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# NORTHEAST NEWS

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**NEWS NOTES**

## EAST ALDINE DISTRICT Lucio appointed new Board Member; Wiley retires

By Gilbert Hoffman

**COVID-19  
 Novavax Vaccine  
 Now Available at  
 HCPH Sites**

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is pleased to announce that there is a new option for people to get their COVID-19 vaccine. On July 13, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine for emergency use. Following approvals of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), HCPH is now offering the COVID-19 Novavax vaccine to residents. Novavax is a two-dose primary series for individuals 18 years of age and older given 3 weeks apart.

Novavax uses a different technique than other COVID-19 vaccines such as those from Pfizer and Moderna. Instead of using mRNA, which provides the instructions for your body to create the COVID-19 spike protein that in turn induces your body's immune response, Novavax's vaccine injects the small protein itself, that your body detects and that triggers your body's immune response. The Novavax vaccine is based on a well-established method of vaccine development that has been used for years for other vaccines such as the Human-papillomavirus, Hepatitis B, flu, and Shingles vaccines.

- Approved COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States include:
- Pfizer-BioNTech (mRNA vaccine)
  - Moderna (mRNA vaccine)
  - Johnson & Johnson (viral vector vaccine)
  - \*New\* Novavax (protein subunit vaccine)

*Continued. See COVID-19 NOVAVAX, Page 2*

At their monthly board meeting last Tuesday evening, the East Aldine District received the resignation of its chairman, Joyce Wiley, and also moved to fill one of the two open positions by appointing Luis Lucio to the board.

Lucio is a life-long member of the Aldine community, and serves as dean of the Lone Star College - East Aldine campus.

LSC-EA's dean is Dr. Luis Alfredo Lucio. Himself a native of Aldine and a graduate of MacArthur High School, Lucio launched his career in education right out of high school, when he worked as a paraprofessional, or classroom assistant, at Aldine's Gus A. Oleson Elementary School. After graduating from Sam Houston State University



**Luis Lucio, Lone Star College - East Aldine Dean, is congratulated on his appointment by Carlos Silva, vice-chair of the East Aldine Management District board.**

with a bachelor of arts in academic studies with concentrations in bilingual education and Spanish, Lucio went on to get his Master's from the same school in

education in educational leadership with a concentration in school administration. (Along the way Lucio also banged out some core credits at Lone

Star College — North Harris County.) From there it was on to the University of Houston, where Lucio earned his doctorate in education in educational leadership.

Lucio's professional CV includes stints as a senior recruiter for teacher recruitment and talent acquisition for HISD, a position he filled while simultaneously serving as an adjunct professor of bilingual-dual language education at the University of St. Thomas. Before that, Lucio was principal of Aldine's Inez Carroll Elementary.

On announcing the appointment, Executive Director Richard Cantu welcomed Luis and said the board looked forward to his expertise and knowledge of Aldine.

Joyce Wiley submitted a letter of resignation to the



**Joyce Wiley, retires as Board Chair EAMD.**

board at the meeting, citing health reasons. She has been elected to the board chairmanship last year, to fill the position held by Gerald Overturff. Joyce had been a board member since the inception of the District in 2001, and board vice-chair Car-

*Continued. See EAMD BOARD CHANGES, Page 2*

### District renews contracts with HCSO deputies, HC Attorney for public safety

*Annual contract for 21 Deputies \$1,629,600*

At the East Aldine District board meeting last Tuesday evening, the board heard reports from the public safety director, Victor Beserra, and took action on two contracts related to public safety.

Assistant County Attorney Mike Laster presented information on the contract between the district and the HC Attorney's Office for nuisance abatement work. The East Aldine District shares an attorney with six other districts for costs. The renewal would be at the same rate as last year, a total of \$60,833.33. The board approved the contract, subject to final approval by the Harris County Commissioners.

The other contract considered was for contract deputies who spend 70% of their time inside the district, and the rest in other

areas of the county. The contract covers 21 Harris County Sheriff's deputies, which includes one lieutenant, 3 sergeants, and 17 deputies. The contract amount for one year is \$1,629,600 and was approved by the board.

Beserra gave details on the Public Safety report as follows: Graffiti abatement 49 properties; felony arrests 32, misdemeanor arrests 34; calls for service 2364, traffic stops 377, accident reports 20, incident reports 261; ShotSpotter calls 133; sex offender checks 13; stolen vehicles recovered 11; guns located 7; Storefront reports 23.

**See related story on PUBLIC SAFETY Page 8**  
**Next PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM is Thursday, August 25, 12noon at the EAMD offices.**

### FOOTBALL SEASON PREVIEW: Do Texans move closer to respectability in 2022? Texas looks to step up after 5-7 2021 campaign

While the Astros appear headed to another American League West title, and hopefully another long playoff run, the 2022 football season is right around the corner.

Halleluiah!

The Texans enter the 2022 campaign with a new head coach in Lovie Smith, who previously served as the Chicago and Tampa Bay's head man before accepting the head coaching job at the University of Illinois. He served as David Culley's defensive coordinator last year and when Culley was fired after one year on the job, Texans General Manager Nick Caserio promoted Smith to the top job.

Smith and have staff definitely have their work cut out for them in 2022. Houston is coming off a 4-13 season (they were 4-12 in 2020), but they enter the season without having to deal with

**KEENEY'S KORNER**  
 By **MIKE KEENEY**

the Deshaun Watson circus.

Watson, who last played a full season in 2020, was traded to Cleveland for three first rounds picks and is awaiting his fate now that the NFL has appealed the six-game suspension retired Federal Judge Sue L. Robinson handed down her decision on Aug. 1, but that did not sit well with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

He had the league appeal her ruling and handed the appeal to former New Jersey Attorney General Peter C. Harvey. Goodell wants Watson suspended the entire season, and Watson said he

would take an eight-game suspension (how big of him).

The appeal should come down before the regular season begins on Sept. 8. If Watson is suspended the entire season, it could be another long year for beleaguered Browns fans.

But back to the hometown team.

The Texans will turn to second-year man Davis Mills (2,664 yards, 16 TDs in 11 starts in 2021) as the man

*Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 7*

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**EAST ALDINE DISTRICT**

*We're Here For You!*

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 713.595.1220 RCantu@AldineDistrict.org

**Operations Manager: Veronica Sanches**  
 713.595.1226 VSanches@AldineDistrict.org

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## Novavax-19 Vaccine now available at County Public Health sites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Moderna, Novavax, and Pfizer are recommended for primary vaccination and Moderna and Pfizer are recommended for booster doses and must be used for the second booster dose. A person's eligibility for a booster dose(s) depends on age, primary series product, and immunocompetence. Fully vaccinated is considered 2 weeks after the final dose in a primary series. People are considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccines when they receive all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended, when eligible. HCPH urges residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if they have not done so already or get a booster shot for those who qualify. All COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe, effective, and provide strong protection against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Vaccines provided by HCPH are free and appointments are not required though encouraged. If you would like to schedule an appointment, go to a ReadyHarris.org, vacstrac.hctx.net, or call 832-927-8787. To find a location near you, click here.

## EAMD Board Changes,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

los Silva expressed the District's appreciation for her long service, and said she will be missed.

The East Aldine Management District board of directors elected community pioneer Joyce Wiley as its chairwoman on July 20, 2021, making her only the third top leader of the District since its creation in 2001. Wiley succeeded Gerald Overturff, who died in 2021. The original board president, and East Aldine District founder was Clyde Bailey.

"I am so honored to have worked with you and be working with you to make progress in this community. It's like a whole new world in East Aldine," Wiley told the board at the

time.

Wiley was a life-long resident of Aldine, and an early proponent of the business chamber. Later she worked with those who wanted a new management district, to improve the quality of life in the Aldine area.

Wiley worked for 18 years in community relations and outreach for Lone Star College-North Harris. She recalled working more than a decade ago on the federally funded Aldine Weed and Seed task force aimed at "weeding out" crime and "seeding" strong, healthy families with at-risk youth. She also worked for the Northeast News and North Forest News for 11 years.

## COMMUNITY WATCH

## FBI reward of \$25,000 in murder of 8yr-old Khamaya Donelson

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the murder of Khamaya Donelson on July 3, 2022.

On July 3, 2022, Donelson's mother picked up her two children, 5-year-old Khamaya Donelson and an 8-year-old son, from a 24-hour day care. At approximately 12:50 a.m., she and her children were in their vehicle stopped at the intersection of Northborough Drive and Rushcreek Drive in Houston, Texas. As a silver Honda Accord drove through the intersection heading west on Rushcreek Drive, the rear

passenger began shooting out of the vehicle in the direction of a food store. A single shot struck the family's vehicle, entering the rear driver's side door, striking the children. They went straight to the emergency room where Khamaya was pronounced deceased.

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact the FBI's Houston Field Office at (713) 693-5000. Additional reward money may be available.

An FBI 'Seeking Information' poster can be found at <https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/seeking-info/khamaya-donelson>.

## HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

**AMERICAN ARTIST APPRECIATION MONTH:** August is American Artist Appreciation Month! Join us at High Meadows for fun crafts, awesome story times, and interesting talks/classes taught by local artists themselves as we celebrate American artists.

**THE ART THING FOR TEENS:** Every Monday at 3pm, we are celebrating local and American artists by playing with various art mediums and channeling our creativity through different art projects. This program is for teens/young adults looking to make quick and incredible pieces of art!

**ARTIST ADVENTURES STORYTIME:** Every Tuesday at 11:30 am we will have Artistic Adventures Story Time! Join us as we read books, sing songs, and explore our creativity as we do art projects inspired by American artists. This program is for children 3-8 years old.

**COLORFUL EXPRESSIONS:** On Wednesdays at 5:30pm, we invite adults to Colorful Expressions. Discover local and American artists, discuss artists' lives and processes, and try your hands at various art forms.

**HM HEALTH FAIR:** The library will host a health fair for the community on Thursday, August 25th from 10am to 2pm. Stop by the library and discover health resources for your family and get your children vaccinated.

**ARTISTS' PLAYGROUND:** Join us on August 25th from 10am-3pm for our Artists' Playground. We will have a special story time and fun art activities.

**KNIT & CROCHET CLUB:** We will have a new monthly Knit & Crochet Club. Our first meet up will be on Saturday August 27th at 12pm and we will have a special guest teacher. Bring your own projects or start a new one here at the library.

**A NOVEL IDEA BOOKCLUB:** Our monthly book club will be meeting again on Monday, August 29th at 6pm. Join us as we discuss "The Next Thing You Know" by Jessica Strawser.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in search of volunteers to help us with a variety of projects from shelving to teaching literacy classes. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Jennifer at [jennifer.nandlal@hcpl.net](mailto:jennifer.nandlal@hcpl.net).

**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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Houston, TX 77039  
832.927.5540

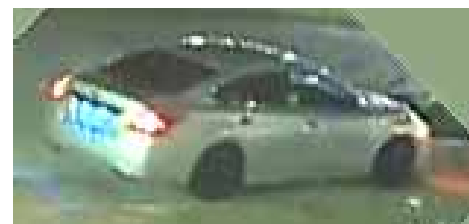
## WANTED: Driver responsible for Hit and Run that left victim injured

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Vehicular Crimes Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspect responsible for a Hit and Run – Failure to Stop and Render Aid.

On Sunday, May 8, 2022, at approximately 9:20 p.m., the victim was struck by a vehicle in the 600 block of E. Tidwell Rd. in Houston, Texas. During the incident, the victim was walking southbound crossing Tidwell when they were struck by the suspect's vehicle, which was traveling eastbound. The suspect fled the scene without rendering aid to the victim. The victim suffered serious bodily injury and was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

The suspect vehicle is described as a (Grey or Silver Nissan Altima) unknown plate at this time.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to



5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at [www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org) or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

The language in this press release is intentional and could have legal implications. Please do not change the copy of the paragraph above.

All warrants are active at the time this press release was created and are subject to change.

## Lone Star College-North Harris a great choice for workforce training

HOUSTON (July 21, 2022) – Thomas Gaye wasn't sure what he wanted his career to be, but he did know a few things. He loved working with his hands and wanted to have time with his family during the week.

After researching which programs fit his interests and which schools fit his needs, it became clear that the Heating, Ventilation Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) program at LSC-North Harris was his top choice.

"Looking at all the curriculums from other schools, I decided to go with Lone Star College because of all the equipment they have," said Gaye. "Compare that to other schools, I didn't like the setup where you have to be all over the city taking classes, where it's a one-stop-shop all at Lone Star College."

LSC-North Harris provided Gaye with more than the flexibility to make his schedule. Through his classes, Gaye was introduced to local companies, including Daikin, a company he has been employed by for nearly five years.

"This career gives me the pleasant feeling of doing a job for somebody and making them feel happy about what I've done," said Gaye.

While Gaye found his calling in one of the college's nine workforce programs, LSC-North Harris offers students the same flexibility and career opportunities with more than 30 academic programs to choose from.

Registration for workforce and academic programs is open with fall semester classes beginning Monday, Aug. 29.

Students who enroll are automatically entered into weekly drawings

from now until the start of the semester for prizes, including:

- AirPods
- Oculus VR headset
- TVs
- Gas cards
- Fit Bits

Students must be registered for fall classes, in good academic standing, meet credit hour requirements, and arrange for financial aid or other payment to win. The earlier a student registers, the more opportunities they have to win!

Advisors are available in-person Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., and Friday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., or online by visiting [LoneStar.edu/LearnMore](http://LoneStar.edu/LearnMore).

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

**Take Pride in our Community Keep it Clean**

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**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, Aug. 17 at 4:30pm!** Come and have some fun!

**TEENS MAKE IT**  
Join us **Monday, Aug. 15 at 3pm** as we make pizza bagels! Teens 13 and up just drop in. Frist come, first served.

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

**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

**BOOK CHALLENGE BOOK CLUB**

This is the book club for people who hate book clubs! We don't all read the same book. We all do the same challenge! This challenge is READ A BOOK WITH A ONE WORD TITLE. The genre and author are up to you! We meet **Saturday, Aug. 20 at 11am** in the library. You have been challenged!

**CALL FOR LITERACY TUTORS**

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

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

**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 you 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 HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ALDINE BRANCH LIBRARY 11331 AIRLINE DR. HOUSTON, TX 77037 832-927-5410**

## SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

## Message from the Superintendent, August 23, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

The 2022-2023 school year is here! Welcome back, everyone.

I've always loved the first day of school. I remember how excited I would get to have new school supplies and the pride I felt putting my name on things like my pencil box. It also thrilled me knowing I would see my friends and teachers from previous years that I hadn't seen over the summer. And I was excited about meeting my new teachers and making new friends. I started my career as a teacher. As a teacher, I remember the joy I felt in preparing my room, lessons, and ideas for the new year.

Simply put, the start of the school year represented a fresh start. School was also about the connections I had between friends and my teachers that mattered, which is one of the reasons our hashtag this school year is #AldineConnected. The connections at the campus, district, and community level are all meaningful in our work to educate and equip for students' success.

After all these years, I still get excited about the beginning of each school year. It's one of my favorite days as an educational leader. On the first day of school, I love to see our students and staff return, eager to experience the choices and opportunities they will have. This summer, I got a chance to celebrate the first day of school with students attending our schools following the Additional Days School Year (ADSY) calendar. They are in their fifth week of school! Today, I got an opportunity to meet and greet the rest of our Aldine students as they returned to school. My stops included Avalos P-TECH School, Hoffman Middle School, and our new all-boys Impact Leadership Academy. With 84 campuses, I couldn't visit every single one in one day, but you can count that I will visit as many as I can the rest of the week and in the coming weeks. I love seeing and meeting students. Seeing them enjoying and engaged in what they are learning is a great reminder of why we as educators choose to make a difference in the lives of Aldine students.

Safety has long been a priority in Aldine ISD. We are committed to keeping students and families safe at Aldine ISD. Click here to read a few of our security highlights. Our custodial staff also does an incredible job of keeping our schools and buildings clean and healthy for all. School should always be a place that inspires hope and manifests dreams.

Students, we are so happy to have you back in our classrooms! Each of you is incredible, and we are so excited to connect with you and learn and grow together this year. You are the reason why we come to work each day.

Parents, thank you for entrusting us with your children each and every day. We do not take that responsibility lightly and look forward to engaging students' minds and unique gifts to drive and inspire their learning. However, it really does take a village to guide our young learners. We need and welcome your partnership in their education because, after all, you were their first teachers.

Teachers, staff members, and leaders, I am grateful for how you put the time into making sure our students feel welcome. Thank you, teachers, for sparking imagination and creativity. Thank you, staff, for getting our students to and from school safely, feeding them nutritious meals, keeping them safe and healthy, and giving them beautiful, clean environments to be proud to call their schools.

The start of the fall semester is also a good reminder that flu season is around the corner. I encourage everyone to stay healthy and to keep their colleagues and friends of all ages healthy to ensure students can attend school. So cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze, and wash your hands often. Remember, it is in the classroom where the magic happens for our students. We made great strides academically last year



and want to keep that momentum moving forward. Let's continue to create meaningful learning experiences for students — our number one priority, always.

As we continue meeting the goals and priorities of our strategic plan, A New Way Forward, we remain focused on building academic and leadership skills. We know these skills are essential to unlocking each student's potential in a learning environment where all students can find a love of learning.

Without a doubt, I am confident this year will be the best year yet as well as one of exploring possibilities and achieving dreams! Again, welcome back!

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent of Schools

Back-to-School Webpage  
Other Resources  
Traditional and Additional Days School Year (ADSY) Calendars

### UPCOMING EVENTS

\*September 7, Sept. 14, and Sept. 21: The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department will host several presentations for parents and legal guardians interested in participating in the 2022-2023 Family and Community University program. More details to come. Email FACE, FACE@AldineISD.org, or call (281) 985-3788 if you have questions.

### MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS

August

\*Aug. 24: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar)

September  
National School Attendance Month

\*Sept. 2: Student Holiday (ADSY Calendar)

\*Sept. 5: Labor Day (Student Holiday/All AISD Schools Closed)

\*Sept. 5-9: National Substitute Appreciation Week

\*Sept. 6: Student Holiday (ADSY Calendar)

\*Sept. 14: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar)

\*Sept. 15-Oct. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month

\*Sept. 16: Staff Development Day/ Student Holiday (Traditional Calendar)

\*Sept. 21: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar)

\*Sept. 28: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar)

### REMINDERS

\*The state requires high school seniors to apply for financial aid to graduate. — FAFSA Application link or TASFA Application links

\*The state requires all entering college students to take the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment. (Details).

\*Aldine ISD's top priorities are students' safety and academic success. The district posts information related to protocols along with any updates at [www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts](http://www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts).

\*Stay connected by visiting [AldineISD.org](http://AldineISD.org). Check out our District News and Aldine ISD Podcast pages to stay updated on all the great things happening in our district. You can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



## Impact Leadership Academy Gives its Students a Red Carpet Welcome for Their First Day



On Wednesday, August 17, Aldine ISD's first all-boys school, Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson, opened its doors for the first time to welcome its students on their first day of school. A red carpet greeting was accompanied by business men and leaders of the community to encourage the students as they start the school year. Prairie View A&M was also in attendance, in celebration of the partnership between PVAMU and ILA.

"It's a unique campus," said Principal Jonathan Kegler. "Most all-boys schools start at middle and they go through high school. We're starting when they're young. We're catching them and training them up when they're young."

Starting with the end goal in mind is how Kegler wants to approach the instruction of the students. That is evident by the partnership with Prairie View A&M, in which campus visits are already scheduled for the young students to go and gain exposure of being on a college

campus.

ILA currently holds students of first, second, and sixth grade, with grades scheduled to be added each year until they reach their goal of having students from first through eighth grade.

To round out the morning, ILA held two pep rallies for its students, one for the sixth graders and another for the first and second graders. The pep rallies were used to kick off the beginning of the school year, introducing the students to the various teachers they would be interacting with and learning what they can expect by attending ILA. The rallies were closed out with the PV A&M cheer team leading the students in a dance and PV A&M chants.

"We were glad to see PVAMU come out and give our students a genuine PV experience," said Kegler. "They recognize our goal is to provide a unique experience for our students, and we appreciate them sharing their time and support."

## District Leaders Cover Much Ground Visiting Schools on First 2 Days of Instruction



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney looks over a Vardeman Primary student's work during her visit to the Aldine ISD primary school on Aug. 17 during the first day of instruction for Aldine ISD students.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney and other district leaders scoured the district, visiting schools and connecting with principals, teachers, students, and parents during the first two days (Aug. 17-18) of instruction in Aldine ISD.

Dr. Goffney and her team began their district-wide tour bright and early on the first day of school by visiting Aldine ISD's newest campus, Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson. Impact Leadership Academy is the district's first all-boys school under Principal Jonathan Kegler's leadership.

Prairie View A&M University is the school's partner, and representatives from the school and business and community members helped welcome Impact students to their first day of school. Students received a red carpet greeting, welcomed by Aldine ISD officials, Prairie View A&M personnel, business partners, and community members.

After visiting Impact, Dr. Goffney and her team proceeded to Hoffman Middle School to tour Hoffman College Prep. Aldine ISD launched the college-prep program this year.

Then it was on to Thompson Elementary School, where the team visited Principal Nereida Ochoa and toured the school.

The next stop on the first-day tour was Avalos P-TECH High School, where Dr. Goffney met with the school's new Principal, Stephen Heady, and also toured the school.

Then it was on to Vardeman Primary School, where Dr. Goffney visited some of Aldine's youngest scholars and 2021-22 Elementary Teacher of the Year Linda Nigro. The group also visited with other Vardeman teachers and visited classrooms.

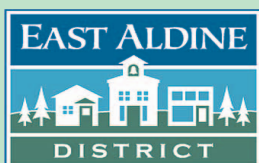
The final stop on the first school day was at Francis Elementary School, where Dr. Goffney and her team visited with Principal Dr. Dana Stelly, campus leaders, and students.

On the second day of school, Dr. Goffney and her team first visited Hill Elementary School, where they met with Aldine Federation of Teachers representatives and had a photo opportunity with Texas AFT President Zeph Capo and Aldine ISD AFT President Candis Houston. Next, it was on to Garcia Middle School and a visit with new Principal Phoebe Pruitt. The group also visited teachers and students in their classrooms.

The next stop on the second school day was Blanson CTE High School, where Dr. Goffney met with Principal Ben Ibarra and toured the campus.

The second instruction day's final stop was a trip to the Westside Transportation Department, where Dr. Goffney was greeted by German Enamorado, Aldine ISD's Executive Director of Transportation. She and her team also visited with Westside personnel and thanked them for the critical role they play in safely transporting Aldine students to and from school daily.

Take Pride in our  
Community  
Keep it Clean



OPINION PAGE

**COUNTY MATTERS**  
 Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



### Hidalgo Urges Residents to Remain Vigilant for Monkeypox

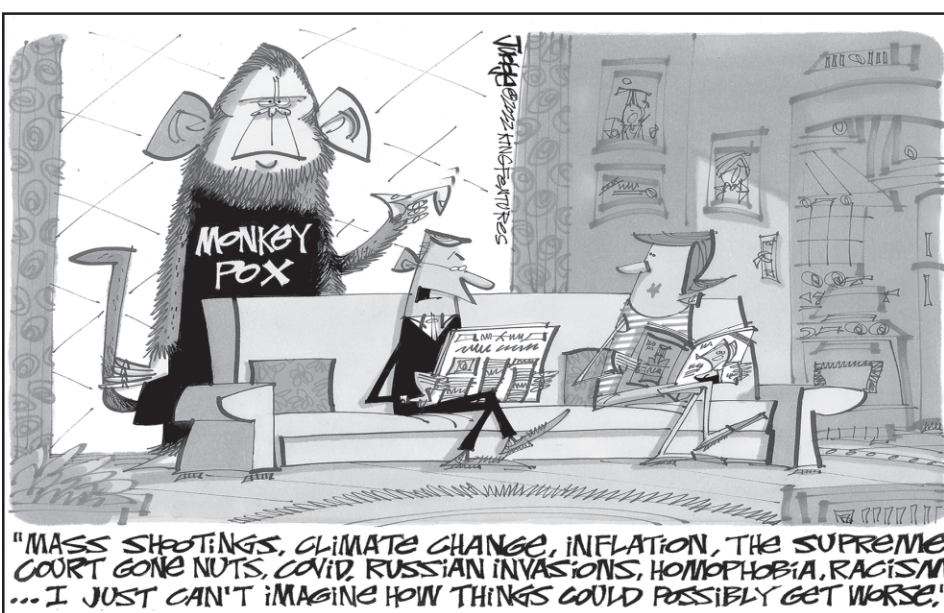
The Monkeypox virus is spreading rapidly across the world and many countries are now facing high case rates. The World Health Organization has now deemed Monkeypox a Global Health Emergency. Texas has the sixth highest case count in the United States with 220 cases. As of July 25, Harris County has confirmed 57 cases. Monkeypox can look like a pimple or blister, or a rash and lesion. In some cases, just a few small bumps can be the first indication of an infection – before any symptoms are felt. If you notice any new rashes, pimples, or blisters anywhere on your body, including in your mouth, it is important to get checked out and tested. While certain groups are at higher risk – we know from nationwide cases that men, particularly men who have sex with men (MSM), have been disproportionately impacted so far – anyone can get Monkeypox including children and the elderly. While cases remain low in the region, city and county officials remain vigilant and prepared, and urge residents to take some simple precautions to curb the spread:

- Limit intimate and sexual contact with anonymous partners.
- If you have new/unknown lesions, assume it is Monkeypox and get tested.
- Get the vaccine, if you qualify.

For support with testing and vaccines, call 832-927-0707, or visit ReadyHarris.org.

### Free COVID Vaccines Now Available for Children Six Months and Older

While Harris County is still in yellow, many in our county are still contracting the COVID-19 virus, suffering from symptoms, and having to quarantine. And while children do not face the same risk from COVID as adults, we have had over 15,000 Harris County children contract COVID. Thankfully, families now have the ability to protect themselves better than ever by signing up kids ages 6 months to 5 years for the FDA-approved Pfizer and Moderna pediatric vaccinations, and now is the time to get children vaccinated before school starts in the fall and cases are likely to rise. Harris County Public Health is administering “little pediatric” vaccines at all 20 vaccination sites across the county, free of charge, for walk-ins and appointment holders. Parents can talk to their pediatricians if they have questions. Visit ReadyHarris.org or call 832-927-8787 to schedule an appointment for you and/or your child.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Gary Borders



### Texas Gas Prices Lowest in Nation

While gas prices nationwide dropped below \$4 per gallon average last week, the state boasts the lowest prices in the country at an average of \$3.49 – 50 cents below the national average, according to AAA Texas. “Retail gasoline prices in Texas fell for the eighth consecutive week,” said AAA Texas spokesperson Daniel Armbruster. “While gas prices will likely keep dropping in the near term, it is unclear how long the trend will last. Demand for fuel jumped seven percent across the U.S. this week and regional fuel supplies fell by around three percent.” Drivers fueling up in College Station are paying the most on average at \$3.72, while those in the Brownsville-Harlingen area have the cheapest fuel at \$3.19, according to a report by KWTX-Waco.

#### VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 11

Eligible Texas voters must be registered by Oct. 11 in order to cast ballots in the Nov. 8 general election, according to Texas Secretary of State John Scott. “Even though we’re still two months away from the voter registration deadline, it’s never too early to make sure you’re registered, update your registration information if you need to, and prepare yourself to vote in the upcoming election,” Scott said. Texas law requires eligible voters to be registered 30 days before Election Day. Since the 30th day before Nov. 8 falls on a Sunday, prospective voters have two extra days to register this year. Voters can visit the state’s official voting website — [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov) — for more information.

#### DROUGHT CONDITIONS NOW INTO SIXTH MONTH

By the end of July, drought conditions covered 97% of the state, up 11 percentage points from the end of June, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development



Board. July was drier and warmer than normal, a familiar refrain in 2022. Storage in the state’s reservoirs is at 71% of capacity, which is 13 percentage points below normal for this time of year, Wentzel wrote. Still, the current drought is not as severe as the one Texans endured in 2011 for most of the state. However, South Texas is faring worse than it did in 2011 since it started the year with its water supply reservoirs already well below normal.

#### MORE STATE RESOURCES MOBILIZED FOR WILDFIRE THREATS

On Friday alone, Texas A & M Forest Service firefighters responded to 15 new wildfires that burned 540 acres. There are five active wildfires throughout the state, the largest being the Pine Pond Fire in Bastrop County, covering an estimated 700 acres and just 35% contained as of Sunday. The Texas Division of Emergency Management at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott has deployed additional strike teams, consisting of 32 firefighters and 10 engines. “Communities across the state continue to be impacted by dangerously dry conditions that could lead to further spread of wildfires,” said Abbott said. Burn bans are now in place in 224 Texas counties, out of 254 total.

#### SCAMMER POSING AS TDI EMPLOYEE

If someone calls claiming to be a Texas Department of Insurance

employee offering to meet at one’s home to discuss insurance needs, it’s almost certainly a scam. That’s according to a TDI news release, which notes the agency only calls people who ask for assistance. The agency’s fraud unit received a report from a person who was contacted by someone claiming to be a TDI employee and offering to come over and review insurance needs. “The individual who received the call did the right thing by not providing any personal information and contacting us,” said Chris Davis, head of TDI’s Fraud Unit. “This may have been an attempt at identity theft or other crime.” Anyone needing help with an insurance issue or suspecting insurance fraud can contact the TDI help line at 800-252-3439.

#### ALL STATE OIL AND GAS RECORDS NOW ONLINE

Have you been wondering about that working pumpjack in the strip-mall parking lot in Longview? (Yes, there is one.) The Texas Railroad Commission has recently completed placing all historic oil and gas production records online. The RRC database covers oil production dating back to 1931 and gas back to 1937. More than 1,300 rolls of microfilm containing about 2.2 million images in the RRC’s central records were digitized. “This is a significant undertaking and a historic moment for the Commission,” Matthew Herzog with RRC, said. “Not only does it give the public quick and easy access to the information, but it can also save staff time that’s spent researching for public information requests. Requesters can now get historical production information with the click of a mouse if they wish, and our staff can devote time for other tasks.”

#### COVID-19 CASES DIP SLIGHTLY

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week dipped slightly to 72,715 with 194 new deaths reported, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 3,174 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations on Sunday, a slight drop from the previous week.

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

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
 By Carrie Classon

### “Piccolina”

I was walking down an old street in an old part of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Brightly colored wooden doors lined the streets. There was no indication from the outside what might be within. It could be a courtyard filled with flowers and a fountain, or a small business, or somebody’s kitchen. It is always a mystery what is behind these doors, and so, when one is open, naturally I look inside.

Last week, a door was open, and I saw a few items of clothing for sale, so I stepped inside. That’s when I met Piccolina.

“Who is this?” I asked. “That is Piccolina,” a woman at a sewing machine answered in Spanish.

Piccolina was a fat little puppy with blue eyes and black-and-white spots. She was delighted to meet me, and I was delighted to meet the woman with the sewing machine because I had a square tablecloth that I wanted to be round. I had thought of bringing it back home with me to the States to do the alteration, but that seemed like a lot of heavy fabric to haul back-and-forth when, the odds were, I would run into someone like Piccolina’s mother. And now I had.

I explained my tablecloth situation as best I could, and it was clear from the woman’s nodding and pantomimed gestures that she understood the project. I agreed to bring it the next day.

“And then I get to see Piccolina!” I thought.

The next day I called, “Where is Piccolina?!” and the little dog came running, and the woman, whose name was Marta, also came running. I handed off my tablecloth, and we agreed on a price that seemed like far too little for the work involved.

A few days passed, and I came back. The floors had just been mopped, and Piccolina was not being allowed on the floors until they were dry. She was being held by a young relative of Marta’s and this made her unhappy, which she indicated by chomping down on my finger when I went to greet her. “Oh, no! Piccolina!” Marta said. She didn’t think Piccolina should be biting the customers, but they were just puppy bites, and the customer had been asking for it.

The tablecloth was not finished because Marta was proposing something more complicated—and prettier—than I had envisioned.

“Fine!” I said, even though I wasn’t entirely sure what she was saying. I promised to return in a few days.

“And then I get to see Piccolina again!” I thought.

The next time I arrived, the tablecloth was finished, with a fringe all around the edge that transitioned from one color to another, with a mixture of the two colors in between. It had taken a lot of thread-pulling and time, and I paid Marta more than she had asked for and I said goodbye to Piccolina.

But not for good. Yesterday I stopped by, even though I had no business with Marta.

“Piccolina, where are you?” I called, and she was easy to find because she was waiting at the doggy gate that Marta had installed.

“Piccolina has a gate!” I said.

“Piccolina has been running onto the street!” Marta tut-tutted.

The street is quiet and cobblestone, so I don’t think Piccolina was in much danger, but I also imagine Marta got tired of running outside to retrieve her.

“You are a naughty little dog!” I informed Piccolina, and Marta agreed.

You can tell friends things like this, and we are all friends now—Marta and me and Piccolina.

Till next time, Carrie  
 Photos from the column and other info can be found at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

**top ten**

**Most COVID-19 Cases\***

1. U.S.
2. India
3. Brazil
4. France
5. Germany
6. U.K.
7. Russia
8. South Korea
9. Italy
10. Turkey

\* As of April 2022

Source: Our World in Data

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SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje de la Superintendente, 23 de Agosto de 2022

Estimada comunidad de Aldine: ¡El año escolar 2022-2023 está aquí! Bienvenidos de nuevo, todos.

Siempre me ha gustado el primer día de clases. Recuerdo lo emocionada que me ponía tener útiles escolares nuevos y el orgullo que sentía al poner mi nombre en cosas como mi caja de lápices. También me emocionó saber que vería a mis amigos y maestros de años anteriores que no había visto durante el verano. Y estaba emocionado por conocer a mis nuevos maestros y hacer nuevos amigos. Empecé mi carrera como profesor. Como maestra, recuerdo la alegría que sentí al preparar mi salón, lecciones e ideas para el nuevo año.

En pocas palabras, el comienzo del año escolar representó un nuevo comienzo. La escuela también se trataba de las conexiones que tenía entre amigos y mis maestros que importaban que es una de las razones por las que nuestro hashtag este año escolar es #AldineConectado. Las conexiones a nivel del colegio, el distrito y la comunidad son significativas en nuestro trabajo para educar y equipar para el éxito de los alumnos.

La escuela se trataba de las conexiones que tenía entre amigos y mis maestros que importaban, que es una de las razones por las que nuestro hashtag este año escolar es #AldineConnected. Las conexiones a nivel del colegio, del distrito y de la comunidad son importantes en el trabajo de educar a nuestros alumnos.

Después de todos estos años, todavía me emociona el comienzo de cada año escolar. Es uno de mis días favoritos como líder educativo. En el primer día de clases, me encanta ver regresar a nuestros alumnos y personal, ansiosos por experimentar las opciones y oportunidades que tendrán. Este verano, tuve la oportunidad de celebrar el primer día de clases con los alumnos que asisten a nuestras escuelas siguiendo el calendario del año escolar de días adicionales (ADSY, por sus siglas en inglés). ¡Están en su quinta semana de clases! Hoy tuve la oportunidad de conocer y saludar al resto de nuestros alumnos de Aldine cuando regresaron a la escuela. Mis paradas incluyeron Avalos P-TECH School, Hoffman Middle School y nuestra nueva escuela Impact Leadership Academy para varones. Con 84 escuelas, no pude visitar todos en un día, pero pueden contar que visitaré tantos como pueda el resto de la semana y en las próximas semanas. Me encanta ver y conocer a los alumnos. Verlos disfrutar y participar en lo que están aprendiendo es un gran recordatorio de por qué nosotros, como educadores, elegimos marcar una diferencia en las vidas de los alumnos de Aldine.

La seguridad ha sido durante mucho tiempo una prioridad en Aldine ISD. Estamos comprometidos a mantener seguros a los alumnos y las familias en Aldine ISD. Hagan clic aquí para leer algunos de nuestros puntos destacados de seguridad. Nuestro personal de limpieza también hace un trabajo increíble al mantener nuestras escuelas y edificios limpios y saludables para todos. La escuela debe ser siempre un lugar que inspire esperanza y manifieste sueños.



¡Alumnos, estamos muy felices de tenerlos de vuelta en nuestras aulas! Cada uno de ustedes es increíble y estamos muy emocionados de conectarnos con ustedes y aprender y crecer juntos este año. Cada uno de ustedes es la razón por la que venimos a trabajar todos los días.

Padres, gracias por confiarnos a sus hijos todos los días. No tomamos esa responsabilidad a la ligera y esperamos involucrar las mentes y los dones únicos de los alumnos para impulsar e inspirar su aprendizaje. Sin embargo, realmente se necesita un pueblo para guiar a nuestros jóvenes alumnos. Necesitamos y agradecemos su colaboración en su educación porque, después de todo, ustedes fueron sus primeros maestros. Maestros, miembros del personal y líderes, estoy agradecido por cómo dedican el tiempo para asegurarse de que nuestros alumnos se sientan bienvenidos. Gracias, maestros, por despertar la imaginación y la creatividad. Gracias, personal, por llevar y traer a nuestros alumnos a la escuela de manera segura, alimentarlos con comidas nutritivas, mantenerlos seguros y saludables y brindarles entornos hermosos y limpios para que se sientan orgullosos de llamar a sus escuelas.

El comienzo del semestre de otoño también es un buen recordatorio de que la temporada de gripe está a la vuelta de la esquina. Animo a todos a mantenerse saludables y a mantener saludables a sus colegas y amigos de todas las edades para garantizar que los alumnos puedan asistir a la escuela. Así que cúbrase la boca y la nariz cuando tosa y estornude, y lávese las manos con frecuencia. Recuerden, es en el salón de clases donde sucede la magia para nuestros alumnos. Hicimos grandes avances académicos el año pasado y queremos mantener ese impulso en el futuro. Sigamos creando experiencias de aprendizaje significativas para los alumnos: nuestra prioridad número uno, siempre.

A medida que continuamos cumpliendo las metas y prioridades de nuestro plan estratégico, un nuevo camino hacia adelante, seguimos enfocados en desarrollar habilidades académicas y de liderazgo. Sabemos que estas habilidades son esenciales para desblo-

quear el potencial de cada alumno en un entorno de aprendizaje donde todos pueden encontrar el amor por el aprendizaje.

¡Sin duda, estoy seguro de que este año será el mejor, así como uno para explorar posibilidades y lograr sueños! De nuevo, ¡bienvenido de nuevo!

Orgullosa de nuestro distrito, Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendente de las Escuelas

Página web de vuelta a la escuela Otros Recursos Calendarios del Año Escolar Tradicional y del Año escolar con días adicionales (ADSY)

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS 7 de septiembre, 14 de sept., y 21 de sept.: El Departamento de Relaciones con las Familiar y la Comunidad (FACE, por sus siglas en inglés) realizará varias presentaciones para padres y tutores legales interesados en participar en el programa de la Universidad Familiar y Comunitaria 2022-2023. Más detalles próximamente. Envíe un correo electrónico a FACE, FACE@AldineISD.org, o llame al (281) 985-3788 si tiene preguntas.

OBSERVACIONES MENSUALES Agosto 24 de ago.: Jornada Escolar ENVIS2ION (Calendario ADSY) Septiembre Mes nacional de asistencia a la escuela 2 de sept.: Día festivo para los alumnos (Calendario ADSY) 5 de sept.: Día del Trabajo (festivo para los alumnos/todas las escuelas de AISD cerradas) 5-9 de sept.: Semana nacional de aprecio del sustituto

6 de sept.: Día festivo para los alumnos (Calendario ADSY)

14 de sept.: Jornada Escolar ENVIS2ION (Calendario ADSY)

15 de sept. al 15 de oct.: Mes de la Herencia Hispana

16 de sept.: Día de desarrollo del personal/ Festivo para los alumnos (Calendario tradicional)

21 de sept.: Jornada Escolar ENVIS2ION (Calendario ADSY)

28 de sept.: Jornada Escolar ENVIS2ION (Calendario ADSY)

RECORDATORIOS

El Estado de Texas requiere que los alumnos de 12º grado de secundaria soliciten ayuda financiera para graduarse. Enlace de la solicitud FAFSA o enlaces de la solicitud TASFA.

El estado requiere que todos los alumnos que ingresan a la universidad realicen la evaluación Texas Success Initiative (TSI). (Detalles).

Las principales prioridades de Aldine ISD son la seguridad y el éxito académico de los alumnos. El distrito publica información relacionada con los protocolos junto con cualquier actualización en www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts.

Manténganse conectados visitando AldineISD.org. Consulte nuestras páginas de noticias del distrito y Podcast de Aldine ISD para mantenerse al día sobre todas las grandes cosas que suceden en nuestro distrito. También puede conectarse con nosotros en Facebook, Twitter e Instagram.

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of 1 Peter in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Luke 13, where was the tower that killed 18 people when it collapsed? Babel, Shechem, Hananeel, Siloam
3. Which biblical Philistine city is often heard today with the word "strip"? Sunset, Corinth, Gaza, Derbe

4. From 1 Samuel 16, how many boys did Jesse have? 4, 8, 11, 14
5. Which apostle did Satan enter into? Judas, Thomas, James, Peter
6. Uriah had what occupation? Servant, Carpenter, Shepherd, Soldier

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Siloam, 3) Gaza, 4) 8, 5) Judas, 6) Soldier  
Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com) (c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

*For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

2 CHRONICLES 16: 9

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## SPORTS PAGE

## FOOTBALL SEASON PREVIEW:

Do Texans move closer to respectability in 2022?  
Texas looks to step up after 5-7 2021 campaign

under center. If Mills proves to Caserio and Smith that he is indeed the man to play QB moving forward, the Texans can concentrate on upgrading other portions of their team in the 2023 draft, where they should have another high pick.

Caserio did have a good draft in 2022, landing LSU cornerback Derek Singleary, Jr. and Texas A&M standout offensive lineman Kenyon Green (6-4, 323 pounds and a product of Atascocita High School) in the first round. They added Alabama linebacker Christian Harris and Baylor safety Jalen Pitre in later rounds. Pitre has already secured a starting safety spot and Singleary should also hold down one of the corner spots. Green has been dealing with a knee injury for much of training camp, but once he's cleared to play, he should improve an offensive line that is one of the worst in the NFL.

The Texans also upgraded at running back by signing Marlon Mack, a former Colt, and drafting Dameon Pierce (16 total TDs his final year at Florida). Both should be a big improvement over last year's running back situation, which was the worst in the league.

Mills still has speedy Brandin Cooks (90 receptions, 1,037 yards, 6 TDs) to throw to, but that's about it as far as big-play wideouts go for the Texans. The Houston brass is hoping second-year man Nico Collins takes a step up this year.

Defensively, the Texans should be better, but then again, they can't be as bad as they were in 2021, can they?

We shall see.

I think the Texans will be better this year, but will that result in more wins? They do get Jacksonville twice, what could be a bad, bad Chicago and New York Giants teams, and Washington this year. And remember, they did manage to upset the Los Angeles Chargers late in the season, which cost the Chargers a chance of a playoff spot.

I think Caserio made the right move in hiring a veteran with a proven track record in Smith. How that translates into wins remains to be seen.

Texas' other NFL team, the Dallas Cowboys, is coming off a 12-5 season, the NFC East title, and another first-round exit in the playoffs (Dallas fell at home to the 49ers, 23-17, in the Wild Card round).

A number of key players left in the offseason, most notably wide receiver Amari Cooper (68 receptions, 865 yards, 8 TDs). Dallas also lost a dependable wideout in Cedric Wilson, who left for Miami, and defensive end Randy Gregory (6 sacks), who signed with Denver.

Dallas still has Dak Prescott (4,499 yards, 37 TDs), wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (79 receptions, 1,102 yards, 6 TDs) and tight end Dalton Schultz (78 receptions, 808 yards, 8 TDs). Dallas will need a bounce back year from running back Ezekiel Elliott (1,002 yards, 12 total TDs) and look for backup running back Tony Pollard (719 yards, 2 TDs) to play a bigger role in the Pokes offense this year. Pollard has blazing speed and could be used more in the passing game. This could be a breakout year for Lamb, at least head coach Mike McCarthy and owner Jerry Jones hope it is. He will have to carry the load while Michael Gallup recovers from a knee injury.

Defensively, the Cowboys will be led by second-year linebacker Micah Parson (13



## KEENEY'S KORNER

By  
**MIKE KEENEY**

sacks). Defensive coordinator Dan Quinn will have him attacking from all over the place to take advantage of his rare speed and quickness.

The Cowboys should be a playoff team, but they might be looking up at Philadelphia in the NFC East standing. Philly made a huge upgrade on offense by acquiring speedy wide receiver A.J. Brown (63 receptions, 869 yards, 5 TDs) from Tennessee on draft night. He will be paired with another fast Eagle wide out in second-year man DeVonta Smith (64 receptions, 916 yards, 5 TDs). The key to the Eagles will be the improved play of quarterback Jalen Hurts (3,144 yards, 16 TDs/784 rushing yards, 10 TDs). If Hurts does a better job of reading defenses, the Eagles could be scary on offense in 2022.

While the Cowboys and Eagles battle for the NFC East title, Tampa Bay should take care of business in the NFC South, as long as Tom Brady (5,316 yards, 43 TDs) his 45-year-old body stay healthy.

In the NFC North, Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers (4,115 yards, 37 TDs/4 interceptions) will see what life will be like without star wide receiver Davante Adams (1,231 yards, 11 TDs) is like now that Adams has moved onto Las Vegas. Look for the Packers to feature running backs Aaron Jones (799 rushing yards, 4 TDs/52 receptions, 391 yards, 6 TDs) and A.J. Dillon (803 rushing yards, 5 TDs/34 receptions, 313 yards, 2 TDs).

The NFC West should be the most competitive division in the conference. It is home to the defending Super Bowl champions, the Los Angeles Rams. The Rams should be solid again this year led by quarterback Matthew Stafford (4,886 yards, 41 TDs), productive wide receiver Cooper Kupp (145 receptions, 1,974 yards, 16 TDs) and one of the best defensive players in the league in defensive tackle Aaron Donald.

The 49ers lost to the Rams in the NFC title game, and should make another run, but they have turned the offense over to second-year man Trey Lance (603 passing yards, 5 TDs/168 rush yards, 1 TD in two starts). Lance has enough talent around him to ease into the job. Look for dual threat Deebo Samuel (365 rushing yards, 8 TDs/77 receptions, 1,405 yards, 6 TDs), running back Elijah Mitchell (603 yards, 5 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (71 receptions, 910 yards, 6 TDs) to provide plenty of support to Lance.

Arizona will go as far as quarterback Kyler Murray (3,971 yards, 26 TDs/819 rushing yards, 11 TDs) takes them. Murray won't have star wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (115 receptions, 1,407 yards, 6 TDs) for the first six games as he serves a suspension for taking a banned substance.

The AFC South should be a two-team race between Indianapolis and Tennessee. The Colts traded for former Falcons QB Matt Ryan (3,968 yards, 20 TDs), which should be a huge upgrade from Carson Wentz. Ryan has perhaps the league's best running back in Jonathan Taylor (1,811 yards, 20 total TDs) and an up-and-coming wideout in

Michael Pittman Jr., (88 receptions, 1,082 yards, 6 TDs). The Titans will be led by QB Ryan Tannehill (3,734 yards, 21 TDs) and running back Derrick Henry (937 yards, 10 TDs in eight games).

The AFC West, like the NFC West, is loaded. All four teams are potential playoff squads. Kansas City is the defending champ but suffered a huge loss when stud wide receiver Tyreek Hill (111 receptions, 1,239 yards, 9 TDs) left for Miami. The Chiefs still have star QB Patrick Mahomes (4,839 yards, 37 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (92 receptions, 1,125 yards, 9 TDs). Look for Mahomes to spread the ball around to a host of talented receivers the team brought in during the offseason.

The Las Vegas Raiders made one of the biggest moves of the offseason by acquiring one of the league's most productive wide receivers in Adams from Green Bay. He will be reunited with his college QB, Derek Carr (4,804 yards, 23 TDs). The Los Angeles Chargers upgraded their defense with the acquisition of edge rusher Khalil Mack. The Chargers have plenty of offense with QB Justin Herbert (5,014 yards, 38 TDs), running back Austin Ekeler (911 rushing yards, 12 TDs, 70 receptions, 647 yards, 8 TDs) and productive wideouts Keenan Allen (106 receptions, 1,138 yards, 6 TDs) and Michael Williams (76 receptions, 1,146 yards, 9 TDs).

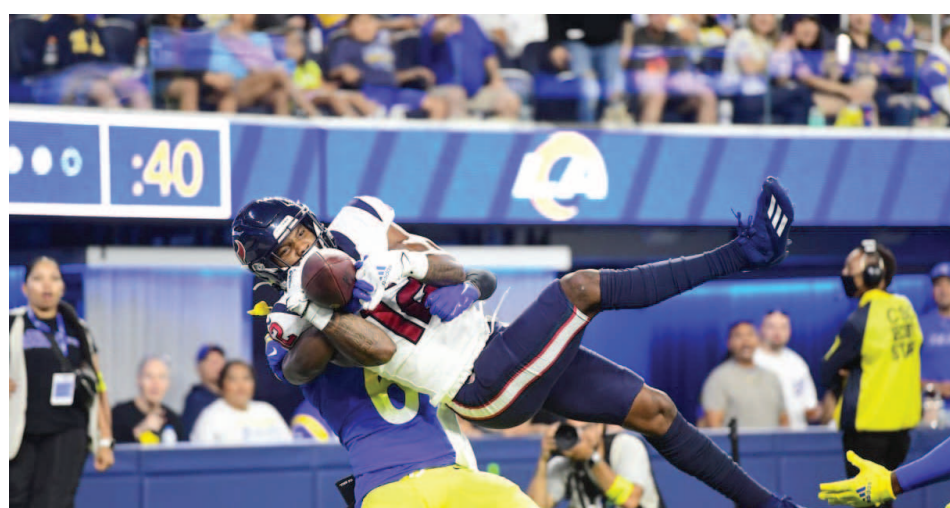
Denver upgraded at QB by acquiring Russell Wilson (3,113 yards, 25 TDs in 14 games). If young wide receivers Courtland Sutton (58 receptions, 776 yards, 2 TDs) and Jerry Jeudy (38 receptions, 467 yards) progress, the Broncos could be a playoff contender.

In the AFC North, the Cincinnati Bengals shocked the world by winning the AFC and took the Rams to the wire before losing the Super Bowl. Cincinnati is loaded on offense led by QB Joe Burrow (4,611 yards, 34 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (1,205 yards, 16 total TDs) and wide receivers Ja'Marr Chase (81 receptions, 1,455 yards, 13 TDs) and Tee Higgins (74 receptions, 1,091 yards, 6 TDs).

Baltimore Ravens fans are hoping for a bounce back season from QB Lamar Jackson (2,882 passing yards, 16 TDs/767 rushing yards, 2 TDs in 12 games), while the Browns are hoping they have Watson for at least half the season this year. While he serves his suspension, look for Cleveland to give running backs Nick Chubb (1,269 yards, 8 TDs) and Kareem Hunt (386 yards, 5 TDs) plenty of work. Cooper should upgrade the wide receiver position.

In the AFC East, Buffalo is the team to beat led by QB Josh Allen (4,407 yards, 36 TDs/763 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and wide receivers Stefon Diggs (103 receptions, 1,225 yards, 10 TDs) and Gabriel Davis (35 receptions, 549 yards, 6 TDs). Davis had a breakout game in the Bills' 42-36 loss to KC in the Divisional Round with eight receptions for 201 yards and four TDs.

Miami vastly improved its offense with the pickup of Hill. He will team with fellow wideout Jalen Waddle (104 receptions, 1,015 yards,



With 40 seconds left in the game, Texans QB Jeff Driskel threw this pass to Nico Collins to win the game against the LS Rams, 24-20 last Friday night.

6 TDs) and tight end Mike Gesicki (73 receptions, 780 yards, 2 TDs). The key to the Dolphins quest for the playoffs will revolve around the progress of QB Tua Tagovailoa (2,653 yards, 16 TDs).

There will be 10 new head coaches when the 2022 season begins. Matt Eberflus takes over in Indy, while Nathaniel Hackett takes over in Denver, Todd Bowles in Tampa Bay, Mike McDaniels in Miami, Brian Daboll is the Giants new head coach, Doug Pederson is the new head man in Jacksonville, Josh McDaniels takes over in Vegas, Dennis Allen is the new man in charge in New Orleans, Lovie Smith tries to rebuild the Texans and Kevin O'Connell takes over in Minnesota.

The 2022 season will conclude with Super Bowl LVII on Feb. 12 in Phoenix.

At the college level, teams will be vying for a spot in the College Football Playoff (CFP) National Title game, slated for Jan. 9 in Los Angeles at SoFi Stadium.

The national semifinal game will be held on Dec. 31 (Fiesta Bowl and Peach Bowl).

Georgia is the reigning national champ and while they lost 15 players to the NFL (five defensive players were drafted in the first round alone), head coach Kirby Smart will just reload and field another strong contender.

His former boss, Alabama head coach Nick Saban, reached the CFP title game in what was considered a rebuilding year in Tuscaloosa. The Crimson Tide still won 13 games in a rebuilding season and could be scary good this year. 'Bama is led by Heisman Trophy winning QB Bryce Young (4,872 yards, 47 TDs) on offense and linebacker Will Anderson Jr., (17.5 sacks) on defense. The Tide lost a lot of production at the skill positions, but got a boost at running back when Jahmyr Gibbs (1,211 yards, 6 TDs) transferred in from Georgia Tech. Young has plenty of

young and talented wide receivers to throw to.

Texas A&M and head coach Jimbo Fisher should be 'Bama's biggest threat in the SEC West. Fisher has a veteran team back, led by running back Devon Achane (1,171 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Ainais Smith (47 receptions, 509 yards, 6 TDs). Fisher has to choose a QB and has three talented signal callers to choose from in LSU transfer Max Johnson (2,815 yards, 27 TDs), former starter Haynes King and true five-star freshman Conner Wegman.

Ohio State should be the class of the Big 10. Ryan Day has a plethora of returning starters led by star QB C.J. Stroud (4,435 yards, 44 TDs), running back TreVeyon Henderson (1,560 yards, 19 TDs) and wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba (95 receptions, 1,606 yards, 9 TDs). Smith-Njigba had an amazing performance in OSU's 48-45 Rose Bowl win over Utah with 15 receptions for 347 yards and 3 TDs.

Texas fans are hoping second-year head coach Steve Sarkisian is ready to take the 'Horns to the Big 12 title game after finishing 5-7 in his first season. He has a talented QB in Ohio State transfer Quinn Ewers in the fold. Ewers was a five-star QB from Southlake Carroll. Sark has one of the best running backs in the nation in Bijan Robinson (1,127 yards, 15 TDs). But Texas must get better play from its offensive line and defense if it hopes to contend in the Big 12.

The conference is wide open. Baylor is the defending champ and returns a veteran until, while Oklahoma welcomes in a new head coach in Brent Venables, the former Clemson defensive coordinator. Oklahoma State has the best returning QB in Spencer Sanders (2,839 yards, 20 TDs).

When it's all said and done, look for Alabama and Ohio State to meet for the national title, with Saban winning his eighth national title.

## COLLEGE PREDICTIONS

**BIG 12 – TEXAS OVER BAYLOR**

**ACC ATLANTIC – NORTH CAROLINA STATE COASTAL – MIAMI ACC CHAMPION – NORTH CAROLINA STATE**

**BIG 10 EAST – OHIO STATE WEST – WISCONSIN BIG 10 CHAMPION – OHIO STATE**

**PAC 12 NORTH – OREGON SOUTH – UTAH PAC 12 CHAMPION – UTAH**

**SEC EAST – GEORGIA WEST – ALABAMA**

**CFL SEMIFINALS FIESTA BOWL – ALABAMA OVER UTAH PEACH BOWL – OHIO STATE OVER GEORGIA**

**CFP NATIONAL TITLE GAME ALABAMA OVER OHIO STATE**

**NFL PREDICTIONS AFC EAST – BUFFALO AFC SOUTH – INDIANAPOLIS AFC NORTH – CINCINNATI AFC WEST – LOS ANGELES CHARGERS**

**AFC WILD CARDS KANSAS CITY, TENNESSEE, LAS VEGAS**

**AFC TITLE GAME BUFFALO OVER CINCINNATI**

**NFC EAST – PHILADELPHIA NFC SOUTH – TAMPA BAY NFC NORTH – GREEN BAY NFC WEST – LOS ANGELES RAMS**

**NFC WILD CARDS DALLAS, SAN FRANCISCO, MINNESOTA**

**NFC TITLE GAME LOS ANGELES OVER TAMPA BAY**

**SUPER BOWL BUFFALO OVER LOS ANGELES RAMS**

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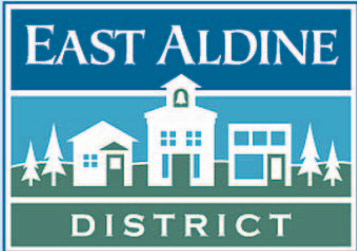
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# East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

## Public Safety progress and lingering fears dominate public talk



PCT. 2 COMMISSIONER ADRIAN GARCIA, AND HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF ED GONZALEZ DISCUSS PUBLIC SAFETY AT AN EAST ALDINE FORUM.

At a recent meeting with Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, an East Aldine woman spoke up.

"I am afraid to go out of my house at night" because of gunfire in her neighborhood, she told the lawmen.

Gonzalez and Garcia, a former sheriff, had convened the meeting with area residents to explain how more than \$2 billion in recent crime-fighting resources and manpower are bringing more safety to the East Aldine District in northeast Harris County.

Those improvements include:

- \*More than \$780,000 for the high-tech "ShotSpotter" system that allows police to track the exact locations of gunfire.
- \*More than \$200,000 invested by Garcia for a workforce development program for homeless residents of Precinct 2.
- \*Road and streetlight improvements in East Aldine.
- \*Nearly \$200,000 spent by the East Aldine Management District for extra patrol services by 21 sheriff's deputies.
- \*An additional \$110,000 from the District for adding streetlights in residential neighborhoods and about \$150,00 for electricity to power those lights.
- \*The higher visibility of law enforcement officers due to the loca-

tion of the Harris County Sheriff's Department's new, state-of-art 911 Call Center at the Town Center. The center is located on land donated by the East Aldine Management District.

But, as Gonzalez acknowledged, the push against lawlessness in the area doesn't end.

Apparently, the woman who complained about gunfire lives just outside the boundaries of new ShotSpotter system, which has aided police efforts to apprehend criminals who are involved in shootings or to track the weapons used in crimes.

Also, the ShotSpotter system is in a three-year trial period.

Regardless, the sheriff expressed regret that the woman was hearing gunfire, and he encouraged her to report it by calling 911.

"It's unacceptable," Gonzalez said. "We know somebody firing a weapon is serious. It's not a toy, someone could get hurt or killed. So, if you hear it, call 911."

He also urged the woman to contact the East Aldine District's Town Center storefront office, where Lt. Michael Santos spearheads round-the-clock shifts of deputies fighting crime.

The officers are making a dent in northeast Harris County's criminal activities, Santos said: "Residents are telling us that we are making a difference. I think, personally, the community is happier. People can now call us directly."

Another woman posed a question to the sheriff: What can the county do to stop speeding drivers in her neighborhood?

"Unfortunately, here in Harris County, we have a very dangerous driving culture," Gonzalez said. "People speed. They drive drunk. They drive distracted. Unfortunately, it's our own neighbors who are doing it."

Statistics, meanwhile, show the deputies have made arrests, seized illegal drugs and guns and run dangerous trespassers near residential neighborhoods.

The District's deputies even put a stop to grave-robbing vagrants who were stealing copper urns from a local cemetery at night.

Cemetery owners had called to complain that the urns, used to hold floral displays on graves, had been rapidly disappearing at night, when the cemetery is closed. But thieves were sneaking in with the intent to later sell the urns to metal recyclers.

The deputies also participated with the Aldine Independent School District in an "active shooter" drill at an area elementary school. Deputies were not aware that it was a drill until their training was completed, Santos said.

"We are spending more than \$2 billion on public safety, the community and the courts to make sure we are doing as much as we can, to make sure you are as safe as possible," Garcia said. "There is promise that our efforts are working."

— By Anne Marie Kilday



HARRIS COUNTY 911 CALL CENTER IN EAST ALDINE



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