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NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 46 Years
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SECOND GUN BUYBACK will take place on October 8th. See Story Below.

NEWS NOTES

BakerRipley Fall Harvest Festival Saturday Oct. 15

BakerRipley invites everyone to come out and visit with neighbors, family and friends at their FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL. Saturday, October 15th, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the East Aldine Campus, 3000 Aldine Mail Route.

Family Fun Events include a pumpkin patch, family photo shoots, scavenger hunt, face painting, pie eating contest, snacks & food, music, games, arts & crafts & more.

Call 346-570-4463 to register for the event.

ANOTHER GUN BUYBACK OCT. 8th

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner joined city, county, and federal partners today to announce details of the next gun buyback as part of the One Safe Houston initiative. The Mayor was joined by U.S. Rep. Al Green, U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia, Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, City Council Member Tiffany Thomas and METRO Chair Sanjay Ramabhadran.

Following an overwhelming turnout during the first gun buyback on July 30, the second event will take place on Oct. 8 at the METRO Park & Ride, 11050 Harwin Drive, between 8 a.m.- noon.

"Our goal is the same for the second event as it was for the first, and that is to get guns off the street," said Mayor Turn-



Police officials inspect some of the 793 guns that were turned in at the first Gun Buyback July 30th. The first buyback took place in south Houston, and this time will be held in west Houston at the METRO Park and Ride, 11050 Harwin Drive, October 8th from 8am to Noon. Guns will be accepted from anyone in the county, with no questions asked about the gun or the person turning it in. Officials said the Buyback program has proven very successful in removing dangerous guns.

er. "The guns turned in will never be stolen or used in the commission of a crime, suicide, or an accidental shooting by a child."

During the first gun buyback, Houston Police collected 793 guns, including 281 long guns, and 512 pistols. HPD also gave priority vouchers to 150 additional people who were turned away because of the long lines and wait. In anticipation of another outpouring of support and robust public interest, Houston Police Chief Troy Finner announced that HPD would implement several changes to make the process more efficient on Oct. 8 including;

—More lanes to accommodate vehicles

Continued. See GUN BUYBACK, Page 5

Aldine's Dr. LaTonya Goffney named among Top 30 Influential Women

The Women are recognized as trailblazers in their professions and for making a difference in people's lives.

HOUSTON - Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Superintendent of Aldine ISD, has been named a Top 30 Influential Woman of Houston honoree. The Top Women 30 celebrates the accomplishments and giving spirit of hundreds of diverse, influential, and powerful women in Houston and the surrounding areas. The women are from diverse backgrounds, share different beliefs, and have overcome obstacles.

Honorees were formally recognized at the annual The Top 30 Influential Women of Houston Awards gala on September 16 at The Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria. 2022 marked the ninth year of the awards founded by Keith J. Davis, Sr., also known as "MR. D-



Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney poses with Keith J. Davis, Sr., also known as "MR. D-MARS. Davis is the founder of the award.

MARS.

Each successful woman recognized in their profession also possesses a servant spirit. Selflessness is something one

cannot forget on the path to success, and this year's honorees, including Dr. Goffney, are shining examples of that. And fight-

Continued. See TOP 30 WOMEN, Page 5

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 6: Texas, OU meet in annual Red River Rivalry: Nimitz faces Westfield in key District 14-6A contest

It appears fall has finally arrived! That means cooler weather, the State Fair of Texas and Oklahoma vs. Texas in the annual Red River Rivalry in the Cotton Bowl with Big Tex as a backdrop.

These two long-time rivals will not only be playing for bragging rights, but also to remain alive in the Big 12 title hunt.

Two weeks ago, both teams suffered tough losses at UT fell at Texas Tech, 37-34 in overtime, while Kansas State ran roughshod over OU in Norman, 41-34.

The winner of this game remains alive in conference play, while the loser will need a lot of help from others in the league to stay alive for a shot at a spot in the Big 12 title game, slated for Dec. 3 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Second-year Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian's job is probably safe, but UT fans want to see a marquee win after Texas officials doled



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

out a lot of cash to hire Nick Saban's former offensive coordinator. I'm sure fans understand there is no disgrace in losing by one point to No. 2-ranked Alabama at home, but the Tech loss does not sit well with them. The 'Horns made sloppy mistakes in that game and things need to tighten up in Austin. Another five-loss season will get the wolves howling at Sark's door.

Speaking of Alabama, Saban's team will host Jimbo Fisher and the No. 17-ranked Texas A&M Aggies, looking to avenge last year's 41-38 loss in College Station. It will be interesting to see if the two

interact prior to the game after the dustup the two had in the spring when Saban accused A&M of buying their entire 2022 recruiting class (ranked No. 1 in the nation), which led to Fisher sniping back at Saban about the way he runs his program. The pre-game meeting should be interesting. The game will be in prime time on CBS beginning at 7 p.m.

One of the pleasant surprise teams this season has been the Kansas Jayhawks, who host TCU in a key Big 12 game for both

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 7

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COMMUNITY
WATCH

Fatal Crash at 4400 North Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 4400 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) about 2:25 a.m. on Saturday (September 24).

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

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant E. Alejandro and Officer S. Bouarar reported:

The female was driving a black Jeep Wrangler at a high rate of speed southbound on the freeway at the above address and exited at Crosstimbers Road where she lost control of the vehicle. The Jeep then struck a pillar under the freeway, causing it to roll over. The female was ejected. Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced her deceased at the scene.

No other persons or vehicles were involved in this crash. The investigation is continuing.

Fatal Crash at 9400 North Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run crash at 9400 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) about 8:30 a.m. on Saturday (Sept. 24).

The identity of the deceased male, 28, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant L. Ross and Officer M. Mathews reported:

The male, a pedestrian, was attempting to cross the freeway on an exit ramp at the above address when he was struck by an unknown vehicle traveling southbound on the West Mount Houston Road ramp.

The driver fled the scene without stopping to render aid. Paramedics pronounced the pedestrian deceased at the scene.

Anyone with information on the wanted vehicle and/or driver is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4072 or speak anonymously with Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Witnesses stated the driver (victim) of the Honda was traveling above the speed limit when he changed lanes to the right and struck the Nissan. The Honda began to rotate and then struck the back of the Volkswagen, which was in front of the Nissan. The impact caused the Volkswagen to strike a fire hydrant and a mailbox.

The Honda struck the curb and then flipped on its driver's side. Paramedics responded and pronounced the driver of the Honda deceased. No other persons were injured.

The investigation is continuing.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

BILINGUAL STORY TIME
Join us back in the library for story time in English and Spanish Wednesdays at 10:30am!

KIDS CLUB
Kids Club is back this Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 4:30pm! Come and have some fun!

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

SMARTPHONE WORKSHOP
Do you have a smartphone but don't quite understand how to use it? Join us to learn how to use all the great features of your phone and maintain peak performance. Our next session is Friday, Oct. 7, 4-5:30pm and we will cover setting up and customizing your smartphone. Call us to register: 832-927-5410.

BOOK CHALLENGE BOOK CLUB
We will meet Saturday, Oct. 8 at 11am to discuss our book challenge selections - FUNNY books!

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 basic topics (Spanish computer class), 5-7pm, at the library

Wednesdays: Beginner Computer Class (English), 1:30pm, at the library

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

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

FLU VACCINATIONS
Harris County Public Health will be at the Aldine Branch administering flu vaccinations Friday, Oct. 7 from 12-5pm.

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>

Starting Friday, Oct. 14 we will have walk-in service from 2-4pm on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary docu-

ments and required people present with them.

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

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.

E-NEWSLETTER
Sign up to get our newsletter delivered straight to your mailbox each month! <http://eepurl.com/h3wOXH>

MICHELLE PICHON LIBRARY PROGRAM SPECIALIST
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832-927-5410

HARRIS COUNTY \$1.2B BOND

County schedules hearings on November Bond vote

2022 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Dates and locations are subject to change.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 2
Oct 3
6pm - Shirley Acres
217 Woerner Rd, Houston, TX 77090
Precinct 3

Oct 4
6pm - Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Houston, TX 77338
Precinct 3

Oct 5
6pm - Dream Palace Banquet Hall
11225 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77099
Precinct 4

Oct 6
6pm - Fountain Life Center
14083 S Main St, Houston, TX 77035
Precinct 1

WEEK OF OCTOBER 9
Oct 10
6pm - Bellaire Civic Center
7008 S Rice Ave, Bellaire, TX 77401
Precinct 1

Oct 11
6pm - Alegria Gardens at Clay
18311 Clay Rd, Houston, TX 77084
Precinct 4

Oct 13
12pm - Virtual Meeting

Oct 15
10am - Felix L. Baldree Community Center
13828 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015
Precinct 2

WEEK OF OCTOBER 16
Oct 17
6pm - BakerRipley Pasadena Campus
720 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, TX 77504
Precinct 2

Oct 18
12pm - Virtual Meeting
6pm - Virtual Meeting

Oct 19
12pm - Virtual Meeting
6pm - Virtual Meeting

Oct 20
12pm - Virtual Meeting
6pm - Virtual Meeting

top ten

Collector Car Sales*

1. Porsche 911

2. Chevy Corvette

3. Ford Mustang

4. Mercedes-Benz SL

5. Chevy Camaro

6. Ford Shelby Mustang

7. Ford GT

8. Chevy Chevelle

9. BMW 3 Series

10. Chevy C/K

*2020
dollar volume
Source: Classic.com

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top ten

AMERICAN AUTO RACES*

1. 12 Hours of Sebring

2. Indianapolis 500

3. Daytona 500

4. Long Beach Grand Prix

5. Rolex 24 at Daytona

6. Petit Le Mans (Atlanta)

7. Knoxville (Iowa) Nationals

8. NASCAR at The Glen

9. Southern 500

10. IMSA Laguna Seca

*fan voting, 2019
Source: 10Best.com

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH MONARCH BUTTERFLY:
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with our selfie station. Stop by and take your picture with our monarch butterfly!

COMPUTER CLASSES:
We offer a variety of computer classes in English & Spanish. Stop by today and register for a class that best fits your needs.

ESL CLASSES:
The library offers free ESL Classes to adults. In September, we will begin Introductory, Conversational, and Online Level 2 ESL Classes. If you are interested in joining a class, please contact us today to register.

THE ART THING FOR TEENS:
Every Wednesday at 3pm, we channel our creativity through different art projects. This program is for teens/young adults looking to make quick and incredible pieces of art!

OTAKU OUTPOST:
Otaku Outpost has moved to Tuesdays at 3pm. Celebrate all things manga and anime with our weekly club!

QUEST:
An exciting fantasy adventure roleplaying game for all ages. Our next meetup will be Wednesday, October 5th at 4:30pm.

LUNCH & LEARN:
Adults are welcome to our new financial education course, Lunch & Learn. Have lunch with us and learn from professionals about all things finances including budgeting, saving, and homebuying. This course begins in October. Registration is required.

ADULTING 101:
Every Thursday at 3pm, we will offer an Adulting class for teens. Join us to learn about important life skills.

HOOKED AND NEEDED KNOT AND CROCHET CLUB:
Join us every Saturday at 12pm for our knit and crochet club. We will learn new projects together or you can bring your own project to work on. Some supplies provided.

KRAFTY KIDS:
Get creative with us during Krafty Kids Afternoon Craft. We will use our imaginations and create new works of art each month. Our next class is Wednesday October 12th at 4:30pm.

PJ PALS:
Pajama storytime is back. We welcome children to our evening story time on Monday, October 10th. Join us for stories, songs, and more!

PINT-SIZED SCIENTIST:
Explore the world of science in this new program. Every Tuesday at 4:30pm.

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.

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
4500 ALDINE MAIL RT I
HOUSTON, TX 77039
832.927.5540
"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE. TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH." - HELEN KELLER

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Families: Parents, Legal Guardians Need to Complete Annual Update; Deadline October 21

Families can access the Annual Update, if not yet completed, online.

All Aldine ISD parents/legal guardians must complete the Annual Update to ensure student, family, and emergency contact information is accurate and up to date.

Who Needs to Complete the Annual Update

Families with Returning Students to Aldine ISD: Families with a student actively enrolled at any Aldine ISD school on the last day of the 2021-2022 school year.

Your child is considered a current student even if you have moved within the Aldine ISD boundaries and attending a new campus in 2022-2023.

Additionally, your child is regarded as a current student if they attend a new school due to grade promotion (i.e., promoted from elementary to middle school).

One Vital Reason to Complete the Annual Update

Communication Between Families and Schools: The Annual Update ensures parents and legal guardians verify or update important information — home addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, a student’s health/food allergies, and emergency contacts — to stay connected to their child’s school.

2 Other Critical Reasons

*Impacts School Funding — The state uses the annual update data to determine how Title Funds are allocated to school districts, including Aldine ISD. Title Funding includes free school meals, assistance in the event of a disaster, and much more.

*Free Student Meals — Aldine ISD participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows eligible schools to provide meal services to all students at no charge, regardless of economic status. The CEP uses direct certification data and does not rely on annual household

applications used in the past to determine free and reduced-priced lunches availability.

All the information provided by families remains confidential. Whether or not your child plans to eat school lunches, it is crucial to fill out the family income information to ensure our schools receive maximum funding. Completion of the Annual Update helps ensure that all students receive nutritious meals.

We Need Your Help

We ask families to complete the Annual Update. The district’s completion rate of the Annual Update for the 2022-2023 school year is 33.49%. This is well below where we would like to be to ensure an accurate snapshot of the needs of families and students in Aldine ISD.

How You Can Complete the Annual Update

Parent’s/legal guardians of returning students can log in to the Home Access Center (HAC) system by visiting AldineISD.org/HAC. They need their HAC account username and password to access the Annual Update online form. If they do not have a HAC account, they can click on the “Here to Register for HAC” link at the bottom of the HAC system site.

HAC is a Tool to Stay Engaged in Students’ Education

As a reminder, through a parent’s/legal guardian’s HAC account, they use the tool to track information related to their student’s schedules, grades, attendance, academic history, and more.

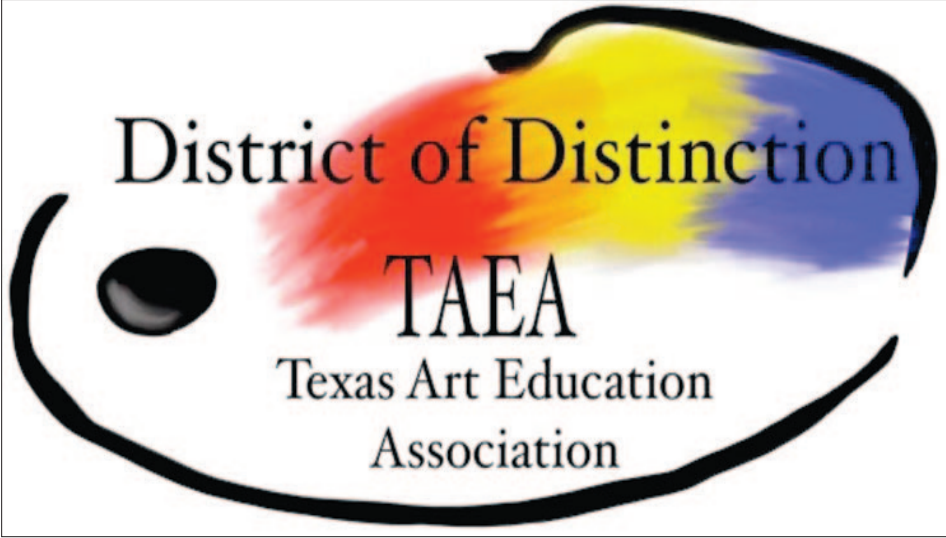
Learn More About HAC

Families can learn more by visiting the HAC webpage.

Need Help With Creating a HAC Account or the Completing the Annual Update

Families can contact (call, email, visit) their child’s assigned school.

Aldine Named District of Distinction for Fourth Consecutive Year by the Texas Art Education Association



Only the top 5% of districts in the state, including Aldine ISD, earned the honor this year, making it the fourth consecutive year for the district.

The Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) announced the 59 winners of the 2022 District of Distinction Award. Among the list of honorees is Aldine ISD.

Aldine ISD was honored for providing a well-rounded education. The district advocates and integrates visual arts curriculum to inspire creativity and build social-emotional learning that connects learners to their community and beyond.

TAEA is the leading advocate for the visual arts in the state. This is the fourth year that TAEA honors school districts that meet its rigorous criteria, as evidenced by data.

“I am so proud that Aldine has once again been named a District of Distinction by TAEA. And for a fourth consecutive year! It is an honor to be among the top 5% in the state. This is the achievement of many, including Kaileigh Newman, our visual arts director, for her leadership and vision in overseeing our visual arts program and many talented teachers. They connect, inspire, and impact our students every day,” said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney.

Programming documented for judging for the TAEA award of distinction included, but was not limited to:

- VASE
- Junior VASE
- TEAM
- Field experiences
- Community service
- Community exhibitions

For the 2022 award, more than 1,200 school districts were eligible to apply. Each district submitted documentation they met from the 14-point rubric. This year’s honorees represent the state’s top 5% in art education.

Newman credited the district’s art teachers for guiding and bringing students’ talent out. She praised art teachers’ passion for their work with art students and for nurturing their talent and creativity.

Sandra Newton, Chair of the Administration & Supervision Division of TAEA, lauded the district.

“Aldine ISD has set a high standard for visual arts advocacy, integrated visual arts curriculum, and encourages creativity, community participation, and student growth,” said



“Verano” By Karyme de Leon, January 2022



District Annual Aldine Photography Festival, April 2022

Aldine ISD to Host Free EdTech Conference; TCCA ‘Tech Trek: What’s Your Journey’ Set for October 22

The Technology and Curriculum Conference of Aldine (TCCA) is open to any educator. Registration is open.

The Technology & Curriculum Conference of Aldine (TCCA) is one of the largest FREE EdTech conferences in the nation, with attendees coming in from the Houston area, the state, and across the country. The conference tackles digital integration through blended learning, differentiation practices, and promoting digital citizenship.

The 2021 TCCA was in person and attracted 1,500 attendees, including educators outside of the U.S, that attended 225 sessions.

This year is “Tech Trek: What’s Your Journey?”. The conference will offer 200 professional development sessions, 90 educational vendors, and nine featured speakers.

TCCA 2022

October 22, 2022, 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Davis High School, 12525 Ella Blvd.

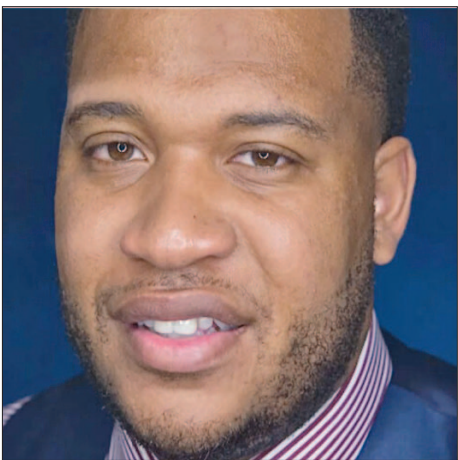
- Houston, TX 77067 Doors open at 6:50 a.m. Keynote starts promptly at 7:30 a.m.

200 Professional Development Sessions • Educational Vendors • 9 Featured Speakers • Airship Mobile Escape Room • Adobe Creative Experience With the Adobe Creative Team • Aldine Esports Gaming Stage

Lunch is free, and door prizes will be handed out at the end of the day.

Whether you are new to edtech, learning, or a veteran edtech educator, the conference has something for everyone. Attendees will hear expert guidance on how to incorporate technology in different learning models, see demos of new tech products, and practical strategies they can use in their classrooms and district.

2022 represents the 12th conference presented by the district’s Digital Learning Department in collaboration with Technology Services. Each year,



Keynote Speaker Dr. Tommie Mabry

organizers like Joshua Hicks, coordinator of Esports and events, devise a concept that is not only educational but entertaining, thereby reminding everyone, no matter where you are in your edtech journey, to have fun.

“When we think of journeys, we think of our favorite science fiction,” said Hicks. “This year, our theme surrounds our love for science fiction. Tech Trek events include a Star Wars versus Star Trek cosplay contest. Sessions will be about looking to our future and celebrating ‘going where no one has gone before in galaxies far, far away. Now, more than ever, we are facing educational challenges and must remember that we should enjoy the journey as much as arriving at the destination.”

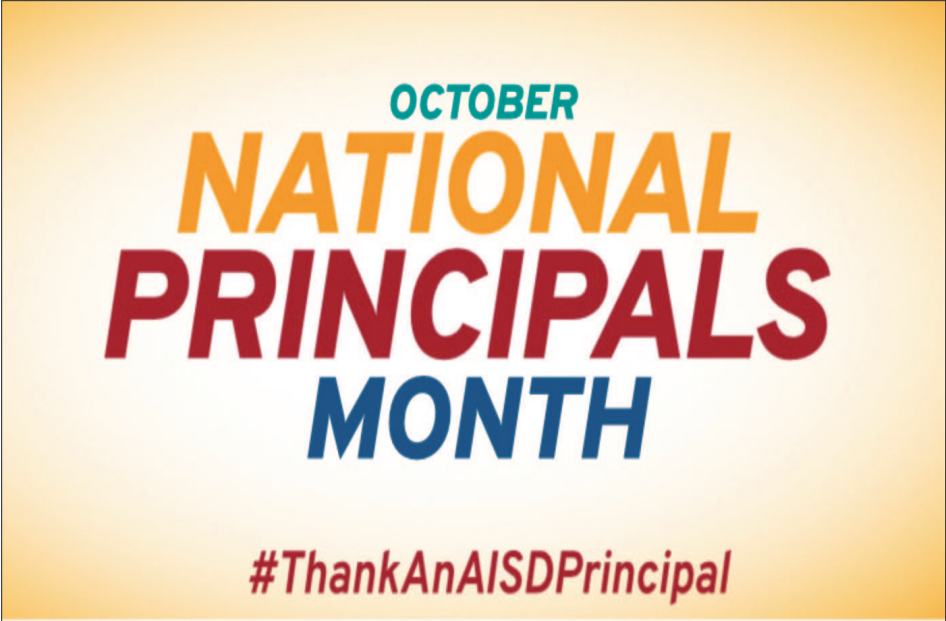
Keynote speaker Dr. Tommie Mabry, motivational speaker and author of the bestselling book *Persuasion: The Secret to Student Motivation and Success*, will kick off the conference by sharing his journey with attendees.

Following the keynote, attendees can enjoy the chance to break out of the Airship Mobile Escape Room, visit the Adobe Creative Experience with the Adobe Creative Team, and sign their three best friends up to compete on the Aldine Esports Gaming Stage.

Newton. “It is a true testament to your visual art educators’ skill, dedication, and flexibility that the quality of their programs continues to provide strong and comprehensive visual art educational experiences to students.”

Aldine ISD and the other 58 districts will be honored at the TAEA Fall Conference on November 10, 2022.

TAEA is the largest state professional organization for art educators in the United States. It is the mission of TAEA to promote quality visual arts education through leadership, advocacy, service, and professional development.



You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: www.nenewsroom.com

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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

By BILL KING



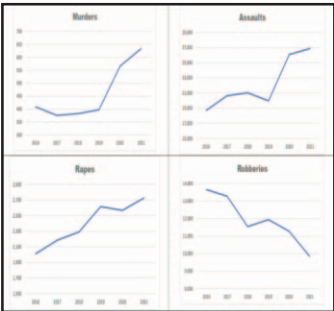
Violent Crime in Harris County

Last week, Houston Chronicle’s Jasper Scherer wrote a solid article on recent crime statistics in Harris County. It was a nuanced examination of the data, and he found a new Texas crime database I had not previously seen.

Building on Jasper’s article, I downloaded the data for 2016-2022. I picked this time frame so that there would be three base years of statistics when Republicans controlled Commissioners’ Court and most criminal courts and what has happened since Democrats took control of Commissioner’s Court and virtually all of the criminal courts.

The bottom line is that since 2018 there have been sharp increases in murders and assaults, a small increase in rapes and a decline in robberies. Here is what the charts for each of those look like:

Clearly, the most concerning increase has been in murders (59%) and assaults (34%) since 2018. To put that in some perspective, if murders had continued at their 2018 level, about 450 Harris County residents would still be with us today instead of being murdered. That is about six times the number of people killed in all mass murders in Texas during the same period.



Trying to assign causation to a complex phenomenon like crime is always difficult and fraught with confusing correlation with causation. For example, I have heard many pundits attribute the increase in crime nationally to the pandemic since the two occurred roughly at the same time. But I have never heard any cogent explanation on why a pandemic should set off a crime wave. It is also rarely accurate to attribute a change in a complex phenomenon to a single cause.

However, in this case it is fairly evident that the dysfunction at the Harris County courthouse has been a significant contributing cause to the increase in violent crime. One way that we know that is that Crime Stoppers has identified 183 murders that have been committed after 2018 by individuals who had been released on bail after being accused of a violent crime. A number of those had been released after multiple offenses.

Prior to 2019, felony bonds for violent crime were harder to come by. But the Democratic judges that swept into office in 2018 and 2020 took a much more lenient view of defendants being released on bond. It is unlikely that many of the 183 accused of murder while out on bond would have been released under the prior more restrictive bond practices. That does not leave much room to doubt that, at least, a third of the increases in murders can be directly attributed to the more lenient bond policies of the new judges.

The District Attorney has certainly laid the increase in crime at the feet of new felony bonding policies. In a September 2021 report, she said that the data shows a “dramatic increase in offenses committed by criminal defendants while free on bail . . .” She submitted several charts to show the increases. This one for number of offenses committed by a defendant while released on a felony bond shows a stunning 300% increase after the new judges began being elected in 2018.

The bond problem has been exacerbated by the unprecedented backlog of criminal cases now pending in Harris County courts, which have doubled since 2018. Kim Ogg recently estimated that with the current backlog it would take 3-4 years to get a murder case to trial.

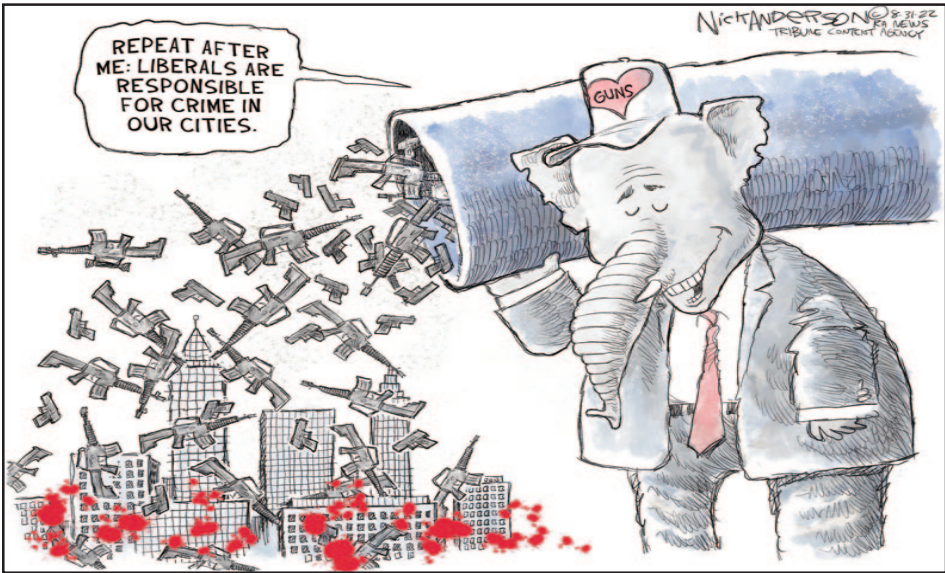
The courts have certainly been faced with unique challenges over the last few years, with the pandemic being the most notable. And the blame for this backlog can be laid at the feet of many of our elected officials, including the Texas Legislature for not authorizing more courts for Harris County. But there is little evidence of any concerted effort by the current Harris County bench or Harris County Commissioners’ Court to resolve this backlog.

County Judge Lina Hidalgo recently claimed that violent crime has slightly declined so far in 2022. While there is some indication in the year-to-date preliminary reports from law enforcement agencies that may be case, some of those reports, including the one from the Harris County Sheriff’s Office, are several months behind. That delay alone may account for the small decline cited by Judge Hidalgo. Records from the Harris County Medical Examiner show no decrease in the number of homicides it has investigated so far in 2022 compared to the same time last year.

Also, HPD year-to-date reports show another dramatic increase so far this year in some property crimes, especially theft from a motor vehicle (+15%), theft of vehicle parts (+42%) and theft of a motor vehicle (+10%). According to HPD’s report, there are nearly 100 car break-ins every day in Houston.

Even if there has been a small decrease in 2022, the current crime levels are still dramatically higher than when this County administration took over in 2019. Alarminglly, the Commissioners’ Court proposed budget for next year, which includes very minimal increases in law enforcement funding, indicates no sense of urgency in dealing with the problem.

Candidly, there is no evidence that our current crime problem has been solved, or even that we have made significant progress toward getting it under control.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Speaker Opposes Drive to End Tenure

House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, said Friday he opposes a push by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to end tenure for new professors at the state’s public universities and to revoke it for faculty who teach critical race theory, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Phelan, speaking at the Texas Tribune Festival, said the feedback he has gotten indicates ending tenure would make it more difficult for universities to recruit professors. That includes those with conservative viewpoints, who benefit from tenure’s protection against being fired for openly sharing their ideology.

Brian McCall, chancellor of the Texas State University system and a former Republican member of the Texas House, said eliminating tenure would “put the state at such a disadvantage,” the Statesman reported.

“Tenure exists for a reason, and that is to get thought out,” McCall said. “We’re not running Vacation Bible School. We’re teaching physics and various things that are science and not subject to certain opinions.”

Critical race theory is a college-level approach to studying racism in society. It is not taught in Texas public schools below the college level.

CARTELS DESIGNATED AS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Amidst a growing national fentanyl crisis, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order designating Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations.

“Fentanyl is a clandestine killer, and Texans are falling victim to the Mexican cartels that are producing it,” said Governor Abbott. “Cartels are terrorists, and it’s time we treated them that way.”

The Biden administration recently awarded nearly \$1.5 billion to support efforts to address the opioid crisis and support individual recovery efforts. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is receiving nearly \$53 million as a result.

Fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 45, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

DEADLINE NEARS TO REGISTER TO VOTE



Eligible Texans have until Oct. 11 to register to vote in the Nov. 8 general election. The secretary of state’s office is running a “VoteReady” campaign to educate Texans about the ID requirements for voting in Texas, as well as ID requirements for those eligible to vote by mail.

“I want to ensure that all Texans are informed, prepared and ready to make their voices heard,” said Secretary John Scott.

The race for governor highlights the ballot, but voters have plenty of other choices to make down the ballot. For more information, go to votetexas.gov. Early voting runs from Oct. 24 to Nov. 4.

TCEQ EXPANDS LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS

A new online portal will help schools and child-care facilities test their drinking water for lead, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The free statewide program “trains participants to collect samples, tests their drinking water for lead, and helps them take action to reduce lead in drinking water,” according to the agency’s news release.

TCEQ offers free sampling materials, training in collecting samples, laboratory testing and support for participants. Any Texas public school or state-regulated child-care facility is eligible. For more information, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/mpsr3ddf>.

Any level of lead in blood is considered unsafe and can be harmful to children’s health, according to the CDC.

FIRE CREWS SENT FROM TEXAS TO OREGON

With no active wildfires reported in the state as of Sunday, thanks to recent rainfall, a Texas A&M Forest

Service wildfire handcrew has been dispatched to the Cedar Creek Fire in Oregon. The 20-person crew is working in the Willamette National Forest on a fire that thus far has consumed more than 112,000 acres.

“Mobilizing the handcrew to out-of-state incidents provides an opportunity for qualified personnel and trainees to gain unique experiences,” said Crockett Pegoda of the TFS. “In Texas, we were fortunate to receive support from other states this year. It’s great that we can reciprocate that support.”

There are 94 large fires burning across the United States with more than 15,000 wildland firefighters and support personnel committed to these incidents, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Nearly three dozen TFS firefighters are responding to wildfires in California, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

LIFE EXPECTANCIES DIP DURING COVID-19

A new CDC report indicates Texas had one of the largest dips in life expectancy, the San Antonio Express-News reported. Unsurprisingly, with more than 1 million COVID-related deaths to date, every state in the U.S. saw a decline in life expectancy in 2020, when the pandemic began.

In Texas, life expectancy dropped from 78.6 years in 2019 to 76.5 years in 2020. The decline in Texas was larger among men at 2.4 years than women at 1.7 years. The state ranked eighth in decline in life expectancy.

The Express-News interviewed Dr. Fred Campbell, an associate professor of internal medicine at the Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio. He said it was a complex issue but that “accessibility and affordability of the state’s healthcare system is primarily to blame.”

“They died from the pandemic, and they died from self-abuse, and they died from a lot of other medical conditions that were not taken care of properly,” he said. “...When you have to make that decision about affording to go to the doctor and affording to feed your family, that’s what happens.”

COVID-19 cases still waning

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas during the past week dropped to 25,081 with 151 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,910 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations as of Sunday, down slightly 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.

★

TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie Farrar

At the Canton Flea Market

Me and the Mrs. took in the big flea market in Canton, Texas recently. We stay in Mabank, Texas and have all the good eating places down pat. Even on the way to Canton we stop off at the Collins Street Bakery. No fruit cake for me but they have a nice assortment of cookies, fudge, pies and gumbo on occasion.

No Buc-ee’s either. Love Buc-ee’s but I do my business at Woody’s Smoke House (no line). Mind you the flea market in Canton is over 400 acres these days and it do get hot riding that handicap scooter all over the place. I rode down a side road fast just to cool off and come up at a stop sign with four municipal employees in the shade and of course I stopped. Said I heard they put Biden in the hospital. One said WHO and I said your resident Biden thus following with my punch line. They got it there one just has to find it. Brought two potted plants back to 77521.

That don’t seem worth the trip but nice to get out of Dodge for a bit if you savvy. But it was worth it as I had lots of experience in telling the latest Biden joke. Goes like this: Approaching someone say I heard they got Biden in the hospital. Got lots of crazy looks and some saying they don’t care nothing about that right blunt like. Some do not ask why and those that ask...Respond with They say he couldn’t stop Putin.

Some don’t get it or don’t know who Putin is.

★

HOME COUNTRY

By Slim Randles

Time for the Branding Iron

When the Rafter E branded recently, a bunch of us went out to help. There’s a definite pecking order here, and it’s a badge of pride to have worked your way up the branding ladder.

As a kid, you flank the calves; you grab them, throw them and hold them down. This is conducive to abrasions, muscle strain, and involuntarily changing the color of your shirt.

As you get older, you get to handle the branding iron, then move up to giving shots. After that comes earmarking. When you reach the pinnacle of branding, that is, when you own the calves, then you get to rope the calves and drag them up to the fire.

It is a swirling cauldron of heat and hooves, excited cowedogs and bawling cows. There is the smell of manure and singed hair and sweat and corral dust.

At the Rafter E, I wielded a syringe as the youngsters got their teeth rattled by the heavy stuff.

Wasn’t the first time I’d given the shots, though. Once during a branding at the Triangle Cross, I was about to immunize a calf when the calf jumped and I stuck the needle into my thumb.

Hurt like the dickens, of course, but at least it was effective. I haven’t had black leg since.

Brought to you by Packing the Backyard Horse, by Slim Randles. Now available on Amazon.com.

TRIAL COURT STATISTICS			
	2016 19 Republican Judges 3 Democratic Judges	2018 13 Republican Judges 9 Democratic Judges	2021 10 Republican Judges 22 Democratic Judges
OFFENDERS CHARGED WITH NEW CASES WHILE ON BOND	7,452	9,825	22,610
VIOLENT OFFENDERS GIVEN PRR (FREE) BONDS	117	239	1,283
OFFENDERS ON 5+ BONDS	33	63	1,120
AVERAGE # OF FELONY CASES PENDING	21,723	25,938	50,777

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Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental)
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Second Gun BuyBack Program Oct. 8,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announces the Second Gun Buyback, in cooperation with the County and Federal Authorities. On the platform, Police Chief Troy Finner, Congresspersons Sylvia Garcia and Al Green, County Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

—People given priority vouchers on July 30 will be moved to front of the line

—No privately manufactured weapons or “ghost guns” accepted.

—No questions asked. Remain in vehicles

The gun buyback is one tool in the One Safe Houston initiative, a comprehensive holistic approach to reducing violent crime.

It has four components.

—Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention

—Crisis Intervention, Response and Recovery

—Youth Outreach Opportunities

—Key Community Partnerships

Today, violent crime is down overall in Houston, and the murder rate is down 4%.

“I know people question whether gun buybacks are worth it, and I say yes. The initiative was worth it if we took only one gun off the street that could have been stolen or used to injure or kill someone. Every gun we can get off the street today can help us create a safer tomorrow for everyone in our community,” said Mayor Turner.



Some of the Handguns collected at the first Buyback in July.

Dr. Goffney among Top 30 most Influential Women,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



ing through humble beginnings and overcoming challenges, these women have exceeded expectations, epitomizing women’s empowerment.

Candidates for the Top 30 Influential Women of Houston Awards are selected through either self-nomination or nominated by others. The women are from diverse backgrounds, share different beliefs, and have overcome obstacles. Still, all have a common goal — to excel and mentor the next generation of leaders.

About Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney:

Since 2018, Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney has served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Aldine Independent School District.

Under her leadership, Aldine ISD has developed new initiatives to offer parents and students more academic choices and opportunities to equip them for their future. Her commitment to equity and increasing student access to high-quality schools has shown

positive results. The district made significant gains in the 2022 STAAR exams. The number of campuses rated A or B nearly doubled from 2019, the last time the Texas Education Agency (TEA) rated schools.

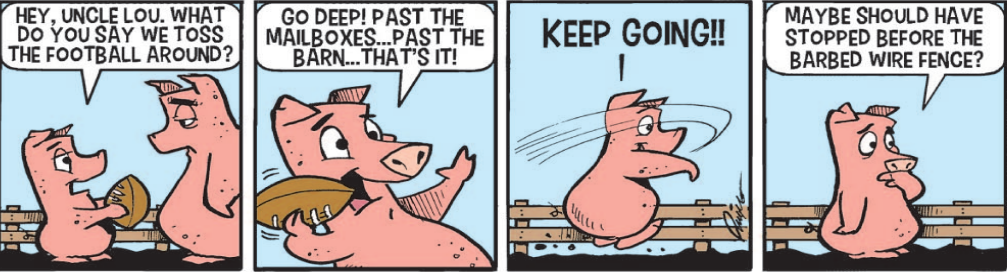
Throughout her career, Dr. Goffney has increased equity and student achievement, improved literacy, targeted teacher professional development, and collaboration across the community, including developing business and school partnerships, parent engagement, and increasing transparent and timely communication.

Dr. Goffney is active in many organizations, including the Texas School Alliance, the University Interscholastic League Legislative Committee, the Texas Association of Black School Educators, the Texas Council of Women School Executives, TASA Future-Ready Superintendents, and Chiefs for Change. The TASA Executive Committee elected Dr. Goffney to serve as an at-

large member on the Executive Committee as 2021-2022 vice president. In March 2022, Dr. Goffney was elected 2022-2023 President-Elect of TASA and will assume her duties on June 1, 2022. In addition, she advocates for her community as an Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc., the Mayor’s Advisory Council, and the Aldine Education Foundation. StandardsWork added Dr. Goffney as a board member citing the superintendent’s focus on improving literacy like few others that the nonprofit has seen. Dr. Goffney was recently named President-Elect of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) and is the newly-elected chair of the Texas Urban Council of Superintendents (TUCS). The selective bipartisan organization Chiefs of Change added five new members from across the nation, including Dr. Goffney, who brought the membership list to 41. The respected network of education leaders put children’s interests first.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Hair is different. 2. Plant is different. 3. Black eye is missing. 4. Stripes are missing. 5. Bush is different. 6. Number is different. 7. Fear of change. 8. Four: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 9. Egg whites and sugar. 10. California. 11. "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?"; 12. "Jaws"; 13. Doughboys; 14. Having a hoarse or raspy voice; 15. Four (Jackson, Mississippi; Lincoln, Nebraska; Madison, Wisconsin; and Jefferson City, Missouri); 16. Temporal lobe; 17. Fear of change; 18. Four: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; 19. Egg whites and sugar; 20. California.

October 3, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Black, in verse

5 Galoots

9 Stitch

12 Oompah band member

13 One

14 La-la lead-in

15 Post-WWII period

17 Texas tea

18 Hot and humid

19 "Haystacks" painter

21 Infinitive part

22 Follow

24 Merit badge holder

27 Chopper

28 Fury

31 Mom's mate

32 Morsel

33 "Gosh!"

34 Dieter's target

36 UFO fliers

37 Phone inventor

38 Small change

40 Rocky Balboa's greeting

41 Words to live by

43 Sounded content

47 Grazing land

48 Period before one's golden years

DOWN

1 LAX guesses

2 Cigar remnant

3 Slender

4 "Broadway Joe"

5 Charlie Brown's psychiatrist

6 Italian article

7 Showbiz job

8 Rose parts

9 Prehistoric period

10 Canal of song

11 Poet Whitman

16 "As I see it," in a text

20 Owned by us

22 Departs

23 Tennis barriers

24 Beach lotion letters

25 MSN alternative

26 Period that started with

Sputnik

27 Help a hood

29 Solidify

30 Slithery fish

35 Foundation

37 Northern

39 Wanderer

40 Actor Brynner

41 Family

42 Actress Russo

43 Shareable PC files

44 Exceptional

45 Swelled heads

46 Cozy rooms

49 Equal (Pref.)

50 Use a shovel

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Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Which TV cartoon show featured a Great Dane as part of the mystery-solving team?

2. MOVIES: Which 1970s movie's tagline is, "You'll never go in the water again"?

3. HISTORY: What was the nickname for American soldiers in WWI?

4. MEDICAL TERMS: What is dysphonia?

5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many state capitals are named after U.S. presidents?

6. ANATOMY: What part of the brain controls language and hearing?

7. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in metathesiophobia?

8. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries are in the United Kingdom?

9. FOOD & DRINK: What are the two main ingredients in a meringue?

10. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to General Sherman, a sequoia more than 2,000 years old?

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Abimelech in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From John 15:5, Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the ..." Water, Wind, Tree, Branches

3. According to Paul, what kind of giver does God love? Loving, Generous, Cheerful, Reluctant

4. What wicked queen wanted to kill the prophet Elijah? Athaliah, Herodias, Maachah, Jezebel




THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials.

— ESTHER 2: 17-18 —

Detail of "Queen Esther" by Edwin Long (1879)

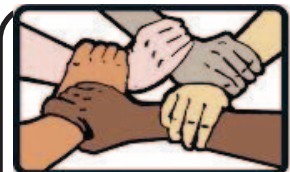
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5. From Exodus 13, who was Moses' personal servant? Joshua, Zilpah, Gehazi, Elisha

6. Which of these describes Amos the prophet? Priest, Herdsman, Carpenter, Fisherman

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Branches, 3) Cheerful, 4) Jezebel, 5) Joshua, 6) Herdsman Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com. (c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.



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SPORTS PAGE

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 6:

Texas, OU meet in annual Red River Rivalry: Nimitz faces Westfield in key District 14-6A contest

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teams.

In high school action, the Nimitz Cougars, who won three of their first four games, face a stern test when they face perennial power Westfield on Thursday evening at George Stadium. The Cougars have a high-powered offense and will face a Mustang team that has owned District 14-6A for quite awhile now.

In the NFL, the hapless Texans travel to Jacksonville to face a Jaguars team that won two of its first three games, including a 24-0 pasting of Indianapolis in Jacksonville and a 38-10 stomping of the Los Angeles Chargers in LA. The Cowboys travel to LaLa Land to face the defending Super Bowl champion Rams. Dallas should be riding a three-game winning streak (they hosted a pretty bad Washington team last Sunday) when they visit the Rams, which is impressive considering they've been winning with backup QB Cooper Rush and a dominating defense.

In other NFL action, the Colts visit Denver on Thursday Night Football to kickoff Week 5, while Cincinnati travels to Baltimore in a key AFC North battle and Las Vegas visits Kansas City on Monday Night Football to conclude Week 5.

Before we take a look at those games, let's review last week's record. A 6-6 week brought the season record to 27-21 (56%).

Now, onto this week's game.

HIGH SCHOOL

Aldine vs. Spring: Cirilo Ojeda's Mustangs take on the Spring Lions on Thursday night at Planet Ford Stadium. The Mustangs are going through some growing pains and face a struggling Spring team. Aldine WR Desmond Dixon grabbed a 72-yard touchdown pass in Aldine's loss to Davis High two weeks ago. Spring is led by running back Chyance Dixon. My pick, Spring 23, Aldine 20

Nimitz vs. Westfield: The Game of the Week in District 14-6A pits Cornelius Harmon's Cougars against the defending district champions, the Westfield Mustangs on Thursday evening in Spring ISD George Stadium. Two weeks ago, Nimitz defeated MacArthur 30-6 and is led by QB Brayden Whitehead (1,008 passing yards, 10 TDs) and running back Joseph Sanders (294 yards, 4 TDs). Westfield is led by QB Preston Hatter (1,008 passing yards, 18 TDs) and running back Taji Atkins (294 yards, 3 TDs). This one could turn into an offensive shootout. My pick, Westfield 33, Nimitz 31

Davis vs. DeKaney: Scott Joseph's Falcons opened district 14-6A play with a 57-7 win over Aldine High. The Falcons are led by quarterback Joshua Williams (11-13, 182 yards, 3 TDs in the Aldine game) and wide receiver Andre Washington (9 receptions, 123 yards, 3 TDs in Aldine game). DeKaney is led by QB rechuck Hines (215 passing yards, 1 TD). These two will meet on Friday evening at Planet Ford Stadium in Spring ISD. My pick, Davis 27, DeKaney 23

Eisenhower vs. MacArthur: Eric Jackson's Eagles face Wayne Crawford's Generals on Friday evening at George Stadium in Spring ISD. The Eagles and Generals both dropped their district openers two weeks ago. Ike is led by QB Zachches Henry, while the Generals are led by QB Jamari Jackson. My pick, Eisenhower 23, MacArthur 21

NCAA

Texas A&M at Alabama: The No. 17-ranked Aggies visit Tuscaloosa to



take on No. 2-ranked Alabama in a key SEC West contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Aggies overcame a 14-0 deficit against Arkansas and rallied for a 23-21 win, but suffered a huge loss when star wide receiver Aini Smith (15 receptions, 291 yards, 2 TDs) was lost for the season with a lower leg injury. The Aggies will need to rally around QB Max Johnson (314 yards, 2 TDs in last two starts) and running back Devon Achane (355 yards, 4 TDs). Johnson will look to freshman Evan Stewart (13 receptions, 141 yards, 1 TD) to pick up the slack in the passing game now that Smith is done for the season. The A&M defense has been solid so far this season, but they face their toughest test to date when they face reigning Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young (1,029 passing yards, 13 TDs). Young is seeking to become only the second college player to win back—to back Heisman's (Ohio State running back Archie Griffin is the only player to win the award twice). 'Bama has been rolling on offense since it's 20-19 win at Texas in Week 2. Saban has a two-headed running game in Jase McClellan (245 yards, 2 TDs) and Jahmry Gibbs (172 yards) and Young is starting to make plays downfield with wideout Traeshon Holdin (15 receptions, 214 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Crimson Tide to make up for last year's loss to the Aggies in a big, big way. My pick, Alabama 38, Texas A&M 16

Texas vs. Oklahoma: This is a big game for both teams. The winner remains alive in the Big 12 title hunt, while the loser can start making plans for the Valero or Texas Bowl. Texas could have starting QB Quinn Ewers (359 yards, 2 TDs) back for this game after he missed the last three UT games recovering from a shoulder injury he sustained in the Alabama game. Backup Hudson Card (620 yards, 3 TDs) has filled in nicely, but Ewers is a cut above and his return could give the UT offense the spark it needs. One thing is for sure, the 'Horns will give the Sooners a steady dose of running back Bijan Robinson (412 yards, 8 TDs). It would behoove whoever is under center to make plays down field to speedy wide receiver Xavier Worthy (14 receptions, 212 yards, 1 TD). OU will be led by left-handed signal caller Dillon Gabriel (1,089 yards, 11 TDs), running back Eri Gray (400 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Marvin Mims (18 receptions, 397 yards, 3 TDs). Sarkisian needs a signature win and earning a win over UT's bitter rival would soothe a lot of fears in Austin. I think his team gets it done on Saturday in the Cotton Bowl. My pick, Texas 34, Oklahoma 31

TCU at Kansas: The Kansas Jayhawks have been THE surprise team thus far in the 2022 college season. Second-year head coach Lance Leopold has KU fans pumped up and not talking basketball (the Jayhawks are the defending NCAA basketball champs and one of the most storied programs in the history of college hoops). The Kansas offense is averaging an impressive 48 points per game and is led by dual threat QB Jalen Daniels (890 passing yards, 11 TDs/320 rushing yards, 4 TDs), running back Devin Neal (258 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Lawrence Arnold (14 receptions, 194 yards, 1 TD). TCU won its first three games of the season and is led by QB Max Duggan (695 yards, 8 TDs) and running back Kendre Miller (250 yards, 3 TDs).

Look for the Jayhawk magic to continue again this Saturday at home against the Horned Frogs. My pick, Kansas 36, TCU 27

NFL

Indianapolis at Denver: Week 5 of the NFL season kicks off on Thursday night with the Colts paying a visit to the Mile High City to take on the Broncos. Indy may have saved its season two weeks ago with its 20-17 upset of KC at home. The Colts tied the Texans in Week 1 and were then blown out at Jacksonville. Denver is the worst 2-1 team in the league. They slipped by a bad Houston team at home 16-9 and then picked up an ugly 11-10 win over the 49ers. Celebrated QB Russell Wilson (743 yards, 2 TDs) has not played well after the Denver front office gave up a load of draft picks and three players to land the former Seattle superstar. Indy also brought in a new QB in former Atlanta starter Matt Ryan (769 yards, 3 TDs) and he has also struggled as a Colt. Both are too good of QBs not to turn things around at some point this season. The Broncos need to unleash second-year running back Javonte Williams (176 yards) to take some pressure off of Wilson. Even though he has struggled, Wilson appears to have developed a good relationship with wide receiver Courtland Sutton (19 receptions, 291 yards). Ryan will once again rely on star running back Jonathan Taylor (286 yards, 1 TD) and steady wideout Michael Pittman Jr. (17 receptions, 193 yards, 1 TD). Look for Wilson to get the offense going on Thursday Night Football. My pick, Denver 26, Indianapolis 23

Houston at Jacksonville: Last year, the Texans won both matchups against the Jaguars, but Jacksonville looks like a completely different team than the one that has been, along with the Texans, the doormat of the AFC South. Jacksonville lost a hard-found road game at Washington to open the season, then shutout the Colts (24-0) at home and followed that win up with a convincing 38-10 route of the Los Angeles Chargers two weeks ago. Second-year QB Trevor Lawrence (772 yards, 6 TDs) looks like he's figured this NFL thing out, while Houston's second-year QB Davis Mills (662 yards, 3 TDs) continues to struggle at the position, especially at key moments in the fourth quarter. Jax has surrounded Lawrence with weapons on offense in wide receiver Christian Kirk (18 receptions, 267 yards, 3 TDs) and running backs James Robinson (230 yards, 3 TDs) and speedy Travis Etienne. The Texans appear to have a star in the making in rookie running back Dameon Pierce (182 yards, 1 TD). But this team still has way too many question marks. The defense played well the first two weeks, but two weeks ago at Chicago that unit gave up almost 300 rushing yards to a Bears team that had a QB who threw for only 106 yards and threw two interceptions. Look for Lawrence to have a big day against the Houston defense as the Jags pick up another early-season win. My pick, Jacksonville 31, Houston 23

Dallas at Los Angeles Rams: It's 'Rush' time in Dallas! Dallas' backup quarterback Cooper Rush (514 yards, 2 TDs) has breathed new life into the Cowboys and may have saved their season. After losing to Tampa Bay, and losing starting QB Dak Prescott to a thumb injury,



The hapless Texans travel to Jacksonville to face a Jaguars team that won two of its first three games, including a 24-0 pasting of Indianapolis in Jacksonville and a 38-10 stomping of the Los Angeles Chargers in LA. Last year the Texans defeated the Jaguars twice, 30-16 and 37-21.

this one, but look for Stafford and Cupp to make plays down the stretch to lead the Rams to the win. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 26, Dallas 23

Cincinnati at Baltimore: A good one for Sunday Night Football pits the defending AFC champs against a Baltimore team that is looking for a return to the postseason after missing out last year. Baltimore QB Lamar Jackson (749 passing yards, 10 TDs/243 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is off to an amazing start. He is playing for a new contract and he keeps up this pace, he can expect a huge payday in the offseason. Jackson's favorite target is once again tight end Mark Andrews (22 receptions, 245 yards, 3 TDs). The Bengals lost their first two games before beating the Jets two weeks ago. QB Joe Burrow (812 yards, 6 TDs) got off to a slow start, but is starting to come around. He's beginning to find his favorite two WRs in Ja'Marr Chase (21 receptions, 212 yards, 2 TDs) and Tee Higgins (13 receptions, 191 yards, 1 TD). The Bengals beat the Ravens twice last year, (41-17 in Baltimore and 41-21 in Cinci), so look for the

Ravens to turn things around at home in 2022. My pick, Baltimore 33, Cincinnati 18

Las Vegas at Kansas City: Week 5 concludes on Monday Night Football as the disappointing Raiders take on the Chiefs in an AFC West contest. The Raiders had high hopes entering this season with the acquisition of top 3 wide receiver Davante Adams (17 receptions, 189 yards, 3 TDs), who was reunited with his college QB Derek Carr (850 yards, 6 TDs), but things have not worked out as they had hoped. Vegas dropped its first three games, while the Chiefs went 2-1. KC stumbled its way to a 20-17 loss two weeks ago at Indy, so look for Patrick Mahomes (857 yards, 8 TD), tight end Travis Kelce (17 receptions, 230 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster (14 receptions, 178 yards) to come out blazing against their arch rivals. Carr should have some success against a so-so KC defense, but look for Mahomes to light up a suspect Raiders defense in front of Joe and Troy on Monday night. My pick, Kansas City 34, Las Vegas 23

Vardemann Primary students observe opening of NFL Texans season

Vardemann Primary celebrated go Texan day on Friday, September 9 to kick off the home season for the Houston Texans football team!

The students dressed in their Texan NFL attire in football ,cheerleading and spirit shirts to honor the Texans! Students marched in a parade to celebrate go Texan day at Vardeman!

Coach Nigro was extremely proud of all pandas!

-- Linda Nigro

Physical Education Teacher

Vardeman EC/ PK/K



East Aldine enjoys Tejano Night and Car Show

Event held at Town Center Amphitheater Sept. 24



Many persons took advantage of the music to join in the dancing at the all-Tejano Night at East Aldine Town Center



A Beautiful Evening of music, dancing and neighbors on the Amphitheater lawn at the East Aldine Town Center

East Aldine District hosted an all-Tejano night at Town Center Amphitheater, Saturday Sept. 24 from 7pm to 11pm. Live Music was by David Olivarez and Grupo Delirio, Los MP DE Culiacan, and Los Prisioneros Del Norte. Everyone brought a blanket or a chair for the amphitheater grass seating.

At 5pm the Heavenly Cruisers Car Show also took place, with Food, Comida, and a Mechanical Bull.

This was a Free Event, for the whole family. Exposicion de Autos & DJ Dee Zamora. All at the Town Center, 2909 Amphitheater Drive off Aldine Mail Route.

Thanks to East Aldine District, who plan more of these family friendly events for the community.



Heavenly Cruisers Car Show and DJ Dee Zamora



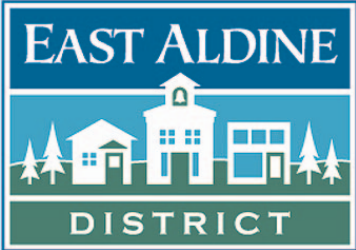
The Splash Pad is always popular on a warm evening



A large crowd on the lawn enjoyed the entertainment, including these Flamenco dancers



Live Music by David Olivarez, Grupo Delirio, Los MP De Culiacan, Los Prisioneros Del Norte



East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

Events & engagement specialist brings zeal and zest to new job

Alma DeAlejandro, the new community events and engagement specialist for the East Aldine Management District, already thinks she has “the coolest job ever.”

Less than six weeks into the position, DeAlejandro jumped into organizing a major event for the families of East Aldine. Father Family Fun Day was held June 25 at the East Aldine Town Center amphitheater, with fishing afterward in Keith-Wiess Park.

The District board approved the creation of DeAlejandro’s job in response to the community’s intended, greater use of the Town Centers indoor and outdoor facilities.

With her extensive background in community action and service, including previous jobs at Lone Star College and BakerRipley, DeAlejandro is well prepared for her new position. (The social services agency and the college have branches at the Town Center).

But, she says, there is a secret ingredient in East Aldine. “It’s magic,” DeAlejandro said. “There is just something here that brings about a strong connection in this community.” “They get things done. Whatever needs to happen, it happens,” she said. “Or they make it happen.”



ALMA DEALEJANDRO

With a warm and infectious smile, DeAlejandro radiates enthusiasm for her new co-workers and the community of East Aldine. “Every time I meet someone in the community, they always know another person who knows a person who can provide a service. And there’s this willingness to help.”

She says the networking is also true of the public service and educational organizations in the community — even though there can be friction among them in other parts of the Houston area as they compete for public or private funds. That cooperation in East Aldine is among the reasons she recently came back after a brief return to her hometown of Corpus Christi.

Her career in community service also has taught her to get people engaged, and invested in, a new project or idea. “With the team at East Aldine, I have never seen such collaboration efforts in my life. It’s great being able to work with other people who have so much passion,” she said. “They realize that we are here for the same reason: to help the community.”

While at BakerRipley, DeAlejandro frequently used a conference room in the East Aldine District’s former offices. She was a key participant in laying the groundwork for the new building.

She recently pitched in at the District’s second annual Mural Fest helping district staff distribute materials outside the High Meadows Branch Library, greeting community members and taking a welcome break from the heat inside the library.

From forming ESL classes and visiting and holding events for senior residents at Pilgrim Place apartments to mentoring youth through programs, and organizing diverse summits and conferences, her zeal is evident.

DeAlejandro earned a master of science degree in human services with a concentration in organizational development and leadership in 2016, and a bachelor of science degree—human services in 2012, from Springfield College, Greater Houston. In addition to her previous employment at BakerRipley and Lone Star College, DeAlejandro worked for the city of Houston, Lutheran Social Services, and the state of Texas.

When she’s not hard at work, Alma relaxes by stitching her latest quilt and devoting time to her family and friends.

— By Anne Marie Kilday