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# NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 46 Years  
VOL. 46, NO. 47 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

help light up the season!  
@6-9PM  
**Dec 9**  
EAST ALDINE TOWN CENTER  
2909 EAST ALDINE AMPHITHEATRE DR.  
join the fun [AldineDistrict.org](http://AldineDistrict.org)  
**TREE LIGHTING. See Page 8 for more details.**

## 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.

### DEC. 16, FRI. BakerRipley HOLIDAY CONNECTION

BakerRipley invites everyone to a Holiday Connection Event at the East Aldine Campus, 3000 Aldine Mail Route. Friday December 16 from 5pm to 8pm.

There will be face painting, snacks and food, music, games, arts & crafts, and more. Call 346-570-4463 to register your child for a toy.

### DEC. 21, WED. BakerRipley HOLIDAY MARKET

Community Partners, HOLIDAY MARKET AT BAKERRIPLEY

For November & December, we decided to have a Holiday Markets in lieu of our Farmer's Market. Our December market is Wednesday, December 21, from 10am-1pm. This will be an indoor event. Urban Harvest will not be at our Farmer's Markets for the remainder of the year; only vendors. If you have time, please come out and support local entrepreneurs, pick up some holiday gifts for your loved ones, and enjoy some amazing coffee from Café Guadalupe.

BAKERRIPLEY  
3000 Aldine Mail Route  
Houston TX 77039  
346-570-4463

## Groundbreaking held for JFK Statue

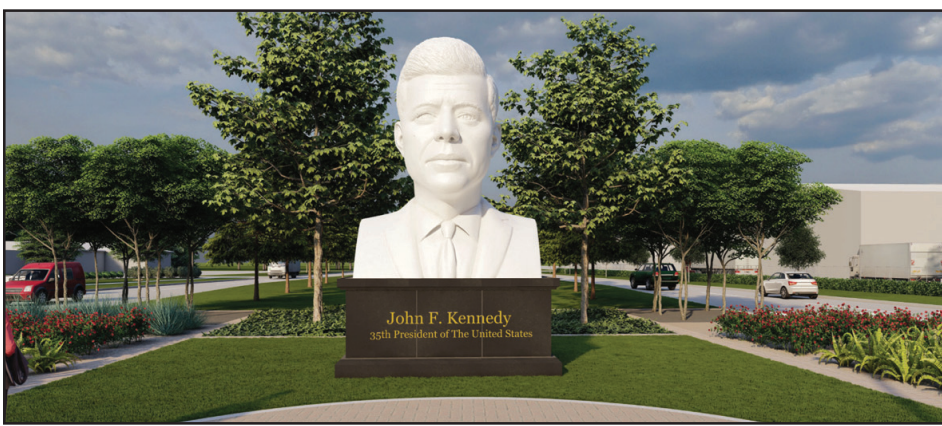
East Aldine District and its Arts Council Committee held a groundbreaking last Monday, November 28th for the installation of a massive sculpture of a bust of the late President John F. Kennedy at the intersection of JFK Boulevard and Aldine-Bender Road.

The District acquired the art piece from famed sculptor David Adickes, who created other larger-than-life sculptures such as the statue of Sam Houston on Interstate 45 north of Houston and busts of other presidents along Interstate 10 at Interstate 45 near downtown Houston.

When completed, the JFK project will serve as a greeting to travelers arriving at Bush Intercontinental Airport, a statement about the District's commitment to public art, an attraction to be visited by people



East Aldine board members, and Arts Committee at the Groundbreaking Event.



Artist's View of the finished JFK Statue, as seen upon arrival from Bush Intercontinental Airport, headed south on JFK Boulevard toward East Aldine.

throughout the Houston area and a gateway to the East Aldine District.

As chairman of the Arts Council Committee, board member Carlos Silva welcomed the guests to the groundbreaking, and spoke about the unique opportunity of East Aldine to host artwork of this caliber, and enhance the image of the area.

The JFK statue proposal has received wide acclaim, bringing high quality art to the district which will enhance our reputation city-wide. East Aldine Consultant David Hawes commented that in 20 years, the District has spent \$60 million for water and sewer improvements, and public safety, so "it is time to improve the appearance in the District by spending these dollars." The introduction of an art program is consistent with the original intent to enhance the quality of life in the district.

## Stray dogs kill students' animals near Stephens Elementary



Harris County Pets responded to a deadly dog attack on animals near Stephens Elementary School.

EAST ALDINE – The community is concerned after several barn animals were fatally attacked by a pack of stray dogs last Wednesday morning, Nov. 30th, according to Harris County Public Health.

Harris County Pets responded to a report by the Aldine ISD Police Department about a deadly dog attack on animals near Stephens Elementary School.

Police said a lamb and several turkeys were attacked by the stray dogs. The animals were four MacArthur High School FFA students' projects. One of the projects was killed and three others were injured.

HCPH said an animal control officer found multiple areas of possible entry around the property

*Continued. See North Houston, Page 2*

## Fiederlein is new planning head at North Houston District

NORTH HOUSTON – The North Houston District welcomes Robert Fiederlein as Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure, as longtime District leader Bart Baker makes a transition to Chief Operating Officer.

Robert Fiederlein is well-known and well-respected in the Houston development industry. The North Houston District announced that he came on board as Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure, effective August of 2022.

Robert has more than 20 years of experience in project management, public finance, and economic development. He has a keen business sense and deep knowledge of what it takes to implement successful projects. He looks at plans from every angle – environmental, financial, legal, contract and administrative. He has a heart for equitable housing and is a huge Houston sports fan, avid Texas history buff, kayaker, and



Robert Fiederlein

half-marathon man!

In addition to finalizing ongoing District initiatives, Robert will focus on implementing recommendations from the 2020 Livable Centers Study and 2021 Public Art & Placemaking Report, as well as liaison on the METRO Boost Network, which will provide customer enhancements to high-frequency bus routes and improve multimodal transportation to and from North Houston District.

Previously Robert worked

for the District in 2016 and 2017. In addition to Robert, here are a few other staffing updates:

**BART BAKER:** Bart joined the District in 2003 as Manager of Urban Planning, focusing primarily on inter-governmental coordination in urban design, parks and trails, transportation, and long-range development and redevelopment initiatives. Over the years, he has worked to extend the District's parks and trails system, expand the Clean and Green initiative, improve mobility, increase flood mitigation and facilitate capital improvement projects. Bart has represented the District on numerous boards and Property Owners' Associations, including Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition and Alliance of North Houston Chambers of Commerce.

For several years Bart served as the District Executive. *Continued. See North Houston, Page 2*

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**EAST ALDINE DISTRICT**

**We're Here For You!**

**Executive Director: Richard Cantu**  
713.595.1220 [RCantu@AldineDistrict.org](mailto:RCantu@AldineDistrict.org)

**Operations Manager: Veronica Sanches**  
713.595.1226 [VSanches@AldineDistrict.org](mailto:VSanches@AldineDistrict.org)

[AldineDistrict.org](http://AldineDistrict.org)

**BUTTERFLY 1**

**PAINTINGS BY MEI - 713.906.4585**

**Abogada de Inmigracion Nancy Luna**

se ha reubicado a:  
1300 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E. Suite #243  
Houston, TX 77032  
[www.nancylunalawpllc.com](http://www.nancylunalawpllc.com)  
Llame para programar su consulta:  
281-506-7776  
Consultas mitad de precio hasta octubre 31, 2022 si menciona Northeast News.

**Immigration Attorney Nancy Luna Law, PLLC.**

has relocated to:  
1300 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E. Suite #243 Houston, TX 77032  
[www.nancylunalawpllc.com](http://www.nancylunalawpllc.com)  
Call to set up a consultation: 281-506-7776  
When you mention Northeast News, consultations are half off until October 31, 2022.

**Pan Riko BAKERY**

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News of the North Houston District,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

utive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, including responsibilities for planning and infrastructure initiatives. While he excelled at carrying both significant duties, he was asked in May 2022 to focus on the EVP/COO role and lead the District's financial and support services. He is responsible for strategic financial planning, manages the financial side of District projects, and oversees all day-to-day financial and administrative matters for the District.

ASDRUBAL "DRU" GUTIERREZ: Dru was promoted to Field Services Director in early 2022. His role recently expanded to include management of the District Parks and Recreation activities at North Houston Skatepark, Dylan Park, and the Rockstar Energy Bike Park.

MORE ABOUT ROBERT F. FIEDERLEIN

Robert Fiederlein has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from UT Austin and a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health from the UT Health Science Center in Houston. Robert's vast experience includes serving on the Board of Directors for Avenue CDC, one of Houston's largest 501©3 nonprofits dedicated to building affordable homes, and then joining the staff as Senior Director of Real Estate. He also worked in the City of Houston's Finance and Administration Department, where he worked on TIRZ management and economic development. He has held leadership roles at three Houston-area management districts, including Memorial City District, East End District, North Houston District.

"There's a common thread woven through all my various positions," he explained. "Projects. I have been working on projects my whole professional life. One type of

HCC signs 3-year agreement with City of Houston to provide Firefighters with EMS training



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado sign a 3-year training agreement at HCC's Northeast College, surrounded by college leaders, trustees and Fire Department executive team members.

(HOUSTON, Nov. 10, 2022) – Houston Community College Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., and City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner met at HCC's Northeast College today to sign a three-year agreement for HCC to train Houston firefighters in emergency medical services.

On hand were members of the college's Board of Trustees, including Trustee Monica Flores Richart of District 1, Trustee Charlene Ward Johnson of District 2 and Trustee Eva Loreda of District 8.

Also present were City of Houston Fire Chief Samuel Pena, Executive Asst. Chief Rodney West and others from the Fire Department's executive staff.

The agreement is another step toward "preparing a more resilient workforce," Chancellor Maldonado said. "Every employee trained is one more skilled first responder able to help our community mitigate the impact of an event that threatens our citizens or property. We are proud of this partnership, proud of the work we are doing together, and proud of those who complete this training and go on to serve the public good."

While HCC and the City of Houston have partnered on other initiatives over the years, the current focus on resiliency training began after Hurricane Harvey in 2018. Mayor Turner made resiliency part of the City's strategic plan, calling for half a million Houstonians to gain skills needed to help mitigate the loss of life and property associated with natural or man-made disasters.

In response, HCC stepped forward with a commitment to provide training for residents in a variety of resiliency related fields. The college's announced Resiliency Operations Center (ROC) will be built at HCC's Northeast College in the near future.

"Our inaugural resilience courses are beginning," Maldonado told the audience and reporters. "Now is the time to examine what we offer and see how these courses can benefit your operations and the communities where we live. I encourage business leaders to follow the City's lead and register your employees. We will deliver this training through the HCC Center of Excellence in Resilience Operations at Northeast College and on other campuses across the entire HCC district.

"We are also excited to share that we are developing pathways to convert resiliency training courses to college credit, leading to advanced certificates and Associate of Applied Science degrees," the chancellor said.

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

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**WINTRY CANDYLAND**

The library has been transformed into a Wintry Candyland! Come join us and enter the **holiday drawing, take a holiday photo in the photo area** and get an **extra ticket in the drawing** for showing a staff member at the front desk your picture and tagging us if you post it online. We will also have several Candyland **programs and activities** throughout the month including a **Winter Pokemon scavenger hunt for all ages all month, Crafty Corner Winter Shrink Decorations on Dec. 6 at 6pm for the whole family**, and a **Gingerbread House program on Dec. 14 at 4:30pm for kids 6 and up**.

**PARA LOS NINOS**

**Para los Niños** will be meeting **every Saturday in December and January from 11 am - 12 pm** in our meeting room.

Each workshop provides parents with resources, strategies, and activities to improve family literacy, learning practices, and parents' abilities to serve as their child's first teacher.

All materials and resources needed to establish a program are available at no cost.

For parents and children under 8 years (and siblings too!)

Calendar:

**December 3** - Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies

**December 10** - Self Esteem

**December 17** - Loving Limits

**December 24** - CLOSED

**December 31** - CLOSED

**January 7** - How

your child learns

**January 14** - CLOSED

**January 21** - Raise a Reader

**January 28** - Building Blocks

**CRAFTY CORNER**

Bring the whole family and join us Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6pm to make shrink-ing plastic holiday ornaments!

**BILINGUAL STORY TIME**

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

**Kid's Club**

Kids ages 6 - 13 can join us for some Lego fun from 4:30 - 5:30pm

**TEEN THURSDAY**

Teen Thursdays are a fun, safe environment for teens ages 13-18 to hang out after school. Come join us Thursdays at 3:30pm

**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

**BOOK GOALS BOOK CLUB**

A book club for adults who hate book clubs! Each month is a new reading goal. This month's goal is "Read a Celebrity Book Club Book". Join us for book discussion on Dec. 10 at 11am.

**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 Aldi-

ne 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 walk-in 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 VOLUNTEERS 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](mailto:ald@hcpl.net).

**E-Newsletter**

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

**MICHELLE PICHON LIBRARY PROGRAM SPECIALIST HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

# Eisenhower High’s Ryan Niblett Selected to All-American Bowl Team

Eisenhower High School senior wide receiver Ryan Niblett will start the new year in grand fashion by playing in the prestigious All-American Bowl on Saturday, Jan. 7, in the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.

Niblett is one of just 100 high school football players from across the nation selected to play in the game.

Niblett, a four-star recruit who has verbally committed to the University of Texas, was a three-year starter for Eric Jackson’s Eagles. He started at quarterback as a sophomore but switched to wide receiver for his junior and senior seasons.

As a junior, Niblett caught 42 passes for 759 yards and eight touchdowns and rushed for another 469 yards and 14 touchdowns. As a senior, Niblett hauled 55 passes for 1,088 yards (19 yards per catch) and scored 10 touchdowns. He averaged 108.8 receiving yards per game.

Having been selected to



Eisenhower High’s Ryan Niblett was selected to the All-American Bowl team.

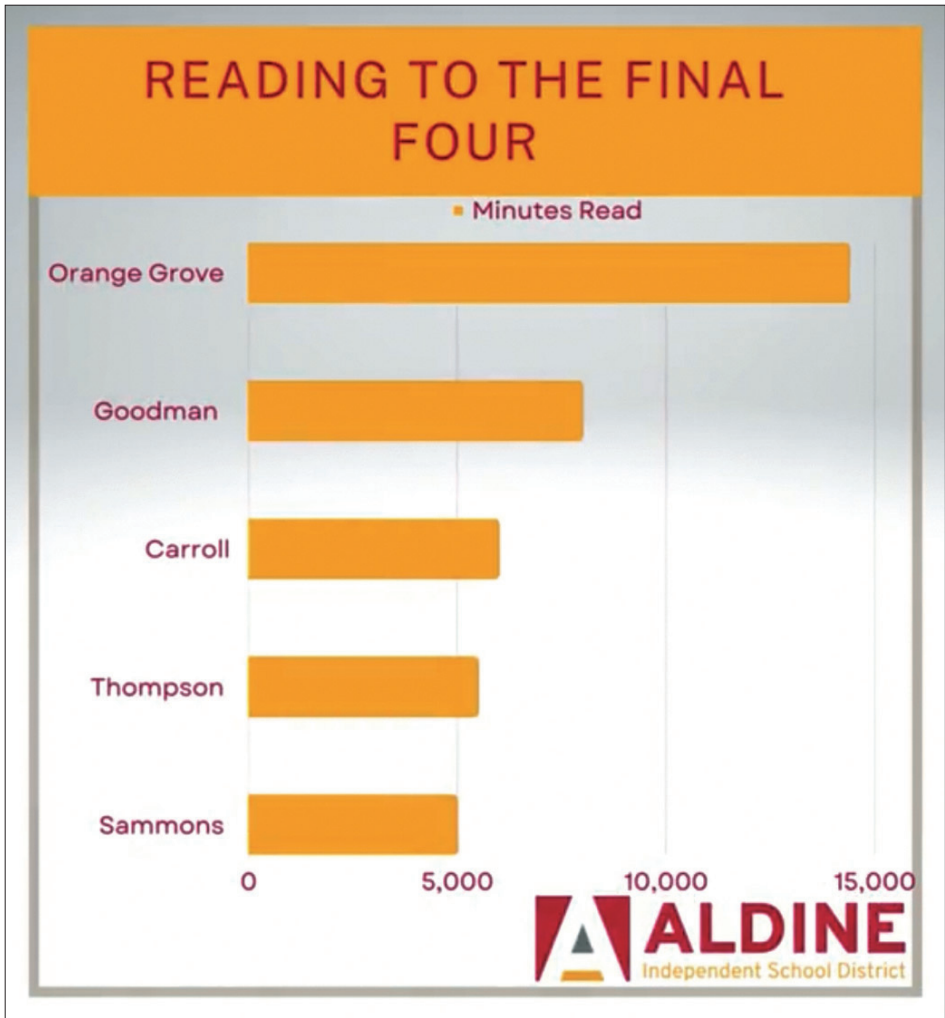
play in the 23rd edition of the All-American Bowl, Niblett will play in the annual East vs. West matchup inside San Antonio’s Alamo Bowl. The game will be nationally televised live on NBC and Peacock.

Niblett was selected by the All-American Bowl Se-

lection Committee, consisting of the All-American Bowl, 247Sports, and NexGen founder Brent Williams.

A virtual ceremony was held recently to announce Niblett’s participation in the All-American Bowl, where he also received his game jersey.

# The Reading Aldine Libraries Competition is on Fire



After the Thanksgiving break, we have the third week’s reading minutes numbers in! Orange Grove improves from number four to number one!

# Aldine ISD to Host CPR Classes



Aldine ISD’s Health Services Department will hold CPR classes monthly from Dec. 2 through Apr. 22.

The CPR classes are open to Aldine ISD students, parents, and community members. The classes are available to individuals 11 years of age and older. The course costs \$5 per participant.

Two courses will be offered on Saturday, Dec. 3,

at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. The courses will be held at the Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center in the Teaching Theater at 9999 Veterans Memorial.

Registration is required for Aldine ISD staff. To register, contact Angela Singletary, director of health services, at (281) 985-6411.

Upon completion of the course, participants will receive a certificate.

Aldine ISD’s Health Services Department nurses, who are Red Cross Instructors, will conduct the classes.

Other dates offered are:

- \*January 14 – 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- \*February 25 – 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- \*March 25 – 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- \*April 22 – 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

# Congratulations to our 22-23 Rookie Teacher of the Year - Ms. Rice and our Teacher of the Year - Ms. Robledo



Ms. Rice



Ms. Robledo

You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: [www.nenewsroom.com](http://www.nenewsroom.com)

# Davis HS’ Sergio Aviles-Aguirre is One of Only Two Students in Texas to Earn Private Pilot Certification

There aren’t many high school students in Texas who can tell their friends they can fly a plane.

Only two in the state this year have earned their Private Pilot Certification, and one resides in Aldine ISD at Davis High School.

As a senior at Davis High School, Sergio Avilés-Aguirre recently earned his Private Pilot Certification. Sergio began his quest to fly the friendly skies as a junior when he enrolled in Davis’ Introduction to Aviation class, taught by instructor C.S. “Chuck” Norris.

The program at Davis is the FAA 61 Flight School Program, which requires students to have 40 hours in a single-engine airplane. Twenty hours must be a dual instruction flight, accompanied by a Certified Flight Instructor. The remaining solo hours are when the students fly by themselves to practice and perfect their skills.

It took Sergio less than a year to accomplish his goal. He now has more than 90 hours behind the controls and hopes to teach others how to fly one day.

“It’s pretty cool to know that I can fly anywhere I want,” Sergio said. “I’m glad this course was offered in the district. I hope they continue it so others can get their certification. It’s a great class.”

Norris said he was elated for Sergio and hopes his trailblazing student will inspire others to follow in his footsteps and earn their certification.

“I’m very proud of him,” Norris said. “He took to it very naturally. The good thing about this is his certification never expires. Sergio is dedicated to flying.”

Norris said Davis is one of only three high schools in Texas that offers the Introduction to Aviation class. The other two are offered at Baytown Sterling High School and Grandbury High School.

Sergio said he has enjoyed being a part of the first-ever Aviation class, which has focused him on what he would like to do in the future.

“I think being in this class has taken me a step closer to becoming a flight instructor,” he said. “My certification gives me the ability to do a lot of things.”

Such as taking his sisters on a flight around downtown Houston one evening recently.

“I was sitting around the house with my sisters one night, and I asked them if they wanted to go check out downtown. So, I rented a plane. We flew around downtown at about 1,500 feet. It was pretty cool. They really liked it.”

Sergio has more than 90 hours of flight time.

As part of the certification process, he had to do his first solo flight, a cross-country flight (from Hooks Airport to LaGrange and have at least 15 hours of



Davis High School flight instructor C.S. “Chuck” Norris congratulates student Sergio Aviles-Aguirre on earning his Private Pilot Certification. Sergio is one of only two high school students in the state of Texas to earn the designation this year.

solo flight time.

The highest he has flown is 5,000 feet, and he hopes, with more experience, to go even higher.

He added he had learned much about responsibility and attention to detail by being in the class.

“When you fly people you care about, you have to be on your game. They won’t let you solo until you prove you can do it. I wasn’t really nervous when I did my first solo. I was more excited than anything else. My first solo was a key moment in my life.”

Sergio is now working on his Instrument Certification, and once he’s earned that designation, he will begin working on his Commercial Certification.

And from there, Sergio will fly the friendly skies for many years.

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# STARLITE

By Gil Hoffman, Publisher

## Handy Andy

The Holidays are a time to enjoy family time, and give thanks for your blessings. I will be doing both this year as I spend time with one of my daughters and her family, including her “Handy” husband Andy.

When they were giving out son-in-law prizes, I think I won the lottery. Andy is not only an accomplished father, husband, executive for Proctor & Gamble, but he also likes to cook, especially big dinners for holidays. Getting to be a guest at his house is something we look forward to every year, and we anticipate that his meal will not only be tasty, but include a dish or two that he concocted from his own unique recipes.

You can see from the photograph that he can handle a huge assortment of dishes, most of which he prepared himself, and it’s a matter of pride that he doesn’t ask for help. Oh yes, we get to clean up afterwards, and eat leftovers for a few days (In spite of the message on his Apron), but what a feast to remember... again each year.



**Thanksgiving Meal Deluxe:** Turkey, Ham, brussel sprouts, cranberry, rolls, mashed potatoes, green been casserole, yams, corn, and dessert.

Actually, my story about Andy starts in 2006, when my wife and I drove our daughter Kristan to her first day at college, Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh. When we arrived at her assigned dorm, New House, we were met at the front door by the RA (Resident Assistant), a friendly and cheerful young man who was a student in the economics department. He made my daughter feel welcome, and helped get her established in her room. That was day one at college. But over the next four years, we heard more and more about Andy, for it seems that these two were destined to help each other for a long time.

Andy was writing a book, among other endeavors of this ambitious young man, and our daughter turned out to be a big help in the writing and editing, and even became one of the characters in the book. The title of the book is “New House 5” and is about “How a Dorm becomes a Home.” Like a Hollywood movie, the two of them formed a relationship that went far beyond the dormitory, and after graduation they moved together to Cincinnati, where Andy works for Proctor & Gamble. They now have two children and it all started with a friendly greeting at the front door of a dormitory.



**Andy as C-3PO with the rest of the family dressed in their favorite STAR WARS costumes, all secured by.. you guessed it, Handy Andy.**

Andy has turned out to be “Handy” is so many other ways. Have a party, and he will make the costumes, furnish the games, and make the snacks. Visit his house, and he will have a Welcome Basket ready for you, with gifts, toiletries, and other thoughtful tokens. Have a Halloween night out, and he will arrange to get the costumes to your theme.... Just see the photo of the Star Wars characters the family chose this year.

Pretty Handy, eh?





# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## Registration Forms face Shortage as Deadline Nears

Less than a week remains before the Jan. 31 deadline to register to vote in the March 1 primary. While Secretary of State John Scott publicly assured Texas voters that “every single eligible Texas voter will be able to register to vote if they have not done so already,” the League of Women Voters on Friday threatened to sue his office if the nonpartisan group isn’t provided with additional voter registration forms.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the league contends the state has decided to

“sharply limit” the number of voter registration forms distributed to the league and other groups, claiming that is a violation of the National Voter Registration Act.

“It is crucial that the Secretary of State’s office act swiftly to provide the necessary voter registration forms for the people of Texas. The deadline to register to vote for the upcoming primary election is quickly approaching, and Texas is one of 11 states without online voter registration,” said Grace Chimene, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Sam Taylor, assistant secretary of state for communications, told KUT.org that supply chain issues have made it harder and more expensive to get paper, which means the Secretary of State’s office will be giving out fewer voter registration forms to groups ahead of elections this year.

“We are limited in what we can supply this year because of the paper shortage and the cost constraints due to the price of paper and the supply of paper,” he said.

Texas is one of the few states that does not have online voter registration.

### LEANDER MAN CHARGED FOR THREATENING ELECTION OFFICIALS

A Leander man is the first person to be charged by federal officials in a case brought by a task force formed to combat threats against election officials. Numerous media



outlets reported that Chad Christopher Stark posted a message last January on Craigslist, saying it was time to kill a Georgia elections official.

“Georgia Patriots it’s time for us to take back our state from these Lawless treasonous traitors. It’s time to invoke our Second Amendment right it’s time to put a bullet in the treasonous Chinese [Official A]. Then we work our way down to [Official B] the local and federal corrupt judges,” Stark wrote, according to the indictment.

The three officials allegedly threatened were not named.

The Texas Tribune reported Georgia officials were especially targeted by a flood of hostile messages after they refused to back then-President Donald Trump’s claims of election fraud. Election officials across the country have faced criticism and personal attacks by Trump supporters claiming the election was stolen. No widespread instances of election fraud have come to light despite dozens of investigations.

### STATE AGAIN REACHES RECORD JOB LEVEL

The Texas Workforce Commission reported last week that the seasonally adjusted state unemployment rate dropped to 5.0% in December, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month. The state added 50,000 nonagricultural jobs last month - marking job gains in 19 of the last 20 months. The state set another record level of employment with more than 13 million jobs.

“Seeing a second consecutive month of record-setting employment, with more than 13 million jobs, highlights the underlying strength of the Texas economy,” said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. “This economic strength creates an environment for Texas employers to continue to create jobs and provide opportunities for the workforce in the Lone Star State.” The state has added 694,000 jobs since December 2020.

### COVID-19 CASES SET RECORD HIGH

Spurred by the omicron variant, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week climbed to a record 433,584, with 971 new deaths reported as well by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Since the pandemic began in March 2020, the state has recorded 5.9 million cases and 78,055 deaths - equivalent to the entire population of Cedar Park.

Hospitalizations in Texas of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients also continued to rise, up 36% from the previous week at 13,324, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. That figure is approaching the record high of 14,106 set in January 2021.

### PAXTON DENIES OPEN RECORDS LAW VIOLATION

Attorney General Ken Paxton denied that he violated the state’s open records law, rejecting an allegation by the Travis County district attorney that his office should release communications from the week of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Five of the state’s largest newspapers filed a joint complaint after Paxton denied their open records requests. The district attorney’s office warned it would file suit if Paxton did not release the information. In a letter to the Travis County district attorney’s public integrity unit, Paxton’s office called the claims “meritless” and said there was “no violation to cure.” Editors for the newspapers released a joint statement saying: “We believe these records are public and should be released. We hope the Travis County district attorney continues to hold the attorney general accountable for following our state’s open records laws and continues to advocate for the public’s right to know in this case.

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: borders@texaspress.com.



# THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

## Waiting for My Laundry

It’s an odd experience watching someone fold your underwear.

I was thinking this yesterday as I was waiting for my laundry. When my husband, Peter, and I packed to go to Mexico, we knew there would be a wide range of temperatures. San Miguel de Allende is in the mountains, so the days can be quite hot, and the nights can be cold, and the weather changes a lot in November everywhere, so we had to be prepared for anything.

We do not have a washing machine in the little place we rent, so I walk a few blocks to the tiny neighborhood laundry and leave my clothes there.

The truth is I don’t need a lot of clothes. I joked during the pandemic that all I wore were pajamas at night and clothes that looked like pajamas during the day. This has not changed significantly. Ninety percent of the time, I am wearing the same uniform.

Yesterday, all the variations on my uniform were dirty, so I went to the laundry.

The laundry service holds two washing machines, two dryers and a constantly changing cast of one to three cheerful women who weigh the laundry, wash it, throw it in the dryer, carefully fold it on top of the two dryers and return it to my laundry bag for approximately three dollars.

If I leave it in the afternoon, I have to wait until the next day to pick it up. But since I don’t have that many clothes, I try to get there before noon. They will then tell me to return at three o’clock to pick it up. Three o’clock does not mean precisely three o’clock—I know this by now—so I come a little later. But even so, they were not quite finished when I arrived yesterday. So I stood on the sidewalk (There is no room for a customer in this tiny place!) and waited while my underwear was folded.

For the record, I don’t usually fold my underwear. I’m not sure if that makes me a savage, but I just don’t. It doesn’t wrinkle, and it doesn’t seem to stay folded, so I don’t see the point. But the two ladies at the laundry were carefully folding my undies and there was nothing I could say to stop them. They also folded all of Peter’s socks and Peter’s underwear, and I stood by, helpless, not feeling I deserved—or wanted—quite this much customer service.

The laundry ladies were not in a hurry. They were chatting away, oblivious to the anxious gringo lady standing at the counter on the sidewalk, and I realized I had no reason to be anxious—in either sense of the word. I was not in a hurry and certainly, when it comes to underwear, these ladies had seen it all. So I tried to relax while I waited for my laundry.

And, as I watched them, it occurred to me how little I really need. That small pile of clothes was everything Peter and I had worn for the last two weeks, and we had everything we needed. I thought of all the clothes I have at home and wondered how they earned their keep.

That is, perhaps, one of the greatest gifts this time in Mexico gives us. It’s good to be reminded that I have enough clothes and I have enough time. It’s good to be reminded that, most of the time, living simply is better. And it’s good to remember that it doesn’t really matter if someone sees my underwear.

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

# NORTHEAST NEWS

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SPORTS PAGE

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 15:

Texans could be in for a long day against Cowboys: Dolphins, Chargers battle in key AFC contest

Now that the college season has completed its regular season and conference championship games, we will focus on the NFL for the next few columns as the college lads prepare for their bowl games and of course, the College Football Playoffs (CFP).

The CFP Committee announced the four CFP teams on Sunday, Dec. 4. It's a safe bet that defending national champion Georgia and Michigan will land two of the four spots. Ohio State may have played its way out of the playoff due to the 45-23 thrashing the Wolverines administered to them two weeks ago in Columbus. It will be interesting to see who the other two teams will be. We will discuss that later this month.

For now, we'll focus on the NFL as the 2022 season enters the stretch run.

As a number of teams battle for playoff spots, one team that won't be in the post-season hunt are the Houston Texans. Two weeks ago, head coach Lovie Smith benched starting quarterback Davis Mills and went with backup Kyle Allen and the move had little impact on the woeful Texans as they fell behind at Miami 30-0 before producing 15 garbage points in the second half to make the final score look respectable. That was the Texans sixth straight loss and things don't get any easier this week when they head north to face in-state rival Dallas.

The Cowboys are rolling on both sides of the ball, especially on defense where Micah Parsons and Co. have recorded 45 sacks in their first 11 games. It looks like whoever starts at QB for Houston on Sunday is going to be in for a bruising afternoon at AT&T Stadium.

With another lost season looming, the Texans look like they will need to draft a quarterback with their first pick, which could be first overall. After the Dallas game, Houston still has to play Kansas City, Tennessee, Jacksonville and Indianapolis. They won't be favored in any of those games, not even against the Jags, who shocked Baltimore, 28-27 two weeks ago. There's a very good chance this could be a one-win team. Yikes!

Other games of interest in Week 14 feature Baltimore taking on arch rival Pittsburg, Cleveland and new QB Deshaun Watson facing the Bengals in Cincinnati, and the Jets traveling to Buffalo to take on the Bills in an important AFC East contest. Other games of interest include Miami visiting the Los Angeles Chargers in a duel of two of the best young QBs in the league as Tua Tagovailoa and Justin Herbert square off. Tampa Bay faces a daunting task with a trip to San Francisco to face 49ers team that is rolling on defense. In their last four games before last Sunday's game against the Dolphins, the SF defense has pitched a shutout in the second half in each of those four games and two weeks ago they blanked NO 13-0.

Before we take a look at those games and a handful of others, let's review last week's record. A 9-2 week upped the season record to 102-51 (66%). Now, onto this weekend's game.

NFL

**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 hoping Deshaun Watson's return at quarterback sparks the offense. to take over at QB in Week 11 against the Texans. Look for Joe Burrow (3,160 yards, 23 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (585 yards, 6 TDs) and Tee Higgins (57 receptions, 826 yards, 5 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 should get a boost with Watson now at QB and running back Nick Chubb (1,039 yards, 12 TDs) should have his usual productive day, but the Bengals are getting hot at the right time in the season. My pick, Cincinnati 30, Cleveland 27

**Baltimore at Pittsburgh:** These two bitter rivals meet in an important AFC North contest on Sunday in Pittsburgh. These two teams are heading in opposite directions. Baltimore is a definite playoff contender in the AFC and is tied with Cincinnati atop the AFC North division, but they suffered an embarrassing loss two weeks ago when they fell at Jacksonville, 28-27. Ravens QB Lamar Jackson (2,231 passing yards, 17 TDs/755 rushing yards, 3 TDs) needs to pick things up in the passing game. He still has Mr. Reliable in tight end Mark Andrews (52 receptions, 601 yards, 5 TDs), but they need to find a deep threat. The Steelers are playing for next year and this could possibly be Mike Tomlin's first year as a head coach to finish with a losing record. The Steelers will treat this game like a playoff game and would like nothing more than to stick it to the Ravens. I think Jackson plays better this week, while the Ravens defense will light it up against rookie QB Kenny Pickett. My pick, Baltimore 26, Baltimore 13

**Houston at Dallas:** So, how did that change at quarterback work for you Texans fans? Kyle Allen definitely isn't the answer. He threw for 215 yards, one TD and two interceptions in the 30-15 loss at Miami two weeks ago against Miami. This week, he or Davis Mills will face a relentless Dallas pass rush that recorded 45 sacks in its first 11 games. While the defense has been solid all year long, the offense seems to be getting better week by week now that Dak Prescott (1,393 yards, 10 TDs) is back at QB. Dallas can also run the football with its two-headed attack of Tony Pollard (761 yards, 6 TDs) and a now healthy Ezekiel Elliott (577 yards, 7 TDs). Wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (64 receptions, 857 yards, 5 TDs) is making plays all over the field and Dallas' young tight ends are also getting into the act. This could turn out to be a long afternoon for Houston's professional football team. My pick, Dallas 36, Houston 13

**Minnesota at Detroit:** The Vikings rebounded from their blowout loss to the Cowboys on Nov. 20 with a gritty 33-26 win over New England on Thanksgiving night. This week, they travel to Detroit to face a feisty Lions team that plays hard for all four quarters. The Lions dropped a hard-fought 28-25 decision on Thanksgiving Day to the Bills. The Lions are a fun team to watch on offense as QB Jared Goff (2,682 yards, 17 TDs), running back Jaamal Williams (734 yards, 13 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (65 receptions, 716 yards, 4 TDs) have sparked the Detroit offense. The Vikings have some offensive weapons of their own in QB Kirk Cousins (2,760 yards, 17 TDs), running back Dalvin Cook (841 yards, 6 TDs) and star wide receiver Justin Jefferson (81 receptions, 1,232 yards, 5 TDs). There should be plenty of offense in this one, but look for the Vikings balanced offense to make

one or two more plays down the stretch to win it for the visitors. My pick, Minnesota 34, Detroit 30

**New York Jets at Buffalo:** A good one in the AFC East pits the Jets against the Bills. Two weeks ago, New York benched starting QB Zach Wilson for backup Mike White, who threw for more than 300 yards and three TDs in the Jets' 31-10 route of the Bears. It would be hard for head coach Robert Saleah to go back to the ineffective Wilson after what he did two weeks ago. There is no doubt who the starting QB is in Buffalo. Josh Allen (3,183 passing yards, 23 TDs/561 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Allen is one of the top signal callers in the NFL and is having an MVP-type season. The Jets play well on defense, but they will have their hands full on Sunday with Allen and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (84 receptions, 1,110 yards, 9 TDs) and the rest of the Bills offense. NY's defense will keep the Jets in this game, but look for Allen to be the difference maker come Sunday in Buffalo. My pick, Buffalo 26, New York Jets 18

**Philadelphia at New York Giants:** This is an important game for the Giants who might have peaked a bit early. Heading into last Sunday's game against Washington, the Giants had lost three off their last four games, with their lone win coming against the hapless Texans. They lost at Dallas on Thanksgiving Day as QB Daniel Jones (2,165 yards, 10 TDs/451 rushing yards, 4 TDs) struggled against the Dallas defense, as did running back Saquon Barkley (992 yards, 7 TDs). Things won't get any easier for those two and the rest of the Giants' offense when they take on the Eagles on Sunday. Two weeks ago, QB Jalen Hurts (2,560 passing yards, 17 TDs/597 rushing yards, 8 TDs) set an NFL record with 157 rushing yards by a quarterback. The Philly run offense ran wild in their 40-33 win over the Packers. Running back Miles Sanders (900 yards, 8 TDs) added 143 yards on the ground. The Giants are beat up on defense, so look for the Eagles to continue to pound the rock. When Hurts does drop back to pass, look for him to make plays downfield to A.J. Brown (53 receptions, 831 yards, 7 TDs) and Devonta Smith (56 receptions, 609 yards, 3 TDs). The Giants were a nice story early in the season, but reality might be setting in. My pick, Philadelphia 31, New York Giants 23

**Miami at Los Angeles Chargers:** This will be The Game of the Week in the NFL and the league has moved it to Sunday Night Football (replacing the KC-Denver game) that will pit two high-scoring offenses and two good QBs as Tua Tagovailoa (2,564 yards, 19 TDs) and Justin Herbert (3,004 yards, 19 TDs) will fling it all over SoFi Stadium. The LA secondary will get tested by Tua and his two star receivers, Tyreek Hill (87 receptions, 1,233 yards, 4 TDs) and Jalen Waddle 56 receptions, 963 yards, 6 TDs), while the Miami defense will be tested by versatile running back Austin Ekeler (554 rushing yards, 7 TDs/80 receptions, 497 yards, 5 TDs). The LA offense got a boost with the return of wide receiver Keenan Allen, who missed a majority of the season with a hamstring injury. Allen gives Herbert a consistent target who's not afraid to go over the middle. If fellow WR Mike Williams returns from an ankle injury, the Miami defense will have one more weapon with which to deal. This should be a fun game to watch, but I'm going

with the Chargers who came up with what could be a season-defining win two weeks ago against Arizona on the road. LA scored late to pull within one point with just seconds remaining in the game. Instead of going for the tie and heading to overtime, head coach Brandon Staley opted to go for the win. The Chargers made the two-point conversion and left Arizona with a 25-24 victory. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 33, Miami 31

**Tampa Bay at San Francisco:** Tom Brady (3,051 yards, 14 TDs) and the Bucs will try and solve the 49ers defense when they head to Northern California on Sunday. Good luck, Tom. The 49ers defense is playing lights out and is making plays all over the field. Brady had better have his head on a swivel because SF will pressure from all angles. It doesn't help that he will be without starting tackle Tristin Wirf for this game. The Tampa Bay offense has kind of been stuck in neutral this season, and really hasn't gotten untracked. Things won't get any easier this week when they face a hot 49ers team. Brady needs to make plays downfield to wideouts Mike Evans (51 receptions, 702

yards, 3 TDs) and Chris Godwin (60 receptions, 583 yards, 2 TDs). The 49ers aren't great on offense either, but QB Jimmy Garoppolo (2,381 yards, 16 TDs) takes what the opposing defense gives him. Look for running back Christian McCaffrey (241 rushing yards, 2 TDs/25 receptions, 202 yards, 1 TD) to get untracked in this one as the 49ers keep rolling. My pick, San Francisco 26, Tampa Bay 23

**Kansas City at Denver:** The high-flying Chiefs take on the disappointing Broncos in an AFC West matchup. KC looks like the team to beat in the AFC and QB Patrick Mahomes (3,585 yards, 29 TDs) is having an MVP season. It helps to have the game's best tight end to throw to in Travis Kelce (73 receptions, 912 yards, 12 TDs) and a host of other dependable pass catchers. KC has also gotten help in the running game by rookie Isiah Pacheco (455 yards, 2 TDs). The Broncos, on the other hand, have struggled all season long as QB Russell Wilson (2,369 yards, 8 TDs/5 interceptions) has been underwhelming, and that's being kind. Denver has a very good defense, but Wilson and the offense are putrid. Look for Mahomes to

carve up the Denver defense as the Chiefs look to make their usual late-season run to secure the No. 1 seed in the AFC. My pick, Kansas City 31, Denver 13

**New England at Arizona:** Week 14 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Patriots visiting the Cardinals in a game NE will need to win to remain in the AFC Wild Card hunt. The Patriots have struggled on offense most of the season as second-year QB Mac Jones (1,705 yards, 6 TDs) has struggled this season. Look for head coach Bill Belichick to feature running back Rhamondre Stevenson (680 yards, 1 TD) in this game. The Cardinals could be playing for head coach Kliff Kingsbury's job. Two weeks ago, Arizona fell to 4-8 after their last-second home loss to the Chargers. 'Zona QB Kyler Murray (2,359 yards, 14 TDs/415 rushing yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (49 receptions, 574 yards, 3 TDs in six games) will need to both have big games if they hope to pull off the upset on Monday night. Look for the NE defense to keep Murray in check as the Pats leave the desert with an important road win. My



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4. Babe Ruth
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6. Pele
7. Jim Thorpe
8. Wilt Chamberlain
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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey —

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

2. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary saying, "Blessed art thou among women"? Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi

3. With perhaps two different biblical answers, who was the father of Joseph? Jacob/Heli, Gideon/Ishmael, Solomon/Nahum, Samuel/Pilate

4. Which Old Testament prophet predicted Jesus



Detail of "The angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Mary; the light of the Holy Spirit alights on her brow" by V. Lefebvre (1670)

...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." LUKE 1: 26-28


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would be born in Bethlehem? Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum

5. For the journey to Bethlehem, how did Mary and Joseph travel? Bible not specific, Cart, Rode donkey, Small raft

6. Which of these wasn't a gift from the wise men (Magi)? Silver, Myrrh, Gold, Frankincense

ANSWERS: 1)Neither, 2) Nazareth, 3) Jacob/Heli (Matthew 1:16, Luke 3:23), 4) Micah, 5) Bible not specific, 6) Silver Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," now available in bookstores and online.



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Monday-Friday 8am-6pm  
Gladys House-El  
3621 Hurley St. Houston, TX 77093  
713-742-6995  
[gladys.house@gmail.com](mailto:gladys.house@gmail.com)

#### CARPET DEPOT

3621 Hurley Street  
Houston, Texas 77093  
Office: 713-742-6995  
Fax: 713-742-6997  
Email: [Gcarpetdepot@aol.com](mailto:Gcarpetdepot@aol.com)  
[www.affordablecarpetdepot.com](http://www.affordablecarpetdepot.com)  
Gladys M. House  
(Take 59 North & Exit Tidwell)  
Hurley is the first street before Tidwell

CALL 713-266-3444 to place your Business Card in our Directory. Thousands of Readers in this area will see your message.

(This Ad is reduced in size. Your card will be twice as large—a Full Page)

**We will publish your Card Ad in  
our Christmas Editions  
Dec. 13 and 20  
For Details call 713-266-3444**

— **king crossword** —

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Financial aid available for those who qualify

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  - Cosmetology
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  - Microsoft Office Technology Specialization
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  - Petroleum Technician
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**Northline Campus** | 8001 Fulton Street | Houston, TX 77022  
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help light up the season!



DEC 9

EAST ALDINE  
TOWN CENTER

2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.

FRIDAY 6PM-9PM

Meet Frosty

BRING A BLANKET / CHAIR  
TRAIGA UNA COBIJA / SILLA

Enjoy a Ride in Horse Drawn Carriage and Play in REAL SNOW

NATIVITY PHOTOS | HOT COCOA | TREE LIGHTING | DECORATE COOKIES

¡Vea Frosty, monte un carruaje tirado por caballos y juegue en la NIEVE real!

FOTOS DE NATIVIDAD | CHOCOLATE CALIENTE | ILUMINACIÓN DE ÁRBOLES | DECORAR GALLETAS

SIGNUP TODAY AND NEVER MISS AN EVENT | NUNCA MÁS TE PIERDAS UN EVENTO - REGÍSTRATE HOY ALDINEDISTRICT.ORG






# Thank you!

Thank you to the voters of Harris County, Precinct 2, for the honor of serving four more years as your Commissioner.

With your support, we will continue making real progress for Harris County when it comes to public safety, infrastructure, the economy, and more. That means providing quality services to every resident, from every background, in every neighborhood, in every walk of life.


My goal is always to keep Precinct 2 the best place in America to live, work and play. I appreciate you!

*Adrian Garcia*



## Happy Holidays!

Wishing you the gifts of love, friendship and good health now, and in the years to come.



POL. ADV. ADRIAN GARCIA CAMPAIGN