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NEWS NOTES

DEC. 9, FRI.Lighting of the East Aldine Tree

Everyone is invited to the First Annual Lighting of the East Aldine Christmas Tree, from 6pm to 9pm in Town Center on Aldine Mail Route.

Events include tree lighting, ride in a horse drawn carriage, play in real snow, hot cocoa, decorate cookies, and nativity photos. Free, everyone welcome. Come and meet FROSTY.

NOV, 29, TUE. Small Business Seminar at East Aldine Office

Luncheon Series of Business Seminars, sponsored by the East

Aldine District. Wednesday, Nov. 29 from 11:30am to 1:00pm, at 2909 East

Aldine Amphitheatre Drive.
This seminar is about Financial Management, financial practices, rules, and tools commonly available to small business management. Start-ups, Working Capital, fixed assets and MORE.

TCEQ holds hearing on Concrete batch plants in East Aldine

EAST ALDINE – Representatives of the state TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) held a hearing last Monday night, Nov. 14 to hear comments from citizens about the permitting process for concrete batch plants located in the community.

TCEQ is holding three meetings, in Austin, Houston, and Arlington prior to modifying the requirements for issuing permits for these concrete plants.

The agency is conduct the hearings as it reconsiders its functions as part of a state-mandated "sunset review" and because of feedback from the public about batch plant permitting, they said.

East Aldine residents and officials have ex-



The representatives from the TCEQ prepare to listen to remarks from Bo Fraga of BakerRipley (standing at right), as Kenneth Sugg (at center) completes his comments and returns to his seat. An audience of about 40 persons attended the hearing, and about 10 spoke on their experiences and opinions on the permitting process for Concrete Batch plants in their neighborhoods. Comments during the two hour hearing focused on the harmful effect these plants have in residential neighborhoods, and the lack of regulation by the state. (Photo by Alan Bernstein for the Northeast News).

pressed concerns that the approved plants will emit pollution and dust and cause other ill effects.

Present at last week's meeting were six members of the Green Forest Civic Club, representatives of BakerRipley and East Aldine District, and staff of several government officials.

Although the TCEQ staff said that comments made at the meeting would not be officially recorded, they listened for almost two hours to considerations and complaints from the audience members present.

New information about

Continued. See TCEQ Hearing on Concrete Plants, Page 8

Aldine ISD opens Boys-only Impact Leadership Academy with Prairie View Univ.

ALDINE – Officials from Aldine ISD, Prairie View A&M University, elected officials and community members gathered to celebrate the opening of the district's first all-boys school, Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson at the ribbon cutting ceremony at the school on Thursday, Nov. 17.

Impact Leadership Academy is a partnership between Aldine ISD and Prairie View A&M University.

The district's first allboys school opened on Aug. 17 at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year as Impact students received a red carpet welcome from Aldine ISD administrators, Prairie View A&M administrators and members of the community

Impact students have already made two trips to Prairie View A&M. A group of students attended a football game in the fall, while another group took part in



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney was joined by Impact Leadership Academy student Camari Carithers, members of the Aldine Board of Trustees, representatives from Prairie View A&M University, Armando Walle and other elected officials and Impact Leadership Academy Principal Jonathan Kegler at a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the district's first all-boys school.

the school's Elementary Day to visit the campus.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney praised Impact Principal Jonathan Kegler to taking his leadership and thanked Prairie View officials for their commitment

they have made to making Impact Leadership Academy become a reality.

"That special red carpet welcome, as well as the PVAMU football game experience was coordinated by the school's principal, Jonathan Kegler, a leader who has been tasked with providing our young men with a culture, a curriculum and experience like no other," Dr. Goffney said. "Now,

Continued. See Impact Leadership Academy, Page 2

Abbott to investigate Harris County voting

Governor Abbott Calls For Investigation Of Harris County Elections

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today called for an investigation into the widespread problems with Harris County's elections last Tuesday. Voters in Harris County were frustrated by confusion and delays including missing keys, insufficient paper ballots in Republican precincts, staffing problems, and more.

"I'm calling on the Secretary of State, the Attorney General's Office, and the Texas Rangers to initiate investigations into allegations of improprieties in the way that the 2022 elections were conducted in Harris County," said Governor Abbott. "The allegations of election improprieties in our state's largest county may result from anything ranging



from malfeasance to blatant criminal conduct. Voters in Harris County deserve to know what happened. Integrity in the election process is essential. To achieve that standard, a thorough investigation is warranted."

HARRIS COUNTY GOP ALSO FILES LAWSUIT

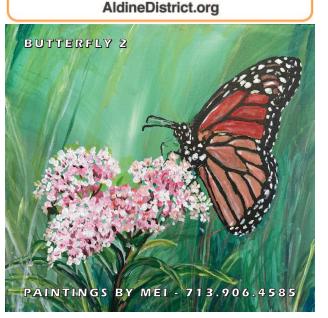
Shortly after the Governor's order, the Harris County GOP party announced a lawsuit against Harris County and Elections Administrator Clif-

Continued. See Voting Investigation, Page 2

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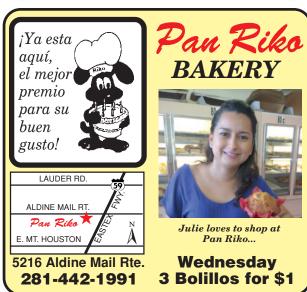




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Voting Investigation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ford Tatum, alleging that thousands of voters were turned away from voting for various issues.

In response, the County Democratic party called it another example of "political theater."





New Impact Leadership Academy opens,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney was joined by Impact Leadership Academy student Camari Carithers, members of the Aldine Board of Trustees, representatives from Prairie View A&M University, elected officials and Impact Leadership Academy Principal Jonathan Kegler at a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the district's first allboys school. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, Nov. 17.

he isn't doing it alone. Along with his team at Impact and those in the district, we are fortunate to have partners to come to his aid. Partners like Prairie View A&M. We are so grateful for our partners and friends at Prairie View A&M, not just for the great football experience, but for being there since the beginning, since the school was just an idea and a follow-up conversation. Thank you for being an important part of our village."

Dr. Goffney added it was Prairie View A&M President Dr. Ruth J. Simmons who encouraged her and Aldine to open an all-boys school as quickly as possi-

"It was Prairie View A&M's President Dr. Ruth J. Simmons who told me not to wait, to begin teaching leadership and instilling those qualities in our students as soon as possible," she said. "This is the reason why our students here at Impact Leadership Academy are cultivating learning experiences rooted in cultural identity, community and leadership as young as first grade. Creating the pipeline of young leaders at Impact Leadership means they will take those qualities and teachings beyond this campus and into our other schools. Generations of young leaders will multiply across the district and will graduate onto the next chapter, their dreams and goals always within reach, guided by the leadership qualities that were instilled at such a young age and became a part of their identi-

Dr. Goffney added the opening of Impact Leadership Academy is fulfilling a promise of providing choices for parents and students in Aldine ISD.

"The opening of Impact Leadership Academy is more than a red carpet or a ribbon-cutting," she said. "It is the culmination of many hours of collaboration and planning between our leaders, our staff and our community partners. And it represents our connection to this community and the promise that we have made to its members, which is to provide choices and opportunities so that when our children cross that stage as an Aldine graduate and go on to have successful careers and futures."

Aldine ISD Board President Randy Bates sees Impact Leadership Academy as being a game changer for many male students for years to come.

"This right here is going to be a game changer for some of our kids," Mr. Bates said. "These kids are building a brotherhood. I and my fellow board members are so proud to be a part of this and we are proud to have Prairie View as our partners."

Dr. Michael McFrazier, Dean of the Whitlow R. Green College of Education at Prairie View A&M, spoke on behalf of the college at the ribbon-cutting ceremo-

He said Prairie View is excited about this new endeavor and will continue to support Aldine ISD, as it has for many, many years.

"Prairie View A&M has enjoyed a positive and productive working relationship with Aldine for decades and the University is committed to continuously working to identify new and important ways to strengthen our partnership," Dr. McFrazier said. "Today's ribbon cutting ceremony highlights - and is an ocular demonstration of - our strong and effective strategic partnership in the fulfillment of our individual and collective missions. Indeed, this is a great day!"

Dr. McFrazier added Aldine's plan to open an allboys school should benefit the district's male students for years to come.

"The Impact Leadership Academy certainly demonstrates Aldine's unwavering commitment to provide a school experience that promotes the success of and empowers diverse male students," he said. "Please know that this unwavering commitment and the Impact Leadership Academy's mission of cultivating learning experiences that are rooted in identity, leadership, community and activism are relevant to the overall mission of PVAMU and in line with the University's strategic goal of investing in programs and services that address issues and challenges affecting the diverse population in Texas and the larger society including the global arena. I commend Superintendent Goffney, AISD leadership and Principal Kegler for the outstanding work you have done to open the Academy amid the Global Pandemic - i.e., that Spring Break that never ended. Be assured that PVAMU is a key partner and our actions and responsiveness have and will continue to demonstrate our commitment to supporting the Impact Leadership Academy and

scholars attending." Chief Transformation Officer Dr. Adrian Bustillos shared with the audience the process and steps Aldine ISD took to open Impact Leadership Academy.

the success of the young

Continued Overleaf, on Page 3

COMMUNITY WATCH

Fatal Pedestrian Death at 2300 Little York Road

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 2300 Little York Road about 4:45 p.m. on Monday (Nov. 7).

The identity of the deceased male, 32, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant S. Jewell and Officer N. Duval reported:

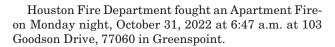
The male, a pedestrian, was crossing the street - not in a crosswalk - at the above address when he was struck by a red GMC Sierra 1500 pickup truck traveling in the eastbound lanes. Paramedics transported the pedestrian to Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Witnesses stated that when a vehicle in front of the GMC abruptly stopped, the GMC's driver went around it on the right side and struck the pedestrian.

The female driver, 31, showed no signs of impairment and was questioned and released.

The investigation is continuing.

Apartment Fire in the Greater Greenspoint Area



There were no reported injuries. The building sustained \$200,000 in estimated damage.

The cause if under investigation.

Firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find fire coming from the roof of a 2-story apartment. They made an offensive attack and conducted a primary search. The fire was extinguished with the damage to the attic area only. Eight units had water damage. CenterPoint was notified to secure the electricity and HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin of the fire.

The apartment management assisted several residents, and the American Red Cross was notified. Crews from Stations 31, 64, 58, 67, 74, 84, 30 and Rehab 17 responded to this incident.

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:

The library will be closing at 5pm on Wednesday, November 23rd and will remain closed for the weekend in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will reopen Monday, November 28th at 11am.

A Novel Idea Book Club:

Adults are invited to our monthly book club. We will be meeting on Monday, November 30th at 6pm and discussing the book "As the Wicked Watch" by Tamron Hall.

FAMILY TIME:

Every Saturday at 1pm is Family Time at High Meadows. Join us for a new building craft. All supplies provided.

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.

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!

ADULTING 101:

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

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 <u>jennifer.nandlal@hcpl.net</u>.

GRADCAFÉ:

Every Tuesday we will have representatives from GRADcafé at the High Meadows Library. GRADcafé is a one-stopshop 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**

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

GROWING READERS

Bring your little ones for some engaging story time, songs, and fun activities Mondays at 11am.

BILINGUAL STORY TIME

Join us in the library for story time in English Spanish Wednesdays at 10:30am!

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 vou want participate, call us to register: 832-927-**5410.**

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

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

We have **new passport** hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm -4pm. We also have walkin service from 2-4pm on Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents and required people present with them.

ADULT YOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to be a part of making an impact on people's lives? Are you looking for a meaningful way to spend your time? We are looking for adult volunteers to help with tasks and programs at the library as well as volunteers to teach English language classes and citizenship classes in person and virtually. Pick up an application at the Aldine Branch Library

or **call 832-927-5410.** We

will have an orientation on Jan. 28 at 10:30am. Call 832-927-5410 or email for info: ald@hcpl.net.

E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up to get our newsletter delivered straight to your mailbox each month in English or Spanish! http:/ <u>/eepurl.com/</u> h3wOXH.

We will close at 5pm Wednesday, Nov. 23 and be closed Nov. 24 - 26. We will re-open Monday, Nov. 28 at 11am.

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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message From the Superintendent, November 24, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

The holidays are almost here! The weather has turned cold, and everyone is thinking about Thanksgiving. If you stopped by our turkey giveaway, I know you already have your bird for dinner. Before we take some much-needed time off to celebrate with our families next week, I have some good news to share.

CongratulationsTeachers are crucial for student success. Because we have incredible teachers in our schools, it is always gratifying when one of them receives recognition. Last week, Remelia Arpino was named the 2022 High School Science Teacher of the Year by the Science Teacher Association of Texas. She was honored at the organization's Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST) in Dallas. Remelia is an educator at our Choice School, Eisenhower High School, which offers the International Baccalaureate® Diploma Program. She is an 18-year veteran teacher at Eisenhower. Congratulations, Remelia, on your welldeserved award.

Choice SchoolsWhile I am on the topic of Choice Schools, I hope you have had a chance to attend our Showcase Events. Since the start of the month, each Choice School has hosted a showcase to give families another venue to learn more about their programs. Our students have so many opportunities, such as the Norman Borlaug Youth in Agriculture Program at Texas A&M University. High School students from several campuses were selected to participate as promising youth leaders. They will learn how to confront complex global food and fiber production challenges and pursue new frontiers in agriculture. We also have programs that develop students' global mindsets and a



culture that promotes open-mindedness and diversity. A great example is Kujawa Elementary, where students recently held their inaugural Ruby Bridges Walk. Visit our Choice Schools web page to see all the different options we offer our students. There are showcases planned for this week and the week after Thanksgiving. Click here for dates and times.

Save the DatesLiteracy is the cornerstone of development. Being able to read opens worlds for a child. The district implemented our new literacy framework in the fall of 2020, making gains. and in many instances, we have closed gaps. We've been sharing our journey and our experiences with others. We will be hosting the third annual #Literacy-Matters Virtual Conference on February 11, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Be on the lookout for more details on how you can join us! If you want to understand the science of learning and see what is possible, I strongly urge you to attend.

I am also excited about the upcoming 100 Black Men of Metropolitan Houston

"A Framework For Schooling: The State Of The Black Manchild In Education" Conference. Please join my colleagues and me for the Superintendents' Roundtable on November 19. Click here to register.

StaffSchools across the district, such as Sammons Elementary and Hill Elementary, celebrated veterans working at their schools last week. Thank you for your bravery and sacrifice and for continuing your life of service by working with our students. If you missed it, please click here and take a moment to view our Veterans Day slide show of the men and women working in

This week, please take the opportunity to thank our education support professionals (Nov. 17) and oursubstitute educators (Nov. 18). It takes a village of committed individuals to ensure learning happens every day for our students. Thank you for all you do!

Generation Texas WeekBefore I close, we are celebrating Generation Texas Week (Nov. 14-18). I encourage everyone to take part in motivating students to pursue higher education and training after graduating high school. Click here to see the daily fun themes.

GratitudeLast week, I mentioned that November is Gratitude Month. I shared some things I am grateful for. I also asked you to share with me what you are thankful for. I enjoyed reading all of them, including Nolita Bechara, an instructional specialist at Orange Grove Elementary, who wrote, "Gratefulness is a sign of happiness! I am grateful for the gift of life, my family, friends, and colleagues, good health, my work, and every experience and opportunity. They make our journey in this life merrier!" Kristin Smith, a retiree still supporting our students at Johnson Elementary. Kristin said she is grateful to her "family and my job!" She wrote, "As a tutor, I have the pleasure of seeing so much growth and confidence in my students. I have a third-grader who

couldn't read. Last week, I went to pick him up for tutorials. He ran up to me excitedly, saying, 'I'm getting to learn to read.' When I retired, I was going to work in business, but no way it could ever be as rewarding as this!!!" Triple exclamation marks! I couldn't agree more. It is why we are in education. Thank you all for sharing.

Have a great last week before the holiday!

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. GoffneySuperinten-

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11, 2023: #LiteracyMatters

Ongoing: Read to the Final® Competition has elementary students reading in a March Madness tournament. Click here to read more.

Ongoing: Family and Community University's 2022-2023 year has started. Click here to register.

Ongoing: iEducate is hiring college students, especially Aldine ISD grads, as tutors to work with Aldine ISD students. iEducate accepts applications on a rolling basis, and interested students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT The podcast featuring head soccer coach Salvador Fernandez at MacArthur HS earned 1,201 views, 4 retweets, and 25 likes on Twitter

REMINDERS

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.

Stay connected by visiting 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.

Aldine ISD Board of Trustees Hold Monthly Meeting

During the Nov. 15 Board of Trustees meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced several staff assign-

an Assistant Principal at Nimitz Ninth Grade School after serving as a Science Teacher at MacArthur High D'Shanna Moss was

Aaron Guerra was named

named Program Director of Secondary Guidance, Counseling, and Student Support after serving as the Lead Counselor at Eisenhower High School.

Dr. Neelam Singh was named an Assistant Principal at Teague Middle School after serving as the Instructional Specialist at that same

Xochila Minajares was named Elementary Program Director of Multilingual Compliance after serving as the District's Multilingual Coach.

Hope Garza was named Primary/Middle School Program Director of Multilingual Compliance after serving as an Assistant Principal at Davis Ninth Grade School.

Tony Silva was named Payroll Manager after serving as Payroll Supervisor.

Teaching, Learning, and Leading Department Highlights, Principal, Teacher

During the Nov. 15 Board meeting, Chief of Schools Dr. Katy Roede recognized Carver High School Principal Dr. Tracie Robinson and Eisenhower High School Science. Teacher Remelia Arpino.

Dr. Robinson was recognized for being named the Texas Art Education Association's Principal of the Year. Dr. Roede said Dr. Robinson's commitment to uncovering

every gift of every child is demonstrated in her leadership at Carver High School. She supports the arts through her visibility at contests, events, and in the classroom, and she also communicates directly with parents to applaud the success and efforts of her students. Dr. Robinson collaborated with district and campus leaders to elevate the arts program at Carver High School, ensuring every opportunity presented to Carver students would be captured, cultivated, and promoted.

Arpino was named the 2022 High School Science Teacher of the Year by the Science Teacher Association of Texas. She was recently honored at the organization's Conference for Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST) in Dallas. Arpino is an 18-year veteran teacher at Eisenhower. She also serves as the team lead for life and fourthyear sciences. Arpino is currently in her fourth year as a Fellow with the Texas Leadership Initiative for Inquiry Science Teaching Noyce Fellow through Rice University. She was named the Senior Division Science and Engineering Fair of Houston Teacher of the Year for 2022. Arpino challenges her students and helps them grow academically and socially. She strongly believes in using nature as part of the classroom and initiated a School Pollinator and Garden program at Eisenhower High School.

Students, Police Officer Recognized

During the Nov. 15 Board meeting, several Aldine ISD students and a Police Officer were recognized for their

Several Aldine ISD stu-



dents were recognized for being a part of the Norman Borlaug Youth Agriculture Program through Texas A&M University. Students participating in the program are Amara Santiago and Thompsona Thompson of Blanson CTE High School, Coral Almazan of Avalos PTECH High School, Jameleth Palma of Aldine High School, and Jayla Palmer of Victory Early College High School.

Aldine ISD Police Chief Paul Cordova named Officer Kevin Bryson as his department's Employee of the Month. Officer Bryson is the Campus Officer at Teague Middle School.

Financial Audit Approved During the Nov. 15 Trustees meeting, Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne presented the district's Audit Report, prepared by external auditors Whitley Penn, for the 2021-22 school year. The Audit Report was unmodified or a clean opinion, according to Whitley Penn. Whitley Penn stated it was the highest level of assurance to be given on a financial statement. The Audit Report will now be forwarded to the Texas Education Agency.

Grants Announced During the Nov. 15 Board meeting, Stacey Smith, Director of Special Programs, announced several grants.

Aldine Ninth Grade Principal Dr. Kinesha Wiley and Instructional Literacy Specialist Clemencia Ramirez secured a \$1,142 Donors Choose grant to purchase books celebrating Hispanic culture.

Lane School Principal Dale Prioleau and Teacher Ramona Harris secured a \$9,998 grant from Texas A&M University to implement the TAMU Work-Based Learning Project at Lane School. The project creates authentic work experiences for high school students with disabilities in Texas. Through funding, training, and technical assistance, the project will help Lane School students with pre-employment skills and provide them with meaningful work experiences leading to paid employment.

MacArthur High School

Principal Shauna Showers, Cross Country Coach Patrick James, and Tennis Coaches Brandon Blake and Albert Davila secured a \$13,000 grant from the East Aldine Management District. During the summer, the MacArthur tennis program offered students an opportunity to learn the sport of tennis, engage in physical fitness and build self-confidence. The grant also funded MacArthur's summer fitness program, which focused on keeping students active during the sum-

Dr. Diaka Melendez, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services, secured a \$125,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund the "Helping Others Pursue Excellence" program. The program will provide innovative services that promote a positive selfimage, increase critical thinking, encourage personal and civic responsibility, and improve resiliency skills and college and career exploration through mentorships.

Grace Delgado, Executive Director of Multilingual Services, secured a \$154,000 grant from the Texas Education Agency to implement the Texas Reading Initiative program. The program aims to have all K-5 students reading on grade level.

The grants announced at the Nov. 15 Board meeting totaled \$303,140.

Trustees Approve Action

During the Nov. 15 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action

Approved the minutes from previous meetings Approved an interlocal

agreement with Sam Houston State University and Aldine ISD for training and technical assistance at Lane School for transition services for the 2022-23 school year

Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Houston Downtown (UHD) Educational Talent Search (ETS) high schools (i.e., Aldine Senior High School, Davis High School, Eisenhower High School, MacArthur High School, and Blanson CTE High School)

Approved a Service Agreement between the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Aldine ISD for implementing the All for Them vaccination pro-

Approved the YES Prep Eisenhower rate for the 2022-23 school year

Approved the Additional Day School Year school calendar changes for the 2022-23 school year

Approved the District and Campus Goals and Performance Objectives for the 2022-23 school year

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

Before starting the Nov. 15 Board meeting, the Eisenhower High School JROTC Color Guard presented the colors. Black Elementary students Nicolas Bonilla and Erick Cisneros led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

The December Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Impact Academy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"In launching our fiveyear strategic plan, "A New Way Forward," in 2019, it included our commitment to creating a plan that would position Aldine ISD as a school system that ultimately creates choices and opportunities," Dr. Bustillos said. "Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson was born out of our dedication to student achievement and the belief that every Aldine student deserves to learn in a school

where they feel welcomed and safe, and where they'll graduate with choices and opportunities. We began to dive deeper through our Black Student Outcomes initiative and over time, identified a significant gap in our focus on our black and brown male students. The program focuses on entrepreneurship and leadership. The male students will be instilled with self-awareness, a sense of purpose and

an expanded view of the

Kegler thanked the district and Prairie View for believing in him, his staff and Impact's students in undertaking this new endeavor in AISD.

"Today's ceremony is a reminder of our vision to inspire young men to become leaders, entrepreneurial thinkers and determined advocates," Kegler said. "This initiative would not be possible without our district and community partnerships. I would like to express my deep appreciation

and sincerest gratitude to Prairie View A&M University, Good Reasons Houston, Leader In Me and Venture Lab. These partnerships are an example of what a community can accomplish when we work together for the betterment of our children, the next generation. At Impact, students are able to learn in an inclusive environment where their interests are on the forefront and are given several opportunities and experiences to blossom. We are officially a part of history and every single person

here has made it happen." Kegler then introduced

Impact student Camari Carithers, who wowed the audience with his address.

"I've always dreamed of going to an all-boys school, but I never knew it was possible," Camari said. "My dream became a reality this summer when my Mom sent me the website link for Impact, the first all-boys school in Aldine. I saw entrepreneurship in the acronym L.E.A.D and I immediately told her I wanted to attend. This sparked my interest because I figured I could learn more about starting my own T-shirt business and creating digital content." Camari said he enjoys

what Impact has to offer him and his fellow classmates. "I have transitioned from

a traditional school where my classes had multiple teachers to an innovative campus where I am able to interact with my teachers for support, learn how to play chess, visit an HBCU (Historically Black College/ University) and have P.E. and recess every day. This is the best part!"

OPINION PAGE *



Thanksgiving: Having an Attitude of Gratitude

Thanksgiving is much more than a big meal with family and friends. It's a time to reflect on, and be thankful for, all of the good things you have. It's important to be grateful, not just on Thanksgiving, but each and every day. Rather than lamenting what you feel is lacking in your life, begin each new day by developing an attitude of gratitude. Take inventory of your blessings and you will be surprised at just how much you have to be thankful for.

If you have enough to eat, a place to live, a way to get around, people who care about you, or people you care about, then you are wealthy. If you lack any of these elements, you must still be grateful for what you do have, while striving to obtain whatever is absent.

Focus on all positive aspects of your life. Take nothing for granted. Every morning, recharge your appreciation. Be happy for everything there is, not upset over what you feel is missing.

Dreams of the future shouldn't diminish appreciation for the present. If all you do is concentrate on what you want, you won't enjoy today. Don't be jealous of others; what they do or have has no bearing on you.

You can feel bitter or resentful for a variety of reasons. Perhaps you feel something is missing from your life, things aren't going your way, or you have been treated unfairly. You may wonder, "why do these things always happen to me?"

Life's problems tend to dominate your thoughts, turning your focus to what you feel is wrong. You may start to resent those who appear to be better off. You're apt to dwell on things you think would make your life better if you had them. If only you had more money, more time, a bigger house, a different car, a different job, a different boss, had picked a different career, etc.

Once your attitude becomes one of deficiency instead of abundance and appreciation, you can become overwhelmed by feelings of frustration and feel like a victim. As this happens, a consuming vicious cycle starts.

Being bitter or resentful blows situations out of proportion. People who are bitter frequently find that their situations deteriorate and their mental and physical health decays.

It's difficult, if not impossible, to achieve your goals while you are bitter or resentful. Regardless of what challenges might befall you, bitterness makes finding solutions much more elusive.

There is no point to feeling bitter since it accomplishes nothing, harms you and makes things worse. Filling yourself with gratitude on a daily basis makes you feel good, while driving out negative feelings.

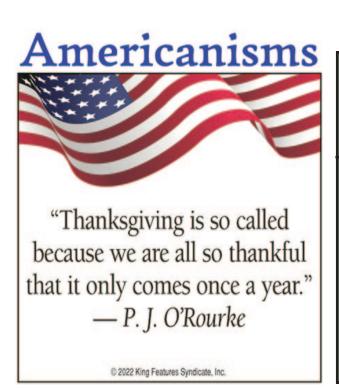
Begin your practice of gratitude each morning as soon as you wake. Every day is a great day. If you have any doubts, try missing one. Take inventory of everything, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, that is good in your life.

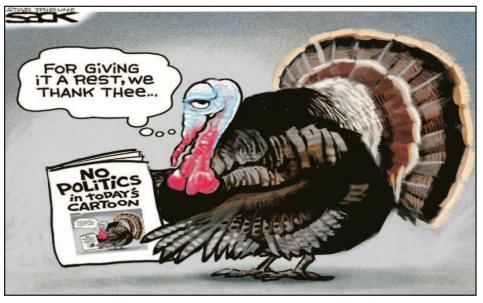
If it helps, make a written list of all things you are grateful for. Read your list every day. As you do this, you will build and reinforce your attitude of gratitude. Don't waste any time with what you feel you don't have.

Keep things in perspective. Consider all the people who have overcome difficulties far worse than yours. Don't be consumed by your problems, there is always a solution. Maintaining an attitude of gratitude allows your mind to devise a resolution for your circumstances.

Make everyday a day of Thanksgiving and you will be amazed how much better your life will

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2022 Bryan Golden





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Turnout Drops in Recent Election

Voter turnout in the midterm elections again dropped statewide, with just over 45% of registered voters either casting ballots early or at the polls on Nov. 8. Republican candidates continued to hold a hammerlock on statewide positions, with incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott handily winning a third term over challenger Beto O' Rourke.

The Texas Standard reported turnout in the state's largest counties was well below 50% and lower than the record 2018 midterm turnout. Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston, said he wasn't surprised at the relatively low turnout.

"Usually, it's hard to get Texans to vote in midterm elections. We saw a sizable increase in 2018 and then a big bump in 2020, but it's starting to look like the 2018 and 2020 numbers were basically an aberration," he said.

In Harris County, turnout dropped from 52% in 2018 to 43% this year. Dallas County saw turnout plunge from 57% in 2018 to 44% this year, while in Tarrant County turnout was 47%, down from 57% in the last midterm

"The turnout in this election was abysmal. It was way too low. And so, voters need to understand that if they don't participate in the process, then their ability to control what happens in Austin is limited," Rottinghaus told the Texas Stan-

LAWMAKERS: GET **TOUGHER ON POLLUTERS**

The Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, which periodically reviews state agencies, has concluded the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality needs to make frequent polluters more accountable and increase the possible fines companies can face.

The commission consists of 10 legislators and two members of the public. The Texas Tribune reported the sunset commission called for state lawmakers to pass legislation next session that would increase the penalty levels for industrial polluters from \$25,000 per day to \$40,000.

"I think people wanted to send a message that we were cognizant of the bur-



den upon industry while also recognizing the importance of increasing the penalty after this period of time so that the TCEQ has the power and the tools to actually enforce compliance with its rules," said Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and a member of the commission.

The sunset commission's recommendations will be considered during the next legislative session, which begins in January.

DRY OCTOBER LEADS TO **DROUGHT LEVEL INCREASE**

A fairly dry October, except in West Texas, led to an increase in drought levels to 75% of the state, up 14 percentage points from the end of September.

Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, wrote that months of drought have adversely affected surface water resources and are now beginning to affect ground water resources as well.

For example, the Edwards Aquifer's water level has dropped 35 feet to its lowest level since the 2011 drought. Storage levels in the state's water supply reservoirs are at 68% of capacity — 13 percentage points below normal for this time of year.

"It's too far out to say with certainty, but spring 2023 may be our next best chance for drought relief," Wentzel wrote.

HOUSTON BUSINESS CONVICTED OF WORKERS' **COMP FRAUD**

A Houston-area business has been convicted of a first-degree felony in a worker's compensation scheme.

Sehgal & Sons Enterprises was convicted of concealing payrolls by having two separate payroll accounts but only reporting the smaller account to Texas Mutual Insurance Company. The company was fined \$300,000, according to the Texas Department of

"Concealing payroll is a scheme companies use to get lower workers' compensation insurance rates, and that's fraud," said Debra Knight with the Department of Workers' Compensation.

MORE THAN \$355 MILLION **IN PUBLIC SAFETY GRANTS**

Gov. Greg Abbott last week announced more than \$355 million in public safety grants, covering a variety of programs, including victims' services, anti-human trafficking efforts, and law enforcement support. The funding is a combination of state and federal dol-

The money will go to provide bullet-resistant vests. homeland security, to combat human trafficking, border security and about a dozen other programs.

"This crucial grant funding will further bolster organizations and agencies as they work around the clock to ensure justice for victims of crime, protect against threats, prevent human trafficking, and support statewide emergency infrastructure, among other critical public safety initiatives," Abbott said.

WHOOPING CRANES SPOTTED ON TEXAS COAST

First sightings of the endangered whooping crane have been reported along the Texas coast, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported.

Janess Vartanian, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says that on Oct. 21 a pair of whooping cranes were the first to arrive this season on Matagorda Island, Most will arrive in and around the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in December.

Whooping birds, according to TPWD, are the tallest, rarest birds in North America. The current population is estimated at about 543 birds. They migrate this time of year 2,500 milers from northern Alberta, Canada, to the Texas coast.

COVID-19 CASES DROP BELOW 10,000

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in Texas dropped to 8,955, along with 32 deaths. The number of lab-confirmed COV-ID-19 hospitalizations stayed steady, with 998 reported across the state as of Sunday.

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.



Newcomers

My husband, Peter, and I feel like social butterflies.

We certainly are not. But it feels as if we are, because we are staying in a new city and finding it is easier to make new friends than any time since we were children.

When Peter and I moved back to Minnesota to be closer to our family, we missed our old routines and the friends we used to spend time with. Moving to a new city did not bring with it a lot of new friends. Everyone already had friends. Peter and I saw a lot more of our families, which was wonderful. But except for the friends we still had from when we lived here as teenagers, we didn't see a lot of new people.

This is not the way it works when we are in Mexico.

"Can we have brunch with Karina and Rick on Friday?" I

"We're going to dinner with

Joel and Chené on Friday." "I thought we could do brunch."

"We're having brunch with Raul and Nathan."

I realized I had something scheduled every day this week. This is not like me.

Somehow, spending time with people who are all new to this place—leaving what is familiar and trying something new—something about this pulls us together. I realized it's because we're all newcomers.

As newcomers, we're eager to share our newcomer energy, to hear where other newcomers have been and where they're going next. Almost all the newcomers I meet are making changes, going to new places, trying something new. And, because they are newcomers, they all are excited (and a little nervous) to tell others about it.

"I started painting during the pandemic," Rosalie told us. She claims she is not an experienced painter, yet all her work has been eagerly taken by friends who have it hanging in their homes.

"I'm working on a memoir." "I've taken up yoga."

"I'd like to write a novel." "I'm fostering a dog."

The thing we newcomers all share is the opportunity to look at this new place with fresh eyes and apply that fresh perspective to our lives. I am amazed how few people I meet are trying to replicate the lives they have in the U.S. or Canada. Instead, they are figuring out how to do things differently in this very different placewhere fireworks go off every night and occasionally at six in the morning, where roosters are constantly crowing, and dogs barking, and the streets are paved with cobblestones, and a lot of the shoes we brought do not work at all.

"Oh, my gosh! I nearly killed myself trying to walk in platform sandals last night!"

"I know. Platforms do not work!" I love hearing stories about

changing course, trying new things, getting off the beaten

Meanwhile, I keep working on my new project, getting my first novel ready to sell. My agent tells me we're almost ready. It will be a long process, she says, and there are no guarantees. I'm OK with that. I know I'm a newcomer to this Spending time with new-

comers in Mexico has made me realize that most of us aren't attached to a particular outcome. We like what we are doing right now—and we like doing it together. "It's about enjoying life

while we're living it—and not worrying about when it's going to end," Karina, another newcomer, said over dinner last night. I like that. And I think

there might be time to squeeze in one more coffee this week. Till next time,

Carrie

Photos from the column and other fun stuff can be found at <u>CarrieClasson.com</u>.



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THANKSGIVING



Enjoying Thanksgiving Leftovers Is Easy as Pie

What's the best thing about Thanksgiving? I know we're supposed to say it's friends and loved ones gathered around the table groaning with traditional food and all the blessings and thankfulness.

Yadda, yadda, yadda. Just admit it: It's the leftovers. What we're thankful for is knowing that for the rest of the long weekend, we can stand in front of our open fridge with nothing but a plate and a fork and come away with the makings of a gastronomic masterpiece.

So, what if we could buy an extra ingredient while doing our last-minute shopping that will transform these anticipated leftovers and make them even better? Something beyond the usual soup and sandwich. Perhaps pie dough or puff pastry. Try these tasty takes on leftovers.

THANKSGIVING HAND PIES

Yield: 12 mini pies Time: 45 minutes

One package of two 9-inch pie crusts, or homemade equivalent

1/2 cup diced turkey 1/2 cup mashed potatoes

1/2 cup stuffing

1/4 cup sweet potatoes or carrots 1/4 cup cranberry sauce One egg

Gravy for dipping, optional (but

Preheat oven to 375 F. Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Thinly roll out the pie dough and cut into desired size circles. I use a 4-inch cookie cutter.

Using a teaspoon measure, place a small amount of each ingredient on one half of the circle, being sure to leave about a quarter-inch clear on the outer edges.

Fold each dough circle over to cover the filling, pressing around the edges with your finger, letting out as much air as possible. Use the tines of a fork to seal the edges. Place on baking

Whisk the egg in a small bowl with a teaspoon of water, and brush the tops of the pies with the egg wash.

Poke the top with a fork to vent steam. Bake for 30 minutes or until crust is golden and irresistible. Serve with

PERSONAL THANKSGIVING POT **PIES**

Yield: 6 pies

gravy for dipping.

Time: 50 minutes 1 tablespoon butter

1 medium onion, diced

1 teaspoon poultry seasoning

1/4 cup all-purpose flour 2 cups whole milk

2 cups cooked turkey, diced cups assorted

Thanksgiving veggies 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (from a 17.3-ounce package), thawed

Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease six (12-ounce) ramekins or bowls, place on a rimmed baking sheet.

Heat butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and cook, and stir. Sprinkle flour over onion and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Slowly stir in milk.

Bring to a simmer; cook, stirring constantly, until thick and bubbly, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in turkey and your choice of leftover veggies. Season with salt and pepper. Ladle into prepared ramekins, let cool.

Roll out thawed puff pastry on a floured surface to a quarter-inch thickness. Cut out 6 circles that are 1-inch larger than ramekins or bowls being used. Top each ramekin with a puff pastry circle, crimping edges over sides to seal. Beat egg with a teaspoon of water or milk. Brush the pastry with egg. Bake until puffed and golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes.



You know that perfect Thanksgiving bite where you load up your fork with turkey, potatoes, stuffing and cranberry? Well, I think it's even better when it's wrapped in a buttery, flaky crust.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website "Divas On A Dime -Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!" Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

Knockout Pumpkin Pie Spice

Use the basic ratios below,

but don't be afraid to lighten up one or go heavy on any of the supporting players. As long as the cinnamon base remains stable, you'll have a spice mix to fall for!



tablespoons cinnamon

teaspoon ground ginger

teaspoon ground nutmeg

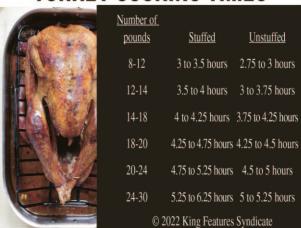
teaspoon ground cloves

teaspoon allspice

Mix dry ingredients and store in an airtight jar.

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TURKEY COOKING TIMES





Read these statements to learn how Pi helps us. Then fill in the puzzle with the words in bold print:

soccer balls are spheres). Why should you have to learn

about Pi? Because Pi is used in the math people use to

design or build everyday things we need, such as machines.

- 1. Architects use Pi to design patterns like curves and arches in houses and buildings.
- 2. Scientists use Pi to learn how molecules work in our body, which helps them design new medicines.
- 3. Designers use it to make the curves in the **print** you are reading on this page! 4. **Engineers** use it to design every part of a bridge: arches, beams, wires. 5. Parts of a **car** – steering wheel, engine belts, tires and gears – are designed using Pi.
- 6. When an airplane travels around the earth it is on the path of an arc. The path must be figured out in order to know how much fuel the plane will need.
- 7. The **computer** program an artist uses to create 3-D drawings and artwork will use Pi. 8. TVs and **radios** are designed using Pi to let them receive programs over the air.
- 9. Sports stadiums and their **domes** were figured out and built using math with Pil
- 10. Your bicycle tires and **gears** were designed using math that has Pi in it.

CHURCH PAGE

5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most

meaningful when it is ... Sincere, Often, At your own will,

6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? Fish's belly, Aboard ship, In the wilderness,

ANSWERS: 1) Psalms, 2) Unthankful people, 3) Mercy, 4) Will, 5) At your

of God"? Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey -1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah,

2. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people

3. From Psalms 106:1 (KJV), "O give thanks unto the Lord; ____ endureth for ever." Hope, Good, Mercy, Spirit 4. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks; for

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

you for a while, or even

spend the winter, so that

you can help me on my

journey, wherever I go.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:6

W. W.

own will, 6) Fish's belly "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online. (c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

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Perhaps I will stay with



Detail of "Winter" by Stanislav Nikireev (1972)

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SPORTS PAGE

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 13:

No. 2 Ohio State hosts No. 3 Michigan in key Big 10 game: Cowboys host Giants on Thanksgiving in key NFC East contest

Thanksgiving Week is upon us, and that means plenty of food, fellowship and football!

And while many of us will gather with friends and family, college and pro football teams will be plying their trades with a number of key games on top at both levels this holiday weekend.

The biggest game on the college scene will be the annual grudge match in the Big 10 between No. 2-ranked Ohio State and No. 3-ranked Michigan. This year, the Buckeyes get to host their arch rivals from the north looking to avenge the 42-27 thumping the Wolverines put on them in Ann Arbor a year ago. That win propelled Jim Harbaugh's team into the College Football Playoffs and sent OSU to the Rose Bowl. Both teams are in the CFP hunt again this year and the winner should land one of the four spots available. The loser could also get in, but it would need some help from other teams to get in. If TCU runs the table and wins the Big 12 championship game, then it might be difficult for the CFP Committee to keep the Frogs out of the playoffs. The same can be said for USC. If the Trojans, who face long-time rival Notre Dame this holiday weekend, win out, they would be a 12-1 team with one of the most prolific offenses in the country.

So, this game is not only for the Big 10 East title and a slot in the Big 10 title game, but the winner should also be looking solid for the CFP berth.

Other interesting games this weekend have Texas hosting Baylor looking to get back on track after its 17-10 loss to TCU two weeks ago in Austin. In that game, quarterback Quinn Ewers struggled, as did the rest of the offense and did not score an offensive touchdown (UT's lone TD came on a fumble return for a touchdown by the defense). Ewers came out of South Lake Carroll High School as the No. 1 recruit in the country and originally signed with Ohio State, but transferred to UT. Texas fans were excited to land him, but he has yet to live up to expectations. Perhaps he will be all that he's been advertised to be, but he still has a way to go.

No. 9-ranked Alabama and Auburn meet in their annual grudge match and don't be surprised if Nick Saban's team takes their frustrations out on their hated rivals. For the first time since 2019 that the Tide have not appeared in the league championship contest.

That's because LSU surprisingly won the SECD West this year under first-year head coach Brian Kelly. Give Kelly a lot of credit. He inherited a mess in Baton Rouge, but rallied his team to the division title where they get rewarded with playing No. 1-ranked Georgia on Dec. 3. Good luck with that, LSU.

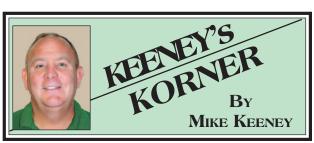
The Tigers visit Texas A&M on Saturday bringing an end to what has been a miserable season in Aggieland for the team and head coach Jimbo Fisher. A&M entered the season ranked No. 6 in the pre-season polls, but a six-game losing streak ended their hopes of earning a bowl bid. The Aggies would like nothing more than to end the season on a high note with an upset of the Tigers in Kyle Field.

In the NFL, the league will give us a triple-header on Thanksgiving Day starting with the annual game in Detroit as the Bills visit the Motor City. Two weeks ago, Buffalo blew a double-digit lead at home and lost to Minnesota in overtime, while the Lions won their second straight game of the season with a 31-30 win in Chicago.

The second game of the day will be a big one in the NFC East as the second-place Giants visit the third-place Cowboys. Two weeks ago, Dallas blew a 14-point fourth-quarter lead at Green Bay and lost 31-28 in overtime to Aaron Rodgers team.

The nightcap will feature New England at Minnesota.

The 1972 Dolphins are popping the champagne now that the previously undefeated Philadelphia Eagles suffered their



first loss of the season two weeks ago when Washington upset them 32-20 on Monday Night Football. The '72 Dolphins, led by Hall of Fame Head Coach Don Shula, is the only team in NFL history to go undefeated for an entire season. The Eagles will look to get back on track on Sunday Night Football when they host Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers.

On Sunday, the Texans head to South Florida to take on the high-scoring Dolphins. If the Houston defense does not play better, it could be a long afternoon in Miami for Lovie Smith's team.

Before we take a look at those games and a handful of others, let's review last week's record. A 5-5 week brought the season record to 83-47 (64%).

Before we look at the games, I'd like to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

NCAA

Baylor at Texas: Texas hosts Baylor on Friday afternoon looking to end the season on a high note. If UT beat Kansas last week, they would enter this game with a 7-4 record and a chance to finish 8-4, a big improvement from Steve Sarkisian's 5-7 finish in his first year in Austin. Baylor has been an up-and-down team this year and two weeks ago, the Bears suffered a 31-3 home loss to Kansas State. Look for Ewers (1,507 yards, 13 TDs) to play better this week and look for running back Bijan Robinson (1,158 yards, 14 total TDs) to run wild as the Longhorns send the Bears back to Waco with a loss. My pick, Texas 34, Baylor

Auburn at Alabama: As stated earlier, Saban's Crimson Tide will show little mercy to their long-time rival when Auburn comes calling on Saturday. Alabama has lost twice in SEC play this year (at Tennessee and at LSU) and staved off a three-loss season with a gritty 30-24 win at Mississippi two weeks ago. The win over the Rebels handed LSU the SEC West title. Look for 'Bama QB Bryce Young (2,443 yards, 22 TDs) to bring his "A" game on Saturday as this could be the final time he plays before the fans in Tuscaloosa. Most experts expect Young to announce for the NFL draft once the season is over. Running back Jahmyr Gibbs (774 yards, 6 TDs) is another potential first-round pick, so look for him to also have a big day against an Auburn team that has suffered through a very disappointing season. My pick, Alabama 38, Auburn 13

LSU at Texas A&M: No. 7ranked Texas A&M heads to College Station on Saturday to tune up for the SEC title game the following week. The Aggies have been one of the most disappointing teams in college football this year and Fisher will have a lot to answer to during the offseason. The first priority should be bringing in an offensive coordinator to bring new life to a dormant offense. Fisher also needs to change things up on offense. Perhaps a new set of eyes would help to remedy the situation. Look for the Aggies to play hard, but if they will have their hands full with LSU dual threat QB Jayden Daniels (2,080 passing yards, 14 TDS/629 rushing yards, 10 TDs). Look for the LSU front seven to be the difference maker in this game as the Tigers pick up win No. 10 on the season. My pick, LSU 23, Texas A&M 21

Kansas at Kansas State: This isn't only for state bragging rights, but a win by Kansas State would land them a spot in the Big 12 title game against TCU. The Kansas Jayhawks have been a pleasant surprise this year. Known for decades as the doormat of the Big 12, second-year head coach Lance Leipold has his team bowl eligible and has brought optimism about the future of

Kansas football. Sure, KU will

always be a basketball school, but folks are now excited about the football program. I expect this to be a competitive game as KU QB Jason Bean (1,256 yards, 14 TDs) and running back Devin Neal (951 yards, 7 TDs) will give it their all against the Wildcats. KSU has too much to play for to look past their in-state rivals. The Wildcats are a more balanced offense with Will Howard (717 vards, 9 TDs) under center. KSU also has one of the best backs in the Big 12 in Deuce Vaughn (1,081 yards, 5 TDs). This one should be an offensive shootout. My pick, Kansas State 34, Kansas 31

Notre Dame at USC: No. 8-ranked USC hosts No. 20ranked Notre Dame in one of the oldest intersectional rivalries in the history of the NCAA. First-year ND head coach Marcus Freeman has done an admirable job in his first year on the job and has the Fighting Irish bowl eligible. First-year Trojans head coach Lincoln Riley has been ever better as he has USC in position to vie for a CFP berth. Riley has once again worked his magic on offense as QB Caleb Williams (3,010 yards, 31 TDs) and wide receiver Jordan Addison (40 receptions, 587 yards, 7 TDs) are two of the best at their positions in the country. 'SC lost star running back Travis Dye (884 yards, 9 TDs) to a seasonending leg injury in the Trojans' blowout win over Colorado two weeks ago. That could hurt a 'SC offense. ND has a solid defense and run oriented offense led by bruising tailback Andric Estime (711 yards, 9 TDs). QB Drew Pyne (1,547 yards, 18 TDs) will rely on tight end Michael Mayer (54 receptions, 647 yards, 7 TDs) to make plays in the passing game. I think ND hangs around in this game due to its running ame, but look for Williams to be the difference maker as the Trojans move onto the Pac 12 title game. My pick, USC 30, Notre Dame 24

Michigan at Ohio State: This is THE Game of the Week in not only the Big 10 but in college football this Thanksgiving Weekend. No. 3 Michigan takes on No. 2 Ohio State in what should be a classic encounter. The Wolverines have one of the best defenses in the nation and that unit will get its biggest test of the season. The Michigan defense allows just 11.2 points per game, while the Ohio State offense averages an eye-opening 46.8 points per game. The Buckeyes defense isn't too shabby either, allowing just 15.6 points per game. OSU has the edge at quarterback in C.J. Stroud (2,750 yards, 34 TDs) and star wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr., (60 receptions, 969 yards, 11 TDs), the sone of Pro Football Hall of Famer Marvin Harrison, Fellow wide out Emeka Egbuka (51 receptions, 832 yards, 8 TDs) can also make big plays, while the Buckeyes also have two capable runners in TreVevon Henderson (552 yards, 6 TDs) and Miyan Williams (783 yards, 13 TDs). Michigan has a capable QB in J.J. McCarthy (1,744 yards, 14 TDS) and a stud runner in Blake Carum (1,349 yards, 17 TDs). Look for Michigan to give Carum plenty of work and if he finds success, the Wolverines will look to focus on the running game to keep Stroud off of the field. But even if OSU's offensive snaps are limited, Stroud and Co. can score from anywhere at any time. This will be a competitive game, but the Buckeyes just have too many offensive weapons and that unit will wear down a very good UM defense come the fourth quarter. My pick, Ohio State 31, Michigan

NFL

Buffalo at Detroit: The Thanksgiving triple header kicks off in Detroit as the Bills visit the Lions. Maybe it's a bit early to pencil in the Bills as the AFC rep in the Super Bowl. Earlier this season, Buffalo

looked like the team to beat in the AFC, but they dropped two straight heading into last week's game against Cleveland. QB Josh Allen (2,733 yards, 20 TDs/476 rushing yards, 4 TDs) has been dealing with an elbow injury on his passing arm. He played through it in the loss to Minnesota two weeks ago, but threw two picks and had one fumble. He needs to do a better job of protecting the ball if the Bills are going to contend for the AFC title. Look for running back Devin Singletary (394 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (72 receptions, 985 yards, 7 TDs) to have big days against a bad Detroit defense. The Lions do have a decent offense led by QB Jared Goff (2,277 yards, 15 TDs), running back Jamaal Williams (604 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (49 receptions, 518 vards, 3 TDs). The Lions always play well on Thanksgiving Day and I think they give the Bills a game, but look for Allen to be the difference maker come Turkev Day. My pick, Buffalo 33, Detroit 17

New York Giants at Dallas: The Cowboys return home after playing the last two weeks on the road and they had better hope for some home cooking against a Giants team that has been one of the surprise teams this season. Two weeks ago, the Giants took care of the Texans, 24-16 at home as running back Saquon Barkley (931 yards, 6 TDs) rushed for more than 150 yards. QB Daniel Jones (1,596 yards, 8 TDs/387 rushing yards, 3 TDs) has played much better this year and takes what defenses give him. The Dallas defense is still having issues stopping the run and if they don't improve in that area, Barkley could be in for another big day. In their first meeting on Sept. 26, Dallas sacked Jones five times and intercepted him once. The Cowboys will need another such effort if they hope to subdue the Giants on Thanksgiving Day. On offense, Dak Prescott (856 yards, 6 TDs) needs to continue to make plays downfield to CeeDee Lamb (53 receptions, 706 yards, 5 TDs) and let Tony Pollard (621 yards, 6 TDs) and Ezekiel Elliott (443 vards, 4 TDs) handle things on the ground. And if they take the lead, they need to build on it, something they didn't do two weeks ago in their 31-298 overtime loss at Green Bay. Look for Dallas to be more focused from here until the end of the season because they know there is little room for error from here on out. My pick, Dallas 26, New York Giants 18

Cincinnati at Cleveland: An in-state battle in the AFC North has the Bengals visiting the Browns on Sunday. The Bengals appear to be rounding into form and should battle Baltimore for the division title down the stretch, while the Browns are waiting for Deshaun Watson to take over at QB in Week 11 against the Texans. Look for Joe Burrow (2,535 yards, 18 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (585 yards, 6 TDs) and Tee Higgins (41 receptions, 564 yards, 3 TDs) to have a big day against a porous Browns defense. If superstar wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase returns from a hip injury, Cleveland could be in for a long day. The Browns will need a big day from running back Nick Chubb (904 yards, 11 TDs), but he won't be enough to hold off the surging Bengals. My pick, Cincinnati 33. Cleveland 20

Houston at Miami: This one could get ugly, and ugly early. The Texans defense could be in for a long afternoon in South Florida at Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa (2,265 yards, 18 TDS) and wide receivers Tyreek Hill (81 receptions, 1.148 yards, 4 TDs) and Jaylen Waddle (51 receptions, 878 yards, 6 TDs) should have a field day against a suspect Houston secondary. The Dolphins are starting to play better on defense and that's bad news for Texans QB Davis Mills (1,975 yards, 11 TDs/9 interceptions and running back Dameon Pierce (772 yards, 3 TDs). This one should be over by halftime. My pick, Miami 38, Houston 16

Los Angeles Rams at Kansas City: The defending Super Bowl champs head to KC to take on a Chiefs team that is focusing in on a SB run of their own. This is a contrast of two teams heading in opposite directions. The Rams fell to 3-6 two weeks ago after their 27-17 home loss to Arizona. While the Rams were losing, the Chiefs took care of the Jags as

QB Patrick Mahomes (2,936 yards, 25 TDs) continues to have an All-Pro season, as well as tight end Travis Kelce (63 receptions, 740 yards, 8 TDs). The Chiefs hope wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster (46 receptions, 615 yards, 2 TDs) returns after he suffered a concussion in the Jags game after taking a cheap shot to the head. The Rams are a battered football team as QB Matthew Stafford (1,928 yards, 8 TDs) missed the Arizona game with a concussion. Star wide receiver Cooper Kupp (75 receptions, 812 yards, 6 TDs) sustained an ankle injury in the Arizona game and his status for this game is still up in the air. Look for another big day from Mahomes and the KC offense as the Chiefs roll. My pick, Kansas City 34, Los Angeles Rams 17

Green Bay at Philadel**phia:** The Packers visit Philly on Sunday Night Football hoping their come-from-behind 31-28 OT win over Dallas two weeks ago is the spark they've been looking for to make a lateseason playoff run. QB Aaron Rodgers (2,315 yards, 17 TDs) looked like his old self in the Dallas game throwing for 224 yards and three TDs. The Dallas game was a coming out party for rookie WR Christian Watson, who hauled in seven catches for 104 yards and three TDs against the Cowboys. GB will need a big game from running back Aaron Jones (733 yards, 2 TDS) if they hope to upset the Eagles and QB Jalen Hurts (2,217 passing yards, 14 TDs/354 rushing yards, 4 TDs). Hurts has a load of talent on offense with running back Miles Sanders (710 yards, 6 TDs, wide receivers A.J. Brown (44 receptions, 725 yards, 6 TDs), Devonta Smith (46 receptions, 481 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dallas Goedert (43 receptions, 544 yards, 3 TDs). While the Eagles are loaded on offense, they have some holes on defense, namely stopping the run (sound familiar, Cowboy fans?). If the Packers can get Jones and A.J. Dillon rolling early, that could set up the play-action pass for Rodgers. I think the OT win over Dallas gave the Packers a spark to finish strong, so look for them to give the Eagles all they can handle on Sunday night. My pick, Philadelphia 31, Green

Houston to host 2026 FIFA World Cup Soccer

Get Ready for the 2026 FIFA World Cup!

Harris County, are we ready for some soccer?!?!

We are thrilled that Houston has been selected as a host city for the FIFA 2026 North America World Cup, in Harris County's own NRG Stadium! Our community is a transportation hub with world-class infrastructure that has hosted the Superbowl, the World Series, the MLS Cup, so we are ready to welcome this internation-



al event, teams, and committed fans to Harris County!

With 48 teams, this 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the largest ever and take place June to July in three countries – USA, Mexico, and Canada.

Houston is expected to host five to six matches at NRG Stadium. When matches are not being played in Houston, we will be hosting other public events and viewing parties.

Beyond the excitement of the events and games, the World Cup is estimated to have an economic impact of \$800 million to \$1.3 billion on our region. Welcome FIFA!

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

In compliance with state requirements TEC 39A.055(3) and TEC 39A 057, a public hearing for the approval of the 2022-2023 Targeted Improvement Plans (TIPs) for campuses rated Comprehensive Support based on the federal requirements of Domain III must be held.

Campuses rated Comprehensive Support are required to submit, for Board approval, an Effective Schools Framework (ESF) Aligned TIP that will address areas of low performance identified through the three state accountability domains. The targeted elements in the plan will be implemented and monitored throughout the year as campuses engage in the continuous improvement process.

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



TCEQ Hearing on Concrete Plants,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Roberto Gasparini **SE Consultants**



Leticia Gutierrez Air Allliance



Shirley Ronquillo

air monitoring in Aldine came from Roberto Gasparini of Spirit Environmental Consulting, who said that TCEQ had an air monitor near MacArthur High School, and it had been there for 20 years. It's results are available on the TCEQ website. He said his monitoring work sometimes leads to the shutdown of concrete plants.

Kenneth Sugg spoke about his experience driving concrete trucks, revealing the problems they create. He also questioned why the state allows cement dust to permeate over neighboring residential properties.

Sugg also said that the TCEQ never really said what their proposed revisions to the permitting process would be, but did say they could not by law consider traffic problems and noise in their review.

Shirley Ronquillo asked why the TCEQ disn't distribute information about potential permits in a more transparent meth-

ods, and bilingual. Selina Valdez spoke about the schools and college in the area, and the fact that students could not safely function outdoors due to air polution. She raised the need for more air monitors in the Aldine area. "For our kindergartners, and our seniors in high school, and our folks taking college courses across the way, how are we going to know to tell them today's a good day to breathe the air?" she asked the panel.

Leticia Gutierrez of Air Alliance Houston pointed out to the panel that these pollution problems most often occur in neighborhoods of black and brown minority residents, not close to better areas.

Bo Fraga and Rocio Witte of BakerRipley spoke in favor of stronger regulations needed to protect users of their campus and neighborhoods.

Marina Sugg asked how many permits were issued statewide last month, and how many were denied. The TCEQ representatives said they did not know, and apparently didn't keep track of that information.

In East Aldine there are eight noisy, dusty, concrete plants polluting the air in just five square miles near schools, neighborhoods, and parks. A ninth concrete plant got approval over the summer, and there wasn't much anyone could do to stop it. In light of that, people took this opportunity to make sure the commission considers their health, homes, and the environment in the decision-making process.

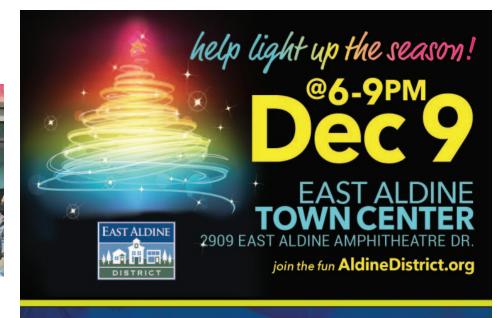
The agency is considering a requirement that the state conduct an "updated Air Quality Analysis" before granting new permits for concrete plants.

The analysis would be "a report containing information that demonstrates that emissions at a concrete batch plant authorized by (a) permit would not cause or contribute to a violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, exceed a state property line standard, or adversely affect human health and the environment."

TCEQ this year approved a permit for Avant-Garde Construction Co., a LaPorte-based business, to operate a concrete batch plant at 10945 Eastex Fwy., next to Harris County's James Driver Park and several residential streets. The county recently spent \$7 million on improvements to the park.

The TCEQ is reviewing how protected people are who live near these plants. A proposed amendment is expected early next year followed by a period for public comment. The earliest new standards on the air we breathe could be implemented is mid 2023.

Contributing to this article were Marina Sugg and Anne Marie Kilday.







EAST ALDINE DISTRICT OFFICE

2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.







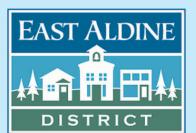
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East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

District's Special Patrol Force Boosts Safe Business Environment











Night shift Sgt. Jose

commander Lt. Mike

Day shift Sgt. Terry Garza

Evening shift Sgt. Jorge Alaniz

East Aldine - Second in a series on business development in our district

On a recent weekday morning, Lt. Mike Santos of the Harris County Sheriff's Office was making a phone call from the parking lot of St. Leo's Catholic Church when a parish priest approached him.

The priest wanted Santos to know that "thugs" had been breaking into parishioners' vehicles and that several women were inside the church attending a class.

Santos, who oversees the 21-member team of law enforcement officers under contract with the East Aldine Management District, told the priest he was there to keep an eye on the situation; that his squad had already received a call about the problem. "We're happy to drive through the parking lot. Or, when our deputies are writing up reports in their cars, they can always come and sit right out here," Santos told the priest.

Their exchange showed one of the many ways that businesses and community facilities in the East Aldine Management District are well-served by the District's annual patrol contract, which cost \$1,629,600 for 2022, with the Sheriff's Office.

The contract provides crime-fighting work by a lieutenant, three sergeants and 17 deputies. The officers spend at least 70 percent of their shifts working inside the district and the rest in nearby parts of the county.

The contract, which guarantees patrol services above and beyond what the Sheriff's Office would usually provide in the community, is considered the largest of its kind in the county.

Statistics show the agreement makes the District safer, thus making the community a better place for businesses and their customers to thrive. From May through September 2022, the contract deputies responded to 9,875 calls for service in the District. They made 161 felony arrests and 145 misdemeanor arrests. They also arrested 11 people for driving while intoxicated, recovered 60 stolen vehicles and seized 68 illegal guns.

The deputies seized 362 pounds of marijuana and \$30,000 in currency in a single bust. Another major seizure happened in September, when the team caught a drug dealer with 513 gallons of methamphetamine ingredients.

In just one 2022 visit to an apartment complex in East Aldine, officers made 22 arrests, seized three guns, apprehended a motorcycle thief and served pending arrest warrants. "We were there for one minute when we caught (the) guy on a stolen motorcycle," Santos said. The 800-unit apartment complex provides federally subsidized housing for low-income residents who must pass stringent background checks before they move in.

"There are good people there, who just happen to have low incomes. But they might have allowed a boyfriend, or a sister, to start staying there," Santos said. "And some of those folks had criminal backgrounds."

"It has changed tremendously from then to now," Vanessa Warren, manager of the complex for six years, said. "The deputies (from the District) have made a huge difference. And the residents love them."

"The deputies are awesome. We make a call to them, and they show up. Any way possible that they can help us, they don't hesitate at all," she added. "It keeps out the traffic of those people who don't live here. Their presence is very much

The officers make hundreds of traffic stops in the District, with drivers likely to get a warning rather than a ticket When schools are in session, the deputies are more likely to give out tickets for traffic offenses.

Santos said East Aldine residents have grown more accepting of the deputies' presence. "It is predominantly a low-income, minority community. But finally, they are understanding that we're not like 'the cops in Mexico'," Santos said. "There's been a misconception that it's the police against the public. It's not that way at all. We want to see businesses and the community prosper."

Lana O'Neal, director of sales for the massive Escapade nightclub in the District, said the deputies "are like family to us. They always come to our holiday parties, and we feel very close to them." "Fortunately, we've never had any major serious (fights), but anytime you've got testosterone and alcohol combined, you never know what could happen," O'Neal said. "So, we are very glad to have that extra level of

Ruben Salazar, president of the Green Forest Civic Club, has high praise for the team of deputies, saying the addition of a night patrol unit has made law enforcement "even more responsive." "They have been very, very valuable to us," Salazar said. "They are wonderful."

What started as a taco truck business in the neighborhood and then became a nuisance was a problem that deputies effectively addressed. The truck slowly evolved into an outdoor nightclub with loud music playing at all hours and inebriated patrons wandering into the residential area, leaving trash behind and using residential lawns as a "restroom," Salazar said.

"We support small businesses, but there was a point where we needed that business to clean up their act and follow the rules," Salazar said. The owner of the convenience store where the truck had parked lived in Pearland and did not know about the nuisance issue.

"The deputies went directly to the owner and gave them 30 days' notice," Salazar said, "And they moved right away. We are extremely grateful to all of the deputies. And it was a very smart move for the District to have added that night shift."

The District has an additional, annual \$60,8333 contract with the Harris County Attorney's Office to supplement the filing of legal actions against properties that create nuisances.

Also, Harris County has funded the Shot Spotter program that allows the deputies to detect, locate and respond to gunfire, often before residents have time to make a 911 call.

— By Anne Marie Kilday



