — increasing the risk of long-term complications and even death," added Dr. Terry.

This means heat stroke is a medical emergency. If you or someone you love is showing signs of heat stroke, call 911 immediately.

While waiting for help to arrive, try to cool the person down by:

—Moving him or her

into the shade or air conditioning

—Removing clothing  
 —Applying wet towels to the head, neck, armpits and groin or soaking in a cool bath

### Heat stroke is preventable

First of all, a person's risk of experiencing heat stroke is predictable. As soon as your local officials issue a heat alert, especially if it's a heat advisory, that's your cue to take extra precautions to stay safe

outdoors.

Given the serious nature of heat stroke, it's important to take steps to prevent heat stroke from happening altogether.

Tips for preventing heat stroke:

- Stay hydrated
- Avoid being in a parked car
- Wear loose-fitting clothing outdoors
- Exercise indoors or early in the morning
- Take frequent "cool down" breaks in the shade if you work outdoors
- Apply (and reapply) sunscreen
- Limit alcohol while in the heat
- Swap outdoor activities for indoor ones

## Arrested, Charged in Incident at 4400 North Freeway

HOUSTON — Charges have been filed against a suspect shot by a Houston police officer after he assaulted the officer at 4400 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) service road about 7:25 p.m. on Sunday (June 26).

The suspect, Phillip D. Rogers, 41, is charged with assault of a peace officer, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and disarming a police officer in the 232nd State District Court. A booking photo of Rogers, who is hospitalized, is not available for release at this time.

HPD Officer J. Pavlica, who discharged his duty weapon, was transported to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, where he was treated and released. Officer Pavlica was sworn in as an officer in December 2014 and is assigned to the North Patrol Division.

HPD Special Investigations Unit Sergeant J. Young and Detectives C. King, D. Hammons, M. Childs and H. Le reported:

Officer Pavlica was off-duty and working an approved extra job at a business at the above address when Rogers entered the store armed with a large wooden table leg. Rogers approached a male patron he had never met and told him, "get out of my store," and struck the patron twice in the head. Rogers then

walked away from the business. The officer was notified of the incident by store employees and he followed Rogers as he left.

The officer attempted to stop Rogers, but he ran toward a restaurant in the same shopping center at 19 East Crosstimbers Street. At that time, the officer attempted to deploy his Conducted Energy Device (CED) on Rogers, but the suspect was able to forcibly take the officer's CED. The officer and Rogers struggled over the CED and the suspect struck the officer over the head multiple times until the officer was able to create distance between himself and the suspect. Fearing for his safety, the officer discharged his weapon and the suspect was struck. Rogers ran from the location and was taken into custody by other responding HPD officers at a nearby business. Rogers was transported by Houston Fire Department paramedics to an area hospital in stable condition. He was subsequently charged for his role in the incident.

As is customary in HPD officer-involved shooting incidents in the Houston city limits, this case is being investigated by the HPD Special Investigations Unit, the Internal Affairs Division and the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

## Suspect Sought in 3 Shooting Incidents

Houston police have released surveillance photos of a suspect wanted in three shooting incidents that occurred at multiple locations on Saturday (June 25).

The suspect is described as a male in his late 20s to early 30s, with a slim build, wearing eyeglasses and a beanie. He spoke broken Spanish. Surveillance photos of the suspect are attached to this news release.

The victims, Acner Baz, 34, Jennifer Heath Espeseth, 49, and Wilmer Tomas Paguada, 53, suffered minor injuries. HPD Major Assaults

and Family Violence Division Detective L. Hicks reported:

About 2 a.m., Mr. Baz was stopped at the traffic light at Telephone Road and Bellfort Street. He advised officers the suspect approached him and demanded his vehicle. The suspect shot into the vehicle. Baz exited and, as he ran away, the suspect fired more shots at him before driving away in his vehicle. Baz sustained a cut along the bottom of his left ear.

At approximately 2:25 a.m., the suspect left the stolen vehicle at a gas station at 801 North



Loop West (North Interstate Highway 610 West) service road and walked to a nearby restaurant at 905 North Loop West service road.

About 2:40 a.m. Ms. Espeseth advised offic-

ers she was in her vehicle in the drive-thru line when the suspect approached and requested money. When she refused, the suspect attempted to open her door and was unsuccessful. He fired into the vehicle, striking the victim's hand. As the victim drove off, the suspect fired multiple shots, but it is unknown if the vehicle or the victim struck at that time.

About 2:45 a.m., the suspect walked back to the gas station, approached two males at a pump and demanded keys to their vehicle.

The males complied and ran away. The suspect shot at the males, striking Mr. Paguada in his left leg. The suspect drove away in the victims' vehicle. The vehicle was recovered a short time.

At this time, the identity of the suspect is unknown.

Anyone with information in this case or on the identity or whereabouts of the wanted suspect is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

## HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

**HOUSTON ASTROS TICKET DRAWING:**  
 You can win tickets to a Houston Astros Game just by reading! Stop by the library and ask us how!

**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 activities 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!

**SUMMER COOKING CLASSES:**  
 We have two more free cooking classes happening this summer. On July 27th at 1pm, we will talk about foods that fight heart disease.

**YOGA AT THE LIBRARY:**  
 Adults are welcome to try out Yoga & Meditation at the library. Bring a yoga mat or towel and relax with us. Thursday, July 28th at 12pm.

**END OF SUMMER PARTY:**  
 Celebrate the end of our summer reading party with us on Thursday, August 4th at 11am. We will have games, snacks, crafts, and so much more! Everyone is invited!

**GRADCAFÉ:**

Every Tuesday we will have representatives from GRADcafé at the High Meadows Library. GRADcafé is a one-stop-shop offering free services to help you decide on a career, explore education and training options, apply to college, and find the financial aid you need. Whether you want to attend college to get a degree or work on a certificate in a professional trade, we are here to guide you through every step. You're never too young or old to get started. Services are available in English or Spanish.

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

**JENNIFER NANDLAL SR ADULT PROGRAM SPECIALIST**  
**HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY**  
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## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM - OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES**

The Summer Reading program is swimming along! Earn points towards winning prizes for reading! There is still time to sign up and participate. Sign up yourself and your whole family! [www.hcpl.beanstack.org](http://www.hcpl.beanstack.org)

**GROWING READER TODDLER TIME**

Toddlers and their caregivers can join us some quality together time reading, singing, and making things! July 25, 11am.

**BILINGUAL STORYTIME**

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

**KIDS CLUB**

Kids Club is back this Wednesday, July 27 at 4:30pm and what we're making kinetic sand! Come and have some fun!

**TEEN THURSDAYS**

Teen Thursdays are back! Join us on Thursday afternoons starting at 3:30pm. Drop on in!

**LECTORES AVIDOS**

Nuestra próxima reunión será el 30 de julio a las 10 am. Este club de lectura para adultos lee y discute libros en español.

**COMPUTER CLASSES**

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

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

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

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

**CALL FOR LITERACY TUTOR**

Would you like to be a part of making an impact on people's lives? If you are interested in becoming a literacy tutor at the Aldine Branch Library, we want to talk to you! We are

looking for volunteers to teach English language classes in person and virtually. Call 832-927-5410 or email for info: [ald@hcpl.net](mailto:ald@hcpl.net)

**ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Do you need to earn volunteer hours or are just looking for a meaningful way to spend your time? Volunteer at the library! Pick up an application at the Aldine Branch Library or call 832-927-5410.

**PASSPORT SERVICES**

Do have plans to travel out of the country soon? Get on the ball and make sure you get your passport in order NOW! You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services>.

**MICHELLE PICHON LIBRARY PROGRAM SPECIALIST**  
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# SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

## Staff assignments announced at July 19 Board meeting



The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, July 19

During the July 19 Board of Trustees meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced a number of staff assignments.

\*Fred Washington was named Chief Operations Officer after serving as Vice President and Director of Athletics with Prairie View A&M University.

\*Stephen Heady was named Principal of Rose M. Avalos PTECH High School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Blanson CTE High School.

\*Dr. Krystal Auguste was named Principal of Spence Elementary School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Jones Elementary School.

\*Andrew DeWalt was named Principal of Drew Academy after serving as an Assistant Principal at Pearson Ranch Middle School in Round Rock ISD.

\*Sandra Doria was named Executive Director of Math and Science after serving as Director of Math and Science.

\*Tracy Mansfield was named Director of Learning, Recovery, Tutoring and Student Initiatives after serving as Program Director of Primary and Elementary Science.

\*Dwayne Muston was named Director of Network Infrastructure after serving as a Technology Facilitator.

\*Barbara Fontenot was named Director of Buildings and Properties after serving as a Supervisor with the Buildings and Properties Department.

\*Kappelle Traylor was named an Assistant Principal at Goodman Elementary ACE Demonstration School after serving as Program Director of Testing.

\*Shawronah McCray was named an Assistant Principal at Jones Middle School after serving as an Assistant Principal at George I. Sanchez Charter School.

\*Nicole Robertson was named Program Manager of Admission Review and Dismissal after serving as the Lead Diagnostician with Cy-Fair ISD.

\*Marcus Garvie was named Assistant Director of Transportation after serving as a Camera Technician with the Transportation Department.

\*Natalia Malik was named Social and Emotional Learning and Student Culture Specialist after serving as a Resource Team Leader with Katy ISD.

\*Valeria Gomez was named an Emotional Learning and Student Culture Specialist after serving as a Counselor at Escamilla Elementary School.

\*Jerlene Gibbs was named a Social and Emotional Learning and Student Culture Specialist after serving as a Counselor with Humble ISD.

\*Anna Alcazar Ebach was named a Social and Emotional Learning and Culture Specialist after serving as a Medical Social Worker at Texas Children's Hospital.

\*Letricia Davis was named a Social and Emotional Learning and Culture Specialist after serving as a Counselor at YES Prep White Oak Secondary Charter School.

\*Shanna Rutherford was named a Counselor at Hill Elementary School after serving as a Kindergarten Teacher at Vines Primary School.

\*Ursula Saulsberry was named a Counselor at Carver High School after serving as the Lead Counselor at Bammel Middle School in Spring ISD.

\*Lelata Bennett was named a Counselor at Dunn Elementary School after serving as an Inclusion Teacher at Johnson Elementary School.]

\*Jason Glenwinkel was named a Programmer Analyst for Special Education after serving as a Computer Technology Specialist.

\*Alisha Strife was named a Performance Management Project Analyst with the Human Resources Department after serving as an Assessment Data Specialist at Garcia Middle School.

\*Michael Greer was named Network Architect after serving as a Technology Facilitator.

\*Lauro Garcia was named a Web Programmer Analyst after serving as a Technology Facilitator.

\*Katina Frey was named a Web Programmer Analyst after serving as an Area Supervisor.

\*Diedra Hader was named College and Career Readiness Coordinator after serving as a Post-Secondary Counselor

at Northbrook High School in Arlington ISD.

\*Adriana Gonzales was named a College and Career Readiness Coordinator after serving as an Advisor II in Honors and International Education with Lone Star College.

\*Angelia Daniel was named Coordinator of Speech and Language Pathologists after serving as a Language Pathologist at Kujawa Elementary School.

\*Shawn Anthony was named Coordinator of Educational Diagnosticians after serving as the Lead Educational Diagnostician with New Caney ISD>

\*LaKeisha Smith was named Coordinator of Special Education Discipline and Behavior after serving as the District Counselor Coordinator at Richard Milburn Academy Charter School.

\*Kenneth Hernandez was named Coordinator of Health and Physical Education after serving as a Physical Education Teacher at Bussey Elementary School.

\*Charlotte Wynn was named the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) District Liaison after serving as an Instruction Specialist at Jones Elementary School.

\*Gina Mann was named a Family and Community Engagement (FACE) District Liaison after serving as a Pre-K Teacher at Stovall Primary School.

\*Walter Stewart was named Principal of Nimitz High School after serving as Principal of Aldine High School.

\*Dana Baker was named Program Director of Primary/Elementary Science after serving as Principal of Wilson Elementary School.

\*Gerald Schattle was named Principal of Teague Middle School after serving as Principal of Kenneth R. Knippel Education Center.

\*Jason Smoot was named a Senior Program Analyst after serving as a System Programmer.

\*Kantriec Carter was named an Assistant Principal at Worsham Elementary ACE Demonstration School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Kujawa Elementary School.

\*Stephanie Gomez was named the Curriculum Assistant Principal at Jones Middle School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Ogden Elementary School.

\*NaTonya Holmes was named the Curriculum Assistant Principal at Houston Academy after serving as an Assistant Principal at that same school.

\*Joshua Van Donsel was named the Curriculum Assistant Principal at Blanson CTE High School after serving as an Assistant Principal at that same school.

\*Shavonya Vaughn was named the Curriculum Assistant Principal at Aldine High School after serving as an Assistant Principal at that same school.

\*Hector Luevanos was named an Assistant Principal at Hall Success Academy after serving as an Assistant Principal at Nimitz Ninth Grade School.

\*Mathias Strommer was named the Curriculum Assistant Principal at Hoffman College Prep after serving as an Assistant Principal at Hoffman Middle School.

\*Ebony Taylor was named the Curriculum Assistant Principal at Carver High School after serving as an Assistant Principal at that same school.

\*Tabita Rudder was named a Counselor at Nimitz Ninth Grade School after serving as a Counselor at Teague Middle School.

\*Keshia Franks was named a Counselor at Goodman Elementary ACE Demonstration School after serving as a Counselor at Anderson Elementary School.

\*Harriet Lara was named an Assistant Principal at Carver High School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Eisenhower High School.

\*Hector Luevanos was named an Assistant Principal at MacArthur High School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Nimitz Ninth Grade School.

\*Sonia Crockett was named an Assistant Principal at Jones Elementary School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Raymond Elementary School.

## Board Approves Action Items

During the July 19 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:

\*Approved the minutes from the June 14 meeting

\*Approved an Optional Flexible School Day Program for Hall Success Academy

\*Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Harris County Juvenile Board for Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) for the 2022-23 school year

\*Approved an Interlocal Agreement with the Harris County Department of Education for Educational and Recovery Services at Fortis Academy for the 2022-23 school year

\*Approved the 2022-23 Compensation Manual

\*Approved the following bids: professional and consulting services, restaurant, food and catering vendors, first aid supplies and equipment, contract renewals miscellaneous,

contract renewals for awards, incentives and spirit apparel, bid contract renewals for fundraiser vendors, contract renewals for instructional supplies, materials and equipment, contract bid renewals for photography services, contract renewals for professional and consulting services, contract renewals for restaurant, food and catering vendors, contract renewals for retail stores and contract renewals for student and district activities and venues

\*Approved contracts and purchases of more than \$50,000

\*Approved a Master Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Sheriff's Association of Texas, Inc.

\*Approved the Monthly Tax Office Refunds

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 16 and will be held in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building and it will begin at 7 p.m.

## Lone Star College awards scholarships to refugees living in Houston



Lone Star College, Amaanah Refugee Services and the 76@ brand have teamed up to award scholarships to members of the Amaanah Lions soccer club to help further their education.

HOUSTON (June 8, 2022) – Lone Star College has partnered with Amaanah Refugee Services and the 76@ brand to award scholarships to four members of the Amaanah Lions soccer club to help further their education.

"Being awarded one of these scholarships is truly a life changing occasion," said Mario Castillo, JD, LSC Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel. "Lone Star College is committed to making our community a better place to live and these scholarships are an important part of that mission."

The Amaanah Lions is a competitive boys soccer team composed exclusively of refugees. The program goes far beyond the field by providing mentoring, support for college admissions and vocational training.

It is reported that more than 75,000 refugees from all over the world have resettled in Houston.

"Opportunities like these are so important to the people we help," said Jida Nabulsi, Amaanah Refugee Services CEO. "We began to distribute food, clothing and funds, but are now focused on solution-based programs."

Amaanah Refugee Services has been helping families find their home in the United States for over 15 years. They offer a holistic approach with

long-term programs, including the Amaanah Lions soccer club, to help immigrants become fully acclimated to life in America.

"This program that Amaanah has created is truly transformative for these boys, and we're so proud to be able to support this wonderful initiative," said Sonny Villarreal, 76@ Brand Manager, Motiva. "We're hopeful that the support from 76@ and Lone Star College can translate to more opportunities for the Lions."

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2021 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and ranked 35th in Texas in the Forbes 'America's Best Employers By State' list. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.



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## Additional School Days,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

More recess and brain breaks during the school day for students, with more class time directed at their individual needs and working on projects with peers.

Additional time for staff to collaborate (including small-group time), plan for students' needs and participate in professional development.

More time for families to hear about their child's progress, see what their students are learning and creating, and connecting with their respective campuses.

"I am thrilled that Aldine has chosen to keep this initiative in place and expand it to additional schools," said Ermel Elementary Principal Erik Torres. "The additional instructional time, project-based learning and whole child approach we implemented between last school year and this year has been instrumental in our student's growth."

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING



Suicide in America

Over the last 20 years, nearly a million Americans have taken their own lives. During that time, suicide has been the tenth leading cause of death for all ages. In 2020, it was the second leading cause of death for the ages of 10-14 and 25-34 and the third leading cause for ages 15-24. Because the incidence of suicides is so high among young people, the years of life lost is especially tragic. One research group estimated that in 2020 alone, there were nearly a million years of life lost in America to suicide.

The number of suicides over the last two decades has been steadily increasing, reflecting both a larger population and about a third increase in the rate of suicide. Interestingly, suicides topped out at just over 48,000 in 2018, and then declined slightly in 2019 and 2020. Preliminary data for 2021 indicates that there was probably not much change from 2020. This contradicts the predictions of many, including yours truly, that suicides would increase during the pandemic due to depression from isolation.

Advocates for stricter gun laws, almost always lump suicides together with homicides and firearm accidents, when citing the toll of gun violence in America. I think that is unhelpful in trying to sort out why so many people die from guns in America because the two phenomena are so dramatically different. However, it is entirely fair to ask the question of whether American's greater access to guns affects the number of suicides.

It seems intuitive that greater access to a lethal weapon would certainly make it easier to commit suicide and therefore more likely. A survey of studies conducted by a research group at Harvard suggests a correlation between the number of gun ownership parameters and higher suicide rates, e.g., people who own handguns are almost ten more likely to commit suicide than non-owners. However, as I have previously discussed, correlation does not necessarily imply causation and some of the data suggests a more complicated picture.

First, only about half of all suicides are committed with a firearm and that rate has remained fairly steady over the last twenty years, despite the rapid increase in gun ownership I noted in my last post. Indeed, the number of suicides committed without a firearm has actually increased by a greater percentage over the last twenty years than firearm suicides (72% vs. 46%).

Also, the United States' suicide rate is only slightly higher when compared to other countries. In 2019, the global rate was about 10.4 versus 11.7 for the U.S., which, of course, does not come close to coinciding with our country's dramatically disproportionate private ownership of firearms compared to other countries. And to further muddle the data, there are several countries with miniscule private gun ownership but which have higher suicide rates than the U.S., e.g., Belgium, Russia, South Korea.

One factor is that individuals who attempt suicide with a firearm more often succeed in ending their life than those who use other methods. A 2000 study found that 82% of those who attempted suicide with a firearm died while less than 10% of those who used other methods did. The study was a relatively small sample and is somewhat dated, but I find those results intuitive and likely consistent with all suicides attempts.

So, does the greater access to firearms in America result in a higher suicide rate? I do not think we can definitively answer that question. But it seems to me that the weight of the evidence suggests the ready access to firearms is a factor that results in a higher rate than we might otherwise have. Does it make a dramatic difference? I doubt it.



THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"The Package"

The package arrived last week and, I have to admit, I was surprised.

I knew what was in it, of course. It was a painting that my friends Angel, Nora and I co-own. I had it for one year 11 years ago. Then I brought it to Paris, where Angel was living. But Angel had no time to hang the painting. She had just moved to a new condo and was diagnosed with cancer. And so it remained rolled up under her bed for two years. That's when Nora decided her turn had come—and she was right. Before Angel died, Nora brought the painting to her family home in Vienna and hung it in her mother's bedroom.

That's where it remained for seven years.

I didn't really mind. During those seven years, I started and finished a college program. I moved out of state, met my husband, Peter, moved in with him, then moved again back to the Midwest. There were a lot of changes and a lot of moving, and I knew Nora was enjoying the painting. Then, four years after Angel's death, after Peter and I had made a new home together, I decided it was time to have the painting again. Nora was not immediately receptive.

Nora likes her things. This is not a criticism; it's just how she is. She is a collector. She has a lot of beautiful art and antiques and rocks and crystals. She likes to have her lovely things around her. Sending things away is hard.

This painting, in particular, was difficult to part with because it was a painting of the three of us—Angel, me and Nora. Letting go of this painting felt like letting go of a special time in the past that had been important to us all.

But I still wanted the painting.

I told Nora the time had come, and I would like her to send it. She said she would, but then things came up. There were delays. There were a few excuses. More than a year had passed and, I will be honest, I began to think I would not see it again.

And, honestly, I would have been fine with that.

Because people are more important than things. My friendship with Nora and my memories of Angel were more important than any painting. If getting the painting meant hurting my friendship with Nora, I would do without the painting.

Then, one day, she sent a photo of a large box with my name on it in the arms of an unidentified man in a brown uniform.

"That could be anyone!" my friend, Andrew, said. He has heard every chapter of the painting saga and was more skeptical than I was about it ever arriving.

Then—with no notice at all—it showed up at my door.

It was incredibly heavy. Nora is an engineer, and she had built the box herself. It was made of half-inch plywood and 2x2s and lined with Styrofoam. It looked as if it could safely be launched into space. I had trouble carrying it into the house. It took several tools and a lot of time to open.

Nora is a woman of few words, but I knew what she was saying.

She cared about the painting—but she cared about our friendship even more. She was sending the painting in a way that would keep both the painting and our friendship safe and whole for years to come.

I received both the package and the message. They both made me very happy.

Till next time,

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Wildfire Danger Continues to Rise throughout state

As we cross the halfway point of July, wildfire danger continues to increase across the state. On Friday, Texas A&M Forest Service firefighters responded to 15 new wildfires that burned 651 acres. As of Sunday, there were eight active wildfires; the largest was the Nethery Road Fire in Kimble County, involving an estimated 3,500 acres. It has been 70% contained.

The forest service is taking to the air to augment fire suppression efforts on the ground. It has opened the Austin Airtanker Base at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The service has three dozen aircraft mobilized at 17 airports around the state for wildfire response. The Austin Airtanker Base will serve as a reload station for aircraft coming and going to wildfires. It is the only airport in the state set up for what is known as a Very Large Airtanker, or DC-10.

Forest service aircraft can get anywhere in Texas in under one hour. Since being placed in operation in early December, they have flown 4,641 hours and dumped 6.8 million gallons of water and retardant on Texas wildfires.

"This year, we have utilized aviation resources for response in areas experiencing significant wildfire activity," said Jared Karns, with the forest service. "These aircraft provide support to ground crews and assist in protecting homes as well as other critical infrastructure."

There are now 212 counties across the state with burn bans — 84% of the total number of Texas counties.

Fourth consecutive month with rain deficit

Unsurprisingly, June was warmer and drier for much of Texas, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of June, drought conditions covered 86% of the state, up 8 percentage points from May.

"That all adds up to the conclusion that Texas is in a significant drought, the worst since 2011, but not worse than 2011," Wentzel



el wrote.

The drought predictably is having an effect on the state's water supply reservoirs, which are at 75% of capacity, 10 percentage points below normal for this time of year, according to TWDB.

SIX WAYS TO SAVE WATER IN SUMMER HEAT

TDWB is offering six tips on saving water in a state whose population is expected to increase from 29.5 million in 2021 to 51.1 million in 2070 — a 73% increase that will put a strain on water supplies. Water conservation is one of the major strategies recommended in the 2022 state water plan. Here are the tips:

- Water landscape in the early morning and at night when winds are calmer and temperatures lower.
- Design a water-wise landscape with native shrubs, trees and grasses. Native plants have adapted to a region's climate and conserve water more efficiently.
- Follow local watering restrictions. They're there for a reason: to make sure a community doesn't run out of water.
- Manage in-ground irrigation systems and check sprinkler heads. Avoid leaving systems on automatic settings that may come on when it isn't necessary — like during a thunderstorm.
- Consider installing a rainwater harvesting system. In general, for every inch of rain that falls on a 2,000-square-foot roof, about 1,000 gallons of water can be collected. Find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/mryburys>.

• Cover your pool or spa when not in use, since evaporation throughout the summer can add up to the equivalent of a pool's volume.

TXDOT APPROVES \$146 MILLION FOR STATEWIDE TRANSIT

Two grants totaling \$146 million have been announced by the Texas Department of Transportation to fund transit providers across the state, particularly in rural areas.

"This funding is critical to ensuring everyone in Texas, especially in rural areas, has access to where they need to go safely and reliably," TxDOT Transportation Commissioner Alvin New said.

Transit agencies can use the funds, which come from both federal and state coffers, to cover maintenance costs, buy new buses, build new facilities and expand services to more people, according to TxDOT. The funding is a 65% increase over last summer's funds, in large part due to federal funds from the infrastructure act passed last year.

O'ROURKE OUTRAISES ABBOTT IN LAST FOUR MONTHS

Democratic gubernatorial challenger Beto O'Rourke raised \$27.3 million from Feb. 20 to June 20, outpacing Gov. Gregg Abbott's \$25 million, according to the Austin American-Statesman. Abbott still has a commanding lead in cash on hand, with \$46 million in the bank. The O'Rourke campaign has not released how much cash it has on hand.

The O'Rourke campaign said nearly all its donations were made online, at an average of \$54. Teachers gave more money than people from any other occupation.

The latest poll indicates the race for governor has tightened, though Abbott still holds a 6-point lead — 45% to 39%.

BA.2 VARIANT OF COVID-19 SPURS HIKE IN CASES

With the highly transmissible BA.2 variant of COVID-19 now the dominant strain, the number of new cases continues to rise in Texas and elsewhere. The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported 107,367 new cases in Texas during the past week, up 27% from the previous week. A total of 124 new deaths were reported, just slightly up from the previous week. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations rose slightly to 3,240, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Nearly 60% of the state's entire population is fully vaccinated, according to DSHS, with 7.178 million Texans also getting at least one booster shot.

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# Galena Park ISD trains for School Safety

## Preparation to deal with an Active Shooter

By Gilbert Hoffman

GALENA PARK – In the aftermath of the terrible murders at a school in Uvalde, parents and students have been concerned about safety and security as they prepare to return to schools in August.

In the Galena Park school district, school safety is a top priority, with the district police department trained and equipped to handle emergencies such as active shooters.

In an interview with this newspaper, GPISD police chief Bryan Clements outlined the safety measures enacted through all the schools. In addition, the yearly simulation drill was broadcast live on local television station KPRC channel 2, with an interview with Cathy Hernandez, a Galena Park graduate.

Clements said that for a number of years, armed officers have been assigned to each middle and high school, and that this year the GPISD trustees have increased the number of police officers from 21 to 40, with the hiring of an additional 19 positions. This number provides an officer for each school, from K through high school.

Clements said that all



As part of day-long training, GPISD officers and volunteer students enact a drill simulating how the officers would rush to take down an active shooter in a school classroom or building. This training exercise is repeated yearly, along with other other security measures in all Galena Park schools.

the officers are put through rigorous training, and once a year have an 8-hour class session and drill regarding how to suppress an active shooter.

Safety and security routines are also part of each

schools daily routine, Clements said. Officers and school staff are instructed that all outside doors must be locked, and classroom doors also locked during class. Officers are instructed to check

each door throughout the day for compliance.

Schools are also equipped for this type of active shooter emergency, with a ballistic shield and medical equipment stocked and available at every school.



IN THE TRAINING DRILL, OFFICERS BREACH THE CLASSROOM IMMEDIATELY, AND ENGAGE THE PRETEND ACTIVE SHOOTER, SEEN AT THE LEFT IN THIS VIEW. TRAINING PHOTOS COURTESY OF KPRC CHANNEL 2.



GPISD POLICE CHIEF BRYAN CLEMENTS

The Safety Drill was available to see on television, Clements said, because it is important for families to see that students will be protected when they come to school.

As part of the active shooter training, officers found injured victims in a hallway of the North Shore 10th Grade Center. The officers went straight to a classroom where two pretend shooters were with

students. The police chief said they had three priorities: stop the killing, stop the dying, and evacuate the injured.

Clements said the simulation training gives the officers a unique learning experience in stressful situations. He said he wants his officers to know what to do if a situation arises such as a shooter.

The training was open to the public to see, in person and on television. Participating were local fire and EMS personnel, and law enforcement agencies including Constables from Pct. 2 and 3.



GALENA PARK SUPERINTENDENT DR. JOHN MOORE AT THE TRAINING EXERCISE

Galena Park Superintendent Dr. John Moore had this to say about the training: "Students come to our schools to learn, but parents expect us to keep them safe. And that's our number one priority here in Galena Park, and I'm sure that's the number one priority all over the United States."

The first day of school will be August 11, and it can be expected to be a safe and secure opening.

# Lone Star College, Mabalacat City College Partner to Promote International Education

HOUSTON (June 22, 2022) – Lone Star College and Mabalacat City College (MCC) are collaborating to develop learning opportunities for faculty to share best practices and enhance teaching techniques for various academic programs including English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students.

MCC, located in Pampanga, Philippines, offers bachelor's degree programs in Information Technology; Hospitality, Tourism Management; Arts, Sciences & Teacher Education and Business. MCC welcomes nearly 3,000 student to its two campuses each year.

The partnership between LSC and MCC includes professional development of teaching staff, trainings, co-hosting academic meetings and joint research activities including sharing of best practices. The two colleges will also collaborate on history and education programs

offered at each institution.

"The importance of cultural competency cannot be overstated," said Mario K. Castillo, J.D., LSC Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel. "Understanding different cultures is important and something we should all strive for."

LSC ESOL faculty produced 2 videos that will be implemented in MCC courses to provide their Education students strategies used for teaching English at LSC. In addition, MCC has designed a recorded professional development session for LSC ESOL faculty on strategies which their staff use.

"ESOL programs are so important to help improve lives of not only people living in the greater Houston area, but around the world," said Katharine Caruso, Ph.D., LSC Associate Vice Chancellor, Honors and International Education. "We also are working toward a collaboration between Lone

Star College and Mabalacat City College for the Honors College program to prepare students to work in a growing alliance of the world's economies, cultures and populations."

The partnership is funded by a grant awarded to LSC from the U.S. Department of State to develop an "Innovative Program Virtual Faculty and Student Exchange."

"Mabalacat City College was recognized as "Outstanding Student Support and Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year for Asia in 2021" by the Times Higher Education World University rankings," said Dwight L. Smith, Ed.D., LSC Vice Chancellor, Academic and Workforce Success. "We look forward to seeing our faculty work together to develop greater access to education for all students."

LSC fall registration is underway with classes start-

ing Aug. 29. Learn more about all the exciting possibilities available by visiting LoneStar.edu/Start.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2021 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and ranked 35th in Texas in the Forbes 'America's Best Employers By State' list. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.



Lone Star College and Mabalacat City College have joined together to share ideas and best practices to advance student success. Pictured (left to right) are Dwight L. Smith, Ed.D., LSC Vice Chancellor, Academic and Workforce Success; Michelle Aguilar-Ong, Ph.D., Mabalacat City College President; Mario K. Castillo, J.D., LSC Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel; and Katharine Caruso, Ph.D., LSC Associate Vice Chancellor, Honors and International Education.



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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Zimri in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Proverbs 20, the beauty of old men is the gray head, while the glory of young men is their ...?
3. Which king of Tyre supplied logs to Solomon to build the Lord's temple?
4. According to Jesus in Matthew 6, moth and rust

destroy what on earth? Repentance, Thorns, Treasures, Demons
5. Where did Jacob and Laban part company as found in Genesis 31?
6. What was the name of David's father? Obed, Samuel, Jesse, Ahitub

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Strength; 3) Hiram; 4) Treasures; 5) Mizpah; 6) Jesse Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you.

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# Harris County Clerk's Office will issue Birth Certificates needed for Back to School

HARRIS COUNTY – Back by popular demand, the Harris County Clerk's Office (HCCO) is offering their award-winning Back to School Birth Certificate Program on two consecutive Saturdays specifically to issue birth certificates for families who need their child's records for back-to-school registration.

"Last year's pilot program was a success and we were able to help many families who simply could not take time off to visit our office during regular business hours," said Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth. "This year, we are doing it again and we are looking forward to serving our residents at two very popular annex locations."

The Harris County Clerk's Office "Back to School Birth Certificate" events will take place as follows:

--Saturday, July 30, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Pasadena Annex, 101 S. Richey St., Pasadena, TX 77506

--Saturday, August 6, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the N. Shepherd Annex, 7300 N. Shepherd, Houston, TX 77091

HCCO provides a short form birth certificate that is acceptable for school enrollment. The following are required to



Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth and a happy mom at HCCO's 2021 Back to School Birth Certificate Pilot Program last August.

apply for a birth certificate:

Must have been born in the State of Texas

You must be the person named on the certificate, the legal representative, or an immediate family member with appropriate identification (ID).

Have acceptable ID: Valid photo ID, such as: U.S. Driver's License, Federal or State ID card, Military ID, or U.S. Passport

For other acceptable ID options, visit: Obtaining a Birth Certificate in Texas (state.tx.us).

HCCO was recently recognized for its "2021 Back to School Pilot Program" by the International Association of Government Officials

(iGO) and by the National Association of Counties (NACo).

"It is always an honor to be recognized for the work our office is doing," added Clerk Hudspeth. "We will continue to work on innovative and effective programs that enhance the quality of our services."

For information about the Harris County Clerk's Office and its services, visit [www.cclerk.hctx.net](http://www.cclerk.hctx.net) or follow us @HarrisCoTX-Clerk on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

# HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Jerry Seinfeld will make his film directorial debut with a script he wrote, is producing and is starring in as well. The film's set in 1963 Michigan, when Pop Tarts were invented by Kellogg's. Seinfeld's stand-up act had a routine about the creation of Pop Tarts. It's available on YouTube (from 2010) and has been seen on The Tonight Show and in his Netflix special. For his film version, he's enlisted some of the "who's who" of comedy today: Melissa McCarthy, Jim Gaffigan, Amy Schumer, Bobby Moynihan, Jack McBrayer as well as Hugh Grant, James Marsden, Max Greenfield and Christian Slater.



JERRY SEINFELD

\*\*\* Last week, we told you Joaquin Phoenix is returning in a sequel to "Joker" called "Joker: Folie a Deux," and guess what? It's become a musical, with the casting of Lady Gaga as Harley Quinn.

\*\*\* Not a sequel, but a prequel for "The Hunger Games" (the trilogy grossed \$3 billion) will star Josh Andres Rivera (of Broadway's "Hamilton") and Chino in Spielberg's "West Side Story", his co-star Rachel Zegler (Maria in "West Side Story") and Tom Blyth (who will portray Coriolanus Snow, originally played by Donald Sutherland). The prequel's called "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes," and opens Nov. 17, 2023.

\*\*\* Jennifer Hudson became the 17th person and 5th woman to join the exclusive EGOT club. (In order to become a member, you must win an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony Award.) Hudson won her Oscar for "Dreamgirls" (2007); two Grammys, one for "The Color Purple" (2017); a Daytime Emmy for "Baba Yaga"

(2021); and a Tony Award last month, as a producer of Broadway's "A Strange Loop." Hudson once confessed, "I got a dog and named him Oscar, and I won an Oscar. I got another dog and named him Grammy and won a Grammy. So, I thought I should get some dogs and name them Emmy and Tony."

\*\*\* Have you wondered where to go on that dream vacation or how to spend that \$110,000 you socked away? Well, Disney is offering a dream vacation flying in a private Iceland Air Boeing 747 on a 24-day tour to 12 Disney parks around the world. The trip includes stops to see the Taj Mahal, the pyramids of Giza, the Eiffel Tower, the Lucasfilm campus and Walt Disney Studios. However, the price doesn't include airfare to or from the point where the trip begins. But it does include three adventure guides, Disney VIPs, Imagineers, cultural experts, three staff members, a chef and a physician. But, you better hurry: It happens July 9-Aug. 1, 2023, and there are only 75 spots. Does that give me enough time to start up a GoFundMe? (c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

## FREE CAR SEAT CHECK

**SATURDAY** Free educational service!

**July 30** Aldine Fire and Rescue - Station 31  
20440 Imperial Valley Dr.  
Houston, TX 77073  
9:30am - 12:30pm

**Appointment REQUIRED!**  
Please call 832-824-3483

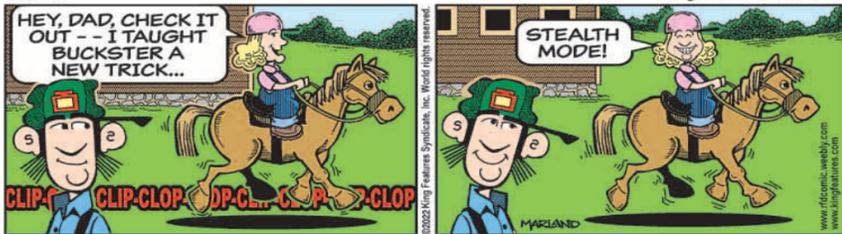
*Have a certified child passenger safety technician educate you over proper car seat education, harnessing, and installation! A limited amount of car seats are available for those in need who qualify for our car seat replacement program. Call to ensure you qualify!*

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### The Spats



### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Corsage is smaller. 2. Bracelet is missing. 3. Tie is moved. 4. Star is moved. 5. Moon is different. 6. Urn is different. 7. The

### July 25, 2022 Posting Date King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18		19					20			
		21			22					
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34				35			
		36				37				
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45				46				47		
48				49				50		
51					52			53		

**ACROSS**

1 Sharp turn  
4 Help a crook  
8 Feudal slave  
12 — bind  
13 Put on  
14 Tow  
15 Up to  
16 Taj Mahal city  
17 Canadian gas brand  
18 Gorgonzola, for one  
21 Hairy Addams cousin  
22 Bit of advice  
23 Forgeries  
26 Clear the deck?  
27 Melancholy  
30 Incursion  
31 Ruin the veneer  
32 Robust  
33 Thanksgiving veggie  
34 Prom rental  
35 Washer phase  
36 Droop  
37 Abysmal  
38 Brunch entree  
45 Heap  
46 Roll call reply  
47 Literary collection  
48 On the briny

**DOWN**

1 Tubular pasta  
2 "What's — for me?"  
3 Fancy party  
4 Expects  
5 Sired  
6 Deserve  
7 Deere prod-  
8 Bo Peep's charges  
9 Lighten  
10 Senator Feingold  
11 Drifting ice  
19 Fibbed  
20 Trendy  
23 Saute  
24 Bond rating  
25 Kipling lad  
26 Upper limit  
27 Pouch  
28 100 percent  
29 Scottish river  
31 Hood's photo

49 Hurler  
50 Book-spine abbr.  
51 "— the Knife"  
52 Tiny amounts  
53 Request

uct  
32 Jekyll's bad side  
34 — chi  
35 Caravan mammals  
36 Sly one  
37 Yawning, maybe  
38 Pesky email  
39 Tower city  
40 Sir Guinness  
41 Wife of Zeus  
42 Volcanic flow  
43 Eve's grand-son  
44 Chat

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### Trivia Test Answers

1. Baffin Island; 2. Sid; 3. Someone who designs or enjoys solving crossword puzzles; 4. Archie Bunker; 5. "All in the Family"; 6. The Beatles; 7. Theodore Roosevelt. It was invented in his honor after he refused to kill a bear on a hunting trip; 8. About 1 inch; 9. Henry David Thoreau; 10. Sprite.

### King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

# HCC launches cybersecurity center to train vitally needed workers

HOUSTON (July 7, 2022) – A newly opened Security Operations Center at Houston Community College is preparing students for high-skilled jobs in cybersecurity, a field experiencing a critical shortage of workers.

HCC leaders, industry partners and tech education advocates celebrated the grand opening of the center, a simulated training lab, at the HCC West Loop campus on June 24.

Outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment including a miniature water plant and a car-hacking workbench, the center offers a robust training ground for students to learn how to detect and defend against simulated cyberattacks within a controlled environment. Scenarios can be played and analyzed afterward.

“Cybersecurity is national security,” said Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins, president of HCC Southwest and vice chancellor of HCC Workforce Instruction. “With the opening of the new center, the college is equipping students with the skills needed not only for their careers but also for making a lasting impact on the nation’s security across industries and organizations.”

Over 500 cybersecurity students are enrolled at HCC including more than 300 pursuing associate degrees and over 200 working toward certificates, said Samir Saber, dean of the HCC Digital Information and Technology Center of Excellence.

“Students who complete an associate degree or certificate in cybersecurity at HCC are landing high-paying jobs right out of the gate such as IT help desk and computer support specialists,” he said. “Others go on to become security analysts, security engineers and cybersecurity architects”

Today, there are over 700,000 cybersecurity job openings in the U.S., and employers are struggling to find qual-

ified workers, Saber noted.

Information security analysts, the largest cybersecurity job pathway, had 180,000 openings from May 2021 through April 2022, with 39,000 unfilled. Employers are also looking for workers with cybersecurity-related skills to fill nearly 535,000 additional openings, according to CyberSeek, a national project of the tech organizations Emsi Burning Glass, CompTIA and National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education.

The project, which provides data on supply and demand in the cybersecurity job market, indicates more than 83,000 cybersecurity job openings in Texas, including some 9,000 in the greater Houston area.

The center is funded through a \$650,000 state grant. Experts from the national cybersecurity company Grimm helped install the lab and provided additional training for HCC cybersecurity instructors. “The center will also benefit the community by providing customized training workshops for businesses and organizations,” Saber said.

HCC was designated by the National Security Agency as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense in 2017. The new lab will help solidify the college’s redesignation for another five years, Saber said.

\*\*\*

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country’s largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit [hccs.edu](https://hccs.edu).

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**AUGUST 22**

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**Northline Campus** | 8001 Fulton Street | Houston, TX 77022

**North Forest Campus** | 6010 E. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77016

**Northeast Campus** | 555 Community College Drive | Houston, TX 77013

**Automotive Tech. Training Center** | 4638 Airline Drive | Houston, TX 77022

**713.718.8300**

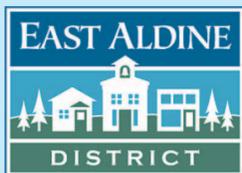
[hccs.edu](https://hccs.edu)



Scan for steps on how to get started!



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## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

### New Mural signals more public art to come

There were bubbles, books and barbecue as Aldine artist Martin Barrera put the finishing touches on a bright blue and green mural for the High Meadows Library at the recent second annual Aldine Mural Fest sponsored by the East Aldine Management District.

His creation was a bright sign of the District’s expanding work to bring public art to its service area — for the purpose of making the District more attractive, strengthening the neighborhood’s identity and inspiring more artists to help decorate the places where they grew up or moved to recently.



East Aldine Arts Committee Chairman Carlos Silva, with Mural Artist Martin Marrera and the mural at High Meadows Library.

Barrera’s mural, which emphasizes the brilliance of books, will draw attention to the library next door to his alma mater, MacArthur High School.

A native of East Aldine, Barrera is a professional artist and International muralist who was selected by the East Aldine Arts Council to design and complete the panoramic painting. He is also a teacher of fine arts at Davis High School in Aldine ISD.

The young artist recalls that a teacher inspired him to pursue his dream of becoming an artist.

At Aldine’s Worsham Elementary School, “the teacher who motivated me was Mrs. Post. I will remember her name for the rest of my life. When I was starting out, I didn’t think my drawings were that good. But she would always compliment me and say, ‘You’re getting really good.’”

“She would put my drawings up on on the board, and that really motivated me. She told me to keep trying, so I started taking my art seriously.”

Barrera said he continued to study art at MacArthur High School, then at Lone Star College and later, at the University of Houston. The lesson he learned from that teacher in elementary school is one he passes on to his own students at Davis High School.

And, Barrera said, he’s proud that his new mural might inspire other children to learn to love books. A long-time patron of the High Meadows Library, he said he frequently takes his two young nephews there to check out books.

District Vice Chairman Carlos Silva, who also chairs the Arts Council, noted that the mural’s location on Aldine Mail Route Rd. will add a bright spot of beauty to the busy thoroughfare.

The District has also sponsored mini-murals on utility boxes across the district. And a new program will allow business owners in the District to apply for grants to make outdoor improvements such as re-painting exteriors and re-stripping parking lots.

As Barrera put the finishing touches on the mural, other art and book lovers circulated in the library parking lot. The Curiosity Cruiser, a local bookmobile, was on hand to give away children’s books. The crew of the Cruiser also brought plenty of sidewalk chalk and outdoor games to lure youngsters to their booth.

Other community sponsors included the East Aldine Arts Council, Baker-Ripley, the Harris County Public Library, Lone Star College, Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and the always popular Art Bus. Art Bus creator Roni Cabrera set up tables for kids to work on small paintings. She also brought along a bubble-making machine that added a festive atmosphere.

Festival goers also enjoyed plates of Mexican-style barbecue, offered by the Mi Taqueria food truck.

The Mural Fest drew visitors into the library, which has scheduled a full summer of reading programs for kids, teens and older patrons.

The children’s summer reading program, Oceans of Possibilities, starts Friday, June 3, and runs through Thursday, August 4. Special events will include A Storybook Opera, Armadillo’s Dream, at 11 a.m. on June 21. Kids of all ages can visit the library at 11 a.m. July 12 for an appearance by none other than Houston Astros mascot Orbit.

The teen program Thursday afternoon includes presentations of Otaku Outpost, teen anime classes and book discussions and crafts classes.

The extensive adult programs offered this summer range from basic computer classes to online practice tests for U.S. citizenship exams.

To sign up for summer reading programs, visit [hcpl.beanstack.org](https://hcpl.beanstack.org). Or visit the library online at @highmeadowslibrary.

— by Anne Marie Kilday